

## Mustang National League Rules

Pony League rules will be followed. Pony League rules are very much like the rules of Major league Baseball with a few simplifications. In most cases, a general knowledge of baseball will provide the answers you need. ***Rules can only be amended by the Commissioner.*** The following are the exceptions:

Description	Policy and/or Rule Clarification
Disputes	When a rules issue comes into dispute, it should be discussed rationally, with the best interest of the league and players being the main objective.
Game Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Games are <b>6</b> innings.</li> <li>▪ Time Limit of <b>2 hours</b>. No inning can begin after <b>1 hour 45 minutes</b>.</li> <li>▪ Coaches and umpire will agree on start time and synchronize their watches prior to first pitch.</li> <li>▪ <b><u>The time limit will not be in effect during post-season play.</u></b></li> </ul>
Ties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An extra inning may be played, if no games are following and both teams can field a complete team.</li> <li>▪ Both teams must have an opportunity to bat in the extra inning for it to be counted.</li> <li>▪ If the score remains tied after the extra inning, it will be reported as a tie in the standings.</li> </ul>
Player Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All players must play at least 4 innings. Coaches should plan player rotations based on every inning being played. The coach will <b>not</b> be held responsible for games shortened by weather or time limits.</li> <li>▪ No player will sit out for 2 innings in a row.</li> <li>▪ All players must play at least 2 innings in the infield (catcher counts).</li> </ul>
Batting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The entire roster will bat.</li> <li>▪ Batting out of order will result in an out.</li> <li>▪ An injured player may be reinserted in the same spot in the batting order without penalty, if his turn at bat comes up while injured that place will be skipped without penalty.</li> <li>▪ No bunting.</li> <li>▪ A player throwing a bat will be issued a warning; a second occurrence will result in the batter being out; a third occurrence will result in an ejection.</li> <li>▪ No bat larger in diameter than 2 ¼ inches will be permitted.</li> </ul>
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Batters and base runners must wear helmets at all times.</li> <li>▪ There is only one batter allowed on deck at a time. The only players allowed to swing a bat are the batter and</li> </ul>

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	the on-deck hitter.
Forfeits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Try to avoid forfeits. Contact the coach or league director to try to reschedule any games rather than forfeiting.</li> <li>▪ A team fielding less than 8 players will forfeit the game for the league standings; however, games should still be played by borrowing players for the field from the other team. If both teams have fewer than 8 players it will go into the standings as a double forfeit - the game should still be played by borrowing players from each other to constitute enough fielders.</li> </ul>
Field Dimensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 60-foot base lines</li> <li>▪ 38-foot pitching distance (coach may be closer if necessary)</li> </ul>
Pitching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The first 4 games of the season will be played as all coach pitch.</li> <li>▪ Beginning the 5<sup>th</sup> game and in the playoffs, the league will use kid pitch for the first 2 innings and coach pitch the last 4 innings.</li> </ul> <p><b>Kid Pitch Innings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Umpire will call balls and strikes.</li> <li>▪ Strike outs and walks will be called.</li> <li>▪ Umpires will be directed to use a liberal strike zone to encourage swinging, and conversely discourage waiting for a walk.</li> <li>▪ A pitcher hitting 2 batters must be removed from the game as a pitcher.</li> <li>▪ Pitchers are limited to a single inning per game.</li> </ul> <p><b>Coach Pitching Innings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Coaches may pitch from their knees so that they are approximately the same height as the batter and do not to block the field of vision of the infielders.</li> <li>▪ The coach will pitch 7 pitches per batter.</li> <li>▪ No balls or strikes are called, however three swinging misses will be an out.</li> <li>▪ If the batter does not put the ball in play by the seventh pitch, he will be called out. If the batter fouls off the 6<sup>th</sup> pitch, he will receive an additional pitch.</li> </ul>
Mercy Rule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If any team is winning by 10 runs or more after the 4th inning it shall be declared the winner. Play may continue if both coaches agree. This will be for practice only and it will not be counted as a part of the recorded game.</li> </ul>
Defense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 10 players allowed in the field. No extra infielder. The 10<sup>th</sup> player must play in the outfield at regular depth</li> </ul>

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	<p>(i.e. no short fielder permitted).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Outfielders must remain on outfield grass during play.</li> <li>▪ Catchers must wear a cup and protective gear at all times while catching</li> </ul>
Run Limits	<p><b>Kid Pitch Innings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The side will be retired after 3 outs or 3 runs are scored in the inning. Continuation of the play after the 3<sup>rd</sup> run is scored is not allowed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Coach Pitch Innings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The side will be retired after 3 outs or 5 runs are scored in any one inning. Continuation of the play after the 5<sup>th</sup> run is scored is not allowed. This does not apply in the last inning or the inning designated as last by the umpire (both coaches must agree) due to time limit or weather related instances. The last inning shall be three outs or after the entire batting order has batted once (to include play in which last batter was involved).</li> </ul>
Base Running	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No headfirst sliding.</li> <li>▪ Players must avoid contact. In the event that the defensive player comes off the base the umpire will give the runner a liberal area to avoid the tag and go around the player. A collision will result in an out. The umpire will use their discretion to determine if contact was accidental or intentional. If intentional the umpire then will decide is an ejection is required. <b>Sliding is encouraged!!</b></li> <li>▪ A stopped base runner must return to the base if the catcher does not make a play. No baiting the catcher.</li> <li>▪ One extra base will be awarded for an overthrown ball that goes out of play.</li> <li>▪ No leading or stealing is permitted.</li> <li>▪ Players cannot leave the base until the bat makes contact with the ball.</li> </ul>
League Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The winning coach is responsible for emailing the league director or designated contact point the results of the completed game. Please do it the day the game is played, we are trying to post the scores on the Website for everyone to see the results and standings.</li> </ul>
Umpires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Home team coach will pay the umpire, make sure that the envelope provided with the money is signed and dated by the umpire and then returned to the league director at the end of the season.</li> <li>▪ Umpires will not tolerate any improper behavior (taunting of other players, inappropriate language, etc.) from players, coaches, or parents. One warning will be</li> </ul>

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	<p>given per team, then an out shall be recorded when that team comes to bat. If misconduct continues then the individual will be asked to leave the field.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Umpires will be provided for the second half of the season.</i> If an umpire does not show, a parent from each team should be recruited. <b><u>Only scheduled umpires are paid.</u></b></li> </ul>
Misc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No hidden ball tricks.</li> <li>▪ No infield fly rule.</li> <li>▪ Do not change any practice time slots or game times without authorization from the League Director.</li> <li>▪ No coaches allowed on the field, except pitcher, during the game. If a coach needs to address defensive players during an inning, call time out with the umpire.</li> </ul>