

## **PVLL Farm League** **Rules and Guidelines**

### Length of Game

All games will be 3 or 4 innings. The coaches may decide whether or not to play a 4<sup>th</sup> inning depending upon the pace of the game. Maximum game time of 1 hour 20 minutes from scheduled start time.

### Field Maintenance

Home team for first game sets up field. Get pitching machine, bucket of game balls and bases from shed down the left field line on main Valmonte field. Home team from last game puts away pitching machine, game balls and bases and should rake and drag the infield. All teams please pick up trash at the end of your games.

### No Scorekeeping

No score will be kept.

### Coaching on Field

Coaches are encouraged to be on the field. When on defense, 3 coaches may be on the field (but not in the infield). Coaches must be in the outfield (behind the players).

When your team bats, you should have a 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base coach and one coach feeding the pitching machine (or soft toss or batting tee if the kid is having trouble). Grab a parent from the crowd to coach a base if you don't have enough official coaches.

### All Kids Play

All kids are assigned a field position when on defense. Rotate positions to ensure everyone tries gets a fair opportunity to play different positions. No kid sits in the "dugout"; catcher is optional. In terms of positions, please refrain from "double" pitcher set-ups or stacking the infield with players so that nothing gets through to the outfield. We are trying to build some familiarity with positions.

### Batting and Outs

Teams will bat through their entire line-up during their half of each inning. You may rotate your batting order so that it doesn't have to be the same order in each inning; your call. If an out is made, the batter or runner goes back to the dugout. We do not keep track of number of outs, however.

### Base Running

Runners should stop running the bases when a ball hit in the outfield is returned to the infield or when an out is attempted by throwing the ball to a base. For last hitter in each half inning, the runners can run all the way to home to clear the bases.

### **Keeping the Game Moving**

- Make sure to limit the number of pitches. If a kid is not hitting the ball after 4 or 5 good pitches, do an underhand toss or bring out the tee for them so that the ball gets put in play.
- Make your line-up prior to the game. Have your defensive positions and batting order for each inning decided upon prior to the start of the game.
- Distribute copies of your line-up to your coaches and 'dugout parent' so that they may help you with positioning the players and setting the batting order when the team is in the field.
- Designate a 'dugout parent' to be in charge of keeping the hitters in order and ready to hit when it's their turn.
- Have mats or buckets (with each player's name and uniform number) for each player to sit on when they come off the field. The 'dugout parent' can arrange these in the proper order while your team is in the field so that they will be ready to bat when it's your turn to hit.

**SAFETY is the # 1 priority. Make it your priority to teach safety at practice and during the game.**