Rules for 2022 Farm/Instructional District 7 Softball League

Season Goals:

1) Fun and safe enjoyment of the sport of Softball

2) Development and advance of the fundamental skills of softball which are appropriate for the farm/instructional league level of play.

3) Begin to develop skills necessary for playing in the minor league level, and learn the basic rules of the game.

4) Teamwork and Sportsmanship

\*11 inch “softee” softballs should be used in this division.

\*Teams will warm up on their side of the field in the outfield (where their dugout is located) for 15-30 minutes prior to game.

\*Fielding team will consist of a max of 10 players in the field with the outfielders on the outfield grass. Players should rotate positions every inning.

\*Batting team will hit everyone in their lineup each inning even if the fielding team records three or more outs. The last batter each inning can circle the bases for a “home run” each inning. Coaches should swap batting order so different players have a chance to circle the bases. No batter will bat twice in an inning.

\*No bunting or stealing in the farm division.

\*If a runner is deemed “out” on the bases, they leave the base and head to the dugout.

\*All runners must stop at first base on a hit with the exception of a ball that makes it to the outfield grass. This hitter (and any runner in front of them) may take two bases.

\*No advancing on overthrows until the second half of the season. After 5 games, players may advance one base. Emphasis should be on the defense returning the ball to the pitcher in the pitching circle (girl standing next to the coach in the circle) and not the coach.

\*It is highly recommended, especially early in the season (first 3-5 games) that a tee is used. Most of the players have not had a tee ball season and it will help build skills and confidence.

\*If coach pitch is used, after 5 swings and misses then a tee must be substituted to keep the pace of play moving.

\*A coach of the defensive team should back up the catcher to keep the pace of play moving.

\*Game play should be around 1 hour and 30 minutes total. Coaches can agree to final inning prior to starting the inning. Each team should have the same number of at bats as no score is kept.

\*No swinging of the bat other than in the batter’s box. There are no on deck batters with bat in their hand!

\*Encourage fair play, skill development sportsmanship and FUN for all of the players on both teams!

\*Coaches should have a pregame meeting to discuss any questions they might have and set the tone for a fun game!