

Linglestown Baseball Association

Pony and Midget League Rules

(Updated Spring 2020)

The Pony and Midget Leagues will follow the Official Rulebook of Little League Baseball 2020 except for the following amendments, changes, and exceptions; which have been adopted by the LBA.

1. If you suspect child abuse, you are required by law to report it by either calling 1 - 800 - 932 - 0313 or online at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis.
 2. Any violation of the amendments, changes, or exceptions to the Pony or Midget League Rules will result in forfeiture.
 3. The Pony League Season may not exceed a twenty game schedule.
 4. The LBA Board must approve all post season games.
 5. For LBA League purposes, a week runs from Sunday thru Saturday.
 6. During the regular season, Pony League games will be limited to six innings. In order to keep the games moving in a timely manner, umpires will need to strictly enforce Rules # 9, 24, and 61. There is no two-hour time limit.
 7. After six innings, regular season Pony League games that end in a tie are considered a complete game. Each team will be awarded a half point in the standings.
 8. In Pony League games, a half inning shall be completed when the team at-bat scores four runs or the defense records three outs; whichever comes first.
 9. **During Pony League games** with two outs in an inning, a courtesy runner is required for the catcher. The courtesy runner must be a player from the bench who is not in the game. If no other bench player is available, the player with the last recorded batted out will be used. This does not mean the catcher must be replaced in the line-up. This will allow catchers time to get their gear on in order to speed up the time between innings.
- During Midget League games** a courtesy runner is encouraged for the catcher.
10. In the Pony League, there are no base appeals. If an umpire observes a runner miss a base, they will call the runner out after the play has been completed. Normal base running rules will apply for runners on base.
 11. There is no Balk Rule in Pony League games.

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12. There is no Infield Fly Rule in Pony League games.
13. All League players eight years old and under are required to wear a helmet with a protective face mask to bat and run the bases.
14. Any player wearing a protective face mask may not slide headfirst at any time. This includes when returning to a base. Any headfirst slide will result in the runner being called out.
15. When a runner slides headfirst into a base or home plate the runner is out. Going back to a base headfirst is a legal play except for players covered under Rule # 14.
 - If in the judgment of the umpire, a runner clearly initiated a legal feet-first slide while advancing on the base path; it shall be deemed a legal slide even if the natural momentum of the play caused the runner to then advance headfirst.
16. All runners must slide or avoid contact with a defensive player in the act of making a play. This includes at a base or home plate. If the runner contacts the defensive player without sliding or trying to avoid contact, the runner is automatically out. If in the umpire's judgment, the runner was trying to avoid contact but the defensive player moved into the runner's path trying to play the ball. This contact shall be ruled incidental and will not result in an automatic out.
17. The pitching distance for Pony and Midget Leagues will be forty-six feet for all ages.
18. A Pony League pitcher may only pitch three innings per game and six innings per week.
19. If a Pony League team has three or more games in a week, the team's pitchers will gain an additional three innings to pitch with proper rest.
20. In Pony League games, one or multiple ten year olds may only pitch a maximum of three (3) total innings of a game.
21. Midget and Pony League Pitching Rules:
 - There is no limit on the number of twelve year olds who may pitch.
 - A team may not use more than five pitchers in one game.
 - Eleven and twelve-year-old pitchers are limited to no more than **85** pitches per game.

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- Ten-year-old and younger pitchers are limited to no more than **75** pitches per game.
 - **1 - 20** pitches require no days of rest.
Pitch on Saturday / Pitch again on Sunday.
 - **21 - 35** pitches followed by one day of rest.
Pitch on Saturday / Rest on Sunday / Pitch again on Monday.
 - **36 - 50** pitches followed by two days of rest.
Pitch on Saturday / Rest on Sunday & Monday / Pitch again on Tuesday.
 - **51 - 65** pitches followed by three days of rest.
Pitch on Saturday / Rest on Sunday, Monday & Tuesday / Pitch again on Wednesday.
 - **66 or more** pitches followed by four days of rest.
Pitch on Saturday / Rest on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday / pitch again on Thursday.
 - If a pitcher reaches a day(s) of rest threshold while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until the at bat is complete. The pitcher will only be required to observe the calendar day(s) of rest for that threshold met during that at-bat.
 - Prior to the start of Midget and Pony League games, each team will identify a coach to count pitches. At the end of each half inning or during a pitching change, the two pitch counters will compare and reconcile their numbers for individual pitchers. Individual totals will be recorded in each team's scorebook for each pitcher. No game can be resumed until the pitch count has been agreed upon.
22. For all regular season Midget and Pony games, in the event that a player pitches and catches in the same game, such a player may not accumulate more than four (4) innings total of pitching and catching. In the event a player both pitches and catches in any game, such player can still pitch within the normal pitch count rules, so long as the combined pitching and catching does not exceed four (4) innings. If a player catches more than four (4) innings in a game, he may not pitch in that game. If a player pitches only, his pitching is governed by the pitch count rules.
23. The Balk Rule is for Midget League games only. While on the mound, a balk will be called if a pitcher goes to their mouth. While on the pitcher's plate, a balk will be called if the pitcher drops the ball or starts their wind-

