



Lorain County Hot Stove Softball Farm Minor Rules (rev. 3/18)

Managers are responsible for passing out the set of rules to umpires and field managers.
The rules in the white rule book covering softball also covers Farm Minor unless covered in these pages.

Field Dimensions: Pitching Rubber 28 ft.
Bases 60 ft.
Dead Ball Radius 10 ft (only during tee innings)

Equipment:

- Home team will supply 1 new and 1 good used IncrediBall 11 inch softball
- Catchers must wear full protective gear, including throat protector
- Face masks are required for players playing pitcher, first base and third base. They are suggested for the infield, but not required.

Roster Rules:

- Farm Minor is for players 5 and 6 years of age as of June 1st. Beginning with the 2019 season, the cutoff date will be May 1st.
- Players 7 years and older will play on a Farm Major roster.
- Communities may transfer (release) players to adjoining communities. Releases must be provided for all released players. Releases must be signed by both community Personnel Directors and Parent or Legal Guardian.

Playing Rules:

- On defense, a team may have 10 players in the field (i.e. 4 outfielders). Outfielders must be distinct from the infielders. This will be umpires discretion.
- Every player must play at least one inning in the infield (two is recommended).
- Each team may have two coaches on the field for defensive instruction, coaches must remain outside of the baselines.
- Each player must play, at least, two innings in the field, or six outs. Defensive subs must in the game by the top of the third inning.
- Each team will have a continuous batting order. Players arriving late are to be placed at the end of the lineup.

- ***Games will be six innings. The first three innings of the game, players will hit off a tee; the final three innings will be coach pitch to all batters. NO EXCEPTIONS.***
- No score will be kept. The final score will be recorded as 1-1.
- When the ball is inside the baselines the ball will be declared dead. Runners not in possession of the next base must return to the the base they came from. Possession means **touching** the base, not more than half way. This will be umpire judgement.
- **NO PROTESTS WILL BE ALLOWED**
- There will be a limit of 10 batters per inning. ON the 10th batter, the inning ends by either any out or when the ball reaches the infield. If the ball is not hit out of the infield, defense should attempt to make a play.
- No new inning may be started after 8:30pm on weekdays. The only exception would be if the game is being played under the lights.

Tee-Ball Rules:

- The pitcher must remain on the pitching rubber until contact has been made. If the pitcher is ruled off the rubber and makes a play that results in an out, the batter will be awarded first base and the runners forced to advance will be awarded the next base.
- Batter must stand in designated batter's box.
- When the ball is hit, the pitcher must have both feet on the pitching rubber. If the pitcher is ruled off the rubber, and makes a play that results in an out, the batter will be awarded first base. Any runners will advance to the next base.
- Catchers must be in the catcher's box when the ball is hit. If they are outside the box, it will be treated as catcher's interference; ball is dead and the batter is awarded first base, base runners will only advance if forced.
- **No Stealing**
- The ball must pass the 10' dead ball radius for it to be a fair ball. If the hit ball fails to pass the dead ball radius, the batter will be given another opportunity to hit the ball.

Coach Pitch Rules:

- A coach from the offensive team will pitch their half of the inning. The defensive pitcher will stand alongside of the coach that is pitching. Each batter will receive, at most, six pitches. If the batter fails to hit the ball in fair territory by the sixth pitch, it will be recorded as an out.
- The coach can move anywhere between the mound and the plate to make a pitch, while remaining, at least, 20' from the plate. The ball **MUST** be delivered in an **UNDERHAND** motion.
- If a batted ball hits the coach, it is a live ball, unless the coach catches the ball out of reflex. In this case, the batter is awarded first base and forced runners advance one base.
- The coach that is pitching **MAY NOT** give instructions to base runners.
- Bunting is **NOT** permitted.

- Runners may only advance on a hit ball. No stealing.

Umpires:

- One umpire is allowable. If there is only one umpire, they must be at least 13, base umpires must be at least 11.
- Coaches will be allowed to explain rules and situations in order to teach the kids. Please, use discretion and try not to impede the forward process of the game.
- Games will start at 6:30pm, with a two hour time limit. Coaches may reschedule, as needed. Please make necessary changes on the website.

Score Reporting and Schedule Changes:

- Home team will be responsible for reporting the score. A score of 1-1 must be submitted to loraincountyhotstove.com within 48 hours of game completion. Managers must communicate any schedule changes to the league. Any changes made to date, time or location must be made on the website. A separate form will follow.

Tournament:

- There will be a one game tournament for all teams. Dates for the draw and game location will be forthcoming.

Any questions that arise during the season may be directed the Farm Minor VP, Amy Sullivan, at 330-421-8589 or amy@loraincountyhotstove.com.