

GREATER DuPAGE

BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

(GDPBA)

RULES and PROCEDURES

for

BRONCO and PONY LEAGUES

Amended March 2023

Rainout Website Addresses

Town	Web Page	Location on site Alternate Method
Lisle	Leaguelineup.com/lislebaseballssoftball	Field status- box on right side of home page
Wheaton	Wbyb.org	Home page- Middle right side
Glen Ellyn	Glenellynbaseball.com	Middle left section, Field Status
Homer Glen	Homersports.com	Bottom of homepage, field status section
Lemont	Rainoutline.com/search/6305170731	Look up Lemont Park District
Lockport		
Darien	Darienyouthclub.org	Bottom right of homepage under field status

Bronco Scores: Lislebaseballssoftball@gmail.com

Pony Scores: Lislebaseballssoftball@gmail.com

The following rules shall be in effect for the Bronco and Pony Leagues until changed by the GDPBA Rules Committee.

The order of rule interpretation for all decisions at all games is as follows: (1) GDPBA Rules, (2) Pony Baseball Rules, (3) Official Major League Rules.

SECTION 1 GENERAL RULES

- 1.01 Prior to the start of the game, the decision as to whether or not a field is playable will be made jointly by the plate umpire and the two managers, requiring a 2/3 majority. Once a game begins, if field conditions worsen, the decision to suspend play will be the responsibility of the plate umpire and the two managers, requiring a 2/3 majority. If a field is determined to be unplayable more than one hour before game time, the host town commissioner will cancel the game.
- 1.02 If at any time prior to or during a game lightning is visible in the sky, the umpires shall halt play and immediately clear the field and dugouts. Play shall be suspended a minimum of 30 minutes. If it appears the storms will not leave the area for a considerable time, the umpires will then declare the game suspended.
- 1.03 The home team will occupy the third base dugout.
- 1.04 The home team will keep the official score.
- 1.05 All players must be entered into the scorebook and pregame lineup cards by last name, uniform number and pitching age.
- 1.06 No team mascots or batboys are permitted in the dugout.
- 1.07 Any pitcher who appears in a game on Thursday night may also pitch in a game on Saturday morning and be considered to have satisfied the Pony Baseball "40 Hour Rest Rule".
- 1.08 Both teams may have up to 15 minutes infield practice prior to FIVE minutes before game time. This time may be shortened or eliminated by the umpires. Order of practice is first ready, first to practice. If both teams are ready, visiting team practices first. If both teams arrive early for batting practice, the time shall be divided equally between the two teams.
- 1.09 Infield practice must be completed no later than 5 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time, so the field may be properly marked for play. The preparation of the field is the responsibility of the host/home team with the approval of the umpires.

- 1.10 Participants in the game (players, managers, coaches, umpires & scorekeepers) are not permitted to consume alcoholic beverages on or near the playing field under any circumstances. A proven violation of this rule may result in the suspension of the individual from the GDPBA baseball program.
- 1.11 There will be no smoking or tobacco products on the playing field or dugout. Umpires will issue one warning; second offense shall call for ejection.
- 1.12 If a batter unintentionally throws his bat, the umpire shall warn him. Should the same batter unintentionally throw his bat a second and/or subsequent time(s) during a game, he shall be declared out. No runners shall be allowed to advance DEAD BALL.
- 1.13 Players, managers, coaches, and spectators are not allowed to stand behind the backstop during the game. Umpire shall have the individual(s) removed from this area.
- 1.14 Managers, coaches, and players are responsible for cleaning the field and the dugouts after the games.
- 1.15 The main mode of communication will be by email. Each town will be required to submit an email list for commissioner, directors and coaches.

SECTION 2 SPECIAL EQUIPMENT RULES

- 2.01 The GDPBA recommends all players wear an athletic supporter with cup. Catchers or any player on the team who may be catching in a game or practice MUST wear supporter and protective helmet, chest protector, shin guards, and mask with throat protector at all times. If a catcher is found not wearing proper equipment, he must be removed from the catcher's position until he is properly equipped. Umpires must also wear protective gear. Managers must not allow a game to start or continue unless umpire and catchers are wearing all appropriate equipment. Catcher must wear chest protector, mask, shin guards and catcher's mitt.
- 2.02 Players may not wear watches, rings, or other jewelry items while practicing or playing. Players in the Bronco league may not wear shoes with metal spikes. Metal baseball cleats are permitted in Pony. Pitchers should not wear white or light grey sleeves.
- 2.03 Managers or adult coaches may warm up a pitcher between innings without a protective mask. Players warming up a pitcher must wear a protective helmet and mask.

