

RYA 2008 Baseball Rules

RYA Baseball rules will be governed by the RYA Board of Directors, hereby known as the “RYA Board”. These rules are to be effective to the extent that they are not in conflict with the official rules of the Pony Baseball, Inc. Rule Book. In which case, the RYA League Rules will take precedence. All rules contained herein will be adhered to. Rule changes pertaining to Section L – “General playing rules” and Section M “Draft Guidelines – All leagues” will be voted on by RYA Certified baseball coaches and approved by the RYA Board. Final interpretation and application of the rule will be at the discretion of the RYA Board. As in other sports, only the highest standard of sportsmanship and conduct are expected of players, coaches, parents and others associated with the baseball program.

A) General:

- 1) The Baseball Commissioner, along with the individual league Vice Commissioners, will direct the day-to-day operation of the league, subject to the approval of the RYA Board.
- 2) Commissioners will establish make-up schedules for rained out or suspended games. They may be made up on the following Saturday after a rain out, but not to exceed three (3) games per week per team.
- 3) The Commissioner and/or Vice Commissioners will:
 - In conjunction with the Chief Umpire, establish whether or not the playing field is in condition for a game to start. The league official in charge may postpone games in case of heavy rains, etc.
 - Call games off following a thirty (30) minute waiting period of game is unable to start on schedule.
 - Follow all other rules in the Pony Baseball inc. Handbook.
 - Appoint a grievance committee from each league before the start of the season.
- 4) All teams can sell fundraisers to raise money for their team.
- 5) Boundaries are designated per the Pony Baseball inc. Handbook.

B) Coaches Responsibilities:

- 1) It is the responsibility of each coach to obtain team fees, make sure their team is here to do their concession duty as set forth by the RYA Board. To actively participate in coaches meetings, field maintenance, and be responsible for the care and return of all equipment issued to the team by RYA.
- 2) It is the responsibility of each coach to comply with all rules as set forth by the RYA Board; failure to do so may result in disciplinary actions as outlined in Section C below.
- 3) Team fee check is due on or before the draft date; Coaches are required to submit their team fee check in order to receive their current year's roster. If a coach is unable to obtain an outside sponsor at this time, the coach or team will be asked to submit a post dated check for May 15th of the current year to RYA for the amount of the team fee, and will have until that date to find a way to pay or find a sponsor. RYA will hold this check until May 15th. At which time, if the coach is still unable to obtain an outside sponsor, RYA will notify the coach that his check will be deposited as the sponsor of his team.

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- 4) Each coach will comply with the Pony Baseball, Inc. Handbook.
- 5) Coaches should try to settle problems through the Vice Commissioner before taking it to the Baseball Commissioner.
- 6) All excess sponsorship money will be turned into the Baseball Commissioner or RYA Treasurer for accountability before being returned back to the teams.
- 7) **HEAD COACHES WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL EXCESS SPONSOR MONEY AND ALSO FOR REPORTING IT AT THE END OF THE SEASON WHAT THAT EXCESS SPONSOR MONEY WAS SPENT ON. THIS REPORT WILL BE GIVEN TO THE RYA TREASURER.**
- 8) **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HEAD COACH TO COLLECT AND RETURN TO THE FUNDRAISER CHAIRPERSON THE FUNDRAISER FOR THEIR TEAM. THIS FUNDRAISER IS DUE NO LATER THAN THE DATE SPECIFIED BY THE RYA BOARD. FAILURE TO COMPLY WILL SUBJECT THE HEAD COACH TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION.**

C) Disciplinary Action:

- 1) The RYA Board has the authority to suspend or discharge any PLAYER or COACH whose conduct is in violation of the RYA Baseball Rules, the NYSCA Code of Ethics and/or the Pony Baseball Inc. Handbook.
- 2) In the event of unsportsmanlike conduct by a manager, coach, parent or spectator, that person will be ejected from the ball park. (Must move to at least the concession stand area)
- 3) When a PLAYER or COACH is ejected from a game, they will automatically be suspended from their next game. The coach may appeal the suspension to the grievance committee before their next game. The grievance committee will be made up of all Vice Commissioner and/or RYA Board members. The Baseball Commissioner will determine whether there is a need and time for the grievance committee to hear an appeal before the next game.
- 4) In the event of a second incident in one season of the sport, that person will have to appear before the grievance committee.
- 5) The third incident will result in a suspension from the sport and a loss of seniority in the association.
- 6) In the event of a suspension an appeal can be made to the grievance committee in writing within 48 hours of the suspension.

