

# Camarillo Pony Baseball Association 2026 League Rules

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Board of Directors

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### Special League Rules

The game rules are governed by PONY Baseball Rules except as follows below.

1. All League Rules
  - a. No inning shall begin within 30 minutes of scheduled start time of the next game on that field, or as daylight permits.
  - b. A team must have a minimum of eight players at the start of the game and must not drop below eight players throughout the game, to avoid forfeiture. When a team has only eight players, an out shall be recorded when the missing ninth player is due to bat the first "at-bat" only; subsequent at-bats by the missing ninth player shall be skipped without penalty.
  - c. Forfeiture is 15 minutes after scheduled starting time of the game.
  - d. The names of all players absent from a league game shall be noted on the lineup card before it is given to the opposing manager and scorekeeper.
  - e. Round robin batting will be used in all leagues. Any player arriving late will be inserted at the end of the batting order as it appears in the official scorebook.
  - f. Coaches must be 18 years or older.
  - g. Home Team occupies the THIRD BASE dugout, regardless of which team arrives to the game first.
  - h. The **home** team is responsible for **all field setup before the game and take down after the game**. If it is the final game of the day, take down includes putting away the bases and any equipment used in the game.
    - Before: putting in bases, chalking lines, raking & watering as needed, etc.
    - After: raking the mound and home plate
  - i. Pre-Game Infield / Outfield (IF-OF) Procedures:
    - 30 Minutes before: Visiting team takes IF-OF for 10 minutes
    - 20 Minutes before: Home Team takes IF-OF for 10 minutes

Five minutes before: Manager / Umpire meeting at home plate

*If the Visiting Team is delayed in starting their pre-game due to delays in field set-up, their pre-game duration shall be reduced, such that both teams have equal amounts of pre-game prior to the manager / umpire meeting at home plate which will NOT be delayed and occurs 5 minutes before game time.*

- j. Intentional walks are not permitted in the CPBA at any time.
- k. If a play is being made at home plate, or at any base, the runner must either slide or attempt to avoid collision with the fielder, or he is out. Determination of whether a play was being made, and whether the runner could have reasonably known a play was being made, shall be made solely by the umpire(s) and shall be the basis for determining whether the runner is safe or out. If the umpire decides a runner maliciously collides with the fielder while not attempting to slide, the runner is out and ejected from the game. THIS IS NOT A MUST SLIDE RULE! If in the opinion of the umpire, the runner could not have reasonably known a play was being made on him, and a collision occurs with the fielder and the runner, the runner is out if put out, and safe if ruled safe (e.g. the play stands as played) without risk of penalty.
- l. When a player throws one or more pitches to a batter in a given inning, that player will have an inning pitched recorded.
- m. Pitching: CPBA uses a hybrid pitch count / innings rule. Once the allowed pitch count or innings threshold per calendar day is reached, the pitcher must be replaced. If the pitch count is reached in the middle of an at-bat, the pitcher may finish facing that hitter and then be replaced.

**Pitch Count per Calendar Day**

<u>Division</u>	<u>Max # of Pitches</u>
Pinto	50
Mustang	75
Bronco	85
Pony	95
18U	95

n. Pitching: Required Rest Days

<u>Pitches Thrown</u>	<b>Required Rest Days Pinto to Pony</b>	<u>Days Rest</u>
21-35		1
36-50		2
51-65		3
66 +		4

  

<u>Pitches Thrown</u>	<b>Required Rest Days 18U</b>	<u>Days Rest</u>
31-45		1
46-60		2
61-75		3
76 +		4

**Note\*** *Rest days constitute a full day, so if a pitcher needs one day of rest after pitching on Monday, he will not be available to pitch again until Wednesday. Tuesday will be his rest day.*

- o. Pitch count rules are per day. Therefore, a player may pitch in multiple games per day, provided the player does not exceed his respective league's age-appropriate maximum allowable pitches per day.
- p. Pitch Count Violation Policies:
  - i. First Infraction - A written warning will be issued to the Manager.
  - ii. Second Infraction – 1 Game Suspension
 

