

Farm League Division Rules; 8 Year Old Division

Farm Division Objectives: The Farm Division builds on the introductory experience of the Instructional Division and introduces players to more of the team strategy of baseball.

At Bat:

- Hit a pitched ball
- Swing at strikes

In The Field:

- Retire the side with three outs
- Play all positions during the year
- Develop feel for the rhythm of the game to be aware of situations

General Rules:

1. The safety of all players is the responsibility of both managers.
2. Number of players:
 - Defensive Team - 10 (4 outfielders)
 - Offensive Team - Continuous batting order through the entire roster.
3. Batting Order - All players present are listed in the order they are to bat. All coaches will use a rotating batting order to ensure that no child will always bat first, last, etc.
 - Example:
12-player roster: A,B,C,D...L
Game 1 batting order: A,B,C,D...L
Game 2 batting order: L,A,B,C...K
Game 3 Batting order: K,L,A,B...J
4. Defensive Play - The intent is to prevent any player from always being placed either in the infield or in the outfield. Each child should be given the opportunity to play each position within his/her physical capabilities. Every child should take their turn on the bench to ensure equal playing time.
5. Pitching rules for the Farm Division are as follows:
 - a. Coaches shall pitch to all batters for all Farm Division games held up to and including Mothers' Day of each season. Four swinging strikes is an out when a coach is pitching.
 - b. Subsequent to that date, players will pitch under the following guidelines:
 - 1) The pitcher shall pitch to the opposing team.

- 2) No pitcher shall pitch more than 2 innings per game, up to a total of 3 innings per week.
 - 3) Pitching week runs Monday through Sunday.
 - 4) A pitcher may not pitch on consecutive days
 - 5) The pitcher may pitch from the mound or from in front of the mound, but not more than 3 feet in front of the rubber.
 - 6) After a pitcher has hit two batters in an inning (or three batters in the course of 2 innings), he/she shall be replaced by a coach. Anytime a pitcher is removed a coach finishes the inning and a new pitcher enters at the start of the next inning.
 - 7) Once a pitcher is removed he/she may not pitch again in the game.
 - 8) Three strikes constitute an out. In an effort to speed up games, if the pitcher throws ball 4, there is no walk. The batter will hit off of a tee and the play is live.
6. If a pitcher reaches 5 batted balls off the tee in one inning (i.e. the equivalent of 5 walks), they shall be removed. The coach comes in to finish any inning in which the pitcher is removed.
 7. Base Running - Runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit.
 8. Batters Per Inning - There is a maximum of five runs, three outs or batting through the roster, whichever comes first. If one team has fewer players than the other team, they're allowed to repeat until they match the other team's roster number. The final batter should not be announced by the manager. The play should be completed like any normal play and then announce the inning is over.
 9. Termination of play after each hit ball: After play has been attempted AND the ball is thrown back AND CONTROLLED BY the pitcher within the eight foot circle of the pitcher's mound, any runner not advancing shall return to the base last reached safely. The play is then terminated.
 10. All official baseball rules apply to fair and foul balls.
 11. Strike Out & Walk - A strike out is three strikes, swinging or called. There are no walks in Farm Division – if an at bat reaches ball four, the batter will hit a ball off of a tee and the play is live.
 12. Hitting - Batter shall not be allowed to bunt and may not take a half swing. Batter is not allowed to fake a bunt. Any batter that fakes a bunt and then swings away shall be automatically called out (whether or not the ball is contacted by the bat). The moment the batter attempts his/her swing, the ball shall be called dead.