- 2.04 Adults may coach on the base lines without protective helmets. Player coaches must wear helmets.
- 2.05 The home team shall provide the plate umpire with two NEW game balls prior to the start of the game. For Pony games a third ball (may be slightly used) will be provided.
- 2.06 Any player without a complete uniform (hat, jersey, and pants) may be restricted from play by his manager. Jersey MUST be tucked into pants. The intent of this rule is to encourage kids to be properly dressed.

SECTION 3 DISCIPLINARY RULES

- 3.01 A manager is responsible for the conduct of his players, coaches, scorekeeper and fans. If an umpire requests his assistance in disciplinary actions, the manager must comply or face ejection and/or forfeiture of the game.
- 3.02 Only uniformed players, manager, coaches, and scorekeeper are allowed in the dugout. Unauthorized persons in the dugout will be asked to leave. After one warning the umpire may declare the game a forfeit if an unauthorized party refuses to leave.
- 3.03 No player, manager, coach, scorekeeper, or spectator is permitted to call an opposing player by name, number or defensive position while he is batting, running, fielding, or pitching. After one warning the umpire may eject the offending party from the game. Additionally, players are not allowed to use excessive chatter while in the field or on the bench. Runners are not to use excessive clapping noises or yelling while on the bases and or taking their lead-offs. Players are to encourage their teammates between innings and between pitches.
- 3.04 Any manager, coach, scorekeeper, or player who commits unsportsmanlike behavior (kicks or throws equipment, uses profane language in anger, fights, etc.) **WILL BE EJECTED FROM THE GAME IMMEDIATELY.** If a manager or coach feels a ballplayer **requires discipline, he may do so immediately.** If any team representative **physically attacks** or **threatens** an umpire, **teammate** or opposing **player**, that individual shall be barred from any further participation in the GDBPA program upon the investigation and final action of the GDPBA commissioners.
- 3.05 A manager or coach who has been ejected from the game must leave the area of play which includes the stands and area for the fans. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture. All ejections must be reported to the town directors of both teams with 24 hours of the game. If a coach is ejected a second time, he will be suspended for one game.
- 3.06 A player ejected from the game must remain on his team bench; unless parent or legal guardian accompanies him, then he/she may sit in the stands or leave the field. If the player is requested to leave the area and player's parent(s) or legal guardian is present, he must do so. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture.

- 3.07 A disruptive fan can be asked to leave the immediate area by the umpire. Failure to do so may result in a forfeiture of the game by his team.

SECTION 4 INCOMPLETE, CONTINUED, & MAKEUP GAMES

- 4.01 In the event a team is unable to start a game with 9 eligible players, due to injury or unforeseen circumstances, the **game will start and continue with 8 players**. If the number of eligible players goes to **7**, the team will **forfeit**. If a ninth player arrives to the game later, he/she will be eligible to play immediately. Eligible player will be entered last in batting order. Pony Baseball Rules, Section 18 C states that a team has **10 minutes** from the scheduled starting time to field a team. The interpretation of this is that a game must start on time or as soon as 8 eligible players arrive at the playing field. If 8 eligible players are not available within 10 minutes of the scheduled starting time the game will be declared a forfeit. Teams are **not penalized** with an out in place of the 9th batter if they only have 8 players.
- 4.02 When a game is declared incomplete as defined in the Pony Baseball Rules, the home team scorebook must be correctly marked to indicate the exact situation when play is halted. Umpires and managers will sign the scorebook. The league scheduler will schedule a time to complete the game, which will be resumed at the exact point where play was stopped.
- 4.03 In the event of a game to be continued, all players present for the continued portion are eligible to participate, even if they did not play in the original portion. The batting order must be exactly as it appeared when the game was suspended. All new players will be listed following the last player listed in the original batting order. All pitching regulations will continue.
- 4.04 Every attempt will be made to reschedule games in successive order; i.e., the first game rained out will be played on the first available rain date, etc. Report all rained out games to the Host Town Commissioner within 24 hours. The Host Town Commissioner will be responsible for ensuring that all games are rescheduled.
- 4.05 Should several games be rained out on one day (Saturday), Host Town Commissioner will determine the order in which the games will be rescheduled. If all games are rained out on a Saturday, games will NOT be rescheduled; however, if one game is played on Saturday and the remainder of the day is rained out, Town Commissioners will make every effort based on field availability to reschedule all remaining Saturday games.

SECTION 5 PLAYING TIME/BATTING ORDER

- 5.01 A free substitution rule shall be in effect for all defensive positions. Players may be put in and taken out on defense any number of times without limitation to positions played. The only exception to this rule is that once removed from the pitching position a player may not be reinstated into that position.

