

Pioneer Youth Baseball & Softball Association



2020

Local Rules of Play

6225 Windy Ryon Way
Fort Worth, Texas 76179

Mail:
P.O. Box 79285
Saginaw, Texas 76179

www.pybsa.org



2020 PYBSA RULE CHANGES

Section VI, BASEBALL – GAME RULES AND REGULATIONS: D Mustang League, Rule 11:

Fall Season Only - Runners at first and second bases may lead off and steal bases, as in Official Baseball Rules, but runners at third base shall remain in contact with the base from the time the pitcher steps on the rubber with possession of the ball until the pitched ball has been hit or has reached or passed the batter. Once the pitcher has stepped on the rubber, in possession of the ball, runners at third base who leave base before the pitched ball reaches or passes the batter shall be called out and the pitch shall be considered a dead ball. See PONY Rule 9 (N)(2)



Table of Contents

2020 PYBSA RULE CHANGES	i
I. RULES:.....	1
A. Baseball	1
B. Softball	1
C. Player Age	1
II. GAMES:	1
III. COACH, PLAYER AND TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES:	2
IV. EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS:	3
V. FIELD MAINTENANCE AND ETTIQUETTE:	3
VI. BASEBALL - GAME RULES AND REGULATIONS:.....	4
A. Blastball League	4
B. Shetland League	5
C. Pinto League.....	7
D. Mustang League	8
E. Bronco League.....	9
F. Pony League	11
G. Champions League	12
VII. PLAYER DRAFT:.....	12
A. Blastball League:	12
B. Shetland, Pinto, Mustang, Bronco and Pony Leagues:	13
C. Fall Season Draft Procedures:	15
VIII. CONDUCT AND SPORTSMANSHIP:	15
IX. LEAGUE CHAMPIONS:	16
X. ALL STAR TOURNAMENT TEAMS:	16
XI. DISCLAIMER FOR UNMENTIONED ITEMS:	18
NOTES:.....	18



I. RULES:

A. Baseball

The "Official Baseball Rules", completely revised, as released through the Commissioner of Baseball, with exceptions and modifications contained in current year PONY Baseball/Softball Rules and PYBSA Local Rules of Play shall be the official rules governing PYBSA league play. The PYBSA Board of Directors reserves the right to amend, add, or delete any rules that will foster growth and improve league competition. All Star Tournament Team play shall be governed strictly by PONY Rules and Regulations.

B. Softball

Current year PONY Softball Rules and Regulations and Local Interlock Rules and Regulations shall be the official rules governing PYBSA league play. The PYBSA Board of Directors reserves the right to amend, add, or delete any rules that will foster growth and improve league competition. PONY Softball Rules and Regulations shall govern All Star Tournament Team play.

C. Player Age

All players shall be assigned to their respective leagues in accordance with current PONY Baseball/Softball Rules and Regulations. NO EXCEPTIONS.

II. GAMES:

- a) All games will be scheduled, and/or rescheduled, as necessary by the PYBSA Baseball and Softball Administrative Directors.
- b) In the event of current or impending inclement weather, each team is responsible for having one representative check the PYBSA website at www.pybsa.org for the latest information regarding the condition of the playing fields. The team representative, normally the Head Coach or Team Mom, is responsible for notifying the rest of their team. Information will normally be available after 4:00 p.m.
- c) Any game stopped due to weather, or for any other reason, before it is an official game will be suspended and the game shall resume from the point of play when the game was stopped. An Official PYBSA Game is 3 complete innings or 2 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead at any time during their turn at bat in the bottom half of the third inning. Exception: If less than one (1) full inning was completed, the game will start over. If the game completed at least 2 1/2 innings and the home team was ahead, the game is considered complete. PYBSA is solely responsible for determining when, or if, a game shall be suspended.
- d) The Head Coach is responsible for contacting his/her Baseball/Softball Admin Director regarding all make-up games. Games will be played at specified times and will be made up as soon as possible at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Each team must play as scheduled or they shall forfeit the game. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- e) Due to the limited number of playing fields, PYBSA may, at times, schedule double headers to allow proper field use. However, double headers shall be the exception, not the rule, and shall be scheduled only when absolutely necessary.



III. COACH, PLAYER AND TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES:

- a) Coaches must field at least 8 players within 15 minutes of the scheduled starting time of the game or the game shall be forfeited. Teams fielding 8 players will be charged 1 (one) out for the missing 9th player. Teams approved to play with 10 players (Shetland and Pinto only) will not be charged an out for playing with 9 players.
- b) Coaches shall remain in the dugouts, on the benches, or in prescribed areas throughout the game. Specifically, all defensive coaches, except those as noted in Shetland League Rules, shall remain inside the dugout unless required to talk to an umpire or tend to an injured player.
- c) The Head Coach from both the visiting team and the home team of the first scheduled game of the day/night is responsible for ensuring the field is properly chalked and bases are securely placed.
- d) Before each scheduled game, the Head Coach from both the visiting team and the home team is responsible for ensuring the field has been properly raked and all sliding paths, batter boxes, pitching mounds, etc. are leveled.
- e) Coaches are responsible for controlling conduct and horseplay in the dugout. Players are not allowed to climb on the fences or swing on the gates at any time.
- f) Coaches are directly responsible for the collection and distribution of team uniforms. They will also be called upon to guide their team during PYBSA sponsored fund-raising activities.
- g) Coaches who are also umpires may not umpire in the same league in which they coach.
- h) Home team shall provide the official scorekeeper. In Mustang leagues and up, the official scorekeeper shall record the official start time, name and number of each player, pitchers and the number of innings pitched. Note: One ball thrown counts as an inning pitched. There is no scorekeeper in Blastball.
- i) Visiting team shall be the scoreboard operator. In the event that a visiting team is from another association, the home team shall be the scoreboard operator. Photo identification is required to check out the scoreboard operator. Scoreboard operators are located at the nearest concession stand.
- j) The Head Coach or a team representative from each team shall approve the official score/pitching card at the completion of each schedule game. Failure to approve the official score/pitching card will result in the game being marked as a forfeit by both teams.
- k) The Head Coach will be held responsible for the distribution and collection of all PYBSA fundraiser product and monies. Team trophies/medallions will not be distributed to team that does not have 100% of their fund raising monies accounted for by the Special Projects Director.**
- l) Teams shall not be allowed to conduct more than four (4) events in a calendar week. Events shall be defined as all team functions including games, practices, outings, etc.
- m) Players shall be required to attend a minimum of one (1) team event prior to each game day. Failure to meet this requirement will void the “player sit out rule” and will result in the discretion of the Head Coach as to the amount of player’s participation in the upcoming game.
- n) Teams are not allowed to add any fill in players during **spring** season play unless approved by the Player Agent and added to the team’s official roster. Teams who violate this rule will result in the expulsion of the Head Coach for the remainder of the season on the first offence.
- o) In the event a team is short on players for **fall** season play, a Head Coach can decide to use Fill-in players to avoid forfeiting a game or to avoid an automatic out for a missing 9th player.



