



PONY BASEBALL RULE CHANGES FOR 2012

Page 7 (revision) – Shetland age: Change 6 and under to Shetland 4, 5, and 6.

Page 10 (revision) – Wording Clarification, Where the word “leagues” is used to define an “age group” the proper terminology should be “league age” and where it is used to define an “association or organization” the proper terminology should be “organization league”.

Page 13 (deletion) – Rule 4 H (3): Delete reference to PONY player identification cards.

Page 15 (revision) – Rule 8 C Equipment: Wooden, metal, graphite or ceramic bats manufactured for baseball play, which are round and not more than two and five eighths inches in diameter at the thickest part, not more than 42 inches in length, are acceptable.

Page 15 (new entry) – Rule 8 C (1) Equipment: Bats manufactured specifically for use in tee ball play, shall not be used when the ball is pitched by a player, coach or pitching machine. Coach-pitch bats will only be used in coach-pitch using a safety ball.

Page 15 (new entry) – Rule 8 C (2) Equipment: Only 2-1/4” barrel non-wood bats which are manufactured to achieve a Bat Performance Factor (BPF) of 1.15 or less through the life of the bat are approved for play in PONY Baseball divisions. Effective January 1, 2012, all newly manufactured non-wood bats must be stamped “approved for play in PONY Baseball” and stamped with “BPF 1.15” and the year manufactured.

Page 15 (new entry) – Rule 8 C (3) Equipment: Effective January 1, 2012, all minus (-) 3 bats must be BBCOR certified. The bat which may be wood or non-wood product shall be not more than two and five-eighths (2-5/8”) in diameter at the barrel and shall be a smooth implement, from the top of the cap to the top of the knob. All non-wood bats shall meet the Ball-Bat Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) testing protocol maintaining the length-to-weight difference of 0.50 limit regardless of length. All BBCOR approved bats shall be labeled with a silk screen or other permanent certification mark. (NOTE: 2 3/4” bats are prohibited in all PONY sanctioned leagues).

Page 16 (revision) – Rule 8 J: Add to the end of this rule a sentence that reads: Sweatbands are allowed.

Page 17 (deletion) – Rule 9 B: Delete.

Page 19 (revision) – Rule 9 O: Eliminate the words “the Pitch”; Umpire will call a strike.

Page 20 (revision) – Rule 10 J: Once the umpire-in-chief signals “play” to the pitcher, that pitcher shall become the pitcher of record and his innings begin at that point.

Page 21 (revision) – Rule 10 P: The pitcher may bring their pitching hand in contact with their mouth or lips while in the pitching circle as long as they wipe off their hand or fingers prior to making contact with the pitching rubber. Penalty for violation of this rule is that the umpire will immediately call a ball.

Page 21 (new entry) – Rule 11 H: Once a game is stopped for lightning, it cannot be resumed until 30 minutes after last cloud to ground lightning strike.

Page 22 (revision) – Rule 12 A: Scheduling and rescheduling of PONY sanctioned league games shall be the responsibility of the officers and the executive committee and shall provide not less than 12 regular season games for each team.

Page 22 (revision) – Rule 12 B: Teams and or leagues of the same age brackets, operated by the same set of officers or sponsors or leagues from adjacent areas, may play an interlocking schedule as long as all teams are PONY sanctioned.

Page 23 (deletion) – Rule 15 B: Delete.

Page 24-25 (new entry) – Rule 18 E (6): Penalty for use of an illegal bat:

- (a) If detected before the first pitch of an at-bat, the bat shall be removed from the game. The batter is not out and is required to use a bat that conforms to bat regulations. The manager of the team shall be removed from the game as well as the next scheduled game.
- (b) If detected after the first pitch (whether the pitch is swung at or not) the batter is declared out and base runners shall not advance. The manager of the team shall be removed from the game as well as the next scheduled game.
- (c) If detected after a ball is hit, the batter is out and base runners shall return to their original base prior to the hit. The manager of the team shall be removed from the game as well as the next scheduled game.

