

Newbury Park Pony Baseball League Rules (Revised 8/2018)

Article I - General League Rules

The current Official Rules of Major League Baseball and the PONY Baseball Rule Book will govern all play, unless modified by these NPPB League Rules or Conejo Valley Interleague Rules.

Note: Shetland Black & Gold, Pinto Black and Mustang Black each have specific rules for their division and are listed separately on the website (under resources and rules). All other divisions will reference the Conejo Valley Interleague Rules.

1. The primary goals of this league are to teach the fundamentals of baseball, sportsmanship and team play. Enlightened adult supervision is essential to attain these goals.
2. Special ground rules will be resolved prior to start of the game.
3. Uniforms & Attire: All players must be in full uniform. Pitchers may not wear an undergarment with white sleeves in accordance with the rules of Major League Baseball. Team shirts shall not be covered. Exceptions: Pitcher, while on base, or players, while in the dugout. Metal cleats may be worn only in the Bronco Gold, Pony and Colt Divisions. No player may wear jewelry that is deemed unsafe in the judgment of the umpire. It is recommended that all male players wear a protective cup. Runners, batters and on-deck hitters MUST wear a helmet or will be called out.
4. A minimum of 8 uniformed players and one adult coach constitutes as a legal team. A team failing to field 8 uniformed players within 15 minutes after the scheduled start time will forfeit the game. A practice game is recommended with the children present; however, it is not mandatory.
5. In all divisions no player shall sit out for a second time (inning) until every player on their team has sat out for one full inning. Additionally, no player shall sit out 3 times until every player on their team has sat out twice. NOTE: Starting pitchers are exempted from this rule until their removal from that position. This rule applies to those players who are present at the start of the game and who are not being disciplined by the manager.
6. If the "Minimum Play Rule" above is violated, the player or players that have not played the prescribed number of innings must be played in the entire next official game. The manager shall be responsible for ensuring that the "Minimum Play Rule" is enforced. If the opposing manager/coach, the Player Agent, a parent or any other interested party discovers that a violation has occurred, such violation must be reported in writing to the division director for verification. Violation of the "Minimum Play Rule" during the last scheduled game of the season for any team shall result in automatic forfeiture. Flagrant abuse of this "Minimum Play Rule" shall be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors and disciplinary action may be taken. Possible forfeiture of game in question may result and the manager may be subject to suspension or dismissal from the league upon review by the NPPB Board of Directors if the rule is not followed.

7. ALL players will bat in a continuous batting order. The batting order may not change after the game starts, except for players arriving late who must be added to the end of the batting order. No out will be recorded when a player is removed from the continuous batting order, when such removal is due to injury, illness, or an other legitimate reason. The managers will inform each other prior to the game of such reasons. If a player is removed for another reason, an out shall be recorded for his scheduled time at bat. This out shall be recorded only one per player, per game.

8. All managers, coaches, players, parents and spectators are asked to support their team and are welcome to cheer. Negative comments including jeering, chanting, or making noise in an effort to distract the pitcher, batter or other players from the other team are subject to disciplinary action by the umpire if deemed to be excessive. Violators will be warned first and subject to ejections on the second offense.

9. All players of each team not actively involved in the game shall remain in the dugout. Only managers, coaches and players are permitted in the dugout (or designated dugout area). Home team uses 3rd base dugout.

11. No tobacco of any kind or alcoholic beverages are permitted at any NPPB baseball facilities.

12. Should an umpire fail to appear, the home team manager will notify the Divisional Director. The game must proceed utilizing the best available people as umpires.

13. The home team shall be responsible for setting up the field before the game and the visiting team will be responsible for putting away all equipment and performing post-game field repair. It is the responsibility of both teams managers to make sure that the field, stands and dugouts have had all trash picked up at the end of their game.

14. Any player with a hard cast is ineligible to play. Any player unable to bat due to injury becomes ineligible to play.

15. Pinch runners, or so-called, "courtesy runner" will be allowed to take the place of a runner injured during the course of the game. No such consideration will be given to runners who have an injury that existed prior to the start of the game. The courtesy runner will be the player having made the last out prior to that play.

16. The official scorekeeper of each game will maintain a pitch count for each pitcher. Such scorekeeper will notify the manager when his pitcher has reached the allowable number of pitches. No pitcher shall pitch to a new batter, begin a new inning, nor pitch any more that calendar day after the pitch limit has been reached. A pitcher may finish pitching to a batter if they reach their maximum pitches in the middle of a batters count. Once that batter safely reaches base or is out, a new pitcher must be brought in, regardless of how many outs there are in the inning. The penalty for ignoring this rule will be ejection of the manager from the game and suspension for one additional game.

