

Cypress Youth Baseball (CYB)
2026 Local League Rules
Pony Division

Local rules are adopted rules governing play for CYB. These rules are a supplement to the governing rules of Major League Baseball and PONY Baseball Inc. These rules are designed to tailor participation in the Pony division to meet the objectives of CYB. Violation of these rules may result in forfeiture of the game, and/or suspension of a Manager, Coach, or Player, at the discretion of the CYB Board.

1. OBJECTIVES OF THE PONY DIVISION:

- 1.1. Continue to build players' skills and game knowledge.
- 1.2. Reinforcing players, coaches, and parents to the concepts of:
 - Unlimited runs per inning
 - Position Specific Training
 - Good Sportsmanship

2. SAFETY

- 2.1. Shoes with metal cleats are Allowed.
- 2.2. Protective hard cups are required for all male players; protective soft cups are required for all female players.
- 2.3. Players are not allowed to stand or sit in the doorway of the dugouts.
- 2.4. Managers and coaches must stay in the dugout unless they are a base coach or time is called.
- 2.5. Players are not allowed to leave the playing field once the game begins without permission from the umpire.
- 2.6. **Nothing is allowed in the dugout except water and sport drinks. No Gum or Glass Bottles**
- 2.7. Base coaches under the age of 18 must wear a protective batting helmet
- 2.8. A base runner is automatically out and subject to ejection based on the Umpire's judgment if:
 - He/she fails to slide which results in a hard collision at any base other than 1st when the ball arrives simultaneously with or before the runner.
 - He/she slides "with cleats high" carelessly or attempts to intimidate or injure a defensive player in any way.
 - He/she purposely attempts to dislodge a ball from a defensive player other than by a slide.
- 2.9. Defensive players may not block the progress of a runner without possession of the ball. To do so is "defensive interference" and should be ruled as such by the Umpire.
- 2.10. Batter throwing the bat or helmet (non-sportsmanlike infraction) - For safety reasons, a player may be removed from a game by the Umpire (non-ejection) for multiple offenses of throwing the bat and or helmet.
 - The umpire must first issue a warning to the player for throwing the bat. The umpire may remove the player from the game for a subsequent infraction during the game.

- An umpire cannot declare a player “out” for throwing the bat. If a ball is put in play, the umpire must allow all play to stop then take appropriate action. A substitute runner may be used to replace a player removed from the game under this safety provision.
- The removed players’ batting spot shall be skipped over without penalty for the remainder of the game. A player removed from the game under this provision shall not be considered ejected from the game and shall not be subject to additional game suspensions. If a player is removed from the game by the umpire, he is removed from playing defensively as well for the remainder of the game.

3. MANAGERS & COACHES

- 3.1. No more than one manager and two coaches are allowed on the field during games. There must be one manager/coach in the dugout at all times. All of these must be Background Approved through CYB
- 3.2. Once the game begins, managers and coaches are not allowed to leave the playing field without permission from the umpire. Umpires may remove managers or coaches from the game who leave the field without permission.
- 3.3. Coaches may alternate in the dugout during a game. However, should a manager or coach be ejected or be removed from the game, the team shall complete play with one less manager/coach.
- 3.4. Managers and coaches are permitted to “warm-up” players and pitchers.

4. FIELD PREPARATION & BREAKDOWN

- 4.1. Pre-Game Responsibilities – Home Team
 - The Home Team will occupy the 3rd base dugout
 - Provide two game balls to the umpires. **Each team will take a game ball** at the conclusion of the game.
 - The home team is responsible for getting the field ready for play, including raking, dragging and lining the batters’ boxes and base paths, placing the bases on the field and setting up the score keepers booth.
- 4.2. Post-Game Responsibilities - Visiting Team
 - **If last game of the day** - the visiting team must, drag the field, rake the batter’s box, pitcher’s mound and base lines, **water the dirt and infield grass areas**, replace home plate, pitching mound and bullpen mound covers, remove and store bases, breakdown scorekeeper’s booth and return scorebooks and cart to the shed and must make sure that it’s locked.
- 4.3. Scorekeeping Responsibilities – Both Teams
 - Each team will have scorekeeping responsibilities: Home team will require (1) representative to score games using league provided scorebook; Visiting team will require (1) representative to track pitch count using official CYB Pitch Log and document coaches pitch log sheet. The visiting team is also responsible for using and updating the score board for CYB fans. Official score keeper and pitch counter must sit in the scorebox for the duration of the game.
 - The first score keeper of the day will retrieve the scorebox from the baseball shed, and the last scorekeeper of the day will be responsible for putting all scorekeeping equipment away to its proper place in the baseball shed. All scorekeepers must have both managers sign and date each game page before the next game can start.

