

Rules – Grade 3-5

All play is governed by PONY Rules except as noted below. In addition certain PONY Rules are noted for emphasis.

3rd thru 5th Grade:

- 11 inch ball and 35 feet pitching distance
- 6 inning games
- 4 run limit per inning rule until the agreed upon last inning which has a 6 run limit (the last inning in the playoffs will be unlimited)
- Run ahead rule is 12 after 4.5 innings
- 10 fielders with 4 outfielders, each of whom must play at least 25 feet off the baseline
- Pitchers can pitch in 2 of the first 4 innings or 3 of the first 5 innings
- Each player must play at least half the game
- No slashing (faking a bunt, then hitting away)
- Slap hitting and drag bunting are allowed
- No infield fly rule
- No dropped 3rd strike
- No "continuation". Batter may only take one base when awarded a base on balls
- Stealing is allowed after the ball cross home plate
- Base runners can only advance one base on a steal
- Stealing home and advancing multiple bases on a steal attempt are not allowed
- Weeknights – Prior to Mother's Day – no new inning after 7:30 with a drop dead time of 7:45
- Weeknights – After Mother's Day – no new inning after 7:45 and a drop dead time of 8:00
- Sunday – no new inning after 2:30 and a drop dead time of 2:45

Special Playing Rules that apply to all divisions:

- All players bat a continuous batting order will be used. If a player leaves a game for injury or any other reason (other than ejection), their spot in the order is skipped (no automatic out, except for players ejected). Players who arrive after the start of the game will be added to the end of the order. Injured players who miss a turn in the order may not reenter the game.
- Teams playing up to two players short will not be penalized with an automatic out.
- Minimum of eight players required to start and finish a game (forfeit if less)
- Games must start once the scheduled start time is reached and both teams have the minimum number of players
- Free substitution of players in the field
- Players must slide or avoid contact. All sliding rule decisions are at the discretion of the umpire.
- A courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher or catcher - runner shall be the last batter of the previous inning (and second to last batter of the previous inning if both pitcher and catcher are on base at the same time).