



2026 WEST COVINA YOUTH PONY BASEBALL

PINTO DIVISION GROUND RULES

ORDER OF RULES: WCYPB Ground Rules and League By-Laws, PONY Baseball Rules and Regulations, Official Rules of Major League Baseball

MUST SLIDE RULE: When a fielder is making a play at any base, the base runner must slide or attempt to avoid contact with the fielder. A fielder is considered to be making a play when he has the ball in his possession. **PENALTY:** Runner is declared out and may also be ejected depending on the severity of the contact. **UMPIRE'S JUDGMENT**

1. Managers and Coaches must stay in the dugout area. The dugout area will consist of the area 5 (five) feet in front of the dugout, running the entire length of the dugout. Only the Manager and two Coaches will be allowed on the field at any one time.
2. Game Time: **1 hour and 45 minutes or no new inning after.** If the inning is started, it must be completed. To keep the pace of play moving, coaches will have lineups prepared (both offense and defense) so play is not held up when making changes from inning to inning. Coaches must all work to keep the momentum of the games going.

SLOW PLAY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED

3. If a game is called for any reason, it shall be a complete game if four (4) innings have been completed, or if the Home team has scored more runs in three innings or three and a fraction innings than the Visiting team has scored in four completed innings.
4. If a game is called for any reason before it is a completed game, or when the score is tied, it shall be considered a suspended game and shall be resumed from the point of curtailment at the time scheduled by League Officials.
5. **Both teams** brush up mound and batter's box. **Both teams** are responsible for cleaning up all the trash in the dugout area and in the spectator stands.
6. The Official Scorebook will be the authority on innings played and pitch counts. **Home Team is** responsible for the scorebook and scoreboard. **Penalty for not keeping scorebook and pitch count: Manager suspended for next game.** It is the responsibility of the Manager to be sure all substitutes are in the Official Scorebook.
7. All teams must bat their entire roster. Nine (9) players will play on the field. **All players must play in every game and play every other inning.** If it is discovered that a player has not played in the required innings, he/she will play the entire next game they attend for each infraction of

this rule. Managers found in violation of this rule will be automatically subject to the following disciplinary actions:

First Offense: Umpire 2 Shetland games and serve a 1 game suspension. Second Offense: Umpire 4 Shetland games and serve a 2-game suspension.

****Any Manager or Coach who receives a Second Offense within the same season, will automatically forfeit their right to Manage or Coach ANY All-Star Team****

8. Late arrivals ("subs") will be placed at the bottom of the line-up. Late arrivals ("subs") must enter the game by the completion of the 3rd inning. If the third inning has been completed, player cannot enter the game.

9. The Player Agent must be notified of all benching prior to the start of the game. Managers may bench a player for disciplinary action only once. The Manager must review any disciplinary problems with the Board of Directors before he can bench that player again. No player may be benched during the playoffs.

10. Each team is allowed one (1) offensive timeout per inning; injury time outs are excluded. If a Manager or Coach goes onto the playing field to talk to any player or players more than once in a half inning while the same player is pitching, a pitching change shall be made. The only exceptions to this rule shall be in the case of injury, or if time is called by the opposing team or by an umpire.

11. To prevent a forfeit, a minimum of 9 players must be on the field within 15 minutes of the scheduled starting time. Game must start and end with 9 players. To accomplish this, a maximum of 2 players may be added by other teams from **within the Division**. These additional players must bat in the last position in the line-up and must play in the outfield. If a member of the team shows up later, the substitute will be removed from the game IMMEDIATELY. He must bat in the highest available batting spot used by the substitute.

No substitutes may be used more than once. No substitutes may be used during the playoffs. Player must play one more than half of season's games in order to play during playoffs or to be eligible for All Star selection.

12. No leading off. Runner/s must remain in contact with the base until the ball is released from the pitcher's hand.

13. Bunting is allowed.

14. Infield fly rule is in effect.

15. Runner/s may steal one (1) base per pitch but shall not leave the base they are occupying at the time of the pitch until the pitcher has released the ball. Teams will receive **one warning** per

game if a player leaves the base before the ball is released. After one warning, each time a player leaves the base before the ball is released, the player will be out.

