

OFFICIAL PONY SELECT RULES

CONTACT INFORMATION

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1- TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE

- A. All Tournaments are listed as “OPEN TOURNAMENTS” and will group all teams of the same age within pool play. Teams are assigned to elimination bracket play based on their seeding in pool play.
- B. A minimum of **four (4)** seasonal tournaments will be scheduled
 - a. Fees will vary by tournament by Region
- C. Each seasonal tournament will have **three (3)** games guaranteed
- D. Pony National qualifying tournament will held in May. Teams will register for tournament online. Entry fee is \$225.00 per team. Roster will have a minimum of 12 players. Roster maximum is 15 players. Players on roster must meet qualifying criteria (1. Reside in boundary 2. Player must have played in half of teams games.)
- E. **BOUNDARIES:** Each region in the South Zone may require teams to be bound to boundaries from which they intend to select their players, either on a school population basis, or on a geographical basis.
- F. Regions:
 1. North Texas-north of Waco school district boundaries. Includes DFW metroplex.
 2. Central Texas(Austin)-San Marcos school district to Waco school district.
 3. San Antonio-South of San Marcos school district to George West school district
 4. Corpus-Duval, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Nueces, San Patricio, Refugio counties.
 5. Valley-Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr Willacy counties.
 6. Houston-Houston metroplex
 7. Golden Triangle
 8. Louisiana
 9. Florida-Tampa, Orlando, Miami

2- TOURNAMENT TEAM REGISTRATION

- A. All teams participating in any PONY Select event must register their team with PONY..
- B. Tournament team registration cost **is a one time fee of \$25.**
- C. The new year starts with the start of the Spring-Summer season.
- D. All teams competing in PONY Select events must have accident insurance coverage. Such coverage is available through PONY Baseball, Inc.

3- GENERAL ROSTER RULES

- A. For insurance purposes, any person that comes in contact with the playing field (including the dugout area) must be listed on the roster. This includes players and coaches.
- B. All rosters are "OPEN ROSTERS" with unlimited additions per team throughout the season.
- C. When entering player names, managers are required to use the legal first and last name of the player as it appears on the certificate of birth. Nicknames, middle names and suffixes such as "Jr." or combined middle and last names are not permitted.
 - a. Please note that jersey numbers are required. .
- D. It is the responsibility of the team manager to ensure that all player data is absolutely accurate.
 - a. **PENALTY: Any roster found to have inaccurate, missing or falsified player information, whether intentionally or accidentally, shall result in forfeit of protested game and disqualification team manager and player for rest of tournament.**
- E. The team manager, upon request, must provide a copy of any player's birth certificate to the tournament director. The dates on the birth certificate and the dates on the PONY roster must match identically, or the player and team manager are subject to disqualification.
- F. A player may only participate with one (1) team (**aka original team**) per event.
 - a. **PENALTY: Forfeit of protested game by non-original team only. Disqualification of player from all teams (original and non-original) & disqualification of non-original team manager for rest of tournament.**
 - b. **Players that play on more than two teams during open tournaments will not be eligible for Pony National Tournament play.**
- G. Participation with any other team, even in another age division, within the same event is also prohibited and will result in same penalty..
- H. A player may "play up" in age (only one age group-i.e. Mustang can play up in Bronco but not Pony.), but under no circumstance shall a player be permitted to "play down" in age. Any player found to be playing down in age shall be ruled illegal.
 - a. **PENALTY: Forfeit of protested game and disqualification of player and team manager for rest of tournament.**
 - b. In the event age divisions are combined, it is assumed that the younger age is playing up with the older age.
- I. In all PONY tournaments, awards are presented only to roster players who are present and have participated in the tournament. (Exception: if a player has been injured during the tournament and is receiving medical assistance, an award will be presented.)

4-ROSTER CHANGES

- A. All teams have unlimited roster changes (additions) throughout the season.
- B. Team Managers may make changes to their roster **BEFORE** the scheduled start or actual start time (whichever happens first) of their **first** Pool Play Game.
- C. Once a team has begun its first tournament game absolutely no player adds are permitted.
- D. **PENALTY: Forfeit of protested game and disqualification of player and team manager for rest of tournament.**

5- PONY SELECT GAME RULES

5.1 OFFICIAL RULEBOOK:

[PONY Baseball Rulebook can be found here](#)

5.2A BAT SIZES

- A. All bats in all age divisions may not exceed **42"** in length, and **2 5/8** in barrel diameter.