*The Violation of any pitching rule may result in the forfeiture of the game in which the violation occurred. When the use of a pitcher who is ineligible, or about to become ineligible is evident, it is the Manager's responsibility to check with the home scorekeeper on the total pitches thrown. The home scorekeeper may notify the umpire and both Managers when the pitch count is within 10 of the maximums allowed.*
  - p.iii. The pitcher will only be required to observe the calendar day(s) of rest for the threshold he/she reached during the start of that at-bat, provided that the pitcher is removed before delivering a pitch to the next batter. This is IAW new Pony rules for sanctioned events.
- q. Bat Rule Violation Policies:
  - i. USA and USSSA bats at permitted
- r. Rainouts and Reschedules (Pitching)
  - i. In the event of a rain out or reschedule of a game that would affect a team due to pitch count, the executive board will make a ruling on the pitching guidelines.
- s. No New Time:
  - i. A new inning will not begin after the no new time specified for that division has passed. For example, if no new is at 1 hr 45 minutes, game starts at 2pm, then a new inning will not begin past 3:45pm. New inning begins when 3rd out is recorded from previous inning.

## 2. Quarter Horse Rules

*Machine pitch w/ batting tee*

- i. Playing Field:
  - i. Machine pitching distance: 40 feet
  - ii. Distance between bases: 50 feet
- ii. Equipment:
  - i. The Louisville Slugger UPM 45 Pitching Machine will be used
  - ii. Safety baseballs, both leather and vinyl covered bearing the emblem of PONY BASEBALL which are manufactured to the specifications above are the baseballs required. RECOMMENDED: Diamond Flexi Ball – level 5.
  - iii. Tee ball bats may be used. USA and or USSSA bats may be used.
- iii. Pitching:
  - i. Settings for machine: Power Lever = 2; Micro Adjust = 3; Release Block = 4.
  - ii. The coach / pitcher will feed five (3) pitches to a batter. If the batter cannot put the ball in play, a batting tee will be used at that time.
  - iii. If a batted ball strikes the pitching machine, the ball is in play.
- iv. Offense:
  - i. 3 pitches off the pitching machine, if the ball is not put into play, the tee is used. Once ball is hit, it is considered live. All batters will bat once to end an inning.
  - ii. If a batter is out, they will go back to dugout. 3 outs will not end inning for Quarterhorse.
  - iii. Offensive coaches will be stationed in the coach's boxes (at first and third base), as well as a coach feeding the pitching machine, and at the catcher position.
- v. Defense:
  - i. All players will play defense, except at the catcher position.

- ii. Each player will play at least one inning in the infield within the first 3 innings.
  - iii. The player / pitcher shall take a position five (5) feet to the rear of the pitching machine, and be on the left or right side of the coach utilizing the pitching machine
  - iv. Defensive coaches may include two (2) adult coaches positioned on the playing field, beyond the baselines, to provide verbal instructions to the defensive team.
- vi. Playing Rules:
- i. Five (5) innings or 1 hour 15 minutes Drop Dead, whichever comes first. (Both team managers will use their discretion)
- vii. Coaches must be 18 years or older.

### 3. Shetland Division Rules

#### *Machine pitch*

- i. Playing Field:
  - i. Machine pitching distance: 40 feet
  - ii. Distance between bases: 50 feet
  - iii. A 2-foot vertical line will be drawn halfway between each base to assist the umpire with where to place the runner when a batted ball is dead.
  - iv. Ten-foot horizontal lines will be drawn 15 feet from the base lines and second base to determine where the outfield begins, and the infield ends.
- ii. Equipment:
  - i. The Louisville Slugger UPM 45 Pitching Machine is the Official PONY Baseball Pitching Machine for Shetland and is the only pitching machine approved for Shetland play.
  - ii. The ball must weigh not less than 5 or more than 5-1/4 ounces & measure not less than 9 or more than 9-1/4 inches in circumference.
  - iii. Safety baseballs, both leather and vinyl covered bearing the emblem of PONY BASEBALL which are manufactured to the specifications above are the baseballs required. RECOMMENDED: Diamond Flexi Ball – level 5.
  - iv. Tee ball bats may be used. Either USA or USSSA mark accompanied by the following text: "Only for Use with Approved Tee Ball Bats."
  - v. It is recommended that "rubber molded cleats" or "tennis shoes" be used for Shetland play.
  - vi. The Batter, players in the on-deck batter area, and base runners, are required to wear protective head gear which gives protection to the top of the head, temple, ears, and base of the skull.
  - vii. Catchers are required to wear a mask with throat guard (Hockey style masks generally meet this requirement, otherwise a throat guard must be attached to the mask, and extend to top of chest protector), chest protector, shin guards, protective athletic cup, and protective head gear, which gives protection to the top of the head and both ears when catching behind the plate.
  - viii. Extended Safety base will be used at first base. Defensive first basemen must have foot on white part of the safety base to make an out.
- iii. Pitching:
  - i. Pitching machine only. See Equipment 3b (i) above.
  - ii. Setting for machine: Power Lever = 2; Micro Adjust = 3; Release Block = 4
  - iii. The player fielding the pitcher's position shall take a position five (5) feet to the rear of

