

## MUSTANG LEAGUE

### Rules

The Mustang Division will be governed by the current season's edition of the *PONY Official Regulations and Playing Rules*, unless otherwise specified in the EYB Policies & Procedures or in the Mustang Division Rules.

### Division Composition

- a. The Division will consist of (8) to (12) teams, depending upon league registration numbers.
- b. Each team's roster will have a minimum of 10 players and a maximum of 13 players.

### Introduction

- c. The Mustang Division is an instructional League for 9 to 10 year-old players

### The Game

- d. A regulation game is 6 innings. A complete game will consist of 4 innings.
- e. No new inning will begin after 1 hour 35 minutes. There are no hard stop times, except those designated by the city. Games must end before 9:45 p.m. Ties: Allowed.
- f. A new inning begins the moment the third out is recorded in the previous inning.

Partially completed games that affect the start of the next game may be suspended. (10) minutes prior to the start of the next scheduled game. The Umpire, with Director on Duty's approval, has discretion to suspend games under these circumstances. No game that qualifies as a complete game will be suspended.

- g. The Mustang Division shall observe a "4 Run Rule" for the first three (3) innings of the game. When the fourth run of an inning crosses the plate, all play stops. In the event that the fourth run scored during an over the fence home run, then *all* runners on base at the time the home run was hit will be allowed to score.
- h. Mustang Division shall incorporate a "10-Run Rule." If a team is leading an opponent by at least 10 runs after 4 complete innings have been played. or after 3½ innings if the home team. The team with 10 runs shall be declared the winner.
- i. Minimum play rule: No player may sit out a second inning before all players have sat out for one inning. No player may sit out a third inning, until all players have sat out a second inning. All players must play at least one inning in the infield (exceptions are allowed due to safety, but must be pre-approved with the league). The infield play rule only applies to Regular Rec Season, it is not required in Tournament Play.
- j. There will be no guarantee of available time for infield warm-ups prior to any game

## **Batting**

EYB shall use a continuous batting order for this division.

## **The Runner**

- a. **EYB will use PONY Mustang Rule (2) as modified: Runners may lead off any base and steal any base except home. Runners may score from third if the pitcher makes an attempt to pick off the runner. Runners may not advance home on the pick off unless they first attempt to return to third base. The umpire will determine (if necessary) if the runner made an attempt to return to third before scoring.**
- b. A courtesy runner is allowed for the catcher with 2 outs. Must be the player that was the last recorded out.
- c. The Mustang Division will not allow the use of a pinch runner, except in the case of an injured player, in which case the player who made the last recorded out shall be used to run for the injured player.
- d. Runners may NOT score on a passed ball.
- e. Drop third strike is NOT in effect.

## **The Pitcher**

- f. Pitchers may pitch a maximum of 55 pitches per day or a max of 4 innings per day, (whichever is met 1<sup>st</sup>), including a continuation or suspended game. A pitcher may complete the batter if he has reached 55 pitches during the at-bat.
- g. There shall be a weekly pitching restriction of 110 pitches per calendar week. A calendar week begins at 12:01 am Monday and ends the following Sunday at 12:00 am. Additional pitches for completion of batter are not included.
- h. Pitcher shall have 40 hours rest after pitching 55 pitches in one calendar day. **\*\*note\*\*** the 40 hour rest rule begins at the beginning of the game in which they have pitched 55 pitches. For example if a pitcher pitches 55 pitches in a game that started at 1pm on Saturday. That pitcher will be eligible to pitch again the following Monday at 5am.
- i. If a manager or coach goes on to the playing field to talk to any player or players, more than once in a half inning while the same player is pitching, including between innings, a pitching change must be made. The only exception to this rule is in case of injury. A manager or coach may instruct a catcher between innings, but may not instruct the pitcher.
- j. A pitcher will be replaced immediately when he/she hits three batters in any one game. There is no exception to this rule.

## **Balks**

Balks shall be used as an instructional device, with the umpire issuing a warning for all balk calls. The umpire or coach will correct the pitcher at this time. The ball will be declared dead with the runner returning to the original base.

### Time Limits

- k. The Mustang Division will carry a hard stop at 9:45 PM.

### Unsportsmanlike Behavior

- l. Any player using foul language during a game or who throws his helmet or bat "in anger" will be ejected from the game with no warning. That player will also serve a one game suspension, which he will have to attend and sit on the bench in street clothes. That player must report to the scorekeeper before the start of the game. If he fails to do so, he will have to sit out each following game until he complies.

### Slide or Avoid Rule

#### SLIDE OR AVOID RULE SHALL BE ENFORCED.

In all instances where it is apparent a defensive player protecting a base is in possession of a live ball and attempting to tag or force out an advancing runner. The runner, if he chooses to continue his advance, may not intentionally attempt to dislodge the baseball from the defensive player by use of physical force while not in the process of sliding. Base runners shall not run into, strike, or attempt to knock down the fielder in possession of the baseball. If the base runner chooses not to slide, he must avoid contact.

This will be a judgment call by the umpire. And will not be subject to an appeal.

PENALTY: In the event a base runner fails to "slide or avoid" he will be declared out.

**Junior Umpires** - Junior Umpires may be used in this division. And managers and coaches should be aware of the following.

- m. Any Umpire's decision which involves judgment calls, such as but not limited to: whether a batted ball is fair or foul, whether a pitch is a strike or ball, or whether a runner is safe or out is final. No player, manager, coach or spectator shall object to any such call. Official baseball rule 9.02 (a)
  - n. Each umpire has authority to disqualify any player, coach, or manager for objecting to a decision, for unsportsmanlike conduct or language. And to eject such disqualified person from the playing field. All ejections will be conducted by the Director on Duty.
  - o. There will be no appeals on a Junior Umpire decision.  
(ie) pulled foot, out of position . All judgment calls made by junior umpires are final.
  - p. If a rules appeal is needed. The Manager only shall contact the Senior Umpire or the Director on Duty for a rules only appeal.
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