5.2B BAT PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

- A. With the exception of the -3 bat (BBCOR certified) all 2 5/8 inch minus factor bats and 2 1/4 bats must be certified with the USABat licensing stamp on the bat in order to be used.

5.2C PENALTIES FOR USE OF ILLEGAL BAT AFTER BEING CHECKED OR TESTED:

- A. Refer to PONY rulebook for each scenario.
- a. **Penalty: The manager and player shall be removed from the game as well as the next scheduled game and cannot be replaced.**

5.3 GAME PRELIMINARIES:

- A. A coin flip shall determine the home teams in all pool play games.
- B. The highest seed will be home team in all bracket games.
- C. Coin toss will be used to decide home team when two teams have same seed. ie A1 vs. B1.
- D. If double elimination brackets is being used undefeated team is home team in championship game. Should "if" game be needed coin flip will determine home team.

5.4 TIE BREAKING CRITERIA FOR SEEDING:

1. Head to Head (Used when two teams are tied. Not used when 3 or more teams are tied)
2. Runs Allowed in all games the team have played
3. Net Runs (Runs Scored minus Runs Allowed) in all games the team has played
4. Runs Scored in all games the team has played

5.5 TOURNAMENT TIME LIMITS:

- A. In ALL games, the Official game time starts when UIC announces the game time.
- B. The local tournament director may impose game times as deemed necessary. No new inning may start after time or innings have expired, except when a game is tied. In all tournaments, to help keep the event on schedule, pool play games may end in a tie. Pool play is used for seeding purposes only.

"RECOMMENDED" TIME LIMITS

AGE	TIME LIMIT
6U, 7U, 8U	60 MIN
9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U & 14U	75 MIN

5.6 OVERTIME/ EXTRA INNINGS (BRACKET PLAY ONLY):

- A. Overtime/ extra innings begin once the maximum time limit or innings have been reached and the score is still tied.

5.7 SUBSTITUTIONS:

- A. Starters may re-enter one time in their original batting position. Substitutes removed from a game are ineligible to return. All substitutions shall be reported to the home plate umpire, who will inform scorekeepers. Any pitchers removed from the mound may not return to pitch again in the same game.

5.8 RUN (MERCY) RULE:

- A. Refer to PONY Rulebook

5.9 TIME OUTS:

- A. Teams may have one (1) timeout per ½ inning

5.10 EJECTIONS & CONDUCT:

- A. Any Ejections of coaches, players, and fans, based upon unsportsmanlike conduct, malicious contact, verbally abusing tournament officials, or throwing anything at another individual or onto the playing field, will result in an immediate ejection, **AND ADDITIONAL SUSPENSION**.
- B. Use of profanity by coaches, players, parents or fans is considered unsportsmanlike conduct and may result in ejection, upon the decision of the PONY official or tournament director. Our events are for children, and PONY does not believe profanity is appropriate, nor acceptable, whatsoever, in our environment.
- C. No coach, player, or team shall, at any time, whether from the bench, coaching box, or playing field, attempt to incite by word or sign, any unsportsmanlike conduct or demonstration by spectators.
- D. Razzing, heckling, chanting, or making disparaging remarks towards opponents, in any manner, is prohibited.

5.11 BASEBALL CLEATS:

- A. Some tournaments may have park rules which prohibit metal cleats on portable mounds. Managers should inquire about local tournament rules regarding this or other rules regarding metal cleats.

5.12 DUGOUTS:

- A. All individuals inside the playing field fence, or in the dugout, **MUST** be on the printed team roster. Anyone inside the fence or dugout who is **NOT** on the roster will be removed from the playing field.
- B. Only **ONE PLAYER** – the on-deck batter – is permitted outside of the dugout. Unless the local park has a specific safety rule altering this rule: the on-deck batter must remain on his own dugout side.
- C. Coaches are permitted to stand outside the dugout, as long as in the judgment of the umpire, they do not interfere with the game on the field. At any time the umpire feels a coach is interfering with the game on the field, he may choose to confine one or all coaches to the dugout.

