



Pony Rules

Rules generally default to Official Baseball Rules unless addressed by specific Official Pony League rules or agreed to rules by Frankfort Baseball, Mokena Baseball and Frankfort Square League Directors. The agreed to rules are as follows:

1. Each player present must play in a defensive position at least three innings in each game, assuming the game is not shortened by the slaughter rule or weather. A continuous batting order will be used.
2. Free substitution, except for Pitchers. Once a pitcher is removed he may not return to pitch.
3. Players may be moved from the Bronco league to fill a Pony team roster. No Metro or Full Time travel players are eligible. No Bronco Player can play ahead of a Pony Player, and may play if, and only if, there are less than ten Pony Players present. The Bronco player must play the minimum number of innings specified for the Pony League, but the Bronco player cannot play more innings than any present Pony player. The Bronco player will not be allowed to pitch or catch and the Bronco player must bat last in the lineup.
4. A player arriving any time after the game has started may be added to the line-up so long as the opposing manager is notified before the game starts. The player will be added at the end of the lineup and bat when that batting position is next reached.
5. Pitching:

We will follow pitch limits instead of pitched innings. For 2021 the limits are as follows:

AGE RANGE	DAILY MAX	REQUIRED REST (PITCHES)			
		0 DAYS	1 DAY	2 DAYS	3 DAYS
7-8	50	1-35	36-50	51-65	66+
9-10	75	1-35	36-50	51-65	66+
11-12	85	1-35	36-50	51-65	66+
13-14	95	1-35	36-50	51-65	66+

- Managers who are found to have been violating the above limits may be removed from managing/coaching duties by the league director. It will be each team's responsibility to keep track of the pitch count for each of their pitchers.
- Pitchers are not to wear batting gloves or white sleeves while pitching.



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- If a pitch limit is reached while a player is hitting, the pitcher may continue until that player is either retired or has reached base. The pitcher then must be removed after the play is stopped.
 - While discouraged from being thrown at this age level, there will be no penalty if a pitcher throws a curveball.
 - Each team's scorekeeper shall track the amount of pitches thrown for both teams pitchers.
6. One balk warning per player or as agreed to with the umpire prior to start of the game.
 7. Intentional walks are allowed, but the pitcher must throw the required "4" balls
 8. After a second Batter is hit by a Pitcher, a warning will be issued to both the Pitcher and his Manager. If a third Batter is hit, the Pitcher will be relieved of his Pitching duties for the remainder of the game.
 9. A runner **must** slide on a close play (or risk being called out). The umpire decides if it is a close play. IF IN DOUBT, SLIDE.
 10. At no time will a batter be allowed to get in a bunt stance and then swing away at a pitch. If this occurs, the batter will be called out.
 11. No full inning shall begin 2 hours after the 1st pitch (even if there is not a scheduled game after) There will be a 10 run Mercy Rule in effect for all games. If, after five complete innings, or four and one half innings (if the home team is ahead) a team is leading by 10 or more runs, the game will be called.
 12. If a game is started with only 8 players and one is removed due to injury, the team can complete the game with 7 players. However, if removal is due to ejection by the umpire, then the team with 7 players forfeits the game.
 13. A team may start a game with 8 players – no later than 15 minutes after scheduled start (no automatic out for 9th spot in line-up). If a player arrives after the start of the game, he can be added to the bottom of the line-up. If a player is removed from a game due to umpire ejection, an automatic out is taken from that players spot in the batting order, regardless of the number of players. If a player is removed from the game due to injury or other reason, there is no automatic out for players turn in the batting order.



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14. The home team provides at least 2 baseballs for each game.
15. Bat rules are:
 - Barrel Size: 2 -5/8 and 2 ¼ barrel bats are OK. 2 -3/4 barrel is **NOT** allowed.
 - BBCOR Stamp: If a bat is -3 it must be BBCOR certified (does not require the USA Bat) – This is per Pony Rule 8.C.2 and 8.C.3, 2018 rulebook.
 - Legal Bats - USA stamped, BBCOR stamped and wood bats
 - Bats with the USSSA stamp or BPF 1.15 are **NOT** allowed

In conjunction with USA Baseball and its other participating national member organizations, PONY Baseball has adopted the new USA Baseball bat standard (USABat). Effective January 1, 2018, with the exception of the -3 bat (BBCOR certified), all other 2-5/8 inch minus factor bats (-5, -7, -9, etc.) and 2-¼" bats must be certified with the USABat licensing stamp on the bat in order to be used for league and tournament play. 2-¼" BARREL bats are legal in all divisions of PONY Baseball except **COLT 16U™, PALOMINO 18U™ and THOROBRED 23U™**. 2-¼" and 2-5/8 inch minus factor bats (-5, -7, -9, etc.) used in 2017 will be illegal to use in 2018. 2-5/8" barrel bats are legal in all division of PONY Baseball. If a 2-5/8" bat is -3, it must be BBCOR certified (stamped on the bats). Effective January 1, 2018, all other minus factor bats (-5, -7, -9, etc.) Must be certified with USABat licensing mark stamped on the bat.

2-¼" barrel bats are prohibited in all divisions of PONY Baseball.
16. Metal spikes are allowed
17. Playoff format is TBD
18. WEATHER-Both managers, coaches and umpires need to be aware of lightning, whether lightning devices detect it or not. If lightning is seen in the area, play will be suspended until there has been no presence of lightning for 15 minutes. IF IN DOUBT, SUSPEND PLAY.