



Pony League Rules

2025 Season

Game Rules

- Regulation game: A regulation game consists of seven innings, unless extended because of a tied score. If a game is called due to weather after five (5) complete innings or after four and a half (4 1/2) innings with the home team ahead, it will be recorded as a regulation game.
- If a game is postponed due to rain or lightning before the fifth inning, the game will be resumed from the point of the suspension at a future date. Suspension of the game will be at the discretion of the league director or umpire.
- In the event of darkness, the score of the game will revert to the last completed inning. No new inning should be started after 7:50 p.m. **(or league director's discretion).**
- Mercy rule is in effect (same as high school). If a team is ahead by 10+ runs after 5 or 6 innings, the game will be recorded as a regulation game. If the visiting team goes up by 10 runs in the top half of the inning, the home team will get an opportunity to bat in the bottom half of the inning.

Game Lineups

- Coaches can use a 10 or 11-player batting order. Using an EH is mandatory; using a second EH is optional, but preferred. The EH will not hit for a position player. A coach can bat more than 10 or 11 players, if he chooses to.
- **Free defensive substitution is allowed.** A player does not have to be in the lineup to be in the game defensively. However, this player must still get his one at-bat at some point during the game. Offensive substitutions must be reported to the opposing team and official scorekeeper, and no more than two players can occupy any one spot in the batting order during a game. Pinch runners fall under the category of offensive substitutions. If a player who is substituted for offensively re-enters a game, he must re-enter into his original spot in the batting order. Even if a player is removed from the batting order or has not



yet entered the batting order, he may still play the field. Illegal substitution will be penalized with the illegal batter being called out.

- A player's spot in the batting order cannot change. However, as long as each player has at least one at-bat, either player can bat in that spot for the rest of the game.
- If a team has between 10-13 players at a game, all players will bat at least once and play in the field at least THREE innings per game. If a team has 14+ players, each player must bat at least once and play at least TWO innings per game. If a player does not get to bat or play in the field for the minimum number of innings, he must start and play in the entire subsequent game. **In a game that ends after 5 innings due to a mercy rule, players must have played 2 innings in the field, with one at-bat, regardless of total number of players.
- In the playoffs, regardless of the number of players a team has, each player must play at least TWO innings in the field and bat at least ONCE.
- **A player must have played in at least half of the Pony League regular season games to be eligible to participate in league playoffs, unless there is an extenuating circumstance such as an injury.

Pitching and Bats

- We will follow the high school pitching rules:

If a pitcher throws 1-25 pitches in a day, no calendar day of rest is required before pitching again.

If a pitcher throws 26-50 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.

If a pitcher throws 51-75 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.

If a pitcher throws 76-110 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.

There is a Maximum of 110 pitches per game or in any one day; If a pitcher reaches the 110 pitch limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until one of the following occurs. A. The batter reaches base B. That batter is retired, or C. The third out is recorded to complete that half-inning or game.

- **NEW:** Players who are currently finishing up 7th and 8th grade will be expected to swing a -5 or -3 BBCOR bat. Players who are finishing up 9th and 10th grade will be expected to swing a -3 BBCOR bat only. **Exceptions for smaller players may be made at the director's discretion.**



- Balk Rule: Each pitcher will receive one balk *warning* per game. There will be no balk warnings during playoffs.
- Third-to-first pick-off move **IS** legal (as it is also legal in high school baseball).
- **NEW:** As allowed in high school, a pitcher can come back into a game to pitch. Because we have free defensive substitution, he does not need to stay in the game defensively.
- **NEW:** Speed up rule for catcher is allowed and encouraged, but NOT during playoffs.

Sportsmanship

- Absolutely no swearing allowed by players or coaches.
- Throwing of bats or helmets will not be tolerated.
- Violation of A. or B. may result in ejection from the game and a one-game additional suspension. A second offense will result in expulsion from the league. *This is at the league director's discretion.*
- Remember sportsmanship in a lopsided game! Stealing bases and suicide squeezes will not be appreciated or tolerated.
- Coaches will be expected to be role models for their players. If a coach is ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike actions, he will receive a one game suspension. If there is a second ejection, the coach will be removed from his coaching position.
- Slide Rule: **Slide OR avoid.** Players not doing so will be called out at the umpire's discretion.

General Housekeeping

- A. Coaches should report all lineup changes to the scorekeeper and the opposing team during a game.
- B. Teams at bat will be responsible for retrieving foul balls over the backstop. Each team is responsible for foul balls on their side of the field.
- C. Each team is expected to clean up its own bench area at the end of a game.
- D. All players coaching bases must wear a helmet.
- E. Any player warming up a pitcher must wear a mask.
- F. **No jewelry!**



- G. If a team has to borrow a player from another team, that player is to bat last in the order and not pitch.
- H. This is a summer rec. league. Please make every effort to play every player as much as possible.
- I. Practice: All teams must practice *at least* once per week throughout the duration of the season.