



MINOR FARM DIVISION GUIDELINES

The rules for the Minor Division are defined in the Little League Handbook Official Regulations and Playing Rules, except for the following Local League Rules:

General

Games should be limited to 1 hour 30 minutes. No scores or standings will be kept. Coach Pitch / Tee will be used for the first half of the Spring season. Second half of the Spring season will be Coach Pitch with no use of the tee. Home Team uses the 3rd base dugout, and the Visiting Team uses the 1st base dugout.

1st Half of the Spring Season– Coach Pitch / Tee

Defense

- Maximum of (10) ten defensive players on the field. Additional players will have to sit on the bench.
- Play normal defensive positions in the infield (Pitcher, Catcher, 1B, 2B, SS, and 3B). The extra player will play in the outfield. All outfielders should be positioned in the grass.
- Teams short of 9 players may borrow defensive players from the other team.
- No player should have to sit twice before every other player has sat at least once.
- Managers must rotate positions at least every other inning and keep records ensuring equal opportunity at all positions. Each player must play at least one inning in an infield position within the first two innings.
- When Coach is pitching, he should be within the circle of the mound and the pitcher should be positioned within a couple feet of the pitching mound (EXAMPLE: One foot on the mound & one foot on the grass).
- Coaches are encouraged to position themselves in the field to assist their players. However, Coaches must not position themselves behind or to the side of home plate.
- Catcher will wear full gear for all games (even when coach pitch is in effect), practice, and pitcher warm-ups. Full gear includes a regulation catcher's glove, a mask with throat protector, shin & knee guards, regulation chest protector, and protective cup.

Offense

- All Players on a team will bat in order. No Substitutions (Exception: Manager is highly encouraged to have a courtesy runner for a player who will start the next inning as catcher to improve the speed of play.)
- The offensive team will get three outs or five runs per inning, whichever comes first.
- Bunting is not allowed.
- Sliding is not allowed.
- Runners can only advance on a batted ball; no stealing or leading off is allowed.

Pitching

- During the 1st half of the Spring season, Coach will pitch or a tee will be used.
- Coaches will pitch to their own players.
- Each batter will get a maximum of five pitches to hit the ball. After the batter has reached the pitch limit, a tee will be used.
- **Coach Pitching Tips**
 - Coach should pitch from within the circle of the mound (not on the grass or in the runway)



- o Throw directly overhand using a four seam grip (ball does not move as much)
- o Use a slow, deliberate delivery (easier for batter to pick up the ball)
- o If possible, pitch from the knee. (easier for batter to pick up the ball)
- o Have more than a few balls in a bag or bucket on the mound. (so you're not waiting for a ball)

2nd Half of the Spring Season - Coach will pitch all innings, no tee will be used during the games.

Defense

- Maximum of (10) ten defensive players on the field. Additional players will have to sit on the bench.
- Play normal defensive positions in the infield (Pitcher, Catcher, 1B, 2B, SS, and 3B). The extra player will play in the outfield. All outfielders should be positioned in the grass.
- Teams short of 9 players or may borrow defensive players from the other team.
- No player should have to sit twice before every other player has sat at least once.
- Managers must rotate positions at least every other inning and keep records. Each player must play at least one inning in an infield position within the first two innings.
- When Coach is pitching, he should be within the circle of the mound and the pitcher should be positioned within a couple feet of the pitching mound (EXAMPLE: One foot on the mound & one foot on the grass).
- Coaches are encouraged to position themselves in the field to assist their players. However, Coaches must not position themselves behind or to the side of home plate.
- Catcher will wear full gear for all games (even when coach pitch is in effect), practice, and pitcher warm-ups. Full gear includes a regulation catcher's glove, a mask with throat protector, shin & knee guards, regulation chest protector, and protective cup.

Offense

All Players on a team will bat in order. No substitutions. (Exception: Manager is highly encouraged to have a courtesy runner for a player who will start the next inning as catcher to improve the speed of play.)

- The offensive team will get three outs or five runs per inning, whichever comes first.
- Bunting is not allowed.
- Sliding is not allowed.
- Runners can only advance on a batted ball; no stealing allowed.

Pitching

- During the 2nd half of the Spring season, Coach will pitch. (no batting tee should be used)
- Coaches will pitch to their own players.
- Each batter will get a maximum of six pitches to hit the ball. If the batter reaches the pitch limit, he/she is out. No at bat can end on a foul ball.
- **Coach Pitching Tips**
 - o Coach should pitch from within the circle of the mound (not on the grass or in the runway)
 - o Throw directly overhand using a four seam grip (ball does not move as much)
 - o Use a slow, deliberate delivery (easier for batter to pick up the ball)
 - o If possible, pitch from the knee. (easier for batter to pick up the ball)
 - o Have more than a few balls in a bag or bucket on the mound. (so you're not



waiting for a ball)

Skill Positions

- All players must get the opportunity to play all positions during the year. However, managers should avoid playing players at positions beyond their skill level (e.g. if a child has difficulty defending himself from a thrown or batted ball, managers should place the child in positions which will minimize the safety risk, however with appropriate coaching and practice, all kids should be able to develop to play all positions by midseason).

Speeding Up the Game

- Have line-ups prepared before the game to ensure transitions from offense to defense can be done quickly. Assign a coach and/or team parent to work in the dugout. Team parents, coaches, etc. can help by telling the kids where they will be playing in the field, getting the next batter ready to hit, and helping the catcher put on his gear. (Remember - all helpers must have a volunteer application on file).

Fairness

- Line-ups should be rearranged so all players get roughly the same number of at bats during the year. Avoid having the same players continually placed last in the line-up. One approach is to start your first game with the line-up based on jersey number. If player number 6 makes the last out of the game, player number 7 will bat first the next game. Rotate which players will sit out. No player should have to sit twice before every other player has sat at least once.