



## Official Fall Playing Rules

### All League Rules

### Pony League (7th & 8th grade)

#### **Overview:**

- Up to 9 player rosters formed by coach, then free agents are placed onto teams
- Coaches can select up to 9 players for their team using these team formation rules:
  - No more than 5 older players selected (Mustang may all be same age)
  - No more than 3 travel players per team
  - No more than 5 travel / tournament team / All Stars combined per team
- Practices begin 1-2 weeks prior to the first game
- First games begin mid-August and season ends mid-October
- Games played in St. Charles, Geneva, North Aurora and Batavia during the week and weekend to the best of our shared scheduling ability
- No games scheduled over Labor Day Weekend
- 10-12 game season with end of season single elimination tournament

#### **1. ALL LEAGUE RULES:**

- a. Games must start within 10 minutes of scheduled time except umpiring or field difficulties. Before the game, the umpire shall announce the start time in collaboration with the Managers.
- b. Umpires have complete control and authority of games. Prior to the game, the home team shall rule on field conditions and the umpire governs safe playing conditions.
- c. Umpires and coaches responsible for keeping bats and all unused equipment off the playing field during games.

- d. Only the designated Manager, or active players, can ask the umpire for a time out.
- e. Home Team uses 3rd base dugout. Visiting team uses 1st base dugout.
- f. Adults can coach on base paths and, for the purpose of instruction, may include a helmeted player in the coach's box.
- g. Home team responsibilities include lining the base paths and batters' box, placing bases, and providing 2 game balls prior to start of the game. Visiting team to assist when necessary.
- h. A minimum of 8 players must always be fielded during the game. Late arriving players added at the end of batting order.
- i. Only league registered players can participate in practices or games.
- j. Jewelry shall not be worn, except religious or medical medals. Items must be taped down and worn under uniform.
- k. Games are considered "Official" if played for 4 full innings (3.5 if home team is winning). A new inning begins when the third out, in the previous inning, is made. Games stopped prior to becoming official will resume at the exact point they left off.
- l. If extra innings and no time limit restrictions, the teams proceed with "California Rules" (start with last out on second base, 1 out and a 1-1 starting count for each batter) for the remainder of the game.

## **2. PITCHING RULES:**

- a. Pitching Eligibility Rules vary by league. Age-based limitations based on the age on the registration form and not chronological age.
- b. Pitchers may not return to the mound after removed.
- c. Pitchers shall not wear non-prescription sunglasses, wrist bands, or light-colored shirts under uniform.
- d. The Pitcher must be removed after a second coach visit to the mound in the same inning.
- e. If a pitcher hits 2 batters in one inning or 3 batters in a game, that pitcher must be removed from the mound.

### **3. HITTING RULES:**

- a. All team members present will bat in continuous rotation.
- b. Continuous batting lineups are to be and submit prior to the start of the game. No designated hitter (DH) allowed. Late arrivals placed at the end of the order.
- c. Dropped third strike and bunting rules vary by league.
- d. Slashing is not allowed (show bunt then swing at same pitch). The batter will immediately be called out and the ball is dead.
- e. BAT RESTICTIONS: Bats must be stamped BPF 1.15, USSSA or made of wood with a maximum diameter allowed is  $2\frac{3}{4}$ . If a player uses an illegal bat, they will be called out and bat removed from the dugout.

### **4. BASERUNNING RULES:**

- a. Base path distance, stealing and leadoff rules vary by league.
- b. Players must avoid contact with players by sliding (except at first base). If a player does not slide when there is a "play" at a base, they will be called out and the play is dead.
- c. No headfirst sliding allowed (except returning to a base). If a runner slides headfirst, they will be called out and ball is dead.
- d. Catchers may have a courtesy runner if they are on base with 2 outs. The courtesy runner must be the player who was the most recent out.
- e. Any player who intentionally removes a safety helmet while in the field of play will be called out. The play treated as hit baserunner.

### **5. DEFENSIVE RULES:**

- a. All players present at a game will not sit out 2 consecutive innings. Nor will sit out a 2<sup>nd</sup> inning before all other players have sat out 1 inning.
- b. Except for an injury, no player will sit out more than 2 times during a 6-inning game and 3 times in a 7-inning game.
- c. Coaches are encouraged to utilize players in many different positions for instructional purposes. Care must be taken in assigning players, keeping in mind safety, skill, and ability.
- d. Injuries, illness, early leaving are exceptions to these rules.
- e. Colt league exempt for these defensive rules.

