



## 2026 Foal Ground Rules

Jurupa Pony League rules will govern decision-making. PONY Baseball Rules and Regulations will apply when necessary.

### Game Length

- Games will be **45 minutes to an 1 hour max in duration**.
- No new inning will begin once the 45-minute time limit has been reached.
- The goal is continuous play, learning, and engagement rather than competition.

### TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- **HOME TEAM** will chalk the field prior to the start of their game
  - **HOME TEAM** will be responsible for setting up the patching machine & placing it in the storage bin after the game, if there are no more games being played on that field.
  - **VISITING TEAM** will be responsible for dragging the field prior to the start of their game.
  - **VISITING TEAM** will be responsible for setting up the bases prior to their game & placing them into the storage bin after the game, if there are no more games being played on that field.
  - **BOTH TEAMS** are responsible for cleaning up all the trash in the dug out area and in the spectator
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### 2. Batting Format

- **Batting will be conducted off a tee** for all players.
- Coaches may assist players in proper stance, grip, and swing mechanics.
- There are **no strikeouts** in the Foal Division.

### 3. Minimum Players

- A **minimum of 7 players** is required to field a team and cover the infield.
  - If only **6 players** are available, the game may proceed **with a parent serving as catcher**, positioned safely behind the plate.
  - Games may not start with fewer than 6 players.
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### 4. Defensive Alignment & Parent Buddy Rule

- Defensive players will be positioned in standard infield and outfield areas appropriate for Foal-level play.
  - **One parent per player** is permitted to act as a **buddy** in the **field only**, for guidance and safety.
  - Parent buddies must remain **behind or beside the player** and may not interfere with live play.
  - The entire team will take the field. The infield will consist of 1<sup>st</sup> Base, 2<sup>nd</sup> Base, Shortstop, 3<sup>rd</sup> Base, Pitcher, & Catcher.
  - The player fielding the pitcher's position shall take a position of (5) feet from the mound.
  - If you are planning on having a Defensive catcher, they must wear protective gear during the game. The catcher's position must be fielded.
  - A batted ball becomes dead when an infielder has control of the ball in the infield **and** holds the ball up.
    - The Infield begins 20 feet from the base lines and second base.
  - Outfielders shall be stationed not less than 20 feet behind the baseline when the pitch is made, and the ball is hit into play by the batter. This is officially where the infield ends & the outfield begins.
  - No base stealing is allowed. The player must stay on the base until the ball is hit. If leading off, runner will be called out, one warning per Team, per game.
  - No player shall be benched. Any disciplinary action must be presented to the Division Director prior to implementation.
  - All players must stay in front or behind the base path. If a player obstructs a runner by blocking, tripping, holding, etc. they will be warned. If a second occurrence happens, the runner will be awarded the base. (Umpire's judgment).
  - If a ball is thrown out of play, then the batter/runner will be awarded one base. (Note: the ball is dead at this point).
  - The runner may advance one base per overthrow at his own risk. After two (2) overthrows, the ball is dead and the runner goes to the nearest base. (Umpires judgment)
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## 5. On-Field Personnel

- During game play, **only the following individuals are allowed on the field:**
    - Players
    - A **minimum of 4 rostered coaches**
    - Approved parent buddies
  - All individuals on the field must follow league safety and conduct expectations.
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## 6. Parent vs. Coach Role Clarification

- A registered coach **may not simultaneously serve as a parent buddy** during game play.
- During the game, individuals must choose **one role only:**
  - **Coach**, or
  - **Parent**
- This rule ensures clarity, safety, and consistency in instruction.

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## 7. Sportsmanship & Instructional Focus

- The Foal Division emphasizes:
    - Learning fundamentals
    - Positive reinforcement
    - Sportsmanship and teamwork
  - Scores are not officially kept.
  - Coaches are encouraged to rotate players through positions to support skill development.
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## 8. Safety First

- All players must wear appropriate protective equipment.
  - No aggressive base running or defensive plays will be permitted.
  - Umpire or league representative decisions regarding safety are final.
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These house rules are established to support player development while remaining consistent with the **spirit and structure of Pony Baseball**. Jurupa Pony Baseball reserves the right to adjust rules as needed to ensure a positive experience for all players and families.

## PLAYOFFS

Foal Division does not participate in Playoff play if no full 9 player teams are formed.