(1) League Decision Committee:

- (a) As designated per Pony Baseball Inc. Handbook.
- (b) Grievance Committee:
 - (i) The League Vice Commissioners will preside over the Grievance Committee, along with the Commissioner. The commissioner only votes to break a tie.
 - (ii) The league grievance committee will be made up of five (5) members of that league. The grievance committee of each league will no preside on a hearing that affects their league.
 - (iii) The results of the grievance committee will be reported to the RYA Board and the City Parks and Recreation Park Board. This will be done by the Baseball Commissioner.

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- (iv) Any problems that cannot be settled by the grievance committee will be carried to the RYA Board at the next scheduled meeting.
- 7) If the manager, coach, parent or spectator has been ejected from the game, and another penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct occurs, it will result in a forfeiture of the game.
 - 8) In the event that a grievance is brought to the RYA Board, all parties must be notified of the meeting. Any notified party that fails to attend will forfeit their right to the grievance procedure.
 - 9) Sponsorship money will be turned in to the RYA Treasurer by the specified date or the coach will face disciplinary action. In this instance, the coach subject to this type of disciplinary action shall have the right to a hearing before action is instituted.
 - 10) Fundraiser money will be turned into the fundraiser chairperson by the specified date or the head coach will face disciplinary action. In this instance, the coach subject to this type of disciplinary action shall have the right to a hearing before action is instituted.

D) Registration:

- 1) Dates, time and place of registration will be set each year by the Baseball Commissioner.
- 2) The registration fee will be set by the RYA Board prior to registration.
- 3) Any player, who does not want to return to their last year's team and so states on their registration form and/or has a letter from his parents stating such, will be put into the blind draft. This letter must be presented to the Baseball Commissioner prior to the draft. No compensation will be given to the team that player is coming off of.
- 4) Request of parents to not allow their child to play for one (1) particular coach will be allowed. That coach will not be allowed to draft that player.
- 5) Any player who during their first year of eligibility in any league, leaves their assigned team prior to the end of the season and desires to play the following year, must return to their originally assigned team or drafted team. Any exceptions must be at the Baseball Commissioner's discretion.
- 6) Any player registering to play will not be put on a team unless their fee has been paid and a parent or guardian has their "Release Form".
- 7) Hardship cases must be presented to the Baseball commissioner before the draft. A determination of such cases will be made by the Baseball Commissioner.

E) Late Registration:

- 1) Cut off for late registration will be approximately one (1) to two (2) weeks from last advertised registration date. All late registrations after the draft will go into a blind draw.
- 2) All leagues will draw late registration players from a blind draw. This date will be set by the Baseball Commissioner.
- 3) No player will be assigned after the blind draw, unless there is a need; then the assignment(s) will be made by the Baseball Commissioner

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F) Refunds:

- 1) Any player, who does not want to remain on the team he/she has been drafted by, will be given a full refund if their uniform has not been ordered. If the uniform has been ordered the cost of that uniform will be deducted from the refund.
- 2) If a player lists a coach on his/her registration form that they will not play for, and is drafted by said coach and desires not to play for said coach, that player will be given a refund.
- 3) Once a player is drafted to a team, that player cannot go to another team until the next year (no trades, no Blind Draw, etc.). If a player is not satisfied, a refund will be issued, amount will be determined as stated above.