- Fill-in players shall be registered PYBSA members (a player from another PYBSA team) within the same age group or league. (older or younger)
- Fill-in players shall be positioned last on the game roster.
- Fill-in players shall play outfield only positions.
- The opposing team's coach and game officials must be notified of the use of Fill-in players.
- Fill-in players must be suited in a numbered uniform.

IV. EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS:

- a) The Equipment Director shall issue all PYBSA owned equipment. Each coach will sign for his/her equipment bag. Coaches are responsible for maintaining equipment until the end of the season at which time it will be returned to the Equipment Director. If all equipment is not turned in, the coach will be held financially responsible for replacement cost of missing items. Additionally, teams will not receive end of year trophies until the equipment is turned in and accounted for by the Equipment Director.
- b) Molded rubber cleats are permitted. Tennis shoes or sneakers may also be worn, but boots and/or athletic sandals are prohibited. Steel cleats are strictly prohibited, except in Bronco and Pony Leagues. **Steel cleats are strictly prohibited on all synthetic pitching mounds.** All players must wear approved shoes as stated above when on the field.
- c) Each team is responsible for providing their own practice balls. Blastball League and Shetland League coaches shall ensure approved Reduced Impact Force #5 (RIF) baseballs are used.
- d) Each team is responsible for obtaining a practice site. Unless specifically approved by the Board of Directors, no team shall use PYBSA fields for team practice. Requests to use PYBSA fields for team practice shall be submitted to the Baseball/Softball Admin Director for scheduling. Approval for occasional use may be granted on a case-by-case basis. Approval for routine use shall not be given unless all teams have equal opportunity and access to PYBSA fields for team practice.
- e) PYBSA will provide each player with a uniform shirt, hat, and socks (Spring Season), or a uniform shirt and hat (Fall Season) for Pinto and older leagues. Blastball age players will be provided a uniform shirt and hat. (Spring and Fall Seasons) League issued uniforms will consist of a PYBSA approved logo on the front and a player number on the back. Player's names may be put on the back of the uniform but all coordination and costs associated shall be the sole responsibility of the team. Coordination of uniform modifications must be done directly with the PYBSA uniform vender. Credits or otherwise will not be issued for the PYBSA issued uniform. **Teams are NOT allowed to put sponsorship logos on league issued or self-provided uniforms.**
- f) Coaches shall not authorize or consent to any extra costs associated with uniforms, team events, etc. without a unanimous approval from the team's parents/guardians.

V. FIELD MAINTENANCE AND ETTIQUETTE:

- a) The Head Coach from both the visiting team and the home team of the first scheduled game of the day/night is responsible for ensuring the field is properly chalked and bases are securely placed.
- b) All coaches will be required to attend a minimum of two (2) pre-season workdays for their assigned league field and shall maintain their assigned field/area as directed by the appropriate Field Director. Minimum duties include: mowing the grass, weed-eating fence and bleacher areas, picking up trash around the field, and emptying trash cans. Field Directors will create and publish a schedule prior to the first game of the season and will ensure equal distribution among all teams. Failure to attend pre-season work days or refusal



Pioneer Youth Baseball & Softball Association

Local Rules of Play – 2020

of regular season field maintenance assignments will result in the suspension of the head coach for at least 1 game per infraction. The head coach may solicit a team representative to fulfill this requirement for their team.

- c) Each team is responsible for leaving the dugout and bleacher areas clean and ready for the next team.
- d) Only players and coaches are allowed in the dugout during game play. Exception: Team Moms are allowed in Blastball and Shetland League when requested by the Head Coach.
- e) Each parent or legal guardian listed on the PYBSA player registration form is required to periodically work a four (4) hour shift in the PYBSA concession stand during the course of the season. The Concessions Director will create and publish a schedule prior to the first game of the season and will ensure equal distribution among all teams. Teams that fail to adequately staff assigned shift(s) will result in the team forfeiting their next scheduled game.

VI. BASEBALL - GAME RULES AND REGULATIONS:

A. Blastball League

- 1) The rules of Major League Baseball (MLB) and Protect Our Nation's Youth (PONY) Baseball will govern play with the following exceptions/clarifications.
- 2) The age for this league shall be 3 & 4 years of age as of April 30th of the current year for the spring season and April 30th of the succeeding year for the fall season.
- 3) No Official Umpires will be used. The Head Coaches from each team shall maintain fair and safe gameplay.
- 4) All players present shall be used defensively. One extra in-field player shall be positioned between first and second base; the other players shall be positioned in the outfield. The Pitcher and Catcher positions must be filled unless the team fields less than 9 players during the game.
- 5) All players will bat each inning. There will be unlimited outs per inning. An inning is considered complete when all players have batted once.
- 6) Free substitution will be allowed.
- 7) Players may not play the same defensive position more than one inning per game.
- 8) Games shall be played a minimum of three (3) inning or sixty (60) minutes.
- 9) Blastball League shall use a batting tee.
- 10) The home team of each game is responsible for providing the batting tee.
- 11) Each player is allowed six swings per at bat. The batter shall be declared out on foul ball or foul tip if it occurs on the sixth swing.
- 12) Reduced Impact Force (RIF) #5 baseballs shall be used.
- 13) No official scorebook will be kept nor will standings be kept.
- 14) Runners may not advance on an overthrow.
- 15) Time will be called when a ball hit to the outfield is returned to the infield and hits the infield ground or is in possession of an infielder.



