



*The Sweetest Sports Program in Louisiana!*

## **Mustang Boys League Rules (9-10 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 April 30th of the current league 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: 46 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.
- Bats must be marked with the USA Baseball stamp and be listed on the approved bat list at [usabat.com](http://usabat.com). Bats marked as official tee-ball bats will not be allowed.
- Rubber soled or rubber cleated shoes or tennis shoes are permitted.
- The regular season league and all-stars will be played with an official PONY stamped baseball.
- Protective helmets are to be worn at all times when batting, running the bases, or on-deck hitters. Headgear shall be NOCSAE approved. Jaw Guards are highly recommended. 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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- Catchers are required to wear proper protective equipment including a mask with throat guard, chest protector, shin guards, athletic supporter with cup and NOCSAE approved headgear which gives protection to the top of the head and both ears when catching behind the plate. Hockey style masks are acceptable as proper protection for catchers. Mask extensions are not needed. Any player serving as a catcher to warm a pitcher shall wear a mask, whether the pitcher is warming up from the mound, in the bullpen or elsewhere.
- No jewelry should be worn by any player, except for medical identification.
- 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.
- 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. The 6<sup>th</sup> inning will be considered an open inning with no run limits.
- If, in the umpire's judgement, a base runner fakes a steal in attempt to distract or confuse the defense and does not continue to the next base or return to the previous base immediately, he should be called out.
- Base runners are not allowed to take leads from the base they occupy. Runners may steal bases, but may not leave the base they are occupying until the ball crosses the plate. Penalty: Ball is dead and the runner is out.
- 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.



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- 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.
  - d) Should an injury, illness, or ejection should occur to the courtesy runner, another courtesy runner will be allowed.
- The batter will be declared out when, on the third strike, the catcher fails to catch the pitch. The runner will not be allowed to attempt to advance to first base.
  - When there are runners on first base and third base, and the runner on first base attempts to steal second base on the pitch, the catcher will be allowed to attempt to throw out the runner advancing to second base without the threat of the runner from third scoring, IF the catcher catches the ball cleanly. In this instance, the runner on third will not be allowed to advance. If the ball is dropped or otherwise mishandled, the ball is live.
  - Runners may advance to the next base on passed balls and wild pitches including scoring from third base.
  - 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.

## **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 she has 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

- Pitchers must adhere to the pitch count limits listed in the chart below based on their age:

Age	Daily Max (Pitches in Game)	0 Days Rest	1 Days Rest	2 Days Rest	3 Days Rest	4 Days Rest	5 Days Rest
7-8	50	1-20	21-35	36-50	N/A	N/A	N/A
9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
11-12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
13-14	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
15-16	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+	N/A
17-18	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+	N/A
19-22	120	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81-105	106+

- Curveballs are not allowed in Mustang League play. Penalty: The pitch will be called a ball and the umpire will issue a warning to the pitcher and the head coach. The pitcher and the head coach are subject to ejections for subsequent offenses.
- A relief pitcher will be allowed at least 10 warm up pitches before continuing the game.

## 9. LENGTH OF GAMES

- Games will be 6 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.



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- 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.
- 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.





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- 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 in any form by players coaches, umpires, or adult leaders in the dug out, on the benches or on the playing field shall not be permitted.
- 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.

## 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.



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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 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. Any coach ejected during the regular season will not be considered for the all-star coach(es).

## **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



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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.

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!**