## **6. CALL UP RULES:**

- a. If a Manager determines the team will be short players, they may call-up players from lower league or as a **last resort** borrow players from another team at that same league level.
- b. Replacement players must be announced at the start of the game, bat last in the lineup, can only play outfield positions and will not play more defensive innings than a rostered player.
- c. Only league registered players can be considered for call up and replacement players cannot go over travel player limitations.

## **7. PLAYOFFS:**

- a. Playoff seedings will be determined at the beginning of the season and communicated to the applicable leagues.
- b. All playoff games must be complete games with no time limit.
- c. Call up player rules strictly enforced for playoffs.
- d. All other regular season and conduct rules apply.

## **8. CONDUCT RULES:**

- a. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. (unethical or dishonorable behavior: disrespectfully addressing an official, any flagrant behavior, intentional contact, taunting, criticizing, or using profanity directed toward others).
- b. No smoking, vaping or alcoholic beverages on or in the vicinity of the playing field, dugouts or stands.
- c. Managers, coaches, players, and fans may not argue or complain about an umpire's call. Any player or coach ejected from a game is not eligible to participate in the next game played
- d. Managers are 100% responsible for the conduct of their coaches, parents, and players. Parents, coaches, and players are to be informed of the rules before the season begins.
- e. No protests allowed unless a team believes an intentional and deliberate violation of the rules occurred.
- f. Each team is responsible for the removal of all trash from their respective dugouts, spectator areas, and the field.

## PONY LEAGUE

AGES 12 &13: The player must turn 12 by 9/1/2021.

PURPOSE: This is a competitive league with the emphasis on more advanced skills, continuing with instruction and sportsmanship as our highest values.

1. Games will be 7 Innings. An inning consists of 5 runs or 3 outs (whichever occurs first) in the first 4 innings.
  - a. EXCEPTION: Continuation of play is permitted if a team is at 4 runs in the inning and a batted ball CLEARLY results in an extra base hit. Additional runs will score to avoid stopping the in-game action (for example, if a player hits a bases loaded double that clears the bases, all three runs should count, and the score should go up to 7 in the inning).
  - b. This exception excludes errors and overthrows. Coaches are strongly advised to avoid “running until tagged out” in this last play scenario. It should be clear the batted ball resulted in extra bases and the half inning ends when the ball is retrieved and in control of the defense. Please use your best judgement here.
2. The 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and extra innings have no run limits.
3. No inning will start 2 hours after the start of the game. Attempts shall be made to play as many innings per game as possible.
4. The pitching rubber shall be **54 feet** from the furthest point of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber. Bases **80 feet** apart (dictated by field used).
5. Players are required to play at least 1 inning in the infield and 1 inning in the outfield within the first 5 innings.
6. Players cannot play the same position more than 4 innings except during extra innings.
7. The “Infield-Fly” rule and “Dropped Third Strike” rules in effect.
8. The catcher must wear a catcher's mitt protecting the hand.
9. A Pitcher will receive one warning when a balk is committed. After subsequent infractions, all base runners will be awarded a base.
10. Intentional walks allowed. The pitcher must deliver at least 4 legal pitches.
11. Leadoffs and base stealing of any base permitted.
12. Metal spikes allowed where field conditions permit.

13. A 12-run mercy rule is after 5 innings (4.5 if home team is winning) or 10 runs after 6 innings (5.5 if home team is winning).

14. PITCHING LIMITATIONS:

- a. A pitcher can pitch no more than 4 innings per game, and no more than 8 innings per calendar week (or 11 innings in a 3-game week). A single pitch thrown counts as 1 inning pitched regarding this limitation. Each week begins Monday and ends the following Sunday at Midnight
- b. Coaches to declare pitching Option A or B prior to the start of the game; otherwise, Option A is in effect. Cannot switch during the game.
  - 1) OPTION A: Teams limited to 3 innings of 2<sup>nd</sup> year players during the first 5 innings. Any appearance by a 2<sup>nd</sup> year pitcher counts as an inning towards this limitation (A 1st year pitcher replaced by a 2<sup>nd</sup> year pitcher count towards your 3 innings of a 2<sup>nd</sup> year pitcher).
  - 2) OPTION B: Teams may elect to pitch a 1<sup>st</sup> year player 1 inning during the first 4 innings. They will then be limited to 1 inning each of 2<sup>nd</sup> year players for the duration of the regulation game. Limitation lifted in extra innings.

\*\*Special Exception to All League Rule # 5(b) – The only exception to this rule is when a 1<sup>st</sup> year player pitches the first 4 innings of a game. That player is exempt from playing the outfield during the first 4 innings but must play outfield the next inning after pitching.