

METRO PRIME INTERLOCK LEAGUE 2006 BASEBALL RULES

1. Time limits for games are as follows:
 - Mustang 1-1/2 hours or 6 innings
 - Bronco 1-3/4 hours or 7 innings
 - Pony 1-3/4 hours or 7 innings
2. A game shall be considered complete when time has expired and the current inning is completed or the required number of innings has been played. If the score is tied, time has expired and the current inning is completed, the game will be declared a tie. (Home team has an opportunity to bat last) If the maximum number of innings has been played and the score is tied, the game will be declared a tie. The next inning starts immediately after the third out.
3. The “Ten-Run Spread” rule will be in effect in Mustang, Bronco and Pony. If the home team is leading by at least 10 runs after 3 ½ innings in Mustang and 4 ½ innings in Bronco and Pony the game will be called. Mustang has a five run per inning rule. Bronco and Pony have no run limits.
4. If a team does not field at least eight players within 15 minutes of game time the game is a forfeit. A team may continue to play with 8 players if they lose a player. The ninth player that is missing is an automatic out. The batting order cannot be changed once every player has batted.
5. Free substitution will be in effect for each league game with the exception of pitchers. Every player present at the game will be in the batting lineup.
6. Pitching rules will be as outlined in the “Pony Baseball Rules and Regulations” for league play. Each team manager or coach will be required to maintain a scorebook and pitching log. If requested the scorebook and log will be presented to the opposing coach at the beginning of each game. If requested the opposing coach will be allowed to sign off on the pitching log after each game.
7. No players will be allowed to sit out defensively for three consecutive innings unless the player is injured, ill, disciplinary reasons or pitcher for double-header.
8. An “optional” courtesy runner is available for the catcher if the catcher is on base with two outs in the inning. The player making the most recent out in the inning will become the courtesy runner. The intent of the rule is for speeding up play and not for inserting a pinch runner into the game.
9. Un-sportsmen like conduct by a coach or player will be called at the discretion of the umpire. Penalty for un-sportsmen like conduct will be ejection from the

game. If a player or coach is ejected from the game for any reason that player or coach will also serve a one game suspension that must be served at the next game. If a player or coach is ejected twice in the same season the player or coach will serve a two game suspension the next two games. If a player or coach is ejected a third time the coach or player must appear before the PONY Prime Commission. The coach or player will not be allowed to play until the PONY Prime Commission makes a final decision based upon the findings of its investigation. The umpire may or may not issue a warning before ejecting a player. During offensive innings one coach is allowed in the first base coaching box and one coach is allowed in the third base coaching box. All other coaches must remain in the dug out. During defensive inning all coaches must remain in the dug out. This rule does not apply during a time out.

10. Coaches will be held responsible for their actions, the actions of their players, and the actions of their fans.
11. Each team is required to clean out their dugout and fan area after each game.
12. The home team will provide the official scorekeeper for the game. Visiting team will provide an adult to operate the scoreboard. Home team should occupy first base dugout, visitors should occupy third base dugout. Home teams will be responsible for installing scoreboard controllers, bases and providing official scorebook. Home team should put same away after the games. Lineups are to be submitted to the official scorekeeper at least ten minutes prior to game time.
13. Metal cleats will be allowed only in the Bronco and Pony, except in Mansfield which only allows metal cleats in the Pony Division.
14. The umpire shall keep the official time and will announce the starting time of the game to the coaches and scorekeeper.
15. Batter's helmets are mandatory for all batters, on-deck batters and base runners. All catchers are required to wear some type of throat protection and protective cups. All players should be encouraged to wear protective cups.
16. No protests will be allowed on any judgment call. A coach may ask for a rule interpretation or clarification if the coach has a rulebook and a copy of the in city rules. The maximum time allowed for a rule clarification is three minutes and all umpires must allow this time. In all matters the senior umpire's decision on the clarification will be final.
17. The "host" teams association will be responsible for providing and compensating the umpiring for each game. The "host" team or association will also be responsible for providing Pony approved baseballs. Each team must have a designated home field.

18. Because of the tremendous interest in baseball and a limited number of fields rainouts will not be re-scheduled by Pony Prime. Rainout make up games will be the responsibility of the head coaches and the League where they were originally scheduled to play. Umpires will be the responsibility of the League where the game was originally scheduled to play.
19. The above rules take precedent over any local association rules during Prime Interlock games. Prime Interlock Rules take precedent over Pony Baseball Rules and Pony Baseball Rules take precedent over American League Baseball Rules.
20. Any player found to have played as an ineligible player due to age or geographic location of residence will be suspended for one year from the Prime League. If the offense is discovered during a season, the player will also be suspended for the remainder of that season. The head coach of the team on which the offense occurs will be subject to the same suspension from the Prime League. This rule is retroactive.