



*The Sweetest Sports Program in Louisiana!*

## **Pony Girls League Rules (13-14 Year Olds)**

### **1. RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Official Pony Baseball Rules and Regulations and Official Baseball Rules published by Sporting News shall govern league play except where amended by the Youngsville Recreational Sports Programs.

### **2. DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

The Youngsville Recreational Sports Programs shall reserve the right to withdraw privileges from any player, umpire, fan or adult volunteer whose conduct, on or off the playing field, reflects in a manner that is detrimental to the best interest of the Youngsville Recreational Sports Programs and the youth of the City of Youngsville. The reputation of PONY in your community can be drastically injured by the actions of one or more of a small group of persons, on or off the playing field. A player, parent, manager, fan, coach, umpire and league official all bear the responsibility of upholding the good name of the program. Public quarreling and bickering, whether over playing field situations or league administrative problems, only serve to weaken the entire organization in the community. This is a youth program designed to benefit young people. Much of the benefit they derive from stems from the example set by the adult leaders. Be sure it is a good example.

It is mandatory if an employee, parent, manager, fan, head coach, assistant coach, umpire, league official or volunteer are thrown out of the game you must serve a one game suspension. The coach must serve his/her one game suspension away from the ball park. During his/her suspension game the coach can not be at the ball park which includes: field, dugout, parking lot, stands, etc. Any suspended coach violating this rule will be dismissed from the league for the remainder of the current year with a possibility of being barred from future participation in the league, permanently, or for a specific number of years. If a suspended coach is a coach in another league he/she will not be allowed to coach or be at the Youngsville Sports Complex for their other game until the one game suspension has been served. If you are thrown out of two games in the same calendar year, you will be dismissed from the league for the remainder of the current year, with possibility of being barred from future participation in the league, permanently, or for a specific number of years. All head coaches are responsible for the conduct of their assistant coaches and fans. The actions of an assistant coach or fans are a gross reflection of a head coach's inability



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to control his team and the head coach will be held responsible. All coaches will be issued an Official Pony League rulebook.

The following will be adopted by the league as a guide for the handling of player or adult discipline problems during league or all-star play:

- A. The Director shall have the authority to suspend, discharge or otherwise discipline any player, manager, coach, umpire, league officer or other person whose conduct is in violation of the Rules and Regulations of PONY Baseball and the league and/or is considered detrimental to the best interests for the league.
  - (1) Persons subject to such discipline shall have the right to a hearing before the Director before such discipline is imposed.
  - (2) In the event of discipline procedures involving a player, or other person under the age of 18, that person's parents shall be invited to attend the hearing with the person concerned.
- B. Persons, youth or adult, who refuse to comply with the rules during league or all-star of Baseball, PONY baseball, or the League, may be considered for disciplinary action.
- C. Recognizing the difficulty of establishing specific penalties for a variety of violations of acceptable conduct, the following penalties are suggested. The Director may impose the one which, in their opinion, appears to match the severity of the offense.
  - (1) Warning. The offending person is to be advised, in writing, of the offense, and further advised that repetition of the offense will result in a more severe penalty.
  - (2) Suspension. The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been suspended from all league activity for a specific number of games, or days.
  - (3) Dismissal. The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been dismissed from the league for the remainder of the current year.
  - (4) Barred. The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been barred from present and future participation in the league, permanently, or for a specific number of years.

Any player, coach, or fan having to be ejected from a game for any reason must leave the premises within one minute after being ejected. Failure to leave the premises will result in the dismissal of that player, coach, or fan for the remainder of the current year, with a possibility of being barred from future participation in the league permanently, or for a specific number of years.



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Cursing and undue or continuous baiting of any official is unsportsmanlike conduct and is cause to eject any player, coach, or fan from a game.

### 3. TEAMS (AGE)

Age, for the league purposes, means “league age,” which is that age attained by a player on or before December 31<sup>st</sup> of the previous year.

### 4. SELECTION OF COACHES

All head coaches will be selected yearly by the director. An assistant coach or head coach will not automatically become the head coach the following year. All coaching selections whether head or assistant must be re-appointed and approved each year.

### 5. PLAYING FIELDS

Distance between bases: 60 feet

Pitching rubber distance: 43 feet

### 6. EQUIPMENT

- Players are responsible for a batting helmet, glove and pants/socks/belt. The coach will determine the color of the uniform and the pants. YSC will provide team jerseys and hats.
- Rubber soled or rubber cleated shoes or tennis shoes are permitted. Metal cleated shoes are not allowed.
- All bats require an ASA softball stamp. Bats labeled ‘tee-ball’ may not be used.
- The regular season league and all-star play will be played with an 12” PONY stamped official softball
- Protective helmets are to be worn at all times when batting, running the bases, or on-deck hitters. Headgear shall be NOCSAE approved. **Facemasks are mandatory on all batting helmets.** A runner who intentionally discards his/her helmet while running the bases shall be removed from the game at the completion of the play. No out will be called.