G) Conduct of Coaches:

- 1) Coaches are responsible for checking birth certificates prior to the start of the season. Any player found to not be of legal age in any league must be moved to the correct league immediately.
- 2) Coaches will not contest judgment calls made by the officials. All calls made by the officials will stand unless, after consultation with his co-officials, decides to change the call.
- 3) Coaches will not harass officials; any coach who violates this rule will be subject to action by the RYA Board.
- 4) Coaches will be responsible for the conduct of their players, parents and spectators.
- 5) Coaches may be replaced during the season if violations are reported to the RYA Board in writing, and the Board feels such action is necessary.
- 6) Coaches must notify the Baseball Commissioner of any player who drops out for any reason. Any player who drops out will be contacted by the Baseball Commissioner or Vice-Commissioner of that league to determine why that player dropped out.
- 7) Head Coaches in any league will not be allowed to move to another team in the same league. Example: Head Coach on Pinto Giants first year, second year wants to move to Pinto Twins.
- 8) **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OF ANY KIND SHALL BE CONSUMED BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER PRACTICES, GAMES OR TEWAM FUNCTIONS IN THE PRESENCE OF PLAYERS. (Violation of this rule will result in immediate suspension from coaching at RYA.)**
- 9) A coach whose conduct is not considered to be exemplary to his players, parents and spectators will be firmly dealt with by the RYA Board.
- 10) Coaches will have the opportunity to protest any infraction pertaining to Rule Interpretations ONLY.
- 11) Protesting coach must put up a \$20 fee to protest the game at the time of infraction. The \$20 is to be given to the scorekeeper and the score book marked at the point of protest. The \$20 is to be turned in with the scorebook to the Baseball Commissioner at the end of the game. If the infraction is overturned, the \$20 is refunded and the game will be played from the point of infraction. If the infraction is upheld, the \$20 is retained by RYA.

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H) Practice Sessions:

- 1) No practice sessions of ANY KIND will be held prior to the draft and team assignments. Violations of the rule shall be reported to the Baseball Commissioner and/or RYA Board, who will then take the appropriate action.
- 2) All teams are permitted to have not more than four (4) outings in a week, including games
 - Practice Hours –
 - (i) Shetland ~ 1-1/2 hours
 - (ii) All other leagues ~ 2 hours
- 3) There will be no practices held on Sunday. In case of bad weather the Baseball Commissioner may permit practice on Sunday on a request only basis.
- 4) No practices will be held on the RYA Baseball fields except with the Baseball Commissioner Approval.

I) Game Scheduling:

- 1) Games will be played on Saturday and on weekday evenings. Weekday evening games will be scheduled if possible with special attention to minimize late games.
- 2) The schedule of baseball games will be drawn up by the baseball Commissioner. Schedules are to be made so as to allow each team to play every team within its own league and/or conference. Any games postponed will be rescheduled at a later date by the Baseball Commissioner.
- 3) No games will be held on Sunday unless severe scheduling problems occur; these games will be approved by the RYA Board.

J) Coaches Assignments:

- 1) Teams will be assigned to the returning Head Coach. IF the returning Head Coach drops his team prior to the draft, then the team will pass on to his preceding year Official Assistant Coach Only. If the Official Assistant Coach does not take the team for whatever reasons, then the team will be offered to the next coach on the waiting list with the most seniority.
- 2) Expansion teams will be offered to coaches on the waiting list, top seniority on down.
- 3) Seniority will be determined as follows:
 - Total number of years certified coaching (Head or Assistant of any kind) in RYA Baseball Program
 - Total number of years certified coaching (Head or Assistant of any kind) in RYA Sports Programs
 - Finally if still tied the RYA Board will vote to make the choice.
- 4) If it becomes necessary to reduce the number of teams, the Head Coach of a team with the least seniority will be eliminated, unless another coach of the league involved voluntarily vacates his team.
- 5) The Head Coach must participate in 80% of scheduled games or lose seniority and/or face disciplinary action by the RYA Board.

