

PTBA Pony League Rules - 2018 Version

PETERS TOWNSHIP BASEBALL ASSOCIATION LOCAL RULES FOR PONY LEAGUE

Eligible Players: 13 and 14 year Olds (Aprils 30th cut off)

THE FOLLOWING LOCAL RULES SHALL TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THE MOST CURRENT VERSION OF PONY BASEBALL, INC. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

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EQUIPMENT

1. Metal-cleated shoes are permitted.
2. Batter, on-deck hitters, base runners and players coaching in the baseline coaching boxes are required to wear "NOCSAE" approved headgear.
3. Catchers are required to wear a mask with throat guard, chest protector, cup-type athletic supporter, shin guards and protective headgear which gives protection to the top of the head and the ears when catching behind the plate. Any player serving as a catcher to warm-up a pitcher shall wear a mask and protective headgear, whether the pitcher is warming up from the mound, in the bullpen, or elsewhere.
4. Throwing of equipment and/or disrespect for umpires, coaches, and other players will result in an automatic removal from the game for a minimum of two full innings (both hitting and fielding). At the discretion of the umpire, the player may be ejected for the remainder of the game.

PLAYING RULES

1. A continuous batting order will be used for all pony league games. Each player present will be included in the batting order prior to the start of the game and will be given a turn at bat according to this order regardless of the player's status as a fielder.
 - a. There is no limitation on the number of fielder substitutions that may take place during the game except that every player must field a minimum of three (3) innings during the contest. The home team coach must be careful to fulfill the three (3) inning requirement prior to the seventh inning in the event the game is shortened to six and one half innings due to the home team leading at that point. When the game is shortened due to weather or time, this rule is waived.
 - b. A pitcher, once removed as the pitcher, may not return to the mound during the game.
 - c. Any player arriving after the start of the game and after his originally assigned position in the batting order has been passed, shall be added at the end of the batting order.
 - d. In the event of the need for the continuation of a suspended game, the original batting order is to be followed. If a player who was originally in the batting order is absent for the continuation of the suspended game, skip his spot in the batting order - no out will be recorded. A player who was absent at the time of the original game, but is now present for the continuation of the game, shall be added to the end of the batting order.
2. Defensively, teams will field nine (9) players at a time. A team must be able to field a minimum of eight (8) players to start a game.
 - a. Managers may call "up" second year players from the next age group down (12 yr. olds) in order to meet the requirements to field a team. The Pony League director will give each team a "call up" list of players from the next league down. Players called up, other than those on the original list, must be approved by the league director or the game will

be subject to forfeit. If a called up player ends up being the tenth player because an unexpected player arrives, the called up player may remain for the game, but shall play no more than three (3) innings in the field and bat at the end of the batting order. If one or two called up players are used, the game is played and the results count. If three or more utility players are used, the game is played, but is considered a forfeit and will count as a loss on the record. The called up player is not permitted to pitch.

- b. Call "overs" are also permitted, if necessary, and will follow the same rules as call "ups".
3. Sliding rule - Any runner will be declared out when the runner does not slide or attempt to get around a player who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag. The runner is out and ejected from the game when, in the opinion of the umpire, the runner deliberately runs into a player making a play on him. In addition, headfirst slides are permitted with the exception of a runner sliding into home. In this case, the runner will automatically be called out.
4. Courtesy runner - When there are two outs in an inning and the catcher of the team at bat is on base, the manager may elect to have a runner replace the catcher on base. The substitute runner shall be the last player recorded as out in that inning.
5. 5-run rule – For the first six innings, there will be a 5-run limit per inning. There will be no continuation. There will be no run limit in the 7th inning.

PITCHING RULES

Official Pony League pitching rules will be followed and are summarized and amended as follows:

1. A pitcher is permitted to pitch a maximum of ten (10) innings per week, Monday through Sunday. One pitch constitutes an inning.
2. If a player pitches four (4) innings or more on a calendar day, he must have 40 hours of rest before pitching again.
3. A player may pitch a maximum of 7 innings in any calendar day.
4. The balk rule will be in effect for Pony League play. Until May 21, one (1) team warning per team will be issued before the balk penalty will be invoked. From May 21 through the end of the season, there will be no team warnings.
5. Thirteen (13) year old players must pitch a minimum of two (2) full innings by the end of the 5th inning in every game. For the purpose of this rule, thirteen (13) year old players must get three (3) outs to count as pitching an inning or give up five runs in an inning.

LENGTH OF GAMES

1. A Regulation games shall be seven (7) innings in duration.
 - a. 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.
 - b. Pony league games shall not exceed nine (9) innings. When the score is tied at the end of the maximum number of innings, the game shall be declared a tie.
2. If a game is called for any reason, it is a complete game if five (5) innings have been completed or if the home team has scored more runs in four (4) complete at bats than the visiting team has scored in five (5) complete at bats.
3. All other games which are called off prior to the end of the game, meeting the requirements of a complete game as described in paragraph B, become suspended games and will be continued from the point of curtailment at a later date.
4. The 10-run rule is in effect in Pony League play (5 innings).
5. No inning of any game will begin after 8:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday.