

Pony Division Ground Rules

2023 Fall Ball

Unless modified below, PONY official rules shall govern gameplay.

- Dugouts:** Home team will occupy the 3rd base dugout. Visitor will use the 1st base dugout. All offensive players – with the exception of the batter, on--deck batter and any base runners – must remain fully inside the dugout, and remain in the dugout during play.
- Uniforms:** All players must wear their team jersey & hat, with the jersey tucked in. Plastic or molded cleats are recommended. Metal cleats allowed, however, they are prohibited on artificial mounds. It is recommended that pitchers have a plastic molded set of cleats for this purpose. **Rocklin Pony Fields and Golden Eagle HCP Fields have portable mounds.** We recommend that all male players wear a cup. No jewelry may be worn at any time on the fields (practices or games) with the exception of medical I.D. bracelets.
- Play Minimums:** No player may sit out more than two (2) consecutive innings. No player may sit out three (3) innings before all other players have been out one (1) inning.
- Pitching:**
- 1) **65 Pitches MAX** or 4 innings, which ever occurs first. If a player reaches their pitch limit during an at-bat, they may complete that at-bat.
 - 2) Pitchers mound will be set at fifty-four (54) feet for the entire season.
 - 3) The maximum number of pitches for any single game is sixty-five (65). If a team is scheduled for multiple games in a day, pitchers may pitch up to sixty-five (65) pitches in the first game, then may pitch in subsequent games - up to 65 pitches or up to the MLB PitchSmart pitch count guidelines, whichever occurs first.
 - 4) MLB Pitchsmart guideline is as follows: Age 11-12 = 85 Pitches Max; Age 13-14 95 Pitches Max
- Field Prep** **Home team is responsible for preparing the field.** For teams that are interleagueing between Rocklin, Roseville, Orangevale or Golden Eagle, if one of the teams playing is home to their field, regardless of being home/visiting team for the game, that team home to their field is responsible for field prep. Additionally, if two visiting teams have game at a location that is not their home location, the team from the previous game that is home to the field, should help prep the field for this following game. Coaches should be aware of game schedules and field prepping responsibilities each Sunday.
- Basepaths:** Bases will be set at eighty (80) feet.
- Batting:**
- 1) Batters must wear a helmet any time they are on the field. Only the batter and the on-deck batter may swing a bat – **NO EXCEPTIONS.** No Tee-Ball, Coach-Pitch, or Softball bats are allowed for play. Bats must be "USA Baseball" approved.
 - 2) Every team must bat their complete lineup. All players in the lineup will be batted in order. Late players may be added to the end of the lineup. Managers are encouraged to allow players the opportunity to bat in all positions in the batting order.
- Base Running:**
- 1) Leading off is allowed.
 - 2) Stealing is allowed.
 - 3) There is no sliding at first base, sliding will only be permitted at 2nd, 3rd and home. All players must attempt to slide when necessary. Head-first sliding should be strongly discouraged by coaching staff. If sliding occurs at first base, player will be called out.
- Innings/Time Limit:** There are no run limits in any innings. All PONY games will be scheduled for seven (7) innings. The ten-run "mercy" rule will begin in the middle of the 5th inning. No new inning may begin after 2 hours, 15 minutes. There is no drop dead time. Games may end in a tie.