



BASEBALL SPRING 2021 “PONY” LEAGUE RULES FOR THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS (QUAD-CITY BASEBALL ASSOCIATION):

Batavia Youth Baseball (“BYB”) | Geneva Baseball Association (“GBA”)
St. Charles Youth Baseball (“STCYB”) | North Aurora Baseball Association (“NABA”)

PONY: AGES 13 & 14 (7th & 8th Grades)

PURPOSE: This is a competitive league with emphasis on full skill development and good sportsmanship. Since the Spring League is being combined with BYB, GBA, STCYB and NABA, the following rules will be used in addition to the All-League Common Rules.

1. GENERAL GAME RULES:

- a. Umpires have complete control and authority of all games. Prior to the game, the home team shall rule on field conditions. The Umpire governs whether the playing field is safe. Exception: facilities equipped with lightning detection systems must follow detection system guidelines.
- b. A minimum of 8 players and a maximum of 9 players must always be fielded during the game.
- c. The pitching rubber shall be 54 feet from the furthest point of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber. Bases are to be 80 feet apart.
- d. No player will sit out for 2 consecutive innings nor will a player sit out a 2nd inning before all other players have sat out 1 inning.
- e. No player can play any position more than 4 innings in a game.
- f. All players must play a minimum of 1 full half inning in the infield and 1 full half inning in the outfield during the first 5 innings of the game.
- g. Metal spikes are allowed where playing surface dictates*
- h. Games will be 7 innings unless time limit constraint comes into effect. In the case of a shortened game, 4 innings will constitute an official game. Games stopped prior to becoming official will resume at the exact point the game was suspended.

- i. A 12-run mercy rule is in effect after 5 innings (4.5 if home team is winning) or 10 runs after 6 innings (5.5 if home team leads).
 - j. The first 4 innings will have a 5 run max rule. The only exception to this rule is the last play of the half inning shall be allowed to finish. If additional runs are scored on the final play, those runs shall count. Final play MUST be initiated with ball in play via a "hit". (For example, if a team has scored 4 runs and has the bases loaded and the batter hits a 3-run triple, all 3 runs shall count, making their inning count 7 runs. The spirit of this rule is to reward the hitter that put the ball in play. Any runs scored due to errant throws, walks, or dropped 3rd strike do not count after a 5-run max has been reached for the inning. Innings 5, 6 & 7 are unlimited.
 - k. Jewelry shall not be worn, except for religious or medical medals. A religious medal must be taped down and worn under uniform.
 - l. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. It includes any behavior that is unethical or dishonorable: Including, but is not limited to, disrespectfully addressing an official, any flagrant behavior, intentional contact, taunting, criticizing, or using profanity directed toward any another individual.
 - m. Only adults are allowed to coach the bases and must stay in the coach's area when on the field of play.
 - n. Prior to the start of the game, Managers shall exchange continuous batter line-up indicating the name, number, and age (1st yr/2nd yr or 7th/8th grade), declare Pitching Option A or B and announce any late arriving players.
 - o. No post game protests will be heard unless a team believes an intentional and deliberate violation of the rules occurred.
1. PITCHING: The pitching rubber = 54 feet from the furthest point of home plate
- a. A player may pitch no more than 4 innings in a 1 game week, 8 innings in a 2-game week and 11 innings in a 3-game week. Each week begins at 12:01am Monday and ends the following Sunday at midnight. For this rule a single pitch constitutes 1 inning pitched.
 - b. Pitchers can pitch on back-to-back days, but not 3 days in a row.
 - c. Pitchers may not re-enter once removed.
 - d. Pitching limitations are in effect for 2nd year players (Option A) limiting them to pitching in 3 of the first 5 innings unless Option B is declared:
 - e. Option A or B must be declared prior to start of game (otherwise option A is in effect). This cannot be switched during the game.

- OPTION A: Teams will be limited to 3 innings of 2nd yr. pitching during first 5 innings of a game. Any appearance by a 2nd yr. player counts as pitcher during an inning. If you remove a 1st yr. pitcher, you must replace with 1st yr. pitcher to not count toward limitation.
 - OPTION B: A team may declare the option of throwing a 1st year player 1 inning during the first 4 innings. They will then be limited to 1 inning each of 2nd year players for the duration of the game. If game goes into extra innings, the limitation is lifted.
- f. Intentional walks are allowed, however, require at least four legal pitches.
 - g. A pitcher will receive one warning when a balk is committed. After subsequent infractions, all base runners will be awarded a base.
 - h. No hidden ball tricks permitted.
 - i. If a pitcher hits 2 batters in an inning or 3 batters in a game, that pitcher shall be removed from the pitching position for that game.

2. HITTING:

- a. Continuous batting lineups shall be used and submit prior to the start of the game. No designated hitter (DH) allowed. Late arrivals will be placed at the end of the batting order.
- b. Dropped third strike is in effect and bunting is allowed at any time.
- c. Slashing is not allowed (show bunt then swing away on same pitch).
The batter will immediately be called out and the ball is dead.

3. BASERUNNING:

- a. Base paths to be set at 80 Feet apart with chalked foul lines
- b. Stealing and leadoffs are permitted at any time
- c. No headfirst sliding (except when returning to a base): If a runner slides headfirst, they will be called out as this is done for the safety of the players.
- d. Catchers may have an optional courtesy runner if they are on base with 2 outs.
The courtesy runner must be the player who recorded the most recent out.

4. CALL UPS:

- a. If a team is short a player(s), they may call up a player(s) that must be from the league directly below the Pony League. The call up player must bat last and only play outfield positions. If a team must call up more than 3 players, then the call up players must first fill the outfield positions then, may play an infield position but in no case shall a call up player ever play pitcher or catcher.

5. PLAYOFF SPECIFIC RULES:

- a. Official league standings will be maintained by STCTB and playoff seeding will be decided through (1) winning percentage followed by (2) total runs scored.
- b. No time limit will be in effect for playoff games. Game will end at the conclusion of the 7th inning or umpire discretion on safety concerns.
- c. If the game is tied at the end of the 7th inning, California Rules will be in effect for extra innings (Runner starts on 2nd base with a 1-1 count on the batter, last player to make an out the inning before will be the runner at 2nd base)

6. REPORTING:

- a. The winning team is responsible for reporting the final score to contact@stcbaseball.com and shall cc the losing coach on the email.

For games played at fields #s 5, 6 & 8 at Eastside Sports Complex, metal spikes are **not allowed, and gym/turf shoes shall be worn. No gum, seeds or candy allowed on these fields either. If a player doesn't wear gym/turf shoes they will not be able to play on these specific fields.*