

## Winter Park Babe Ruth Tee Ball Division – Rules & Guidelines

The Winter Park Babe Ruth Tee Ball Division follows the Cal Ripken Rules for players ages 4-6, focusing on teaching the fundamentals of hitting and fielding in a supportive, team-oriented environment. Players hit from a height-adjusted tee to encourage a level swing, and bat in order throughout the game. The main goal is to help young athletes learn baseball basics while enjoying teamwork and having fun. Each team may have a maximum number of 6-year-olds and a minimum number of 4-year-olds, subject to adjustment based on the total number of registered participants. Player assignments will be determined by age and coach selection, as no on-field evaluations will be conducted for Tee Ball.

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### Batting Rules

1. **Batting Tee:** All batters must hit from a tee, which should be adjusted to allow a level swing.
  2. **Batting Order:** All players present for the game will bat in order, regardless of whether they are playing defensively.
  3. **No Bunting:** Bunting is not allowed.
  4. **Pitcher's Position:** The pitcher must be in contact with the pitching rubber.
  5. **Inning Completion:** An inning ends after 5 runs have scored or three outs are made, whichever comes first.
  6. **Batting Helmets:** Helmets must be worn by all batters and base runners.
  7. **Hit Distance:** The ball must travel at least 25 feet (marked by an arc from foul line to foul line).
  8. **Strikeouts:** A player is struck out after three complete misses.
  9. **Foul Balls:** If a batter hits part of the ball and the tee, it is a fair ball if it travels past the 25-foot arc. If the ball doesn't travel past the 25-foot line, it's a foul ball. If only the tee is hit, it's a foul.
  10. **No Stealing or Leading Off:** Leading off and stealing bases are prohibited.
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### Fielding Rules

1. **Players on the Field:** Each team will have 10 players on the field, including a catcher.
  2. **Coaching:** A coach may be stationed behind the outfield to provide instructions to defensive players.
  3. **Infield Positions:** The standard infield positions (pitcher, catcher, and four infielders) will be filled. Additional players will be placed in the outfield.
  4. **Coaching Restrictions:** Coaches should not touch the ball until the play is over.
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### Game Rules

1. **Inning Length:** A regulation game consists of five innings, with no inning starting after 1 hour and 15 minutes from the official start time.
  2. **Game Completion:** A game is considered complete after 3 ½ or 4 innings, depending on whether the home team is leading.
  3. **Game Ball & Scorekeeping:**
    - The home team must provide a new game ball balls are provided by WPBR.
    - The home team is also responsible for providing an official scorekeeper.
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## Additional Game Rules

1. **Continuous Batting Order:** All players will bat in order throughout the game.
  2. **Foul Balls:** If the batter hits a foul ball, they will get another chance to swing until they either hit the ball in fair territory or accumulate 3 strikes (or 4 foul balls after 2 strikes).
  3. **Inning Completion:** An inning ends after 3 outs are recorded or 5 runs are scored (whichever occurs first).
  4. **Base Advancement:** Once an infielder gains possession of the baseball, the play is considered stopped, and all runners must cease advancing. However, if a runner has rounded a base and is actively in motion toward the next base, they may continue to advance. If a runner is heading toward a base when the play is stopped, they are entitled to that base only.
  5. **No Stealing or Leading Off:** Players may not lead off or steal bases during the game.
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## Fielding Guidelines

1. **Positioning:** The infield will consist of 6 players (pitcher, catcher, and 4 infielders). Extra players will play in the outfield.
  2. **Coach Restrictions:** Coaches must not interfere with the ball until the play is complete.
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## Player Participation

1. **Playing Time:** All players should rotate through different fielding positions, ensuring that every player plays at least one inning in the infield. If a player is not yet ready for infield play, inform the opposing coach to ensure player safety.
  2. **Minimum Defensive Play:** Every player must play at least 2 defensive innings per game and may not sit on the bench for consecutive innings.
  3. **Late Arrivals:** Players who arrive after the game starts will be added to the bottom of the batting order.
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## **Scorebook and Official Responsibilities**

1. **Scorebook:** The home team is responsible for keeping the official scorebook, which is used for insurance and tracking player participation for All-Star eligibility.
  2. **Coaching Conduct:** Coaches should focus on teaching the players the basics of the game, with an emphasis on fun and skill development.
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## **Prohibited Actions**

- **No Bunting or Fake Bunting**
- **No Leading Off or Stealing Bases**
- **No Walks or Intentional Walks**
- **No Infield Fly Rule**