



FARM DIVISION RULES Spring 2018

Official Game:	6 innings or Time Limit (whichever comes first).
Time Limit:	No new inning can start after 1 hour, 40 minutes.
Pitching:	SEE PITCHING LIMITS BELOW.
Batting:	Everyone bats. Inning consists of five runs or three outs, whichever comes first.
Substitution:	10 defensive players. No child sits twice until everyone on the team has sat once.
Minimum Players:	8 players needed to start game. Up to two players may be called up from AAA to make 10.
Mercy Rule:	12 runs after 3 ½ (visitor) or 4 (home) innings.
Scoring:	The home team will be responsible for designating a scorekeeper to track pitch counts for both teams and the score. <u>See below for pitch count tracking.</u> The home team Manager must submit the score and pitch counts to the Commissioner on the same day as game occurred.
Field Maintenance:	Both teams are responsible for raking the infield, mound, bullpens, home plate area and basepaths. Both teams are responsible for cleaning (and, or last game, closing) the score booth.

Offense

- An inning consists of five (5) runs or three (3) outs, whichever comes first. The five-run cap per inning is **not** in effect in the sixth inning.
- **Only one base on an overthrow (whether to pitcher or to a base) and only one overthrow per play.**
- Bunting is allowed. No “slash bunts” are allowed.
- No leadoffs or stealing.
- No infield fly rule. A runner may tag up on a fly ball to the outfield only. No tagging up on infield flies; should a runner tag on an infield fly, he/she may be called out during the course of the play.
- If there are two outs and the catcher is on base, the catcher **MUST** be substituted for by the player who made the last previous out to speed up play. A catcher who is pinch run for must catch the subsequent half inning.
- One offensive time-out per inning to be strictly enforced.
- If a player leaves for any reason other than a legitimate injury during the game, the next time up in the batting order, he/she shall be considered out. This will occur only once in the game.

Pre-Season Rules Only

- **NO WALKS.** After the umpire calls ball four, a manager/coach will finish the at bat. The coach will pitch with at least one foot on the pitching mound dirt. **The batter may receive up to three (3) pitches from the coach – every pitch counts (even the unhittable ones).** If the batter fouls off the third pitch, the batter will receive another pitch.
- Hit by pitch: the batter has the option to be pitched to by the coach or to take first base.

Defense

- Maximum of 10 players. No player may sit twice until every other player has sat once.
- Four (4) outfielders are used on defense.



- **Rotating players is strongly encouraged. At this level, the rotation need not be infield/outfield every inning, but no one should play one position for an entire game.**
- An outfielder may NOT field a ball and run to the base for a force out or to tag a runner; an outfielder must throw the ball to an infielder to record an out. Notwithstanding the above, an outfielder may record an out in the infield in connection with a rundown play.
- There are 6 infield positions (P, C, 1B, 2B, 3B, SS). All others play the outfield.
- **The play is dead when the umpire calls time. Players cannot stop the play by simply throwing the ball to the pitcher.**
- The catcher is NOT allowed to block home plate without the ball. There is no mandatory slide rule. If the catcher does not have the ball and is not blocking the plate, the runner does not have to slide. However, unnecessary force on the part of either the runner or the catcher can be grounds for ejection or suspension.
- Any player who catches four or more innings in the same day is not eligible to pitch on that day. One pitch caught qualifies as an inning.
- **RULE for pitchers/catchers:** any pitcher who delivers forty-one (41) or more pitches in a game may not play catcher for the remainder of the day. This is a “hard” pitch limit.

Coaches/Maintenance

- Maximum of four (4) adult coaches at least 18 years old are allowed in the dugout. At least one adult must be in the dugout at all times during games.
- The defensive team is required to place a coach behind the catcher area to retrieve passed balls/wild pitches in an effort to expedite play. **The coach cannot communicate with batters or fielders from that spot.** **Warning for non-compliance:** in the event the coach positioned behind the plate repeatedly communicates with batters or fielders, the umpire will issue one warning for non-compliance with this rule. After issuance of the warning, the umpire has discretion to remove the non-complying coach from the field and require him/her to return to the dugout. Another coach who is already in the dugout may replace the offending coach on the field. No volunteers from the stands may enter the field to replace the offending coach or take the position of another on-field coach.
- The defensive team also may have one other coach out of the dugout for defensive positioning. That coach must be positioned along the infield dirt cutout or farther down the foul line. Except for the coach behind the plate and the defensive-positioning coach, all other coaches must remain in the dugout. This rule will be strictly enforced.
- Only managers may talk to the umpires. Managers may not argue or question an umpire’s judgment call but may ask for time to discuss a rule interpretation. A ZERO tolerance policy exists with respect to manager interactions with the umpire. Do not raise your voice when speaking to an umpire.
- Any manager, coach, player or spectator who is ejected from a game also is suspended from participating and attending the team’s next game.
- At the conclusion of the game, please gather your equipment and clean and vacate the dugout immediately. Prepare the field for the next game. If you choose to hold a post-game team meeting, please do so off the field so the next teams can get ready for their game.
- Both teams are obligated to jointly handle post-game maintenance duties. See the ELL Handbook on the ELL website for instructions. Children/players shall not participate in field maintenance.

Safety/Illegal Bat Rules

- No on-deck batters allowed.
- No child may hold a bat unless he/she is at the plate. Players may not take swings in the bullpen areas.
- All batters and runners must wear a batting helmet with a NOCSAE-approved face mask.



