



## BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

# Spring/Winter Ground Rules as of Jan 1, 2022

## General Rules all Divisions

- 1. Team Managers are the most important member of the team and will be held accountable for registration of staff and players, league age specifics, the actions of their players, coaches, parents and fans and any other requirement involved in running a team. Guidelines for building a team for the league are listed in the pony rule book as well as in the High Desert Pony League player selection plan also in League ground rules listed on our website [hdpleague.com](http://hdpleague.com). All pony players and managers will be registered, and player fees paid by opening day or they will not be allowed to play. Managers and coaches are the leaders of the team, misbehavior of any kind cannot be tolerated on or off the field. Misbehavior during games Umpires will warn the manger one time for misbehavior the second time ejection is mandatory. Ejection of any kind or reason will carry a two-game suspension starting from the next game played. Manager or offending individual must leave the Park and have no contact with team until game is over. Leaving the park means in your car on your way home. Refusal to comply will result in your team forfeiting the game.**
- 2. Please do not argue judgment calls: balls, strikes, out, safe, ect. This is grounds for automatic ejection as per Major League Baseball Rules and Pony softball rules. If a manager has a legitimate problem with the calls or strike zone ect. please reserve complaint till the end of the game and we can talk about it. Base coaches are there to coach bases not be extra umpires.**
- 3. Managers are the only officials that will be allowed to question a rule violation. Time will be called and manager will meet with the official.**
- 4. Protests will only be allowed for rules violations and will be handled before the next pitch. Time the protest was submitted will be recorded by the**

**umpire and the game clock will be stopped until the protest is resolved. Any time elapsed will be added to time remaining in the game. The manager protesting the violation will have 3 minutes to show the umpire the rule that is in violation. If a pitch is thrown before the manager registers his protest the protest is invalid.**

- 5. Good behavior and sportsmanship are of the utmost importance and must be upheld. There have been problems in previous seasons with interference from the benches and spectators in the form of chanting loud noises ect, to distract the pitcher or batter. All such distractions will stop once the pitcher engages the pitching rubber, or in machine pitch or Shetland when the ball is placed on the machine. This does not mean there has to be silence in softball chanting is allowed but must be in good taste. Any form of noise maker is not allowed. One manager or coach allowed outside the dug out at any time during the game except as stated in Shetland rules and base coaches sitting on buckets is not allowed outside dugout. Sound systems that are used for player introduction can only be activated while player is approaching the plate. Derogatory tunes will not be played after a player has struck out or during mound visits this is to promote good sportsmanship and to not harass players or coaches. Mandatory pitching log implemented in 2018 published by pitch smart and available for download on league website ( for baseball only) will now be used to track pitchers, the form to be used is available on our web site. Penalty for not using it will be forfeit of the next game. Pitchers removed from the mound during a game may not be reinserted as a pitcher during the same game.**
- 6. No meetings on the field between innings.**
- 7. Three pitches between innings. Unless new pitcher is inserted.**
- 8. Please train batters to keep one foot in the batters box while taking signs a strike will be called if player does not comply.**
- 9. Speed of the game is important to keep the interest of the players and to keep game schedules on time.**
- 10. Communication is the most important thing in this league, if you have a problem please try to resolve it yourself. If you can't, see the league president at the field on game day or call 760-927-9994 I will do my best to resolve problems.**

- 11. Regular season games will be played under Pony rules in conjunction with applicable in the MLB rule book, Shetland, Machine Pitch and Pinto West Zone Supplemental All –Star rules. Pitching rules will be governed by Pony white pages. If you need a rule book please ask if one is not available please order one from pony.org. Order of rule book usage is as follows. Regular season rules for Mustang and above from Pony rule book then MLB rules take affect. Shetland and Pinto Will be Pony Rule book, West Zone All Stars rules, MLB rules. For All Stars Mustang 9 and above Pony White Pages, Pony Blue Pages, MLB rules. Shetland and Pinto Pony white pages, West Zone Supplemental Rules and MLB Rules. League age will be as follows: for spring /winter baseball and softball league age will be as printed in the Pony Rulebook, Aug 31 for baseball Jan 1 softball .**
- 12. NO team jumping during regular season players can only play on the team they signed up on rosters are frozen on the first day of the season, adjustments may be made prior to season starting but all parties involved must be notified including league president and player agent. Also players may not play on a regular pony team in regular season and travel with another HDPL pony team. Managers and coaches NO RECRUITING from another pony team during the season, if a parent from another team approaches any member of an opposing team for the purpose of switching that person should be reminded of the consequences. Violation of the above rule will result in suspension of the player and manager from the team committing the violation. If you are a travel team with in the league, players from any other pony registered team are not eligible to play with your team outside the league this is intended to keep pony teams intact until the season is over. Players can be replaced if an original player is permanently injured or quits. Replacement players must complete one half of the seasons games to be eligible for All Stars in the spring unless replaced before the first game of the season. Travel teams are not allowed to insert players that they pick up during the season, unless, that player is replacing an injured player (injured means out for season) or one that quits. Paper work and fees must be paid and turned into the Player Agent he will approve and assign any replacement players they must be age specific. Players who quit are ineligible to return to play for the rest of the season. Please refer to the refund policy on our website. High School Players that wish to enter Pony Division after CIF ins spring are allowed to join any team in that division and will be eligible for All Stars if they play at least half of the remaining games of the current season if season ends before CIF is over players may still participate as long as they are placed on a roster before season starts. All such additions will be handled thru the player agent.**
- 13. Field ground rule: A batted ball that hits the yellow capping on the outfield perimeter fence and bounces back into the field shall be a live ball. If it bounces out of play after hitting the capping it will be ground rule double. If**

the batted ball goes over the fence after hitting the capping it will be a home run.

