



# 2025 BASEBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS



# **PONY**™

## **Protect Our Nation's Youth**

## **BASEBALL AGES 3-23**

 **FOAL**™  **SHETLAND**™  **PINTO**™  **MUSTANG**™

 **BRONCO**™  **PONY**™  **COLT**™  **PALOMINO**™

 **THOROBRED**™  **CHAMPIONS**™



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# 2025 WORLD SERIES INFO

The current listing for all PONY World Series sites and Dates are available on our website [www.pony.org](http://www.pony.org).



## 2025 PONY BASEBALL RULE CHANGES

**INSERTION:** 2025 (Approved 2023 as **2023-R-16A**)

**DESCRIPTION:** Clarify for umpires that use the Minor league penalty for delays of the batter.

**RULE:** 9-R

**RULE CHANGE:** The one-foot in the batter's box rule shall be enforced as stated in the official rules of Major League Baseball (Rule 5.04 (b)(4)). For clarification, the Minor League penalty will apply. (The umpire shall award a strike without the pitcher having to deliver the pitch).

**INSERTION:** 2025 (Approved 2023 as **2023-R-34**)

**DESCRIPTION:** Maximum Innings for Foal

**RULE:** 11-A.

**RULE CHANGE:** Change 11-A to read... **"FOAL 4U™**: Once play has begun in a game the game shall be played to regulation length (FOUR innings) unless the home team is leading and does not need its half of the final inning. Teams shall not score more than five runs per inning except in the FOURTH or extra inning, where they may score ten runs. **SHETLAND 6U™**: Once play has begun in a game the game shall be played to regulation length (six innings) unless the home team is leading and does not need its half of the final inning. Teams shall not score more than five runs per inning except in the sixth or extra inning, where they may score ten runs. "

**INSERTION:** 2025 (Approved 2023 as **2023-R-43**)

**DESCRIPTION:** US Visa Denial

**RULE:** T-6-C.

**RULE CHANGE:** International team players, who are denied a United States Visa, can be replaced on the tournament eligibility affidavit one time, with the documented approval of the respective Zone Director.

PONY Baseball and Softball heart and soul is the volunteer field directors that make up our staff across the globe. From entry level field directors that may oversee single tournaments, to higher level directors that may cover sections, regions all the way up to running our zones across the globe, we could not function without them.

If you are an individual that is ready to volunteer your time to a worthy cause of helping with youth baseball and youth girls softball at a level above your local league, please contact PONY Headquarters where we will put you in touch with the volunteer field directors in your area. You can help with the advancement of PONY and our mission of *Protecting Our Nation's Youth*.



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For additional information write, call, fax or email:

PONY Baseball and Softball

PO Box 225

Washington PA 15301-0225

PHONE : 724-225-1060 / FAX : 724-225-9852

EMAIL : [umpiresupport@pony.org](mailto:umpiresupport@pony.org)

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# 2025 Rules and Regulations For PONY Baseball, Inc.™

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**ABRAHAM KEY, *President and CEO***

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## Table of Contents

2025 LEAGUE AGE KEY.....	8
THE LINE UP .....	9
ADMINISTRATION .....	9
ZONE DIRECTORS .....	10
CHAMPIONS LEAGUE™ .....	10
DISCIPLINARY ACTION.....	11
<b>RULES and REGULATIONS.....</b>	<b>12</b>
1 - THE ORGANIZATION LEAGUE.....	12
2 - INSURANCE .....	13
3 - TEAMS.....	13
4 - LEGAL PLAYERS .....	14
5 - BOUNDARIES.....	15
6 - SELECTION OF PLAYERS .....	15
7 - PLAYING FIELDS .....	16
8 - EQUIPMENT .....	17
9 - PLAYING RULES .....	19
10 - PITCHING RULES .....	22
11 - LENGTH OF GAMES.....	24
12 - SCHEDULE .....	25
13 - UMPIRES .....	25
14 - SCOREKEEPERS .....	25
15 - SPONSORS.....	26
16 - MANAGERS AND COACHES.....	26
17 – ORGANIZATION LEAGUE DECISIONS COMMITTEE.....	26
18 - PENALTIES .....	27
19 - PROTESTS.....	28
20 - GENERAL CONDUCT.....	29
<b>TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS.....</b>	<b>30</b>
T-1 – ORGANIZATION LEAGUE ELIGIBILITY .....	30
T-2 - TEAM ELIGIBILITY.....	31
T-3 - LEGAL PLAYERS .....	32
T-4 - ELIGIBILITY AFFIDAVIT .....	32
T-5 - BIRTH CERTIFICATION .....	33
T-6 - REPLACEMENT OF TOURNAMENT PLAYERS .....	33
T-7 - PLAYING FIELDS .....	33
T-8 - TOURNAMENT PITCHING .....	33
T-9 - LENGTH OF GAMES.....	34
T-10 - SCHEDULE .....	34
T-11 - UMPIRES .....	35
T-12 - MANAGERS AND COACHES .....	35
T-13 - BUSINESS MANAGER .....	35
T-14 - TOURNAMENT DECISIONS COMMITTEE.....	36
T-15 - TOURNAMENT DIRECTION .....	36
T-16 - PROTESTS AND PENALTIES .....	36
T-17 - TOURNAMENT FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY .....	37
T-18 - WORLD SERIES .....	38
BEHAVIOR .....	38
NOTES TO TOURNAMENT TEAM MANAGING PERSONNEL .....	38

## 2025 LEAGUE AGE KEY

PONY Baseball™ League Age Key												CUTOFF		APRIL 30		Year		2025		LEAGUE		LEGAL TO PLAY IN THE	
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AGE	AGE	FOLLOWING PROGRAMS	FOLLOWING PROGRAMS								
2002	2002	2002	2002	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	23	Thorobred 23U™	Thorobred 23U™								
2003	2003	2003	2003	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	22	Thorobred 23U™	Thorobred 23U™								
2004	2004	2004	2004	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	21	Thorobred 23U™	Thorobred 23U™								
2005	2005	2005	2005	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	20	Thorobred 23U™	Thorobred 23U™								
2006	2006	2006	2006	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	19	Palomino 19U™ or up one program	Palomino 19U™ or up one program								
2007	2007	2007	2007	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	18	Palomino 19U™ or up one program	Palomino 19U™ or up one program								
2008	2008	2008	2008	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	17	Palomino 19U™ or up one program	Palomino 19U™ or up one program								
2009	2009	2009	2009	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	16	Colt 16U™ or up one program	Colt 16U™ or up one program								
2010	2010	2010	2010	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	15	Colt 16U™ or up one program	Colt 16U™ or up one program								
2011	2011	2011	2011	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	14	Pony 14U™ or up one program	Pony 14U™ or up one program								
2012	2012	2012	2012	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	13	Pony 14U™ or up one program	Pony 14U™ or up one program								
2013	2013	2013	2013	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	12	Bronco 12U™ or up one program	Bronco 12U™ or up one program								
2014	2014	2014	2014	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	11	Bronco 12U™ or up one program	Bronco 12U™ or up one program								
2015	2015	2015	2015	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	10	Mustang 10U™ or up one program	Mustang 10U™ or up one program								
2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	9	Mustang 10U™ or up one program	Mustang 10U™ or up one program								
2017	2017	2017	2017	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	8	Pinto 8U™ or up one program	Pinto 8U™ or up one program								
2018	2018	2018	2018	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	7	Pinto 8U™ or up one program	Pinto 8U™ or up one program								
2019	2019	2019	2019	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	6	Shetland 6U™ or up one program	Shetland 6U™ or up one program								
2020	2020	2020	2020	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	5	Shetland 6U™ or up one program	Shetland 6U™ or up one program								
2021	2021	2021	2021	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	4	Foal 4U™ or up one program	Foal 4U™ or up one program								
2022	2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	3	Foal 4U™ or up one program	Foal 4U™ or up one program								

**Find the birth year and month of the player. Look at the cell in the second to the last column in that row for the players League Age and last column in that row for the league age programs the player can legally participate in. Please note that it is the leagues choice if they use our normal two year graduated program or participate in our "And Under" program to allow a player to play up a league age. Also note that in Palomino 19U™ only 3 players of league age 19 are allowed.**



## PNY Baseball Inc.™

### THE LINE UP

PNY Baseball is the administrative organization for a group of organization leagues providing baseball for players from 3 through 23 years of age. These are:

League	Age	Diamond	Pitching
Foal 4U™	3 to 4	50 feet (15.24m)	— —
Shetland 6U™	3 to 6	50 feet (15.24m)	— —
Pinto 8U™	5 to 8	60 feet (18.29m)	38 feet (11.58m)
Pinto 8U™ Player Pitch	5 to 8	60 feet (18.29m)	40 feet (12.19m)
Mustang 10U™	7 to 10	60 feet (18.29m)	46 feet (14.02m)
Bronco 12U™	9 to 12	70 feet (21.33m)	50 feet (15.24m)
Pony 14U™	11 to 14	80 feet (24.38m)	54 feet (16.46m)
Colt 16U™	13 to 16	90 feet (27.43m)	60 feet 6 inches (18.44m)
Palomino 19U™	15 to 19	90 feet (27.43m)	60 feet 6 inches (18.44m)
Thoroughbred 23U™	17 to 23	90 feet (27.43m)	60 feet 6 inches (18.44m)

**FOAL 4U™ LEAGUE** and **SHETLAND 6U™ LEAGUE** focuses totally on instruction of beginning players. Batting tee recommended. **PINTO 8U™ LEAGUE** teaches the basic fundamentals of baseball. Coach-pitch recommended. **MUSTANG 10U™ LEAGUE** begins the players' training in the complete game of baseball. Tournament play is completed through World Series level. **BRONCO 12U™ LEAGUE** and **PONY 14U™ LEAGUE** take the developing young players into the full game of baseball, with no restrictions on base stealing, and tournament play complete through World Series level. **COLT 16U™ LEAGUE** and **PALOMINO 19U™ LEAGUE** provide players an opportunity to compete against their peers in regulation baseball through the World Series level. **THOROBRED 23U™ LEAGUE** provide college aged players an opportunity to compete against their peers in regulation wood bat baseball.

**GIRLS SOFTBALL** organization leagues are also operated by PONY Baseball and Softball based on the and-under age concept. Copies of the PONY GIRLS SOFTBALL rule book may be obtained from PONY Baseball and Softball.

### ADMINISTRATION

Volunteer Field Directors gather input from local organization leagues for the Board of Directors and Headquarters Staff, and relay information back to the organization leagues. The Field Directors also serve as administrative and service agents to the organization leagues. Flexibility is a key word in PONY Baseball philosophy, which provides a pattern of organization league operation that may be adapted to the needs of the community, rather than asking the community to adapt to an arbitrary set of rules and regulations.

League Age is that age attained by a player prior to May 1 of the current year and determines the player's eligibility for a particular league age. Organization league boundaries are recommended by the league but are subject to the approval of the Division Director.

Membership applications are submitted online annually by each organization league. The information is processed at headquarters and copies distributed to the appropriate Field Directors. A Membership Certificate is issued by the Division Director following the Director's approval of organization league operating conditions.

Organization league supplies, including rule books, supply catalog and other items, are mailed to each organization league upon receipt of the Membership Application at PONY Baseball.