- Batting donuts, hitting sticks and other weight devices are not permitted at the complex.
- **Players must use a 2018 USA Baseball approved bat or a wood bat. Refer to the complete bat rule (Rule 1.10) which can be found on the ELL website.**
- A challenge to a bat's legality may not be initiated until the at bat is over. Only the opposing manager may challenge the legality of the bat; no challenges will be initiated by an umpire. The challenge must occur before the next pitch or the play stands.
 - If the batter reaches base (whether by walk, error, hit, hit by pitch, etc.): After the batter reaches base, the opposing manager may call time and challenge the legality of the bat. If the bat is determined to be illegal, then the bat is removed from the game and the batter is out. In addition, if runners advanced (including but not limited to, via a home run), all runners will be ordered to return to the base occupied prior to the at bat.
 - If the batter puts the ball in play but does not reach base (sacrifice fly, sacrifice bunt, etc.): After the play has concluded, the opposing manager may call time and challenge the legality of the bat. If the bat is determined to be illegal, then the bat is removed from the game, and all runners who advanced as a result of the at bat will be ordered to return to the base(s) occupied prior to the at bat. The batter still will be deemed out.

Call Ups

- Players from AAA cannot be called up for any game where a team has 10 or more rostered players.
- Up to two players may be called up from AAA to make 10 players.
- A called-up player must bat last, but can play any position other than pitcher or catcher.
- During the regular season, a team may call up the same player twice. During the playoffs, a team may call up a player only once. Each time a player is called up, it is the Manager's responsibility to notify the Commissioner immediately.
- Any player that has been called up to make a game roster of 9 players (Majors and Minors) or 10 players (Farm) **and is listed on the official line-up card** must be allowed to play even if a rostered player shows up in time for the game or within the late arrival period allowed below. In those situations, the manager must play that game according the substitution and minimum play rules based on the total number of eligible players, including the player called up. In other words, any player who is called up cannot sit twice until every other player has sat at least once.

Player Eligibility, Late Arrivals

Preseason and Regular Season

- A player **must** be listed on the official line-up card submitted to the umpire at the beginning of the game in order to be eligible to play. Any player not listed on the official line-up card at the time the game begins (i.e., the first pitch is thrown) is ineligible and will not be allowed to play.
- Any player who is listed on the official line-up card and arrives late to the game will be allowed to play so long as that player is on the field or in the dugout before his/her spot comes up in the lineup.
- If a player who is listed on the official line-up card is not on the field or in the dugout at the time his/her spot comes up in the lineup, then that player will be deemed ineligible and an out will be recorded. The ineligible player then will be removed from the lineup and no further outs will be recorded when his/her spot comes up again.
- The start of the game shall not be delayed for the arrival of any player.



- **Bottom line:** If you think a player will arrive late to a game, then insert him/her at the bottom of the official line-up card to maximize his/her ability to play.

Postseason

- To be eligible to play in a postseason game, the player **must** (i) be listed on the official line-up card submitted to the umpire at the beginning of the game, **and** (ii) be on the field or in the dugout at the time the game begins (i.e., the first pitch is thrown).
- If a player is listed on the official line-up card submitted to the umpire at the beginning of the game, but is not on the field or in the dugout when the game begins, then that player will be deemed ineligible and an out will be recorded the first time that player’s spot comes up in the batting order. The ineligible player then will be removed from the lineup and no further outs will be recorded when his/her spot comes up again.
- **No late arrivals will be allowed** and the start of the game shall not be delayed for the arrival of any player.
- **Bottom line: Do not be late to a playoff game. Any child who is late will not play.**

Pitching

- Intentional walks are NOT allowed.
- A pitcher must be removed on the 2nd visit in an inning or a 3rd combined visit in a game.
- A pitcher who hits three batters combined in a game must be replaced by a new pitcher.
- Eight (8) warm up pitches prior to each inning or for a relief pitcher during an inning.
- Pitching limits will no longer be based on innings pitched, but solely on the number of pitches thrown during a game. The limits and rest requirements are as follows:
- **ELL FARM PITCHING LIMITS (COMBINED W/REST REQS., below)**

Division	Ages	Pitches Allowed Per Day PRESEASON	Pitches Allowed Per Day REG./POSTSEASON
Farm	8-9	35	50

● **ELL FARM REST REQUIREMENTS**

Number of pitches in a day	Number of calendar days of rest before pitching again
36-50	2
21-35	1
1 to 20	No day of rest required

Important Note: The pitcher may complete an at bat without exceeding the pitch limitation. For example, a pitcher commences an at bat with 33 pitches, throws 7 pitches during the at bat, and then is immediately removed after the at bat. The pitcher will be eligible to pitch



after one (1) day of rest because he started the at bat with less than 35 pitches. Similarly, a pitcher who has 49 pitches at the commencement of an at bat may finish that at bat regardless of the number of pitches thrown.

- **Pitch Count Tracking/Enforcement Procedures**

- Home team responsible for finding scorekeeper, who will be to keep track of pitch counts for both teams. Umpires will NOT count pitches.
- A written form will be used to track pitch counts. The form will be posted on the website.
- At the end of each half-inning, the scorekeeper will advise both managers of pitch counts.
- At the end of the game, both managers will be required to sign written pitch count form, and the home team manager will be responsible for depositing form in a box outside the snack stand.
- Home team manager also responsible for reporting pitch counts to commissioner on the same day as the game occurred. Commissioner will post pitch counts on website by 3:00 p.m. on the day following the game.
- VP of Baseball Operations will resolve disputes concerning pitch counts.

Last updated: February 25, 2018