- 16) Molded rubber cleats are permitted. Tennis shoes or sneakers may also be worn, but boots and/or athletic sandals are prohibited. Steel cleats are strictly prohibited. All players must wear approved shoes as stated above when on the field.
- 17) A chalk ring, 10 feet in diameter, shall be marked around the pitcher's mound. A ball fielded by the pitcher within the ring must be thrown to another player to make the play. If the base is unattended by a defensive player, the pitcher may NOT attempt to beat the runner to the base to record the out. The intent of this rule is to encourage team play rather than simply allowing individual players to record outs.
- 18) A 10-foot chalk arc shall be marked in front of home plate, from the first to the third base foul line, and any baseball that does not travel beyond that line shall be considered a foul-strike. If it is the sixth swing, the batter shall be called/ruled out.
- 19) Teams may have two (2) coaches located behind in the outfield and two (2) coaches located outside the infield diamond while playing defense.
- 20) Base coaches may be located at any base. After a player hits a fair ball, a coach at home plate shall move the tee and bat, as necessary, to clear the plate area in order to prevent obstruction/interference during the resulting play.

B. Shetland League

- 1) The rules of Major League Baseball (MLB) and Protect Our Nation's Youth (PONY) Baseball will govern play with the following exceptions/clarifications.
- 2) Coaches must field at least eight (8) players within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled starting time of the game or the game shall be forfeited. Teams fielding eight (8) players will be charged one (1) out for the missing 9th player.
- 3) Ten (10) players shall be used defensively; the 10th player shall be positioned in the outfield. The Pitcher and Catcher positions must be filled unless the team fields less than 9 players during the game. Teams will not be charged an out for playing with nine (9) players.
- 4) No player shall sit out more than one consecutive defensive inning. Exception: Section III. Coach, Player and Team Responsibilities: Rule N.
- 5) Free substitution is allowed.
- 6) The entire roster of players present for the game shall bat in rotation.
- 7) No player may play more than two consecutive innings in the same position in one game.
- 8) Games shall be limited to 6 innings or 60 minutes. A new inning shall NOT be started with five (5) minutes or less remaining in regulation time. Once an inning is started it will be completed even if time expires assuming no team is trailing by more than the maximum number of runs that can be scored in 1 inning. During regulation time, if the game is tied or the home team is behind by five (5) runs or less and has not batted in the inning when time expires, the home team shall be allowed to complete their at bat in that inning. If the game is still tied or becomes tied after the completion of that inning, up to one (1) innings may be played using the "Tie-Breaker" rule.
- 9) The Tie-Breaker will begin with the last batter out of the previous inning becoming a base runner at 2nd base. Each batter will enter the count with a 3 balls and 2 strike count. If the batter fails to put the ball in play on a called strike, the batter is out. **Continuous foul balls are allowed.** Each side will get 3 outs. At the completion of the inning and a team has broken the tie, the leading team shall be declared the winner and the game declared complete. If the game is still tied, the game shall be deemed complete and recorded as a tie.



- 10) Any game stopped due to weather, or for any other reason, before it is an official game will be suspended and the game shall resume from the point of play when the game was stopped. An Official PYBSA Game is 3 complete innings or 2 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead at any time during their turn at bat in the bottom half of the third inning. Exception: If less than one (1) full inning was completed, the game will start over. If the game completed at least 2 1/2 innings and the home team was ahead, the game is considered complete.
- 11) Shetland League shall use a batting tee. The batting tee may be positioned to the discretion of the coach but must remain in contact with the home plate.
- 12) The home team of each game is responsible for providing the batting tee.
- 13) Each player is allowed six swings per at bat. The batter shall be declared out on foul ball or foul tip if it occurs on the sixth swing.
- 14) Pitcher must motion the pitch before the batter is allowed to swing.
- 15) Reduced Impact Force (RIF) #5 baseballs shall be used.
- 16) There is a limit of five (5) runs per inning.
- 17) On a thrown defensive play resulting in error, the runner(s) may reach a maximum of one base per error, with liability to be put out.
- 18) Runners accidentally hit by a batted baseball after the ball has touched or passed an infielder shall not be called/ruled out.
- 19) Time shall be called when in the umpires judgment an **infielder** (not an outfielder) has the ball secured in his possession AND all play on the runner or runners has ceased.
- 20) Molded rubber cleats are permitted. Tennis shoes or sneakers may also be worn, but boots and/or athletic sandals are prohibited. Steel cleats are strictly prohibited. All players must wear approved shoes as stated above when on the field.
- 21) Any player who unintentionally throws the bat will receive a warning and a team warning on the first offense. On the team's second or subsequent offence(s), any player who unintentionally throws the bat will be called out. A player who unintentionally throws the bat twice will be removed from the offensive lineup. Intentional bat or equipment throwing is cause for ejection on the first occasion.
- 22) A chalk ring, 10 feet in diameter, shall be marked around the pitcher's mound. A ball fielded by the pitcher within the ring must be thrown to another player to make the play. If the base is unattended by a defensive player, the pitcher may NOT attempt to beat the runner to the base to record the out. The intent of this rule is to encourage team play rather than simply allowing individual players to record outs.
- 23) A 10-foot chalk arc shall be marked in front of home plate, from the first to the third base foul line, and any baseball that does not travel beyond that line shall be considered a foul-strike. If it is the sixth swing, the batter shall be called/ruled out.
- 24) A chalk line 10 feet in front of first and third base shall be drawn perpendicular to the foul line. Except for the pitcher and catcher, no player can be closer than 40 feet from the home plate until the ball is hit.
- 25) Teams may have two coaches located behind the outfield players while playing defense.
- 26) Base coaches may be located at first base, third base, and home plate only while at bat. After a player hits a fair ball, the coach at home plate shall move the tee and bat, as necessary, to clear the plate area in order to prevent obstruction/interference during the resulting play.



