

2022 CHPBA SPRING PONY DIVISION RULES

1. DEFAULT TO MAJOR LEAGUE RULES:

Play is governed by Official Baseball Rules: "The Sporting News" edition. These Divisional rules of play contain only those exceptions to Official Baseball Rules that the Board of Directors has deemed are reasonable and necessary for this Division. Umpires may not impose their own personal or local rules, unless agreed to by both managers before the game.

All players, managers, coaches, and spectators are subject to the CHPBA Code of Conduct, Disciplinary Rules and Protest Procedures which are incorporated herein by reference.

For CHPBA Spring Pony Division teams only: The West Los Angeles Pony Division Rules are incorporated herein (the "Inter-League Rules") and shall apply to the Division interleague season. In the event of a conflict between the Inter-League Rules and these rules, the Inter-League Rules shall control.

2. LEGAL PLAYERS:

Players will be assigned to teams only by way of the Pony Division draft or by the CHPBA Executive Committee and the Pony Division Commissioner. Teams may only play legal players. A team may assume that a player has met all the conditions of legality for purposes of league play if the player's name appears on a team roster issued by CHPBA, or if the team receives official written notification by CHPBA that the player may be added to the team. Any team who, knowingly or unknowingly, uses an illegal player during a game exposes its coaching staff to discipline and may be later deemed to have forfeited the game.

The Pony Division is for 13- and 14-year-old players. No player turning 15 earlier than May 1 or turning 13 later than August 31 of the season in question shall not be eligible for the Pony Division unless specifically approved by the Pony Division Commissioner and the Executive Committee. A player who is league-age 12 may obtain approval from the Division Commissioner in consultation with the Executive Committee to play as a Pony Division regular season player upon written application.

3. PLAYER DROPS / WAITLIST:

A. If a player appears to have "dropped" from a team, the manager must notify the Division Commissioner within 24 hours.

B. "Dropped" means (i) failure to show up to 3 team events (practices or games) without notice, or (ii) an affirmative comment that the family intends for the player to drop from the team.

C. The commissioner of the division shall attempt to contact the family to confirm if the player has dropped or intends to drop.

D. If a player is dropped, a new player shall be added to team from the waitlist through completion of 2nd week of regular season. After such time, no new players shall be added to a team.

E. The Division Commissioner shall maintain the waitlist of all players who are eligible to be placed onto a team but have not yet been placed. This list shall be kept confidential by the Division Commissioner.

4. EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS:

Players must wear league-approved uniforms and protective equipment.

5. MANAGERS AND COACHES

A. Only managers and approved coaches may lead or participate in a team's practice. Approved coaches are those coaches who have been designated as coaches to the league and formally approved by the league.

B. No "outside party" may participate in any team practice without approval of the Division Commissioner.

C. "Outside party" means anyone other than an approved coach, or relative or guardian of a player.

D. Managers may want outside parties, whether instructors, or friends who are athletes or professional coaches or otherwise, to participate in one or more practices. Prior to doing so, managers should seek pre-approval so the league can be aware of any such participation.

6. INTERPRETATION / EXCEPTIONS:

A. Interpretation of the rules with respect to any division shall be the responsibility of the commissioner of the division.

B. The Division Commissioner shall report any rule requests and decisions to the Rules Committee, which shall monitor the interpretation of the rules among all the divisions to ensure consistent application. At any time, when practical, the commissioner of a division may, but is not required to, request an opinion of the Rules Committee prior to making an interpretation.

C. The Executive Committee shall have the last word on anything not covered in these rules. The Board of Directors reserves the right to modify or add any rules after the season has started if it determines such modification(s) or addition(s) to be in the best interests of the league and its participants, including for reasons relating to the safety and well-being of the players (such as, for example, a determination that there should be a weekly limit on the number of pitches by a pitcher, or a mandatory rest period for pitchers based on the number of pitches).

SPRING PONY DIVISION TEAM SPECIFIC RULES:

1. OFFICIAL GAME:

A. Scheduling

(1) All games are to be played on the date, at the time, and at the place designated in the official printed league schedule.

(2) If an official game is not completed, the Executive Committee shall determine if the game is to be rescheduled, resumed and completed, or if it shall be called a completed game.

(3) The Executive Committee will make reasonable attempts to reschedule games called because of rain or other reasons. This may require previously scheduled practice times to be cancelled in favor of rescheduled games. Games scheduled as make-ups carry the full force and effect of games appearing on the official printed league schedule and all forfeiture considerations otherwise mentioned in these rules apply.

B. Completed Games

(1) Games will be scheduled for seven innings, but will be considered completed any time after 4 innings (or 3.5 innings if the home team is ahead) should the game be called because of time or other reasons.

(2) There is a two-hour time limit (except in the case of a weekday game) from the beginning of a game to the start of the last official inning. ***The new inning begins upon the third out of the previous inning.*** No new inning can start after this time limit. For weekday games, no new inning may start after 6:45 p.m., regardless of start time. However, once an inning has begun, the home team will be given its turn to bat if necessary. Prior to the expiration of the two-hour time limit (or the 6:45 p.m. mark for a weekday game) the umpire may officially announce the start of the “last inning” if the umpire determines that it is not probable that a subsequent new inning could commence within the time allowed.