13. Coaching - Managers and coaches may stand near their batters or defensive players to give advice, but must not interfere with play. The manager or coach must request "time" before he/she attempts to demonstrate a technique or to explain a play to his/her players during the progress of the game. Only two coaches are allowed on the field with the defensive team. Only two are allowed to coach the bases.
14. Umpires – A plate umpire may be provided by EYBL if possible. In the event that umpires are short for any particular reason, Farm Division teams will be asked to go without an assigned umpire if necessary to staff the other division games.
 - a. A coach or parent shall serve as the base umpires.
 - b. If no umpire is present, a coach or parent shall call balls and strikes and serve as the base umpire.
 - c. The managers of each team are the only participants authorized to address the umpire, directly or indirectly. Any other coach, player, or parent that directly or indirectly address the umpire in a negative way, may be asked to leave the premises by a Board Member in attendance.
15. No inning shall start after 7:45 p.m. During the beginning of the season, special attention should be given to playing between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. when it may be too dark for safe playing. Managers should agree before the start of inning if appropriate to continue playing.
16. Scoring and Record Keeping - At the end of each 1/2 inning, the team that just batted will announce the runs scored. Each team will keep score for both teams. If the game gets lopsided, the scoreboard should be turned off.
17. Overthrows - One base on overthrow that travel out of bounds.
18. Bench - When possible, all players should remain on the bench. Only the batter and the on-deck batter should be up. This rule will be strictly enforced to eliminate injuries and confusion.
19. Evening games are scheduled to start at 5:30 p.m. and must under no circumstances start later than 5:45 p.m. In the case of bad weather, an email will be sent by the league or it will be posted on the EYBL web site by 5PM. Only the President, the Umpire in Chief or a designated officer of the league may postpone games. Managers and coaches may not postpone games at any time.
20. In the event that an umpire has not been assigned to the game, defensive coaches will make the calls at the bases.
21. Managers are responsible for the care and return of equipment.

22. Spectators - Parents and friends are prohibited from coming onto the field during a game and from being involved in or questioning any decision made by an umpire or manager. The league will prohibit any harassment or intimidation of umpires by spectators.
23. Any questions or problems, please contact the Division Coordinator.
24. All Saturday and Sunday games shall have a two-hour time limit.
25. All coaches shall have a minimum of one practice per week prior to the season.
26. All managers should do their best to complete a lineup prior to the game as this helps speed up the pace of play.

All official Cal Ripken Baseball Rule, a Division of Babe Ruth League, Inc., apply to situations not addressed in these rules

General Rules; All Divisions

A. Sportsmanship:

1. All players, managers, coaches, umpires and fans are expected to be respectful to one another and refrain from any behavior that deters from the playing of the game and the enjoyment of all participants.
2. Profanity is not allowed. Profanity directed at an umpire or an opponent is immediate cause for removal from the game. Other instances of profanity, such as frustration, especially by a player should be dealt with swiftly by an adult.
3. Chanting and singing is part of the fun of the game, however all chanting and singing should be in a positive vain for one's own team. Negative chanting toward your opponent will be stopped immediately by the umpire. No chanting may be timed to affect the pitchers wind-up and delivery to the plate. This behavior will result in a warning from the umpire for the first infraction and the batter being ruled out if it persists.
4. All managers, coaches, players and parents are expected to be supportive of the league. This extends to care of league equipment and facilities and actively participating in the league parade, Opening Day Ceremonies, fundraising, field work and working at the snack bar on their assigned right.
5. Teams will shake hands at the conclusion of each game at home plate.
6. Spitting should be discouraged.
7. In the event of a lopsided game, managers are asked to dim the scoreboard indicating runs when the game is effectively out of reach.

8. Managers are further encouraged to limit aggressive base running in lopsided games, which would result in humiliating an opponent.

