

Grand Chute Baseball League

T-Ball Rules – 2026

Purpose & Philosophy

Our main objective as coaches is to help develop the children's athletic skills, encourage sportsmanship, and teach the game of baseball. Most importantly, we want the children to have fun and enjoy playing the game.

At the T-Ball level, **all players receive equal playing time regardless of the score**. Learning to be competitive and developing an understanding of winning and losing are important, but teaching the fundamentals of baseball is our primary goal.

Baseball Fundamentals to Teach

Coaches should focus on teaching players:

- Running the bases correctly
- Running through first base on an infield hit
- Proper defensive stance
- Proper batting stance
- Proper throwing motion
- Game situations, including which base to throw to
- Basic rules of the game

When a situation occurs on the field, please take the time to explain to the players what happened and why. These teaching moments will help players develop a greater understanding of the game.

Game Rules

1. Game Length

Games will consist of **6 innings or 1 hour**, whichever occurs first. If an inning has already started when time expires, the inning should be completed.

2. Innings

An inning will consist of **3 outs or batting through the entire batting order**, whichever occurs first.

If the team bats through its entire order before recording 3 outs, the **final batter in the batting order will hit a “home run.”** After hitting the ball, the final batter and all runners currently on base will continue around the bases to home plate. The inning will then be complete.

3. Scorekeeping

Score will not be kept at the T-Ball level. The focus should remain on player development, learning the game, sportsmanship, and having fun.

4. Defensive Players

The infield will consist of **six players, including the catcher.** The outfield may have a maximum of **five players.**

5. Equal Playing Time

No player will sit out defensively for more than **one inning.**

6. Base Coaches/Umpires

The first- and third-base coaches will also act as umpires for their respective bases.

7. Defensive Coaches

A maximum of **two coaches** will be allowed in the outfield while their team is on defense. One of these coaches will also function as the second-base umpire.

8. Catcher Assistance

An adult should be positioned behind the catcher to assist with missed balls and help keep the game moving.

The adult behind the catcher should also **remove the tee after the ball has been hit** so the catcher can move forward and play the position.

9. Overthrows

Runners may advance **one base on an overthrow to first base.**

10. Protective Headgear

Players must wear protective headgear when:

- On deck
- Batting
- Running the bases
- Playing catcher

11. Sliding

No headfirst sliding is allowed.

12. Defensive Positions

No player may play the same defensive position for more than **two innings per game.**

13. Base Running

Runners may advance once the ball is hit. **Stealing is not allowed.**

On an **infield hit**, the batter should stop at first base.

If a ball is **hit into the outfield**, the batter may advance to **second base on their own hit**. The batter may be put out while attempting to advance to second base.

14. Recorded Outs

If a defensive player records an out at any base, the runner who is called out **must leave the field and return to the dugout**. The out will count toward the team's three outs for that inning.

15. Caught Fly Balls/Line Drives

Any pop fly or line drive that is caught will result in a **dead ball**. The batter is out and must return to the dugout. Other runners may return to their previous bases.

16. Home Team Responsibilities

The **last team listed on the schedule** is the home team.

The home team:

- Uses the third-base dugout
- Provides one new game ball and one good used game ball

17. Field & Dugout Cleanup

All teams are responsible for cleaning up garbage in and around their dugout and the surrounding bleacher area.