Note: If a team fails to perform all required field duties, the responsibilities fall to the team manager. The team's manager will be suspended for the next scheduled game, or next make-up game as determined by the Division Commissioner or VP of Operations. The 1st offense will be the next game suspension; 2nd offense will be cashing equipment check.

4.4. **In the event of rain** – Check the cypressyouthbaseball.org website for the latest information on game status. If games are going to be played, both teams will be required to send a group of parents to the field at least 2 hours before scheduled start or time permitting to help get the fields ready.

5. GAME MANAGEMENT

5.1. There is no live batting practice. Soft toss into a net, wiffle balls/heavy balls and hitting sticks are permitted. Helmets must be worn by all players participating in pre-game batting drills.

5.2. **Time Permitting:** The visiting team shall take the field between 25 and 15 minutes before the game time. The home team shall take the field between 15 and 5 minutes before the game time. Pre-game practice on the game field will end 5 minutes before the scheduled start of game. Fields and bull pens are reserved for active teams currently playing a game on the field only. No warming up of the team for the future game.

5.3. Starting line-ups must be submitted to the scorekeeper **at least 10 minutes prior to the start** of the game. Lineups shall **list the player's number, last name, first initial, and position number**. Managers will also exchange line-ups at home plate prior to the start of the game. Team may begin game with min 8 players and end min 7 due to injury. Designated defensive positions will include: #1- Pitcher, #2–Catcher, #3– First Baseman, #4 –Second Baseman, #5 –Third Baseman, #6-Shortstop, #7-9- Left Field to Right Field. However, any of the above 9 positions at start of the game will yield an out each time that position shows up to bat. Managers must also submit a pitch eligibility log to scorekeeper and opposing manager with player's jersey number, last name, first initial.

5.4. The playing time for games will be 7 innings. An official game is 4 innings. No new inning shall be started after 2hr 10 min **A new inning starts as soon as the last out is recorded.**

5.5. Time limits will be based upon actual start times as designated by the umpire. The official scorekeeper shall record the start time of the game as indicated by the umpire.

5.6. No time-limit can be enforced until a game has become "official." Should a time limit be reached before the minimum innings have been played, it shall continue until it has reached "official" status. **There is no designated "drop dead" time.**

- If there is no following game scheduled, the "no new inning" limit shall be extended if halting the game will result in a "suspended" game (see below).

- At the discretion of the Board, time limits may be modified or removed for purposes of tournament play

- **There is no inning run limit in the Pony Division**

- **Mercy Rules: 8 runs after 5 complete innings, 10 runs after 4 complete innings, 15 runs after 3 complete innings**

5.7. Suspended Games are defined as:

- Any game stopped before it has become "official" (curfew, weather, darkness, etc.)

- Any "official game" halted with the score tied.

- Any “official game” halted during an incomplete inning in which the visiting team has gained the lead. Note: Any game halted during an incomplete inning that does not meet the above conditions, will be considered complete with the final score being that at the time the game is halted.

5.8. Suspended games shall be resumed from the point of suspension and played until:

a) If resuming from before the time limit, until the time limit is reached, and the score is not tied

-or-

b) if resuming from beyond the time limit, until 6 or more complete innings have been played and the score is not tied. **“Suspended” games must be completed before the two teams can begin a new game between themselves.**

5.9. Protests

- All protests must be submitted in accordance with the PONY Rule: 19-PROTEST.

a) a protest based on a play which involves an umpire’s judgement shall not be permitted.

b) when protests are based on an interpretation of the rules, the objecting manager shall, at the time the play occurs, notify the head umpire, the opposing manager and the official scorer that the game is being played under protest, and submit the protest in writing to the organization league president or secretary, or to the Decisions Committee, within 48 hours of the completion of the game.

1) When protests based on the interpretation of a rule are upheld by the Decisions Committee, the game concerned shall be replayed from the point of protest

2) Umpires should make a public announcement to the crowd when a game is being played under protest

c) Any team manager or other adult leader who withdraws a team from the playing field under any circumstances prior to the official completion of the game shall forfeit all rights to protests as prescribed in this section

- Properly submitted protests will be decided upon by a decisions committee consisting of the following CYB Board members: 1) Division Commissioner, 2) Vice-President of Operations, 3) One additional Division Commissioner

6. GENERAL PLAYING RULES

6.1. Minimum Defensive Playing Time: Each player must play at least 3 innings in the field. An “inning” is defined as three outs. Except in the event of mercy rule game.

