



OFFICIAL RULES

FARM DIVISION
7 & 8 YEAR OLDS
BOYS AND GIRLS

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I. SCOPE

- A. The Elmhurst Youth Baseball League Farm Division is an instructional baseball league designed to teach participating children the necessary skills in order to play and enjoy the game of baseball.
- B. Since the game is umpired by the manager and coaches from each team who may not be totally familiar with all technical aspects of the rules of baseball, the emphasis of EYB Farm is on instruction. We have provided the following list of rules which in all cases supersede any conflicting rules in any and all rule books.

II. THE FIELD

- A. The distance between bases will be 50 feet from the back of home plate (point) to outfield side of 1st and 3rd base and from the foul line side of 1st and 3rd base to the center of 2nd base. All bases are inside the 50 foot square except 2nd base.
- B. The pitching rubber distance is 38 feet from back of home plate (point) to the front of the pitching rubber.
- C. The distance between home plate and 2nd base is 70 feet, 8.5 inches from back of home plate (point) to center of 2nd base.
- D. An arc with a 15 foot radius from the back of home plate (point) shall be marked to determine foul balls.
- E. For games played at Lincoln School on the West Field, any batted ball reaching the parking lot in right field will be considered a “ground rule double”. All play is stopped and the batter is awarded 2nd base with all other runners moving up two bases. This is a safety issue as we do not want children chasing the ball into a parking lot.

III. EQUIPMENT

- A. Wooden, metal, graphite or ceramic bats that are round and not more than 2 1/4" in diameter at the thickest part, nor more than 36 inches in length, are acceptable.
- B. A player's uniform is his responsibility and must be as clean as possible at the start of every league game.
- C. A player must wear his complete “issued” uniform. The jersey must be “tucked in” at all times. Any sweatshirts or jackets must also be worn under the jersey. Managers are not required to play players not in uniform.

- D. All defensive players must be wearing a baseball glove.
- E. Batters and all base runners must wear only league approved (NOCSAE) or issued “over the ear style” batting helmets. No exceptions.

IV. GAME ADMINISTRATION

- A. There shall be no forfeits.
- B. There shall be no protests.
- C. Adults will coach home plate, (will be performing the role of catcher) first and third bases, with at least one adult supervising the dug out (bench) area.
- D. One adult may be allowed to coach in the outfield area while their team is on defense.
- E. The manager of the team at bat in conjunction with his coaches, will call all plays on the bases.

V. PLAYERS

- A. All players present for a game shall play in the game with 9 players used in the field at one time. Field positions shall be pitcher, third base, short stop, second base and first base in the infield and 4 outfielders. Extra players must sit out.
- B. It is recommended that each player be allowed to play multiple positions during the season.
- C. Infielders must be positioned to the outfield side of the base paths. Outfielders must be positioned on the outfield grass. Position players may not move from their positions until the ball is put in play. (NO POSITION JUMPING.)
- D. The pitcher shall be positioned to the side of the pitching rubber opposite the batter (example: with a right handed batter, the pitcher will stand on the 2nd base side of the pitching rubber).
- E. The changing of a player’s defensive position during the course of a half-inning will not be allowed, except in the case of injury to that player. If the player should return to the game during the same half-inning, he shall resume his original defensive position.
- F. A continuous batting order will be used.

VI. THE GAME

- A. The length of the game shall be five innings or 1.5 hours. In order to speed up the game, managers are expected to have a line-up and defensive positions determined prior to the game.
- B. Three complete innings or 90 minutes shall constitute a regulation game.
- C. Inning length is 3 outs or nine batters, whichever ever comes first. The manager of the batting team must announce to the opposing manager that the ninth batter is coming up. If the the 9th batter reaches base safely, the number of runs that may score depend on the number of bases the batter has reached safely. The runners may advance only the amount of bases that the batter has reached safely. (example: on a single all runners may advance one base. A double, all base runners may advance 2 bases.
- D. A player may not play the same position more than 2 innings per game or sit out for more than 2 innings per game. Please rotate your players. We want the kids to experience the feel of all positions. However, we do not expect you to play a child at any position that could result in injury, should they not have the ability to perform at said position.
PENALTY – Managers who are reported to have violated this provision will be asked to appear before the Board.
- E. Every attempt will be made to complete all games. In the event a team is unable to field eight players at the start of or during the progress of the game, it is the responsibility of the managers to establish a timely and workable decision between them.

