

PONY DIVISION (Inter-City) RULES

Revised: 2/20/10

TIME LIMITS / INNINGS (If an inning starts before the time limit expires, the entire inning is to be completed. Start times for games will be observed as scheduled with a 15-minute grace period allowed for the minimum players necessary to start the game. **FORFEIT** after the 15 minute grace period has elapsed)

- 2 ½ hrs or 7 innings, which ever comes first.
 - Tied games will be played until a decision has been reached, but not to exceed 9 innings or time limit of 2 ½ hrs. **No new inning will be started after time limit has expired. If there is 1 minute left in time limit, a new inning will start.**
 - 10 Run rule after 5 innings, 4 ½ if home team ahead.
 - **Rainouts: Rainouts shall be called a minimum of 1 hour before game time by the Home Team League's Pony Division Rep to the visiting teams Pony Division Rep. If a League does not call a rainout within such time limit, teams should show up. Thereafter, League Officials and/or Umpire may call game due to field conditions because of weather.**

SUBSTITUTIONS / PLAYER PARTICIPATION

- If a team can't field (9) players, can play with 8 (9th spot **IS NOT AN AUTOMATIC OUT**). If team starts with 8 players, when the 9th player arrives, such player will be inserted in the 9th spot of the batting order.
- **There is a 2 inning playing time and 1 at bat rule, known as the 2/1 Rule. Each player must play 6 consecutive defensive outs in the field and have one completed plate appearance. A player may not split their innings. Must play on the field for 6 consecutive outs defensively. PENALTY: Forfeit**
- **Substitutions: NO unlimited substitutions. Refer to Pony White Rule Section 9.K**
- Teams **CANNOT** borrow from other teams to meet the player requirements.

CONDUCT

- **Any player, coach, or manager that swears or uses offensive language shall be ejected from the game. Any outburst or refusal to heed a warning by the Umpire may be ejected from the game at Umpires Discretion.**
- No food (seeds, gum, beverages, etc., other than water) allowed in the dugouts. **This rule is to help keep all city fields/dugouts clean.**
- **Managers shall be responsible for managing their own dugouts from parents visiting, players standing on benches or coaches walking onto the field.**
- **Umpires discretion/responsibility to keep Base Coaches in their respective boxes.**

THROWING BAT

- **Accidental** (Any bat that *strikes* or comes *dangerously close* to striking a player): 1st time: Team warning / 2nd time: Player causing infraction from the team already warned is called out. Ball is dead and all runners return to the last base touched at time of infraction. **Umpire's discretion if such incident is intentional.**
- **Intentional:** Player is called out and ejected from the game. Ball is dead and all runners return to the last base touched at time of infraction.

PITCHING

- **A pitcher CANNOT pitch more 5 innings in a calendar day and 10 per calendar week (Mon-Sun). One pitch in an inning shall constitute a full inning pitched. PENALTY: Forfeit and possible suspension in games or intercity league schedule.**
 - Must have 40 hours rest after pitching 4 innings or more in one calendar day
- Balks will be enforced, **NO WARNINGS**
- Intentional walks are allowed, no pitch has to be made even after a pitch is thrown.

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SLIDING

No mandatory slide rule, however, a runner who does not slide will be **called out** by the umpire **if there is substantial body to body contact with a player applying a tag, making a catch in order to apply a tag or making a catch in order to make a lay on another runner**. The ball is dead and all runners must return to the last base touched at time of contact. If the umpire rules the contact was flagrant, regardless if the slide rule was not in effect (throw down the line), the runner is out and ejected, the ball is dead and all runners return to the last base touched at time of contact. **Exception: Incidental contact or obstruction. Enforcement and rule interpretation is umpires judgment.**

FAKE TAGS

1. A fielder who fakes a tag without the ball shall be ruled interference and runner(s) will be allowed to advance one base.

BATTING/ BASERUNNING

- Batters must have one foot in the batters box between pitches while taking signs from the coach: **Penalty: Called strike every 3 seconds after Umpire warns or tells batter to get back into the box.. This can be enforced at any time during the game.**
- E-H Rule: The E-H rule is not mandatory, however, if the E-H is used, the manager must declare the use of an E-H prior to the start of the game. The E-H position shall be considered the same as any other position. Normal substitution rules apply. However, any team that begins play using an E-H must maintain a 10 player line-up throughout the game. If due to injury, ejection, disciplinary action by the coach, or a player has to leave for any reason, and the team falls to nine players, an out shall be called each time the E-H position comes to bat. The EH position shall remain the same position in the lineup at the time the EH position is dropped during the game. (See E-H example at end of rule sheet)
- **Courtesy runner is allowed for only the CATCHER when there are two (2) outs. Such courtesy runner can run for only one player in an inning.** The Catcher for which such courtesy runner will run for shall be the last catcher who played the position in the latest inning. A team may not have a courtesy runner for a player who is inserted in the lineup to play Catcher the next inning. Courtesy runner is a player currently not in the batting lineup. Meaning, occupying the bench during that inning. In such case where a team is playing with only 9 players, the courtesy runner shall be the last out made (or 2nd out made) in the same inning.
- No continuous batting order allowed.

PROTEST

Protests will be handled by the Scheduler. All protests must be made to the Home Plate Umpire and Official Book at the time of the incident or in case of a Player Participation Rule/Pitch Rule, immediately after the game. Home team shall keep the official book for the game. Protests shall be made to individual Pony Rep immediately after the game by Manager. Pony Rep shall report such protest within 36 hours of game to Scheduler. The protestor shall pay their League Chapter \$25.00 to have protest reviewed.

****Remember, protests are for baseball rules violations or Pony Intercity Rules violations. Not judgment calls made by the Umpires.**

INTERCITY RULES

Intercity Rules shall be abided by at all times when teams from different Pony Chapters are playing each other. To remain consistent, NO side agreements shall be made for one particular game that is different than the Intercity Rule. Any side agreements outside of the Intercity Rules shall constitute a Forfeit for both teams. Umpires should not be involved in the side agreements and should two teams decided on playing outside the Intercity Rules, Umpires may declare game forfeit and leave, still being paid for their services. However, if two teams from the SAME Pony Chapter are playing each other, they may have their own By-Laws within to play by and may do so. Salinas Chapter shall include South County teams as they are registered with Salinas.

➤ **EH example:**

Starting Batting Lineup:

1. Player A, SS
2. Player B, 2nd
3. Player C, EH
4. Player D, 1st
5. Player E, CF
6. Player F, RF
7. Player G, P
8. Player H, 3rd
9. Player I, C
10. Player J, LF

4th inning substitutions, Player X, Y, and Z coming in 8th, 9th, 10th spot. 3rd spot going to Pitch and 7th spot going to EH. Lineup would look like such.

New Batting Lineup:

1. Player A, SS
2. Player B, 2nd
3. Player C, P
4. Player D, 1st
5. Player E, CF
6. Player F, RF
7. Player G, EH
8. Player X, 3rd (enters for Player H)
9. Player Y, C (enters for Player I)
10. Player Z, LF (enters for Player J)

(reminder, you can change positions as well but batting order must remain the same.)
I.e. #2 and #9 batter switch position. #2 batter goes to C and #9 batter goes to 2nd.