

Guidelines, Procedures and, Game Day Etiquette **Farm & Rookie Divisions**

Team Sportsmanship:

Before the starting of the game both teams cheer for themselves. End of the game both teams cheer for their opponents. Then meet respectively at home to clap hands, share good game praises. Coaches shake hands head to outfield grass. Home team runs bases together not to pass each other to third base and then deviates to meet in left field grass for team discussion and praise with coaches. Visitor team follows together after Home team, not to pass one another running bases to second base and deviate to meet in right field grass for team discussions and praise with coaches. Both teams finish with cheer for their team. Players pick up personal equipment in the dugout and then get snacks when they exit the dugout from the team parent or parent who brought them. FYI Parents are not allowed in dugout without a verified background check or unless there is an emergency. (Farm field is an understandable gray area as we have no fence).

Respectfully and Safely Preparing To Play:

No pregame on infield, no practice on infield before games start. Keep off infield and chalked lines. Warmups done in the outfield field and not to impose on a playing game. Throws and catches, or hitting safely to be perpendicular to foul ball lines and safely away from spectators. This is to prevent balls from rolling thru infield and or hitting unaware persons accidentally.

Game Tally Volunteer (rookie field only):

This person can be from either team and helps by keeping the innings, runs, and outs tallied. They place the colored markers on the fence behind home plate as the inning is played. This will be a reference for players, coaches, and facilitate playing the game.

Pitching Machine Game Process:

Rookie games *include catchers*. So for best hitting results and catcher confidence follow this process.

1. Load ball to be pitched
2. Wait for batter to enter batters box
3. Point to catcher to assume his position (squats and gets comfortable)
4. Wait till catcher readies glove giving target and is confidently ready.
5. Fake pitch with arm, then follow with verbal yell of "Ball" when pulling the release.
6. Caught baseballs by catcher should be thrown back to pitcher and given to operator of the machine.

Farm games

1. Ask Batter if he wants to hit from the pitching machine(*fireball throwing dragon, encourage this*) or just wants to hit off the tee.
2. Load ball to be pitched
3. Wait for batter to enter batter box and coach has helped them prepare to hit and has move behind safely screen.
4. Fake pitch with arm, then follow with verbal yell of "Ball" when pulling the release.

General Philosophy:

Both Farm and Rookie are developmental divisions. Coaches are to be anywhere on the field safely they choose. This gives Coaches the ability to teach and encourage these young athletes. So I encourage all coaches to do so. These division league games are not played necessary to be won, but to teach a winner's attitude with their improvements, good tries, successes along with good sportsmanship. If your division has an end of year tournament. The tournament is the place to put your best foot forward in hopes to be victorious following tournament rules. Rotate to teach the game to all players. Understand not every player is developed yet at this age. It may not be a lack of practice issue. So keep them safely playing at their personal level. Be one on one with the players during more difficult or higher risk tasks they are being challenged with like hitting, bunting, catching, and playing pitcher, etc.

Respect oneself, Respect Others, Respect the Game