

Far North Pony Baseball

In-House Rules 2017

The official playing rules for Far North Youth Baseball Association will follow the MLB Rules and Regulations with the following adoptions, exemptions, and reminders.

General Rule: No tobacco, alcohol, or profanity allowed!

Games

1. Each game will last seven (7) innings or two (2.45/2.30 during school) hours and thirty minutes in duration. The inning that is in progress at the two (2.45/2.30 during school) hour mark will be the last inning played.
2. No inning can start after 10:00 p.m.
Note: An inning is considered started as soon as the last out of the previous inning has been made.
3. When any team is winning by 10 runs or more after 4 ½ innings, the game will be considered over. If the home team is losing, they must bat in the bottom half of the fifth inning. After the inning is completed, if the home team is still down by ten (10) runs or more, the game will be considered over and complete. (Ten-Run Rule)
4. The Home team will supply two (2) new balls for every game and will get them back after the game is over.
5. The Home team is responsible for field maintenance, putting out and in the bases, and chalking the field before games if necessary. The Home team will take the 1st base dugout.
NOTE: Field maintenance crew should line fields daily.
6. The Visiting team is responsible for post-game field maintenance if necessary. Visiting team will place garbage cans in dugouts after game. The visiting team will take the 3rd base dugout.
7. No taunting or negative chatter to the opposing team will be allowed at any time.
8. Any games suspended before they become official will be resumed from the point it ended.
9. All catchers MUST wear protective cups. It is highly recommended all players where protective cups.
10. Lock dugouts after the game.
11. Seeds are permitted provided they are spit into a cup. No spitting seeds onto the dugout floor. Sweep and clean up dugout as necessary.
12. Only players, coaches, team moms and scorekeepers are allowed in the dugouts provided they are registered and approved.
13. Coaches must keep their parents in check. If a parent is getting unruly the youth umpire, the umpire in charge will warn the parent and coach. If the coach does not take care of the issue the umpire will stop the game and get a league official to take care of the issue. Adult umpires will eject the parent from the field with or without warning.
14. For field use, games take priority over team practices. If a team is practicing on a field which will be used for a game, the practicing team must leave the field thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled game time.

Pitching

1. The pitch count sheet must be followed and logged.
2. There will be one (1) warning for a balk per pitcher per game. If a balk occurs after the warning (second balk or more per pitcher), runners will advance to the next base.
3. If a pitcher hits three (3) batters in one (1) inning or 5 (5) batters in a game, the pitcher must be removed and cannot pitch again in that game.
4. Managers are allowed two trips to the mound per inning per pitcher. If a manager visits the same pitcher more than twice in the same inning, the manager must replace the pitcher.
5. No intentional walks are allowed. The catcher must receive all pitches in the crouched position and in the catcher's box.

Defense

1. Each player should be given the opportunity to play infield. We strive to give equal playing time each game however this isn't always possible each game. If a player who isn't late gets unintentionally shorted time they must start the next. Note: The Catcher and Pitcher are considered infielders.
2. Equal play does not count for discipline issue. If a player is sat due to attitude, poor-sportsmanship or pulls themselves, coaches are not obligated to start that player the next game. Coaches have latitude for assigning discipline issue however if you are intentionally sitting a player you must notify in writing the division coordinator and league president.
NO PLAYER CAN SIT FOR A SECOND TIME UNTIL ALL PLAYERS HAVE SAT AT LEAST ONE INNING. No player should sit more than 2 consecutive innings. Players should be rotated and no set subs for a given game.
3. No fake tags are allowed by any defensive player. If a defensive player fakes a tag, the first offense will be a team warning; the second offense per team will result in all runners advancing one base (This is considered a balk).
4. A maximum of nine (9) players are permitted on the field.
5. A minimum of eight (8) players are needed for team to start a game. If eight players cannot be fielded, the game will be considered a forfeit.
6. A single coach may stand near their dugout gate while their team is on defense. NOTE: This is for instructional purposes and coaches must not interfere with play and be next to their gates during play. Coaches must keep the dugout in control at all times.

Offense

1. The Infield Fly Rule applies.
2. The Drop 3rd Strike Rule applies. 2 out with 1st base occupied the batter may still run to 1st.
3. If a bat is thrown and it is determined to be accidental, the team will be given a warning. If there is a second occurrence, the batter will be called out. If a bat is thrown and it is determined to be intentional, there will be no warning and the batter will be called out. In addition, the batter can be ejected from the game.
4. A runner can be called out if he does not slide or attempt to avoid contact with the fielder. (Collision Rule) This is solely the discretion of the umpire. The umpire may also eject the player if he deems there was blatant intentional contact.
5. A "continuous" batting order will be used.

6. If a batter has to leave the game, it is not an automatic out. (The manager must advise the opposing team manager and the player's position will be skipped.)
Note: If a player is ejected, it will be considered as an out.
7. If a player arrives late to the game, he must be placed at the bottom of the line-up and the defensive minimum does not apply.
8. Headfirst sliding is not allowed at home plate. It is allowed at the other bases.

Bat Restrictions

We will be enforcing the PONY baseball bat restrictions.

All bats must have the BPF 1.15 marking to be legal. Or BBCOR certified

Teams may borrow from other Pony teams if they are missing players due to vacations, illness, etc.

Players cannot be called up or borrowed if the team has 10 or more players.

Players that are called up or borrowed must bat last in the batting order and sit out first.

No player from the existing assigned Pony team will sit more innings than the called up or borrowed player.

Umpires

In the event your game does not have an umpire the home team is responsible for a plate umpire and the away team the base umpire. Umpire gear can be found in the umpire shed between field two and three.

Umpires that are scheduled for your games will have a game sheet that must be signed by both team managers. If you feel an umpire needs more work or is not living up to league standards, please email me your concerns. sforrest@gmail.com

DO NOT ARGUE BALLS AND STRIKES.

Please respect the umpires by not unnecessarily arguing rule interpretation etc. If you have a valid rule concern call time and address with umpires in a civil manner. If it delays gameplay for the players, please address it after the game with the umpire.

End of game: It is the responsibility of both managers to clean up the dugouts before you leave the playing fields. If you have the last game for the evening please rake any areas on the playing field that may need attention to for the next day's game. Garbage cans nearby your playing field must be brought into the dugouts. Please lock all dugouts if you are the last game of the night. Please lock the batting cages and check the umpire shed too.