

Softball Minor League Rules 2018

PONY Fast Pitch (Mustang League, girls 10 and under) Rules apply with the following modifications:

- 5 inning games. After one hour and thirty minutes, no new full innings can be started (home team will get the opportunity for its last at bat, if needed). A game is official after 3 innings (home team does not need to bat in their half of the fourth inning if ahead).
- Scorebook is kept.
- Pitching mound is 35 feet. Please read footnote at bottom.
- There is no innings limits for pitchers
- *New Rule for pitching in 2017, please read footnote at bottom.
- No use of a tee.
- Continuous batting order/ free substitution.
- 3 runs per inning rule/ waived in the 5th or last inning (bat through the order once in the last inning).
- A maximum of ten defensive players can play at one time. Four outfielders must play at least 15 feet off the baseline (imaginary line between the bases) until the ball is hit by the batter. The four outfielders must be on the outfield grass.
- A team must have six players in order to play. Less than six players will result in a forfeit.
- Minor league teams may call up players from the instructional league if they have less than ten players for a game.
- Batters must attempt to avoid being hit by the pitch. If in the umpire's judgment the batter did not attempt to avoid the pitch, then first base shall not be awarded to the batter.
- All players must wear a helmet when batting, on the base path, and when in the first or third base coaching boxes.
- Stealing bases is allowed, no stealing home. One stolen base at a time.
- Dropped third strike not in effect.
- Infield fly rule is not in effect.
- Bunting is allowed.
- Sliding is not required, except that a runner must attempt to slide to avoid contact with a fielder or the catcher. It is in the sole discretion of the umpire as to whether a runner should have attempted to slide to avoid contact. If in the umpire's judgment the runner should have slid and did not, the runner will be called out.
- 12 run mercy rule (home team has last at bat if behind).
- 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).
- Pitcher shall be removed from pitching after directly hitting 3 batters in an inning or 5 in the course of the game (bounced pitches will not count).
- No slashing (faking bunt, then hitting away); slap hitting and drag bunting are allowed
- Protective face cages for pitchers and 3rd basemen are mandatory

* For the 1st half of the spring season (through 5/13) the following rule has been added for the 2017 season:

- After the 3rd walk in an inning and any subsequent "four ball" count to a batter, the coach from the batting team comes in to complete the At-bat.
- The At-bat can end in any play other than a walk or HBP
- While the coach pitches, the pitcher stays in the pitching circle as a fielder and can make a put out etc.
- After the coach completes pitching the At-bat, the coach leaves the field of play and pitcher returns to pitch to next batter

Please remember this is supposed to be fun for the girls and the game needs to move along.