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- All exposed jewelry such as stud earrings, piercings, non-metal bracelets, necklaces, hair beads, and metal hair bands are legal. This includes medical alert bracelets and necklaces. Hoop earrings and metal bracelets are not allowed. Other than asking a player to remove an illegal piece jewelry there is no penalty unless the player refuses to do so, then the player will be restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game.
- It is **mandatory** for the catcher to wear a 'cup type' athletic supporter.
- All coaches will sign out equipment at the beginning of the season. All equipment shall be returned immediately after the end of the season, clean and ready for storage.

## 7. PLAYING RULES

- Ten players are used defensively, four in the outfield. The entire roster of players present for the game shall bat in rotation. Each player on the team should play two innings. Substitutes must enter the game by at least the third inning. Free defensive substitution.
- The half inning will be complete at either 5 runs or 3 outs, whichever comes first. Only the 7th inning will be considered an open inning with no run limits.
- Runners may steal bases, but shall remain in contact with the base until ball is released from the pitcher. Penalty: Runner is out and ball is dead. A runner at third base may score on a passed ball or on an errant throw back to the pitcher.
- Courtesy Runners:
  - a) The team at bat may use courtesy runner/runners for the pitcher and/or catcher at any time. The same runner may not be used for both positions. During the entire game, neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
  - b) The last out is the first player to be used as a courtesy runner. Only in the first inning if the first out has not been made, the last player in the line up will be the courtesy runner.
  - c) In the top of the 1<sup>st</sup> inning only, the pitcher and catcher are identified as those listed on the line up card as pitcher and catcher. Thereafter, the pitcher and catcher are identified as the last players who physically played the position on defense.



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- d) Should an injury, illness, or ejection should occur to the courtesy runner, another courtesy runner will be allowed.
- In the umpire's judgement, when the ball is in possession of an infielder in the infield and all play on the runner(s) has ceased, the umpire will call time.
  - The catcher will be required to wear a catcher's mask and gear provided by YSC. The catcher must wear a mask when in the squat position whether warming up a pitcher on the field or in the bullpen.
  - A team failing to field at least eight uniformed players within 15 minutes after scheduled starting time of a game, or at any time during the game, shall forfeit the game. If a team starts a game with nine players, the tenth batting position will not be declared an out. If the tenth player arrives after the game has started, they will be inserted into the batting order in the tenth batting position. In order for the tenth player to be eligible they must appear on the line up before the game begins.
  - If a play is close coaches must instruct their players to slide. If a player does not slide the runner may be called out. Coaches will not instruct players to intentionally run over another player.
  - A foul tip is a batted ball that goes short and directly from the bat to the catcher and is legally caught. A foul tip will not be recorded as an out.
  - Once the starting pitcher is removed from the pitching position, the pitcher will be allowed to return to the pitching position in the same game if the pitcher stays in the game in another defensive position. A relief pitcher will not be allowed to return to the pitching position once removed. Ineligible pitchers are subject to penalties as stated in the PONY rulebook as ineligible players.

## **BATTING OUT OF TURN:**

- A batter shall be called out, on appeal, when she fails to bat in her proper turn, and another batter completes a time at bat in her place.



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- The proper batter may take her place in the batter's box at any time before the improper batter becomes a runner or is put out, and any balls and strikes shall be counted in the proper batter's time at bat.
- When an improper batter become a runner, or is put out, and the defensive team appeals to the umpire before the first pitch to the next batter or either team, or before any play or attempted play, the umpire shall declare the proper batter out; and nullify any advance or score made because of a ball batted by the improper batter or because of the improper batters advance to first base on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batter or otherwise.
  - Note: If a runner advances, while the improper batter is at bat, on a stolen base, balk, wild pitch or passed ball, such advance is legal.
- When an improper batter becomes a runner, or is put out, and a pitch is made to the next batter or either team before an appeal is made, the improper batter thereby becomes the proper batter, and the results of her time at bat becomes legal.
- When the proper batter is called out because they have failed to bat in turn the next batter shall be the batter whose name follows that of the proper batter thus called out.
- When an improper batter becomes a proper batter because no appeal is made before the next pitch, the next batter shall be the batter whose name follows that of such legalized improper batter. The instant an improper batter's actions are legalized, the batting order picks up with the name following that of the legalized improper batter.
  - Note: The umpire shall not direct to attention of any person to the presence in the batter's box of an improper batter. This rule is designed to require constant vigilance by the players and coaches of both teams. The official scorer should notify the coach concerned if any ineligible player or and improper batter is about to be used in the game, but the failure of the scorer to do so has no effect upon the rules.



