**West Suburban Farm Division Rules**

**Overview**

Farm division is an instructional division for players Little League ages 5-6 and first year 7 year old players. Farm division is an instructional division with emphasis being placed upon having fun and learning the game of baseball/softball. This is an introduction of “Coach-pitch,” yet the tee is used liberally when necessary. Coaching emphasis is upon player instruction and development. Teams play 5 innings or 75 minutes of a game. The rules are simplified to accommodate young players.

**GENERAL RULES**

All players (girls and boys) ages 5-6 can participate. (All 4 year olds are encouraged to play Tee Ball)

It is recommended that 5 year-olds have played one year of Tee Ball. First year 7 year old players may also play, based on recommendation by Minors Division managers.

Games shall be played on Jones Field.

Each team should have 8-9 players.

Each half-inning consists of three outs or four runs, whichever comes first. This limitation on runs should allow for all kids to get a minimum of three at-bats per game and keep the game moving.

Each game is played for five innings or 1 hour and 15 minutes time limit, whichever comes first. Managers are to use their discretion. The team fielding will designate a coach to serve as an umpire while their team is playing defense.

**FIELDING RULES**

All players bat, if a team has 9 players present, the team can play nine in the field with five infielders (P, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B) no catcher and four outfielders. (No players sit) If less than 9 use 2-3 outfielders. It is recommended that boys wear a protective cup as it a rule in the Minors Division.

Rotate positions each inning, each player should play at least two innings in the infield.

All outfielders must play no closer than 15 feet from the infield or any base.

A play will be declared over and no further advancement of base runners once the fielding team returns the ball to the pitcher’s mound. In addition, a base runner may advance only one base on an overthrow. Defensive players should retrieve overthrown balls, not the coaches.

**PITCHING AND HITTING RULES**

Coaches shall pitch every inning to their own team.

Coaches should pitch from a kneeling position and throw overhand from 30-40 feet away. (This will create a flatter plane of the pitch allowing the kids to have more success hitting compared to a standing position which will cause a downward plane to the pitch.) Underhand pitching is also an option, however, the arc of the ball whether thrown overhand or underhand should be limited to no more than the height of the child batting.

After 6 good swings or pitches the player shall use a tee to hit. There shall be no walks or strikeouts.

Use the same batting order throughout season. Uniform numbers can be used for a batting order. The player who makes the last out in one game shall bat last in the next game. No bunting, leading, stealing or strikeouts.

On a base hit, the batter may attempt to advance to second base. The batter may not hit a triple or home run, unless over the fence. Base runners may advance until the ball is fielded cleanly, but no more than two bases per hit.