

# Grades 8-9 Summer Baseball

## Pony League Rules

Reviewed 5/2021

1. Call home coaches for field location.
2. Coaches arrange make-up games or if conflict in schedule, coaches can agree on new date
3. Home team is responsible for umpires.
4. Call visiting coach by 4 pm for cancellations due to weather. If in doubt, cancel the game. **Once the game is started, weather decisions/darkness should be made by coaches and umpire(s) conference.**
5. Throwing of equipment and poor language will not be tolerated. Good sportsmanship is expected by players, coaches and spectators.
6. Coaches are responsible for the actions of their spectators. Talk to your parents prior to games so they know what is expected.
7. WE WILL BE HAVING TUESDAY NIGHT DOUBLEHEADERS. START TIME IS 5:30PM. THE FIRST GAME WILL HAVE NO NEW INNING START AFTER 1 HR 45 MIN. THE SECOND GAME WILL START PROMPLTY AT 7:30PM. HOME AND AWAY WILL SWITCH IN THE SECOND GAME. Home team has infield at 30 minutes before start of first game and visiting team 15 minutes before start. COURTESY RUNNERS FOR CATCHERS/PITCHERS ARE ENCOURAGED WITH TWO OUTS TO KEEP THE GAME MOVING. MUST BE A PLAYER NOT IN THE GAME IF AVAILABLE, OR THE LAST OUT.
8. **IF A TEAM HAS 12 OR LESS PLAYERS, EVERY PLAYER WILL PLAY AT LEAST 3 INNINGS PER GAME OR 6 INNINGS PER NIGHT.**

**IF A TEAM HAS 13 OR MORE PLAYERS, EVERY PLAYER WILL PLAY AT LEAST 2 INNINGS PER GAME OR 4 INNINGS PER NIGHT.**

PLEASE BE CONSCIENTIOUS OF THIS AND NOT LET THE GAME GET AWAY FROM YOU. REMINDER: THIS IS A LEARNING LEAGUE, AND KIDS ARE NOT LEARNING SITTING ON THE BENCH.

9. **IF A TEAM HAS 12 OR LESS PLAYERS THE LEAGUE WOULD PREFER THAT YOU BAT THE ENTIRE ROSTER AND USE FREE SUBSTITUTION.**

YOU MUST CHOOSE WHICH YOU ARE GOING TO DO BEFORE THE FIRST GAME STARTS AND COMMUNICATE WITH COACHES/UMPS.

A. BAT ENTIRE ROSTER AND HAVE FREE SUBSTITUTION

B. **Play High School Rules/Substitutions**

10. Games are 7 innings. 10-run rule after 5 innings. If time is not an issue, play for two more innings. **THERE WILL BE A MAX OF 5 RUNS PER INNING WITH THE LAST INNING BEING UNLIMITED. LAST INNING NEEDS TO BE DECLARED BY COACHES AND UMPIRE AT TOP OF LAST INNING.** End of the Season Playoffs will NOT have a 5-run rule.
11. Must have 8 players to play game, unless injury occurs during the course of the game.
12. Bats are -5 or less in differential. This will be loosely enforced. Just keep in mind once players start 9<sup>th</sup> grade school ball they must use a -3 BBCOR.

### **13. Pitching #1 –**

**8 max warm up pitches for new pitchers**

**5 max warm up pitches for pitchers pitching consecutive innings**

### **14. Pitching #2**

New this year will be a **MANDATORY PITCH COUNT ENFORCEMENT**. Violations will be assessed to the head coach.

**Violation #1** – Warning

**Violation #2** – Coach suspended for one game

**Violation #3** – Coach suspended for season and playoffs

**If violation occurs, the opposing team needs to notify ump(s) immediately and pitching change must be made. Opposing team will let the league director know of the violation.**

Pitch count rules will be the following. These are the same as the MSHSL lower level pitching requirements.

1-25 pitches – 0 days of rest

26-35 pitches – 1 day of rest

36-60 pitches - 2 days of rest

61-85 pitches – 3 days of rest

85 pitches daily max – if the player starts a batter and reaches 85 pitches in the middle of an at bat, the player can finish that batter.

- Once the limit is reached a pitcher may finish pitching to that batter
- One day of rest is required if a pitcher pitches two straight days

- Days of rest are measured in calendar days, not 24-hour periods. If a player throws 55 pitches on Monday, they are not able to pitch on either Tuesday or Wednesday, but could pitch again anytime on Thursday
- Only pitches thrown to a batter count toward the pitch count

This will be done on the HONOR SYSTEM. It is preferred to have an adult keeping track of the pitches for both teams. It is also preferred to check the pitch count with the other team between half-innings. Below is from the MSHSL regarding tracking pitches

#### Tracking Pitches:

1) During the regular season, each team must designate a student or adult who is responsible to track the pitches for their team. In the post season this must be an adult. Each team should track the pitches for both their team and their opponent.

2) After each half-inning those responsible for tracking pitches will confirm the number of pitches for that half-inning. Any discrepancies need to be worked out at that time. If a dispute cannot be resolved, the number calculated by the home team will stand as the official number. Once the next half inning has begun, the numbers from the previous half inning are final. Umpires will not be involved in tracking or confirming the number of pitches.

(I would urge you to consider this pitch count in any weekend tournaments that you may take part in.)

15. Home team supplies 2 new balls/game.

16. **Playoff Rules – All play in games, quarter and semis will be one 7-inning game. Championship and third place game can be 7 or 9 innings, whatever the coaches agree to and communicate to league director. There is NOT a 5-run rule in the playoffs. Players can only play on one team during the playoffs.**

17. All other rules are covered by MSHSL rules.

**18. 1-man umpire is required to ump behind the plate.**