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## 8. PITCHING RULES

**\*\*Defensive facemasks are recommended for picthing\*\***

Before starting the delivery (pitch), the pitcher shall comply with the following:

- She shall take a position with her pivot foot on the pitcher's plate and non-pivot foot on or behind the pitcher's plate. Both feet must be on the ground within the twenty-four-inch length of the pitcher's plate. Her shoulders shall be in line with first and third bases. The hands shall be separated. The ball can be in the glove or pitching hand.
- While in the position described in "A" above, she shall take the signal from the catcher.
- After completing "B" above, she shall hold the ball in both hands for not less than one second and not more than ten seconds before releasing the ball.
- The pitcher shall not be considered in pitching position unless the catcher is in position to receive the pitch.
- The pitcher may not take the pitching position on or near the pitcher's plate without having the ball in her possession.
- The pitch starts when one hand is taken off the ball or the pitcher makes any motion that is part of the windup after the hands have been brought together.
- Once the hands are brought together, the pitcher shall not take more than one step, which must be forward, toward the batter and simultaneous with the delivery of the ball to the batter.
- The pivot foot may remain in contact with or may push off and drag away from the pitching plate prior to the front foot touching the ground, as long as the pivot foot remains in contact with the ground. Pushing off with the pivot foot from a place other than the pitchers plate is illegal.
- It is not a step if the pitcher slides her foot across the pitcher's plate, provided contact is maintained with the pitcher's plate.
- The pitcher shall not deliberately drop, roll or bounce the ball while in the pitching position in order to prevent the batter from striking it.
- The pitcher shall not, at any time during a game, be allowed to use tape or any other foreign substances upon the ball, the pitching hand or fingers nor shall any other player apply a foreign substance to the ball.
- Under the supervision and control of the umpire, powdered resin may be used to dry the hands. The pitcher shall not wear a sweat band, bracelet or similar type item on the wrist or forearm of the pitching arm.
- The pitcher shall not deliver a pitch unless all defensive players, except the catcher who must be in the catcher's box, are positioned in fair territory.
- At the beginning of each half inning or when a pitcher relieves another, not more than one minute may be used to deliver not more than five pitches to the catcher.



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- The pitcher shall not throw to a base during a live ball while her foot is in contact with the pitcher's plate after she has taken the pitchers position.
- There shall be only one charged conference between the coach or other team representative from the dugout with each and every pitcher in an inning. The second charged conference shall result in the removal of the pitcher from the pitching position for the remainder of game.
- If the ball slips from the pitcher's hand during her windup or during the back swing, the ball will be in play and the runners may advance at their own risk.
- As soon as a pitcher delivers one pitch to a batter the pitcher shall be considered as having pitched in one inning.
- If a relief pitcher comes in "cold" the umpire shall allow the pitcher to warm up properly with at least ten warm-up pitches.
- The pitcher named in the batting order turned in prior to the start of the game shall pitch to the first batter, or any substitute batter until such batter is put out or reaches first base, unless the pitcher sustains injury or illness which in the judgment of the umpire-in-chief, incapacitates him from pitching.

## 9. LENGTH OF GAMES

- Games will be 7 innings or time limit. The time limit will be 1 hour and 30 minutes. No new inning may be started with under 5 minutes of the time limit remaining. Any inning that starts before the time limit must be completed. (A new inning begins as soon as the 3<sup>rd</sup> out is recorded in the previous inning.)
- Any game delayed for more than 5 minutes due to player injury, field equipment problems, or other unusual problems, shall have the length of the game extended by the amount of time delayed, less 5 minutes.
- When a game is tied at the end of the regulation length, extra innings may be played until time limit expires. If, after time limit expires, the game is still tied it shall remain a tie.
- If a game is called for any reason, it shall be recorded a completed game if four innings have been completed, or if the home team has scored more runs in the three innings or three and a fraction innings, than the visiting team has scored in four completed innings.





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- If a team is leading an opponent by at least 10 runs after four or more complete innings have been played the game shall be complete. (The home team will not bat in the bottom of the inning with a 10+ run lead.)

## 10. SCHEDULE

Scheduling and rescheduling of games shall be the responsibility of the director. All scheduled games will be attempted to be made up.

## 11. UMPIRES

Assignment of umpires shall be the responsibility of the league. At any time, the umpires assigned by the league fail to report, or are otherwise unavailable, any other umpires used in that game shall be agreed upon by the opposing managers, preferably in writing.

