

ELCO Youth Baseball Tee-Ball League (6U) Rules

Generally, this league will follow Little League Baseball rules. The ELCO Youth Baseball (EYB) Executive Committee shall have the final authority over all rule interpretations. The following are additional specific regulations to the EYB “Coach Pitch” League Baseball rules.

1. Team Rosters

- 1.1 Players eligible to participate in this league are five or six years old. Player must attain the age of five before, or on April 30th, and must not attain the age of seven before, or on April 30th. Player’s eligibility to participate in the program will be based upon registration.
- 1.2 Any players not of the age of five or six years old, as referenced above, will be permitted in the Coach Pitch League only with EYB Executive Committee approval.

2. Playing Time

- 2.1 Since this is a developmental league, all kids should be taught and play as many positions as possible. This intended to be **FUN and EDUCATIONAL**.
 - 2.1.1 No player should be thought of as “my 1st baseman” or “my shortstop”, etc.
- 2.2 All players on roster are permitted to play defense at the same time. Please keep players apart so that there is no “fighting” over a ball in play. There is no catcher position for safety reasons.

Note: Under normal circumstances, there should never be a game where there is a consideration to ‘forfeit’ the game – kids just want to play, parents/grandparents/family members just want to watch – be creative, work together and make it happen.
- 2.3 Players should play a minimum of one inning in the infield every game. Pitchers are considered infielders.
- 2.4 All players bat in a continuous batting order. No player should get more than one at-bat per inning.
 - 2.4.1 It is permissible that the batting order changes every inning.
- 2.5 If a player is absent from a game, playing time and at-bats are not ‘owed’.

3. Pitching Rules

- 3.1 It shall be the coaches' discretion to either utilize the batting tee or to "pitch" to his/her players. If the coach decides to pitch, each player's at bat will consist of five swings and then the use of the batting tee. This must be encouraged or games will become too long and uninteresting for the players.

4. Batting

- 4.1 All players (entire line-up) will bat each inning.
- 4.2 A player’s “at-bat” will end when ball is hit into fair territory. Player may remain on base, even when they are out.
- 4.3 When the coach is pitching there will be no called strikes, if a player is looking at several pitches you may need to move them along/‘get the bat off of the shoulder’
- 4.4 No bunting. [Please note: although bunting is prohibited during games, it is an important skill to work on in practice as time permits.]
- 4.5 Use common sense when it comes to base running. When a player makes an obvious error, the base runners will get the base they are going to only.
 - 4.5.1 If a player hits the ball past outfielders/through the gap, have them stop at second. Please use common sense.
 - 4.5.2 No extra bases will be awarded for an overthrown ball that leaves the field of play.
 - 4.5.3 It is permissible for the last batter in the line-up to “circle the bases”.
- 4.6 All batters and base runners will wear hard plastic helmets with chinstraps at all times when on the playing field. The first time a batter or base runner intentionally removes his/her helmet, a warning

will be issued. Second and subsequent offenses will result in the player being removed from batting line-up.

- 4.7 Any batter that throws their bat, intentionally or not, will receive a warning for the first offense and will be removed from the batting line-up for second and subsequent offenses.

5. Game Rules

- 5.1 During all games, the “on-deck” batting position and/or practice swings by players other than the player “at bat” is PROHIBITED. Practice swings may only be allowed by the player “at bat” within the confines of the batter’s box, or within near proximity of the batter’s box within the confines of the playing field. During practice where multiple hitting drills may be going on simultaneously, it is incumbent upon the coach to secure the area from other players and spectators.
- 5.2 Home team is responsible for setting up the field 30 minutes prior to game time.
- 5.3 Each team is allowed 15 minutes of batting/infield practice prior to the game time. Visitors have the 15 minutes immediately prior to game time.
- 5.4 Games will consist of three full innings, unless called because of darkness or inclement weather. An inning may NOT be STARTED after 60 minutes of play. The safety of the players comes first. If a game is called due to weather or lack of daylight, one completed inning will be considered a complete game for the purposes of rescheduling.
- 5.5 The offensive and defensive teams will alternate after the opposing team bats their entire roster. It is permissible for the last batter in line-up to “circle the bases”.
- 5.6 Home team will provide the game balls. Reduced Injury Factor (RIF) Tee Balls are used at this level.
- 5.7 No stealing
- 5.8 Leads are not allowed.
- 5.9 Runners may not advance on a passed ball or wild pitch. The only way batters may advance is when the ball is put into play.
- 5.10 Feet first sliding into base is permitted at second, third and home. Proper sliding technique is imperative before allowing your team to slide.
- 5.11 Offensive coaches should be positioned as follows:
 - Batter’s area to assist the batter.
 - 1st and 3rd base.
 - Pitcher
 - Bench to assure safety of players.
- 5.12 Defensive coaches are encouraged to be on the field to instruct and guide the players but cannot touch the ball.
- 5.13 There is no infield fly rule. Runners may tag up within the confines of traditional baseball rules and may be doubled off a bag if they leave before the catch.
- 5.14 Standings are not kept and there is no need to report the score to the league. However, as children will invariably know the score, it is permissible within the rules of good sportsmanship for one team to be declared the “winner” of the game.
- 5.15 There should be no player designated as a catcher for safety reasons
- 5.16 Bats must state, “Approved for play in: Little League ®” and barrel diameters cannot exceed 2 ¼ inches. Bats approved for “Tee-Ball” are also encouraged.
- 5.17 All players should be seated on the bench except for:
 - a. Defensive players on the field
 - b. The batter
 - c. Base runners
 - d. On-Deck batter

6. Administrative and Field Requirements

- 6.1 Games are 3 innings long yet no inning shall start after 1 hour has elapsed since the start of the game. A game may be stopped earlier at the coach's discretion. The safety of all players comes first.
- 6.2 The pitching rubber will be placed 46'0" from the back of the pitching rubber to the back of home plate.
- 6.3 The bases will be placed 60'0" from the back of the plate to the back of the base.

7. Field Conditions and Make Up Games

- 7.1 Home team coach decides if the field is playable. Please use common sense.
- 7.2 Cancelled games may be made up as soon as possible by agreement of both head coaches. Consult with Field Commissioner on field availability.

8. Practice Requirements

- 8.1 Due to field scheduling limitations, if you need to schedule a practice outside of your regular practice day(s) - due to weather or other cancellations - please contact the Field Commissioner.

9. Sportsmanship

- 9.1 Arguing or ragging is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This applies to players, coaches, and fans. The head coach is responsible for the conduct of their assistants, their players and fans.
- 9.2 Rule Interpretation - If you feel there has been a misinterpretation of a rule, call time out and discuss it in an appropriate manner with opposing coach. If you are not satisfied, contact the rules commissioner following the game for clarification.
- 9.3 Abuse of equipment is strictly prohibited. Throwing of bats and helmets is not allowed.
- 9.4 Absolutely no foul language is allowed.
- 9.5 Code of Conduct will be in effect.