



## 2026 SOUTHEAST REGION PRE-TOURNAMENT RULES/COACH'S AGREEMENT

***TOURNAMENT TEAM MANAGER: This document does not replace, or in any way, relieve you of the responsibility with meeting with the on-site PONY Director 60 minutes prior to your first game at each level, to discuss these rules and to check your Affidavit and Tournament Binder. This document must be signed by all coaching staff on your Affidavit and kept in your Binder. Binder must be kept in the dugout with the coaching staff at all games.***

### **TOURNAMENT AFFIDAVITS**

BEFORE arriving at your first tournament your affidavits must be completed and signed by your league and by a PONY Director. Affidavits include the medical release form and pitching log (exception: no pitching log for machine pitched games). A second unsigned copy of the affidavit is to be kept in the binder.

### **TOURNAMENT BASEBALL RULES: KNOW THE RULES!**

Manager & Coaching staff's responsibility. We do not play by your League Rules. Study, study and study the rules. If you have questions ask your League President, Player Agent, Division Director, or a PONY Field Director PRIOR to stepping onto the field. Rules will NOT be answered during your game. Manager needs to have rules with him/her at all tournament games. Suggestion: All coaching staff members get a copy of the rules and study them!

- Supplement Rules (Foal, Shetland, Pinto Machine, Pinto Player)
- PONY Baseball Rule Book (Blue Pages)
- PONY Baseball Rule (White Pages)
- Official MLB Baseball Rules
- NO CIF or Local League Rules!
- Know your pitching, batting & substitution rules thoroughly **BEFORE** you start tournament play.

### **MANAGER & COACHING STAFF**

- Responsible to know the rules & control team & fans!
- Be a good example to your team & don't get ejected!
- Only coaches on the Affidavit are allowed on the playing field, in the dugout or bullpen.
- Coaching staff is not allowed to leave the dugout area during the game, i.e., visit with the fans, watch the game from behind the backstop, go to the snack bar, etc.
- Managers and coaches ejected from the game must leave the Ball Park.

### **BASIC GAME RULES**

- No mandatory playing of all players.
- No abusive behavior, words, or gestures, towards your team, the opposing team, coaching staff, tournament host, PONY Field Directors and Umpires. No foul language.
- No buckets allowed on the field; or sitting on buckets in the dugout, field, or bullpen.
- No cell phones, or any other communication devices, can be used on the field, in the dugout or bullpen.
- Only one electronic scorekeeping is allowed in the dugout on a tablet or laptop.
- No parents / fans or scorekeepers are allowed in the dugout.
- No Noisemakers (music, air horns, clappers, etc.) **NO WALK-UP SONGS/MUSIC!!!**
- No Go-Pro, or cell phone cameras or any other recording devices are allowed to be attached or placed anywhere behind home plate. They can be placed or attached on the base line fence, provided by do not obstruct or disrupt any spectator's view.
- No Smoking, No Vaping, No E-Cigarettes, or any form of tobacco allowed in any of our Parks.
- No alcohol permitted.
- No bat boys / girls /mascots.



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**TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE:** The Manager is responsible for reviewing the tournament schedule. The schedule is subject to change at any time deemed necessary by PONY. Easiest way to see the schedule is [west.pony.org](http://west.pony.org). We are Southeast Region. Bookmark this webpage for easy access.

**UNIFORMS FOR COACHING STAFF & PLAYERS:** Must be in uniform with a PONY patch on the right sleeve. Coaches must wear a shirt and baseball pants. The coaching staff uniform does not have to match the players but must have a PONY patch on the right sleeve. If wearing a sleeveless jersey, the PONY patch may be on the right chest of uniform. Pony patch may NOT be sublimated onto the uniform. Shirts tucked in. Hats facing forward.

**HYDRATION COORDINATOR:** Will not be used this season. It is the responsibility of the dugout coach to ensure that everyone stays hydrated.

### **ILLEGAL PLAYERS:**

- Not of proper age.
- Not legally a member of the League they are playing for.
- Has not participated in one-half of their team's games in the league division represented.
- Registered in more than one PONY League.
- Penalty is removal of the Player and Manager from the game and from the Affidavit and neither can be replaced.

**AMERICAN DISABILITY ACT (ADA):** If you have a player that we will need to provide accommodations for please let us know immediately. Also, ensure that the PONY Field Director is aware of the required accommodations.

**REPLACEMENT OF PLAYERS:** Once the Affidavit has been presented to the Tournament Director on the team's first tournament game, no change or addition shall be made, except illness or injury. Per PONY Rule, T-6 (page 32).