C. Pinto League

- 1) The rules of Major League Baseball (MLB) and Protect Our Nation's Youth (PONY) Baseball will govern play with the following exceptions/clarifications.
- 2) Coaches must field at least eight (8) players within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled starting time of the game or the game shall be forfeited. Teams fielding eight (8) players will be charged one (1) out for the missing 9th player.
- 3) Ten (10) players shall be used defensively; the 10th player shall be positioned in the outfield. The Pitcher and Catcher positions must be filled. Teams will not be charged an out for playing with nine (9) players.
- 4) No player shall sit out more than one consecutive defensive inning. Exception: Section III. Coach, Player and Team Responsibilities: Rule N.
- 5) Free substitution is allowed.
- 6) The entire roster of players present for the game shall bat in rotation.
- 7) Games shall be limited to 6 innings or one hour and fifteen minutes. A new innings shall NOT be started with five (5) minutes or less remaining in regulation time. Once an inning is started it will be completed even if time expires assuming no team is trailing by more than the maximum number of runs that can be scored in 1 inning. During regulation play, if the game is tied or the home team is behind by five (5) runs or less and has not batted in the inning when time expires, the home team shall be allowed to complete their at bat in that inning. If the game is still tied or becomes tied after the completion of that inning, up to one (1) innings may be played using the "Tie-Breaker" rule.
- 8) The Tie-Breaker will begin with the last batter out of the previous inning becoming a base runner at 2nd base. Each batter will enter the count with a 3 balls and 2 strike count. If the batter fails to put the ball in play on a called strike, the batter is out. **Continuous foul balls are allowed.** Each side will get 3 outs. At the completion of the inning and a team has broken the tie, the leading team shall be declared the winner and the game declared complete. If the game is still tied, the game shall be deemed complete and recorded as a tie.
- 9) Any game stopped due to weather, or for any other reason, before it is an official game will be suspended and the game shall resume from the point of play when the game was stopped. An Official PYBSA Game is 3 complete innings or 2 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead at any time during their turn at bat in the bottom half of the third inning. Exception: If less than one (1) full inning was completed, the game will start over. If the game completed at least 2 1/2 innings and the home team was ahead, the game is considered complete.
- 10) There is a limit of five (5) runs per inning.
- 11) Time shall be called when in the umpires judgment an infielder has the ball in his possession AND all play on the runner or runners has ceased.
- 12) A batter shall be declared out after failing to hit a fair ball after six pitches are delivered by the coach-pitcher. The batter is out if there are three strikes before the sixth pitch. Missed swings are counted as strikes. Foul balls and foul tips on the sixth pitch shall result in a continuous at bat until the batter misses or puts the ball in fair play.
- 13) Catchers shall squat in a defensive ready position in an attempt to field the ball.



- 14) Any player who unintentionally throws the bat will receive a warning and a team warning on the first offense. On the team's second or subsequent offence(s), any player who unintentionally throws the bat will be called out. A player who unintentionally throws the bat twice will be removed from the offensive lineup. Intentional bat or equipment throwing is cause for ejection on the first occasion.
- 15) Molded rubber cleats are permitted. Tennis shoes or sneakers may also be worn, but boots and/or athletic sandals are prohibited. Steel cleats are strictly prohibited. All players must wear approved shoes as stated above when on the field.
- 16) Players cannot lead off or steal bases.
- 17) A chalk ring, 10 feet in diameter, shall be marked around the pitcher's mound. A ball fielded by the pitcher within the ring must be thrown to another player to make the play. If the base is unattended by a defensive player, the pitcher may NOT attempt to beat the runner to the base to record the out. The intent of this rule is to encourage team play rather than simply allowing individual players to record outs.
- 18) The Coach-Pitcher shall move off the field of play in an opposite direction of the ball immediately after the batter hits the ball. Base coaches shall likewise immediately move out of the way to enable defensive players every opportunity to make a play.
- 19) Run Rule applies.

NOTE: The Run Rule states, "If a team is leading an opponent by at least 12 runs after 3 three (3) complete innings or 10 runs after four (4) complete innings or 8 runs after five (5) or more complete innings, the game shall be terminated and the team in the lead shall be declared the winner."

D. Mustang League

- 1) The rules of Major League Baseball (MLB) and Protect Our Nation's Youth (PONY) Baseball will govern play with the following exceptions/clarifications.
- 2) Coaches must field at least eight (8) players within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled starting time of the game or the game shall be forfeited. Teams fielding eight (8) players will be charged one (1) out for the missing 9th player.
- 3) No player shall sit out more than one consecutive defensive inning. Exception: Section III. Coach, Player and Team Responsibilities: Rule N.
- 4) Free substitution is allowed.
- 5) The entire roster of players present for the game shall bat in rotation.
- 6) Games shall be limited to 6 innings or one hour and thirty minutes. A new innings shall NOT be started with five (5) minutes or less remaining in regulation time. Once an inning is started it will be completed even if time expires assuming no team is trailing by more than the maximum number of runs that can be scored in 1 inning. During regulation play, if the game is tied or the home team is behind by five (5) runs or less and has not batted in the inning when time expires, the home team shall be allowed to complete their at bat in that inning. If the game is still tied or becomes tied after the completion of that inning, up to one (1) innings may be played using the "Tie-Breaker" rule.
- 7) The Tie-Breaker will begin with the last batter out of the previous inning becoming a base runner at 2nd base. Each batter will enter the count with a 3 balls and 2 strike count. If the batter fails to put the ball in play on a called strike, the batter is out. **Continuous foul balls are allowed.** Each side will get 3 outs. At the completion of the inning and a team has broken the tie, the leading team shall be declared the winner and the game declared complete. If the game is still tied, the game shall be deemed complete and recorded as a tie.



- 8) Any game stopped due to weather, or for any other reason, before it is an official game will be suspended and the game shall resume from the point of play when the game was stopped. An Official PYBSA Game is 3 complete innings or 2 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead at any time during their turn at bat in the bottom half of the third inning. Exception: If less than one (1) full inning was completed, the game will start over. If the game completed at least 2 1/2 innings and the home team was ahead, the game is considered complete.
- 9) There is a limit of five (5) runs per inning.
- 10) Fall Season Only - Runners at first and second bases may lead off and steal bases, as in Official Baseball Rules, but runners at third base shall remain in contact with the base from the time the pitcher steps on the rubber with possession of the ball until the pitched ball has been hit or has reached or passed the batter. Once the pitcher has stepped on the rubber, in possession of the ball, runners at third base who leave base before the pitched ball reaches or passes the batter shall be called out and the pitch shall be considered a dead ball. See PONY Rule 9 (N)(2)
- 11) Any player who unintentionally throws the bat will receive a warning and a team warning on the first offense. On the team's second or subsequent offence(s), any player who unintentionally throws the bat will be called out. A player who unintentionally throws the bat twice will be removed from the offensive lineup. Intentional bat or equipment throwing is cause for ejection on the first occasion.
- 12) Molded rubber cleats are permitted. Tennis shoes or sneakers may also be worn, but boots and/or athletic sandals are prohibited. Steel cleats are strictly prohibited. All players must wear approved shoes as stated above when on the field.
- 13) Mustang shall use the player pitch option.
- 14) In baseball, all PONY rules regarding total innings pitched per day/week and mandatory rest periods shall be followed verbatim. Any coach in violation of the pitching rules will be subject to any and all penalties set forth under Rule 18D in the PONY rule book. The Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis shall determine enforcement of PONY Rule 18D penalty upon the offending player.
- 15) Run Rule applies.
NOTE: The Run Rule states, "If a team is leading an opponent by at least 12 runs after 3 three (3) complete innings or 10 runs after four (4) complete innings or 8 runs after five (5) or more complete innings, the game shall be terminated and the team in the lead shall be declared the winner."
- 16) With two outs a Courtesy Runner for the catcher or Pitcher of record is recommended to speed up play. The Courtesy Runner shall be the player that made the last batted out. If the last batted out is the Pitcher or Catcher the last batted out shall be used. If the team batting has not played defense yet and a courtesy runner is used for the Catcher or Pitcher that player must assume the position as announced for when taking defense.

E. Bronco League

- 1) The rules of Major League Baseball (MLB) and Protect Our Nation's Youth (PONY) Baseball will govern play with the following exceptions/clarifications.
- 2) Coaches must field at least eight (8) players within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled starting time of the game or the game shall be forfeited. Teams fielding eight (8) players will be charged one (1) out for the missing 9th player.
- 3) No player shall sit out more than one consecutive defensive inning. Exception: Section III. Coach, Player and Team Responsibilities: Rule N.



- 4) Free substitution is allowed.
- 5) The entire roster of players present for the game shall bat in rotation.
- 6) Games shall be limited to 7 innings or one hour and forty-five minutes. A new innings shall NOT be started with five (5) minutes or less remaining in regulation time. Once an inning is started it will be completed even if time expires assuming no team is trailing by more than the maximum number of runs that can be scored in 1 inning. During regulation play, if the game is tied or the home team is behind by six (6) runs or less and has not batted in the inning when time expires, the home team shall be allowed to complete their at bat in that inning. If the game is still tied or becomes tied after the completion of that inning, up to one (1) innings may be played using the “Tie-Breaker” rule.
- 7) The Tie-Breaker will begin with the last batter out of the previous inning becoming a base runner at 2nd base. Each batter will enter the count with a 3 balls and 2 strike count. If the batter fails to put the ball in play on a called strike, the batter is out. **Continuous foul balls are allowed.** Each side will get 3 outs. At the completion of the inning and a team has broken the tie, the leading team shall be declared the winner and the game declared complete. If the game is still tied, the game shall be deemed complete and recorded as a tie.
- 8) Any game stopped due to weather, or for any other reason, before it is an official game will be suspended and the game shall resume from the point of play when the game was stopped. An Official PYBSA Game is 3 complete innings or 2 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead at any time during their turn at bat in the bottom half of the third inning. Exception: If less than one (1) full inning was completed, the game will start over. If the game completed at least 2 1/2 innings and the home team was ahead, the game is considered complete.
- 9) In baseball, all PONY rules regarding total innings pitched per day/week and mandatory rest periods shall be followed verbatim. Any coach in violation of the pitching rules will be subject to any and all penalties set forth under Rule 18D in the PONY rule book. The Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis shall determine enforcement of PONY Rule 18D penalty upon the offending player.
- 10) Any player who unintentionally throws the bat will receive a warning and a team warning on the first offense. On the team’s second or subsequent offence(s), any player who unintentionally throws the bat will be called out. A player who unintentionally throws the bat twice will be removed from the offensive lineup. Intentional bat or equipment throwing is cause for ejection on the first occasion.
- 11) In baseball, molded rubber cleats or steel cleats are permitted. In Softball, molded rubber cleats are permitted and steel cleats are strictly prohibited. Tennis shoes or sneakers may also be worn, but boots and/or athletic sandals are prohibited. All players must wear approved shoes as stated above when on the field.
- 12) There is a limit of six (6) runs per inning.
- 13) Run Rule applies.

NOTE: The Run Rule states, If a team is leading an opponent by at least 12 runs after 3 three (3) complete innings or 10 runs after four (4) complete innings or 8 runs after five (5) or more complete innings, the game shall be terminated and the team in the lead shall be declared the winner."
- 14) With two outs a Courtesy Runner for the catcher or Pitcher of record is recommended to speed up play. The Courtesy Runner shall be the player that made the last batted out. If the last batted out is the Pitcher or Catcher the last batted out shall be used. If the team batting has not played defense yet and a courtesy runner is used for the Catcher or Pitcher that player must assume the position as announced for when taking defense.