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K) Player Participation:

- 1) The participation rule for players shall be as follows:
 - (a) Shetland and Pinto League:
 1. There will be free and unlimited substitutions, but all players must play a minimum of two (2) innings.
 2. All players present will bat whether or not they are in the game.
 - (b) Mustang, Bronco and Pony League:
 1. Two (2) consecutive innings each game. Substitutions must be made at the top of the third inning. Starters may return in the fifth innings.
 - (c) Colt League:
 1. No set amount of innings.
- (2) If any coach does not comply with the above rules, it will be the responsibility of the coach to notify the League official in charge in writing, stating the reasons. No player will sit out two (2) consecutive games unless disciplinary action is being taken by the manager. Disciplinary action will be taken where needed, so long as the player, parents and League officials are made aware of the reasons. Should the league officials determine the reasons to be inadequate; the league official will submit details to the RYA Board. The maximum penalty will be that the player will play the entire next game, and the coach will be suspended for the next game.

L) General Playing Rules:

- 1) Home team will furnish an adult scorekeeper.
- 2) Visiting team will furnish an adult to run the scoreboard
- 3) Home team will occupy the first base dugout and the visiting team will occupy the third base dugout.
- 4) Managers of both teams must sign the official scorebook after completion of each game. In lieu of an official scorebook, managers will sign each others scorebook. The official scorebook will be official on all matters; however, this does not relieve managers of each team of keeping game records to the extent of satisfying disputes over a player's eligibility.
- 5) Starting line-ups will be turned into the scorekeeper no less than 10 minutes before game time and to the opposing teams manager at meeting with the umpire at home plate prior to the start of the game.
- 6) Games will not be delayed from starting due to the official scorekeeper, announcer or umpires absence. In the event the umpires have not reported by game time, the coach of the visiting team shall call the bases and the coach of the home team shall call behind the plate. They shall rotate after three and one-half innings. The commissioner, Vice commissioner or RYA Board member must view these games.

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- 7) Length of games: Game time limits will be as follows:
 - Shetland: 1 Hour or 5 innings
 - Pinto: 1 Hour and 15 Minutes or 6 innings
 - Mustang: 1 Hour and 30 Minutes or 6 innings
 - Bronco/Pony: 1 Hour and 45 Minutes or 7 innings
 - Colt: 1 Hour and 50 Minutes or 7 innings
- 8) Slide Rule: If the defensive player has position on the bases and possession of the ball and the base runner makes contact in the manner that creates unnecessary roughness in the judgment of the umpire, he will be called out and ejected from the game.
- 9) In Shetland through Mustang leagues teams shall change sides if five (5) runs are scored, except when ball is hit over the fence with the runners on base. Shetland can score a maximum of ten (10) runs in the fifth inning and Pinto can score a maximum of ten (10) runs in the sixth inning.
- 10) Tie Ball games: If the game is tied and the time limit is up, the game stays as a tie game. If the score is tied at the end of regulation innings and there is time left, extra innings may be played until time is out. Ties count as $\frac{1}{2}$ game won and $\frac{1}{2}$ game lost. Ties will only be played off, if it determines which team gets into the playoffs.
- 11) Courtesy runner: With two (2) outs and your catcher on base, you may put in a courtesy runner so the catcher can get their equipment on. The runner has to be a player who is not in the game at that time. There is no courtesy runner for any other player. This applies to all leagues.
- 12) ALL players will bat in every league. An injured player may be removed from the roster within any penalty.
- 13) Umpires:
 - Under no circumstances will an Umpire call a game in a league he is coaching in or has a relative playing in, unless approved by the Baseball Commissioner.
 - There will be two (2) Umpires on the field in all leagues except Shetland which will have one (1) umpire.
 - Umpires must be Pony certified and take the umpire test each year.
 - All new umpires must attend Umpire School, become Pony certified and take the Umpire test. All regulations and rules will be handled by the Umpire Chief.
 - Umpires will control bat throwing in all leagues.
- 14) Managers and Coaches:
 - Each team will have a designated manager and coach. More than one coach may be used in operating the team. All managers and coaches selected must fill out an application form and be approved by the RYA board. A background check will be run on each applicant prior to approval for coaching.
 - A NYSCA certified manager or coach must coach at first and third base (per City regulation, NYSCA Certified Coaches only on the playing field). An adult will be present in the dugout.
 - Only managers, coaches and players in the dugout.