- 5.02 No player shall sit more than one complete defensive inning more than any other player at any point in the game except for a player who has arrived late or leaving early (i.e., no player shall sit 3 innings before every other player has sat at least 2). Any late player will be added to the end of the batting order immediately and play half the remaining innings. If the number of the remaining innings is odd, then the late player must play half of the remaining innings minus one (i.e. 5 remaining innings; player must play a minimum of 2 innings). Failure to comply with this rule (1st offense) will result in the manager being suspended for one (1) game. Applies to ALL leagues.
- 5.03 Teams will use a "continuous" or "rotational" batting order, whereby all eligible players at the game will be included in the lineup and entered in the scorebook. Therefore, every player has the potential to bat every inning, regardless of whether or not he/she played in the field.
- 5.04 There will be no pinch hitters. In the event a player is ejected, injured, or otherwise unable to continue, his spot in the lineup is eliminated.
- 5.05 If a batter reaches base safely but then must leave the game due to injury, illness, ejection, etc., a temporary runner should be used. This runner must be the last player to be retired.
- 5.06 Rule 5.05 will also be applied when a catcher is on base with two outs. With 2 outs, catchers MUST have a substitute runner; it is optional to remove the pitcher.
- 5.07 There is no requirement that players play the infield or outfield during the course of a game.

SECTION 6 SAFETY RULES

- 6.01 No base runner may intentionally run into a fielder just to knock the ball out of his possession. If, in the judgment of the umpire this occurs, the base runner will immediately be called out. If it is a flagrant violation, the player at fault may also be ejected from the game. The offensive player must slide **or** avoid contact at all times. This does **not** mean that a runner must slide at **all** times to avoid possible contact. This rule is an umpire discretion call if contact occurs.
- 6.02 If the runner attempting to score **intentionally** makes contact with the catcher (fielder) by sliding into him above the waist or using a "football" type rolling block or other similar actions, the umpire will call the runner out **and** may eject him from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct, if he deems necessary. Ball will be ruled dead and no other runners will be allowed to advance.
- 6.03 If the catcher (fielder) must move into the base path between home and third base to receive the throw, base runner must give way (run around) him to allow him to make the play. NOTE: This is an Official Baseball Rule.
- 6.04 When there is no possibility of contact, the runner should not slide. Umpires may tell the runner "Stand up Don't slide" when this situation occurs.

- 6.05 On deck batters will stand in the circle **behind** the batter, regardless of the dugout they occupy and must wear a batting helmet. With a righthanded batter, the 3rd base circle will be used. With a lefthanded batter, the 1st base circle is used.
- 6.06 No "slash" rule. Batters are not allowed to show bunt and reload and swing during a single pitch. If performed, it shall be called a dead ball, the batter shall be called out and all runners will return to their original base.

SECTION 7 PROTESTS

- 7.01 Should a disagreement occur, both managers and both umpires should calmly discuss the problem for a maximum of five (5) minutes. Discussions should be held behind the pitcher's mound and should not involve the players or coaches.
- After this discussion the umpires will make a final decision. No protest will be allowed.
 - If a manager or coach decides to pull their team off the field without finishing the game, that team will forfeit the game.

SECTION 8 TEAMS/CALLUPS

- 8.01 Each team in the league shall consist of no less than 10 rostered players. The names of these players shall be registered with the GDPBA.
- 8.02 At no time shall a team roster include more than eight (8) players of the older age.
- 8.03 The minimum number of players required to start, or continue a game is eight (8). A team may use a callup player or players to avoid a forfeit. *GDPBA will allow whatever number of call-ups are necessary to play the game for each team.* All callups will be allowed to play regardless of the number of regular players who may show up unexpectedly. All call-up players will be placed at the end of the team batting order. **Callups may not pitch or catch.** If a call up plays the catcher position or pitches, that player's team will forfeit the game, All callup players must play offense as well as defense in accordance with the rules defined in Section 5.
- 8.04 Bronco Division may only callup players from any Mustang team. Pony Division may callup from any Bronco team. Teams may NOT use travel players as call ups.

SECTION 9 LEAGUE DECISIONS COMMITTEE

- Interleague decisions committee to consist of the League Director. from each association.

SECTION 10 UMPIRES

- 10.01 It is *recommended* that the host community schedule two (2) staff umpires for each game. If only one umpire is present at the scheduled game time, the game should be played with only one umpire.

- 10.02 Umpires to be instructed by host associations regarding league rules and regulations. Field ground rules to be available for umpires at all fields.
- 10.03 In the event of injury during play, the umpire may discontinue play at any time regardless of whether or not the ball is in play, if the umpire feels the injured player requires immediate attention.
- 10.04 The following is common to all umpire associations:
1. Family members of participants may not umpire a game.
 2. Umpires cannot coach players.

