

***Jefferson County Little League – Tee Ball Division***

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***2024 Managers Guide***

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## ***1. Tee Ball Goals and Objectives***

There are four basic and fundamental goals and objectives that will serve as the framework for the Tee Ball Program. Each of you as Manager for your respective team is expected to ensure that your Team Plan is implemented and executed with these in mind.

**Have FUN:** Baseball at every level should be about having fun, **especially** at this level. If you have decided this is the place and time that you and junior will make your mark and claim your first undefeated season together, you're in the wrong place.

**Create a Connection to the Game:** Connecting kids to the game of baseball in fun and creative ways helps to establish and build a relationship that hopefully will last a lifetime. Connect your kids to the game by introducing and referencing local professional teams and players, the history of the game and your own experiences.

**Fundamental Skill Development:** Your primary focus at this level should be the development of fundamental skills and knowledge. At this level, this includes everything from how to enter the dugout, where the positions are on the field, catching, throwing, batting and base running. You should strive to ensure these basic skills are taught, understood and performed correctly. Remember players' skill sets and knowledge will start at different places and progress either more quickly or slowly compared to teammates. Design a plan and work with players to ensure they achieve progress throughout the year.

**Positive Experiences:** Your challenge as a coach is to ensure that each kid achieves some level of success throughout the season. Express appreciation for their efforts, accomplishments and discipline at each practice and game.

## ***2. Coaches' Success Criteria***

Our success as a Program and your success as a coach will be judged by the following criteria. By managing with these items in mind, you will find your players, their families and you and your coaches will enjoy the season.

**Leadership:** Your leadership and example will set the bar for others. It is important that your players and parents understand and know you have respect for yourself, the kids, parents, coaches, umpires, the other team and the rules. There is nothing wrong with disagreeing with parents or officials, just keep it dignified and with respect. Everyone makes mistakes and you will too!!

**Planning and Communication:** Structure and communication breed confidence not only in your players but also with parents. Create and plan for your team and discuss it with your players and parents. Prior to each practice, ensure the kids understand and know what you intend to cover and accomplish.

**Teamwork:** You will always be more successful if your players play as a team. The challenge with young players is that they grow physically and develop skills at different rates. Some players will have exceptional skills while others will be working to develop skills. Help players understand that they have to work within the skills of the overall team to become a better team. Ensure players are given a chance to play positions that challenge as well as highlight their skills. Remember it's not about wins and losses.

**Diversity:** Your team will most likely comprise players of different skills, family income levels, races and religions. It doesn't and shouldn't matter. Make sure you set the example for your team. Your players will follow your lead.

### ***3. Planning the Season***

Good planning and structure builds confidence with your players and parents. Outlined below are the items that you as a manager must implement as part of your program.

Mandatory Items:

1. Attend Coaches Meeting: Meeting between Tee Ball Managers and Coaches and Tee Ball Director.
2. Team Information Packet: You should ensure each of your players and parents have the following:
  - Manager and Coaches contact information (home and cell phone numbers and email address)
  - Team Roster with player names (the initial roster should not contain phone numbers or email addresses – some parents might not want their phone number/email address distributed. You should ask if anyone has a problem with making this information available to teammates and hand out a revised copy at the next practice.
  - Goals and Objectives for the season
  - Tee Ball Program Rules
  - Team Rules and your approach to discipline
  - Player equipment needs
  - Practice & Game Schedules
  - Snack schedule
3. Hold Manager / Player and Parent Meeting: Prior to the start of practice (or on the first day of practice), hold a parents and players meeting and distribute your Information Packet. Use this meeting to discuss and review the information contained in the packet. Be sure to touch on what players and parents can expect from this season. Including your goals, objectives, coaching philosophies and approach, your team rules, practice schedules, how communication between you and parents will work.

## ***4. Practice***

A well-defined plan for each practice, which is communicated, and understood by the coaches, will go a long way in making practice a success. It is suggested your plan be in written form, so your assistant coaches can continue in your absence. It is helpful to include:

- Objectives to be accomplished this practice
- Drills that you would like to spend time on
- List of required equipment

Below is an example of how a typical practice is run. Limiting your practice to no more than 2 hours works best.

- Warm Up – Teach kids how to warm up and the importance of doing so.
- Team Talk – Let your players know what you will cover during the practice session and what you expect from them.
- Skill Development – Focus on skill development drills and exercises. Use the first half of this session to review and improve skills previously taught. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half is used to teach new skills. It's good to try and teach one new skill or a variation of a skill at each practice. First explain the skill and then demonstrate using proper technique. Then, have the players perform the drill with close supervision to ensure proper technique.
- Game situations – There is no way for a player to learn what to do in game situations unless you teach and practice them. Always dedicate a portion of practice to game situations. You can do this by running through different controlled scenarios and then in intrasquad scrimmages.
- Water Break – Don't forget to take a water break. You can use this time to reinforce the skill(s) just practiced.

# 2022 JCLL Tee Ball Division Rules

## 4/5/6 Year Old Division

1. Schedule will consist of 2 games per week. One game will be played during the week and one on Saturday.
2. Practices
  - a. Prior to the start of the season – Limited to 2 practices per week. Practice should not exceed 60 minutes in duration.
  - b. After the start of season – Limited to 1 practice per week not to exceed 60 minutes in duration.
3. Games will be 60 minutes long. The clock starts when the first batter steps to the plate. Clock will be kept by the home team.
4. Teams should move from offense to defense as quickly as possible.
5. Offense:
  - a. The batting order will consist of all players in attendance.
  - b. An offensive inning is complete when all players in the line-up have batted.
  - c. If a player arrives late, the player should be inserted at the end of the batting order.
  - d. Two base coaches are permitted. Base coaches must be board approved volunteers.
  - e. One coach or league approved volunteer must remain in the dugout at all times. The batting team's manager or coach will place the ball on the tee.
  - f. If a team records an out, the batter will be removed from the base. The team on offense will continue to bat until the last player in the line-up has completed their turn.
  - g. There will be no stealing.
  - h. There will be no sliding.
  - i. The Tee shall be placed in front of the Home Plate.
6. On Defense:
  - a. All players in attendance will take defensive positions.
  - b. The defensive infield will consist of only 6 players – 2 players on opposite sides of the rubber (pitching mound), 1st baseman, 2nd baseman, 3rd baseman and shortstop. All other players should be placed in the outfield.
  - c. Players should be rotated between infield and outfield every other inning.
  - d. Coaches are permitted on the field.
  - e. If a player or players are in the dugout, one coach is required in the dugout.