

2017 PONY BASEBALL 8U COACH PITCH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RULES & REGULATIONS

Tournament Rules

In addition to the rules stated herein, all games are subject to the 2017 PONY Baseball Rules & Regulations and/or the 2017 Official Rules of Major League Baseball

Playing Field:

- A. Pitching Distance: 38 Feet
- B. Distance between bases: 60 Feet
- C. The recommended homerun fence distance at foul lines and center field are:
125 Feet to 200 Feet (These are just recommendations)

Playing Rules:

- A. The team shall consist of not more than 15, nor less than 12 players.
- B. The tournament team must have 9 eligible players, who are physically able to play, present at the start of the tournament game. If 9 eligible players are not present within 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time of the game, the game shall be forfeited. The tournament team must have 9 eligible players, who are physically able to play, to start the game and complete the game or it is a forfeit.
- C. The entire roster of players present for the game shall bat in the rotation.
- D. The team will field the 9 fielding positions, with no shifts allowed. The outfielders must be at least 20 Feet behind the baseline when the ball is pitched.
- E. Bats manufactured specifically for use in Tee Ball, shall not be used.
- F. Coach-pitch bats may not be used. Rule book Page 16 C. (1) *
- G. Bats may be tested at any time, and if found to be illegal, will be removed from the game.
- H. If a batted ball strikes the coach pitcher, the ball will be considered dead. That pitch will not count as one of the batters six pitches and the runners shall not advance. The coach who is pitching shall at no time give coaching instructions or in any way interfere with a defensive player once the ball is in play. (PENALTY) The coach pitcher shall be warned once and if a second infraction occurs the coach pitcher must be removed for the remainder of the game and a new coach pitcher put in his/her place.

- I. The batter is out if failing to hit a fair ball after a maximum of six (6) pitches or after three (3) strikes from the coach pitcher. If the batter fouls off the sixth pitch, he continues to bat until he swings and misses or does not swing,
- J. The player fielding the pitcher's position shall take a position 5 feet to the rear of the coach pitcher and 3 feet to the left or right, A 2 foot line will be drawn at this position. The player must keep at least one foot on this line at the start of the pitch. If the other foot is free it will be on the side of the line extending away from the coach pitcher.
- K. Batters are not allowed to bunt or swing soft swing at the ball. (PENALTY) The pitch is a strike and the ball is dead.
- L. Base runners are not permitted to steal bases and shall remain in contact with the base until the ball is hit or crosses home plate.
- M. There is no Infield Fly Rule or Drop Third Strike.
- N. There is free substitution on defense, but the batting order may not change.
- O. When the ball is in the possession of an infielder and in the umpire's judgment, all play on the runner or runners has ceased; the umpire shall call "Time". The ball is dead and shall be returned the coach pitcher.
- P. Players may tag up and run on a caught fly ball.

MERCY RULES:

- A. If the visiting team is leading by at least 10 runs at the end of 4 or more complete innings, the game shall be declared complete and the visiting team shall be declared the winner. If the home team is leading by at least 10 runs after the visiting team has completed batting in the 4th inning or later, the game shall be declared complete and the home team shall be declared the winner.
- B. There is a maximum of 5 runs per half inning until the 6th inning.
- C. The maximum of 5 runs per half inning does not apply in the 6th inning and all subsequent innings.

Managers/Coaches/ Players:

- A. One manager, two coaches, one business manager and players listed on the affidavit will be the only ones allowed in the dugout or on the field. When a team is on defense, all members of the coaching staff must stay in the dugout.
- B. All players and coaches must be in full uniform.