

Danvers National Little League

Division Game Rules & Skill Sets

Farm Division

Overview:

Farm is a developmental Division for players **Little League age 6 years old**. **This is an introduction of “Coach-pitch,” yet the Tee is used liberally when necessary.** Ideal rosters will be kept **at 8 players** so that all kids will play at all times. Coaching emphasis is upon player instruction and development. **Teams play hour-long 3 or 4-inning games twice a week with a practice session prior to each “game”.** Participation trophies are given to all players at the end of the season. The rules are simplified to accommodate young beginner players.

Game Rules:

- **Safety is always first.**
- **Make the game fun.**
- **There will be no score-keeping.** This is a non-competitive division.
- **Each game will consist of approximately 20 minutes practice & 1 hour of playing time (about 3 or 4 innings).**
- **All players will play defense in the field & change positions every inning.**
- **All players will bat.** It's helpful to use team shirt numbers to track batting order.
- **All batters will wear a batting helmet while at bat and on base.**
- During the game, all players must remain in the designated team areas and on benches, except the batter at the plate.
- There is no on-deck circle. The on-deck batter will wear a helmet to be ready but will not have a bat in hand until on the way to the plate. **THE ONLY PLAYER ALLOWED TO HAVE A BAT IN HIS/HER HANDS IS THE ONE CURRENTLY AT BAT.**
- **IN ORDER TO KEEP THE GAME MOVING, ALL COACHES SHALL LIMIT EACH BATTER TO 6 “COACH-PITCHES” BEFORE USING THE TEE. VERY LIBERAL USE OF THE TEE IS NOT ONLY EXPECTED, IT'S ENCOURAGED. AT THIS AGE, PLAYERS WILL DEVELOP SKILLS AT DIFFERENT RATES. IT'S IMPORTANT WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE USE OF THE TEE SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A FAILURE.**
- After hitting, players run one base at a time. Outs are not counted, but the runner will be asked to leave the base if the defense gets the batter or runner out. An inning will end after all team players have batted. The last batter shall run to all 4 bases back to home.

- No throwing the bat.
- No base stealing.
- **Coaches shall be positioned on the field throughout the game** for instructional purposes, such as working with the batter, re-positioning the fielders and ensuring players are prepared to field all plays and for injury prevention.
- The home team is responsible for setting out the bases & Tee.
- Both teams are responsible for cleaning up the area after each game.

Skill Sets:

- Learn the fundamentals of how to hold, aim and throw a ball.
- Learn the fundamentals of fielding ground balls with emphasis on proper stance, glove and hand position.
- Develop basic baseball grip & throwing skills.
- Develop basic stance grip and swing. & contact hitting skills.
- Develop basic fielding & catching skills.
- Develop awareness on the bases
- Develop team work skills.
- Learn to love the game of baseball and come back next year!