Equipment: Conventional baseball uniforms are recommended in **FOAL 4U™**, **SHETLAND 6U™**, **PINTO 8U™** and **MUSTANG 10U™** leagues. They are required in all other league ages. Protective headgear for batters, base runners, on deck batters, player coaches and catchers are required. Regulation size home plate, pitching plate and bases are recommended for all league ages. An official ball, bearing an emblem of PONY BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL, is required in organization league and tournament play.

PNY reserves the right to collect data from players, parents, league officials, umpires. Collection of this data is governed by the PONY data management policy. For further information go to <http://www.pony.org/privacypolicy>.

## ZONE DIRECTORS

For purposes of administration and tournament elimination, PONY Baseball and Softball divides the United States into four zones, North, East, South and West. The volunteer force of Field Directors at the Division, Region, Section, District and Area are headed by a Zone Director in each zone. There is also an Asia-Pacific, Canada, Caribbean and Mexico Zone.

### North Zone – Steve Miller

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### Mexico Zone – Arturo Cruz

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Gurabo, P.R. 00778  
United States of America  
(939) 244-3125 • e.serrano@pony.org

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE™



PONY Baseball and Softball™ is proud to offer membership in the **CHAMPIONS LEAGUE™**. It is one of the newest leagues in the PONY family, designed for children with special needs. It was unanimously adopted by the PONY Baseball and Softball International Board of Directors on October 13, 2009.

While many of our leagues have had some type of **CHAMPIONS LEAGUE™** for years, PONY has officially organized this opportunity for children with special needs. PONY has developed and finalized plans for the language and procedures necessary to create these leagues on an international level.

**REGISTRATION:** Registration for the **CHAMPIONS LEAGUE™** can only be done on-line at [www.pony.org](http://www.pony.org). Click on the registration tab and follow the registration instructions. If you need assistance, please call PONY at 724-225-1060.

**REGISTRATION COST:** There is no charge to register your **CHAMPIONS LEAGUE™** Program regardless of how many Champions League™ teams are in the organization.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?** PONY is developing a long-range plan for the language and procedures necessary to sustain the **CHAMPIONS LEAGUE™** on an international level, but we need your help. Does your community have a **CHAMPIONS LEAGUE™** already? If so, help us enhance the rules and guidelines by forwarding your information to [info@pony.org](mailto:info@pony.org). **Protect Our Nation's Youth™** represents all children and young adults regardless of ability.

**HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?** For more information on the **CHAMPIONS LEAGUE™** contact your local PONY Field Director or contact PONY International Headquarters at 724.225.1060 (M-F 8AM-5PM EST) or by email at [info@pony.org](mailto:info@pony.org).

## DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The following may be adopted by the organization league as a guide for the handling of player or adult discipline problems.

- A. The organization league officers shall have the authority to suspend, discharge or otherwise discipline any player, manager, coach, umpire, organization league officer or other person whose conduct is in violation of the Rules and Regulations of PONY Baseball and/or is considered detrimental to the best interests of the organization league.
- (1) Persons subject to such discipline shall have the right to a hearing before the organization league officers prior to such discipline being imposed.
- (2) In the event of such a hearing involving a player, or other person under the age of 18, that person's parents shall be invited to attend.
- B. Persons, youth or adult, who refuse to comply with the rules of Baseball, PONY Baseball, or the organization league, may be considered for disciplinary action.
- C. Recognizing the difficulty of establishing specific penalties for a variety of violations of acceptable conduct, the following penalties are suggested. Organization league officers may impose the one which, in their opinion, appears to match the severity of the offense.
- (1) **WARNING:** The offending person is to be advised in writing of the offense, and further advised that repetition of the offense shall result in a more severe penalty.
- (2) **SUSPENSION:** The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been suspended from all organization league activity for a specific number of games, or days.
- (3) **DISMISSAL:** The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been dismissed from the organization league for the remainder of the current year.
- (4) **BARRED:** The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been barred from present and future participation in the organization league, permanently, or for a specific number of years.

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## **PONY Baseball, Inc.™ RULES AND REGULATIONS**

This book does not contain a complete set of rules governing play in **FOAL 4U™, SHETLAND 6U™, PINTO 8U™, MUSTANG 10U™, BRONCO 12U™, PONY 14U™, COLT 16U™, PALOMINO 19U™** and **THOROBRED 23U™** Leagues. Play is governed by *Official Rules of Major League Baseball*. This book contains only those exceptions to Official Baseball Rules which are necessary in a youth program, as well as regulations governing organization league and administration.

### **RULES and REGULATIONS**

Each rule is applicable to **FOAL 4U™, SHETLAND 6U™, PINTO 8U™, MUSTANG 10U™, BRONCO 12U™, PONY 14U™, COLT 16U™, PALOMINO 19U™** and **THOROBRED 23U™** Leagues unless specifically noted otherwise.

#### **1 - THE ORGANIZATION LEAGUE**

- A. PONY Baseball does not limit participants in its organization league on the basis of disability. All organization leagues are required to comply with this policy and failure to do so shall be grounds for revocation of or refusal to renew an organization league's annual membership. Any questions on this rule shall be referred to PONY Baseball Headquarters.
- B. A request for reasonable modification to PONY (Baseball/Softball) Rules by an individual with a disability, or their representative, shall be accepted by any employee of PONY Headquarters and any PONY official with responsibility for organizing or supervising PONY games. PONY shall allow such a modification unless the modification would fundamentally alter an essential aspect of PONY's (Baseball/Softball) program. If an official believes that a proposed modification would fundamentally alter an essential aspect of PONY's (Baseball/Softball) program, the official should consult the PONY ADA Coordinator. The ADA Coordinator will, after an appropriate individualized inquiry that includes consideration of the player's specific circumstances and the purpose of the rule, policy, or practice at issue, decide whether to allow the modification. Written notice shall be provided to the requestor of the modification within four (4) business days of the request. Although PONY will respond appropriately and in a reasonable amount of time to a request for reasonable modification regardless of when it is received, it is highly recommended that players and their families provide notice of such a request in organization league registration materials prior to the start of the season and in tournament registration materials prior to the start of a tournament.
- C. PONY (Baseball/Softball) Rules do not limit players' rights to sign language interpreters, or other auxiliary aids, during regular season and tournament games. Rules limiting persons allowed in team dugouts shall not apply to sign language interpreters. In situations where PONY's (Baseball/Softball) Rules allow coaches to be in areas other than the dugout, a sign language interpreter shall be allowed to accompany coaches in order to provide communication to a player. Any concerns with the selection of sign language interpreters or the location of such interpreters during games shall be addressed to the PONY ADA Coordinator. Although PONY will respond appropriately and in a reasonable amount of time to a request for a qualified sign language interpreter or other auxiliary aid regardless of when it is received, it is highly recommended that players and their families provide notice of such a request in organization league registration materials prior to the start of the season and in tournament registration materials prior to the start of a tournament.
- D. PONY is a non-discriminatory organization, which prohibits actions against an individual or organization league on the basis of race, sex, creed, religion or national origin.

- E. Organization leagues shall be composed of any number of teams, but must register all teams in an age division to be eligible for Tournament Play.
- F. The Organization League shall apply and pay all registration fees prior to playing first organization league game to avoid a late fee. Organization League will be issued a "Membership Certificate" upon completion of registration process.
- G. The Membership Certificate shall be issued annually to each organization league, by the Division Director, subject to the following conditions:
  - (1) The Division Director shall have the authority to withdraw or refuse membership for just cause and shall give written notice to the presiding officers of the organization league, as indicated by the current Membership Application form on file. The organization league has the right to appeal such action to the Vice President in that Zone.
  - (2) The Membership Certificate does not imply that in future seasons a new organization league cannot make application for operation within a portion of the present boundaries of the organization league, but only that no other organization league shall be permitted to operate within the boundaries established for the current season.
  - (3) The Membership Certificate expires at the conclusion of the actual play of the season for which it has been granted and is subject to renewal upon application and re-examination the following year.
- H. All organizations will be required to do an annual background check on all officials, managers, coaches, umpires, volunteers and staff (or any other individuals that may come into contact with the minors of the organization). Background checks at a MINIMUM must be a search from the national sex offender database but additional checks such as ID Search and National Criminal Search are recommended.

## 2 - INSURANCE

- A. Accidents and injuries can occur while participating in baseball games. To protect our members, all organization leagues and teams must purchase accident insurance coverage and show proof by registration for the players, managers, coaches, official scorekeepers and volunteer umpires in their organization league with a policy provided by the organization league. Such coverage is available through PONY Baseball, Inc.
- B. All affiliated organization leagues and teams must purchase organization league liability insurance with minimum limits of one million dollars, on an occurrence policy basis, and naming PONY Baseball, Inc. as an additional insured. The liability policy must also include participant legal liability coverage of one million dollars. Such coverage is available through PONY Baseball, Inc.

## 3 - TEAMS

- A. **FOAL 4U™, SHETLAND 6U™, PINTO 8U™, MUSTANG 10U™, BRONCO 12U™ and PONY 14U™** teams shall consist of not more than 15, nor less than 12 players. The names of these players should be registered with the organization league player agent.
- B. **COLT 16U™** team shall consist of not more than 18, nor less than 12 players. **PALOMINO 19U™** teams shall consist of not more than 25, nor less than 12 players during the regular season, and shall not exceed more than 3 players of age 19. **THORBRED 23U™** teams may consist of not more than 25, nor less than 12 players during regular season play.
- C. Age, for the organization league purposes, means "league age" which is that age attained by a player prior to May 1 of the season in question.

#### 4 - LEGAL PLAYERS

- A. The organization league has an option to use the 2 year age program or the "U" program. This is strictly an organization league decision.
- B. If the organization league does decide to use the "U" program a player can only move up one age group. (EXAMPLE) A Bronco age player 11 or 12 years old will only be allowed to move up to the Pony age.
- C. Players must abide by all of the PONY rules and regulations in order to be eligible for tournament play.
- D. Legal age of players shall be:
- (1) **FOAL 4U™**:  
Players of league age 4U (minimum age 3) born between May 1, 2020, and April 30, 2022
  - (2) **SHETLAND 6U™**:  
Players of league age 6U (minimum age 3) born between May 1, 2018, and April 30, 2022
  - (3) **PINTO 8U™**:  
Players of league age 8U (minimum age 5) born on or between May 1, 2016, and April 30, 2020
  - (4) **MUSTANG 10U™**:  
Players of league age 10U (minimum age 7) born on or between May 1, 2014, and April 30, 2018
  - (5) **BRONCO 12U™**:  
Players of league age 12U (minimum age 9) born on or between May 1, 2012, and April 30, 2016
  - (6) **PONY 14U™**:  
Players of league age 14U (minimum age 11) born on or between May 1, 2010, and April 30, 2014
  - (7) **COLT 16U™**:  
Players of league age 16U (minimum age 13) born on or between May 1, 2008, and April 30, 2012
  - (8) **PALOMINO 19U™**:  
Players of league age 19U (minimum age 15) born on or between May 1, 2005, and April 30, 2010
  - (9) **THOROBRED 23U™**:  
Players of league age 23U (minimum age 17) born on or between May 1, 2001, and April 30, 2008
- E. **FOAL 4U™, SHETLAND 6U™, PINTO 8U™, MUSTANG 10U™, BRONCO 12U™, PONY 14U™ and COLT 16U™** players of proper age whose residence, as determined by the residence of their parents or legal guardians, is within the approved organization league boundaries shall be considered "legal" players for organization league and tournament competition.
- (1) Players shall not participate with more than one PONY Baseball and/or Softball organization league at the same time.
  - (2) A player shall not move from one organization league to another within a common or overlapping boundary in the same season.
- F. **PALOMINO 19U™ and THOROBRED 23U™** League players' residence shall be determined by residence of parents or legal guardians, player's residence while attending school or legal voting residence.
- (1) In the event of a question or protest of team player selection areas within a **PALOMINO 19U™ and THOROBRED 23U™** League, the decision of the Division Director shall be final.