the pitching machine and 3 feet to the left or right. A two (2) foot line will be drawn at this position. The player must keep at least one foot on this line until the start of the pitch. If the other foot is free, it will be on the side of the line extending away from the pitching machine.

- iv. If a batted ball strikes the coach/pitcher, the ball is dead, the pitch counts as a strike, and no runners shall advance.
- v. If a batted ball strikes the pitching machine and remains in fair territory, the ball is in play.
- vi. 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.
- vii. The coach/pitcher is allowed to offer coaching instructions to batters or runners *AFTER THE BALL IS HIT*. They may not in any way interfere with the defensive players. The coach must operate the machine in accordance with the operation manual. (PENALTY): The coach/pitcher shall be warned once; if a second infraction occurs the coach/pitcher must be removed for the remainder of the game, and a new coach/pitcher put in his/her place.
- viii. On a batted or thrown ball that enters the outfield, the coach/pitcher must move to foul territory.

iv. Playing Rules:

- v. Game length shall be five (5) innings, or 1 hour 15 minutes Drop Dead, whichever comes first.
- vi. The entire roster of players present for the game shall bat in rotation. Once the batting order is submitted to the scorekeeper, it will not be changed, except for injury or ejection.
- iii. A batted ball is called "dead" by the umpire when an infielder demonstrates control of the baseball by holding it over his head while standing within the infield, or upon a base.

iv. Defensive and Offensive Substitutions:

- a. Minimum of nine (9) players shall be used defensively with a maximum of twelve (12). There will be free defensive substitutions.
- b. There shall be a maximum of 5 outfielders, stationed not less than 15 feet behind the baseline when the coach feeds the pitching machine.
- c. Each player will play at least one inning in the infield within the first 3 innings.
- v. Offensive coaches will be stationed in the coach's boxes, and as a coach feeding the pitching machine. The fourth coach will be in the dugout or designated area. One defensive coach will be behind the catcher, or designated area, as directed by the umpire. The other defensive coaches must remain in the dugout, or in the designated area (along the fair/foul lines, past first or 3rd base not in the play area).
- vi. Maximum 4 runs per half inning.
- vii. No infield fly rule.

v. Batters:

- i. Batters are not permitted to bunt. (Penalty: The batter shall be called back to the plate, the swing is a foul-strike, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.)
- ii. 5 pitches max or until Batter swings and misses at 3 pitches and fails to hit a fair ball .
- iii. A strikeout will be recorded as per traditional baseball rules if it occurs prior to the five (5) pitches maximum. Player will not be called out if foul ball/foul tip on 5th pitch.
- iv. No dropped third strike rule.

- vi. Runners:
  - i. Runners are not permitted to steal or lead off and shall remain in contact with the base until the ball *crosses the plate*. (Penalty: Runner is out if the ball is put into play, if ball is not put into play runner returns to base).
  - ii. On a batted ball, runners may advance until the umpire calls the ball dead by calling "time". If in the judgment of the umpire, the runner was beyond the halfway point at the time the ball was called dead, the runner will be awarded the next base. Conversely, if the runner had not reached the halfway point according to the umpire's judgment, the runner will be required to return to the base from which he came.
  - iii. Scoring from third:
    - a. On a batted ball.
    - b. Continuation play of a batted ball.