**REPLACEMENT MANAGER/COACH:** Can be replaced once. They cannot return. If they have been redlined, they may not be replaced. T-16 (page 36)

**SCOREKEEPERS:** "Team Scorekeepers", if not officially part of the team and listed on the Affidavit, must sit in the stands as spectator (not dugout), and may NOT talk to the Umpire or Official Scorekeeper. "Official Scorekeepers" may not talk to coaches from either team. All contact, for scores, pitch count, outs, player changes, etc. will be conducted through the Plate Umpire only.

**PARENTS:** Will not be allowed on playing field, around the dugout or bullpen at any time. (Parents / fans will be invited, by PONY Director, onto the field, at the conclusion of the Championship game for the Award Presentation).

### **EQUIPMENT RULES:** Pony Rule Book 8-E & F (page 18)

- Approved Batting Helmets Only. No decals other than the player's name, number, team name or logo. Use of properly fastened protective face masks, jaw guards and chin straps on protective headgear is recommended. Altering protective headgear is prohibited.
- The catcher must have a mask, approved helmet that covers the top of head and both ears (no skullcaps), and cup.
- Players coaching bases must wear batting helmet.
- Keep all players and equipment in dugouts at all times.



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**LINE-UPS:** Do NOT separate line card prior to the home plate meeting!

- Managers are responsible for providing the Umpire with a 4-part lineup sheet at the plate meeting.
- Line-Ups / 4 copies: One for Umpire, Official Scorekeeper, opposing team and you.
- Must list players last name, first initial, number and starting position. Substitution players must be listed as subs.
- Line-up changes made through Umpire ONLY. Make changes by number not name.

**COIN TOSS:** In the Southeast Region most tournaments will be Pool Play. The Home team and Visitor Team are listed on the schedule, and no coin toss is necessary, until the Championship Game. In games subject to a coin toss, it will be held 1 hour prior to the scheduled game time at the Director's table. If a team is still playing in the proceeding game, it will be held as soon as practical after proceeding game is concluded. If you are late for the coin toss, the manager present will win the coin toss by forfeit.

**HOME TEAM:** Third base side – no exceptions.

**PRE-GAME ACTIVITIES:** No infield practice. Umpire / Coaches / Director meeting at home plate 10 minutes before the official start time.

**RE-ENTRY RULE / SUBSTITUTION RULE: \*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\*** Be sure your Coaching Staff understands this! Pinto Player and older: Any player in the starting lineup who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game one time. (This rule applies to STARTERS ONLY!). See PONY Rule Book Section 9-L (page 20)

**THROWING OF EQUIPMENT:** Players who intentionally, in the judgement of the umpire, throw bats or helmets, or discard the helmet while batting or running the bases, shall be ejected from the game following completion of any play in progress at the time the violation occurs. Such action does not constitute an automatic out and such players shall be replaced as batter or base runners, if appropriate. Pony Rule Book 18 E-4 (page 28).

**SLIDE OR AVOID:** PONY does NOT have a slide / avoid contact rule. Players coming into a base in a manner to inflict harm will be ejected from the game. The umpire will make the appropriate call at the base. There is no automatic out for contact. How malicious a hit is, and how the player acts upon ejection will decide when and if they return.

**DECISIONS COMMITTEE:** Will be PONY Tournament Director or all PONY Field Directors present. All decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

**PROTESTS:** Go to plate Umpire, who will summon the Pony Director for committee decision. Do NOT leave the field or send a "team representative/parent" to summon a director. Do NOT protest judgment calls, only rule interpretations. Designate to Home Umpire, who will be the team spokesperson, before the start of the game (one per team – person who meets during Pre-Game Meeting at Home Plate). Protests must be made to Home Umpire, "at the time of the questioned rule interpretation". The Manager has five minutes to show the umpire the rule in question. If you wait until the game is over, the protest will not be heard.

**APPEALS:** You are NOT allowed to protest or argue an Umpire's "judgment call" i.e., balls/strikes, out/safe, etc. However, there are times when it appears the umpire got the wrong call for a specific reason, i.e., ump "blocked out" of view by a player, etc. The designated person may appeal to umpire who



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made the call. If the umpire thinks your point may be valid, it will be discussed with the other umpire, on the field, to determine if they saw something different. The umpire may then change his ruling or stay with the original call, at which point there will be no more discussion.

### **GAME LENGTH:**

Foal: 3 innings in District, Section Region tournaments. 4 innings in all other tournaments.

Shetland: 5 innings in District, Section, Region tournaments. 6 innings in all other tournaments.

Pinto Machine Pitch: 6 innings.

Pinto Player Pitch: 5 innings in District, Section, Region tournaments. 6 innings in all other tournaments.

Mustang: 5 innings in District, Section, Region tournaments. 6 innings in all other tournaments.

Bronco & Pony: 6 innings in District, Section, Region tournaments. 7 innings in all other tournaments.

Pool play (seeding) games can end in a tie.