F. Pony League

- 1) The rules of Major League Baseball (MLB) and Protect Our Nation's Youth (PONY) Baseball will govern play with the following exceptions/clarifications.
- 2) Coaches must field at least 8 players within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled starting time of the game or the game shall be forfeited. Teams fielding eight (8) players will be charged one (1) out for the missing 9th player.
- 3) No player shall sit out more than one consecutive defensive inning. Exception: Section III. Coach, Player and Team Responsibilities: Rule N.
- 4) Free substitution is allowed.
- 5) The entire roster of players present for the game shall bat in rotation.
- 6) Games shall be limited to 7 innings or one hour and forty-five. A new innings shall NOT be started with five (5) minutes or less remaining in regulation time. Once an inning is started it will be completed even if time expires assuming no team is trailing by more than the maximum number of runs that can be scored in 1 inning. During regulation play, if the game is tied or the home team is behind by six (6) runs or less and has not batted in the inning when time expires, the home team shall be allowed to complete their at bat in that inning. If the game is still tied or becomes tied after the completion of that inning, up to one (1) innings may be played using the "Tie-Breaker" rule.
- 7) The Tie-Breaker will begin with the last batter out of the previous inning becoming a base runner at 2nd base. Each batter will enter the count with a 3 balls and 2 strike count. If the batter fails to put the ball in play on a called strike, the batter is out. **Continuous foul balls are allowed.** Each side will get 3 outs. At the completion of the inning and a team has broken the tie, the leading team shall be declared the winner and the game declared complete. If the game is still tied, the game shall be deemed complete and recorded as a tie.
- 8) Any game stopped due to weather, or for any other reason, before it is an official game will be suspended and the game shall resume from the point of play when the game was stopped. An Official PYBSA Game is 3 complete innings or 2 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead at any time during their turn at bat in the bottom half of the third inning. Exception: If less than one (1) full inning was completed, the game will start over. If the game completed at least 2 1/2 innings and the home team was ahead, the game is considered complete.
- 9) In baseball, all PONY rules regarding total innings pitched per day/week and mandatory rest periods shall be followed verbatim. Any coach in violation of the pitching rules will be subject to any and all penalties set forth under Rule 18D in the PONY rule book. The Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis shall determine enforcement of PONY Rule 18D penalty upon the offending player.
- 10) Any player who unintentionally throws the bat will receive a warning and a team warning on the first offense. On the team's second or subsequent offence(s), any player who unintentionally throws the bat will be called out. A player who unintentionally throws the bat twice will be removed from the offensive lineup. Intentional bat or equipment throwing is cause for ejection on the first occasion.
- 11) In baseball, molded rubber cleats or steel cleats are permitted. In Softball, molded rubber cleats are permitted and steel cleats are strictly prohibited. Tennis shoes or sneakers may also be worn, but boots and/or athletic sandals are prohibited. All players must wear approved shoes as stated above when on the field.
- 12) There is a limit of six (6) runs per inning.



13) Run Rule applies.

NOTE: The Run Rule states, If a team is leading an opponent by at least 12 runs after 3 three (3) complete innings or 10 runs after four (4) complete innings or 8 runs after five (5) or more complete innings, the game shall be terminated and the team in the lead shall be declared the winner."

14) With two outs a Courtesy Runner for the catcher or Pitcher of record is recommended to speed up play. The Courtesy Runner shall be the player that made the last batted out. If the last batted out is the Pitcher or Catcher the last batted out shall be used. If the team batting has not played defense yet and a courtesy runner is used for the Catcher or Pitcher that player must assume the position as announced for when taking defense.

G. Champions League

- 1) The rules of Major League Baseball (MLB) and Protect Our Nation’s Youth (PONY) Baseball will govern play with the following exceptions/clarifications.
- 2) The league players shall be all participants between the ages of 4 and 23 years old, or who remain in a school setting, with special needs that would prevent them from playing in the traditional baseball or softball program.

VII. PLAYER DRAFT:

A. Blastball League:

- 1) Players will be assigned to a team after selection by the league Head Coaches under the direction of the Player Agent. Players will be equally divided with regard to age.
- 2) Parents/Guardians may identify one coach that may NOT, under any circumstances, draft or otherwise, select their child(ren) during the player assignment process. Such request must be in writing on the player’s registration form.
- 3) Other requests for team assignments will normally be honored subject to the limitations listed below. **ALL REQUESTS MUST BE IN WRITING; NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- 4) Requests to play on the same team with another player will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Should a coach decide to take a player with such a request, the coach must also select the other player and will then forfeit his next draft choice.
- 5) Prior to drafting teams, the total number of eligible players in the league will be tallied and will then be divided by the number of teams to determine the **MAXIMUM NUMBER** of players that will be assigned to a team.
- 6) Prior to drafting teams, the total number of older players registered will be tallied. That number will be divided by the number of teams to be fielded and will determine the **MAGIC NUMBER** of older players that will be assigned to each team.
- 7) A random draw will determine the order of coach selections. In order to promote fairness, first choice selections will be given to a different coach during each round.

Example: First Round order is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
 Second Round order is ... 2, 3, 4, 5, 1
 Third Round order is 3, 4, 5, 1, 2, etc.



- 8) Requests will then be identified and players requesting a specific coach/team will be given to the respective coach. In the event the coach receives more requests than the maximum number of players allowed, the coach must immediately decide which requests he will take and will then return all others to the Player Agent. In the event that the number of player requests causes the team to exceed the MAGIC NUMBER of older players allowed, the request rule supersedes the MAGIC NUMBER rule. Such requests must be in writing on the player's registration form.
- 9) If a selection opportunity occurs and that coach has reached the MAGIC NUMBER of older players available for selection, the selection shall be passed to the next coach. Once all older age players have been assigned to teams, the current round will continue by selecting from the younger age players.

NOTE: Any conflict, policy interpretation, or other issues regarding draft procedures will be resolved by members of the PYBSA Board of Directors present at the time of the draft; all decisions are final.

B. Shetland, Pinto, Mustang, Bronco and Pony Leagues:

- 1) Players will be assigned to a team after selection by the league Head Coaches under the direction of the Player Agent. Players will be equally divided with regard to age.
- 2) Parents/Guardians may identify one (1) coach that may NOT, under any circumstances, draft or otherwise, select their child(ren) during the player assignment process. Such request must be in writing on the player's registration form. **NO OTHER SPECIAL REQUESTS WILL BE ALLOWED.**
- 3) Under NO circumstances shall players be traded or swapped before, during, or after the draft proceedings.
- 4) Under NO circumstances will any player be removed from the list of eligible draft candidates and placed on a specific team until a coach actually selects the player during his/her turn in the draft process.
- 5) Prior to drafting teams, the total number of players registered in each league will be tallied. That number will then be divided by the number of teams to be fielded and will determine the MAXIMUM NUMBER of players assigned to each team.
- 6) Prior to drafting teams, the total number of older players registered in each league will also be tallied. That number will be divided by the number of teams to be fielded and will determine the MAGIC NUMBER of older players that will be assigned to each team. In the event that the number of protected player causes the team to exceed the MAGIC NUMBER of older players allowed the protect rule supersedes the MAGIC NUMBER rule.
- 7) Unless specifically requested by the parent/guardian, siblings will be drafted on the same team. When a sibling selection opportunity occurs, the coach will take both players. The selecting coach shall ensure that he/she selects the sibling on their next draft selection in the subsequent round. If a coach does not select the sibling before reaching the MAXIMUM NUMBER and/or MAGIC NUMBER, the next coach with a selection opportunity may take any player (Except Returners and Protected Players) from the offending coach's draft in the same age group as his/her selection in that round and the sibling will be placed on the offending coach's roster.
- 8) Players are required to participate in an open demonstration (Player Evaluation) before their first year of spring play within a new league. Players will be evaluated and ranked by the Head Coaches of their assigned league. There will NOT be a player evaluation in the fall season.
- 9) All players returning to the same league shall be assigned to the same team from their previous spring season. These players will be considered "RETURNERS" to their previous year's spring team. Should the player decline to participate on the same team, he/she shall be put in the "Blind Draft" as described below. Such request must be in writing on the player's registration form.



