

# LEAGUE RULES

## TRI-VALLEY PONY LEAGUE, INC.

Revised 04/30/2009

[www.trivalleypony.org](http://www.trivalleypony.org)

- 1) The season usually begins the first week in May and ends the last week in June.
- 2) The League Boundaries are Saginaw and Tuscola County, Michigan boundaries. The Birch Run, Bridgeport, Swan Valley, Hemlock, Carrollton, Freeland, St. Charles, Bridgeport, Millington and Frankenmuth Baseball Programs have agreed to play in the League. Swan Valley accepts players from outside their School Districts. As long as the players are registered with the Swan Valley Baseball programs and they participate in the draft that each program holds, the players are allowed to participate in the League. A player must reside within these boundaries to participate in the league.
- 3) The League Officers are: President – Shelly Stolsmark, Vice-President – Eric Rutherford, Secretary – Gus Hendrickson, Treasurer – Shelly Stolsmark, Player Agent – Bill Federspiel, Webmaster- Tom Isom..
- 4) There is a League Team Membership fee of \$300.00 per team for 10 or more teams. This fee is due by April 15 of each year. This fee is for costs incurred in organizing and operating the League such as maintaining the website, legal fees, purchasing baseballs, Insurance for Board Members, registration for each team with Pony Baseball and the Pony Sanctioned Tournament Team entry fees.
- 5) Insurance:
  - a) Each program within the League is required to have Accident Medical Expense Insurance coverage for players, managers, coaches, scorekeepers, volunteers and umpires. This is available through Pony Baseball by Gagliardi Insurance Services for \$64.00 per team.
  - b) Pony Baseball also requires that each team within the League purchase One Million Dollars worth of Comprehensive Liability Insurance. This is available through Pony Baseball by Gagliardi Insurance Services for an estimated \$105.00 per team. For an estimated total of \$169.00 per team you can have complete Insurance Coverage required by Pony Baseball if your program does not provide insurance.
- 6) 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 Sanctioned Tournament but may participate in the League All-Star Tournament at the end of the season if one is offered.
- 7) Draft or selection of players: Each district within the League shall use the Player Distribution Plan to draft players. This plan is recommended by Pony Baseball and goes as follows:
  - i) During tryout sessions each player candidate is graded by the observing managers as to the ability to hit, run and field.
  - ii) At least 20 days before the first scheduled game, the Player Agent or Pony Director from each program shall preside at a meeting of team managers for the purpose of distributing players on teams of as near equal talent as possible.
  - iii) The managers shall first consider pitching talent, distributing the available prospective pitchers to the teams being selected in such a way that there is a majority agreement that the pitching talent is equally distributed as possible.
  - iv) The managers shall then consider in order, candidates for catching, first, second, and third base, shortstop and the outfield, distributing the talent by giving full consideration both to offensive and defensive ability, until there is a majority agreement that the teams are constituted of as equal offensive and defensive ability as possible.
  - v) When distribution of players among the teams has been completed, the Player Agent shall receive a copy of each roster.
- 8) The League will not accept teams or baseball programs that intend on hand picking or drafting All-Star or Tournament teams only.
- 9) Metal cleats are allowed during the course of regular season and tournament play.

- 10) 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.
- 11) 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.
- 12) 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.
- 13) Batters can run on third strike dropped ball if 1<sup>st</sup> base is open or if 1<sup>st</sup> base is occupied and there are two outs. The batter is out if 1<sup>st</sup> base is occupied and there are less than 2 outs.
- 14) 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.
- 15) 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.
- 16) Wooden, metal, graphite or ceramic bats, manufactured specifically for baseball play, which are round and not more than 2 ¾" 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 2009)
- 17) 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.
- 18) 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.
- 19) Starting time for games shall be 6:00pm on weekdays unless otherwise specified. Each team shall be given 10 minutes for pre-game infield warm-ups. The visiting team shall be given the infield first.
- 20) 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 8<sup>th</sup> batter to reach the 9<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 21) The League is going to attempt to track scores and win/loss records. Coaches will be asked to email their scores to the webmaster, Tom Isom at [isomt1@yahoo.com](mailto:isomt1@yahoo.com). The standings will be maintained on the Tri Valley Pony Baseball League website at **[www.trivalleypony.org](http://www.trivalleypony.org)**
- 22) 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 played in Hemlock, Merrill or wherever lights may accommodate a doubleheader or 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.
- 23) 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 each team shall see that the umpire receives 2 new baseballs to begin play.
- 24) 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.
- 25) Pitching rules are as stated in the Pony League Rule Book but are worth repeating.
  - a) No more than 7 innings on the same calendar day.