Page 28 (revision) – Rule T-3 A (3): Have participated in at least one-half of their team’s games in the league division represented unless excused because of a scholastic competition.

Page 28 (revision) – Rule T-3 B: Tournament team players shall be required to wear an official tournament team emblem, sewn or ironed on the right sleeve or right part of vest (chest area) of the uniform, when participating in tournament play at all levels. Same team members must wear patches in the same location. These emblems are available through PONY Baseball.

Page 29 (deletion) – Rule T-6 C (1): Delete.

Page 30 (deletion) – Rule T-8: Delete note top of page 30 referring to Colt/Palomino combined team pitching.

Page 31 (new entry) – Rule T-10 D: Teams may be required to play three (3) games in a calendar day, but must have Division Director’s approval in area where the tournament is being played. If approval is granted by the Division Director, at any point, these can be five (5) inning games.

Page 31 (new entry) – Rule T-10 E: PONY Tournament Tie-Breaker/Pool Play.

- (1) When two teams within a division have identical win-loss records, the winner of the head-to-head competition between those two teams shall advance.
- (2) When three teams within a division have identical win-loss records, the following will apply:
 - (a) The least number of runs allowed by a team in all games played will advance that team as champion. If a second place team is required revert back to number 1.
 - (b) When all three teams have allowed the same number of runs, the team with the most net runs (runs scored minus runs allowed) will advance. If a second place team is required revert back to number 1.
 - (c) If teams remain tied after consideration of “a” and “b” the team that scored the most runs in their games will advance. If a second place team is required revert back to number 1.

Page 32 (revision) – Rule T-14 A: If necessary the Tournament Director shall appoint a Decision’s Committee of at least three persons and one of whom shall be the Tournament Director. All members of the Decision’s Committee shall be in attendance throughout the game or games concerned.

Page 34 (deletion) – Rule T-16 F: Protests and Penalties: Delete.

2012 PONY Rules Clarifications

As you are all aware, PONY posted the rule changes for 2012 recently. There has been many questions regarding the issue of bats. Hopefully the information that is contained in this section will help clarify the issues and answers to some of the questions -

Clarification - Rule 8 C (2) and Rule 8 C (3) are separate rules and discuss two different bats.

1. Page 15 (new entry) - Rule 8 C (2) Equipment: Only 2-1/4" barrel non-wood bats which are manufactured to achieve a Bat Performance Factor (BPF) of 1.15 or less through the life of the bat are approved for play in PONY Baseball divisions. Effective January 1, 2012, all newly manufactured non-wood bats must be stamped "approved for play in PONY Baseball" and stamped with "BPF 1.15" and the year manufactured.

Clarification - This pertains to 2 1/4" bats only. These would be bats that we would typically see at the Shetland and Pinto levels.

2. Page 15 (new entry) - Rule 8 C (3) Equipment: Effective January 1, 2012, all minus (-) 3 bats must be BBCOR certified. The bat which may be wood or non-wood product shall be not more than two and five-eighths (2 5/8") in diameter at the barrel and shall be a smooth implement, from the top of the cap to the top of the knob. All non-wood bats shall meet the Ball-Bat Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) testing protocol maintaining the length-to-weight difference of 0.05 limit regardless of length. All BBCOR approved bats shall be labeled with a silk screen or other permanent certification mark. (NOTE: 2 3/4" bats are prohibited in all PONY sanctioned leagues).

Clarification - Rule 8 C (3) is only referring to minus (-) 3 bats. It does not include any other bat, i.e., -5 -7 or -11. Two and five-eighths inch are acceptable and are typically the bats we see at Mustang and above (also some Shetland and Pinto). Two and three-quarters inch bats are now prohibited in all PONY sanction leagues.

I have received several additional questions, and will hopefully have an answer for those soon. Any additional information will be added here as it arrives.

Elaine Magner, Asst Region Director
PONY North Region SoCal