5.13 WARM UPS:

- A. All team pre-game warm-ups will be done in specified warm up areas, or in the outfield of a ball field.
- B. No infield practice permitted on any infield at any time.
- C. No pitching practice permitted on any ball field mound.

5.14 GAME BALLS:

- A. "Regulation" leather covered baseballs are required for all tournament games.
- B. For 9U and above games, each team shall supply to the umpire, three new or like new game balls per game. Teams will chase down foul balls.
- C. For 6U, 7U & 8U games, each team shall supply their own baseball while on offense.

5.15 LINE UP CARDS:

- A. Each manager must prepare three (3) written copies of his lineup, with names and numbers, of all players and substitutes, prior to each game. Line-ups must be provided to the plate umpire, opposing manager, and official scorekeeper. Managers are responsible for providing their own line-up cards.
- B. ALL LINE-UP CHANGES AND SUBSTITUTIONS MUST BE REPORTED by the team manager to the home plate umpire before any substitute takes his offensive or defensive position in the game.
- C. If a team manager accidentally omits a player from the lineup card, the player may still participate in the game, provided the player is on the official PONY Select Tournament roster.
- D. A late arriving player may still play as long as they are listed on the official PONY Select Tournament team roster. If the team has chosen to roster bat, the late arriving player may be inserted at the end of the lineup unless an out has been taken while they were absent.

5.16 TOBACCO & ALCOHOL:

- A. Use of tobacco products is prohibited on all fields and in the dugouts during games.
- B. The illegal sale, or consumption, of alcoholic beverages on the park premises, or in the facility parking lots, is strictly prohibited at all PONY events.
- C. Anyone who appears intoxicated, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs, shall be ejected, from the ballpark.

5.17 PROTESTS:

- A. All protests will be resolved immediately. Only managers may protest. Judgment calls by umpires may not be protested. Protests shall be resolved by the tournament director and their designees, in consultation with the umpires of the game. **Game clock will stop during the filing of an applicable and official protest.**

5.18 FORMAT ALTERATIONS:

- A. All PONY Tournament Directors reserve the right to alter, change, or abbreviate tournament formats, when necessary due to weather conditions beyond their control, OR if a team fails to show for a scheduled game, in order to complete the tournament.

5.19 NO SHOW/ SURRENDER:

- A. Any team that no shows will be responsible for full payment of registration fee and gate fee. NO REFUNDS, NO EXCEPTIONS!

5.20 UNIFORMS/ EQUIPMENT:

- A. All players must be in a baseball uniform to play in the ball game and be distinguishable from other team mates.
- B. Violators of the uniform rule shall be allowed to conform, or will be removed from the game.
- C. Managers and coaches are required to wear baseball uniforms.
- D. If player names are included on the back of jerseys, the name displayed must match the identity of the player. Teams cannot switch uniforms (containing names) to confuse opponents.
- E. All players must be properly equipped while playing.
- F. Please refer to the PONY Rulebook for any other questions

5.21 Pitch Count

- A. Any division that permits a player to pitch must use the Pitch Smart chart printed in the PONY Rulebook

6- ELIGIBILITY

Accountability for player eligibility is a responsibility of both managers and parents. Managers and parents are responsible to ensure that players meet eligibility requirements including, proper age; and that players are not currently registered to another team in the same age division.

6.1 AGE CUTOFF:

- A. PONY will adhere to the age cutoff date of September 1st for all ages.
 - a. To determine your team's age in Spring-Summer seasons:
 - 1. Determine the age of your **OLDEST** player as of August 31st of the current calendar Year.
 - b. For more information please review the PONY rulebook
 - c. It is suggested that if a team is using other birth date as a cut off that the team play up a division to insure all players are legal to PONY age key.

6.2 PROOF OF AGE:

- A. All managers must carry, and provide upon request by a tournament director, birth certificates for all players. Failure to produce a certificate of birth upon request by a tournament official, shall result in disqualification of the player and team manager in that event, and forfeit of protested game.

6.3 IMPROPER PLAYER ADDITIONS:

- A. In all tournaments, NO PLAYER may be added to the team once the team has commenced tournament play.

