

T-BALL LEAGUE RULES
Pre-K & T-K
Approved February 2026 by SLYAA Rules Committee

The following rules, as adopted by the Spirit Lake Youth Athletic Association, are intended to protect the safety of players, promote fast, fun play, and prioritize the fundamentals of baseball and softball.

T-Ball is offered to all Pre-K & T-K eligible athletes. All athletes must be **4 years old by September 15th, 2025**, regardless of enrollment status to register in this division. Teams will be **Co-ed**.

Have Fun! This level is intended to build a foundation of enjoyment in the game, encourage development of basic skills and introduce players to concepts of the game.

1. GAMES:

- a. All games shall adhere to a 1-hour time limit.
- b. Games will consist of 2 innings with each team having 2 turns at bat.
- c. A 3rd inning may be played if coaches agree and time permits.
- d. No score will be kept.
- e. Coaches will encourage offense and defense to transition sides quickly to keep the game moving

2. EQUIPMENT:

- a. Bases shall be set at 45 feet
- b. Soft core baseballs will be used.
- c. Official Tee Ball level bats are recommended for use
- d. All batters/runners are required to wear helmets while on the field
 - i. Facemasks are encouraged but not required
- e. Cleats (if worn) must be molded plastic or rubber.

3. OFFENSE:

- a. As a developmental league for beginning players, the batting tee is required for all offensive players. There shall be no coach pitch.
- b. The offensive coach shall be responsible for managing the batter during the "at-bat". After 5 swings the batter shall be considered "out". Offensive coach shall visually confirm the defense is ready and announce "Ball on Tee" prior to placing the ball on the tee for the batter.
- c. All batters will have an at bat each inning regardless of the # of outs earned by the defense.
- d. Regardless of defensive outcome, batters shall remain on base to run bases.
- e. Batters advance to one base at a time. The last batter of an inning runs around all bases.
- f. No leading off or stealing

4. DEFENSE:

- a. All defensive players may play the field at once. Please space players appropriately.
- b. The defensive position of "pitcher" must be positioned on or to the side of the pitching rubber and shall not encroach on this distance until the batter has hit the ball.
- c. There will be no defensive position of "catcher", rather an adult will manage the offensive "at-bat".

5. COACHES:

- a. Teaching the basic rules and concepts of the game, including safety, shall be emphasized.
- b. Coaches shall be allowed to coach on the field but should place themselves beyond the infield base paths in an outfield position prior to the "ball on tee" announcement.

6. SPORTSMANSHIP:

- a. Players & coaches shall shake hands at the conclusion of the game.
 - b. All players, coaches, and spectators are encouraged to observe the rules of the game and display good sportsmanship at all times.
7. Because it is worth repeating: Have Fun! This level is intended to build a foundation of enjoyment in the game, encourage development of basic skills and introduce players to concepts of the game.

Cancellations Due to Inclement Weather:

In the case of inclement weather all teams and players will be notified via social media, text alert, or may contact their local designated League Official for updates and details. Each League (Spirit Lake, Lake Park, and Okoboji) shall be responsible for canceling the games on their fields only! It should not be assumed that games canceled in one town mean canceled in all towns.