

AZ PLAY BALL PONY BASEBALL SPRING 2020 RULES & PROCEDURES – ALL DIVISIONS

- **All coaches, players and parents are expected to exemplify good sportsmanship at all times, including in a lopsided score situation. This includes using positive comments only, cheering for your own team, but not against the other team or players.**
- League age is as of 4/30/2020.
- Official Baseball Rules (MLB-modified) **Warn, Restrict, Eject umpire protocol in place**
- **Must have original medical release on the field for all games and practice**
- **ROSTERS:** Before taking the field, a player must be listed on the roster and have a signed medical release submitted to the league. Teams can add players to their roster at any time throughout the season, but a player must have played in at least half of the teams regular-season games in order to be eligible for the post season tournament. Players can play up in division, but cannot play down, except if they have specific league approval. Age documentation will be reviewed to resolve any concerns over ineligible players. **Any player that is playing down in division CANNOT pitch.**
- No mandatory slide rule-Safety first, no malicious conduct, umpire's discretion as to warning or ejection
- No profanity, alcohol or tobacco permitted on any field complex
- Seven inning games (Mustang 6 Inning) Each team provides 1 new and 1 good backup ball
- No new inning starts after 2 hours (Mustang 1:45), No new inning after 1:50 with 8 run lead or more. NO automatic stop. (may vary depending on location)
- 10 run rule in effect after 4 ½ - 5 innings (**Including Mustang Division**)
- In the event of a lopsided score, if both coaches agree, they may call the inning early or make other appropriate changes as agreed. Inform umpires of the agreed changes.
- First time against a team flip for home team, second time reverse

Offense & Defense:

- Courtesy runner allowed for pitcher and catcher - must not be in the batting lineup if batting 9, if batting roster last batter
- If a batter leaves the game for any reason, when their spot comes up in the batting order, an out is NOT recorded against that team.
- If batting the roster, any late arrivals become last in order
- If batting nine or ten, a starter removed from the game may re-enter into the same batting position, a substitute once removed from the batting lineup may not re-enter as a batter, but may still be used on defense
- Free defensive substitution only if batting the roster
- Balks are warning only through 2/17/2020 – **Mustang division only**
- Second trip to the mound in the same inning removes pitcher. That pitcher may not re-enter as pitcher.
- Pitching maximum- See pitch count chart
- A game may be played with 8 players; the missing batting position does not constitute an out. Less than 8 players is a forfeit but players should be borrowed and a game played, umpires will umpire

Equipment:

- Metal cleats OK in all divisions. No jewelry, except for medical identification
- Catchers must wear cup, helmet, mask with built in throat guard or separate throat guard, etc.

Bat Rules:

- In conjunction with USA Baseball and its other participating national member organizations, PONY Baseball has adopted the new USA Baseball bat standard (USABat). Effective **January 1, 2018**, with the exception of -3 (BBCOR certified), all other 2 1/4" and 2 5/8" barrel bats with a minus factor of (-5, -7, -9, etc.), must be USABat certified with the USABat licensing stamp on the bat in order to be used for league and tournament play. Wood bats are always permitted. Colt Divisions and Palomino must use -3 BBCOR certified bats or wood bats (**Permitted bats are determined by players league age, not division playing in.**)

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PROHIBITED BAT PROCEDURES: If a prohibited bat is found before the ball is put in fair play by the batter, the team is issued a warning, and the bat is removed from the game. If a prohibited bat is found after the ball is put in fair play by the batter, the bat is removed, the batter is called out, and the runners return to their original positions. Continued infractions can result in suspensions.

Pitch Count Rules: (see pitch count table)

- Pitch count maximums are **per day, not per game**.
- Numerous changes in rule book replacing “innings” with “number of pitches”
- Defined Number of Days Rest as “Full Calendar Day”
Example: A player who pitches on TUESDAY and requires 2 Days of Rest, cannot pitch until Friday
- PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY, COLT, PALOMINO and THOROBRED are to use the attached pitch chart.
- **Pitchers will only be required to observe the calendar days rest for the threshold they reach during the start of the at bat, provided that the pitcher is removed before delivering a pitch to the next batter. (Intentional walks require no pitches and no pitches are added to pitch count.)**
- **Pitchers reaching their maximum number of pitches in a day while pitching to a batter, may finish pitching to that batter before being removed.**
- Number of pitches shall be recorded in the scorebook or we also recommend the use of electronic scoring devices at all levels to help ensure accurate pitch count

INELIGIBLE PITCHER PROCEDURES:

- Pitch counts are to be kept by both teams with home team as the official record.
Managers should exchange, at the plate meeting, info about ineligible pitchers for that game.
- If pitch count becomes a question, the manager should ask the umpire to call time, and the manager should check with the opposing team scorekeeper to clarify the situation.
- To protest a violation, the manager should inform the umpire that the game is being played under protest. If the home team score book indicates the pitcher is ineligible, he can still play in the game, but he cannot pitch anymore. The game will continue until the end of the specified inning or time limit, and the umpires will continue to officiate the game as usual.
- At some point after the game, the league will review the pitching records of both teams. If there was an ineligible pitcher, a forfeit will be recorded against the violating team, provided that team won the game.

Field Guidelines

- **No soft toss into fences including wiffles**
- **Coaches are requested to rake between their games & clean up dugout areas**
- **If last game/practice of day, cover mound, remove & lockup bases, insert plugs**
- **At LaCasa Field, If last game of night turn off and lock up lights, bases can stay**

Weather related messages on our website or follow us on Twitter: [azplayballinfo](https://twitter.com/azplayballinfo)

www.azplayball.com

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