*All coaches and players will treat the opposing team with respect and be considerate of their time on the field. Fair play is the ultimate goal at all times. All coaches will follow the rules as described here at all times. To keep the pace of play moving, coaches are encouraged to have lineups prepared ahead of time (both offense and defense) so they do not hold up play when making changes from inning to inning. Similarly, on-field instruction during games should be held to a reasonable amount of time. Coaches must all work to keep the momentum of the games going to help avoid players losing interest. (This happens primarily when the team at bat takes a lengthy amount of time to progress through its lineup, and players in the field lose focus).*

#### 4. Pinto Division Rules

##### a. Playing Rules

- i. Six innings or 1 hour 20 min no new inning, whichever comes first. (7U & 8U ABL also)
- ii. No metal cleats are permitted.
- iii. A team may score a maximum of five (5) runs in a half inning. **Exception:** Home run over the fence, all runs will count.
- iv. Games shall not end because a team cannot mathematically win due to the five (5) run per half inning rule.
- v. Bunting or fake bunting shall be allowed during player pitch. Bunting, fake bunting, or soft-swinging is not allowed during coach-pitch. The result is a strike on the batter.

##### b. Pitching

- vi. Players shall not throw more than 50 pitches in a calendar day. A pitcher may finish the batter that is hitting even though he has reached his limit. Pitch count will stop at the completion of that "at-bat". Days' rest will apply to the final pitch count for that outing. ii. Players shall not throw more than two innings in a calendar day.
- iii. If a pitcher hits 3 batters in an outing he must be removed. This pertains to the entirety of each outing and does not re-set each inning. For example, a pitcher who hits 2 batters in his first inning, and 1 batter in his second inning must be removed upon hitting the third batter.
- iv. Each inning begins with kid-pitch.
- v. Any combination of **3 batters reaching base due to base on balls** in a half inning triggers coach-pitch for the rest of that half-inning.
- vi. A pitcher removed during his/her first inning of pitching (not including batters hit by pitch), for the coach to pitch, may return to pitch in his/her following inning, if coach elects to. This does not allow pitchers to exceed daily pitch-count limit.

##### c. Coach-Pitch format

- i. A batter shall be declared out after failing to hit a fair ball after five pitches are delivered by a coach-pitcher. The batter is out if there are three strikes before the fifth pitch. Missed swings are counted as strikes, as are foul balls and foul tips unless it is also the fifth pitch. A batter cannot be called out on a foul ball or foul tip on the fifth pitch.
- ii. There are no walks or hit batters during coach-pitch.

