

**PBSA PONY League BB
In-House Rules – Bronco**

Official Major Baseball League rules shall govern except as modified by these rules:

General Rules:

1. All games will be seven (7) innings or a maximum of 2 hours in duration.
2. A new inning may not be started within 15 minutes of the game time limit.
3. In the event an inning has been started prior to the 15 minute cut-off, and has not been concluded upon reaching the game time limit the game shall be concluded, the incomplete inning disregarded and the score shall revert back to the last completed inning.
4. **Suspended Play** - In the event a game is suspended due to weather or other reason, and needs to be resumed at a later time/date, the game will be resumed from the point of stoppage. At the time of the stoppage, each manager should verify the count on the batter, score, outs, inning, etc. Each manager shall verify that both scorebooks are in agreement prior to leaving the playing field.
5. **Late players** - In the event a player(s) comes late to a game that is already in progress, that player(s) will be permitted to be added to the end of a teams batting order provided that team has not batted thru it s entire line up. Once the teams lead off hitter has had his second official time at bat, no additional player(s) will be permitted to be added into the batting order or game
6. **Injury/Illness** - In the event a player must be taken out of a game due to injury or illness and is unable to bat in his/her spot in the batting order, that team WILL NOT be penalized with an out for each time it is his/her time to bat. That player's position in the lineup will be skipped for the remainder of the game. Once a player is removed for injury/illness and skips a turn at bat, that player is ineligible to return to bat or play for the remainder of the game. Additionally, in the event a player is out due to injury/illness in a game and is ineligible to return, in the event that that particular game is suspended and resumed at a later date, that player is still ineligible for that game once it is resumed.
7. **Regulation Games** –
 - a. A game is considered to be regulation, if stopped due to weather or unsafe playing conditions, when 5 innings or 4 ½ innings when home team is leading.
 - b. A game that is tied after four (4) innings, and stopped due to weather or unsafe playing conditions, may be resumed at a later date and continued until one team has scored more runs than the other in an equal number of innings.
 - c. Games tied after six (6) innings of play that cannot be extended shall be concluded and a tie awarded to each team in the league standings

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8. Protests and Interpretations

- a. Only a team manager may question an umpire call
 - b. Any protest or request for interpretation must be made immediately prior to the next pitch to the umpire and opposing manager
 - c. The Baseball Board will make the final decision on all rule(s) interpretation and protests.
 - d. THERE WILL BE NO PROTESTS CONSIDERED ON JUDGEMENT CALLS BY THE UMPIRE.
9. **Score Books** - The home team score book is the official score book for each game. The visitors team scorekeeper is expected to check with the home team to verify the accuracy of the official score book. In the event of a discrepancy, play shall be halted until the discrepancy is resolved by the team managers/scorekeeper.
10. **Playing Time** - All Pony players must play at least 3 consecutive innings in the field, provided they arrive prior to the start of the fourth inning.
11. **Call Ups** – Call ups may be used from the Junior Baseball division. Call up players must bat at the end of the batting order and play in the outfield for the duration of the game.

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Playing Rules:

1. Game play shall follow a Bronco Rules format with 54 foot pitching distance and 80 foot bases.
2. Two (2) adult umpires will be assigned to each game.
3. Prior to the start of the game, the team managers shall clearly define and agree upon the field ground rules with each other, and confirm those rules with the umpires.
4. Teams must field a minimum of 8 players or forfeit the game.
 - a. Any game that is forfeited will be scored as 7-0
 - b. A fifteen (15) minute grace period shall be extended to each team for late players; however, the time limit rules as given in the General Rules section are still in effect.
 - c. If both teams do not have the minimum required number of player to start the game, each team shall be assessed a loss in the league standings.
5. A continuous batting order shall be used. All uniformed players must bat except as noted in Rule 6 of the General Rules section.
6. Free substitution of defensive players is permitted, with the exception of the pitcher.
7. A 10 run “mercy rule will be in effect after 4 ½ innings if the home team is leading and after 5 innings if the visiting team is leading.
8. All players shall wear the uniform assigned to them.
9. Catchers must wear protective gear at all times, including protective cup, chest protector, face mask and shin guards.
10. Bunting is permitted.
 - a. At no time shall a batter show “bunt” to the defensive team and then pull back and “swing away” at a pitch. Any violation in this rule shall result in the batter being declared out.
 - b. Should the batter put the ball into play under Rule 10a, the batter will be declared out and all base runners shall return to their original base prior to the play.
11. The “dropped third strike” rule IS in effect.
12. The “infield fly rule” IS in effect.
13. All batters and base runners must wear batting helmets at all times while on the field. Players are not permitted to remove batting helmets until back in the dugout area.
14. No metal spikes are permitted.
15. Stealing
 - a. Leading is permitted.
 - b. Stealing home is permitted.

