



Simi Valley Baseball League

2010 Farm Division Rules

Board Approved January 5, 2010

The Farm Division shall be played in accordance with the rules stated in the Babe Ruth Rule Book and the SVBL Local Rules with the following exceptions:

I. Purpose

- a. Although, more advanced than Coach Pitch, the Farm Division is considered highly instructional baseball where every player will play a minimum of 6 consecutive defensive outs. More than 6 defensive outs is highly encouraged. All players will be in the batting order for all games.
- b. While standings and win/losses are recorded and rewarded at this level, the Farm Division is not competitive to the point that any player should be discouraged for his/her lack of ability.
- c. Although the desire to excel and win games is a part of the Farm Division, the focus of our league objective must be foremost in the minds of participants.
- d. The objective of SVBL shall be to support the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect for the nurturing and edification of the youth in our community in the hope that they may grow to be well adjusted, decent, healthy and trustworthy citizens.

II. Playing Rules

- a. Playing rules are outlined in the SVBL Local League Rules and the Official Baseball Rule Book.
- b. Each team will bat its entire roster of players present. Once a batting order is established, it will remain the same throughout the entire game.
- c. The Farm Division can play with a minimum of 8 players. Players that show up late for a game will be placed at the end of the established batting order, and will bat in their appropriate position.
- d. Farm division will play with 10 defensive players, 4 of which must be on the outfield grass.
- e. Any player who is removed from the game may be re-entered to any position (with the exception of the pitcher). A pitcher removed from the position as a pitcher shall not return as a pitcher in the same game.
- f. No players league age 10-years and above may pitch in the Farm division.
- g. Farm pitchers are allowed to pitch a maximum of two innings per game and a total of four innings in a calendar week (Monday through Sunday). A pitcher who pitches the (2) two innings in a game must have two days rest between pitching assignments. (Pitch more the 2 innings on Monday next eligible assignment is on Thursday; i.e. He is eligible to pitch on the third day.)
- h. Once the game has started, signaled by the umpire stating "play ball", any pitcher who takes the mound and pitches one pitch, will be considered the pitcher of record and charged with one inning pitched.
- i. A pitcher who hits three batters in a game will be removed from the pitching position.

- j. The Farm Division will observe a “probational period” which expires on March 27th (all games played on the 27th are considered “probational”). During that period a machine will be used for pitching, no batter shall reach base by way of a walk. During this time there is NO stealing of home on the pitched ball or the throw back. If the batter fouls the ball off he/she shall continue to hit until a fair ball or strikeout is recorded. There are no exceptions to this rule. Walks will be issued on every game after March 27 and use of the machine will cease.
- k. There is a 5 run limit per half inning. Scoring is unlimited in the 5th and 6th inning.
- l. In the Farm Division, play stops when **ALL** runners stop forward motion while the pitcher is standing on the pitching rubber and the catcher is standing or crouched behind the plate. Coaches must remember that this is a judgment call and the umpire cannot be challenged with his/her ruling.
- m. Prior to March 27th, no new inning may start after **1 hour 30 minutes. Effective March 28th, all game times will be extended 10 minutes, to 1 hour 40 minutes.** Once the inning starts it must be completed even if time expires. Each game must be played to regulation before being called for time limit.
- n. The 10 run rule is in effect. (see Local League Rules Section VIII e: 7)
- o. Bunting is allowable. (Not off of the Machine Pitch) NOTE: If a batter squares around to bunt then pulls the bat back and slashes at the ball the umpire will declare no pitch. The manager will be warned and a strike will be called. If the infraction occurs a second time with any batter from the same team, no pitch will be declared and the batter will be called out.
- p. Up to and on March 27th, 3rd base is frozen. March 28th and thereafter the runner at 3rd base may advance when:
 - i. When there is a passed ball by the catcher on a legally pitched ball.
 - ii. When a play is attempted on the 3rd base runner. A play made on a runner on any other base is done so with a frozen 3rd base. If a play is made on the runner at third base, the runner(s) may advance at their own risk to be put out. On an errant or overthrown ball to third base, all base runners may advance a maximum of one (1) base at their own risk.
 - iii. On a batted ball.
 - iv. After a hit batter or the fourth ball pitched with the bases loaded.
 - v. A runner on third may not steal home on a throw back to the pitcher. In this case the runner will be sent back to third base.
 - vi. A runner at 3rd may not advance under any other circumstance.
- q. Head first sliding is not permitted. When a base runner makes a move back to a base he once occupied, diving is permitted. If a base runner slides head first into a base or home plate, the runner will be declared out.

These rules may not be changed by any manager, coach or umpire without the consent of the SVBL Board of Directors. Recommendations for rule changes should be forwarded to your Player Agent. The Local Rules Committee and/or the Board of Director’s reserves the right to make changes to these rules during the season should it is deemed necessary.