

# 2024 PONY LEAGUE BYLAWS

Smithfield, North Logan, Hyde Park, Richmond, Logan, Providence, Nibley, Hyrum, Mendon, Wellsville, Paradise, Preston, Bear Lake, Montpelier

*Current Year National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS – High School baseball rules) will be followed with the following exceptions:*

## **GENERAL RULES**

1. Metal cleats are allowed. **EXCEPTION:** No metal cleats allowed on portable mounds.
2. Dugout selection will be determined as follows: home team will take 3rd base dugout.
3. Any unsportsmanlike conduct, including throwing equipment, may result in the player or coach being thrown out of the game without warning.
4. Any violation of Pony Bylaws could result in disciplinary action as determined by the CVBL

## **GAME RULES**

5. All games will be played on a Pony Field or shortened Colt field. The baselines are 80 feet with 54 feet pitching distance. The line running along the front of the dugout and extending down the baselines will be out of play.
6. A ball which bounces over the home run fence will be a ground rule double.
7. Equipment: Maximum diameter of the barrel is 2 ¾” inches. This also applies to wood bats. BBCOR bats **NOT** required. If a non-compliant bat is discovered during the game the umpire will remove the bat from play and the opposing team may protest the game result to the league coordinators after the game is complete.
8. Regulation games will consist of 7 innings with no new inning starting after 1 hour 30 minutes. The home team, if behind, will be allowed to bat regardless of time limit. If a game is tied after 7 innings or at the end of the time limit, international rules will come into play for one inning. The offensive team will start with a runner on second base for each half of the inning. The runner placed at second base will be the person in the batting order directly before the lead-off batter of the current inning (Ex. If the number five batter in the batting order is the first batter of the inning, the number four batter will be placed on second base). During the regular season if the game is still tied after one inning, the game will end in a tie. During the tournament international rules will apply until there is a winner.
9. Failure to field 7 players within 15 minutes of a scheduled starting time will result in forfeit of the game. A team may finish the game with a minimum of 7 players but there will be an automatic out whenever the 8th and 9th player is due to bat.
10. Players from lower leagues may play up in order to avoid a forfeit. They must wear their lower league uniform and both coaches must be notified of these players.
11. Players must be registered in the league and on the team roster to be eligible to play. When necessary, replacement players can come from the 12U (Major) league. Only registered players from the same city on a 12U league team may be used. Once a player from the younger league is used on a team, that player is only allowed to play up with that team (in other words, a single 12U (Major) player cannot play for more than 1 Pony League team). If an ineligible player plays in a game the game will be forfeited.

**(See Reverse Side for Additional Rules)**

12. Players that arrive to the game after their first scheduled at-bat will be added to the bottom of the lineup.
13. The home team will be considered the official scorekeeper. The home team coach is responsible for reporting the final score to [nathan.swartz@loganutah.org](mailto:nathan.swartz@loganutah.org)
14. In case of rainouts, the game will be rescheduled, and coaches will be notified as soon as possible. This includes the possibility of make-up games on any day of the week
15. Games shortened by the elements will be considered complete if at least 3 complete innings have been completed or 1 hour of game time has been completed.
16. Lightning: In the event that lightning is seen and/or thunder heard, the Umpire and coaches will stop the game and clock to check the (FREE) **Weather Bug Phone App “Spark” page** to determine the proximity of lightning. If lightning is detected within 6 miles, players and spectators will be asked to take cover in vehicles. The Umpire will confirm that the scorebooks are up to date and match. The game will resume after 20 min if there is no lightning within 6 miles of the ballpark.
17. Pitchers may pitch 7 innings per day and a total of 10 innings per week. The week starts on Monday and ends on Sunday. 1 pitch constitutes an inning. Any pitcher pitching 4 or more innings in a day must rest 40 hours before pitching again with time starting from the beginning of the first game.
18. Once a pitcher is removed from the pitching position, he may not pitch again in that game.
19. Balks will be called at the umpire’s discretion but will be followed up with some information of what he or she is doing wrong along with the coach.
20. Each player must play a minimum of 3 innings defensively. All substitutes must enter the game by the beginning of the 3rd inning.
21. Any player serving as a catcher (including warm-ups) must wear a mask regardless of whether the pitcher is warming up from the mound, in the bullpen or elsewhere. Catchers must also wear a cup for their protection. No cup, no play.
22. Base runners are allowed to lead off. Stealing is allowed. The speed-up rule will be in effect. A pinch runner may be used for a pitcher or catcher.
23. There is a mandatory slide rule (if there is a play being made at all bases). In the case of a force out, a runner that does not make an attempt to slide or peel off from a play will be called out, as well as the trailing player.
24. Drop 3rd strike rule is in effect. A batter may attempt to reach 1st base before being called out when a 3rd strike is not caught by the catcher.
25. If there are less than two outs and there is a runner on 1st base, then the dropped 3rd strike rule is not in effect, and the batter is out. If there are two outs and there is a runner on 1st base, then the batter may attempt to reach 1st base before being called out.
26. Every player on the team must be in the batting order.
27. Each inning will consist of 3 outs or 8 runs per inning whichever comes first. Exception: If a team exceeds 8 runs as a result of the batter hitting an over the fence home run, then the additional run(s) will count. The 8 run mercy rule is in effect after 4 completed innings of play.