VII. BASERUNNING

- A. Leadoffs and stealing are not allowed.
- B. No infield fly rule.
- C. Runners may not advance on overthrows.
- D. On balls hit to the outfield, the batter/runner may run the bases until the defensive team throws the ball and it lands in the infield area. The runner proceeding beyond the base remains at risk and may be tagged out. However, if the runner safely proceeds beyond the allowed base they must return to the proper base after the play is dead.
- E. Runners may not advance on an over throw. A runner that is half way to the next base is given that base. If the runner is less than halfway, he/she

must return to the previous base. This rule is meant to encourage the defensive players to make the proper play without penalty.

- F. The ball is considered dead and play stops when controlled by an infielder or pitcher and no play is being made. All runners are to be held and the above rule of advancement is in place.
- G. Any ball hitting the coach who is pitching or a coach on the field will be declared dead. The hitter returns and all runners go back to the base they started from. Play continues from previous point.
- H. A base runner must touch the base he is running to before he goes on to the next base and before the base runner behind him touches that base. If he does not, he will be declared out.
- I. The manager or coaches may not touch a base runner during a play.
- J. If a base runner passes another base runner, he will be declared out.

VIII. BATTING

- A. No walks.
- B. No strikeouts.
- C. A batter receives 5 pitches of any kind (no underhand pitches allowed) or 3 swings, whichever comes first. If the ball is not put in play he/she shall be called out. However, this out will not count against the team's three outs until June 1st. Beginning June 1st any batter called out due to 5 pitches or 3 swings will be counted towards the team's three outs. No tee is to be used in Farm.
- D. No bunting or half-swings.
- E. A batted ball, which travels less than 15 feet from home plate, shall be ruled foul.
- F. Batters must assume a legal position within an imaginary batter's box. At no time should they be allowed to stand with either foot extending over a line parallel to and one inch away from the side of home plate.
- G. The manager or coach at home plate shall warn batters who throw their bat. If after having been warned once, the same player throws his bat a second time, he shall be declared out and the ball ruled dead.

- H. No on deck hitter is needed. Have players ready on the bench with their helmets on.

Note: Managers and coaches are reminded that throwing the bat is a serious offense. However, a player should not be penalized if their bat simply rolls a distance from the plate as most non-wooden bats tend to do on a hard, dry field. The purpose of Rule VIII-G is to penalize the batter who actually throws the bat with enough force that the managers feel an injury could have occurred had contact to a player been made.

IX. GENERAL NOTES

- A. Starting times for all weekday games is 6 p.m. The game may be played with a minimum of 7 players. We encourage you to try to play all games, so teams may borrow players from the opposing team if necessary.
- B. Should field conditions be questionable, please check our website “www.eybaseball.org”. The fields deemed unplayable will be listed by 4pm on game day. Managers will not put children in any danger (lightning, etc.). Should you feel conditions are unsafe, discontinue play.
- C. The home team is listed second on your schedule. The manager of the home team is responsible for preparing the field. Please have the field ready for starting time. On Saturday you may keep the field set-up should a game follow yours.
- D. All games will be played on the date scheduled except with permission of the Farm Commissioner.
- E. The managers shall not permit a game to begin or continue if the field and/or weather present a threat to the safety of the players. If a game is canceled, notify the Farm Commissioner immediately for rescheduling.
- F. Both teams will patrol the field and spectator areas for any litter, immediately after each game or practice.