- G. Dates of birth of candidates shall be certified by birth certificates, hospital certificates, baptismal certificates, driver's licenses, passports or equivalent religious or legal documents which shall be presented to an organization league officer prior to the organization league's first regularly scheduled game.
  - (1) Exact copies of birth documents are acceptable and may be made by anyone on any copy machine or mechanical duplicating process.
  - (2) Documents presented as proof of date of birth shall be legible and bear the signature of an authorized official of the issuing agency.
  - (3) Notarized statements from parents are not acceptable.
- H. **PALOMINO 19U™** and **THOROBRED 23U™** players shall not participate in a game unless the Player Contract has been approved by the Player Agent.
- I. Players cannot receive money, favors or gratuities for playing baseball, accept money or favors for reimbursement for time lost at work while playing baseball, or expenses incurred while playing. Such acceptance shall not be direct or indirect, through parents, trustees or guardians, or for future payment. Any player who has signed a professional baseball contract, or who has accepted remuneration for their services as a player shall not be legal.
- J. Organization league officers are given the option of prohibiting players from participating on teams in other non-scholastic baseball programs. Local organization league policy in this matter shall be adopted in written form and made a part of the local organization league Bylaws.
- K. Please refer to rule 1A concerning PONY's policy on disabilities.

## 5 - BOUNDARIES

- A. Organization league boundaries are recommended by the league but are subject to the approval of the Division Director.
- B. A map clearly indicating the current boundaries of the organization league shall be sent to the Division Director and shall be replaced upon request.
  - (1) Unless specifically stated otherwise, the center of the street shall be considered the actual dividing line when streets are used as boundaries.
  - (2) Maps shall indicate specific boundaries such as streets, railroad tracks, rivers, or school districts, postal zones, city limits or similarly specified areas. A definition of boundaries such as "five-mile radius" is not acceptable.
- C. The Division Director, based upon the recommendations of the Field Directors concerned, reserves the right to adjust boundaries in the event of overlapping of territorial requests or because of inequitable conditions. Though boundaries are not specifically restricted by population or geographic area, both shall be considered when boundaries are submitted to the Division Director for approval.
- D. **FOAL 4U™**, **SHETLAND 6U™**, **PINTO 8U™**, **MUSTANG 10U™**, **BRONCO 12U™**, **PONY 14U™**, **COLT 16U™**, **PALOMINO 19U™** and **THOROBRED 23U™** League boundaries need not be identical.
- E. Organization leagues shall identify to the Division Director the boundaries from which they intend to select their players, either on a school population basis, or on a geographical basis.

## 6 - SELECTION OF PLAYERS

- A. Selection of players shall be in accord with provisions set forth in the Player Selection Plan adopted by the organization league. It is expected that each legal player residing within the approved organization league boundaries shall be given an opportunity to become a player candidate for the organization league.

- B. The selection of players for organization league teams shall be under the direction of a Player Agent who shall be selected by the organization league officers.
- C. **PALOMINO 19U™ and THOROBRED 23U™** League: The Division Director or their designated representative shall be responsible for determining player eligibility as to age, amateur status and residence, based upon documentation submitted by the team.
- D. **PALOMINO 19U™ and THOROBRED 23U™** League: The Division Director, or their representative, shall approve all Player Contracts.
  - (1) Organization league and team officials shall be expected to cooperate fully with the Division Director, or their representative, in providing such documentation as shall be requested to verify the age, amateur status and residence of players.
  - (2) It shall be the duty of the team Business Managers to keep the Division Director, or their representative, advised of any changes in the players participating with their team.
- E. The original copy of each Player Contract is to be retained by the team. Two copies shall be provided to the Division Director, not later than June 30. The Division Director will forward copies to the commissioner's office by July 15th.
- F. **PALOMINO 19U™ and THOROBRED 23U™** League: Players voluntarily leaving the team, or those dropped for disciplinary reasons, before June 30, may be replaced with the approval of organization league officers, but such players shall not participate with any other Palomino team for the remainder of the current playing season.
- G. **PALOMINO 19U™ and THOROBRED 23U™** League: After player contracts have been placed on file with the Division Director, by June 30, replacement of players shall require the approval of the Division Director. Replacement shall be approved only in the event a player becomes ill or injured, or because of a vacancy created by the signing of a player to a professional baseball contract.

## 7 - PLAYING FIELDS

- A. Distance between bases:
  - FOAL 4U™ & SHETLAND 6U™** - 50 feet (15.24m)
  - PINTO 8U™ & MUSTANG 10U™** - 60 feet (18.29m)
  - BRONCO 12U™** - 70 feet (21.34m)
  - PONY 14U™** - 80 feet (24.38m)
  - COLT 16U™, PALOMINO 19™ & THOROBRED 23U™** - 90 feet (27.43m)
- B. Pitching Distance:
  - FOAL 4U™ & SHETLAND 6U™** - 38 feet (11.58m)
  - PINTO 8U™** - 38 feet (11.58m)    **PINTO 8U™ PLAYER PITCH** – 40 feet (12.19m)
  - MUSTANG 10U™** - 46 feet (14.02m)
  - BRONCO 12U™** - 50 feet (15.24m)
  - PONY 14U™** - 54 feet (16.46m)
  - COLT 16U™, PALOMINO 19™ & THOROBRED 23U™** - 60 feet, 6 inches (18.44m)
- C. Home plate to center of second base:
  - FOAL 4U™ & SHETLAND 6U™** - 70 feet 8.5 in (21.55m)
  - PINTO 8U™ & MUSTANG 10U™** - 84 feet 10 in (25.86m)
  - BRONCO 12U™** - 99 feet (30.18m)
  - PONY 14U™** - 113 feet, 2 inches (34.49m)
  - COLT 16U™, PALOMINO 19U™ & THOROBRED 23U™** - 127 feet, 3 inches (38.79m)
- D. The fair play area shall be within the first base and third base foul lines and a fence or marked line establishing the outfield limits of the playing area, referred to here as "Home Run Distances."



## RECOMMENDED HOME RUN DISTANCES

	<i>Foul Line</i>		<i>Centerfield</i>	
<b>FOAL 4U™</b>	125 feet	(38.10m)	200 feet	(60.96m)
<b>SHETLAND 6U™</b>	125 feet	(38.10m)	200 feet	(60.96m)
<b>PINTO 8U™</b>	150 feet	(45.72m)	200 feet	(60.96m)
<b>MUSTANG 10U™</b>	175 feet	(53.34m)	225 feet	(68.58m)
<b>BRONCO 12U™</b>	225 feet	(68.58m)	275 feet	(83.82m)
<b>PONY 14U™</b>	275 feet	(83.82m)	315 feet	(96.01m)
<b>COLT 16U™</b>	300 feet	(91.44m)	350 feet	(106.68m)
<b>PALOMINO 19U™</b>	300 feet	(91.44m)	350 feet	(106.68m)
<b>THOROBRED 23U™</b>	300 feet	(91.44m)	350 feet	(106.68m)

- E. The height of the pitcher's mound above the level of home plate and the base paths, raised by a gradual slope shall be:  
**PINTO 8U™ & MUSTANG 10U™** — 4 inches (0.1m)  
**BRONCO 12U™** — 6 inches (0.15m)      **PONY 14U™** — 8 inches (0.20m)  
**COLT 16U™, PALOMINO 19U™ & THOROBRED 23U™** — 10 inches (0.25m)
- F. There shall be a restraining line, located along the first base line and extending 3 feet (0.91m) beyond first base. This line, paralleling the first base foul line and 3 feet (0.91m) into foul territory, shall be marked with chalk or other white material 2 inches (0.05m) wide. Point of origination for the restraining line from home base shall be one half the distance between home plate and first base.
- G. The recommended distance from home plate to the backstop shall be:  
**BRONCO 12U™** — 30 feet (9.14m)      **PONY 14U™** — 40 feet (12.19m)  
**COLT 16U™, PALOMINO 19U™ & THOROBRED 23U™** — 50 feet (15.24m)
- H. Home plate and the pitcher's plate shall be official size as used in regulation baseball. Bases shall not be smaller than a 15-inch square.
- I. By local option the catcher's box may be rectangular in shape, 43 inches (1.09m) wide and eight feet (2.44m) deep from the point of home plate or it may be triangular shape, extended eight feet (2.44m) from the rear of home plate, being a continuation of the foul lines in which case the line closest to the backstop shall be 16 feet (4.88m) in length.

## 8 - EQUIPMENT

- A. The ball shall weigh not less than five nor more than five and one-quarter ounces (142-149 gms.) avoirdupois, and measure not less than nine nor more than nine and one-quarter inches (22.9-23.5 cm) in circumference. Baseballs, specially manufactured and designed in such a way as to reduce injuries, or the seriousness of injuries, are approved for use in local organization league play. **(APPROVED FOR FOAL 4U™ & SHETLAND 6U™ TOURNAMENT PLAY ONLY)**
- B. Both leather and vinyl covered baseballs bearing the emblem of PONY Baseball are manufactured to specifications by several companies and are the baseballs required for organization league play and tournament play.
- C. Wooden, metal, graphite or ceramic bats manufactured for baseball play, which are round and not more than two and five eighths inches in diameter at the thickest part, not more than 42 inches in length, are acceptable. No bat shall be used if dented, cracked, modified or misshaped. The bat's knob may be solid or hollowed to house an embedded metric sensor. If a sensor is used, it shall (1) not affect performance; (2) be secured by a locking mechanism and a back-up mechanism to keep it in place; and (3) have a distinguishing "off-line" mode to prevent data from being accessed during a game.

