



Rookie Ball Rules

The game of Rookie Ball utilises exactly the same rules as Teeball. Please refer to the current TBAWA Rule Book for all rules. The following rules have also been incorporated to make Rookie Ball the next step up for players.

1. All games are played on a standard 60' Teeball Diamond.
2. Games will be played for a duration of 1.25 hours.
3. Participation
 - a. Players are to rotate position every defensive innings.
 - b. There is no maximum number in the batting line-up, however a change of batting sides still occurs after 3 outs have been made, or 9 batters have batted – whichever comes first.
 - c. Players are to play defence at least every second innings.
4. Catchers should suit up in catching attire of: Skull cap and mask (including throat guard), Chest Plate and leggings. Catchers must not remove their Skull cap and mask whilst a batter is attempting to hit a pitched ball. The skull cap and mask can only be removed once a batter has hit the pitched ball.
5. Stealing – There is no stealing of bases. Runners may still advance bases on passed balls as a result of fielding errors by the defensive team at 1st and 3rd bases. However, no advancement should be given for passed balls resulting from errant pitching by the Pitching Coach/Machine.
6. Bunting – No Bunting allowed.
7. The In-Field Fly rule does not apply.
8. Balls – a softer compression ball is to be used, i.e., a Teeball
9. The game will be Coach/Machine pitched. Batters are allowed 3 (decent) pitched balls to swing at. If a batter cannot put the ball into play with the 3 pitched balls, the player is given the option of hitting one further pitched ball or having the tee placed at the plate to finish their turn at bat. Players have one only further attempt to put the ball in play. Any swing/miss shall be considered a third strike and the batter shall be called out.
10. Caught foul tip – the batter is out if the ball is caught by the catcher only if the ball has gone *above* the height of the batter's shoulder. A foul tip which is deflected into the catcher's mitt is not out.
11. Should a batted ball hit the pitching machine, it shall be declared a dead ball, runners shall not advance. The batter shall have another attempt at hitting the ball with no strike/hit recorded for the previous play.
12. The Pitching Coach must stand in proximity to the pitching plate and wear a glove at all times. The defensive Pitcher should stand to the side and slightly behind the Pitching Coach, never in front. Pitching Coaches are not permitted to field batted balls, however they are permitted to defend themselves. Pitching Coaches who field a batted ball will result in the Batter being given 'Out'. If in the event a Pitching Coach is struck by a batted ball whilst defending themselves, then the umpire can either allow the play to proceed as normal or offer a single base hit to the batter.

Once a ball has been hit, the Pitching Coach should to bob down. Pitching Coaches pitch to their own batting team, i.e., Team A bats and Team B fields – Team A Pitching Coach pitches. The same Pitching Coach does not have to play the whole game. A different Pitching Coach can be used each innings.
13. The game will be scored in exactly the same way as Teeball.