The use of tobacco by umpires is prohibited.

## 12. SCOREKEEPERS

The home team will provide the official score keeper. It is recommended, however, that both teams keep score for their own records.

The score keeper should notify the coach concerned if an ineligible player or an improper batter is to be used in the game, but the failure of the score keeper has no effect on the rules.

## 13. MANAGERS AND COACHES

- All coaches on the field or in the dugout must have completed an online background check annually through the YSC platform.
- Coaches may not switch coaching boxes during an inning. Coaches will be allowed one offensive time out per inning.
- Each team will pick up trash on their side of the field after each game. Teams are **required** to congratulate each other on the field after each game.
- The use of tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs by players, coaches, umpires, or adults in the on the grounds shall not be permitted.



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- A coach wishing to consult with an umpire shall request time out and approach the umpire in a gentlemanly manner. In doing so, the umpire will answer questions and rule interpretations. Balls and strikes are not to be discussed.

#### **14. PENALTIES**

Players who intentionally, in the judgement of the umpire, throw any equipment during a game are subject to disciplinary action from the umpire and/or league director.

#### **15. PROTESTS**

All umpires decisions and judgements will be final and no protest will be allowed. All games are final once complete.

#### **16. GENERAL CONDUCT**

YSC staff and umpires will grade the coaches' conduct during a game and submit findings to the league director and will be kept on file by the director. See #2 Disciplinary Action.

#### **17. ALL-STAR CONDUCT**

PONY Baseball, Inc., through its headquarters staff and its designated field directors, shall reserve the right to withdraw membership from any league, team, player, or adult volunteer whose conduct, on or off of the playing field, reflects in a manner that is detrimental to the best interests of PONY Baseball, Inc.

Players, adult volunteers, parents, or fans who engage in unsportsmanlike conduct, such as fighting, abusive language, or similarly derogatory activity, may be suspended for one or more games by the league director.

#### **18. ALL-STARS**

The all-star team(s) shall be composed of a head coach, an assistant coach, and a business manager with a minimum of 12 players.

Independent baseball raters will evaluate players during an all-star evaluation to be scheduled by the league and provide YSC with their recommendations as to



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who should be named to the all-star team(s). League coaches will complete a ballot that will include their recommended all-star team(s) in their league and provide recommendations from their team. Umpires will provide player recommendations throughout the season to YSC concerning who should be named to the all-star team(s).

The recommendations of the independent raters, coaches and umpires will be compiled and all-star teams will be selected by YSC based on all of the information gathered.

All league coaches will submit votes on the all-star coach(es) for their league. Coaches will not be allowed to vote for themselves. The umpires will provide YSC with recommendations on who should be named the all-star coach(es). The coaches votes and umpire recommendations will be compiled and all-star coach(es) will be selected by YSC based on the information gathered.

## **19. COACHES, JUST LET THE KIDS PLAY:**

When you organize a youth sports program, when you sign up your child, or when you watch him or her at practices or at games, continually ask yourself a question: Is this program, practice or game primarily serving the needs of the children in this age group-all the children-or is it primarily serving the needs of the adults? Your answer to that question will guide you toward making good choices in the best interest of your children.

If winning is not the children's top priority-and they have told us time and again that it is not-then making choices about which children play and which children do not play based on how best to win the most games does not serve primarily the children's wants. It serves primarily the adults' wants.

Kids want to have fun; that is their top priority. If all the drills, all the yelling and screaming from the sidelines and the pressure-packed schedules ruin the fun, the adults have missed the mark.

Kids want to play. They don't want to sit and watch other kids play or watch adults coach. If you are making choices that keep kids on the bench, you are making choices that do not serve the wants, the needs and the rights of all the children, rather than just a select few.



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Kids deserve the chance to succeed. If you are intent on identifying “talent” at an early age, selecting elite teams and discouraging those who are cut, you

are damaging what is every child’s right to have a chance to succeed. You are doing it for no good reason because until children are more fully developed, their “talent” should not be and cannot be accurately evaluated.

Kids learn best by doing, not just by listening, and they learn by being spontaneous, creative and by taking chances. Thus, practices and games do not serve children’s needs if they discourage those natural instincts and create fears about making mistakes.

Kids need time to relax, time for their bodies to recharge, time for their minds to wander. Kids need to daydream now and then. They need a day off. If their youth sports schedules overexert their bodies, overtax their energies and rob them of their free time, those schedules are not meeting children’s needs. You see the point. You see the pattern. So much of what adults create in the name of youth sports violate the very nature of being a child, the natural wants and need of children.

So please adhere to the Youngsville Recreational Sports Programs philosophy:

**JUST LET THE KIDS PLAY!**