- (1) Bats manufactured specifically for use in tee ball, shall not be used when the ball is pitched by a player, coach, or pitching machine, unless using a Level 5 or less safety ball.
  - (2) Coach-pitch bats will only be used in coach-pitch using a safety ball. Penalty: removal of the bat only. (Not subject to rule 18-E-7(a), (b) and (c). If using a tee ball bat manufactured prior to 2018, these bats must carry the USA Baseball mark accompanied by the following text: "Only For Use With Approved Tee Ball Bat." If you already have a tee ball bat you would like to continue using, all you have to do is purchase a USA Bat sticker directly from USABB and place it on your bat.
  - (3) 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- $\frac{5}{8}$ " inch minus factor bats (-5, -7, -9, etc.) and 2- $\frac{1}{4}$ " bats must be certified with the USABat licensing stamp on the bat in order to be used for league and tournament play. 2- $\frac{1}{4}$ " BARREL bats are legal in all divisions of PONY Baseball except **COLT 16U™**, **PALOMINO 19U™** and **THOROBRED 23U™**. 2- $\frac{1}{4}$ " and 2- $\frac{5}{8}$ " inch minus factor bats (-5, -7, -9, etc.) used in 2017 will be illegal to use in 2018.
  - (4) 2- $\frac{5}{8}$ " barrel bats are legal in all division of PONY Baseball. If a 2- $\frac{5}{8}$ " 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.
  - (5) 2- $\frac{3}{4}$ " barrel bats are prohibited in all divisions of PONY Baseball.
  - (6) **COLT 16U™** and **PALOMINO 19U™** are only allowed to use 2- $\frac{5}{8}$ " -3 BBCOR certified bats.
  - (7) **THOROBRED 23U™** League must use wooden bats only as specified by Major League Baseball.
- D. Metal cleated baseball shoes, rubber soled, or rubber cleated shoes are permitted. Alteration of metal cleats, such as sharpening, which might make them dangerous to participants, is specifically prohibited.
- E. The batter, players in the on-deck batting area, baserunners and players coaching in the baseline coaching boxes shall be required to wear protective headgear which gives protection to the top of the head, temples, ears and base of the skull. These items shall be NOCSAE approved.
- (1) Use of properly fastened protective face masks, jaw guards and chin straps on protective headgear is recommended. Altering protective headgear is prohibited.
  - (2) No decal other than the player's name, number, team name or logo shall be added to the protective headgear. Any headgear in violation of this rule shall be removed from play.
  - (3) PONY recommends that all adult base coaches wear a protective helmet while performing their duties.
- F. Catchers are required to wear proper protective equipment including a mask with throat guard, chest protector, shin guards, athletic supporter with cup and NOCSAE approved headgear which gives protection to the top of the head and both ears when catching behind the plate. Hockey style masks are acceptable as proper protection for catchers. Mask extensions are not needed. Any player serving as a catcher to warm up a pitcher shall wear a mask, whether the pitcher is warming up from the mound, in the bullpen or elsewhere.
- G. It is recommended that managers make every effort to encourage the wearing of athletic supporters by all male players.
- H. **FOAL 4U™**, **SHETLAND 6U™**, **PINTO 8U™** and **MUSTANG 10U™**: Conventional baseball uniforms are recommended. Baseball caps and t-shirts or conventional baseball uniforms may be worn.

**BRONCO 12U™, PONY 14U™, COLT 16U™, PALOMINO 19U™ and THORBRED 23U™:** Conventional baseball uniforms required in organization league AND TOURNAMENT PLAY include a shirt, pants, cap, and socks as used by teams in the Major Leagues and shall be worn by all players.

- (1) This rule prohibits the wearing of shorts (defined as trousers which do not cover the knees of the wearer) or full-length slacks by the players.
  - (2) Any exception to the uniform rule shall have the specific written approval of the Headquarters Office.
  - (3) Where commercial advertising is used on team uniforms it is strongly urged that the letters be limited to two inches or less.
- I. The use of bases with safety features, such as those with tapered sides, those that release upon sufficient impact and the double bag at first base have been approved.
  - J. No jewelry shall be worn by any player, except for medical identification. Jewelry is defined as "any ornaments for personal adornment, including but not limited to, necklaces, earrings, bracelets, including those made of base metals, glass, plastic, rubber, cloth, leather or the like." Sweatbands are allowed.
  - K. Cell phones, pagers, or any other types of communications devices wearable or handheld cannot be used on the field of play with the exception of medical devices. The field of play includes bullpens, dugouts, coaches' boxes and other such areas where the coaches, players, and umpires have access. Laptop computers and tablets may be used in the dugout for scorekeeping purposes. Wireless communications must not be enabled.
  - L. PONY recommends that players, in the pitching position, at **SHETLAND 6U™** and **PINTO 8U™** (machine pitch and coach pitch) divisions wear a protective product to protect the heart and a face mask to protect the face.
  - M. PONY recommends that while a pitcher is in the pitching position or positioned in the pitching area the player should wear an athletic supporter with a cup.
  - N. PONY recommends the use of protective mouth guards while either in a defensive position or an offensive position.
  - O. PONY officials take exception to anyone tampering with or altering equipment of any kind for the purpose of gaining advantage against opponents. Equipment includes but is not limited to balls, bats, spikes, head gear, etc. Penalty for violation will be disciplinary actions to expulsion from PONY Baseball.

## 9 - PLAYING RULES

- A. The official playing rules, with the exceptions and variations contained in this book, shall be the *Official Rules of Major League Baseball* completely revised, as released through the office of the Commissioner of Baseball.
- B. **FOAL 4U™, SHETLAND 6U™** and **PINTO 8U™**: The entire roster of players present for the game shall bat in rotation.
- C. **FOAL 4U™, SHETLAND 6U™**: Ten players shall be used defensively. The four outfielders must be positioned 15 feet behind the baselines when the pitching motion is made.
- D. **FOAL 4U™, SHETLAND 6U™**: The batting tee shall be placed on home plate. The umpire is responsible for removal prior to any play at home plate. The batter will not be allowed to adjust the tee or take practice swings after the pitcher has made the pitching motion with one foot on the rubber. PENALTY: A 10-foot arc shall be inscribed in front of home plate, from the first to the third base foul line, and any batted ball which does not touch or travel beyond that line will be considered a foul-strike for the purposes of this rule.
- E. **FOAL 4U™, SHETLAND 6U™** and **PINTO 8U™**: Batters are not permitted to bunt or soft swing at the ball. Penalty: Pitch is a strike and the ball is dead. Exception is Pinto Player Pitch only, bunting is authorized.

- F. **FOAL 4U™, SHETLAND 6U™**: The batter shall be called out after failing to hit the ball after three swings at the ball on the tee. Batter is not out on a foul or foul tip unless it is a third swing.
- PINTO 8U™**: A batter shall be declared out after failing to hit a fair ball after six pitches are delivered by a pitching machine or coach-pitcher. The batter is out if there are three strikes before the sixth pitch. Missed swings are counted as strikes, as are foul balls and foul tips. A batter is not out on a foul ball or a foul tip even if it is the 6<sup>th</sup> pitch.
- All **FOAL 4U™, SHETLAND 6U™** and **PINTO 8U™** (exception: Pinto-Player Pitch) players who are in the defensive position of the infield except for the catcher and pitcher may not come any closer than 45 feet from home plate until the ball is hit.
- G. **FOAL 4U™, SHETLAND 6U™**: The catcher shall stand away from the plate until the batter swings, then field the position defensively. (There is no dropped third strike rule.)
- PINTO 8U™**: The catcher may assume the catcher's position or stand away until the batter swings, then field the position defensively. (There is no dropped third strike rule.)
- H. **FOAL 4U™, SHETLAND 6U™** and **PINTO 8U™**: Base runners are not permitted to steal bases and shall remain in contact with the base until ball is hit or crosses home plate. PENALTY: If a runner is off the base and the ball is hit, the runner is out and the ball is in play. If the ball is not hit, the runner must return to the base and the ball is dead.
- I. **FOAL 4U™, SHETLAND 6U™** and **PINTO 8U™**: There is no infield fly rule (Exception Pinto-Player Pitch).
- J. **MUSTANG 10U™**: It is recommended that each player on the team play in at least two innings of each game.
- K. **FOAL 4U™, SHETLAND 6U™** and **PINTO 8U™**: No player participation rules apply. Free substitution on defense including pitching position unless a Pinto player is being utilized. Once removed, a Pinto player may not return to the pitching position.
- L. **MUSTANG 10U™, BRONCO 12U™, PONY 14U™, COLT 16U™, PALOMINO 19U™ and THOROBRED 23U™**: Any player in the starting lineup who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game one time. (*NOTE: This rule applies to STARTERS ONLY.*)
- (1) Players shall return to the line-up in their original place in the batting order. While more than one substitute may be used in that position before the starting player is returned, no substitutions shall be made that shall alter the original batting rotation of any of the starting or substitute players. [See exception in 9-L-(2) below.]
  - (2) Once removed from the lineup a pitcher may return to the lineup but shall not pitch again in the same game.
- M. **MUSTANG 10U™, BRONCO 12U™, PONY 14U™, COLT 16U™, PALOMINO 19U™ and THOROBRED 23U™**: In any instance in which a team does not have an eligible substitute for a player who becomes ill, is injured, or ejected from the game by the umpire, the player last removed from the lineup by the manager or coach, who is otherwise eligible to play, shall be used as a substitute.
- (1) When a team's last available substitute enters the game as part of a multiple substitution, the manager shall advise the umpire and official scorekeeper which player is to be considered "the last player removed from the line-up."
  - (2) In this instance only, the substitute player shall take the batting position of the player they replace, even though it may be a different batting position than the one he or she previously occupied.
  - (3) This rule applies to all players, including starters.
- N. **FOAL 4U™, SHETLAND 6U™** and **PINTO 8U™**: When the ball is in the possession of an infielder and, in the umpire's judgment, all play on the runner or runners has ceased, the umpire shall call "Time". The ball is dead and shall be returned to home plate, if

the batting tee is used, or to the mound when the pitching machine or coach-pitcher is used.

- (1) Appeal plays can be made, following the play that is to be appealed, at any time before the pitcher makes a pitching motion, when the batting tee or coach-pitcher method is used, or before the ball is ejected from the pitching machine.
  - (2) An appeal is to be made by the manager/coach to the umpire before the next pitch.
  - (3) **PINTO 8U™** only: If a batted ball hits the coach pitcher or the coach operating the pitching machine, the ball is dead. The pitch is a foul strike and no runners may advance. If a live ball hits the coach pitcher or the coach operating the pitching machine, or in the umpire's judgment the coach interferes in the fielder's attempt to make a play, the ball is dead and lead runner is out.
- O. **MUSTANG 10U:** Leagues shall adopt one of the following three optional rules for organization league play.

**RULE (1) SHALL GOVERN ALL MUSTANG 10U™ LEAGUE TOURNAMENT PLAY.**

- (1) Runners may lead-off and steal bases, as in Official Baseball Rules.
  - (2) Runners at first and second bases may lead off and steal bases, as in Official Baseball Rules, but runners at third base shall remain in contact with the base from the time the pitcher steps on the rubber with possession of the ball until the pitched ball has been hit or has reached or passed the batter. Once the pitcher has stepped on the rubber, in possession of the ball, runners at third base who leave base before the pitched ball reaches or passes the batter shall be called out and the pitch shall be considered as a dead ball.
  - (3) Runners may steal bases, but shall not leave the base they are occupying at the time of the pitch until the pitched ball has reached or passed the batter. Once the pitcher has stepped on the rubber with possession of the ball, runners who leave base before the pitched ball reaches or passes the batter shall be called out and the pitch shall be considered as a dead ball.
- P. The following will designate the usage of designated hitters:
- (1) **PINTO 8U™, MUSTANG 10U™, BRONCO 12U™, PONY 14U™:** The designated hitter rule shall not be used.
  - (2) **COLT 16U™, PALOMINO 19U™ and THOROBRED 23U™:** The designated hitter rule shall be as stated in the *Official Rules of Major League Baseball*.
- Q. Courtesy Runners for **Pinto 8U™** (Player Pitch only) through **Thorobred 23U™**.
- (1) At any time, the team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or catcher. In the event that the offensive team bats around, the pitcher and/or catcher who had a courtesy runner inserted on their behalf may bat in their normal position in the batting order.
  - (2) The same individual runner may not be used for both positions (pitcher and catcher) during the game.
  - (3) Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
  - (4) Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.
  - (5) A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher and be used as a substitute for another player in the half inning. If an injury, illness or ejection occurs and no other runners are available, the courtesy runner may be used as a substitute.
  - (6) The umpire-in-chief shall record courtesy runner participation and also announce as a substitute.
  - (7) A player who violates the courtesy-runner rules is disqualified for the rest of the game.
    - a. Should an injury, illness or ejection occur to the courtesy runner, another courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher may run.

