

CYBSA FARM LEAGUE RULES

- **Code of Conduct:** Every coach should review and adhere to the CYBSA “Code of Conduct”.
- **Rosters:** Rosters are determined in random order at the outset of the season from the pool of eligible and registered 5 and 6-year-old players. This is a non-competitive format league with an emphasis on instruction. Changes to the roster after the beginning of the season may only be made with the consent of the Player Agent of CYBSA. The Player Agent may delegate this responsibility to the coordinator given the non-competitive nature of Farm League.
 - a. Coaches should inform the Farm League Coordinator in the event any player leaves the team or is no longer expected to play for the season. The Farm League Coordinator with the consent of the CYBSA Player Agent will determine the way the roster spot may be filled, if at all.
- **Schedule:** Each Farm League team has one or two baseball sessions per week as follows:
 - a. All teams have a 90-minute session on Saturday mornings consisting of 45 minutes of instruction and 45 minutes of game play according to the schedule alignment.
 - b. Once per week, half of the teams meet on a Sunday morning for a one-hour session that includes 15 minutes of skills based warming up and 45 minutes of game play.
- **Umpires:** Coaches serve as umpires. When in tee ball format, the coach of the batting team is responsible for umpiring and setting up the tee for the batter. When in coach pitch format, the coach of the batting team shall pitch to his or her own players. The head coach or assistant coach may serve in this role, with head coach approval.
- **Field Preparation:** The home team is responsible for raking the field before each session and removing any debris or hazards. The visiting team is responsible for raking the field upon completion and returning equipment to the shed.
- **Field Conditions:** Notwithstanding other provisions, a game must be called by both teams’ coaches when conditions become potentially dangerous for the players (i.e., field conditions, threatening weather, etc.) The safety of the players is paramount and must be the first consideration of coaches and officials.
 - a. Both teams will assume responsibility for always maintaining safe playing conditions at the field. Coaches should contact the Farm League Coordinator or designee if there are questions about field playability.
 - b. Coaches are responsible for having their players clean their respective dugout / playing areas of all water/Gatorade bottles, gum wrappers and other debris after each game.
- **Equipment:** It is the responsibility of the home team to secure any CYBSA training aids and equipment meant for the use of clinics and stations, prior to instruction. This always includes a batting tee at a minimum. The home team must return them to the Barnes shed in good order.

All equipment must be kept in the ‘on deck’ cage, in the dugout or in a secure location away from the playing field.

- a. All helmets must be equipped with approved facemasks / cages and worn by all batters / baserunners.
- b. Baseballs will be provided by the coordinator. Only CYBSA approved soft baseballs

are allowed for game play.

- **Player In-Game Conduct:** Coaches are responsible for monitoring the behavior of their players and taking appropriate action. Significant issues should be brought to the attention of the Farm League Coordinator and the CYBSA Player Agent.
- **Game Execution – Tee ball and Coach Pitch:**
 - a. The games are purely developmental at this stage. As a rule of thumb, 5-year-olds should be hitting in Tee ball format while 6-year-olds should hit in coach pitch format.
 - b. 5-year-olds may graduate to coach pitch only if it is evident that they have aptitude for hitting live pitching. Coaches should appreciate that hitting off a tee properly is a critical phase of development and should not rush to coach pitch.
 - c. 6-year-olds may begin the year hitting off a tee if they are new to baseball, or if the coach deems it appropriate.
 - d. Coaches should throw as many hittable pitches as needed to allow the hitter to make contact. **An adult catcher should be behind the plate to facilitate quick back and forth transfer of the ball, and keep the pace going. The adult catcher can be the coach of the opposing team...coach pitch cannot take place without an adult catcher facilitating an adequate pace of play.** After 7 missed swings the coach should use his or her discretion to use the tee or even soft toss from a 45-degree angle.
 - e. Batting orders should be set so that all tee ball hitters go first, followed by coach pitch.
 - f. Games should last 45 minutes and afford each child a minimum of 2 at bats.
- **Game Execution – Hitting and Fielding:**
 - a. Coaches should attempt to avoid distinctions between 5 and 6-year-old players and view it as a developmental league for all players equally.
 - b. Coaches should be actively coaching their players in between at bats with questions and cues around which base they are running to, and where they are throwing the ball to.
 - c. Only the 'at bat' player can actively swing a bat. No 'on-deck' swinging including the 'on deck cage'.
 - d. Bats used in game must be Little League USA standard bats. The CYBSA will provide certified bats to each team for use.
 - e. Players should be rotated from their position each inning with a balance of infield and outfield being relatively even. The only exception is 1st base which should be reserved for players who are ready to receive the ball.
- **Rule Governance:**
 - a. The Farm League Division coaches should consult with the Farm League Coordinator who may give the coaches the discretion to modify play as the season progresses.
- **2021 Key Contacts:**
 - a. Bob Carlson– Farm League Coordinator (Issues or questions related to game execution, rules, procedures, etc.) – bacarlson21@gmail.com
 - b. Vince Thornton – CYBSA VP / Administrator (issues related to field availability, rain outs, rescheduling, etc.) - invincible6@verizon.net

