



PVLL Baseball Player Development Goals

For all divisions, the most important goal is to create a safe environment for these children to learn the game of baseball, and a fun approach toward becoming a better athlete.

Tee Ball

1. General game play: throwing, catching, fielding, hitting, base running.
2. Simple fundamentals: focus on body position, being ready, watching the ball, etc.
3. Lots of fun/games during practice to keep them interested (keep them active)

Exit Criteria: Players move to Farm league when they are capable of safely fielding harder hit balls (Farm is mostly 6-8 year olds), and the coach/parent feel they are ready to hit balls pitched by a coach.

Farm

1. Learn the fundamentals of batting with emphasis on proper stance, grip and swing
2. Learn the fundamentals of how to hold and throw a ball
3. Learn the fundamentals of fielding hit balls (ground and fly) with emphasis on proper stance, movement, glove and hand position
4. Learn the fundamentals of base running
5. Learn basic baseball rules and strategy and how to apply the aforementioned in offensive and defensive situations

Exit Criteria: Players move to AA minor league when they are adept at the above concepts and ready for an additional level of competitive play

AA Minors

1. Develop batting skills through proper stance and determination of pitches to swing at
2. Develop fielding skills (infield and outfield positions, making the play at the correct base, backing up plays, general game awareness).
3. Develop base running savvy (when to run and listening to the 1st and 3rd base coaches)
4. Introduce and teach stealing bases, and develop proper sliding technique
5. Develop Pitchers teaching proper throwing mechanics. Develop the catching skills at the catcher position
6. Develop good sportsmanship and respect for umpires

Exit Criteria: Players move to AAA Minor League when they are adept at the above concepts and ready to play competitive games against 9-11 year olds.

AAA Minors

1. Continued focus on good sportsmanship and team play
2. Batting skills development including bunting, pitch selection, and reading signals from Manager/Coach
3. Increased development of catchers (signals, blocking, pass balls, making the throw from home to second, good throwing back to pitcher on the mound and when pitcher is covering home plate) as the importance of position increases at this level
4. Pitching emphasis on good mechanics to prevent injuries and development of pitching variety (fastball, change-up, location)
5. Develop base running skills for situational play
6. Fielding emphasis on getting behind the ball and setting up the throw, getting ball to the correct position for the out or to keep the runners from advancing.
7. Arm strengthening through practice (long toss).

Exit Criteria: Players move to Major League when they are ready to play at the most advanced level.

Majors

1. Develop batting mechanics (bunting, driving, making adjustments to speed etc.) and pitch selection
2. Develop accurate throws from outfielders to proper cutoff person and Working as a team to get outs
3. After fielding the ball knowing where to make the throw and getting it there quickly. Develop fielding strategies based on skills
4. Reading signals from Coach/Manager and implementing directives
5. Arm strengthening and accuracy thru practices (long toss)
6. Pitching emphasis is to continue developing pitch variety with good mechanics (fastball 2 seam/4 seam, change-up, cutter, slider etc.) and injury prevention/arm care
7. Catcher skills include developing pitch calling skills, accurate throws to all bases, minimize pass balls, etc.
8. Good Sportsmanship!

Exit Criteria: Players move to Junior League when they are 13 -14 years old and adept at all skills above/ready to play on the larger field size.