



Lorain County Hot Stove

2026 Boys Farm Minor Rules

Managers are responsible for passing out this set of rules to umpires and field managers. The rules in white rule book covering I and HH also cover Farm unless covered in these rules.

Field Dimensions:

Pitching Distance: 40 ft.
Bases: 60 ft.
Dead ball radius 20 ft. (Tee-ball only)
DEAD BALL LINE: AROUND BASES (ALL OTHER PLAY)

Equipment:

- Home team will supply 1 new and 1 good used AD Starr 10 baseball.
- Catchers must wear full protective gear, including throat protector and cup.
- There are NO BAT DROP RESTRICTIONS (no composite, two-piece or three-piece)
- Chin straps must be worn on 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 Personnel Directors and Parents or Legal Guardian. There is no limit on the number of players on a team.
- Farm Minor is for players 5 and 6 as of May 1st of the current year.
- Players 7 years old will play on a Class I roster.

Playing rules:

1. On defense a team may have as many as 10 players on the field (i.e. 4 outfielders). Outfielders must be distinct from infielders (umpires' discretion)
2. Every player must play at least one inning in the infield (we recommend at least 2 innings for every player in the infield)
3. At most 2 coaches may be on the field for defensive instruction.
4. Each player must play at least 2 innings in the field, or 6 outs. Defensive subs must be in the game by the top of the third.
5. Each team will have a continuous batting order, i.e. every player present for the game will be in the lineup. Players arriving late are to be placed at the end of the lineup.
6. **Games will be 6 innings. The first 3 innings of every game are tee-ball; the next 3 innings are coach pitch to all batters. No Exceptions.**
7. No score will be kept during the game. Both teams are considered winners.
8. When the ball is inside the baselines (whether in possession of a player or not) the ball will be declared dead. Runners that are not in possession of the next base will retreat to the base they came from. (Possession means touching the next base not more than halfway) This is a Judgment Call by the UMPIRE!!!
9. NO PROTESTS WILL BE ALLOWED!!!!
10. Maximum of 10 batters per inning. On the 10th batter, any out ends the inning, or if the ball is in the infield. (On a ball not hit out of the infield the defense should try to make a play if possible)
11. No cell phones on playing field or dugouts!!!
12. No new inning can start after 8:30 PM on weekdays while school is in session. Only exception is entire game being played under the lights.
13. No new inning may start 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.



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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 the play that results in an out, the batter will be awarded first base, and the runners forced to advance will be awarded the next base.
17. Catchers must be in the catcher's box when the ball is hit. If outside the box, it will be treated as catcher's interference.
18. No strikeouts, lead offs, or stealing will be allowed.
19. The ball must pass the 20' dead ball radius for it to be considered a fair ball. If the hit ball fails to pass the dead ball radius the batter has another opportunity to hit the ball.

Coach Pitch Rules:

20. Only 1 baseball may be in the game at the same time. Coach pitcher may not bring out additional baseballs.
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 he shall be declared out.
22. The coach can move anywhere between the mound and the plate to pitch to his players (he must be at least 20' from the plate) and can use any motion to deliver the ball (i.e. either overhand or underhand, but overhand is recommended).
23. If a batted ball hits the coach that is pitching, it is a live ball unless the coach catches the ball out of reflex. In this case, the batter is awarded first base, and the forced runners advance one base.
24. The coach that is pitching is not allowed to give instructions to base runners
25. Bunting will not be allowed while the coach is pitching.
26. Any pitched ball that is batted in fair territory is in play.
27. The ball is dead from the catcher to the pitcher.
28. Stealing bases and leading off bases are not permitted. Runners may only advance on a hit ball.
29. Dropped third strike rule will not be in effect.
30. 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. Weekday games start at 6:15pm, Weekend games start at 6:15pm. Managers may agree to start at a different time.

Score Reporting and Schedule Changes:

Teams are required to submit scores. The home team will be responsible for submitting a final score of 1-1 to www.loraincountyhotstove.com within 48 hours of the completion of the game. Managers must communicate and schedule changes to the league. Any date, time or venue changes will be made on the <http://loraincountyhotstove.com> website. A separate form will detail the process.

Tournament draw:

Tournament draw: Saturday, June 20, 202+, at 1:00 PM, at Bricklayers and Craft Workers Hall, 8497 Leavitt Rd, Amherst, OH 44001.