17. Sunset – Drop Dead Time Rule

For all games where field lights are not available, **five minutes past the posted sunset time shall be the drop dead time and once this time has been reached, the umpire will call the game for darkness and no further game play shall occur (no exceptions)**. The sunset time should be agreed to during the plate meeting with the umpires prior to the start of the game. The website www.timeanddate.com can be used as a quick reference at that time. The game score will revert back to the last completed inning (unless the home team is ahead at the time of the drop dead).

In situations where the visiting team goes ahead in the top half of the inning and there is minimal time left to complete the inning, the visiting team may elect to forfeit the balance of their plate appearance without additional outs being recorded (simply by notifying the umpire of their wishes).

The official game time will begin just as the first batter is about to enter the batter's box. The umpire will call out a time and the home team scorekeeper will take note of that. Managers should be prepared at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time for a managers meeting with the umpires. If managers are late for this meeting, the umpire may start the clock right at the scheduled game time (again telling the official start time to the home book).

Article II - Eligibility of Players

Section 1 - Leagues will be formed under the PONY Baseball, Inc., two-year age bracket, as follows:

Mini-Shetland Division ages 3 and 4 years, Shetland Division ages 5 and 6, Pinto Division ages 7 and 8, Mustang Division age 9 and 10, Bronco Division age 11 and 12, Pony League ages 13 and 14, Colt Division ages 15 and 16 **(Age as of August 31)**

Section 2 - Any player injured during the season will require a doctor's release before the player can resume play.

Section 3 - Players in the Pony or Colt Division who are participating in high school baseball will not participate in games or practices until their high school baseball season has terminated for the year. For procedures on drafting returning high school players, see NPPB League Policies and Procedures, Article II- Player Draft, Section 5.

Article III - Code of Conduct, Disciplinary Action and Protests

Code of Conduct

NPPB has a zero tolerance policy that prohibits any manager, coach, player, parent or spectator from any form of physical abuse, verbal abuse, or any other conduct that is deemed to be unsportsmanlike towards umpires, players, opposing players and spectators, managers and coaches, or league officials. Team managers are responsible for the conduct of their coaches, players, parents and fans during the game.

Section 1 - Discipline

Discipline Committee - A disciplinary committee will be formed on an annual basis. The League President shall appoint five members to the disciplinary committee, with at least one member being from the Executive Board. This committee shall serve a one-year term. The responsibility of this committee shall be to:

- a. Review the league's current discipline procedures on an annual basis and make suggestions to the rules committee for potential changes.
- b. Handle all forms of discipline other than those that are taken care of directly by the umpires and Division Director.
- c. Impose additional penalties where deemed necessary.

Disciplinary Action - Disciplinary action may be taken where any person including, but not limited to, players, parents, coaches, managers and spectators, who engage in unsportsmanlike conduct, fighting, publicly audible foul or abusive language, violent display of temper, or any other action or conduct which is otherwise considered detrimental to the best interest of NPPB.

The League officers shall have the authority to suspend, discharge or otherwise discipline any player, manager, coach, umpire, league officer or other person whose conduct is in violation of the League Rules and/or is considered detrimental to the best interests of the League.

1. Penalties - Following is a list of the penalties that may be imposed:

- a. Warning - The offending person is to be advised in writing of the offense and that the repetition of the offense will result in a more severe penalty.
- b. Probation - The offending person is warned (as noted above) and also put on probation for the remainder of the season or specific time period. Probation may have a specific penalty for further violation or may be left to the league's discretion.
- c. Ejection - The offending person ejected from any NPPB facility must leave immediately without further incident. Persons not doing so will be subject to additional penalty and disciplinary action by the Disciplinary Committee, and will be considered as trespassing and subject to removal and possible arrest by the Thousand Oaks Police Department.
- d. Suspension - The offending person is to be advised in writing that he/she has been suspended from all league activity for a specific number of games or days.
- e. Dismissal or Expulsion - The offending person is to be advised in writing that he/she has been dismissed from the league for the remainder of the current year.
- f. Barred - The offending person is to be advised in writing that he/she has been barred from present and future participation in the league permanently, or for a specific number of years.

2. Managers, Coaches & Players - Any manager, coach or player violating the Code of Conduct is subject to immediate ejection from the game by the umpire in charge and subsequent suspension or disciplinary action from the Discipline Committee.

3. Parents & Fans- Any parent or fan violating the Code of Conduct will be warned by the umpire in charge that they are in violation of the League's rules. In the event of a second violation during the same game, the offending party may be subject to ejection. In the event that the offending individual(s) refuse to comply, the manager of the offending team will be responsible for compliance. Failure to comply will result in a forfeiture of the game and subject the manager of the offending team to disciplinary action from the Discipline Committee.

