SIMPLIFIED T-BALL RULES

1. **Diamond**
   Base Paths 15 metres; Pitching plate 9 metres from the apex of home plate.

2. An arc with a radius of 4.5 metres from the apex of home plate shall be outlined with 4 markers in the infield from Home/First Base line to the Home/Third Base line.

3. A team consists of up to 12 players with 9 players being involved each fielding innings. All batters will bat through in order.

4. At the commencement of the game, first named team lines up on first base, and second named team on third. Teams run to pitcher’s plate shake hands and run to home plate. Umpire tosses, first named team calls.

5. A team will bat until 9 players have batted, irrespective of the number of outs.

6. Batters must bat in order. If a batter bats out of order and the opposing team appeals, the batter will be called out.

7. **Batting**

   A **fair ball** is a legally batted ball which:
   
   (a) lands in fair territory in the diamond at any point beyond the 4.5 metre arc whether the tee has been struck or not, or
   (b) bounces or is touched in fair territory on the outfield.

   A **foul ball** is any battered ball which:

   (a) strikes or is touched within the 4.5 metre arc
   (b) settles or is first touched by a player within foul territory
   (c) bounces outside the imaginary line which extends beyond first and third base.

   A batter will take a set stance in the batting box. From the call “play ball” the batter is not permitted to reposition his/her back foot such that she will hit in a different direction (front foot movement is permitted). Players are not permitted to “run- at” the tee to strike the ball. The batter is permitted only one movement at the ball with the bat.

   All foul balls are strikes and after 3 strikes the batter is out (i.e. a foul ball on the third strike is out).

   If the batter throws the bat dangerously, he/she will be given out (i.e. places other people in danger).
8. Base runners may overrun 1\textsuperscript{st} base without being tagged. If they overrun 2\textsuperscript{nd} or 3\textsuperscript{rd} base and are tagged before returning, the runner is out. A runner going to 2\textsuperscript{nd} or 3\textsuperscript{rd} and home must be tagged, unless forced to run by another base runner.

9. Base runners may leave the base when the ball has been hit off the tee. If they leave before this, they are called out. A runner may return to any base providing they have not been tagged out, no matter how far they have run – there is no halfway rule, however base runners must stay within 1 m of a direct route between bases when running.

10. If a batted ball is caught, base runners must return to the last base touched before proceeding.

11. On an overthrow into foul territory the ball is dead. (The dead ball line is usually 5 metres but teachers should indicate where the dead ball line will occur if there are other obstacles to be considered). An overthrow in which the ball becomes dead entitles the runner to two bases from the time of the throw.

Should a ball go into and adjoining diamond, consider the following:

- a) Has the ball become dead?
  
  Effect - 2 bases from time of throw

- b) Is the ball alive?
  
  Effect - 1. If it hits a player it becomes dead (2 bases)
  
  2. If it doesn’t hit a player
  
  (a) teacher on that diamond calls time to allow retrieval of ball: or
  
  (b) you call time and award
  
  2 bases if the ball was batted; or
  
  3 bases from the time of throw by fielder.

N.B. In potentially dangerous situations call “Time” and then make a decision.

12. A runner is out if they run more than 1 metre off her direct path to avoid a tag.

13. If it is last batter the ball is alive until it is held by a fielder on home base. Any runners who come home before this are counted. Any runners who are still running are considered out.

14. The tee must be removed by the umpire after the ball has been hit.

15. When the ball is timed by either a player holding it up inside the diamond and calling time or placing it back on the tee runners may advance to the base to which they were running. This does not apply on last batter when it is just a race for home.