



2009 SPRING SEASON – FARM DIVISION RULES

- 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. Five runs or three outs, whichever comes first.
- Substitution:** 10 defensive players. No child sits twice until everyone on the team has sat once.
- Mercy Rule:** 12 runs after 3 ½ (visitor) or 4 (home) innings.
- Minimum Players:** 8 team players needed to start game. Up to two players may be borrowed from a AAA team to make ten. Borrowed players must bat last and can play anywhere but pitcher and catcher. During the regular season, a team may call up the same player twice and, during the Playoffs, only once.
- Scoring:** Each team provides a scorekeeper. Verify scores with the umpire after each half-inning. Managers must submit scores to the Commissioner within 24 hours of the game.
- Field Maintenance:** Both teams are responsible for raking the infield, mound, home plate area and basepaths

Offense

- An inning consists of five (5) runs or three outs, whichever comes first. The five-run cap per inning is in effect except for the sixth inning, and any subsequent inning.
- **Only one base on an overthrow and only one overthrow per play.**
- Bunting is allowed.
- No leadoffs or stealing.
- No infield fly rule. A runner may tag up on a fly ball.
- If there are two outs and the catcher is on base, he/she **MUST** be substituted for by the player who made the last previous out to speed up play.
- One offensive time-out per inning.
- 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 can only occur once in the game.

Defense

- Maximum of 10 players. No player may sit twice until every other player has sat once.
- Four (4) outfielders are used on defense.
- No outfielder may 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.
- **The play is dead when the umpire calls time. Note: Players can no longer kill the play by throwing it 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.



Coaches

- Maximum of four (4) adult coaches at least 18 years old are allowed in the dugout. The person behind the screen behind home plate is strictly a ball retriever and not to instruct the players.
- Only managers may talk to the umpires. Managers may not argue or question an umpire's call but may ask for time to discuss a rule. A ZERO tolerance policy exists in manager interactions with the umpire.
- 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

- 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.

Pitching

- Pitch limit during **pre-season** games = **MAXIMUM OF 35 PITCHES** or **TWO** innings per pitcher per game.
- Pitch limit during **regular season** and **playoff games** = **MAXIMUM OF 50 PITCHES** or **THREE INNINGS** per pitcher per game
- One pitch thrown constitutes an inning.
- The pitcher may complete an at bat without exceeding the pitch limit (i.e., pitcher must face a new batter with 34 pitches or less during the pre-season; 49 pitches or less during regular season or playoffs)
- Base umpire to keep track of pitch limit. Umpire's count is official, whether right or wrong.
- 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 two batters in one inning or three batters combined in a game must be replaced by a new pitcher.
- A maximum of eight (8) warm up pitches prior to each inning or for a relief pitcher during an inning.

Last updated: March 31, 2009