

2012 WAA PONY (13 & 14 year olds) BASEBALL RULES

A. General

- The most current issue of the Pony League Playing Rules will prevail except as modified or restated herein. **You can find these rules on-line at www.pony.org.**

B. Playing Field/Ground Rules

- The diamond will have eighty (80) foot base lines. Second base will be located 113 feet 2 inches from home plate to the back of 2nd base.
- The pitcher's plate will be fifty-four (54') feet from home plate.
- Left field and right field foul lines will be marked.
- The batter's box will be rectangular, six feet (6) by three feet (3). The inside line will be parallel to and four inches away from the side of home plate. It must extend forward from the center of home plate 3 feet and to the rear.
- A six (6) foot diameter on deck circle will be provided for each team.
- Dugouts will be present at all fields. If not constructed, they will consist of a 5 x 20 foot rectangle area on the sideline for each team. All players must remain seated in area when they are not playing.

C. Equipment and Uniforms

- WAA issued team shirts, hats and socks must be worn by all players while on the field. Players must provide their own plain white baseball pants to be worn at all times while on the field. Players out of uniform will not be permitted to play. Any changes to the uniform **MUST** be approved by the Pony Director.
- Each player must furnish his/her own glove.
- The catcher must use a catcher's mitt.
- All male players must wear an athletic supporter.
- Catchers must wear a chest protector, shin guards, catcher's helmet with mask and throat protector. Male catchers must wear a metal fiber or plastic cup. Catchers warming up pitchers, on or off the field, **MUST** wear a catcher's mask.
- NOCSA approved batting helmets must be worn by the batter, on deck batter and all base runners, and youth coaches.
- Regulation, Pony League balls will be used during games. The home team will supply 2 new baseballs.
- All bases for games will be provided and installed by the home team.
- Shoes with metal spikes or cleats are permitted. Shoes with molded cleats are permissible.
- All bats must meet Pony League specifications and standards. Bats are to be not more than 2³/₄" inches in diameter at the thickest part, or more than 42 inches in length, -3 drop high school bats are encouraged. **31 inch and over must be BBCORE -3 high school approved bat.** 30 inch and under have no restrictions.
- All Equipment must be returned to the WAA office after the last game of the season.

D. Games

- Weekday games will start at 6:15 P.M. No inning will begin after 8:15 P.M. Saturday and Sunday games will be played per schedule.
- A regulation game consists of seven (7) innings unless extended because of a tie score or the umpire calls the game.
- If a game is called for any reason, it shall be a complete game if five (5) innings have been completed, or if the home team is ahead after the completion of the visiting teams at bat in the fifth inning.
- If a game is called for any reason before it is a complete game it shall be considered a suspended game and shall be resumed from the point of curtailment at the time scheduled by the WAA office.
- If a game is called for any reason in an uncompleted inning, after having reached complete game

length and the visiting ties the score or takes the lead in the uncompleted inning, and the home team does not tie the score or retake the lead in its portion of the uncompleted inning, the game shall be considered a suspended game and shall be continued from the point of curtailment at the time scheduled by the WAA office.

- **All games that are tied once it is a complete game, and time, weather or other circumstances do not allow another inning(s) to be played, the game will be recorded as a tie in the standings and will not be completed.**
- No inning of a game may start, for any reason, within 10 minutes of the scheduled starting time of the next game on that field. If only one game is scheduled the games will be played to completion subject to the umpires' decision relative to darkness or safety.
- The home team will keep the official score. At the completion of each inning the home team will review the score with the visiting team head coach. Both head coaches will e-mail in the score and pitchers information for that game to the Pony Coordinator at the completion of the game.
- Rescheduling of suspended games must be arranged through the WAA office. The league will determine the time and place. A team must give 48 hours notice that it cannot play a scheduled game. If not, it will be counted as a forfeit loss.
- Suspended games will be resumed from the point of suspension. The only exception is if a game is called with less than one complete inning played. In this case it will be declared no game and all records will be disregarded. Regular season pitching rules will remain in force under any and all situations. This applies to all regular season and post-season games. A pitcher that reached their pitch limit in the originally scheduled game will not be allowed to pitch in the suspended game when it is re-scheduled.
- There is no run limit per inning.
- If after five (5) innings, four and one half innings if the Home team is ahead, a team has a lead of twelve (12) runs or more; or after six (6) innings, five and one half innings if the Home team is ahead, a team has a lead of ten (10) or more; the game shall be terminated with the team ahead will declared the winner.
- The home team will always occupy the 3rd base side of the field.

