

## 2018 BASEBALL RULEBOOK CHANGES

**INSERTION:** 2018 (Approved 2016)  
**DESCRIPTION:** AGE CHANGE  
**RULE:** 4E & T2D, PAGE 13 & 29  
**RULE CHANGE:** Birthdate chart to reflect August 31 cutoff date.

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**INSERTION:** 2018 (Approved 2016)  
**DESCRIPTION :** USABAT APPROVED BATS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2018  
**RULE:** 8-C-3, PAGE 17  
**RULE CHANGE:** 2- $\frac{5}{8}$ " barrel bats are legal in all division of PONY Baseball. If a 2- $\frac{5}{8}$ " bat is -3, it must be BBCOR certified (stamped on the bats. Effective January 1, 2018, all other minus factor bats (-5, -7, -9, etc.) Must be certified with USABat licensing mark stamped on the bat.

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**INSERTION:** 2018 (Approved 2017)  
**DESCRIPTION:** APPROVED WORDING FOR NEW BAT STANDARDS FOR 2018 IN PONY RULE BOOK  
**RULE:** 8-EQUIPMENT C, PAGE 16 AND 17  
**RULE CHANGE:** (2) 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, with the exception of the -3 bat (BBCOR certified), all other 2- $\frac{5}{8}$  inch minus factor bats (-5, -7, -9, etc) and 2- $\frac{1}{4}$ " bats must be certified with the USABat licensing stamp on the bat in order to be used for league and tournament play. 2- $\frac{1}{4}$ " and 2- $\frac{5}{8}$  inch minus factor bats (-5, -7, -9, etc) used in 2017 will be illegal to use in 2018.

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**INSERTION:** 2018 (Approved 2016)  
**DESCRIPTION :** PITCHING RULES  
**RULE:** 10-A, PAGE 20  
**RULE CHANGE:** Any team member may pitch, subject to the restrictions of the pitch count as recommended by pitch smart guidelines for the particular age classification.

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**INSERTION:** 2018 (Approved 2017)  
**DESCRIPTION:** RULE BOOK WORDING FOR PITCH SMART  
**RULE:** 10- PITCHING RULES, T-8, PAGE 20-22, 31-32  
**RULE CHANGE:** 10- PITCHING RULES  
Any team member may pitch, subject to the restrictions of the pitch count as recommended by Pitch Smart Guidelines for the particular age classification unless modified by Pony Baseball.  
SHETLAND 6U, PINTO 8U: Pitching options:  
For use with batting tee:  
The ball shall be hit off of a batting tee placed on home plate. The umpire is responsible for removal prior to any play at home plate.  
The batter shall not swing at the ball until the pitcher has made a pitching motion from the pitcher's plate  
The pitcher shall remain in contact with the pitcher's plate until the batter hits the ball.  
PENALTY: A balk is called.

For use with pitching machine:

The pitching machine shall be located approximately 38 feet from home plate.

The pitcher shall take position, always to the rear of the pitching machine, and on the left or right side with one foot on the dirt portion of the mound.

If a batted ball strikes the pitching machine and remains in fair territory, the ball is in play.

If a batted ball strikes the pitching machine and goes into foul territory, the ball is dead, the batter is awarded first base and all runners advance one base.

The coach operating the pitching machine shall not direct or coach in any way on offense.

**PENALTY:** The coach will receive one warning and the second time he/she must be removed.

For use with coach pitchers:

Coaches or managers shall pitch from a pitching plate 38 feet from the point of home plate.

The player fielding the pitcher's position shall take position always to the rear of the pitching plate, and on the left or right side of the coach-pitcher with one foot on the dirt portion of the mound.

Coach-pitcher must remain in contact with the pitching rubber while pitching. He/she must throw the ball overhand. No kneeling or pitching from the knee is allowed.

The coach-pitcher shall not direct or coach their team in any way on offense. **PENALTY:** The coach will receive one warning and the second time the coach-pitcher must be removed.

**SHETLAND 6U:** Players are not permitted to pitch.

**PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY, COLT, PALOMINO, AND THOROBRED** are to use the chart printed below.