Players can advance only one base on an overthrow. This will apply to plays in the field. Players attempting to advance to next base does so at his/her own risk. If a second overthrow occurs the ball is live but runners cannot advance.

Penalty: Once the pitcher has stepped on the rubber with possession of the ball, runners who leave their base before the pitcher has released the ball and the pitch is hit the runner is out and the ball is in play. If the pitch is not hit, the runner must return to the base and the ball is dead, however, if the runner is put out trying to steal, the out will supersede the dead ball.

16. Maximum five (5) Runs during innings 1 through 4. In the fifth inning, you can score as many runs as possible or three outs. **Mercy Rule:** If a team is leading an opponent by at least 10 runs after 3 1/2 or 4 innings have been played, the game is deemed complete. The game shall be terminated and the team in the lead shall be declared the winner.

17. **USA Bat rules apply.** Use of non-USA stamped bat, will result in batter called out. 2¼ and 2 5/8 barrels are legal in all divisions. Use of wood is legal as well, except bamboo wood. Manager must bring this to the attention of an Umpire or Board Member of the use of illegal bat before next pitch after use of bat. Any runner will return to previous occupied base. Bat will be confiscated and returned at the completion of game.

18. Pitching: The pitching mound will be set at a distance of 40 feet. The bases will be the distance of 60 feet.

PITCH SMART GUIDELINES FOR PINTO DIVISION

		REQUIRED REST DAYS (AFTER # OF PITCHES)					
Age Range	Daily Max	0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days	5 Days
7-8	50	1-20	21-35	36-50	N/A	N/A	N/A

*No pitcher shall appear in a game as a pitcher for 3 (three consecutive days, regardless of pitch count. *

A. Pitchers reaching their maximum number of pitches in a day while pitching to a batter, may finish to the batter before being removed.

B. Once the umpire-in-chief signals “play” to the pitcher, that pitcher shall become the pitcher of record and their pitch count begins at that point.

C. **Walks: Intentional walks:** Pitchers do not have to pitch the ball. Runner takes first base, the ball is dead. **Pitched walks:** Runner takes first, ball is live.

****Pitcher in violation of Pitching Rules (penalty) - Upon appeal by the opposing Manager, the violating Pitcher and Manager will be removed (ejected) immediately from the game. Both the Player and the Manager will also be suspended for their next scheduled game.****

19. Any Manager or Coach ejected from a game will automatically be suspended from their next game. Managers and Coaches that have been suspended will not be allowed around the playing field from 1 hour before scheduled game time until the end of the game and will not be permitted any closer to the field than the center field fence. Failure to comply with this rule will result in additional disciplinary action by the Board of Directors. Additionally, any Manager or Coach removed from the game or causing a forfeit will be automatically subject to the following disciplinary actions which must be completed prior to coaching their next game:

First Offense: Umpire 2 Shetland games and serve a 1 game suspension. Second Offense: Umpire 4 Shetland games and serve a 2-game suspension.

****Any Manager or Coach who receives a Second Offense within the same season will automatically forfeit their right to Manage or Coach ANY All-Star Team****

20. Any player ejected from a game will be removed from that game and will be suspended from their next scheduled game.

21. The Division Champion will be decided by a tournament at the end of the regular season. **ALL** teams will participate in this tournament and will be seeded by their regular season standings. The selection of All Star Managers will be in the order of standings from the League's Tournament finish. No Manager or Coach can turn their team over to another person.

22. Managers and Coaches will not be permitted to manage or coach multiple All-Star teams. He/she can only appear on only one (1) post-season tournament affidavit.

23. The returning Manager will have the first option to take the same team the following year. If the Manager declines, then the "Coach's Option" will have a second option to fill the role as the returning Manager. If the "Coach's Option" also declines, no further priority will be given, and the team will be declared equally open for consideration to anyone requesting that team. All team Managers are subject to Board approval annually