R. The one foot in the batter's box rule shall be enforced as stated in the official rules of Major League Baseball (Rule 5.04 (b)(4)). For clarification, the Minor League penalty will apply. (The umpire shall award a strike without the pitcher having to deliver the pitch)

S. Under this ruling, "bat boys," male or female, or "mascots", animals or human, shall not be permitted on the field or bench.

#### T. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROCEDURES

While risk of one athlete infecting another with HIV/AIDS during competition is close to non-existent, there is a remote risk that other blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as in other body fluids. Procedures for reducing potential for transmission of these infectious agents should include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) The bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform it must be changed before the athlete may participate.

(2) Routine use of gloves or other precautions to prevent skin and mucous membrane exposure when contact with blood or other body fluids is anticipated.

(3) Immediately wash hands and other skin surfaces if contaminated (in contact) with blood or other body fluids. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.

(4) Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with an appropriate disinfectant before competition resumes.

(5) Practice proper disposal procedures to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels and other sharp instruments or devices.

(6) Although saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices should be available for use.

(7) Athletic trainers/coaches with bleeding or oozing skin conditions should refrain from all direct athletic care until the condition resolves.

(8) Contaminated towels should be properly disposed of/disinfected.

(9) Follow acceptable guidelines in the immediate control of bleeding and when handling bloody dressings, mouth guards and other articles containing body fluids.

### 10 - PITCHING RULES

A. Any team member may pitch, subject to the restrictions of the pitch count as recommended by Pitch Smart Guidelines for the particular age classification.

B. **FOAL 4U™, SHETLAND 6U, PINTO 8U:** Pitching options:

(1) For use with batting tee:

a. The ball shall be hit off of a batting tee placed on home plate. The umpire is responsible for removal prior to any play at home plate.

b. The batter shall not swing at the ball until the pitcher has made a pitching motion from the pitcher's plate

c. The pitcher shall remain in contact with the pitcher's plate until the batter hits the ball. PENALTY: A balk is called.

(2) For use with pitching machine:

a. The pitching machine shall be located approximately 38 feet from home plate (46 feet in **MUSTANG 10U™**).

b. The pitcher shall take position, always to the rear of the pitching machine, and on the left or right side with one foot on the dirt portion of the mound.

c. If a batted ball strikes the pitching machine and remains in fair territory, the ball is in play.

d. If a batted ball strikes the pitching machine and goes into foul territory, the ball is dead, the batter is awarded first base and all runners advance one base.

- e. The coach operating the pitching machine shall not direct or coach in any way on offense. PENALTY: The coach will receive one warning and the second time he/she must be removed.

(3) For use with coach pitchers:

- Coaches or managers shall pitch from a pitching plate 38 feet from the point of home plate (46 feet in **MUSTANG 10U™**)..
- The player fielding the pitcher's position shall take position always to the rear of the pitching plate, and on the left or right side of the coach-pitcher with one foot on the dirt portion of the mound.
- Coach-pitcher must remain in contact with the pitching rubber while pitching. He/she must throw the ball overhand. No kneeling or pitching from the knee is allowed.
- The coach-pitcher shall not direct or coach their team in any way on offense. PENALTY: The coach will receive one warning and the second time the coach-pitcher must be removed.

C. **FOAL 4U™, SHETLAND 6U™**: Players are not permitted to pitch.

D. **PINTO 8U™, MUSTANG 10U™, BRONCO 12U™, PONY 14U™, COLT 16U™, PALOMINO 19U™** and **THOROBRED 23U™** must use the Pitch Smart chart printed below.

*NOTE: The pitcher will only be required to observe the calendar day(s) of rest for the threshold he/she reached during the start of that at-bat, provided that the pitcher is removed before delivering a pitch to the next batter.*

<u>LEAGUE</u> <u>AGE</u>	<u>DAILY MAX</u> <u>PITCHES</u>	<u>REQUIRED REST (PITCHES)</u>					
		<u>0 DAYS</u>	<u>1 DAY</u>	<u>2 DAYS</u>	<u>3 DAYS</u>	<u>4 DAYS</u>	<u>5 DAYS</u>
7-8	50	1-20	21-35	36-50	N/A	N/A	N/A
9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
11-12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
13-14	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
15-16	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+	N/A
17-18	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+	N/A
19-22	120	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81-105	106+

- When pitching in more than one game on the same calendar day, pitchers may pitch any combination of pitches in those games provided they do not exceed the maximum number of pitches for that calendar day.
- Pitchers reaching their maximum number of pitches in a day while pitching to a batter, may finish pitching to that batter before being removed.
- Once the umpire-in-chief signals "play" to the pitcher, that pitcher shall become the pitcher of record and their pitch count begin at that point.
- A pitcher is charged with the number of pitches in the specific calendar day in which they are pitched, regardless of whether they are local organization league games, the playoff of postponed games or suspended games, tie games, or exhibition games. Rest is calculated as per calendar day.
- Any pitcher withdrawn from the mound and/or lineup, or a pitcher who is withdrawn from the mound and stays in the game at another position, shall not be permitted to pitch again in the same game.
- If a relief pitcher comes in "cold" the umpire shall allow the pitcher to warm up properly with at least ten warm up pitches.
- Pitchers in violation of any of the pitching rules shall be considered ineligible players, subject to penalties outlined in Rule 18- Penalties.
- The pitcher named in the batting order turned in prior to the start of the game or any substitute pitcher, shall pitch to the first batter or any substitute batter until such batter is put out or reaches first base, unless the pitcher sustains injury or illness which, in the judgment of the umpire-in-chief, incapacitates him from pitching.
- The pitcher may bring their pitching hand in contact with their mouth or lips while in the pitching circle as long as they wipe off their hands or fingers prior to making

contact with the pitching rubber. Penalty for violation of this rule is that the umpire will immediately call a ball.

- N. The league should assign an official scorekeeper for each game to track pitch counts. In the absence of an official scorekeeper, the home team book shall be the official record of games statistics including pitch count. PONY recommends the use of an electronic game scoring system.
- O. PONY Baseball will not be utilizing a pitch clock.
- P. PONY Baseball will not be utilizing the MLB disengagement rule.

## 11 - LENGTH OF GAMES

### Regulation games shall be:

- A. **FOAL 4U™**: Once play has begun in a game the game shall be played to regulation length (FOUR innings) unless the home team is leading and does not need its half of the final inning. Teams shall not score more than five runs per inning except in the FOURTH or extra inning, where they may score ten runs.  
**SHETLAND 6U™**: Once play has begun in a game the game shall be played to regulation length (six innings) unless the home team is leading and does not need its half of the final inning. Teams shall not score more than five runs per inning except in the sixth or extra inning, where they may score ten runs.
- B. **PINTO 8U™**: Once play has begun, the game shall be played to regulation length (six innings) or five and a fraction if the home team is leading unless called because of the mercy rule, or forfeited by the decision committee. Maximum five runs per inning except in the sixth or extra inning which is open.
- C. **FOAL 4U™**, **SHETLAND 6U™**, **PINTO 8U™** and **MUSTANG 10U™** League games shall be six (6) innings in duration. **BRONCO 12U™**, **PONY 14U™**, **COLT 16U™**, **PALOMINO 19U™** and **THOROBRED 23U™** League games shall be seven (7) innings in duration. When a game is tied at the end of regulation length, it shall go into extra innings until a decision is reached or the game is called by the umpire.
- D. If a game is called for any reason, it shall be a complete game if five innings (four in **FOAL 4U™**, **SHETLAND 6U™**, **PINTO 8U™** and **MUSTANG 10U™**) have been completed, or if the home team has scored more runs in four (three in **FOAL 4U™**, **SHETLAND 6U™**, **PINTO 8U™** and **MUSTANG 10U™**) innings or four (three in **FOAL 4U™**, **SHETLAND 6U™**, **PINTO 8U™** and **MUSTANG 10U™**) and a fraction innings, than the visiting team has scored in five (four in **FOAL 4U™**, **SHETLAND 6U™**, **PINTO 8U™** and **MUSTANG 10U™**) completed innings.
- E. If a game is called for any reason before it is a complete game, as described in Sections A, B, C, and D, or when the score is tied, it shall be considered a suspended game and shall be resumed from the point of curtailment at the time scheduled by organization league officials.
- F. If a game is called for any reason in an uncompleted inning, after having reached complete-game length as described in Section A, B, C, and D and the visiting team 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 organization league officials.
- G. Mercy rule.
  - (1) **FOAL 4U™ to MUSTANG 10U™**: If the visiting team is leading by at least 15 runs at the end of 3 or 10 runs and the end of 4 or more complete innings the game shall be declared complete and the visiting team shall be declared the winner. If the home team is leading by at least 15 runs at the end of 3 or 10 runs and the end of 4 or more complete innings after the visiting team has completed batting the game shall be declared complete and the home team shall be declared the winner."



- (2) **BRONCO 12U™** to **THOROBRED 23U™**: If the visiting team is leading by at least 15 runs at the end of 4 or 10 runs and the end of 5 or more complete innings the game shall be declared complete and the visiting team shall be declared the winner. If the home team is leading by at least 15 runs at the end of 4 or 10 runs and the end of 5 or more complete innings after the visiting team has completed batting the game shall be declared complete and the home team shall be declared the winner.”
- H. Once a game is stopped for lightning, it cannot be resumed until 30 minutes after last cloud to ground lightning strike.

## 12 - SCHEDULE

- A. Scheduling and rescheduling of PONY sanctioned organization league games shall be the responsibility of the officers and the executive committee and shall provide not less than 12 regular season games for each team.
- B. Teams and or organization leagues of the same age brackets, operated by the same set of officers or sponsors or organization league from adjacent areas, may play an interlocking schedule as long as all teams are PONY sanctioned.
- C. **FOAL 4U™**, **SHETLAND 6U™**, **PINTO 8U™**, **MUSTANG 10U™**, **BRONCO 12U™**, **PONY 14U™** and **COLT 16U™**: Under no condition shall organization league officers set up a schedule of games which would require a team to play more than two (one for **FOAL 4U™** and **SHETLAND 6U™**) games in one day.
- PALOMINO 19U™** and **THOROBRED 23U™**: Organization league officers may set up a schedule that requires teams to play in more than two games in one day. It is recommended that this be done only when scheduling problems require it, and should not be a common practice.
- (1) **FOAL 4U™**, **SHETLAND 6U™**, **PINTO 8U™** and **MUSTANG 10U™**: No game shall begin after 7:30 p.m. local time. No inning should begin after 9 p.m. local time.
- (2) **BRONCO 12U™**: No game shall begin after 8:30 p.m., and no inning should begin after 10 p.m. local time.
- (3) **PONY 14U™**: No game shall begin after 9:30 p.m. and no inning should begin after 11 p.m. local time.
- (4) **COLT 16U™**, **PALOMINO 19U™** and **THOROBRED 23U™**: No game shall be scheduled to start after 10:30 PM and no inning should begin after 12 midnight local time.
- D. It is recommended that local organization league playing schedules continue into late June.
- E. Night games are not recommended for **FOAL 4U™**, **SHETLAND 6U™** and **PINTO 8U™** League.

## 13 - UMPIRES

- A. Assignment of umpires shall be the responsibility of the organization league officers. At any time the umpires assigned by the organization league fail to report, or are otherwise unavailable, any other umpires used in that game shall be agreed upon by the opposing managers, preferably in writing.
- B. The use of tobacco in any form by umpires on the field is prohibited.
- C. PONY recommends the use of registered PONY umpires for league play.