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- In the event of a manager or coach not being able to be present at a scheduled team game, NYSCA Certified adult (preferably a parent of a player on the team) will be appointed to coach the team. Only NYSCA Certified adults will be allowed to manage or coach a team during a scheduled game.
- Managers and coaches not in baseball uniforms will dress in a manner befitting their position. Full length slacks, coaching shorts and sports shirts are acceptable. The attention of the spectators should be drawn to the players not to the dress of the adult personnel.

M) Draft Guidelines – ALL Leagues:

- 1) Each team must supply a post dated sponsor check of \$100 for Shetland and \$200 for Pinto, Mustang, Bronco, Pony and Colt leagues before the draft can begin.
- 2) Before a team can take an option player the Baseball Commissioner must have a written notice from the parent(s) or guardian of that player. The parent(s) or guardian may also approve the option in person to the Baseball Commissioner.
- 3) Shetland 3-4 & 5-6 (Request Leagues)
 - (i) New players to the Shetland leagues can select a desired team.
 - (ii) If a player does not request a team, or if the requested team has a full roster, the player will be placed on a team that practices near their school if possible.
- 4) Pinto, Mustang, Bronco and Pony Leagues
 - a. Time and place of the draft will be left up to the Baseball Commissioner and/or Vice-Commissioner for the utmost convenience and benefit to RYA.
 - b. The Baseball Commissioner will be in charge of the overall draft and will be responsible for rule interpretations and procedures.
 - c. Total registration will determine the number of players on a team, as well as to establish the quantity of players with regard to age divisions per team., so that all teams will be equally divided as to age, as best can be done. This also applies to the Coaches' Option. For example, if a team has four (4) returning older players and the maximum older players in that league is four (4), that team will not be allowed to take any older Coaches' or Assistant Coaches options.
 - d. Each team will be allowed three (3) representatives at the draft table, designated by the Head Coach. (No Exception)
 - e. No draft will be held until all teams have a Head Coach and/or Assistant Coach present.
 - f. The draft will begin with the announcement of the Head Coaches as to their returnees.
 - g. Each Head Coach will draw for their draft order. Draft shall be first to last, last to first in that order until all teams are full. There will be a minimum of twelve (12) players on a team.
 - h. Any player returning to or drafted on a team, who has a brother/sister the same league, will be drafted on the same team. (The older player must be drafted first with the younger player being the brother/sister option) If a player is being taken

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as a coaches' option that has a brother/sister in the same league, you MUST take the older child as the Coaches' option.

- i. Brother options will be drafted in the sixth (6th) round and/or any even round thereafter.
 - j. Each team will be entitled to one (1) head Coach Option and four (4) Assistant Coach Options. An Assistant coach with a son or daughter option must be an active coach approved by the baseball commissioner.
- Coaches Options:
 1. Each team shall have one (1) Head Coach Option to be drafted in the third (3rd) round. If the Head Coach has a child, that child will be the coaches' option. If the Head Coach leaves the team during the season and/or does not return the following year, and his Coaches option does return to the same team, he/she is still considered an option on that team.
 2. Each team shall have four (4) Assistant Coaches options to be drafted in the fourth (4th) fifth (5th), sixth (6th) and seventh (7th) rounds. If the assistant coach has a child that child will be the coaches' option. If the Assistant Coach leaves the team during the season and/or does not return the following year, and his Coaches option does return to the same team, he/she is still considered an option on that team.
 - k. No Head Coach or Assistant Coaches' option will be taken from another team. Only Exceptions, if a parent takes another team so he can Head Coach (no draft penalty) and/or if a team takes an Assistant Coach's option off an existing teams roster so the parent can help assistant coach, then that team will give up their first (1st) round draft pick to that team.
 - l. Any player already drafted onto a team will be considered as a returnee, not a coaches' option
 - m. No trading of players will be allowed. If a parent or coach has a problem with a player being on a certain team, then a request for a trade can be brought before the Baseball Commissioner and the RYA Board to be resolved.
 - n. If a coach does not have a coach option available, (because of returning options from the previous year), he must draft his child.
 - o. In order for a coach to declare a coaches option for his team, other than their child (Paragraph J1 & J2 "Coaches Options" takes precedence), he/she must present a letter to the Baseball Commissioner signed by the parents of that player before the draft begins.
 - p. All players will be drafted by the announcement of their name, number and age.
 - q. Expansion teams will draft (1st). Also, beginning in the third (3rd) round and every odd round thereafter, pick two (2) players in each round.

