**2024 SOUTH HILLS PONY LEAGUE RULES**

This document is a summary of the rules used for the 2024 season. Anything not specifically covered here shall revert to the rules as listed on the shpcl.org website.

No USSSA bats allowed. USA/bbcor only with a max drop of -8.

1st violation is an automatic out

2nd violation the player and coach are ejected

3rd violation the game is a forfeit

A game may start with 8 players. If this happens the 9th spot is an out each time through the order. If due to injury or ejection a team is left with only 7 players, the game is a forfeit.

Call ups are encouraged but organizations with multiple teams may call “over” a maximum of 2 players from another team to give them 9 players. These players are to be placed at the end of the batting order and also are restricted to playing outfield. Call ups are also not permitted to pitch. Call overs will not be allowed for the playoffs.

Pitchers may pitch a maximum of 4 innings per game during the regular season. One pitch constitutes an inning. In the playoffs, the maximum is 7 innings in a day. The required rest remains the same for regular season and playoffs.

There is a maximum of 5 runs per inning for the first 6 innings. The 7th inning is unlimited. The 5th run ends the inning unless the ball travels over the fence, either by home run or ground rule double, in which case all runs will count. During the playoffs there is no run limit per inning. The 10 run rule is in effect after 5 innings. The 15 run rule is in effect after 4 innings. This also includes playoffs.

Each pitcher will receive one balk warning per game for the first half of the season. After May 20, balks shall be enforced without warning.

Teams may bat 9, use an extra hitter, or bat the entire roster. If a team bats 9 or 10 and substitutes players in, normal reentry rules are followed: a player may only reenter in the spot in the batting order they were removed from. Once a substitute is removed from the batting order, he may not reenter the lineup.

Defensive free substitution is always allowed.

Courtesy runners for the pitcher and catcher are allowed and must be either a player not in the batting order or the last batted out.

Standings and playoffs

There will be 3 divisions of 7 teams. The top 5 teams from each division will qualify for the playoffs. The division winners will be seeded 1-3 and then the remaining teams will be ranked based on their point total. The 16th playoff spot will be awarded to the next highest point total from the remaining teams.

Teams are awarded 2 points for a win

Teams are awarded 1 point for a loss (unless the loss is by forfeit)

Teams are awarded 1.5 points for a tied game