

2021-FALMOUTH TEE BALL Q&A - (Age 4)



What age does my child need be to play Age 4 Tee Ball? Are there any exceptions?

Beginning in 2014 FLL was required to allow players baseball age 4 to play. Those children who are baseball age 4 will play in a separate tee ball league. Baseball age is defined as the age the child will be by April 30, 2021.

Unfortunately, we cannot allow any children that turn age 4 after April 30, 2021 to participate. No exceptions. All questions regarding player registration can be directed to FLL Tee Ball Player Agent, Anthony DeRice at anthony@dericellc.com.

Where are 4 Year Old Tee Ball games played?

All 4 Year Old T-ball games are played on the outfield grass of Big Legion Field which is located in the Falmouth Legion Field baseball complex on Depot Road near the Falmouth Public Library and the American Legion Hall.

What day(s) of the week will the 4 Year Old Tee Ball games be played? What are the season dates? The season will run for 7 weeks with all games on Saturday. The season will run from Saturday, May 9 and end Saturday, June 19 for a total of 7 sessions. All sessions will be held from 9:00 am and last approximately one hour or until about 10:15 am.

Does T-ball participate in the opening day event?

Absolutely. T-ball is an important part of Falmouth Little League and the players seem to really enjoy being a part of opening day (2021 Opening Day Ceremonies cancelled for COVID-19 safety reasons).

When do I know what team my child is on for this league?

For the 4 Year-Old program, there will not be individual teams. All players at this level will be divided each week. Most of this league will be 30-40 minutes of drills and then 30 minutes of game time with each player getting at least one at bat and one time on defense.

What is the practice or game format?

Every child gets to hit and then teams switch and the other team bats through their order. All kids get a single advancing 1 base at a time and the last hitter gets to hit the GRAND SLAM! There are no outs. Each game is roughly 1-2 innings – mutually decided by the coaches depending on time.

Is my child required to hit from the tee or will he/she be given a coach pitch option?

Tee Ball is an instructional league with no outs. All children develop at different times, whether it is academically, socially or athletically. For 4 Year-Olds, the tee will be used for every at bat so the game can move along quickly versus pitching several pitches to each child and a child in the defensive position losing focus due to wait time.

Equipment: What is provided by the league and what am I required to have my child bring?

Your registration includes a hat and t-shirt for each player. Each child should wear sneakers or cleats and bring a fielder's mitt to every game. Sweat pants or baseball pants are optional. The league will provide balls, a bat and helmets for players to use. If your son or daughter prefers to bring his or her own helmet, please make sure it is properly labeled. We realize players will want to bring their own bats, however, we strongly discourage due to safety reasons. We prefer player's leave their own bats at home. More bats create a greater safety risk. A water bottle, a light jacket, sunscreen and bug spray is also recommended. Please make sure your child has eaten prior to the game – even a light snack. They do tend to get hungry and having food during the games isn't appropriate.

When will uniforms be available and how can I collect my son/daughter's?

Each T-ball player is given a hat and t-shirt and are expected to wear this to every game. These will be given out prior to or at the first Saturday session at the coaches' discretion.

What is the process for cancellation notifications due to inclement weather, etc.?

One Board member will be assigned to notify the parents of this league on any cancellations once that information is sent from the town. The town does make the decision on whether or not the fields are playable – and our league must adhere to that decision. You can always access the town website at www.town.falmouth.me.us to give you immediate field conditions information. In general, if the fields are deemed not playable, we will do our best to notify parents by 8:30 am on Saturday morning.

If we do have a cancellation, will we be required to make up those games?

This can vary from season to season depending on the number of cancellations. If, for example, the start of the season gets delayed, it is unlikely that fields will be available toward the end of the season for makeup games. FLL will work with the coaches to determine field availability should there be cancellations throughout season.

Is there an end of season award, gift, etc., given to each player?

Not at this time. Also, Falmouth Little League does not reimburse teams for trophies or awards.

I am interested in coaching my daughter/son's team. What are my responsibilities as a coach and how much of a time commitment is it?

Tee Ball tends to be one of the first team sports for most children, and there is a high level of adult support and enthusiasm. Tee Ball has proven to be a natural transition into standard baseball and softball. We hope every parent will consider coaching, whether it is a head coach or an assistant. You don't have to have played baseball/softball to coach Tee Bball.

Key elements to coaching are organization, dedication, teambuilding and role-model.

ORGANIZATION: Communication is a key element. As a coach, your role is to support the overall purpose of the league, while managing your team and its players. You are responsible for communicating to your players and ensure that your team takes proper care of equipment, uniforms, and our playing fields. When questions or problems arrive, be sure to discuss them with the appropriate people as soon as possible.

DEDICATION: You are expected to take an active interest in the game of baseball/softball. Increase your knowledge by reading the rule book, periodicals, and books from the library. *Focus on the fundamentals.*

Understand that each of your players comes to you with his own set of abilities and potential. *Motivate* each player to give 100%; to be his/her best. *Pride* yourself in seeing players *grow* and *develop*.

Allow the kids to have **fun!** We are here to provide opportunities to kids, not make professional athletes out of them.

TEAM BUILDING: Your challenge is to *get your players to work together*. Recognize that the team is more than a group of individuals; that each player is dependent upon the others. Never criticize a player in public for poor play or making an error. A *positive private, discussion* can transmit good information, reduce the sense of personal loss, and foster the improvement sought. Remember, kids will respond more to encouragement than to demeaning remarks.

ROLE-MODEL: When personnel issues arise, assess the situations quickly, calmly and carefully. Let players know *what is expected* of them and *how they are doing*. Offer to *help them improve*.

If you are concerned only about winning, you will, no doubt, *humiliate* those players with less than average talent. Conversely, if you are concerned only about feelings, you will deprive those players who want to grow, learn and excel. **Balance your desire to win with a sincere concern for the feelings of your players.** To the kids, you are in a *power position*. **Be respectful toward players, coaches, umpires and fans.** Promote pride in the program.

For those interested in coaching, and have not participated in the NYSCA certification clinic in the past, you will be required to participate in a coaching certification program. Additional information will be sent to you by the coaching coordinator, once you have registered as a coach on the FLL website.

TEAM MOTTOS

1. **BE SAFE**
2. **HAVE FUN**
3. **DO YOUR BEST**
4. **BE A GOOD SPORT & TEAMMATE**

Please contact Falmouth Little League President with any questions:

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