SECTION 11 LENGTH OF GAMES

- 11.01 10 Run Rule If a team is leading its opponents by at least ten (10) runs after five (5) or more equal innings have been played or after 4 1/2 innings if the leading team is the home team, the game should be terminated and the team in front declared the winner.
- 11.02 All games will be scheduled for seven (7) innings.
- 11.03 A game called for darkness/time limit after five (5) innings is considered a complete game. An exception to this rule is described in "Pony Baseball Rules" Section 11 D. The Umpire in Chief of the game has the responsibility to call the game due to darkness. A game called due to darkness, time limits or rain after the 5th inning will be considered an official game with the score reverting back to the end of the last complete inning of play. All games that are tied at official game time will be recorded as a tie. EXCEPTION: Play-off games if still tied after reverting back thru OFFICIAL innings, then will be played until an inning ends with a winner. Championship Game will be played out all seven (7) innings. The 10 Run Rule (11.01) and 2-hour rule (11.04) will not apply in the Championship Game only. It will be the trailing coach's decision to stop play in the event the other team is leading by 10 runs or more by the end of five innings in the Championship Game.
- 11.04 No new inning shall start after 2 hours from the start of the game by the umpire. Continuation rules apply as stated in rule 11.03 above. There is **no drop-dead time**. Once that "last" inning begins, it will be played to completion, both top and bottom (if necessary). For standings/seeding purposes- A tie will count as 1/2 win & 1/2 loss when determining winning percentage.
- 11.05 No new inning may start after 11:00 PM in Bronco or Pony.

SECTION 12 INDIVIDUAL BRONCO LEAGUE RULES

- 12.01 No pitcher can pitch more than three (3) innings per game. Also, an 11-year-old (first-year Bronco aged player) must pitch one (1) full inning (three outs) by the completion of the **4th inning**. If violated, the manager will immediately be ejected from the game. The pitcher will then be changed and the game will continue to be played. *This requirement can be met by a pitcher in one of two (2) ways:*
3 outs = 1 inning; 6 runs in one inning = 1 inning.

12.02 Note-Above innings rules will apply for the league. However, all innings are not created equal. A quick 3 batter inning is much easier on a pitcher than a long 6 run maximum inning filled with walks. A pitch chart has been included at the end of the rules. This pitch chart is included to provide guidelines for maximum pitches thrown per outing and rest based on the number of pitches.

SECTION 13 INDIVIDUAL PONY LEAGUE RULES

13.01 No pitcher can pitch more than four (4) innings per game. Also a 13-year-old (first-year Pony aged player) must pitch one (1) full inning by the completion of the **5th inning**. If violated, the manager will immediately be ejected from the game. The pitcher will then be changed and the game will continue to be played. *This requirement can be met by a pitcher in one of two (2) ways: 3 outs = 1 inning; 6 runs in one inning = 1 inning.*

SECTION 14 BRONCO & PONY RULES

14.01 Pitching rules summary: (Reference PONY BASEBALL RULES for specifics)

1. A Player may pitch a maximum of ten innings per calendar week.
2. A calendar week is from 12:01 AM Monday to 12:00 midnight the following Sunday.
3. Forty (40) hours rest is required if a player pitches the maximum innings on a given calendar day.

14.02

1. No team may score more than six (6) runs in any half inning during the first five innings, regardless of whether that team is leading or trailing in the inning.
2. There is **no restriction** in the number of runs scored in the 6th and 7th innings.

14.03 Balk Rules -- one warning per pitcher per game for the duration of the season

14.04 Equipment

1) In conjunction with USA Baseball and its other participating national member organizations, PONY Baseball has adopted the new USA Baseball bat standard (USABat). Effective January 1, 2018 and continuing, with the exception of -3 (BBCOR certified), all other 2 1/4" and 2 5/8" barrel bats with a minus factor of (-5, -7, -9, etc.), must be USABat certified with the USABat licensing stamp on the bat in order to be used for league and tournament play.

2) All levels- Bats manufactured specifically for use in tee ball play, shall not be used if the ball is pitched by a player, coach or pitching machine.

3) All Levels- 2-1/4 or 2- 5/8 inch barrel bats are legal (any drop). They must be **USA** Certified. (not USSA).

14.05 **Penalty for use of an illegal bat:** When detected **before** a ball is hit in fair territory, 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 issued a warning and should go through the remaining bats in the dugout.

If detected **after** a ball is hit in fair territory, the batter is declared “**OUT**” and base runners shall return to their original base prior to the hit. The bat should be removed from the game. The manager of the team shall be issued a warning and should go through the remaining bats in the dugout.

SECTION 15 APPENDIX

RECOMENDED PITCH COUNTS

<u>AGE</u>	<u>DAILY MAX PITCHES</u>	<u>REQUIRED REST (PITCHES)</u>					
		<u>0 DAYS</u>	<u>1 DAY</u>	<u>2 DAYS</u>	<u>3 DAYS</u>	<u>4 DAYS</u>	<u>5 DAYS</u>
7-8	50	1-20	21-35	36-50	N/A	N/A	N/A
9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
11-12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
13-14	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
15-16	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+	N/A
17-18	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+	N/A
19-22	120	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81-105	106+