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

\*No pitcher shall appear in a game as a pitcher for three consecutive days, regardless of pitch count.

Pitchers reaching their maximum number of pitches in a day while pitching to a batter, may finish pitching to that batter before being removed.

Once the umpire-in-chief signals "play" to the pitcher, that pitcher shall become the pitcher of record and their pitch count begin at that point.

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. Rest is calculated as per calendar day.

Any pitcher withdrawn from the mound and/or lineup, or a pitcher who is withdrawn from the mound and stays in the game at another position, shall not be permitted to pitch again in the same game.

If a relief pitcher comes in “cold” the umpire shall allow the pitcher to warm up properly with at least ten warm up pitches.

Pitchers in violation of any of the pitching rules shall be considered ineligible players, subject to penalties outlined in Rule 18- Penalties.

The pitcher named in the batting order turned in prior to the start of the game or any substitute pitcher, shall pitch to the first batter or any substitute batter until such batter is put out or reaches first base, unless the pitcher sustains injury or illness which, in the judgment of the umpire-in-chief, incapacitates him from pitching.

The pitcher may bring their pitching hand in contact with their mouth or lips while in the pitching circle as long as they wipe off their hands or fingers prior to making contact with the pitching rubber. Penalty for violation of this rule is that the umpire will immediately call a ball.

The league should assign an official scorekeeper for each game to track pitch counts. In the absence of an official scorekeeper, the home team book shall be the official record of games statistics including pitch count.

#### 14-SCOREKEEPERS

The official scorekeeper shall record at-bats, hits, runs, errors, strikeouts, bases on ball, number of pitches thrown by each pitcher of that game, and starting time of games.

It is recommended that in order to be considered the winning pitcher, pitchers should complete at least three (two in Mustang 10U) full innings and leave a lead that stands up for the remainder of the game.

The Official Scorekeeper shall communicate only with the Tournament Director and/or Home Plate Umpire.

#### 18-PENALTIES

Violations of rule 1, or general failure of the organization league to comply with the concept as defined in these Rules and Regulations, and as expressed in the Blue Book of PONY Baseball, may result in refusal to accept the organization league membership application, or a revoking of the membership status of the organization league if the violation occurs after membership for the current season has been granted. Please refer to rule 1A concerning PONY’s policy on disabilities.

A team failing to field at least nine uniformed players within 15 minutes after scheduled starting time of a game, or at any time during the shall, shall forfeit the game.

Penalty for use of illegal players shall be forfeiture of games in which illegal players participated, provided such games are protested by any of the organization league managers or officers in writing within 48 hours of the game or games in question. An illegal player is one who is not legally a member of the organization league because the player does not meet the requirements as to age and/or residence as stated in Rules 4, 5, and 6. Please refer to rule 1A concerning PONY’s policy on disabilities.

Penalty for use of an ineligible player, upon appeal by the opposing manager when the official scorebook or other league records verify the ineligibility of the player concerned, shall be immediate removal of the player from the lineup and ejection of the team manager from the game. Both the player and the manager will be ineligible to participate in the next scheduled game played by the team. Please refer to rule 1A concerning PONY’s policy on disabilities.

An ineligible player is one who is legally a member of the organization league, but who is

ineligible to play or to pitch in a particular game or games because of the limitations set forth in these Rules and Regulations, or as the result of a previous rules violation or disciplinary action.

For the purpose of interpreting this rule, a player shall not be considered in violation of the rule until the umpire-in-chief signals "Play" to the pitcher.

In the event the manager of an ineligible player refuse to remove the player from the lineup and manager does not leave the field when he appeal is made, and verified, the game is subject to forfeit.

If opposing coach does not appeal the use of an ineligible player during the course of a game, the game will stand as played.

Violations of pitch count rule may result in a protest of the game in which it occurs as long as the proper procedures are followed for lodging a protest.

Illegal equipment shall be removed from the game.