7- T-BALL

7.1 GENERAL PLAYING RULES:

- A. An inning is considered over once a team scores five (**5**) runs or three (**3**) outs are achieved. In the 6th inning or after a team may score ten (**10**) runs.
- B. Umpires shall call "Time" after every play has concluded and declare the ball "Dead". Time should be called when all runners are no longer attempting to advance.
- C. Players playing the pitching position shall simulate a pitch to start the play.
- D. Run (mercy) rules remain in effect.

7.2 PLAYING FIELD:

- A. Fair Ball Arc: There will be a 10-foot arc drawn from the 1st baseline to the 3rd baseline in front of home plate. A batted ball must go beyond this line to be considered fair.

7.3 DEFENSE:

- A. Ten (10) defensive players can play in the field. Four (4) of these players must play in the outfield and may not cross over into the infield until the ball is hit.
- B. Defensive coaches are not permitted on the field of play.
- C. The pitcher must remain on the rubber until the ball has been hit.

7.4 BASE RUNNERS:

- A. Lead offs and stolen bases are not permitted.
- B. Base runners must remain on the base until the ball has been hit.

7.5 BATTERS:

- A. A batter shall receive a maximum of 3 swings to put the ball in play or be called out. Foul balls are considered an official swing.
- B. Bunting is not permitted.
- C. Intentional walks are not permitted.
- D. Batters are not permitted to practice swing or adjust the tee once the pitching motion has been made.

8- COACH PITCH

8.1 PITCHING REGULATIONS:

- A. The adult coach pitcher, from the team at bat, must be stationed with one foot on the pitcher's rubber when he delivers the ball.
- B. The adult coach pitcher shall pitch overhand to his own team. The adult coach pitcher must be listed on the official PONY Select Tournament roster as a Coach.
- C. A batter shall bat until they have received a maximum of 6 pitches, or 3 swinging strikes, or hits the ball. If the batter fouls off the 6th (or last) pitch the batter shall remain at bat. The batter is not out by fouling off his final pitch unless ball is caught in air (with arc) in foul area by defensive team.
- D. The adult coach pitcher is to make certain that they get out of the way of any batted ball and does not interfere with the players' access to the ball.
- E. The adult pitcher may not talk to, or coach, any runners or batter while he is on the field. He is only permitted to pitch.

8.2 DEFENSE:

- A. Nine (9) defensive players can play in the field.
- B. Defensive coaches are not permitted on the field of play.

8.3 GENERAL PLAYING RULES:

- A. An inning is considered over once a team scores five (**5**) runs or three (**3**) outs are achieved. In the 6th inning or after which is OPEN.
- B. Lead offs and stolen bases are not permitted.
- C. Base-runners may not leave the base until the ball is hit or the ball has crossed the plate.
- D. Base stealing is NOT permitted.
- E. A runner on third base may not advance to home on a passed ball or wild pitch.
- F. The batter is out on the third strike, regardless of whether the catcher holds onto the ball or not.
- G. No Bunting
- H. Umpires shall call "time" after every play has concluded and declare the ball "dead."
- I. Run (mercy) rules remain in effect.

9- SEASONAL STANDING

9.1 SEASONAL SELECT TOURNAMENT TEAM STANDINGS:

- A. Point Structure
 - a. 3 points for 1st
 - b. 2 points for 2nd
 - c. 1 point for 3rd
- B. Standings
 - a. Standings will be posted on South Zone PONY Select webpage
 - b. Standings will be used for seeding at PONY Select Region Tournament

10- SELECT REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

9.1 QUALIFICATIONS:

- A. Minimum of Games Played
 - a. Teams must play in **Four (4)** PONY seasonal select tournament to qualify for the PONY Select Regional Tournament
- B. Postseason Registration
 - a. Teams must register for the PONY Select Regional Tournament through PONY Tournament Rostering System. Entry fee is \$225.00 per tournament team.
 - b. Teams are required to wear PONY patches on their uniforms
 - c. All players and coaches must be dressed in full baseball uniform.

9.2 RULES

- A. Please refer to the PONY Rulebook

9.3 PONY SOUTH ZONE TOURNAMENT

- A. Winner of the PONY Select Regional Tournament advances to the PONY South Zone Tournament