## 14 - SCOREKEEPERS

- A. The official scorekeeper shall record at-bats, hits, runs, errors, strikeouts, bases on ball, number of pitches thrown by each pitcher of that game & starting time of games.
- B. It is recommended that in order to be considered the winning pitcher, pitchers should complete at least three (two in **MUSTANG 10U™**) full innings and leave a lead that stands up for the remainder of the game.

- C. The Official Scorekeeper shall communicate only with the Tournament Director and/or Home Plate Umpire.

## 15 - SPONSORS

Teams or organization leagues shall be sponsored only by those organizations, firms or companies whose activities or products are not detrimental to the welfare of youth.

## 16 - MANAGERS AND COACHES

- A. Adult coaches, if properly dressed in a full baseball uniform, or in a uniform specified by an organization league, may be used in either or both the first and third base coaching boxes. Only players in baseball uniform and wearing helmets shall be used as base coaches when adult coaches are not used.  
**FOAL 4U™, SHETLAND 6U™**: Two adult coaches may be stationed on the playing field, beyond the baselines, to provide verbal instructions to the defensive team. Players are not allowed to coach from the baseline coaching boxes.
- B. A coach or coaches shall not switch coaching boxes during an inning.
- C. Players, managers and coaches shall remain in the dugouts, on the benches or in the prescribed areas throughout the game.
- D. **PINTO 8U™, MUSTANG 10U™, BRONCO 12U™, PONY 14U™, COLT 16U™, PALOMINO 19U™** and **THOROBRED 23U™**: If a manager or coach goes onto the playing field to talk to any player or players more than once (twice in Pinto) in a half inning, while the same player is pitching, a pitching change shall be made. The only exceptions to this rule shall be in case of injury, or if time is called by the opposing team or by an umpire.
- E. **PINTO 8U™, MUSTANG 10U™, BRONCO 12U™, PONY 14U™, COLT 16U™, PALOMINO 19U™** and **THOROBRED 23U™**: Umpires shall not permit more than one offensive time out in each inning to allow a manager or coach to talk with a batter.
- F. The use of tobacco, including E-Cigarettes or any other smoking devices, alcohol or illegal drugs in any form by the players or adult leaders in the dugout, on the benches or on the playing field shall not be permitted.
- G. **PALOMINO 19U™** team managers and coaches shall not be eligible to play.
- H. **THOROBRED 23U™** team managers and coaches (league age 21, 22, and 23) are eligible to play.

## 17 – ORGANIZATION LEAGUE DECISIONS COMMITTEE

- A. The organization league President shall appoint a Decisions Committee of not less than five persons to receive and resolve all protests lodged during the playing of organization league games. At least three members of the committee shall be present to render a decision.
- B. The Decisions Committee shall concern itself only with game protests, leaving the resolution of other matters in the hands of organization league officers.
- C. The Decisions Committee may solicit testimony and advice from any source it chooses, but actual decisions shall be based on majority vote of the members of the committee only.
- (1) PONY Baseball Field Directors and the Headquarters staff shall give verbal guidance on the intent and interpretation of a rule when requested to do so by a member of the Decisions Committee.
- (2) Where it is deemed desirable, by majority vote of the Decisions Committee, an official written interpretation shall be provided by the Headquarters staff upon

receipt of a written request from the Decisions Committee, outlining the protest under consideration.

- D. When feasible, the Decisions Committee shall make every effort to render a decision on a protest within 48 hours of receipt of the protest in written form.
- E. Decisions of the Decisions Committee shall be final and are not subject to appeal. Managers may request confirmation of a ruling by a Decisions Committee from Field Directors or the Headquarters staff. Such requests shall be submitted in writing, and shall be answered for informational purposes only, and shall not affect the specific official decision of the Decisions Committee.

## **18 - PENALTIES**

- A. Violations of rule 1, or general failure of the organization league to comply with the concept as defined in these Rules and Regulations, and as expressed in the Blue Book of PONY Baseball, may result in refusal to accept the organization league membership application, or a revoking of the membership status of the organization league if the violation occurs after membership for the current season has been granted. Please refer to rule 1A concerning PONY's policy on disabilities.
- B. A team failing to field at least nine uniformed players within 15 minutes after scheduled starting time of a game, or at any time during the game, shall forfeit the game.
- C. Penalty for use of illegal players shall be forfeiture of games in which illegal players participated, provided such games are protested by any of the organization league managers or officers in writing within 48 hours of the game or games in question. An illegal player is one who is not legally a member of the organization league because the player does not meet the requirements as to age and/or residence as stated in Rules 4, 5, and 6. Please refer to rule 1A concerning PONY's policy on disabilities.
- D. Penalty for use of an ineligible player, upon appeal by the opposing manager when the official scorebook or other league records verify the ineligibility of the player concerned, shall be immediate removal of the player from the lineup and ejection of the team manager from the game. Both the player and the manager will be ineligible to participate in the next scheduled game played by the team. Please refer to rule 1A concerning PONY's policy on disabilities.
  - (1) An ineligible player is one who is legally a member of the organization league, but who is ineligible to play or to pitch in a particular game or games because of the limitations set forth in these Rules and Regulations, or as the result of a previous rules violation or disciplinary action.
  - (2) For the purpose of interpreting this rule, a player shall not be considered in violation of the rule until the umpire-in-chief signals "Play" to the pitcher.
  - (3) In the event the manager of an ineligible player refuses to remove the player from the lineup and manager does not leave the field when the appeal is made, and verified, the game is subject to forfeit.
  - (4) If opposing coach does not appeal the use of an ineligible player during the course of a game, the game will stand as played.
  - (5) Violations of pitch count rule may result in a protest of the game in which it occurs as long as the proper procedures are followed for lodging a protest.
- E. Illegal equipment shall be removed from the game.
  - (1) Players are not permitted to use illegal headgear even if no other headgear is available. When proper headgear is not available, the game shall be delayed until

the equipment can be obtained, or postponed and rescheduled by the organization league officers.

- (2) Penalty for use of illegal shoes shall be removal of the shoes from the game, and if no other legal footwear is available, removal of the affected player or players from the lineup.
  - (3) Players who do not wear complete conventional uniform, protective headgear and catching equipment as required by these rules, shall be removed from the lineup.
  - (4) Players who intentionally, in the judgment of the umpire, throw bats or protective headgear, or discard protective headgear while batting or running the bases, shall be ejected from the game following completion of any play in progress at the time the violation occurs. Such action does not constitute an out and such players shall be replaced as batter or base runners if appropriate.
  - (5) Refusal to remove jewelry will result in immediate ejection of the player.
  - (6) Bats may be tested at any time and if found to be illegal removed from the game.
  - (7) Penalty for use of an illegal bat after being checked or tested:
    - (a) If detected before the first pitch of an at-bat, the bat shall be removed from the game. An out is not recorded and a substitute batter shall complete the time at bat. The manager and the violating player shall be removed from the game as well as the next scheduled game and cannot be replaced.
    - (b) If detected after the first pitch (whether the pitch is swung at or not) the batter is declared out and base runner shall not advance. The manager and player of the team shall be removed from the game as well as the next scheduled game and cannot be replaced.
    - (c) If detected after a ball is hit, the batter is out and base runners shall return to their original base prior to the hit. The manager and player of the team shall be removed from the game as well as the next scheduled game and cannot be replaced.
- F. Pitchers in violation of any of the pitching rules shall be considered ineligible players, subject to the penalties stated for use of an ineligible player in this rule.
- G. Players who violate the rules and are ejected from the game shall remain in the dugout under the supervision of the Manager, coach, or Business Manager. If unsportsmanlike behavior continues, the player shall be escorted away from the dugout with either the Manager, coach, or Business Manager until the game is completed. Additional penalties may occur if the violation is severe in nature.

## 19 - PROTESTS

- A. A protest based on a play which involves an umpire's judgment shall not be permitted.
- B. When protests are based on an interpretation of the rules, the objecting manager shall, at the time the play occurs, notify the head umpire, the opposing manager and official scorer that the game is being played under protest, and submit the protest in writing to the organization league president or secretary, or to the Decisions Committee, within 48 hours of the completion of the game.
  - (1) When protests based on the interpretation of a rule are upheld by the Decisions Committee, the game concerned shall be replayed from the point of protest.
  - (2) Umpires should make a public announcement to the crowd when a game is being played under protest.
- C. Any team manager or other adult leader who withdraws a team from the playing field under any circumstances prior to the official completion of the game shall forfeit all rights to protests as prescribed in this section.

## 20 - GENERAL CONDUCT

- A. PONY Baseball, Inc., through its headquarters staff and its designated Field Directors, shall reserve the right to withdraw membership from any organization league, team, player or adult volunteer whose conduct, on or off the playing field, reflects in a manner that is detrimental to the best interests of PONY Baseball, Inc. Please refer to rule 1A concerning PONY's policy on disabilities.
- B. Players or adult volunteers who engage in unsportsmanlike conduct, such as fighting, abusive language or similarly derogatory activity, may be suspended for one or more games.
- C. **Teams, players or adult volunteers in violation of this General Conduct policy may be refused entry, OR MAY BE REMOVED FROM TOURNAMENT PLAY.**

## TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

These rules are for use in PONY sanctioned tournament play ONLY.

### TOURNAMENT BASEBALLS SHALL BEAR OFFICIAL PONY STAMP

As stated in Rule 8-B, baseballs bearing the emblem of PONY Baseball, Inc., are required in tournament play.

**FOAL 4U™, SHETLAND 6U™ and PINTO 8U™:** Tournament play in some zones may be conducted with other teams in the local area and is to be conducted with organization league or "All Star" teams at the discretion of the Division Director. PONY sanctioned tournaments may include District, Section, Region and Zone levels of tournament play.

### RULES AND REGULATIONS for TOURNAMENT PLAY

Play is governed by the previous year's *Official Rules of Major League Baseball*, unless superseded by the Rules and Regulations for **FOAL 4U™ League, SHETLAND 6U™ League, PINTO 8U™ League, MUSTANG 10U™ League, BRONCO 12U™ League, PONY 14U™ League, COLT 16U™ League, PALOMINO 19™ League and THOROBRED 23U™ League** or by these Rules and Regulations for Tournament Play.