All weekday games must finish before 7:00 p.m. (drop-dead limit). If an inning is not concluded by 7:00 p.m. of a weekday game, the score shall revert to the last completed inning, regardless of which team is at bat as of the drop-dead time. There is no drop dead rule for weekend games. Once the “last inning” call is made, no additional inning(s) will be played regardless of any remaining time. If no official “last inning” is announced by the umpire, then a new inning is to begin as long as there is time still remaining within the two-hour limit (or the 7:00 p.m. drop-dead limit for weekday games).

2. PLAYING FIELDS:

Distance between bases: 80 feet

Pitching distance: 54 feet

A. Boundaries:

The boundaries are the first and third base fences projected to the outfield. Any batted ball leaving these boundaries is a “dead” ball and is not playable. Any thrown ball leaving these boundaries, or going into the dugouts, into the backstop wings, over or under any fence or screen bounding the field, into the equipment on the field except a bat in play, is a dead ball. The runner or runners are awarded two bases—the base they are proceeding toward plus one additional.

B. Fences:

Fences may be used in the discretion of the Executive Committee and the Pony Division Commissioner. If fences are used, they should be placed as near as possible to **275** feet down the first and third base lines, and moving out to **315** feet in centerfield.

3. EQUIPMENT:

A. Players may wear shoes with molded rubber or flat soles only. Metal cleats are not permitted on the pitching mound or in the batting cages. 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 game.

B. All players must wear protective helmets while on deck, batting and as runners. Helmets may not be removed deliberately while running the bases. Penalty—runner is ruled out by umpire. If a player adjusts a helmet when a time out is called this should not be considered removing the helmet. The intent of the rule is safety.

C. All catchers must wear protective cups and protective helmets. No skullcaps are allowed.

D. Managers and coaches must wear jerseys and caps with their team insignias during the game, although it does not have to be a league issued jersey or cap. Non-adult base coaches (younger than 18 years of age) are required to wear helmets during the time they are coaching a base.

E. Bats

All bats must conform to the Equipment standards set forth in Rule 8.C of the Official Rules Promulgated by National PONY organization. (See www.pony.org.) PONY Baseball has adopted the USA

Baseball Bat Standard (USABat). Players can use any USABat of any length and weight (drop 3, drop 5, drop 8, etc.) However, "big barrel" bats, meaning 2-3/4" barrels, are not allowed. All 2-1/4" or 2-5/8" bats must be certified with the USABat licensing stamp (shown below). Please note that bats bearing the USABat licensing stamp first went on sale on or about September 1, 2017. Any bat purchased before that time will not have a USABat stamp and may not be used in league play. Players can also use a BBCOR bat of any weight and length. All BBCORs are drop 3 in weight. BBCOR bats can be confirmed by a BBCOR stamp on the side. The Pony National Equipment Rules – as they are updated - shall override any inconsistency contained in these rules.

No USSSA bats are allowed at all. No exceptions.

F. Each manager is to provide one game ball to the umpire prior to the start of the game. Managers should have additional game balls available in the event the umpire needs more balls.

G. No jewelry shall be worn by any player, except for medical identification.

H. Players who do not wear protective headgear and catching equipment as required by these rules shall be removed from the game.

I. All equipment must remain outside the 1st base and 3rd base fences, with the exception that bats and a bat rack may remain in the "on deck triangle" between the fences and the backstop fence. The only person allowed in the on deck triangle is the on deck batter.

J. Any player having an injury that requires the use of a cast or similar (in the judgment of the umpire) device to support such injury shall not play in a game.

K. Sunglasses (plastic frames only) are deemed by the League to be safety equipment. Players are allowed to wear such equipment on the field of play.

4. BORROWING PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS:

In the event that a manager determines that a Division team is in danger of forfeiting a game due to a lack of players available for that game, or if the manager determines that a player is needed to play a particular position for an upcoming game (*i.e.*, pitcher or catcher), the manager is to contact the Pony Division Commissioner and the Executive Committee, who will assist the manager in obtaining a substitute player or players in the following order of priority:

(1) The manager may borrow a player from another CHPBA spring Pony Division team.

(2) If the situation arises that there is an insufficient number of players from another CHPBA spring Pony Division team available to fill in for the Division team, the manager may contact the Commissioners of the Pony and Bronco Divisions to request their assistance in arranging for a Bronco player to play with the Pony team for that game. Only Bronco players who are league-age 12 may play in Pony Division games. The Commissioner will contact Bronco Division managers who do not have a game scheduled at the same time in order to find a player who is willing and able to play in the Pony game.

5. MISCELLANEOUS:

Headfirst sliding is not allowed at home plate. Headfirst slides are allowed at any base other than home plate whether returning to or advancing to such base.