

2009 Farm League Rules

PTE Little League Objective

PTE Little League's objective is to enrich our children by providing them with the positive experience of teamwork, personal achievement and excellence through participation in our baseball and softball programs.

Farm League Objectives

The focus of the Farm League is to have fun, teach team sportsmanship and build upon the skills introduced during T-Ball by introducing advanced baseball skills appropriate for 6 and 7 year-old players. The areas of focus include:

Baseball Field - Review different bases and player positions in the infield and outfield. Include review of fair and foul ball.

Hitting – Reinforce proper grip, stance and swing, and proper technique for hitting pitches with emphasis on focusing on the strike zone. Advanced skills include hitting coach pitch, focusing on the ball, stride and introducing the “Squish the Bug” technique.

Throwing – Reinforce “T” Point Stance - step and follow through.

Infielders – Reinforce the proper fielding technique - players keep the ball in front of them, bending at the knees and catching the ball with two hands. Teach down and ready when pitcher is in motion. Teach concept of charging the ball. Focus on throwing to first and introduce concepts of tag versus forced outs.

Outfielders – Focus on proper fielding techniques including catching fly balls, fielding a base hit by kneeling on one knee to block ball and charging and scooping ball. Introduce backing up outfielders and hitting the cut-off man and throwing to second base.

Base Running – Reinforce base running principles learned during T-Ball, including running hard to and through first base on infield hit. On base hit to outfield, teach rounding first. Make sure each base is touched and stay in the baseline. Teach not to overrun second and third bases. Teach to hold runners (four steps off base) on fly ball to see if caught and advance if dropped. Teach to go back to base if caught. No tagging up in Farm League

Note: For practice plans and additional information, refer to the link “Baseball Basic Manual” on the Coaches Corner section of the PTTLLLE web-site (www.parsippanybaseball.com).

GENERAL RULES

All players, Little League age 6 and 7, can participate in Farm League.

All 6 year-olds must have played one year of T-Ball before advancing to coach pitch. No exceptions! This is a Little League rule.

A maximum of 10 players per team.

Each inning will consist of three outs or four runs, whichever comes first. The inning will change after three outs or four runs. This limitation on runs should allow for all kids to get a minimum of three at bats per game and keep the game moving. If 30 minutes remain in a game and kids have not yet been at bat at least three times, speak with the other coach and allow a team to bat through their order to get the players their 3rd at bat.

Each game is played for six innings or two-hour limit, whichever comes first.

Home team provides game ball and sits in the first base dugout. Visiting team sits in the third base dugout. Game and practice balls are provided by the league. New baseballs are used for games and old ones for practice.

FIELDING RULES

If a team has 9 or 10 players present, the team can play nine in the field with five infielders and four outfielders. A player may not sit out on defense more than one inning per game. All players bat.

All infielders must play regular position – P, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B. One player per position.

Only one player at the pitchers mound. Pitcher must remain on pitchers mound until ball is hit.

Each player must play at least two innings in the infield.

Please use your judgment regarding player's skill level when rotating them to First Base. All outfielders must play no closer than 15 feet from the infield or any base.

PITCHING AND HITTING RULES

Coaches shall pitch every inning to their own team.

Coaches must pitch from a kneeling position and throw overhand from 30 ft. to 40 ft. out. Coaches shall not pitch from the standing position.

After 6 good swings or pitches (maximum of 8 pitches per batter) the player shall use a tee to hit. There shall be no walks.

One batting order per season. The player who makes the last out in one game shall bat last in the next game.

No bunting, stealing, or strikeouts.

On a base hit, the batter may advance to second base. The batter may not hit a triple or home run. Baserunners may advance until the ball is fielded cleanly, but no more than two bases per at bat.

Coaching

Coaches can keep score for their own team and let the players know how many runs they have scored. There are no winners or losers. Emphasis is on skill building, having fun and camaraderie.

Each team should have one manager and at least two assistant coaches. If possible, during games, it is recommended to have at least three assistant coaches. Managers, should recruit parents to coach during games. Each coach must have proper certification to coach. See PTLLE web site for information regarding certification.

During game, when team is on the field, only two coaches in the field.

During game, when team is at bat, one coach pitches, one coach at first, one coach at third and one on the bench. If not enough coaches, one coach should be at first base and the bench. If one team is short coaches, then coaches from the other team should offer to assist.

During pre-season, each manager is responsible for conducting a minimum of two practices per week. During season, it is up to the discretion of the coach, but at least one practice plus game(s) is recommended.

Upon completion of the game, coaches from both teams must rake the field and pick up garbage in and around the field of play. Ask parents for assistance to rake field and keep the fields clean.