

Western PA Pony League
2022 Rules



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League

- Players must 14 years old or younger as of April 30th of the current season.
- Teams can only be formed from within their school system.
 - Exceptions have been allowed for the following due to small school districts with limited or no Pony teams.
 - CIT has players from multiple school districts.
 - Violation of this rule will result in the forfeit of all games played with ineligible players.
 - Repeat violations will result in suspension from the league.
- Each team must submit full team rosters with manager and coach contact information at least 2 weeks prior to the start of the season. Any additions to the rosters must be reported prior to the new player being allowed to play in a game.
 - The only exception to this is for call-ups from your home school district.
 - Call-ups must be from a younger age group.
 - Include first and last name, birthdate, address, jersey number and school district for each player
- Only the manager, 2 coaches, and 1 additional scorekeeper are allowed in the dugout or dugout area during the game. During the game, players and coaches must remain in the dugout and are NOT permitted behind the backstop. Violations of this and other safety-related rules will result in a warning for the first offense and the manager and the offender will be ejected for a second offense.

Equipment

- All baseballs must be marked with the Pony logo.
- Bats rules:
 - -3 must be BBCOR
 - USA Stamp
- All players catching are required to wear protective cups.

Scheduling

- The regular season schedule consists of fourteen (14) games. The minimum number of games that MUST be played in order to qualify for the playoffs is ten (10).
- All games must be played as scheduled except when functions of the Local School District interfere.
- In the event of cancellations or called games that are incomplete:
 - Games must be rescheduled for the NEXT available playing date.
 - Games in the final two weeks of the season must be scheduled before the final weekend of the season.
 - All emails attempting to reschedule the games must include ponyleague@moonbaseball.com and president@moonbaseball.com in copy. This will constitute an official notice of the game and where and when it will be played.
 - The two managers must agree on when a game will be rescheduled.
 - Games must be rescheduled within 48 hours of deciding to cancel or call a game.
 - The canceled/called game must be rescheduled and played within 10 days of the canceled date.
 - Teams must be open to playing home games on away fields.
 - If neither the home / visiting teams have field available contact the league to see if another organization has field space available.

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- If the managers cannot agree on when to reschedule the game they must notify ponyleague@moonbaseball.com within the 48 hour rescheduling window. At that point the commissioner will reschedule the game.
- The penalty for not rescheduling a game that results in a game not being played is a forfeit.
- Repeat failures to reschedule games could result in suspension from the league.

Regular Season

- All games are 7 innings long. A game must complete 5 innings to be considered a complete game or 4 ½ if the Home team is ahead.
- Home teams are responsible for scheduling, paying and cancelling umpires.
 - At least (1) adult plate umpire must be scheduled for each game.
 - Repeated failures of a team to schedule umpires could result in expulsion from the league.
 - Parents are not to be used as umpires during the game
- Home team is responsible for providing as many games balls as are necessary to complete the game.
- The HOME team manager or assistant shall send the final score, including pitch counts for both teams **within 24 hours** of the completion of the game to the Pony League Commissioner via email.
 - Both managers need to ensure that the first initial, last name and jersey number of pitchers are recorded for accuracy.
- If a manager, coach, player, or spectator is ejected from a game, they shall take no further part in that game. They may not sit in the stands and may not be recalled. They shall immediately leave the vicinity of the field. The ejected person(s) will have no communication with the players, the manager, or coaches for the remainder of the game. Violation of this rule will result in an immediate forfeit. Anyone ejected from a game will also serve an automatic one (1) game suspension in the team's next scheduled game, and they may not attend the next game as a spectator or communicate with the manager, coaches, or players during the game(s) of their suspension. A second ejection in a season will result in an additional 2-game suspension. A third ejection in a season will result in a suspension for the remainder of the season. A board-appointed committee will review all ejections to determine if any further action is warranted. The committee will conduct a mandatory hearing after a person's third ejection in a season.

Playing Rules

- The 2022 Official Regulations and Rules of Pony League Baseball govern all rules for the year with the exceptions listed in this document.
- No inning shall start later than 15 minutes before the scheduled start of a following game.
- No inning shall start later than 2 hours and 30 minutes from the start time of that game.
 - Rain delays are included in the 2 hours and 30 minute time limit.
- Any team must have a minimum of eight (8) players to start a game. There shall be a fifteen (15) minute grace period from the time of the scheduled start of the game before it is forfeited.
- Prior to the start of the game, it will be the decision of the home team manager as to calling a game due to weather, visibility, lightning, and any other unsafe playing conditions.
 - Once the game has begun, it will be the decision of the umpires as to calling the game.
 - Games are considered complete after 5 innings or 4 ½ if the home team is ahead
 - Games called prior to 5 innings will need to be rescheduled and completed from where the game was called.
- There is a 10 run rule in effect after 5 innings; 4 ½ if the home team is up by 10.
- There is a 15 run rule in effect after 4 innings; 3 ½ if the home team is up by 15.