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up then stops with runners on base. During the season, the Balk Rule will go into effect the second Monday in May. Before the start of the season, the LBA Board may waive the Balk Rule for the season.

24. At the start or upon entering the game, pitchers are allowed eight warm-up pitches. Prior to any subsequent inning of work, they will be allowed five warm-up pitches.
25. During a game, a coach will be allowed two trips to the mound per pitcher not including announced visits to the umpire for injury investigation. The pitcher shall be replaced with a third trip to the mound.
26. In both Pony and Midget League games; if a pitcher hits four batters; they must be removed from the mound.
27. Offensive time outs are not limited to two. The umpire can deny a time out if they think the coach is trying to make a mockery of the game.
28. The use of an illegal pitcher or failure to play all eligible players in a game will result in a forfeit by the offending team. The umpire will be informed of the violation and will make the call. There is no appeal.
29. If a coach knows Rule # 28 is about to be violated, they are required to address this to the umpire. If they do not address the violation in order to avoid the forfeit, the coach in question will be suspended for one week.
30. A player may be ejected from a game for throwing equipment. This will be a judgment call by the umpire.
31. A player or coach ejected from a game will be suspended for one week. During the same season, a second ejection will result in a minimum of a two-week suspension or up to a permanent suspension at the discretion of the LBA Board. A coach may request an appeal of a suspension by contacting the LBA President.
32. In the event of a postponement, the home team coach must notify the umpires and visiting team. The make-up game will usually be scheduled for the first Saturday following the postponement. If either team is already scheduled to play that Saturday or lacks enough players, the game may be played earlier that week under the lights. The LBA President has the final authority to re-schedule all postponed or suspended games.
33. Pony and Midget League teams may have to play four games in a week.

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34. Pony League players called up to for a Midget League game will wear their Pony Team's uniform. Pony League players may not enter the game until all Midget League players are in the game.
35. A Pony League regular season game will be re-scheduled due to a lack of players.
36. Pony and Midget League games are official with the completion of four innings or three and half innings with the home team winning. Any shortened game called after the fourth inning; will revert to the score of the last full inning played. During the regular season, an official game may end in a tie. During the playoff, a tie game suspended after four innings will be resumed from the point at which it was suspended with all records counting including pitching.
37. In Midget League games, the Ten Run Mercy Rule applies after the 4th inning or after 3.5 innings if the home team winning. If they are losing, the home team will be allowed to complete the bottom of the inning; which they are losing. If no night game is scheduled, a Mercy Rule game may continue with the approval of the losing team. All pitching rules will still be enforced.
38. In the event of a light failure, a game will be suspended and continued from the point of light failure with all records counting including pitching.
39. All pitching records will count even if the game is suspended before completion.
40. In the event two night games are scheduled on the Midget Field with the first game ending prior to 8:00 pm, the scheduled second game needs to start within fifteen minutes of the end of the first game. If the first game ends after 8:00 pm, either team may exercise their right not to play the second game at that time.
41. If a game is being played on the Midget Field under the lights, the Township Curfew begins at 10:00pm. After this time, the inning in progress may be completed but a new inning may not be started after 9:50pm.
42. Based upon the Concession Stand schedule, all Midget and Pony League teams will be assigned field maintenance for the Susquehanna Valley and Haps Boyer Central Penn All-Star Tournaments.
43. Pony and Midget League players may only use bats marked by the manufacturer as "USA Baseball" approved.