- Minimum playing time rules do not apply to players that arrive after the game has started.
- Minimum playing time rules are not enforceable for games halted before 6 defensive innings are completed.

6.2. **Defensive Substitutions:** In order to track the minimum playing me requirements, **managers must notify the scorekeeper** which players are not playing defense each inning and any substitutions. The scorekeeper shall halt the game until such information is reported and must document in the official scorebook.

- The Manager will be suspended if any player does not receive the minimum defensive playing time. Any player who does not receive the minimum defensive playing time shall play the next game in its entirety.

6.3. Exceptions may be made if communicated with and approved by the division commissioner.

6.4. Managers may be subject to further disciplinary action imposed by the CYB Board for multiple and/or intentional violations of the minimum defensive playing time rule.

7. PITCHING RULES

7.1. A pitcher removed from the mound may not return in a suspended game as a pitcher (Suspended games are defined in Rule 5.8)

7.2. A pitcher is charged with the number of pitches in the specific calendar day and week in which they are pitched, regardless of whether they are local organization league games, the playoff of postponed games, or suspended games, tie games, or exhibition games.

Pitchers must be removed from the game after throwing:

- 95 pitches in a calendar day
- Exception: If a pitcher reaches a limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until: (1) that batter completes his/her at bat; or (2) The third out is made to complete the half inning.

7.3. Rest is calculated as per calendar day

NOTE: the pitcher will only be required to observe the calendar day(s) of rest for the threshold he/she reached during the start of that at-bat, provided that the pitcher is removed before delivering a pitch to the next batter or the final out is recorded

7.4. Pitches **do not** need to be thrown to a batter in order to issue an “intentional” walk.

7.5. If thresholding a pitcher, **manager does not** need to declare it to the scorekeeper and/or umpire.

7.6. The Manager will be suspended for violating pitching rules.

- Exceptions may be made if communicated with and approved by the division commissioner.

7.7. Coaches may be subject to disciplinary action imposed by the CYB Board for multiple and/or intentional violation of the maximum pitching restrictions.

7.8. Refer to Pony 2020 Rules 10-Pitching Rules Article D-Pitch Smart Chart Ages 13-14

8. BATTING RULES

8.1. A continuous batting order will be used for all games

8.2. Any player injured or absent must be declared so prior to the start of the game by the Manager. Players must still be listed on batting line up

8.3. Any player that becomes unable to bat due to injury or illness during the game will have his/her batting position skipped for the remainder of the game without penalty.

- If a batter misses an at bat due to any other reason besides injury or illness, their next at bat will be recorded as an out. Any at bat afterward will be taken without penalty
- **Once a batter’s position is skipped during a game, that player may not participate on defense or offense for the remainder of the game.**

8.4. Any player that arrives after the game has started may be added to the bottom of the line-up and bat for the remainder of the game.

8.5 All bats must have a USA stamp or sticker

9. BASERUNNING RULES

9.1. A pinch-runner may be used for any player on base that is injured during the course of a play.

- This player shall remain in the game until his/her batting position is skipped, at which time the player may not participate in the game further
- Any player removed for a pinch runner a second time in the same game may not participate in the game further

9.2. **Head first sliding is allowed.**

9.3. The designated "pinch-runner" shall be the last player to have batted that is not currently on base.

9.4. A designated "courtesy-runner" can be used for the catcher with 2 outs in the inning. Must be the last recorded out. But the player pulled has to return as catcher for the next inning

10. EJECTIONS

10.1. **Any Coach or Player ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct must leave the field and immediate vicinity.** Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of the game. Additionally, any ejected Coach/player shall be assessed the following penalties.

- For their 1st offense, the offending individual shall be suspended for their next game.
- For a 2nd offense in the same season, the offending individual shall be suspended for their next three games, and or up to remainder of the season.

10.2. **Suspended players are required to be present** at any suspended games (and remain in the dugout) but cannot participate.

10.3. **Suspended coaches may not be physically present** or in contact with anyone at the game site.

10.4. Ejection due to illegal substitution or illegal bat usage shall be subject to the Official PONY Rulebook penalties – the player and manager will be suspended for the team's next scheduled game. Note: This type of ejection shall not be considered unsportsmanlike conduct – thus the coach/player would not be subject to the multiple game suspensions outlines in Section 10.1.

Same rules apply for FALL BALL unless Otherwise noted