14. Steel cleats allowed except for pitchers on artificial mounds rubber cleats or tennis shoes must be used.
15. All Star Teams from each division will be the first place team. Odd age brackets 9u 11u ect will be whatever age specific team that has the best record during the season. Other groups within HDPL that wish to have all-star teams must decide by May 20, 2022, for which division they wish to play. Since these teams will have a short period of time to set up players and uniforms, written permission from manager of teams that do not plan to go to all stars must be obtained before any contact with players can begin. There is a fee of \$300.00 for entry into the tournament four game guarantee and teams may wear regular season uniforms or obtain all-star uniforms at their own cost.

## **Shetland Division**

1. Shetland Division will consist of 3-6 year old's. Field size 38ft pitching machine 50ft bases regional supplemental rules will be used along with regular season rules.
2. There will be a five run rule with the last inning open and a maximum pitch count of 6 per batter if 6 pitches are fouled in a row pitches will continue until a player reaches base or strikes out. Foul tip on third or sixth strike applies.
3. Batting order will be continuous. Free Defensive substitutions. Standard 13 after 2 ½ or 3 or 10 3 ½ or 4 mercy rule applies.
4. If a player is injured during the game and cannot continue his spot in the batting order will be counted an out for only the first time the spot comes up.
5. All hits have a two base limit. Any runners on base when ball is hit are limited to two bases.
6. No advancement on overthrows once the runner reaches base safely.
7. Games are 5 innings and time limit is one hour and 15min no new. After the third out is recorded in the bottom half of the inning time starts for the next inning.

## **Pinto Player/Pinto Machine Pitch Division**

- 1. Pinto Player/Pinto Machine pitch division will consist of 5–8-year olds. Field size 40ft pitching/machine 60 ft bases regional supplemental rules will be used with regular season rules.**
- 2. There is a 5 run rule 5th and 6th innings are open for player pitch, 6<sup>th</sup> inning for machine pitch. If time runs out before the 5<sup>th</sup> open inning does not apply. Standard 13 after 2/1/2 or 3 or 10 after 3 ½ or 4 run mercy rule applies.**
- 3. Batting order will be standard 9 with subs or continuous with free defensive substitutions. If any team cannot field 10 players nine is the minimum and no penalty will be assessed.**
- 4. If a player is injured during the game and cannot continue his spot in the batting order will be an out only for the first time the spot comes up.**
- 5. Games are 6 innings.**
- 6. Once a walk is issued to a batter the ball is dead. Any runners on base will be allowed one base advancement. Ball is dead when pitcher has the ball on the infield. Home plate is closed the only way to score from third base is by hit or force from walk.**
- 7. Time limit is 1-hour 30min no new. Games are 6 innings. Mercy rule 13 after 2 ½ or 3, 10 after 3 ½ or 4.**
- 8. After the third out is recorded in the bottom half of each inning time starts for the next inning.**

## **Mustang Division**

- 1. Mustang division will consist of 7–10-year-olds. Field size 46ft pitching. On all purpose fields the pitching mound will be set to 46 ft. Bases 60ft. Managers please use discretion on younger players playing up.**
- 2. There will be a 5-run rule, this a local rule there is no 5-run rule in all-star play. Mercy rule of 13 after 2 1/2 or 3 and the standard 10 run mercy rule after 3 ½ or 4 with the last two innings open if needed.**
- 3. Batting order will be 9 or continuous. Continuous only: if a player is injured and cannot return his spot in the lineup will be an out the first time around.**
- 4. Time limit is 1 hour 45 min no new/drop dead games are 6 innings. After the third out is recorded in the bottom half of each inning time starts for the next inning.**

## **Bronco Division**

- 1. Bronco division will consist of 9–12-year olds.**

2. **Batting order 9 or continuous. Continuous only: If a player is injured and cannot return his spot will be an out the first time around.**
3. **Mercy rule of 13 after 3 1/2 or 4. Standard 10 run mercy rule 4 1/2 or 5 games are 7 innings. Time limit 1 hr. 45min hrs. no new.**
  4. **After the third out is recorded in the bottom half of each inning time starts for the next inning.**

## **Pony Division**

1. **Pony division will consist of 11–14-year old's.**
2. **Batting order 9 or continuous. Continuous only: If a player is injured and cannot return his spot will be an out the first time around.**
3. **New mercy rule of 13 after 3 1/2 or 4 and the standard 10 run mercy rule 4 1/2 or 5 games are 7 innings time limit 1hr 45min no new/drop dead.**
4. **After the third out is recorded in the bottom half of each inning time starts for the next inning**

## **Colt/ Palomino Division**

1. **Colt division will consist of 15-to-18-year olds.**
2. **Batting order 9 or continuous. Continuous only: If a player is injured and cannot return his spot will be an out for the first time around.**
3. **9 inning games standard 10 run mercy after 7. Time limit 2 hours 30 min no new.**
4. **After the third out is recorded in the bottom half of each inning time starts for the next inning.**