

**PICKERINGTON YOUTH
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
(PYAA)**

JUNIOR LEAGUE BASEBALL (JLB)

LITTLE SLUGGERS LEAGUE RULES

Little Sluggers (T-Ball)

1.0 General Playing Rules and Policies

1.1 Goals and Objectives

- (a) Teach the skills and rules of baseball.
- (b) Teach and encourage the values of team play, fairness, and sportsmanship while having fun.

1.2 Team Assignment

(a) **Coaches:** Parents who volunteer to Coach will be chosen at the discretion of the respective League Director. Coaches who request to be paired together will be allowed to Coach, unless deemed to disrupt the competitive balance of the league. Two coaches and 1 team mom will be assigned per team. Other parents who volunteer to Coach, but were not chosen, are encouraged and allowed to assist the Coaching staff of their child's assigned team, at the discretion of the Head Coach, given the parent completes the required PYAA background check and concussion training.

(b) In the absence of a Coach, Parents and/or Players are allowed to coach either base.

(f) At the conclusion of each game, participating teams are **required** to pick up trash and clean up the bench, dugout, and bleacher areas.

1.5 Player Participation

(a) **Roster Batting:** Teams will utilize roster batting, meaning every player present will be in the batting order.

(1) The batting order remains intact regardless of defensive changes.

(2) When batting nine or more players, a player that leaves the game for any reason (restroom, injury, etc.) may return at any time and resume his/her previous batting order position without penalty. This spot will be skipped and no out recorded.

2.0 - Specific Rules for Little Sluggers T-Ball (Grades Pre-K & K)

2.1 Game Format

- (a) Game time limit is 60 minutes. No new inning is to be started after 45 minutes. This will allow for the game to be completed on time.
- (b) When reading the schedule, the first team listed is the Away team. The Away team will sit in the third baseline dugout and bat first. The second team listed is the Home team and will sit in the first baseline dugout and field first.
- (c) There is no score kept in Little Sluggers.
- (d) Helmets are required to be worn while at bat and base running. Face guards for helmets and face shields when playing defense are optional, but strongly recommended for player safety.
- (e) Every player bats each inning. No more than 1 base per hit except for the last batter. The last batter will hit a home run, and all of the base runners will touch every base.
- (f) Batting Lineup should be rotated each inning to allow a different player to be the last batter/home run hitter. All players should have a chance to be the “home run” hitter during the season.
- (g) Each batter will receive a maximum of 3 pitches from the coach. If after 3 pitches the batter does not put the ball in play, they will receive 3 attempts with a ball on the tee. If after 3 pitches and 3 swings with the ball on the tee the batter does not make contact, the batter will receive a walk and proceed to first base. This will ensure that the game continues smoothly and give every player an equal opportunity to bat and to play the field.
- (h) During the game, outs do count for game play but not towards an inning total. If the batter or base runners (except for the last batter) gets out on any of the bases, they are to exit the field, but there is no out limit per inning.
- (i) Players will rotate in the field of play on defense. Play all players in the infield, however, please have them play traditional positions. Players can play the “outfield” but stay in the infield.

2.2 Little Sluggers Coach/Program Goals for Players

- (a) Develop a love of the game.
- (b) Prioritize good sportsmanship.
- (c) No playing in the dirt.
- (d) Be able to identify bases and understand base running order.
- (e) Demonstrate correct throwing motion, even if not on target.
- (f) Use correct Triangle/"Alligator" form for ground balls.
- (g) Begin to understand where to stand to cover a base. Every player should not run after the ball every play.
- (h) Demonstrate correct batting stance and know where to stand at the plate.
- (i) After hitting, drop (don't throw) the bat and run to first base.

2.2 Team Mom

- (a) Each Little Sluggers team will be assigned a Team Mom. Their role will be to assist the coaches, especially with managing the dugout, team cheers, restroom breaks, organizing snack and base coach sign ups, etc.

2.3 Practice Field Sharing

- (a) Due to limited field space, practice fields will be shared for Little Sluggers (2 teams assigned to 1 field each practice). Coaches should agree on the best way to balance infield and outfield time for their teams (switch at 30 minutes, alternating infield and outfield practices, etc).