Players are not permitted to use illegal headgear even if no other headgear is available. When proper headgear is not available, the game shall be delayed until the equipment can be obtained, or postponed and rescheduled by the organization league officers.

Penalty for use of illegal shoes shall be removal of the shoes from the game, and if no other legal footwear is available, removal of the affected player or players from the lineup.

Players who do not wear complete conventional uniform, protective headgear and catching equipment as required by these rules, shall be removed from the lineup.

Players who intentionally, in the judgment of the umpire, throws bats or protective headgear, or discard protective headgear while batting or running the bases, shall be ejected from the game following completion of any play in progress at the time the violation occurs. Such action does not constitute an out and such players shall be replaced as batter or base runners if appropriate.

Refusal to remove jewelry will result in immediate ejection of the player.

Bats may be tested at any time and if found to be illegal removed from the game.

Penalty for use of an illegal bat after being checked or tested:

If detected before the first pitch of an at-bat, the bat shall be removed from the game. An out is not recorded and a substitute batter shall complete the time at bat. The manager and the violating player shall be removed from the game as well as the next scheduled game and cannot be replace.

If detected after the first pitch (whether the pitch is swung at or not) the batter is declared out and base runner shall no advance. The manager and player of the team shall be removed from the game as well as the next scheduled game and cannot be replaced.

If detected after a ball is hit, the batter is out and base runners shall return to their original base prior to the hit. The manager and player of the team shall be removed from the game as well as the next scheduled game and cannot be replaced.

Pitchers in violation of any of the pitching rules shall be considered ineligible players, subject to the penalties stated for use of an ineligible player in this rule.

#### T-8 TOURNAMENT PITCHING

A. Any team member may pitch, subject to the restrictions of the pitch count as recommended by Pitch Smart Guidelines for the particular age classification unless modified by Pony Baseball as listed below:

AGE	DAILY MAX PITCHES	REQUIRED REST (PITCHES)					
		0 DAYS	1 DAY	2 DAYS	3 DAYS	4 DAYS	5 DAYS
AGES 7-8	50	1-20	21-35	36-50	N/A	N/A	N/A
AGES 9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
AGES 11-12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
AGES 13-14	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
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\*No pitcher shall appear in a game as a pitcher for three consecutive days, regardless of pitch count.

A. Pitchers reaching their maximum number of pitches in a day while pitching to a batter, may finish pitching to that batter before being removed.

B. All pitchers become eligible at each level of tournament play, provided they have the rest as provided by the above pitch chart. Rest is calculated as per calendar day.

C. Names of all pitchers actually appearing in the game, along with the number of pitches thrown shall be recorded on the Tournament Pitching Record form on the reverse side of the first sheet of the eligibility affidavit form. This record shall be signed by the managers, coach, or business manager of the opposing team, the official scorekeeper of the game, or the Tournament Director or their representative.

D. Electronic scoring devices are recommended at all levels of Tournament Play in order to ensure accurate pitch count.

**INSERTION:** 2018 (Approved 2017)

**DESCRIPTION :** PITCHING RULES ARE AGE SPECIFIC AND NOT LEAGUE SPECIFIC

**RULE:** 4-C, PAGE 13

**RULE CHANGE:** Because Pitch Smart is Age specific and not League Specific delete Rule 4-C from the Rule Book.

**ALERT NOTIFICATION :** Part of the following rule was omitted in the 2018 PONY Baseball and Softball printed version of the Rule Book. Clarification of 2017 rule change, R-20: 8-Equipment: C-1, page 18. "Bats manufactured specifically for use in tee ball, shall not be used when the ball is pitched by a player, coach, or pitching machine, unless using a safety ball."

**INSERTION:** 2018 (Approved 2016)

**DESCRIPTION :** TEE BALL BATS

**RULE:** 8-C-1, PAGE 16

**RULE CHANGE:** Bats manufactured specifically for use in tee ball, shall not be used when the ball is pitched by a player, coach, or pitching machine, unless using a safety ball. Coach-pitch bats will only be used in coach-pitch using a safety ball. Penalty: removal of the bat only. (Not subject to rule 18-7 abc).