QUICK REFERENCE: PONY DIVISION

Baseball · Age 8 · Co-ed

A summary for game day. The full Pony rulebook governs if anything differs.

The Game

- **Field:** 50-ft bases. Coaches pitch from at least 20 ft. Player pitching plate at 37 ft.
- **Length:** 6 innings or 1:50. No new inning after 1:40. Championship games have no time limit.
- **Forfeit** if a team has fewer than 7 players after a 10-minute grace period (then choose sides and play).
- **No** balks, bunting, leading, stealing, dropped third strike or infield fly rule.
- **5-run limit:** every inning when coaches pitch the whole game (last inning, losing home team only to tie). When players pitch, first 3 innings only.

Pitching

- **Fall:** coach pitch only, all season.
- **Spring games 1-2:** coach pitch, overhand, standing or kneeling. No balls or strikes. 10 pitches; out on 3 swings; no hit after 10 = sits, no out. Hit by pitch = no-pitch. Ball hits coach-pitcher = dead, batter to first, runners +1.
- **Spring games 3-4:** coaches pitch innings 1-2, players pitch from the 3rd inning. 1 inning per player-pitcher.
- **Spring game 5 on:** players pitch all innings. Max 2 innings per game (3 if a playoff game goes extra), 6 innings in any 7 days (except playoffs).
- **Player pitching:** 6 balls is a walk (8 with bases loaded). Strike zone: kneecaps to armpits, over the plate. No intentional walks.
- Pitcher who hits 2 batters in an inning is out for the game. A pitch in the zone that hits the batter is a strike.
- One mound visit per inning. A second visit removes the pitcher (injury checks don't count).

Batting & Defense

- Everyone bats in order. Late arrivals go to the bottom. Batting out of turn is an out only if appealed before that at bat ends.
- 10 players: 9 positions plus 1 extra outfielder. Outfielders at least 15 ft behind the baselines.
- Every player plays the field at least 1 of the first 2 innings and 2 of the first 4.
- Catchers wear full gear. Mandatory courtesy runner for the catcher with 2 outs (the player who made the last out).
- Thrown bat: one warning, then out.

Dead Ball & Bases

- Dead ball: a throw from the outfield crosses the baselines (not to a base), or an infielder throws to the pitcher after making a real play.
- Runners past halfway get the base they're heading to. Otherwise they go back. Tagging up required.
- Out of bounds: turf = concrete, dugout or over the fence. Prospect Park grass = lines 20 ft off first and third. Runners get the base they're heading to +1.
- Overthrow at first is dead, no extra base. Overthrow past the third base line: all runners +1.
- Head-first slides are an out (except diving back). Slide or avoid contact at every base but first. Catcher can't block the plate without the ball.

Umpires & Coaches

- Umpires call the game. Only the head coach talks to the umpire. Judgment calls can't be challenged, only rule interpretations. Only the umpire calls time.
- Offense: first and third base coaches plus a coach-pitcher when coaches pitch. Defense: 2 minutes before each inning to position players, plus one outfield coach in the first game only. Coaches touching a runner or the ball in play = runner out.
- First game sets up the portable mound and backstop; last game stores them.
- Max 4 adults in the dugout. Home team: first base dugout, bases and game ball. AED and an AED-certified coach at every game.