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- c. Balls thrown back to the pitcher are live and runners may advance at their own risk.
16. Runners must avoid contact while running the bases. Base runners should slide at any base, (except 1st), to avoid contact. In the event there is a play on a runner that does not slide and no contact occurs between the runner and the fielder, the runner will not automatically be determined to be out for not sliding. **THIS IS A JUDGMENT CALL MADE BY THE UMPIRE, THERE WILL BE NO PROTESTS CONSIDERED ON THESE CALLS**
- a. A runner NOT attempting to avoid contact will be called out if there is a play at a base and they make no attempt to slide to avoid contact with the defensive player. **THIS IS A JUDGMENT CALL MADE BY THE UMPIRES, THERE WILL BE NO PROTESTS CONSIDERED ON THESE CALLS**
17. Headfirst slides are prohibited except for when returning to a base. The umpire may use his discretion when determining whether a head first slide was necessary.
18. Pitching Rules:
- a. Pitchers may pitch a maximum of four (4) consecutive innings per game.
 - b. One pitch thrown to a batter in an inning is considered a full inning pitched.
 - c. Breaking balls are not permitted.
 - d. A pitcher that hits 2 batters in the same inning or 3 batters in a game must be removed from the pitcher's position, but may remain in the game in another defensive position.
 - e. Pitchers will receive 1 warning on balks. All subsequent balks will result in the runner advancing to the next base.
 - f. Pitching Rest Guidelines:
 - i. Players pitching 1 inning or less = No rest
 - ii. Players pitching 2 innings = 1 days rest
 - iii. Players pitching 3 innings = 2 days rest
 - iv. Players pitching 4 innings = 3 days rest
 - 1. Example: A player pitches 4 innings on Monday. That player cannot pitch again until Friday (Tuesday – Thursday rest).
19. Foul balls caught by the catcher will be an out only if the ball travels above the batters head and does not come in contact with the back stop.
20. Any batter that throws a bat will receive an individual **PLAYER WARNING. THIS IS A JUDGMENT CALL MADE BY THE UMPIRES, THERE WILL BE NO PROTESTS CONSIDERED ON THESE CALLS**
- a. Any subsequent infractions of this rule by the same player shall result in the player being called out.
21. Teams will be permitted a courtesy runner with two (2) outs for the catcher. The player that recorded the last out shall run for the catcher.

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Rules of Conduct

1. Team Managers are responsible for the conduct of their coaches and players at all times during pre-game warm-ups, games, and post –game handshakes.
2. Only the TEAM MANAGER is permitted to question the Umpire regarding a call.
 - a. There will be no discussion, questioning or protests regarding judgment calls on the part of the Umpire.
 - b. Anyone who in any way attempts to harass or intimidate an umpire shall be reported to the league for disciplinary action by the Baseball Board.
 - c. Team Managers are responsible for the conduct of their coaches and players AT ALL TIMES during a game
3. Throwing or kicking of equipment at any time in anger is prohibited and the guilty person(s) may be subject to removal from the game.
4. Verbal abuse of any kind towards an Umpire, Manger, Coach or Player is strictly prohibited and the guilty person(s) shall be reported to the Baseball Board for disciplinary action and possible dismissal.
5. Any person(s) threatening physical abuse harm or retaliation against an Umpire, Manager, Coach, or Player shall be removed from the game by the Umpire and the matter shall be reported to the Baseball Board for review and disciplinary action.
6. Any Manager, Coach or Player that is ejected from a game shall be subject to a one (1) game suspension of his/her teams' next game.
 - a. A 2nd infraction will result in a 3 game suspension
 - b. Subsequent infraction will result in the individual being subject to disciplinary action by the Baseball Board.
7. During games, only Managers, Coaches, and Players are permitted in the dugout area. Team managers shall be responsible for ensuring parents and siblings remain out of the dugouts and from around the area of the backstop.

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Team Responsibilities

1. Home Team –
 - a. Line fields and set the bases prior to the game
 - b. Supply Umpire with two (2) new baseballs
2. Visiting Team –
 - a. Make sure all tools and equipment are returned to the equipment room if your game is the last of the day
 - b. Sweep out and clean all dugouts
3. Both teams shall keep a scorebook for each game.
4. Time permitting each team shall equally share the available pre-game time for infield warm-ups.

PONY Bat Regulations

Bats permitted to be used in the Pony Division are (1) Drop -3 BBCOR or (2) Drop -5 with 2 5/8 inch barrel containing either the 1.15 BPF or USA Baseball stamp. Call ups are permitted to use the bat associated to their league requirements.