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- A game started with eight (8) players may continue with eight players. An out will be recorded in the missing player's spot in the batting order for the remainder of the game.
- If a team cannot field the required number of players, the game should be played with a sharing of players, but that team will forfeit the game.
- 7 – run rule: A 1/2 inning shall be over after 3 outs or when a team scores seven (7) runs with no continuation (except for home runs over the fence will count all runs that score).
 - 7-Run Rule Example: Bases loaded one out. 6 runs have already scored. Batter hits a single to center. The runner on third scores the 7th run of the inning. The other runners must stop and the inning is over. However, under the same scenario the batter hits the ball over the fence for a grand slam....the team will be awarded all 4 runs for a total of 10 runs for the inning.

PITCHING

- A coach is permitted to visit the mound once per inning. Upon the coach's second visit the pitcher must be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the game. If in the umpire's judgment a trip to the mound or to the infield is made to check on an injured player, no visit will be charged.
- If a pitcher reaches a day(s) of rest threshold while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs and will only be required to observe the calendar day(s) of rest for the threshold he/she reached during the at-bat, provided that pitcher is removed or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter
 1. That batter reaches base.
 2. That batter is put out.
 3. The third out is made to complete the half-inning.
- **Rest requirements.**

If a player pitches 76 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
If a player pitches 61 -75 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
If a player pitches 46 - 60 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
If a player pitches 31 - 45 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.
If a player pitches 1-30 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.

NOTE: A pitcher who delivers 45 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.

NOTE: Any player, who has played the position of catcher in any part of four (4) or more innings in a game, is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.

- Pitch count sheets and pitching eligibility sheets are available on the website under Documents.
- Managers are required to bring the eligibility sheets from past games to every game. If a manager doesn't bring his past eligibility sheets to a game he must have the pitching record reviewed by the league safety officer or the umpire-in-chief to determine if an ineligible pitcher was used.
- In order to avoid using an ineligible pitcher, both managers and the umpires should review past eligibility sheets before the start of the game to determine which pitchers are eligible to pitch in the game.
- Use of an ineligible pitcher will result in a forfeit.
- ***The official pitch count will be kept by the visiting team's scorekeeper or a designated pitch counter provided by the visiting team.***
- Both managers and the pitch counter should review and sign the pitch count sheets and pitcher eligibility sheets at the end of the game. Each manager should take their team's count and eligibility sheets after the game.
- A pitcher, once removed from the mound, cannot return as a pitcher.

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- If a pitcher hits three (3) batters in a game, he must be removed from the pitcher position and may not return to pitcher.
- There will be one balk warning per pitcher per game during the regular season.
- There are no “automatic” intentional walks. All 4 balls would need to be thrown for an intentional walk. Catcher’s will need to follow all catcher box rules.

BATTING/BASERUNNING

- Continuous roster batting is required with the following exception:
 - Teams will have the option to match the number of players in the line-up of the opposing team, if the opposing team has less players. Example, team A shows up with 10 players, Team B has 15. Team B has the option of batting only 10. Each of Team B’s players must have 1 at bat.
 - Team has the option of double batting for the extra players in on his roster
 - Example – team A shows up with 10, Team B shows up with 13. Team B has the option to only bat 10 spots, but batters 8 through 10 and 11 through 13 would alternate batting spots.
 - If batting less than your roster, starters can be put back into the lineup once in the same spot.
- If a player arrives after the start of the game, that player will be placed at the bottom of the order.
- Pinch runners may be used for injured players. The player who is not on base and furthest from the batter in the batting order will be the pinch runner. The injured player must sit out 1 inning on defense.
- If a player leaves due to injury and the team drops below 9 batters that position will not be marked as an out.
- If a player is ejected their spot in the line-up will be an out for the rest of the game.
 - No other player can be substituted for an ejected player in the line-up
 - If a team is double batting in that batting spot, then the remaining player will go to the bench or double bat in a different batting spot.

SUBSTITUTION/DEFENSIVE PLAY

- Free substitution for all defensive players.
- A player arriving after the start of the game will be placed in a defensive position at the discretion of the manager.

PLAYOFFS

- Points are awarded as follows:
 - 3 points for wins (including forfeited wins)
 - 2 points for ties
 - 1 point for loss
 - 0 points for forfeits
- Following the conclusion of the regular season, all teams will be reseeded based on point totals to determine final conference standings (regardless of division)
- Playoff format will be:
 - Single elimination
 - Conference Playoffs

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- Round 1
 - Highest Seed vs Lowest Seed
 - Bye possibly based on number of teams in conference
- Conference Semi-finals (Round 2)
 - Highest Remaining Seed vs Lowest Remaining Seed
 - 2nd Highest Remaining Seed vs 2nd Lowest Remaining Seed
- Conference Championships
 - Semi-final winners
- Championship Game
 - American League Champion vs. National League Champion
- No Balk warnings during the playoffs
- There is no 7 run rule during the playoffs
- Pitching rest rules carry over from the regular season. Required days rest must be followed.
- Home team is responsible for scheduling umpires except in Semi- Finals and Championship
 - Umpire costs will be divided evenly between home and away teams.
- Semi- Finals and Championship Games
 - Will be played at Moon Pony Field
 - Umpire scheduling will be responsibility of Pony League Commissioner