**MERCY RULE:** In effect – per PONY Rules 11-G (page 24)

**THRESHHOLD:** NOT required to say. It is a courtesy to your scorekeeper.

### **PITCHING RULES (PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY)**

USING PITCH COUNT\*\*\* (PONY Rule Book T-8, Tournament Pitching, page 33)

Daily Max Pitches based on league age, not players actual age. League age 6 may NOT pitch.

Required Rest from pitching = CALDENDAR DAYS!

*Note: The pitcher will only be required to observe the calendar day(s) of rest for the threshold he/she reached during the start of that at-bat, provided that the pitcher is removed before delivering a pitch to the next batter.*

Example: Pitcher is at 34 pitches at the start of the at-bat. The pitcher throws 4 pitches to the current batter and is removed before delivering a pitch to the next batter. His/her required rest would be 1 day.

Example: Pitcher throws 56 pitches on Thursday. This requires 3 days' rest. Pitcher is not eligible to pitch on Friday or Saturday, Sunday.

Example: Pitcher throws 20 pitches in the first game on Saturday. Pitches again on Saturday for another 20 pitches. Total for the day equals 40 pitches. That requires a 2-day rest. Pitcher is not eligible to pitch on Sunday or Monday.

### **INELIGIBLE PITCHER:**

Ineligible to pitch in a particular game or games because of limitations set forth in PONY Tournament Pitching Rules. Player shall not be considered in violation of the rules until at least one pitch has been thrown to the batter after the point of the violation. Do not wait until the end of the game because nothing will be done at that time. Penalty is removal of the player from the lineup and the removal of the manager from the game. Both the player and the manager are ineligible to play in the team's next scheduled game. (PONY Rule T16-E, PAGE 37)

**PITCHING RECORDS:** Pitching Records may be reviewed by opposing coaching staff only (no parents). This must be done **BEFORE** game time! After each game confirm with the Field Director your team's pitching record.



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**TRIPS TO THE MOUND:** If a Manager or Coach goes onto the playing field to talk to ANY player or players more than once in a half inning (twice in Pinto), while the same player is pitching, a pitching change shall be made. The only exceptions to this rule shall be in case of injury, or if time is called by opposing team or by the umpire. (Pony Rule Book – Section 16-D, page 26)

**TIME OUTS:** One offensive time out, per inning to talk to batter. No restriction on runners. (Pony Rule Book – Section 16-E, page 26)

**MANDATORY ALL-STAR MANAGER MEETING:** Any Manager absent from this meeting will be suspended for their 1<sup>st</sup> game. This includes any manager who fails to check in with the Tournament Director, prior to their first game of each tournament. A coach or business manager on a team's affidavit may attend in place of the manager.

***WE DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING WITH OUR PARENTS / FANS PRIOR TO ARRIVING AT THE FIRST GAME. WE UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE ACCOUTABLE FOR OUR PLAYERS, PARENTS, AND INVITED GUESTS.***

*Not all players will play all games. This is not League play...this is All-Stars.*

\$350 Team Gate Fee **REQUIRED** at all tournaments (District, Section, Region). It may be different above Region tournaments. *To be paid to the Host League prior to your first game (cash or check only).* **WE TAKE THIS VERY SERIOUSLY & YOU SHOULD TOO!!!** *It costs our hosts lots of time and money to be a host, i.e., fields, lights, balls, field equipment, field crew, umpires, scorekeepers, volunteers, etc. and team gate fees assist them in recovering their expenses.*

**NO COOLERS IN THE PARK:** Except for two team coolers. One with the team's drinks & one additional team cooler allowed with towels for players and coaching staff only. The coolers must remain with a member of the coaching staff (on the affidavit). During the game the coolers must be in the dugout. No fans are allowed to get anything from the team coolers. Fans who bring a cooler into the Park may be asked to leave with their cooler.

**NO OUTSIDE FOOD & DRINKS (support the Host League's snack bar)**

**NO LOUD CUPS!**

**NO ANIMALS ALLOWED, EXCEPT OFFICIAL SERVICE ANIMALS**

**NO ARTIFICIAL NOISEMAKERS (MUSIC, AIR HORNS, CLAPPERS, BELLS, ETC)**

**NO SMOKING – NO VAPING – NO E-CIGARETTES – NO ALCOHOL**

**NO ABUSIVE BEHAVIOR, WORDS, OR GESTURES**

**RESPECT:** Cheer for your team. Do not talk trash about your team, the opposing team, coaching staff, tournament host, PONY Field Directors and Umpires. The Manager is responsible for the team AND fans behavior. This is not taken lightly – we take this matter profoundly serious! Manager and / or coaching staff may be suspended for the behavior of the coaching staff, fans, or players:

**UMPIRES (they are human too):**

- Expect bad calls & calls you don't agree with.
- Discuss with your players and parents that calls you disagree with are a part of the game.
- Discuss what behavior won't be tolerated (no abusive behavior, words, or gestures).

