

2025 Fall Ball Pony Rules

1. NFHS Rules will apply. The following are additional rules that supersede NFHS rules in the CVBL League. <https://www.nfhs.org/>
2. All games will be played at 60' mound and 80' or 90' base/lengths. Any variations to this will be agreed upon by the coaches ahead of the game.
3. All players present at a game must be in the batting rotation at all times unless an injury prevents that player from taking their turn at bat.
 - a) If a player arrives after the start of the game, they will be inserted into the last batting position in the lineup.
 - b) Suppose a player fails to appear at the plate for their turn at bat due to an injury or situation beyond the manager's control. No out shall be recorded in that case, provided seven players remain actively in the batting order.
 - c) A game may start with a team that has fewer than nine players. If only seven or eight players are present, no out will be recorded for the eighth or ninth spots in the order.
 - d) A forfeit may be declared when a team cannot field seven eligible players. If an opposing team chooses to 'spot' players, they may do so.
4. All players are limited to sitting out no more than one inning per game, unless they are late for the game or injured. All players must play at least one inning in the infield per game.
5. Each team must place nine players in the defensive positions on the field unless fewer than nine eligible players are in attendance; in this case, all players present must play the field.
6. Games are limited to 90 minutes, with no new inning starting after 75 minutes. Hard stop at 90 minutes to keep games running on time.
7. A game is declared over according to the 10-run rule when:
 - a) The visiting team is behind by 10 or more runs after their 5th or 6th at bat.
 - b) The home team is behind by 10 or more runs after their 5th or 6th at bat.
8. Due to time limitations, the visiting team will not come to bat at the top of a new inning when less than 15 minutes are remaining before the start of the next scheduled game.
9. When the umpire calls a game due to the time limit, the game is complete, and the score stands regardless of the number of innings that have been completed. You do not have to report scores this year.
10. The umpire will keep the official record of time.

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11. Bat Restrictions:

- a) The most enormous length-to-weight ratio allowed is -8, and the maximum barrel diameter is 2 ¾, USA, USSSA, and BBCor.
- b) To be legal, certified bats must be stamped with USA, USSSA, or BBC. They will be allowed as long as they meet the above-listed criteria.

12. A suspended game will be continued from the point of suspension at a time agreed upon by the team managers and league officials. All pitching limitations, substitutions, etc., will remain as they were when the game was suspended.

13. Metal cleats are allowed, except:

- a) Pitchers may not wear metal cleats on portable mounds.
- b) No metal cleats on turf fields.

14. Players who throw their bat or helmet may be ejected from the game.

15. It is the base runner's responsibility to minimize violent collisions with the fielder at all times and locations along the base paths, whether the fielder is in the act of fielding a hit ball, receiving an out throw, or awaiting a putout throw by whatever means available (including sliding) when such situations arise. Any base runner who does not attempt to do this will be called out and, if flagrant, ejected from the game. Note: When a fielder, at the umpire's judgment, obstructs the runner's advance (without the ball), the runner is awarded that base they would have advanced to had there been no obstruction. If, however, the base runner chooses to "steamroll" the fielder rather than minimize the contact, they will be called out.

16. Pitching limitations:

- a) One pitch thrown in any inning is counted as an inning pitched for that particular pitcher.
- b) A pitcher may pitch no more than three innings in a single game.
- c) A pitcher may pitch no more than six innings in a calendar week, Monday to Sunday.
- d) A coach may make only one trip to the mound to talk with their pitcher per inning. If a coach makes a second trip to the mound in the same inning, not counting trips due to injuries, the pitcher must be removed from the mound.
- e) A pitcher removed from the mound cannot return as a pitcher in that game.

17. Re-entry A. Except for the pitcher about rule 19(e), re-entry of starters is unrestricted.

18. Balks: A. Each pitcher will receive one warning before the balk is assessed. An assessed balk by the umpire will result in the baserunners' advancement of 1 base.

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19. Leading off and stealing bases is allowed. The base runner does not have to wait until the ball crosses home plate before taking off.
20. The batter may run on a dropped third strike if a runner does not occupy 1st base.
21. The infield fly rule is in effect.
22. If Pony Team A needs a player to fill a roster spot for a game due to any circumstance, they may select a player from a Major division team—no limit on the # of times that can occur. Vertical movement is allowed, not horizontal. Pony Team A cannot fill a spot with a player from Pony Team B.
23. Sportsmanship: Umpires have been directed to ensure a fun game that promotes good sportsmanship. To promote these goals, the umpires HAVE THE DISCRETION to remove a player or coach from a game for any (but not limited to) the following reasons:
 - a) Player who deliberately or maliciously throws a bat, helmet, or other object
 - b) Any team member exhibiting behavior not in the spirit of fair play and good sportsmanship, especially if they have been previously warned about their behavior.
 - c) Team members use profane or objectionable language on the field or dugout.
 - d) No use of alcohol or tobacco products in the dugouts or on the field during play by managers, players, or coaches.
24. Managers and coaches are responsible for the attitudes and sportsmanship displayed by their team and should lead by example.
25. ***Any rule above can be changed before a game starts if BOTH head coaches agree on the rule change. **BESIDES THE TIME OF THE GAME, WE HAVE TO HAVE THE 90 MIN HARD STOP.* You must inform the umps of the change if you do adjust anything.***

We hope everyone has a great fall season!!! Now let's have some fun!