



LEAGUE RULES
TRI-VALLEY PONY LEAGUE, INC.
Revised for Umpires only – 05/12/2011



Protect Our Nation's Youth

The season usually begins the first week in May and ends the last week in June.

Legal players are 12-14 years old as of May 1. Players who are in the eighth grade and will be 15 years old on May 1 may play. They will not be allowed to pitch or participate in the Pony League District Tournament but may participate in the League All-Star Tournament at the end of the season if one is scheduled.

Metal cleats are allowed during the course of regular season and tournament play.

Weighted doughnuts are not allowed on the bats in the on deck circle. A swing sock or a weighted bat or 2 bats are allowed.

4 coaches are allowed in the dugouts. This allows you to use adult coaches for the bases and keeps and adult coach in the dugout. All coaches shall remain in the dugout when the other team is batting.

Batters can run on third strike dropped ball if 1st base is open or if 1st base is occupied and there are two outs. The batter is out if 1st base is occupied and there are less than 2 outs.

Courtesy runners will be allowed only for the catcher and only if there are 2 outs. The runner can be any player that is not in the line-up to bat.

If there is a play at the plate, the runner must slide or the runner is out. Umpire to use judgment on this call. This rule is to reduce the risk of injury to players.

The intentional walk will be handled as High School rules. The pitcher must let the umpire know that he plans on intentionally walking the batter and the umpire will send him to first base.

Wooden, metal, graphite or ceramic bats, manufactured specifically for baseball play, which are round and not more than 2 3/4" in diameter at the thickest part, nor more than 42 inches in length, are acceptable. (Bat size will be determined by National Pony League Guidelines in 2011) *** New bat laws will apply in 2012.

The batter, players in the on-deck batting area, base-runners and players coaching in the baseline coaching boxes shall be required to wear protective headgear which gives protection to the top of the head, temples, ears and base of the skull.

League play will be weekdays, Monday through Thursday. Makeup games will be re-scheduled when possible for the last week of June, on Fridays, or Sunday afternoons. There are some open times available on the schedule that may be used for rescheduling but play on those dates may exceed the league maximum of 2 games per week or playing 2 games in two days. The League officers along with the coaches will work together to reschedule games.

Starting time for games shall be 6:00 p.m on weekdays. Each team shall be given 10 minutes for pre-game infield warm-ups. The visiting team shall be given the infield first.

League teams shall have a minimum of 8 eligible players, who are physically able to play, present at the start of the game. You must take an out for the ninth batter if there are only 8 batters in the lineup. You cannot intentionally walk the 8th batter to reach the 9th batter for an out. If 8 eligible players are not present within 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time of the game, the game shall be forfeited. The teams may still agree to play a scrimmage game.

Each game shall consist of 7 innings. In case of a tie, the game shall continue to be played until the umpire calls the game. There is a 2-hour time limit for games wherever there are lights when a double header is scheduled. If only 1 game is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. then the game shall be played the full 7 innings. The umpire shall declare the time limit 15 minutes before the time limit is up.

The Tri-Valley Pony League is responsible for supplying official Diamond DPL Pony Baseballs to each team in the League by the first game of the season. The Manager from the Home team shall see that the umpire receives 2 new baseballs to begin play. Clean "last game balls" shall be put into the rotation to keep the game moving along because of fouls etc..

Any player in the starting lineup, who has been removed for a substitute, may re-enter the game one time. Once removed from the lineup a pitcher may return to the lineup but shall not pitch again in the same game. If the pitcher is withdrawn from pitching and not removed from the lineup, he may not return to pitch. This is a Pony Baseball rule.

If another rule is used such as rocket batting order and/or free substitution (with no batting order change) BOTH Coaches and Umpire must agree prior to 1st pitch.

Pitching rules are as stated in the Pony League Rule Book but are worth repeating.

No more than 7 innings on the same calendar day.

No more than 10 innings in one calendar week. A calendar week is from 12:01 a.m. Monday to 12 midnight the following Sunday.

Pitchers shall have at least 40 hours rest after pitching on the same calendar day in 4 or more innings. The actual starting time of the game shall be used to interpret this rule.

The League also asks that each coach refer to these simple guidelines for pitches thrown. 35-40 bullpen pitches, 70-75 max game pitches and 15-20 pitches per inning. Guidelines provided by the American Sports Medicine Institute at www.asmi.org and Baseball Excellence at www.baseball-excellence.com

The League plans on scheduling 12-14 regular season games and a minimum of 2 tournament games. Teams must play a minimum of 12 games with other Pony League teams during the regular season. The League will attempt to schedule ½ of your games on your home field and play a minimum of 1 game under the lights in Hemlock or Merrill.

The Home team shall keep official score. The visiting team shall also keep score. This will provide the League Officers with information about playing time and innings pitched.

There is a 10 run mercy rule that applies after 4 ½ innings of play. The visiting team shall bat at the top of the 5th inning. The game shall be called due to the mercy rule although both teams may agree to finish the game for the full 7 innings or 2-hour time limit if the umpires agree to stay and umpire the balance of the game.

VIOLENCE: The Tri-Valley Pony League will in NO way condone violence within the league. Our sole being is the **Protection of Our Nations Youth.**

Any Manager, Coach, or Player Striking another player, Umpire or Official Representative of the Tri-Valley Pony League will be dismissed from the Tri-Valley Pony League. Any Parent, or guardian, who strikes a player, Umpire or Official of the Tri-Valley Pony League, will cause the eminent dismissal of the Parent's, or Guardian's, child from the Tri-Valley Pony League. As a league responsible to the protection of all participants in Pony Baseball we will NOT tolerate or condone such behavior.

Managers and Coaches: The Manager is responsible for the conduct of his coaches, players, spectators or followers of the team. He has the responsibility for the eligibility of his players. Any Manager caught in the act of an offensive matter to a player, players, fans and the general public will be first issued a warning and letter from the Executive Board. A Second offense will be grounds for dismissal from Tri-Valley Pony League. All action will be swift and handled by the Executive Board.