B. Safety:

1. Teams shall refrain from warming up in common areas between fields. This is especially important on Saturdays when games overlap and many small children are around.
2. Any field maintenance tools, to include machinery, shall only be operated by authorized adults and/or approved employees/volunteers. Players shall not utilize any field maintenance tools, to include machinery, at any time.
3. Batting helmets must be worn by all players in the batting cages.
4. There will be no horseplay in the dugouts and no sitting on the support rails in the front of the dugouts.
5. Only the on deck batter is allowed in the on deck cage.
6. Coaches are not allowed to stand on the field unless coaching a base.
7. Base coaches are not allowed further than 5 feet down the baseline in front of the base they are coaching.
8. Players who warm up a pitcher must be wearing a catcher's mask.
9. In the Cooperstown, Majors and Babe Ruth divisions; all catchers, with the exception of left-handed players, are required to use a catcher's mitt while catching.
10. No one is allowed to pitch in a white long-sleeve undershirt.
11. Batting doughnuts and/or bat sleeves are prohibited.
12. If a batter strikes the catcher or any fielder with a thrown bat accidentally it will be cause for a warning from the umpire. In a second instance in the same game by the same player, the batter will be called out regardless of the result of the at bat. This rule will not apply at the Instructional or Farm Divisions; and managers should make immediate effort to teach the player the proper means to hold on to or discard the bat, as instruction is imperative at these levels.
13. If a player throws a bat or helmet in anger, the player will be either warned or removed at the discretion of the umpire. If the situation recurs the player will be removed from the game.
14. There is no smoking or tobacco use allowed at the Militia Park complex.
15. There is no alcohol consumption allowed at the Militia Park complex.

C. Equipment:

1. Each division will have an assigned official game ball, determined by the Executive Committee prior to the start of the season. Any substitutions during the season must be approved by the Executive Committee.
2. Catchers are required to wear protective athletic cups when playing the position. Catcher's equipment must be in compliance with Cal Ripken rules, to include at all divisions:
 - CATCHER'S MASK HELMET AND THROAT PROTECTOR (ALL DIVISIONS): Any player, manager or coach warming up a pitcher at any location shall wear a mask. An extended throat protector is considered part of the catcher's mask. PENALTY: If the catcher refuses to wear this equipment, he shall be removed from the game.
 - The catcher's helmet must cover both ears. Hockey style masks are approved. Two piece catcher helmet/mask combinations are not allowed.
3. Managers should not allow any illegal bats to be in the on-deck area or brought to the plate. All bats used should be official Cal Ripken approved bats. Any player using an illegal bat will be called out regardless of the result of the at bat.
 - All non-wood bats must have the USABat Marking.
 - The bat barrel may not exceed the maximum 2 5/8th inch diameter.
 - The bat may not exceed 33" in length.
 - No BBCOR Bats are permitted.
 - For T-Ball Division, bats must be marked with the USABat T-Ball Stamp
 - Wooden bats are legal to be used if approved by Cal Ripken standards; and display the imprinted approval of Cal Ripken. Wooden bats must also conform to the bat length and barrel size restrictions cited above.

D. Umpires:

1. All umpires have been given a clinic and are children ranging in age from 13 - 17 years. Many of the umpires are former EYBL players.
2. All participants will show the umpires proper respect. The umpires have been given the authority to remove any manager, coach, player or spectator if necessary to properly administer the game.
3. Easton Youth Baseball stands behind its umpires. Any one observed raising their voice, berating or intimidating an umpire shall be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will have the authority to manage and/or resolve the issue as they deem necessary. Any action taken by the Executive Committee may be appealed through the Grievance Committee and the appropriate process. Managers and coaches are responsible for the behavior of players, parents, siblings and spectators.
4. Only a Manager may speak with an umpire regarding, and limited to, a rules interpretation. At that time, the opposing manager should be present. The Manager requesting the discussion should be prepared to cite the rule they think is being misinterpreted.

5. No judgment calls can be questioned. Do not delay the game by doing so. This behavior could be subject for removal. Balls and strikes, out/safe and fair/foul calls are included under judgment calls.

E. Protesting Games:

1. Game protests must be initiated by a letter (e-mail acceptable) to the Commissioner, League President, & respective Division Coordinator within 24 hours of the game in question.
2. Game protests will only be considered if playing rules are questioned.
3. Games may not be protested based on umpire decision of judgement calls.
4. Protest letters will be confirmed in writing (e-mail acceptable), as received by the Commissioner.
5. The Commissioner will engage the Grievance Committee to commence investigation & proceeding with the Grievance process.
6. EYBL will try to determine outcome of protest as quickly, but thoroughly, as possible.