

MAJORS 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. Field Dimensions

- The diamond will have seventy (70) foot base lines. Second base will be located 99 feet from home plate to the back of 2nd base.
- The pitcher's plate will be forty (48') 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.
- Each player must furnish their own glove.
- All male players must wear an athletic supporter.
- The catcher must use a catcher's mitt.
- Catchers must wear a chest protector, shin guards, and a catcher's helmet with both a 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 catchers mask.
- NOCSA approved batting helmets must be worn by the batter, on deck batter, all base runners, and youth coaches.
- Shoes with metals spikes or cleats are not permitted. Shoes with molded cleats are permissible.
- All bats must meet Pony League specifications and standards, with maximum barrel size of 2 3/4".
- A regulation size baseball will be used for games. 2 game balls are supplied by the home team.
- All bases and pitching rubber will be provided by the home team. These will be available in a lock box located at the field.
- All equipment must be returned to the WAA office after the last game of the season.

D. Games

- Weekday games will start at 6:00pm. Saturday and Sunday games will be played per schedule. No new inning will begin after 8:15pm on a field without lights or after 10:00pm on a field with lights.
- 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 it's 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 and time limits listed above.
- 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. The home team coach will call in the score to the Majors coordinator at the completion of the game.

D. Games (continued)

- Rescheduling of suspended games must be arranged through the WAA office. The league will determine the time and place.
- 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 ten (10) runs or more, the game shall be terminated with the team ahead declared the winner.
- The home team will always occupy the 3rd base side of the field.
- Tie Breaker:
 - In the event of a tie game at the end of 7 innings, the game will continue with extra innings. Each team will start their offensive half of the inning with a runner on second base, this person will be the player that made the last out of the previous inning. Each inning will start with 1 out and all batters will start their at bat with a 1 ball and 1 strike count. The team to score the most runs after the inning is completed will be declared the winner. If the score is still tied after an extra inning the teams will repeat the above procedure until a winner is declared or the time limit is reached. No new inning can begin within 10 minutes of the scheduled starting time of the next game, after 8:15pm on a field without lights and 10:00pm on a field with lights.

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 four (4) innings in the field. Each player must bat as scheduled within the line-up prepared before the game. Note: Each player is given a batting position regardless if he/she plays in the field or sits out an inning.
- 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.
- A player must sit out one complete inning prior to re-entering the game.

F. Batting

- Each 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.
- 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 are allowed to steal all bases.
- Base runners will not leave their base until the ball has been released from the pitcher's hand. A runner (team) will receive one warning for leaving early during a stealing attempt, resulting in a dead ball and the runner returning to the original base. This warning applies to the team as a whole; each player does not get one warning. All subsequent infractions will result in the ball being declared dead and the runner will be called out.
- A ball is considered dead when:
 - It is in the pitcher's hand, on the mound and all runners are on base.
 - 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 fence line.
- 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 (umpire's 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.
- The infield fly rule will be in effect.

G. Base Running (continued)

- 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. A courtesy runner can also be used to run in place of a player who will be pitching the next inning if there are two outs and they are a base runner. The runner shall be the player who made the last (second) out of the current inning. Other than an injury, these are the only circumstances in which a courtesy runner may be used during a game.

H. Pitching

- Any player on a team roster may pitch.
- Pitch counts will be 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 Counts for a game:
 - Maximum number of pitches a player can throw in one game is 70
 - A pitcher will be allowed to complete pitching to a batter if they reach their pitch count.
 - Opposing coaches should cross check pitch counts after each inning of play to help avoid any potential conflicts.
- Mandatory recovery time:
 - Up to 25 pitches = 1 Day Rest
 - 26 to 40 pitches = 2 Days Rest
 - 41-55 pitches = 3 Days Rest
 - Over 56 pitches = 4 Days Rest
- Pitching restrictions will apply for Playoffs as well
- A player, once removed as a pitcher, may not pitch again in the same game.
- No balks will be called.
- If a pitcher hits 3 batters in an inning, then he/she must be replaced.

I. Coaching

- 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.