### T-1 – ORGANIZATION LEAGUE ELIGIBILITY

- A. To be eligible for tournament competition an organization league shall have:
- (1) Filed the membership application form, paid the team membership fee and met all other membership regulations as set forth in the **2025 Rules and Regulations for PONY Baseball Inc.™**
  - (2) Filed the Tournament Application Form and paid to the Division Director the Tournament Entry Fee not later than: **FOAL 4U™ – SHETLAND 6U™ – PINTO 8U™ – MUSTANG 10U™ – BRONCO 12U™ – PONY 14U™ – COLT 16U™ – PALOMINO 19U™ – THOROBRED 23U™:** June 1. The tournament application form shall be provided to each organization league by the Division Director after receipt of the organization league membership application by PONY Baseball headquarters.
- B. **FOAL 4U™, SHETLAND 6U™, PINTO 8U™, MUSTANG 10U™, BRONCO 12U™, PONY 14U™, COLT 16U™, PALOMINO 19U™, COMBINED COLT/PALOMINO 19U™, THOROBRED 23U™ and COMBINED PALOMINO/THOROBRED 23U™ Leagues** may enter as many teams as desired in tournament play. All-Star teams can be selected from any team in the organization league, regardless of the number of times a team is used. The number of teams the organization league desires to enter in tournament play shall be indicated on the membership application form. **COMBINED COLT/PALOMINO 19U™ League** teams may enter **PALOMINO 19U™** tournament play and/or form an all-star team of 15 and 16 year olds and enter **COLT 16U™ League** tournament play. All-Star teams may be entered into **PALOMINO 19U™** tournament play that are formed from a **COMBINED COLT/PALOMINO 19U™ League**. **PALOMINO 19U™ League** "All-Star" teams are not permitted. **COMBINED PALOMINO/THOROBRED 23U™ league** teams may enter **THOROBRED 23U™** tournament play and/or form an all-star team of 17 and 18 year olds and enter **PALOMINO 19U™ League** tournament play. All-star teams may be entered into **THOROBRED 23U™** tournament play that are formed from a **COMBINED PALOMINO/THOROBRED 23U™ League**.
- C. Documentary evidence of accident medical insurance, preferably in the form of a certificate of insurance, shall be carried to all tournament games in the event a team member needs medical attention.
- D. PONY Baseball and Softball requires parent / guardian of players on a team to sign the team's printed copy of the online affidavit form. This document also doubles as the medical release form for all players listed on the affidavit. Players whose parent / guardian have not signed the document will not be able to participate in gameplay until the requirement is met.

## T-2 - TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- A. **FOAL 4U™, SHETLAND 6U™, PINTO 8U™, MUSTANG 10U™, BRONCO 12U™ and PONY 14U™:** Tournament teams shall consist of a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 15 players.
- COLT 16U™:** Tournament teams shall consist of a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 18 players.
- PALOMINO 19U™ and COMBINED COLT/PALOMINO 19U™:** Tournament teams shall consist of not more than 18, nor less than 12 players during tournament play and shall not exceed more than 3 players of age 19.
- COMBINED PALOMINO/THOROBRED 23U™:** Tournament teams shall consist of a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 18 players.
- B. At their first level of tournament competition, tournament teams that do not list 12 or more eligible players on their tournament eligibility affidavit shall be disqualified from tournament play.
- C. Tournament teams shall have a minimum of 9 eligible players, who are physically able to play, present at the start of all tournament games. If 9 eligible players are not present within 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time of the game, the game shall be forfeited.
- D. At each organization league's option, tournament teams shall be composed as follows:
- (1) **FOAL 4U™:** Players of league age 3 and 4 born between May 1, 2020 and April 30, 2022.
  - (2) **SHETLAND 6U™:** Players of league age 3, 4, 5 and 6 born between May 1, 2018 and April 30, 2022.
  - (3) **PINTO 8U™:** Players of league age 8U, born on or between May 1, 2016 and April 30, 2020.
  - (4) **MUSTANG 9U™:** Players of league age 9U, born on or between May 1, 2015 and April 30, 2018.
  - (5) **MUSTANG 10U™:** Players of league age 10U, born on or between May 1, 2014 and April 30, 2018.
  - (6) **BRONCO 11U™:** Players of league age 11U, born on or between May 1, 2013 and April 30, 2016.
  - (7) **BRONCO 12U™:** Players of league age 12U, born on or between May 1, 2012 and April 30, 2016.
  - (8) **PONY 13U™:** Players of league age 13U, born on or between May 1, 2011 and April 30, 2014.
  - (9) **PONY 14U™:** Players of league age 14U, born on or between May 1, 2010 and April 30, 2014.
  - (10) **COLT 16U™:** Players of league age 16U, born on or between May 1, 2008 and April 30, 2012.
  - (11) **COMBINED COLT/  
PALOMINO 19U™:** Players of league age 19U, born on or between May 1, 2005 and April 30, 2008. No 13 or 14 year-olds are permitted to participate.
  - (12) **PALOMINO 19U™:** Players of league age 18U, born on or between May 1, 2005 and April 30, 2010.
  - (13) **COMBINED PALOMINO/  
THOROBRED 23U™** Players of league age 23U, born between May 1, 2001 and April 30, 2008. No 15 or 16 year-olds are permitted to participate.
  - (14) **THOROBRED 23U™** Players of league age 23U, born on or between May 1, 2001 and April 30, 2008.
- E. Only players listed on the tournament team eligibility affidavit, one manager, one coach and one business manager (one extra coach is permitted in **FOAL 4U™, SHETLAND 6U™** and **PINTO 8U™** League when coach-pitchers are used), all of whom

shall be dressed in full baseball uniform with the official tournament team emblem, sewn or ironed on the right sleeve or right part of vest (chest area) of the uniform, shall be on the field or bench.

- F. Competing youth league organization's logos and marks are prohibited from being worn on uniforms of coaches, players and umpires in all levels of tournament play. PENALTY: These logos or marks must be removed immediately. If not removed immediately, the individual, or team shall be removed from tournament play.
- G. All tournament teams shall provide a digital team photo when requested by the tournament director or tournament host.
- H. Under this ruling, "bat boys," male or female, or "mascots", animals or human, shall not be permitted on the field or bench.

### **T-3 - LEGAL PLAYERS**

- A. Tournament players shall:
  - (1) Be of proper age, as stated in these rules;
  - (2) Reside within the boundaries of the organization league represented by the tournament team;
  - (3) Have participated in at least one-half of their team's games in the league division represented unless excused because of a scholastic competition. Upon written request from an organization league, Region Directors may lower this requirement to participation in one-third of a team's games for a player or players who are engaged in a state high school baseball tournament and are prohibited from PONY Baseball play until scholastic competition is completed. Any players who participate in the USA Baseball Tournament of Stars will have those games count towards this total.
  - (4) Comply with the rules and regulations for organization league and tournament play.
- B. Tournament team players shall be required to wear an official tournament team emblem, sewn or ironed on the right sleeve or right part of vest (chest area) of the uniform, when participating in tournament play at all levels. Same team members must wear patches in the same location. These emblems are available through PONY Baseball.
- C. Players shall not participate with more than one PONY Baseball tournament team within a season, and once removed from that tournament team roster, a player shall not be considered eligible for further tournament play that season.

### **T-4 - ELIGIBILITY AFFIDAVIT**

- A. Each organization league president or designated organization league officer shall examine the birth certification documents of all players on the organization league tournament team and, using the eligibility affidavit form provided by PONY Baseball, shall confirm by this affidavit the eligibility of the players on the tournament team representing the organization league.
- B. The name of the player shall be listed on the eligibility affidavit exactly as it is shown on the birth document. (Example: "John William Jones," not "Johnny Jones").
- C. Two copies of the eligibility affidavit shall be presented to the tournament director at the team's first tournament game.
  - (1) The original copy, bearing the team pitching record on the reverse side, shall be returned to the winning team following completion of the tournament and shall be presented for examination at all future tournament games.



## T-5 - BIRTH CERTIFICATION

Tournament team business managers shall carry with them to all tournament games evidence of each player's date of birth as described in Rule 4-G. Birth certification documents shall be presented to a credentials committee appointed by the Tournament Director before each level of tournament play begins. Player contracts must also be presented by all **PALOMINO 19U™** and **THOROBRED 23U™** players.

## T-6 - REPLACEMENT OF TOURNAMENT PLAYERS

- A. Once the eligibility affidavit has been presented to the Tournament Director of the team's first tournament game, no change or addition shall be made on the player roster for any reason except illness of, or injury to, a player, or for those who sign professional baseball contracts. Any changes or corrections of the eligibility affidavit shall be made in the presence of the Tournament Director, who shall initial and date approval of the changes or additions on the affidavit.
- B. Any replacement of a player on a tournament team for reasons of illness, or injury to, the player only, shall be supported by written certification from an attending physician as to the conditions necessitating the replacement.
- (1) The original statement or statements shall be attached to the original copy of the eligibility affidavit and carried with the team to all future tournament games.
- (2) Replacement players shall be selected from among other legal and eligible players in the organization league in which the team played during the regular season.
- C. International team players, who are denied a United States Visa, can be replaced on the tournament eligibility affidavit one time, with the documented approval of the respective Zone Director.

## T-7 - PLAYING FIELDS

Only regulation playing fields as described in the "Rules and Regulations of PONY Baseball" shall be considered as sites for tournament competition. The only exception to this rule is in tournament competition where organization leagues, by written consent, agree on a playing field in order to reduce travel problems or when there is no regulation field available. In any such case, approval shall be given by the Division Director or their representative.

## T-8 - TOURNAMENT PITCHING

- A. Any team member may pitch, subject to the restrictions of the pitch count as recommended by Pitch Smart Guidelines for the particular age classification unless modified by PONY Baseball as listed below:

*NOTE: The pitcher will only be required to observe the calendar day(s) of rest for the threshold he/she reached during the start of that at-bat, provided that the pitcher is removed before delivering a pitch to the next batter.*

<u>LEAGUE AGE</u>	<u>DAILY MAX PITCHES</u>	<u>REQUIRED REST (PITCHES)</u>						
		<u>0 DAYS</u>	<u>1 DAY</u>	<u>2 DAYS</u>	<u>3 DAYS</u>	<u>4 DAYS</u>	<u>5 DAYS</u>	
7 - 8	50	1-20	21-35	36-50	N/A	N/A	N/A	
9 - 10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A	
11 - 12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A	
13 - 14	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A	
15 - 16	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+	N/A	
17 - 18	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+	N/A	
19 - 22	120	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81-105	106+	

- B. When pitching in more than one game on the same calendar day, pitchers may pitch any combination of pitches in those games provided they do not exceed the maximum number of pitches for that calendar day.
- C. Pitchers reaching their maximum number of pitches in a day while pitching to a batter, may finish pitching to that batter before being removed.
- D. All pitchers become eligible at each level of tournament play, provided they have the rest as provided by the above pitch chart. Rest is calculated as per calendar day.
- E. Names of all pitchers actually appearing in the game, along with the number of pitches thrown shall be recorded on the Tournament Pitching Record form on the reverse side of the first sheet of the eligibility affidavit form. This record shall be signed by the manager, coach, or business manager of the opposing team, the official scorekeeper of the game, or the Tournament Director or their representative.
- F. Electronic scoring devices are recommended at all levels of Tournament Play in order to ensure accurate pitch count.

### **T-9 - LENGTH OF GAMES**

Once play has begun in a tournament game, the game shall be played to regulation length, unless called because of the mercy rule, or forfeited by the decisions committee. Games called for any other reason shall be continued as suspended games at the next possible scheduled time, as determined by the Tournament Director.

### **T-10 - SCHEDULE**

- A. Tournament teams shall play until eliminated, at the sites and times designated by the Tournament Director or their representative, with the full realization that to do so may require competition with teams composed of players of various race, creed, color and sex.
- B. When a team wins the championship of any level of tournament play and refuses to advance to play in the next level of tournament play, that team shall be replaced by the runner-up team. When a team refuses to advance to the next level of play, the Division Director will review the action and may suspend the organization league's membership in PONY Baseball, Inc. indefinitely.
- C. The various field directors of PONY Baseball shall have full responsibility for determination of team pairings, playing brackets, scheduling and rescheduling of tournament games.
- D. Teams may be required to play three (3) games in a calendar day, but must have Division Director's approval in area where the tournament is being played. If approval is granted by the Division Director, at any point, these can be five (5) inning games.
- E. PONY Tournament Tie-Breaker/Pool Play.
  - (1) When two teams within a division have identical win-loss records, the winner of the head-to-head competition between those two teams shall advance.
    - (a) If both teams have not played head-to-head, the team with the least number of runs allowed in all games played will advance.
    - (b) If both teams have allowed the same number of runs, the team with the most net runs (runs scored minus runs allowed) will advance.
    - (c) If teams remain tied after consideration of "a" and "b" the team that scored the most runs in their games will advance.
  - (2) When three teams within a division have identical win-loss records, the following will apply:
    - (a) The least number of runs allowed by a team in all games played will advance that team as champion. If a second place team is required revert back to number 1.