E. Position and Playing Time

- A legal team will consist of a minimum of 8 players. If a team has less than 8 players, they will forfeit the game. If both teams have less than 8 players the game will be rescheduled. A team must have a pitcher and a catcher.
- A maximum of 9 players can be on the field at one time.
- **Each player must play a minimum of three (3) innings in the field.** Each player must bat as scheduled within the line-up prepared before the game. Note: A continuous batting order will be used.
- No restrictions on how many innings a player may play a position. Coaches are encouraged to have players play multiple positions during a game and over the course of the season.
- In the event of a slaughter, the winning team must still play their subs the minimum innings.

F. Batting

- Each starting player on the team will be given a position (as scheduled in the line up prepared prior to the game) and must bat in that position.
- A batter must return to their original spot in the line-up when re-entering the game.
- Bunting is allowed. A batter is out if he/she bunts a foul on third strike.
- The batter will be declared out if he/she throws the bat. There will be no warnings. The umpire's decision is final.
- A batter is awarded 1st base when hit by a pitched ball. If a pitcher hits 3 batters in an inning, then he/she must be replaced.

- The dropped 3rd strike rule IS in effect.

G. Base Running

- Runners may lead-off and steal bases.
- A ball is considered dead when:
 - When it is hit or thrown out of play.
 - When the umpire has called time.
- Foul territory is that area between fair territory and a line on each side of the field extended from the spectator fences.
- Runners may continue to advance on wild throws that stay within play in fair or foul territory.
- Players must be encouraged to slide into a base where a play is being made. If a runner should collide with a fielder who is attempting to catch a thrown ball, and the runner did not slide or try to avoid contact with the fielder (umpires judgment), the runner will be called out. In addition, a player may be ejected if he/she has deliberately attempted to cause injury to an opposing player. Sliding is mandatory for a play at home plate. If a player does not attempt to slide he will be called out.
- The infield fly rule will be in effect.
- On any overthrow that goes out of play, the base runner is allowed to advance to the base running to plus 1 additional base because of the over throw.
- **Courtesy Runners:** A courtesy runner may be used to run in place of the catcher if there are two outs and the catcher is a base runner. The courtesy runner chosen shall be a player currently not in the game at a defensive position. This could be a player who has played and has been substituted for. If there are no players available then the runner shall be the player who made the last (second) out of the current inning. Other than an injury, this is the only circumstance in which a courtesy runner may be used during a game.

H. Pitching

- Any player on a team roster may pitch.
- Innings are used for determining how long a pitcher may pitch in a game, as well as determining the amount of rest they will need prior to pitching in another game.
- Pitch innings
 - a. 7 per week
 - b. No more than 4 per game
- Mandatory recovery time
 - 3 innings no rest
 - 4 or more 2 days
- Pitching restrictions will apply for Playoffs as well
- A player, once removed as a pitcher, may not pitch again in the same game.
- Balks will be called. Each pitcher will receive one (1) warning.
- If a pitcher hits 3 batters in an inning, then he/she must be replaced.

I. Coaching

- **Coaches will exchange a line-up prior to the game with your line-up and subs.**
- The batting team is allowed the following coaches first base coach, and third base coach. All other coaches must remain within the dugout area and supervise the remaining players (both seated and immediate batters).
- The head coach is responsible for maintaining order on the sideline and keeping equipment and players seated behind bench lines (dug out). Batting helmets and bats should be kept behind the backstop, away from the dug out.
- All coaching must be positive and instructional, not vulgar, critical or demeaning. Coaches who are abusive to players must be reported to the Baseball Director and the WAA Office. Continued abusive behavior will not be tolerated.

- Coaches must stay cool. Don't embarrass yourself or WAA by creating a scene on the field. Set a good example of sportsmanship in all game situations.
- Any coaches who will not adhere to the WAA rules, policies and philosophy should plan on being a spectator.
- Coaches are not permitted to smoke or chew tobacco products during games or practices.
- ALL Coaches also agree to abide by the W.A.A. Coaches Code of Conduct. This is very important to the organization and violations will be dealt with accordingly, including possible dismissal from your position as a coach. We appreciate your taking the time to volunteer as a coach and we want to make sure that all the children have a safe and supportive environment in which to participate in our programs.

J. Umpire

- One umpire will be scheduled and provided by the league.
- Any umpire's decision which involves judgment is final.
- If there is a reasonable doubt that the umpire's decision may be in conflict with the rules, a coach may appeal the decision and ask that a correct ruling be made. Such an appeal shall be made only to the head plate umpire.
- The umpire's decision is final. **THERE WILL BE NO PROTESTS.**
- Pony League rules will prevail where not previously stated or replaced herein.
- If league umpire is not present, each team will furnish one adult umpire. The field and plate umpire will alternate position after four full innings. In this situation the plate umpire will call balls and strikes from behind the pitcher.