- viii. The coach-pitcher will be allowed 2 warm-up pitches. He / She will kneel or stand about 34 feet from home plate to deliver pitches. Stay on dirt in front of pitcher's mound. The coach-pitcher must throw the ball overhand. Please do not "lob" or "float" the pitch.
  - ix. The coach-pitcher may not coach the batter.
  - x. A batted ball that strikes the coach-pitcher is a foul ball, unless in the umpire's judgment, the coach-pitcher purposely interfered with the play; then the batter will be called out. The intent of this rule is to allow the coach to protect him or herself from being struck by a batted ball.
- c. Runners - For Pinto REC, no Infield Fly rule, no stealing 2nd base immediately following a walk or hit by pitch.
- i. Runners may steal bases, but no leading off. Runners shall not leave the base they are occupying at the time of the pitch until the pitcher releases the ball. Runners may advance only one base per pitch. The runner is out if a batted ball is put into play. If the ball is not put into play the runner is given a warning and goes back to the base.
  - ii. Until April 1st, home plate will be "frozen". This means a runner may not advance home from 3<sup>rd</sup> base until the ball is put in play by the batter, or the runner is forced home via walk or hit-by-pitch. This does not prevent runners from scoring from first, or second on batted balls. A runner may be picked off of 3<sup>rd</sup> base even though he may not advance. The runner leaves the base at his / her own risk.
  - iii. No base stealing during coach-pitch play.
- ci. Mercy Rule
- i. Ten (10) run lead after four (4) or more innings for the visiting team, or three and a half (3 ½) or more innings for the home team.
- cii. Equipment
- i. USA or USSSA bats may be used.
- ciii. Minimum Defensive Playing Requirements
- i. All players will play at least half the defensive innings, subject to Article II, Item H of the By-Laws. No player will sit out two consecutive innings, nor shall any player sit two innings until all players have sat one inning. Likewise, no player may sit out 3 innings before all players have sat out 2 innings: so on and so forth.
  - ii. Each player will play at least one inning in the infield within the first 3 innings.
  - iii. May NOT bring relief pitcher off the bench. All players must sit out FULL inning.
5. **Mustang Division Rules**
- i. Playing Rules
    - i. Six innings or 1 hour 35 min no new inning, whichever comes first. (9U & 10U ABL also)
    - ii. A team may score a maximum of five (5) runs in an inning. **Exception:** Homerun over the fence, all runs count.
    - iii. Games shall not end because a team cannot mathematically win due to the five (5) run per half inning rule.
    - iv. No metal cleats are permitted.
    - v. Runners may leadoff and steal bases as in Official Baseball Rules
  - ii. Pitching
    - i. Players shall not throw more than 75 pitches in a calendar day. A pitcher may finish the batter that is hitting even though he has reached his limit. Pitch count will stop at the completion of that "at-bat". Days' rest will apply to the final pitch count for that outing.
    - ii. Players shall not throw more than three innings in a calendar day.
    - iii. Mercy Rules
      - i. Ten (10) run lead after four (4) or more innings for the visiting team, or three and a half (3 ½) or more innings for the home team.
    - iv. Equipment
      - i. USA or USSSA bat may be used.
      - ii. Highly recommended to use catcher's glove. Must use catcher's glove by April 1st.

- v. Minimum Defensive Playing Requirements - May NOT bring relief pitcher off bench mid inning
    - i. All players will play at least half the defensive innings, subject to Article II, Item H of the By-Laws. No player will sit out two consecutive innings, nor shall any player sit two innings until all players have sat one inning. Likewise, no player may sit out 3 innings before all players have sat out 2 innings: so, on and so forth. *In the event that the starting pitcher has not sat one inning prior to another player sitting out for their second inning, as soon as this player is removed from pitching, they must sit out the following inning.*
- 6. Bronco Division Rules**
- a. Playing Rules
    - i. Seven innings or 1 hr 40 min no new inning, whichever comes first. (11U & 12U ABL also)
    - ii. For the first 4 innings, a team may score no more than 5 runs in an inning. Exception: Homerun over the fence, all runs count. There is no run limit for innings 5 - 7.
    - iii. Metal cleats are permitted.
  - b. Pitching:
    - i. Players shall not throw more than 85 pitches in a calendar day. A pitcher may finish the batter that is hitting even though he has reached his limit. Pitch count will stop at the completion of that "at-bat". Days' rest will apply to the final pitch count for that outing.
    - ii. Players shall not throw more than four innings in a calendar day.
  - c. Mercy Rules
    - i. Ten (10) run lead after five (5) or more innings for the visiting team, or four and a half (4 ½) or more innings for the home team. Eight (8) runs after 6 innings.
  - d. Equipment
    - i. USA or USSSA bats may be used.
  - e. Minimum Defensive Playing Requirements - May NOT bring relief pitcher off the bench mid inning
    - i. All players will play at least half the defensive innings, subject to Article II, Item H of the By-Laws. No player will sit out two consecutive innings, nor shall any player sit two innings until all players have sat one inning. Likewise, no player may sit out 3 innings before all players have sat out 2 innings: so, on and so forth. *In the event that the starting pitcher has not sat one inning prior to another player sitting out for their second inning, as soon as this player is removed from pitching, they must sit out the following inning.*
- 7. Pony Division Rules**
- a. Playing Rules
    - i. 7 innings or 1 hr 45 min no new inning, whichever comes first. (13U & 14U ABL also)
    - ii. Metal cleats are permitted.
  - b. Pitching
    - i. Players shall not throw more than 95 pitches in a calendar day. Pitch count will stop at the completion of that "at-bat". Days' rest will apply to the final pitch count for that outing.
  - c. Mercy Rules
    - i. Ten (10) run lead after five (5) or more innings for the visiting team, or four and a half (4 ½) or more innings for the home team. Eight (8) runs after 6 innings.
  - d. Equipment
    - i. USA, USSSA or BBCOR bats may be used.
  - e. Minimum Defensive Playing Requirements - May NOT bring relief pitcher of bench mid inning
    - i. All players will play at least half the defensive innings, subject to Article II, Item H of the By-Laws. No player will sit out two consecutive innings, nor shall any player sit two innings until all players have sat one inning. Likewise, no player may sit out 3 innings before all players have sat out 2 innings: so on and so forth. *In the event that the starting pitcher has not sat one inning prior to another player sitting out for their second inning, as soon as this player is removed from pitching, they must sit out the following inning.*