Pioneer Youth Baseball & Softball Association

Local Rules of Play – 2020

- 10) A Blind Draft will be used for players that do not participate in player evaluations and for players returning to the same league but not wanting to return to the same team as the previous year. During draft selections, a coach may choose to use his/her draft pick by drawing a number out of the “Blind Draft” group within the designated age group. Once the number is drawn, the coach will have considered to have made his/her pick for that round unless he/she draws a player who has requested not to be on that coach’s team or a player who has requested to be removed from that team as described above. The player’s name will immediately be placed back in the pool of players and the coach will choose another player. If the Blind Draft pick involves a sibling, the coach must ensure that he/she selects the sibling before reaching the MAXIMUM NUMBER and/or MAGIC NUMBER. If a coach does not select the sibling before reaching the MAXIMUM NUMBER and/or MAGIC NUMBER, the next coach with a selection opportunity may take any player (Except Returners and Protected Players) from the offending coach’s draft in the same age group as his/her selection in that round and the sibling will placed on the offending coach’s roster.
- 11) Head Coaches new to a league (first spring season) shall be considered a “First Year Coach.” First Year Coaches will be allowed up to four (4) protected players in Baseball or up to six (6) protected players in Softball. (“PROTECT”) The Head Coach’s child(ren) count as one (1) protected player. During the second consecutive spring season as Head Coach in the same league or a Head Coach who wishes to inherit a past team and its returners shall be considered a “Second Year Coach.” To inherit a team the new coach must have past affiliation to the team. Second Year Coaches will be allowed up to two (2) protected players, but these protected players MUST both be from the younger age group. The Player Protection Form must be signed by the player's parent/guardian validating the Protect is accepted. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- 12) RETURNERS shall NOT be allowed as a PROTECT for a coach from another team. Any player not wanting to return to their previous spring team shall be placed in the Blind Draft. Blind Draft requests must be in writing on the player’s registration form.
- 13) Teams formed from RETURNERS where there is no returning coach or new inheriting coach shall be dismantled and all players shall be placed into the open draft.
- 14) Any Head Coach who inherits a team shall be considered a Second Year Coach.
- 15) Prior to the start of draft process the Player Agent shall form a “Pre-Draft Roster” for each team. The pre-draft rosters shall be openly displayed and list the names and ages of all PROTECT’s and/or RETURNER’s assigned to a team/coach.
- 16) Coaches will choose in reverse order of their team's final standing in the previous year. A new team will be considered to have placed last in the standings. Ties will be resolved by a random draw of the affected coaches.
- 17) During subsequent draft rounds, the team with the next lowest standing in the previous year shall be given first choice during that round and selections will continue in a similar reverse order of previous year standings until all selections are made.

Previous spring season standings were: Team A-first place; Team B-second place, Team C-third place, Team D-fourth place

Example: First Round order is:..... D, C, B, A
 Second Round order is: .. C, B, A, D
 Third Round order is: B, A, D, C, etc.
- 18) Once the draft order is determined, Coaches will choose team names in reverse order of their determined draft order. (Example: If a coach’s draft order is determined to be first, then that coach will choose his/her team name last) Exception: Second Year Coaches who wish to keep the team name they had the previous spring season supersedes any subsequent picks.



- 19) Older age group players will be drafted first. All selections will be made exclusively from older age group players until all players from this group are assigned to a team.
- 20) If a selection opportunity occurs and that coach has reached the MAGIC NUMBER of older players available for selection, the selection shall be passed to the next coach and the current round will continue.
- 21) In the event a coach is required to accept siblings/approved special circumstance players, the selecting coach shall ensure he selects the other sibling/approve special circumstance player within the next two (2) subsequent rounds. If a selection opportunity occurs and a coach chooses siblings/approved special circumstance players, the selecting coach shall select the other sibling/approve special circumstance player on their next draft pick in the subsequent round.
- 22) After all older players have been drafted; the same procedures as noted above will be used to draft the remaining players. Once all older age players have been assigned to teams, the current round will continue by selecting from the younger age players.

NOTE: Any conflict, policy interpretation, or other issues regarding draft procedures will be resolved by members of the PYBSA Board of Directors present at the time of the draft; all decisions are final.

C. Fall Season Draft Procedures:

- 1) Fall draft will use the same procedures as listed above, except:
 - o A random draw will determine the order of coach selections. In order to promote fairness, first choice selections will be given to a different coach during each round.

Example: First Round order is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
 Second Round order is ... 2, 3, 4, 5, 1
 Third Round order is 3, 4, 5, 1, 2, etc.

NOTE: Any conflict, policy interpretation, or other issues regarding draft procedures will be resolved by members of the PYBSA Board of Directors present at the time of the draft; all decisions are final.

