



Lorain County Hot Stove

2026 Girls Farm Minor Rules

Managers are responsible for passing out the set of rules to umpires and field managers. The rules in the gold rule book covering softball also covers Farm Minor unless covered in these pages.

Field Dimensions:

- Pitching Rubber: 28 ft.
- Bases: 60 ft.
- Dead Ball Radius: 10 ft. (only during tee innings)

Equipment:

- The home team will supply 1 new and 1 good used IncrediBall 11-inch softball.
- Catchers must wear full protective gear, including throat protectors.
- Face masks are required for players playing pitcher, first base and third base. They are suggested for the infield but not required.
- Chin straps are required for all batting helmets.

Roster Rules:

- Communities may transfer (release) players to adjoining communities. Releases must be provided for all released players. Releases must be signed by both community Personnel Directors and Parent or Legal Guardian.
- Farm Minor is for players 5 and 6 years of age as of August 31st of the previous calendar year.
- Players 7 years old will play on a Farm Major roster.

Playing Rules:

1. On defense, a team may have 10 players on the field (i.e. 4 outfielders). Outfielders must be distinct from the infielders. This will be the umpire's discretion.
2. Every player must play at least one inning in the infield (two are recommended).
3. Each team may have two coaches on the field for defensive instruction, coaches must remain outside of the baselines.
4. Each player must play at least two innings in the field, or six outs. Defensive subs must be in the game by the top of the third inning.
5. Each team will have a continuous batting order. Players arriving late are to be placed at the end of the lineup.
6. **Games will be six innings. The first three innings of the game, players will hit off a tee; the final three innings will be coach pitch to all batters. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
7. No score will be kept. The final score will be recorded as 1-1.
8. When the ball is inside the baselines the ball will be declared dead. Runners not in possession of the next base must return to the base they came from. Possession means **touching** the base, not more than halfway. This will be the umpire's judgement.
9. **NO PROTESTS WILL BE ALLOWED**
10. There will be a limit of 10 batters per inning. ON the 10th batter, the inning ends by either any out or when the ball reaches the infield. If the ball is not hit out of the infield, the defense should attempt to make a play.
11. No cell phones on playing field or dugouts!!!
12. No new inning may be started after 8:30pm on weekdays during the school year. The only exception would be if the game is being played under the lights.
13. No new inning may be started after 1 hour, 30 minutes (90 minutes) of play.
14. Players that fail to control or throw their bat will be issued a warning in May. Starting June 1, player will receive 1 warning, then will be called out on any subsequent infractions.



Lorain County Hot Stove

Tee-Ball Rules:

15. Batter may stand anywhere in the batter's box but may not take a running start to hit the ball.
16. When the ball is hit, the pitcher must have both feet on the pitching rubber. If the pitcher is ruled off the rubber, and makes a play that results in an out, the batter will be awarded first base. Any runners will advance to the next base.
17. Catchers must be in the catcher's box when the ball is hit. If they are outside the box, it will be treated as catcher's interference; ball is dead and the batter is awarded first base, base runners will only advance if forced.
18. No strikeouts, lead offs, or stealing will be allowed.
19. The ball must pass the 10' dead ball radius for it to be a fair ball. If the hit ball fails to pass the dead ball radius, the batter will be given another opportunity to hit the ball.

Coach Pitch Rules:

20. Only 1 softball may be in the game at the same time. Coach pitcher may not bring out additional softballs.
21. For the coach pitch portion, a coach from the team at bat will pitch each half inning of the game. (Relief pitching coaches are allowed) The defensive pitcher will stand alongside the coach that is pitching, opposite the side of the batter, no more than 3 feet from the side and 3 feet behind, the adult pitcher, at the umpire's discretion. The player may not leave that spot until the ball crosses the plate. Umpire must not allow a pitch to be delivered until the player in the pitcher's position is in a legal location. Once ball is pitched, it is agreed that the player was in the proper position. Each batter will receive at most 6 pitches from the coach. If the batter fails to hit the ball in fair territory on or before the 6th pitch, she shall be declared out.
22. The coach can move anywhere between the mound and the plate to make a pitch, while remaining, at least, 20' from the plate. The ball **MUST** be delivered in an **UNDERHAND** motion.
23. If a batted ball hits the coach, it is a live ball, unless the coach catches the ball out of reflex. In this case, the batter is awarded first base and forced runners advance one base.
24. The coach that is pitching **MAY NOT** give instructions to base runners.
25. The ball is dead from the catcher to the pitcher.
26. Stealing bases and leading off bases are not permitted. Runners may only advance on a hit ball.
27. Dropped third strike rule will not be in effect.
28. NO ARGUING PLEASE!!! Ejections carry a minimum of a 4-game suspension!

Umpires:

1. One umpire is allowable. If there is only one umpire, he/she must be a carded Hot Stove umpire.
2. Coaches will be allowed to explain the rules, situations, etc. during the game (coaches must use discretion).
3. The games will start at 6:15 PM, with a two-hour time limit. Coaches may reschedule, as needed. Please email all schedule changes to scores@loraincountyhotstove.com.

Score Reporting and Schedule Changes:

The home team will be responsible for reporting the score. A score of 1-1 must be submitted to www.loraincountyhotstove.com within 48 hours of game completion. Managers must communicate any schedule changes to the league. Any changes made to date, time or location must be made on the website. A separate form will follow.

Tournament:

Tournament draw: Tuesday, June 30, 2026, at 5:30 PM, at Bricklayers and Craft Workers Hall, 8497 Leavitt Rd, Amherst, OH 44001.