- b) 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.
  - c) 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.
  - d) 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](http://www.asmi.org) and Baseball Excellence at [www.baseball-excellence.com](http://www.baseball-excellence.com)
- 26) The League attempts to schedule 16 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 any community that provides lights.
  - 27) 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.
  - 28) Pony players must participate in a minimum of ½ of the scheduled games for the season to participate in the Pony District Tournament. A fee of \$100.00 must be paid along with a complete roster of a minimum of 12 players or up to 15 players by June 1. A \$100.00 check shall also be made out to Pony Baseball as earnest money that will be returned if you show for the tournament game on the same day. Note 5/08- A Pony age qualified player that participates in High School baseball at the Varsity or JV level may play Pony Baseball and qualify for Pony Sanctioned Tournament as long as he is on the roster at the beginning of the season and does not participate until after the conclusion of his High School teams baseball season. The player must also participate in ½ his Pony Teams remaining games to participate for Pony Sanctioned Tournament.
  - 29) 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.
  - 30) **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.**
  - 31) Any Manager, Coach, or Player Striking an 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 an 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.
  - 32) **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.

### **Pony Sanctioned Tournament All-Star Team Selection**

Tom- Insert Federspiels Document here and note date it 4/09.

### **Player Pool**

Each player that registers to participate in the Tri-Valley Pony League may participate in the league Player Pool. Players interested in being part of the Leagues Player Pool need to register with the Leagues Player Agent. A player that chooses to participate in the leagues Player Pool shall not pitch and shall not participate in more then 2 games during the regular season. If you are borrowing a player the team must only have 8 or less players of their own available to play that game and the borrowed player may not pitch.

The Player Pool is for teams that may suffer short rosters due to vacations or injuries or team conflicts with school activities. If a player from the player pool is asked to participate for a team then he must play a minimum of 3 1/2 innings or bat twice.

A player that is interested in participating in the player pool shall contact the player agent for Tri-Valley Pony League and must also get permission from his Manager. The Player Agent of the Tri-Valley Pony League must be notified of each player involved in a player pool move.

Note-4/09

"Borrowed Player"- In order to field nine players, a team is allowed to use a borrowed player that is not on their roster. The coach in need of a borrowed player is to make arrangements to obtain this borrowed player. Eligible players are those currently in the TVC Pony and should be sought out first. If a borrowed player cannot be obtained from the TVC Pony, a under aged player from the community is also considered to be eligible.

In all cases, the following restrictions apply to the borrowed player :

- a) The Borrowed Player can not pitch for the team he has been picked up for.
- b) The Borrowed Player must bat 9th in the lineup.
- c) In the event that you have 10 players, the borrowed player cannot play more innings than the permanent roster player.

Rule Intent: The league understands that there are unforeseen issues such as family vacations, injuries and other such conflicts that coaches must deal with while fielding teams for the season. With this knowledge, the TVC Pony has adopted a "Borrowed Player" rule. The intent of the Borrowed Player rule is to allow teams to field Nine players for games they may be short of players for. It is also understood by the league that on occasions you may have to arrange for a extra player (10) due to the lack of a commitment by a permanent play on a particular day and do not want to be short handed a player. The rule is not intended for teams to bring in "ringers" on a regular basis. Therefore, the above stipulations have been implemented to prevent such intentions.