8. **18U Colt Division Rules** (Interleague rules supersede CPBA's unless the game is between two CPBA teams)

a. Playing Rules

- i. 7 innings or 2 hours no new inning, whichever comes first. (Interleague Agreement)
- ii. Metal cleats are permitted.
- iii. BBCOR bats, and one-piece wood bats must be used.

b. Pitching

- i. Players shall not throw more than 95 pitches in a calendar day. A pitcher may finish the batter that is hitting even though he has reached his limit. Pitch count will stop at the completion of that "at-bat". Days' rest will apply to the final pitch count for that outing.

c. Mercy Rules

- i. Ten (10) run lead after five (5) or more innings for the visiting team and four and a half (4 ½) or more innings for the home team. Eight (8) runs after 6 innings.

ci. Minimum Defensive Playing Requirements

- i. Free substitution will be allowed with all players. There is no minimum play requirement for 18U.

9. **Advanced Baseball League Rules (ABL)**

a. Playing Rules

- i. ABL play will follow CPBA special league rules, PONY rules, and MLB rules, in that order, as determined by the age of those playing, or if otherwise noted below.
- ii. A team may bat 9 players, 10 players w/ an extra hitter, or their entire roster. The team's intention in this regard must be declared at the time the line-up is submitted to the umpire. Courtesy runners are allowed for pitcher / catcher regardless of the number of outs. The runner must be a substitute player unless the team is batting its entire roster. In that case the last out must be used. The pitcher / catcher being run for must return to either pitcher / catcher the following inning, unless injury prevents.
- iii. Once the line-up is submitted the number of batters may not change except in the event of late arriving players, and their respective team is batting its entire line-up.
- iv. ABL games scheduled by CPBA will follow CPBA pitch count rules only. (Unless playing Interleague in the 18U Colt Division) *ABL teams are not subject to any form of innings limit regarding pitching. Please refer to the above table for limits based on age, and the corresponding days of rest, which is dictated by the number of pitches thrown.*

b. Minimum Play Requirement

- i. There is no minimum play requirement for ABL
- ii. Starters may re-enter once in their original position in the batting order. (if batting 9 only)
- iii. Substitutes may not re-enter. (if batting 9 only)

c. Pinto 7U/8U ABL (No per inning run restrictions for 9U-14U ABL)

- i. During innings one through three, a team may score a maximum of five (5) runs in an inning. **Exception:** Homerun over the fence, all runs count.
- ii. During innings four through six there will be no run per inning restriction.

d. Metal spikes are permitted at the 11U and 12U levels.

e. No intentional walks.

f. For any questions, please contact Director of Umpires and/or Director of ABL.

## 10. Guest Player Rules

1. Guest players are only allowed when a team has LESS than 9 players.
2. Guest players MUST be approved in advance in coordination with the league President PRIOR to the game's scheduled start time. The guest player is NOT approved until you have received confirmation from the league President approving the guest player.
3. At the plate meeting, the opposing team's manager and the umpires must be notified of the guest player and the guest player must be notated as a GUEST on the team's lineup card.
4. Guest players must be a REGISTERED CPBA player from either our recreational league or from another CPBA registered ABL team in the same division.
5. Age eligible or not, players may not play down from the division they are registered to play in. Guest players are ONLY permitted to play in the outfield. They are not allowed to be PITCHER or CATCHER. And they must bat LAST in the batting lineup.

**ANY violation of the guest player rules will result in disciplinary action, which may include suspension of the manager from future games.**