

Laguna Niguel PONY League Baseball

Local Rules

Except as otherwise provided in these Local Rules, PONY Baseball National Rules and Regulations will govern play.

1. Consecutive Batting

- 1.1 All players will take their regular turn at bat whether or not they are playing a defensive position. Players shall bat in the same order as listed on the line-up card given to the official scorer prior to the game except as provided in paragraph 1.2.
- 1.2 Players arriving after the game has started and their position in the batting order had been passed must be placed at the end of the batting order. Players arriving after the first batter has batted for the second time, may not play in the game.

2. Substitution and Minimum Play

- 2.1 Free substitution is permitted except that once a pitcher is removed from a game, he may not return as a pitcher in the same game.
- 2.2 If a player does not play the required number of minimum innings (3 defensive), that player shall play the entire next game and the Manager will be subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors. This rule is not violated, however, if a player does not play the minimum number of innings because (1) he arrived late or, (2) the game was called before seven innings were played.

3. Base running

- 3.1 A runner shall be called out when he does not slide or otherwise avoid a fielder who has the ball or is about to receive the ball. If, in the Umpire's judgment, the failure to slide or otherwise avoid the fielder is intentional, the runner shall be ejected from the game.

4.0 Time Limits

- 4.1 Play will continue until seven innings have been played and a winner has been determined, unless, in the umpire's sole opinion, it is unsafe to continue as a result of darkness, rain or other acts of nature. The Umpire's decision to call a game is final and is not subject to appeal. If necessary, extra innings will be played to determine a winner.
- 4.2 If a least five innings have been played (or 4 ½ if the home team is winning) when a game is called by the umpire, as prescribed in paragraph 4.1, it shall be considered a complete game if a winner has been determined at that point.
- 4.3 If a game is not complete or is tied when the game is called, the game shall be suspended and resume from the point of suspension at a later date, subject to paragraph (4.4) below. The date of resumed play shall be determined by the Board of Directors.
- 4.4 If a game is called or suspended during an uncompleted inning, when the game resumes the score shall revert back to the last completed inning and subparagraph (4.2) or (4.3) shall be applied as appropriate.
- 4.5 If a team is leading an opponent by 10 or more runs after five or more complete innings have been played, or after 4 ½ innings if the home team is leading, the game shall be considered complete and the team in the lead shall be declared the winner.
- 4.6 The Board of Directors will schedule all make-up games and continued games. This may result in teams playing more than two games in the same week. The Board's decision concerning the scheduling of a make-up game or continued game is not subject to appeal.
- 4.7 No game may be postponed without prior consent of the Board of Directors. The unavailability of the Manager or Coaches shall not be a sufficient reason to postpone a game. In addition, a game shall not be postponed because a team is unable to field nine (9) players for reasons other than illness or injury.

5.0 Managers, Coaches and Players

- 5.1 Only Managers, League approved Coaches and Players are permitted in the dugout while a game is in progress. No exceptions.

- 5.2 Managers and Coaches must request time-out and have it granted by the Umpire before they leave the dugout.
- 5.3 Managers are appointed by the Board of Directors. Managers may select their own Coaches, subject to approval of the Board of Directors.
- 5.4 The conduct of all managers, coaches, and players shall be beyond reproach while on the field. Any unsportsman-like conduct, including as fighting, or abusive language, or other inappropriate conduct that, in the opinion of the umpire, detracts from the image of PONY baseball, shall result in immediate ejection from the game. Any manager, coach, or player ejected from a game must leave the field *immediately* and may not participate further in the game *in any way*. Any Manager, Coach, or Player ejected from a game, shall be suspended for the next game and shall be subject to additional disciplinary action, as the Board of Directors deems appropriate.
- 5.5 Managers are responsible for the conduct of their coaches, players, and fans. Managers shall not permit their coaches, players or fans to ridicule, shout at, verbally abuse or otherwise distract or interfere with the Umpire(s) or members of the opposite team. If such conduct occurs and is not corrected, the Manager may be ejected from the game.
- 5.6 Managers may not bench a player for disciplinary purposes without the prior consent of the Board of Directors.
- 5.7 Managers must notify the Player Agent if, (a) A player will miss one or more games as a result of injury or illness or, (b) A player is forced to leave a game as a result of an injury or illness and is unable to return. In the case of injury, Managers shall provide written parental consent and medical release to the Player Agent, before the player is permitted to return to practice or play.
- 5.8 If a team loses a player for the duration of the season for any reason, the team's manager *must* notify the League's Player Agent within 24 hours of the loss. A replacement player will be provided from League's waiting list of available players, if players are available. The player who has been on the waiting list the longest will be assigned to the team by the Player Agent as the team's designated replacement player. The Player Agent will make the assignment based on date of registration. In the event multiple players are available with the same registration date, the Player Agent's will select the player to be provided and his decision shall be final and not subject to appeal. If no players are on the waiting list at the time of the loss, the first available player will be designated by the Player Agent.

6. Miscellaneous

- 6.1 There will be NO WARNINGS on balks! Balks will be called and enforced by all umpires.
- 6.2 Batted balls hit on the fly into the left field *netting* at La Paz Park shall be ruled a home run. They need not clear the netting, only the chain link fence at the base of the netting.
- 6.3 Batted balls hit on the fly into the left field *fencing* at Chapparosa Park are *not* a home run and are in play, if fair. Balls must clear the top of the fence at Chapparosa Park to be a home run.
- 6.4 BOTH teams are responsible for preparing the field prior to the game and cleaning their respective dugouts at the end of the game.
- 6.5 Managers are responsible for the care, treatment and return of the League provided equipment. Managers will return their team's equipment within five (5) days of their last game or as otherwise directed by the Board of Directors. Managers will be financially responsible for the replacement or any equipment not returned by the end of the season.
- 6.6 The HOME team will provide the official scorer. At the conclusion of the game, the official scorer, both managers and the Umpire shall sign the official score book. The official score book shall include final score, innings pitched by each pitcher, and the names of any players absent. The official score book must remain at the field (in the equipment shed) at all times.