4. Ejections - Any individual who is ejected from a game will automatically be suspended for one additional game for the first infraction, two additional games for the second infraction and dismissal for the remainder of the season for a third infraction. The ejection of any adult individual, including managers and coaches, shall be reported by the umpire in charge to the Division Director immediately following the game. Managers are responsible for reporting ejection of players to the Division Director within 48 hours of the end of the game the player was ejected.

5. Suspended players must be listed on the manager's official lineup card and length of suspension noted. Any suspended player shall serve his suspension in the dugout in uniform. Once a player has served his suspension, he shall be eligible to participate in all future games.

6. Any Board Member who observes inappropriate behavior or unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of any player or adult shall so advise the respective Division Director who shall determine appropriate discipline, if any.

7. Any player with three disciplinary actions (ejection or suspension) shall not be eligible for All-Star selection. Any manager or coach with three disciplinary actions (ejections or suspension) shall not be eligible for All-Star managing or coaching.

8. Physical Abuse - The League has a zero tolerance policy for any form of physical abuse towards umpires, players, managers, coaches, and League officials. Any physical contact that is deemed inappropriate will result in immediate ejection and suspension for a minimum of two games and possible dismissal from the League. Physical abuse shall be defined as pushing, shoving, striking, spitting, or kicking another person or his property.

9. Benching Players - A manager may bench any player for disciplinary reason at any time, but he/she must notify the Division Director in writing within 48 hours. If a player is benched during a game, the manager must notify the opposing team manager immediately and the player may not re-enter that game. No manager shall have the authority to remove any player from the team without the approval from the Division Director.

10. Unsportsmanlike Ejection Penalty - Any player who, in the umpire's judgment, intentionally tries to injure another player and is subsequently ejected from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct, shall also be recorded as an "out" on the play. In addition, any manager, coach or parent who instructs a player to behave in any manner that is considered unsportsmanlike shall be subject to ejection and a minimum one game suspension. Based on

the report filed by the umpire, the Discipline Committee may take further action against the offending party.

11. The League may demand the presence of an offending player, manager, coach, parent, or fan at a disciplinary meeting to discuss issues arising from that individuals' behavior. Failure to appear may result in dismissal or any lesser penalty as the Discipline Committee may decide.

13. Appeals - The offending person(s) imposed with a penalty by either the Division Director or the Discipline Committee may appeal such decision in writing to the Board of Directors. Appeals must be made in writing within 72 hours to the attention of the League President. If the appeal is accepted, a hearing will be scheduled before the Discipline Committee.

14. Parking – Parking restrictions are tied to our field permit agreements and must be respected by all league participants, their friends and their relatives. Failure to follow these restrictions could result in suspension of a player for the current game and/or the following game if it is determined that their family, relative or friend violated the parking regulations. In some cases, ALL games at the facility may be stopped until the offending vehicle is moved. If the car is not moved and the offending person does not admit that it is their car, the player will be suspended from the next game. If the car is moved, a written warning will be given stating that a second offense will result in the player being suspended for their next game. See the NPPB web site for current parking regulations.

Section 2: Protests -

NPPB follows Major League Baseball rules and PONY National rules regarding when and how a protest may be filed. Those rules are supplemented or modified by the following:

1. In the event of a rule interpretation, time will be taken by the umpire in charge to consult with the managers to resolve the rule in question. If a resolution cannot be reached, a manager may protest the game. A protest must be filed at the time of the incident prior to the next pitch, with the umpire, the opposing manager and the official scorekeeper. Protests cannot be made on an umpire's judgment call. Scorekeepers must note the exact point in the official score book at which a protest is made.
2. The protesting manager must contact the Division Director within 24 hours of the completion of the game in which the protest is made. If the manager is unable to contact the Division Director, another league official may be contacted in his/her place.
3. A written report along with a \$100 protest fee must be given to the Division Director within 48 hours of the completion of the game in which the protest is made. The report should cite the rule in question, the ruling by the umpire and why that ruling is incorrect.
4. A protest committee will meet as soon as practical to review all evidence and to interpret the decision in accordance with the applicable rules. Evidence will consist of the protesting manager's report, the report of the umpire in charge of the game, the report of the opposing manager (if submitted) and any oral presentation by those three parties.
5. The protest committee shall consist of:
 - a. The League Vice President
 - b. The Division Director of the division involved
 - c. The Umpire Director

6. If the protest is upheld, the game shall be continued from the point of the protest using the same lineups, and the \$100 protest fee shall be refunded.
7. If the protest is denied, the game results shall be official and the \$100 protest fee is forfeited.
8. If a protest occurs during a playoff game, the protest shall be referred to the Umpire Director and/or the presiding League Officer present, for a final decision.

Article IV - Amendments

These League Rules may be amended as described in Article IX of the League Constitution