- (b) When all three teams have allowed the same number of runs, the team with the most net runs (runs scored minus runs allowed) will advance. If a second place team is required revert back to number 1.
  - (c) If teams remain tied after consideration of "a" and "b" the team that scored the most runs in their games will advance. If a second place team is required revert back to number 1.
- (3) Any team or manager that violates or refuses the natural sequence of the above rules will be dismissed from tournament play and their games forfeited.

#### **T-11 - UMPIRES**

- A. The various tournament directors shall have full responsibility for providing competent umpires for tournament play under their jurisdiction. Tournament umpires shall be 18 years of age or older.
- B. When circumstances permit, umpires who have not worked in the games of the two competing organization leagues shall be assigned. When it is necessary to assign umpires from the organization leagues in competition, the umpire-in-chief shall be selected by the toss of a coin or some other mutually satisfactory method.
- C. All umpires shall be familiar with the rules and regulations, particularly that phase which deals with forfeiture and protest.
- D. No organization league officer shall umpire in a tournament game when the organization league of which he is an officer is participating.
- E. National officers of PONY Baseball, Inc., field directors, tournament chairperson and tournament directors shall not be permitted to umpire in a tournament game.
- F. Only PONY Baseball registered umpires are eligible to umpire PONY sanctioned tournament play. Those umpires who are calling PONY tournament play shall wear the PONY umpire emblem on their right sleeve or a PONY Umpire hat.

#### **T-12 - MANAGERS AND COACHES**

- A. A field manager and a coach, who shall each be of legal age in the state in which they reside, shall be selected with each tournament team.
  - (1) **FOAL 4U™**, **SHETLAND 6U™** and **PINTO 8U™**: Teams may have a total of four coaches (including manager and business manager) in the dugout.
    - a. Coaches shall not assist batters in the batter's box or coach defensively from the field.
    - b. Umpires shall not permit more than one timeout per 1/2 inning.
- B. The field manager, assisted by the coach, shall direct the team on the field of play and shall be responsible for the conduct of players both on and off the field.
- C. The manager and coach shall be attired in full baseball uniform with an official tournament team emblem.
- D. A manager or coach shall not be replaced during a game, except in an emergency, and once replaced shall not resume managing or coaching during that game.
- E. When a manager and/or coach is replaced between games or levels of play, the Tournament Director shall be notified before the next game.
- F. At least one adult (manager, coach or business manager) shall be with the team at all times when a tournament team is traveling or is housed as a unit.
- G. National officers of PONY Baseball, Inc., field directors, tournament chairperson and tournament directors are not permitted to sponsor, manage or coach a tournament team.

#### **T-13 - BUSINESS MANAGER**

- A. A Business Manager shall be of legal age in the state in which they reside.

- B. The business manager shall share in the responsibility for the conduct of players and shall be responsible for handling the business affairs of the team, including arrangements for transportation, feeding, housing and financial matters, as well as the acquisition and handling of birth documents, medical release forms, evidence of accident insurance, and the eligibility affidavit. When a business manager is replaced, the Tournament Director shall be notified.
- C. Business managers shall be attired in a full baseball uniform with the official tournament team emblem, while in the dugout, bench area or on the playing field, and may serve as a coach.
- D. Field directors at each level of tournament play shall assist the business manager in matters pertaining to transportation, feeding and housing in cooperation with tournament hosts or sponsors who may be involved.
- E. National officers of PONY Baseball, Inc., field directors, tournament chairperson and tournament directors shall not be permitted to serve as business manager for a tournament team.

#### **T-14 - TOURNAMENT DECISIONS COMMITTEE**

- A. If necessary, the Tournament Director shall appoint a Decision's Committee of at least three persons and one of whom shall be the Tournament Director. All members of the Decision's Committee shall be in attendance throughout the game or games concerned.
- B. This committee shall accept any protest of an umpire's decision, other than those based on an umpire's judgment. It shall immediately consider the protest in conference with the umpires and managers and then render a decision before play is resumed. Such decisions shall be arrived at by the members of the committee only, based upon information received from the umpires and managers, and the committee's own observation of the play or situation in question.
- C. Decisions of the decisions committee are final and are not subject to appeal.
- D. If a decisions committee has not been appointed, an appeal shall be directed to the Tournament Director or their representative, whose decision shall be final.
- E. Managers shall agree on a decisions committee if none is appointed and the Tournament Director or their appointed representative is not present. Should they fail to do so, the decision of the umpire-in-chief shall be final.

#### **T-15 - TOURNAMENT DIRECTION**

- A. The Tournament Director, as a representative of PONY Baseball, Inc., shall be directly responsible for the supervision of the actual playing of games and shall serve as liaison between adult leaders of the competing teams and the sponsoring group.
- B. The tournament chairperson is charged with arranging the adequate housing and feeding of participants where applicable, proper preparation of playing facilities and overall supervision of the sponsoring group.

#### **T-16 - PROTESTS AND PENALTIES**

- A. Protest of any umpire's ruling or other tournament condition shall be made to the decisions committee immediately, before play is resumed.
- B. Under no condition shall a protest be made after a game is completed.
- C. Penalty for use of an illegal player shall be removal of the player and the team manager from the game, and disqualification of the manager for the remainder of the tournament season.

- (1) An illegal player is one not qualified to be a member of the team because of failure to meet the requirements of participation, residence or age.
  - (2) Illegal players shall not be replaced on the team roster.
  - (3) When the illegal status of a player is not established until after a game has started, or has been completed, the player and manager shall be removed at that time, but the game, or any portion of the game played up to that point, shall stand as played.
  - (4) For interpretation of this rule, the penalty shall be assessed against the person in charge, (manager, coach or business manager) when an illegal player is used.
  - (5) A manager (coach or business manager) removed under this rule may not be replaced on the team roster.  
Should the manager, coach and business manager all be eliminated under this rule, the team shall be removed from tournament competition at that point, and current bracketing adjusted by the tournament director.
- D. It is basis for protest when the business manager, coach or manager of a tournament team fails to present the eligibility affidavit, birth certification documents, medical release forms and evidence of accident insurance at least one hour before scheduled game time when requested to do so by the Tournament Director or their representative. **PALOMINO 19U™** and **THOROBRED 23U™** League: Player contracts are also required.
  - E. Penalty for use of an ineligible player shall be the immediate removal of both the player and the manager from the game and continued ineligibility for the next scheduled tournament game played by that team. If such ineligibility carries over from one level of tournament play to the next, the tournament director concerned shall notify the tournament director at the next level of play.
  - F. The manager, coach and business manager with a tournament team are considered representatives of the organization league which the team represents. Seriously inappropriate conduct on the part of these adult leaders, on or off the playing field, may result in penalties assessed against the organization league. Such penalties, to be imposed by the Zone Vice-Presidents following consultation with headquarters, may involve rejection of the organization league's application for membership in PONY Baseball the following year, or acceptance of the membership application on a probationary status.
  - G. Grievous individual misconduct, on the part of adult leaders or players, on or off the field, such as, but not limited to, fighting, drinking, publicly audible use of foul or abusive language, may result in the removal of an individual from further tournament play for the remainder of the tournament season. Adult leaders and players removed under this section shall not be replaced on the tournament roster.
  - H. The use of artificial noisemakers is prohibited.

#### **T-17 - TOURNAMENT FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- A. Each organization league shall assume full responsibility for expenses incurred in tournament competition. Expenses shall be reimbursed to as great a degree as possible from tournament entry fee receipts and host guarantees. When possible and practical, arrangements shall be made to have food and housing costs at the tournament site wholly, or partially assumed by the tournament sponsor or host.
- B. The sponsoring organization at any tournament level shall not assume responsibility, under any circumstances, for transporting, feeding, housing or otherwise providing for any players, other than those listed on the tournament team eligibility affidavit, a manager, a coach and a business manager with each participating team, as covered by the tournament agreement.

## T-18 - WORLD SERIES

- A. The World Series level of tournament play shall be by pairings and format determined annually by the Board of Directors of PONY Baseball, Inc.
- B. Travel expense reimbursement for participating teams shall be at the rate that is determined by the Board of Directors of PONY Baseball, Inc.
- C. Transportation arrangements to and from World Series sites shall be made or approved by the Division Director, working in cooperation with the business manager of the team concerned.
- D. World Series sponsoring organizations shall provide housing in private homes, in motel, hotel, college, military or similar facilities which have been approved by the World Series Tournament Director.
- E. Sponsoring organizations shall provide meals, or a meal allowance, for all participating teams. Host and host area teams do not receive a meal allotment.
- F. Participating teams which choose not to accept housing and/or meals provided by the sponsoring organization shall reside and eat elsewhere at their own expense and shall be responsible for their own local transportation.

### BEHAVIOR

Tournament play is exciting. Disputes will arise. Tempers may flare. The example set by managers and coaches will be reflected by the players and coaches. As adults guiding, setting an example for young people, make it a good example. Violent displays of temper will not only give the program a bad name but may cost the organization league fan and financial support in future years.

### NOTES TO TOURNAMENT TEAM MANAGING PERSONNEL: — DECISIONS COMMITTEE —

*SINCE TIME AND DISTANCE ARE A FACTOR IN TOURNAMENT PLAY, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PONY BASEBALL HAS RULED THAT TOURNAMENT PROTESTS SHALL BE DECIDED ON THE SPOT — THAT NO APPEAL OF RULINGS MADE BY THE DECISIONS COMMITTEE IS TO BE ACCEPTED. THE DECISION COMMITTEE IS THE FINAL ARBITRATOR.* Managers are urged not to begin play in any tournament game until a Decisions Committee has been appointed and its members made known to them.

If, for any reason, a Decisions Committee is not present, and the Tournament Director is not present, and has not designated anyone to serve as a representative of the Tournament Director, the competing managers shall agree upon a Decisions Committee before play begins.

If a Tournament Director is not present and a Decisions Committee is not appointed, the decision of the umpire-in-chief shall be final.



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PONY Baseball and Softball is proud to announce an Alumni Scholarship for graduates who have participated in PONY at any age level of a sanctioned organization.

In order to be considered for a scholarship a PONY baseball or girls softball player must play on a PONY sanctioned team for at least two years prior to application and be a senior in high school. Likewise an application must be submitted prior to May 1st along with the School & Community Activities Form, an Essay on the designated topic, an Official Secondary School Transcript, test results from either the SAT, ACT or TOEFL, a copy of the Letter of Acceptance from the school you are planning to attend, a Notarized Letter confirming participation in an sanctioned league and two Letters of Recommendation.

When the aforementioned information has been received, the Scholarship Committee will consider the application complete. The Scholarship Committee will administer eight scholarships annually, one each to the four United States Zones (North, East, South, and West), Asia Pacific Zone, Caribbean Zone, Canada and Mexico.

Abraham Key  
President and CEO  
PONY Baseball and Softball

**For more information visit  
[www.pony.org/scholarship](http://www.pony.org/scholarship)**



## NOTES

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