

SECTION 2 FARM DIVISION

1. **Safety:** Safety is the # 1 priority. Make it your priority to teach safety at practice and during the games.
2. **Length of Game:** All games will be 3 to 4 innings. The coaches may decide whether or not to play a 4th inning depending on the pace of the game. Maximum game time of 1 hour 20 minutes from scheduled start time.
3. **Scorekeeping:** No scores will be kept.
4. **Coaching:** Coaches are encouraged to be on the field. When on defense, 3 coaches may be on the field (but not in the infield). Coaches must be in the outfield (behind the infield players). When your team bats you should have a 1st and 3rd base coach, and one coach feeding the pitching machine. During underhand toss/coach pitch, you should have one coach pitching and another catching so as to keep the pace of the game going. Grab a parent from the crowd to coach a base or something if you don't have enough official coaches.
5. **Field Maintenance:** Home team for first game sets up field. Get pitching machine, bucket of game balls and bases from shed behind the Snack Shack at Valmonte field. Home team from last game puts away pitching machine, game balls and bases and should rake and drag the infield. All teams please pick up trash at the end of your games.
6. **Fielding:** All kids play. All kids are assigned a field position when on defense. Rotate positions each inning (outfield and infield) to ensure everyone tries every position. No kid sits in the "dugout". Keep safety in mind (i.e., if a kid likes to pick daisies now and then, make sure he/she gets it out of his/her system before being at pitcher). If you only play 3 innings, make sure to mix it up the following week so that kids get an equal chance over the course of the season to play infield and outfield. Please refrain from "double" pitcher set-ups or the same kid at first base who catches everything.
7. **Pitching:** For the entire season all pitching will be done through the use of a coach fed pitching machine. Under no circumstances should a player operate this piece of equipment. If a player has trouble hitting from the machine after several attempts, the coach should move closer to the batter and under hand pitch to the batter. If the batter continues to struggle to make contact, a batting tee can be used.
8. **Batting:** Teams will bat through their entire line-up during their half of each inning. Rotate the batting order each inning. (All kids get a chance to bat before the team returns to the field).
9. **Outs:** If an out is made, the batter or runner goes back to the dugout. The number of outs in an inning is not recorded and since the entire lineup will bat each inning, it is possible that three or more outs can be made in a single half of an inning.
10. **Base Running:** Runners should stop running the bases when a ball hit in the outfield is returned to the infield or when an out is attempted by throwing the ball to a base. For last hitter in each half inning, the runners can run all the way to home to clear the bases.
11. **Game time Best Practices:**
 - 11.1. Make sure to limit the number of pitches. If a kid is not hitting the ball after 3 to 4 good pitches, do an underhand toss or bring out the tee for them so that the ball gets put in play.
 - 11.2. Make your line-up prior to the game. Have your defensive positions and batting order for each inning decided upon prior to the start of the game.
 - 11.3. Distribute copies of your line-up to your coaches and 'dugout parent' so that they may help you with positioning the players and setting the batting order when the team is in the field.
 - 11.4. Designate a 'dugout parent' to be in charge of keeping the hitters in order and ready to hit when it's their turn.
 - 11.5. Have mats or buckets (with each player's name and uniform number) for each player to sit on when they come off the field. The 'dugout parent' can arrange these in the proper order while your team is in the field so that they will be ready to bat when it's your turn to hit.
12. **Practice Guidelines:** Practice once per week for 45 minutes to one hour. If you go longer than that, you are past the kids' ability to learn and have fun. Having multiple coaches at practice and splitting the kids into smaller groups is always helpful; don't be afraid to pull parents off the sidelines at practice to help as well.