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44. If possible, all Pony and Midget League players must play three defensive innings and bat once. If the game is completed before six full innings are played, it is recommended a player shorted on playing time from the previous game start in the team's next game. Pony League teams having fourteen players present for a game may use the play two innings and bat once rule.
45. If a player arrives late and is not in the dugout by the first pitch of the 3rd inning, the coach is not obligated to play that player. However, the player may be added to the game roster in order to enter the game. The minimum playing requirement would then be waived.
46. The use of tobacco products inside the fenced playing area or dugouts is prohibited.
47. An umpire can immediately call "Time Out" when an injury occurs on the playing field.
48. All hitters and runners must wear an approved helmet when batting, running the bases, on deck, or while on the field. During a game, the next hitter in the batting order is the only player allowed in the on deck area.
49. All player / coaches must wear a batting helmet when on the field.
50. The home team shall have the field until twenty minutes prior to game time.
51. The visiting team shall have the field from twenty minutes to five minutes prior to game time.
52. At no time will a team take batting practice on the Midget Field.
53. Adult coaches are permitted in both coach's boxes.
54. A player may not be in uniform for two games on the same day. Before the start of the season, the LBA Board may waive this rule for the year. **WAIVED FOR 2020**
55. If a Pony player plays in three or more Midget League games, they shall be considered a Midget League player and cannot play in any further Pony League games. Due to the number of League players and roster size, the LBA Board may waive this rule for a season. **WAIVED FOR 2020**
56. A starting player may re-enter the game if their replacement has batted at least once and played three innings in the field. The starting player must

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re-enter the line-up in the same batting position. If a player is injured and no other eligible player is available, any other player may re-enter the game in their place.

57. If a batter throws a bat but does not hit another player, coach, or umpire, they will be warned. If the same batter throws a bat a second time, they will be called out. If a batter throws a bat; which directly hits another player, coach, or umpire on the fly, the batter may be called out without issuing a warning
58. When warming up a pitcher on or off the field, the catcher must wear headgear at all times.
59. The Official Game Scorer is the home team.
60. In the case of a tie in the standings at the end of the season, the first tie breaker will be head to head competition. If necessary, the second tie breaker will be the records against the top four teams. If necessary, the third tie breaker will be a one game tie breaker.
61. A batter must take signs with one foot in the batter's box. The umpire will give the batter one warning, and after that the umpire will instruct the pitcher to pitch and every pitch will be called a strike.
62. The Head Coach is only allowed to have dialogue with an umpire when a discrepancy occurs. The umpire will warn assistant coaches, who argue, question, or mock any call. If they continue, the assistant coach will be ejected from the game.
63. A courtesy runner may be used if the batter / runner gets injured. The replacement player must not be in the game. If no other players are available, the last recorded out will be used.
64. A player playing for more than one baseball team / league / association should respect their commitment to the LBA. LBA coaches need to be aware of these player's activities especially concerning their pitching efforts in order to prevent overuse injuries.
65. Pony and Midget League teams may use a continuous batting order (during the regular season).
66. A special runner may be used for any runner one time per batting position per game. The special runner must be a player not in the game.
67. Extra Hitter (EH): Pony League teams may use an EH. The EH is in that position for the entire game and not in the field. A player cannot be an EH in back to back games and no more than three times during a season. If a

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team has eleven or fewer players, they may not use the EH.

68. The Pony League will be allowed free substitution during the regular season, but teams must follow the LBA's minimum playing requirements.

69. Dropped Third Strike Rule: This applies to Midget League games only.

- A batter will be out when the third strike is legally caught by the catcher without touching the ground or when the third strike is dropped but first base is occupied at the time of the pitch with less than two outs.
- A batter becomes a runner when the third strike is dropped and first base is not occupied at the time of the pitch with less than two outs or with two outs in an inning regardless if first base is occupied.
- The batter / runner will be out with a proper tag or the completion of a legal force play before the runner reaches first base. With two outs in an inning, the third out can be recorded at any base with a legal force or proper tag play.
- During interleague play, this rule may be waived prior to the game.

70. During Pony League games, catchers are encouraged to try to throw out base runners attempting to advance. If the catcher overthrows or their throw is misplayed at 2nd or 3rd base; the runner(s) may not advance another base. If in the umpire's discretion, another base runner not in jeopardy on the play also started to advance before the ball was overthrown or misplayed, they may still advance at their own risk. The one base limit on over throw provision is removed starting the 2nd Monday of May, at which point normal base running rules apply.

71. In the event of a suspected injury especially concussion related, the Head Coach must contact and inform the player's parents and LBA President as soon as possible.

72. During Pony and Midget League games, only LBA approved Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Scorekeepers, and team players are allowed in the dugouts.

73. Pony and Midget League Head Coaches are required to contact and inform the LBA League President of any unusual incidents involving players, coaches, umpires, or parents.

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