

IX. FARM LEAGUE

- (a) Eight (8) players are needed to start a game and an out must be taken in the ninth (9th) batters spot if only eight (8) players are present. Note: If additional players show up they must be inserted at the bottom of the line up.
- (b) Each team will bat their complete roster during season games and may substitute defensive players as needed,
- (c) If after four (4) innings, three and one held innings if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the game will be called due to the **"Mercy Rule."** If after five (5) innings, four and one half innings if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the game will be called due to the **"Mercy Rule."**
- (d) Batters are not permitted to show bunt, pull back and then swing or slug bunt.
Penalty: Batter is out and runners not permitted to advance.
- (e) When a batter squares to bunt, he/she must pull back if not offering at the pitch.
- (f) Ten players may be utilized defensively
 1. **NOTE:** There shall be four outfielders when a tenth player is utilized.
Outfielders shall be stationed at least 5 feet from the grass edge. These players must remain in position until the pitched ball crosses the home plate.
- (g) Each player on the farm roster must participate in each game for a minimum of 6 defensive outs and one (1) at bat.
Exception: Games that are shortened by the 15 or 10 run **"Mercy Rule"**.
- (h) **Disciplinary action** – Player must sit on the bench and opposing coach and umpire(s) must be told before the game starts. Disciplinary action must be reported to a Board member.
- (i) **There will be no more than nine (9) batters in one inning.** The automatic two (2) out rule is in effect when the ninth batter comes to the plate and it is an automatic force out at home once the ball is put in play. The ninth batter cannot be given a base on balls and no inning shall end on a dead ball call. This includes, but is not limited to, ground ball doubles, hit batsman, a ball rolling under the outfield fence, etc. The ninth batter must strike out or hit for the last out unless the ninth batter is involved in a dead ball situation or a base runner incurs the third out. The ninth batter rule does not apply after the fifth inning until the game is complete.
 - If the ninth batter is hit by a pitch, he will take his base and the next batter in order will come to bat. This is to keep an inning from ending on a hit batsman.
 - If the ninth batter hits a ground rule double, the next batter in order will come to bat.
 - If the ninth batter hits a home run, the half-inning will come to an end.

Pitching rules are in accordance with the LYBA Playing Rules.