VIII. CONDUCT AND SPORTSMANSHIP:

- a) Unsportsmanlike conduct from any Head Coach and/or Assistant Coach will not be tolerated at any time before, during, or after a game and will result in the Head Coach being ejected and immediately removed from the field and PYBSA complex. Failure to voluntarily leave PYBSA property will result in escort from the area by a law enforcement officer.
- b) Any coach ejected from a game shall serve an additional one game suspension, unless over ruled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. An appeal may be made to the PYBSA Board of Directors. Any appeal made must be done so prior to playing the next game.
- c) If a coach is ejected twice in one season and the Special Committee does not rule otherwise, the coach shall be suspended from participating in PYBSA for the remainder of the year. An appeal may be requested as noted above.
- d) Any player who is ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct shall serve an additional one game suspension, unless over ruled by a majority vote of a Special Committee comprised of at least 5 members of the Board of Directors. Any appeal to the Board of Directors must be made in writing prior to the player's next scheduled game. Any player who is ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct and the decision is not overturned by the Board of Directors, will not be eligible for participation with or on All-Star Tournament Teams. The Board of Directors will investigate second and subsequent incidents of unsportsmanlike conduct by the



same player and the player shall be subject to suspension, expulsion, or other disciplinary measure consistent with PYBSA policy.

NOTE: The PYBSA Board of Directors will endeavor to adjudicate all appeals prior to the next scheduled game, but given the number of games played, it is not always possible. If the appeal cannot be adjudicated prior to the next game, the offending player or coach shall be allowed to participate in games until a Special Committee of the Board of Directors meet to adjudicate the appeal.

- e) Any parent/guardian who is disrupting a game with unsportsmanlike conduct will be asked by the umpire, coach, or board member to leave the area and not return for the remainder of the game. A law enforcement officer will escort any person(s) not complying when asked to leave PYBSA property.
- f) Any player who unintentionally throws the bat will receive an ejection warning and a team warning on the first offense. On the team's second or subsequent offence(s), any player who unintentionally throws the bat will be called out and receive an ejection warning. A player who unintentionally throws the bat twice will be ejected from the game. Intentional bat or equipment throwing is cause for ejection on the first occasion.
- g) Any coach or player who deliberately throws kicks or in any way mistreats equipment will be ejected from the game.
- h) **THERE ARE NO PROTESTS ALLOWED IN ANY LEAGUE.** Coaches shall ensure that they adhere to proper decorum and courtesy at all times in order to set the proper example for the children on their team.
- i) Unified razzing or screaming at any opposing team or player will NOT be tolerated.

IX. LEAGUE CHAMPIONS:

- a) The league champion will be determined by best overall record in the respective league. In case of equal records, the following method will be used to declare a champion:
 - 1) Over-all record for the entire league.
 - 2) Head-to-Head Margin of Victory.
 - 3) Lowest numbers of runs against.
 - 4) If still tied, both teams shall be declared co-champions. ***
If team's records are declared a tie, a random draw will be used to determine the end of season tournament bracket seeds

X. ALL STAR TOURNAMENT TEAMS:

- a) Each league may field All-Star Tournament Teams composed of players within the respective league. While PYBSA encourages tournament season play for all capable individuals, teams not expressly approved by the All Star Committee shall not be affiliated with PYBSA in any way. Additionally, such teams are prohibited from using PYBSA funds, logos, or other assets during the tournament season.
- b) The Player Agent shall convene a Special All Star Committee with a minimum of 5 people to oversee the All Star Tournament Team nomination and selection proceedings.
- c) All Star Head Coach Nominations shall be submitted to the Player Agent two (2) weeks prior to player nominations being due. Any league coaches interested in the All Star Head Coach position for ANY All Star team (first team, second team, etc.) must submit the All Star Coach Nomination Form during this pre-determined date/time to be eligible for consideration. All Star Coach Nominations can be a self-nomination or peer nominations. ANY Nominations received after this date will not be considered. NO EXCEPTIONS.



- d) The Player Agent shall convene a meeting of league Head Coaches on a pre-determined date a minimum of five (5) days prior to player nominations being due. League Head Coaches will then select the All Star Team Head Coach for Team 1 from a Committee approved list of nominees. A majority vote (51%) is required to elect an All Star Head Coach. In the event that no coach receives a majority vote, the Special All Star Committee shall call an emergency meeting to select the Head Coach.
- e) Only players nominated by their respective head coach shall be eligible for selection and/or participation on All Star Teams. League Head Coaches are required submit the All Star Player Nomination Form and the retainer to the Player Agent by a pre-determined deadline. A valid All Star Player Nomination shall consist of the signed All Star Nomination Form from each nominated player's parent/guardian and include a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) retainer fee indicating their approval and willingness to participate in All Star Tournament play. ANY Nominations received after this date/time will NOT be accepted or considered for All Star Tournament Play. NO EXCEPTIONS. Any nominated player who does not make the All Star team will be refunded their retainer fee. Any nominated player who later decides not to participate will forgo the retainer fee.
- f) Teams for all leagues shall be selected as follows (in the order as listed):
 - 1) All Nominated players shall participate in an open demonstration (Player Evaluation) so league Coaches may evaluate nominees.
 - 2) The Player Agent will then convene a meeting of league Coaches. If a Head Coach cannot be present, he/she shall designate an Assistant Coach to act on behalf of their team. Participation from each league team shall be required.
 - 3) The Player Agent will pass out a list of nominated players to all Coaches present. The Coaches will select their top 12 choices and pass the list back to the Player Agent. The Player Agent shall tally the votes.
 - 4) The top six players receiving a majority vote (51%) will be added to the All Star roster. All ties will be added to the roster of All Star Players. If less than 6 players receive a majority vote, then only those receiving a majority will be added to the All Star Team Roster and the remaining slots will be selected by the Head Coach of the All Star Team.
 - 5) League Head Coaches will then select the All Star Team Head Coach for Team 2 (and subsequent) from a Committee approved list of nominees, unless by majority vote, the Head Coaches determine that it is not in the best interests of the players to field additional teams. A majority vote (51%) is required to elect an All Star Head Coach.
- g) The All Star Head Coach for Team 1 will then choose any nominated player in any manner he/she determines to fill the remaining roster.
- h) In the event of multiple All Star teams, The Head Coach for Team 2 shall select their team from the list of nominated players after Team 1 has filled the team roster. Team 2 shall select all players before Team 3. Team 3 shall select all players before Team 4 and so on.
- i) Coaches and parents/legal guardians of players are responsible for funding all expenses associated with All Star Tournament play. Sponsorship from local or corporate business is authorized except from those companies prohibited by PONY and/or PYBSA rules and regulations. PYBSA will pay the PONY Tournament Application Fee for each league authorized by the Board of Directors to represent PYBSA in tournament play.

