

Roxbury Softball Association Farm League Guide & Rules 2019

Eligibility – Players must be between the ages of 5 and 6 by January 1st

Goal of the Program

To create a non-competitive program that focuses the introduction of softball by teaching the fundamental skills of softball. Players will begin with the use of tees and transition to coach pitch by the end of the season.

Schedule

The program will run from mid-April to mid-June and will consist of practices and games. Games should last about an hour to an hour and a half. Practices are once a week with games 1-2 a week.

Game Rules

- Get in as many innings in the hour as you can, which is typically 3-4 innings.
- Every batter present for the game must get an at bat every inning. You must go through the entire batting order each inning unless there is an injury.
- If a player in the field completes an out, whether fielding it and stepping on the correct base or throwing the ball to the base for the out, the batter/runner is out and must be instructed to hustle off the field. If a flyball is caught, the batter is out. Runners cannot be thrown out if a flyball is caught. Use this as a teaching moment about flyballs to your baserunners to return to their base.
- Runners can only advance one base at a time. No advance on an overthrow to any base.
- Instruct batters to not throw the bat but to drop it gently before running to first base.
- There are no strikeouts but after 6 pitches from a coach, the batter **MUST** use a tee to swing. It keeps the game moving and avoids players losing focus.
- No real softballs are allowed at this level. Only incrediballs are to be used.
- Try to keep the players in actual positions on the field and rotate the players in different position every inning. Avoid grouping them together and no player can play the catcher's position. If you have too many girls, we suggest having a coach or parent volunteer take a few players to the outfield and work on fielding, throwing and catching. If the coach is pitching, another coach/parent should be designated catcher.
- Infielders should not be closer than the pitcher's distance (35 ft. from the batter). We want to avoid the players moving up to get the ball faster. If the ball is short, encourage them to charge the ball.
- There is no score keeping at this level.
- No on-deck batters should be swinging a bat.
- Players must wear their uniform shirts for games. Proper footwear is required, cleats are optional. No jewelry or gum chewing is allowed.

Field

The bases should be 10 feet shorter than the permanent bases at each field, if the bases are already set at the field. You must use the drop-down bases at each field. Since the permanent bases have a hole, leave those bases in for safety reasons. It's easier to avoid stepping on an extra base than it is to avoid a hole.

Pitching

The offensive coach pitches to their players but does not field the position. Have a player stand behind you or right next to you and then move when the ball is hit in your direction. If a player is advanced at hitting off of a coach at this level and would benefit from moving up to the next division, please reach out to roxburysoftballassociation@gmail.com to have the player reviewed for the next level.

Team Parent

Each team must have a team parent to stay in the dugout to keep players on the bench in batting order, keep them from swinging the bat, climbing or leaving the dugout.