

HSA T-Ball Ground Rules 2026

League Responsibilities and Expectations

Commitment to a Safe and Positive Environment

The Huffman Sports Association is dedicated to providing a safe, positive, and enjoyable environment for all participants, including children, parents, and umpires involved in the league.

Manager Responsibilities

- Managers are responsible for ensuring the appropriate conduct of all parents, guardians, or spectators who are present in support of their team in the stands.
- Failure by managers to uphold these guidelines may result in their removal from the field until such time as the spectators under their supervision are able to control themselves or are required to leave the premises.

Interaction with Umpires

- Managers must approach umpires with respect and understanding, setting a positive example for both the children and the parents on their team.

Consequences for Misconduct

- If a parent, guardian, or spectator fails to adhere to these guidelines, they will be removed from the park by a board member or, if necessary, by law enforcement.
- In the event of an altercation, there will be zero tolerance for inappropriate behavior.

Protest Procedures

If a protest arises, it must be communicated immediately to the chief umpire before the scorebook is signed by the umpire. Managers who do not sign the scorebook forfeit their right to protest. Umpires are required to record the status of any protest in the scorebook to ensure proper documentation prior to leaving the field. All official protests will be forwarded to the Huffman Sports Association Vice President for further review and consideration.

Team Field Maintenance Responsibilities

At the conclusion of the final game each day, every team is responsible for raking the field to maintain its condition. Additionally, teams must ensure that all trash is removed from their respective dugouts.

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****Common Rules****

Player Eligibility and Forfeits

- There will be **no** forfeits; teams are expected to play with available players.
- Each team is permitted to use **one** pickup player, but **both** coaches of each team must agree on who that player will be.
- If a pickup player is used, they must play **right field** and **bat last** in the lineup.
- No team may bench a player on the team's regular roster while a player added to the roster for one game is in the game unless the rostered player is sick or injured and cannot continue in the game.

Player Participation and Equipment

- Every player is required to play **6 outs** on defense (three (3) consecutive outs in an inning).
- **Continuous batting order** every game played by their team, ensuring equal participation for all team members.
- Each batter/base runner **shall wear** a helmet with a face mask attached.

Approved Bats

All bats stamped "BPF 1.15" are **not legal** for play in all age divisions.

Tee Ball Bats: Bats stamped for Tee Ball with the USA Baseball mark are the only bats that shall be used.

Illegal Bat Penalty: A batter who uses an illegal bat shall be called out and all runners shall return to the bases occupied by them at the time batter took his position in the batter's box if protested by the opposing team manager, or discovered by an umpire, prior to the first swing of the next batter. **2nd Penalty:** After the first occurrence that a batter is called out for using an illegal bat, if a second batter is called out for using an illegal bat in the same game by the same team the team manager shall be ejected from the game.

Pine Tar: The use of pine tar or any other similar adhesive substances on bats is prohibited in all levels of play and will result in the bat being declared illegal, and the bat will be removed from play.

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T-Ball (3/4 yr olds)

T-ball is meant to be instructional, equipping our youngest players with the knowledge and tools necessary to play the games of baseball/softball. At the end of T-ball, players should gain basic knowledge on how the game is structured/played.

Field and Equipment Specifications

- Baselines must be set at a distance of **50 feet**.
- The pitching area will have a 12-foot-diameter chalked or painted pitching circle, with a line marking the center at 35 feet across the circle.
- Pitching rubber is **35 foot** from tip of home plate to the front of pitching rubber.

General Playing Rules

- Only **baseballs** marked with **Level 5 or anything of a compression ball shall be approved to be used for play**.
- Each regulation game consists of a maximum of **45 minutes** of play.
- There will be a 6 foot arc in from home plate from 3rd base line to 1st base line that the batted ball must cross to be a fair ball.
- Batters get **5 swings** off the tee. If after the 5th swing the ball is not put into play, the player is called out and must return to the dugout.
- If the batter hits into the infield, the batter can only attempt to occupy 1st base.
 - If there are runners on base during the at-bat, runners can only attempt to advance one base.
- If the batter hits the ball into the outfield, the batter can attempt to take 2nd base.
 - If there are runners on base during the at-bat, runners can only attempt to advance 2 bases.
- Innings will end in one of two ways:
 - After 3 outs are recorded
 - After the full line-up has batted through once.
- There are no umpires for T-ball games. The score is not kept for games. Coaches will use the honor system for outs.
- **Infielders** may **not** be closer than **30 feet** to home plate prior to the ball being hit. Violation of this rule will result in Offensive team to accept the play or nullify the play with a no hit.
- **Outfielders** must be in the grass behind the base paths until ball is in play.
- Face masks are recommended for all infield players. Mandatory for Pitchers.

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T-ball continued...

Player Pitcher Position

- The player pitcher **shall** wear a face guard, with or without a batting helmet or cap, while at this position.
- The player pitcher must have **one** foot **inside** the designated pitching circle, must not interfere with the coach pitcher, and not be any closer to the batter than even with the **35-foot** pitching rubber until the ball is hit. The Player Pitcher cannot leave the designated circle or cross the 35-foot until the ball is hit. **PENALTY:** The offensive coach has the option of accepting a hit or taking a no-pitch.