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N) Safety:

- 1) Metal cleats are not to be worn by players or members of the coaching staff. Only rubber (no hard plastic) cleats will be allowed.
- 2) Use of facemasks on batting helmets is mandatory in Pinto, Mustang and Bronco leagues. Baseballs must not be able to penetrate between the face shield and the bill of the helmet.
- 3) All fence gates on the playing field must remain closed throughout the duration of the game.
- 4) No jewelry allowed except for medical bracelets which must be secured with tape.

O) Trophies and Awards:

- 1) Trophies will be given to the players and coaches of each League/Conference Tournament champion and runner-up.

P) Playoffs:

- 1) A double elimination tournament in Pinto, Mustang, Bronco and Pony leagues and a single elimination tournament for 5/6 Shetland will be held to determine the Champion of each league. The teams with the best regular season record will participate. The number of teams participating will be determined by the Baseball Commissioner.
- 2) If there is a tie that only affects the placement of the top teams the following tie breakers will be in effect.
 - (i) Head to Head in regular season.
 - (ii) Points Against in regular season
 - (iii) Points For in regular season
 - (iv) Coin flip
- 3) If there is a tie that effects which teams participate in the championship tournament, there will be a game playoff. If there is a three –way tie, teams will draw for a bye, then play.
- 4) There will be a time limit on all games except the Championship game. The ten (10) run rule limit is still in effect. Bronco and Pony Championship games are seven (7) innings or ten (10) run rule after five (5) innings. Pinto and Mustang Championship games are six (6) innings or ten (10) run rule after four (4) innings.
- 5) All players will play required innings as previously stated.
- 6) Higher seeded teams will be the home team
- 7) All other rules will be played by the Pony Rule Book (see Pony Tournament Rules)

Q) Tournament Teams:

- 1) Tournament teams may be formed with approval from the Baseball Commissioner and the RYA board. League Champions and Runner-Up head Coaches will have the first choice to coach these teams. All coaches and team rosters will be approved by the Baseball Commissioner and the RYA board.

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R) Field Preparation and Maintenance:

- 1) Both teams are responsible for:
 - a. Getting the field ready for the first game.
 - i. Watering and raking infield and base paths.
 - ii. Chalking the fields.
 - iii. Installing the bases.
 - b. Securing the ball field after the last game.
 - i. Taking up the bases and placing them in the green storage buildings and **LOCKING** the buildings back.
 - ii. Raking infield and base paths
 - iii. Water infield.
- 2) Head coaches are responsible for proper field maintenance, and are subject to ejection if field is not in playing condition (at the discretion of the umpire) 10 minutes prior to game time.
- 3) All teams are responsible for trash clean up on their side of the field including the bleachers at the end of their game. **DO NOT LEAVE FOR NEXT TEAM TO CLEAN!!!!!!**

S) Exception to PONY Rules:

- 1) Pinto League ~
 - a. Will be coach pitch.
 - b. The batter gets six (6) pitches or three (3) strikes to hit the ball. If the batter has two (2) strikes and swings at the ball and misses they are out on three (3) strikes.
 - c. The defensive team will consist of ten (10) players, four (4) of which must be outfielders.
 - d. In order to stop play the ball must be in the possession of an infielder and in the umpire's judgment the lead runner has stopped, hesitated, slowed down or is trying intimidation, time will be called and runners adjusted.
- 2) Mustang League ~
 - a. The catcher must catch the third strike for the batter to be out, except when first base occupied with less than two (2) outs.
 - b. Loose bases will be played.
- 3) Bronco and Pony League ~
 - a. As previously stated.