



Tee-Ball is a team sport that is very similar to the game of baseball and is a game that is used to introduce young children to the game through its simplified rules. As well as this, it is also used as a way of helping children to develop hand/eye coordination and ball skills.

The main difference between T-Ball and baseball is that, whereas in baseball a pitcher pitches the ball towards the hitter, this does not happen in T-Ball. Instead, the hitter hits the ball off a tee which is stationary, thus allowing young children an easier way of hitting the ball and engaging with the game and developing skills. Although in T-Ball the ball is softer, the lack of the ball being pitched also makes it safer for children.

Object of the Game

The objective to the Bangor Parks and Recreation T-Ball program is to introduce children to baseball and to sport in general. As well as helping introduce them to the rules of baseball, it also gets them active, helps develop hand/eye coordination and overall baseball skills.

Players & Equipment

One of the reasons behind T-Ball's popularity is its simplicity and the fact that it needs relatively little equipment to play. Our teams are made up of between 6 and 8 players, and players are asked to wear cleats or sneakers. We do not provide helmets with Bangor Parks and Recreation Tee-Ball as we discourage the sharing of helmets or hats. Players are welcome to have their own helmets if wanted. *We create a safe environment where a helmet is not required.* Players should have their own baseball gloves. These can be found at many local stores.

The bats used should be between 25 and 26 inches long and the balls are special T-Ball ones, very similar to regulation baseballs but made to be softer to help minimize the risk of injuries.

Scoring

Scoring is like in baseball, with each member of the batting team who makes it round all bases scoring a point for their team. However, in our program we do not keep score and games are played solely for fun and to help develop hand/eye coordination, ball skills and have experience of playing in a team.

Rules of Bangor Parks and Recreation T-Ball

- Tee-Ball is played by two teams of between 6 and 8 players, but can be played with more or less if necessary
- We play 3 innings or 1 hour games.

Batting

- When batting, the ball shall not be pitched but shall be placed on a tee from which the batter shall hit it.
- The batter (aka hitter) is entitled to have as many swings as they need to hit the ball.
- We do not record outs
- Every batter hits every inning
- Hitters and runners can only advance 1 base each time someone bats and hits the ball.
- The final batter of the inning will be allowed to run all the bases as well as the players on base when the last person hits.
- A half inning is complete when each player on the team that is batting has had a turn to bat.
- Once one team has batted, the team in the field then hit.

Fielding

- Fielding positions are as follows:
- The Pitcher: The pitcher does not pitch the ball but is tasked with fielding the diamond area in which most balls are hit
- Bases: First Base, Second Base and Third Base positions field in and around their base area and attempt to run out players running for their base.
- Others: If playing with larger numbers, other fielders are placed around the playing area and are tasked with fielding the ball, catching and trying to run players out.
- We ask for parents to be on the field (during practice) with the children to make sure they are in ready positions as well as help them with what they do when the ball is hit and to stay in their positions.

Running Bases

- Players will advance one base at a time. Except for the last batter of the inning can run all the bases as well as the players on base at the time of that at bat.

Some specific game day rules/guidelines

- Game Length / 3 innings or 1 hour
- Everyone bats every inning
- NO ON DECK BATTERS
- Only the child hitting should have a bat in their hands
- Last runner goes all the way around
- All players in the field should play different positions (encourage parents to accompany child)
- At least 1 parent/coach is managing the bench as another is setting the ball on the tee for the child.