

SOUTHWEST  
CANAL LEAGUE  
PONY BASEBALL  
(SCL)

RULES AND PROCEDURES

For

BRONCO & PONY

***Amended March 31, 2014***

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## Hotline Numbers

Homer	Pony	
Lockport	Bronco & Pony	
Lemont	Pony	
Romeoville	Bronco & Pony	(815) 773-4065

Email Addresses to report scores:

Bronco Scores     [someemailaddress@gmail.com](mailto:someemailaddress@gmail.com)

Pony Scores     [someemailaddress@gmail.com](mailto:someemailaddress@gmail.com)

**The following rules shall be in effect for the Bronco and Pony Leagues until changed by the SCL Rules Committee.**

**The order of rule interpretation for all decisions at all games is as follows: (1) SCL Rules, (2) Pony Baseball Rules, (3) Official Major League Rules.**

## **SECTION 1 - GENERAL RULES**

- 1.1 Prior to the start of the game, the decision as to whether or not a field is playable will be made jointly by the plate umpire and the two managers, requiring a 2/3 majority. If the decision is that the field is not playable but could be made playable by a joint effort of managers and coaches, then the game will be delayed up to one hour from the scheduled starting time. All other games scheduled for that field on that day may be backed up as required by the amount of time equal to the delay, but not to exceed one hour for weekend games and not to exceed 30 minutes for weeknight games. Once a game begins, if field conditions worsen, the decision to suspend play will be the responsibility of the two umpires, and does not involve either manager. If a field is determined to be unplayable more than one hour before game time, the host town commissioner will cancel the game.
- 1.2 If at any time prior to or during a game lightning is visible in the sky, the umpires shall halt play and immediately clear the field and dugouts. Play shall be suspended a minimum of 20 minutes. If it appears the storms will not leave the area for a considerable time, the umpires will then declare the game suspended. Teams should mark their scorebooks.
- 1.3 The home team will occupy the third base dugout.
- 1.4 The home team will keep the official score.
- 1.5 All players must be entered into the scorebook by last name and uniform number.
- 1.6 No team mascots or batboys are permitted in the dugout.
- 1.7 Any pitcher who appears in a game on Thursday night may also pitch in a game on Saturday morning and be considered to have satisfied the Pony Baseball "40 Hour Rest Rule".
- 1.8 Both teams may have up to 15 minutes(per availability) infield practice prior to FIVE minutes before game time. This time may be shortened or eliminated by the umpires. Order of practice is first ready, first to practice. If both teams are ready, visiting team practices first. If both teams arrive early for batting practice, the time shall be divided equally between the two teams. Field preparation takes priority and pregame infield practice may not be possible in certain circumstances.
- 1.9 Infield practice must be completed no later than 5 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time, so the field may be properly marked for play. The preparation of the field is the responsibility of the host/home team with the approval of the umpires.

- 1.10 Participants in the game (players, managers, coaches, umpires & scorekeepers) are not permitted to consume alcoholic beverages on or near the playing field under any circumstances. A proven violation of this rule may result in the suspension of the individual from the SCL baseball program.
- 1.11 There will be no smoking or tobacco products on the playing field or dugout. Umpires will issue one warning; second offense shall call for ejection.
- 1.12 If a batter unintentionally throws his bat, the umpire shall warn him. Should the same batter unintentionally throw his bat a second and/or subsequent time(s) during a game, he shall be declared out. No runners shall be allowed to advance -DEAD BALL.
- 1.13 Players, managers, coaches, and spectators are not allowed to stand behind the backstop during the game. Umpire shall have the individual(s) removed from this area.
- 1.14 Managers, coaches, and players are responsible for cleaning the field and the dugouts after the games.
- 1.15 All pitchers who pitch in a game and the number of innings they pitched must be documented in the scorebook. The scorebook must be signed by both managers and/or scorekeepers at the end of each game.
- 1.16 The main mode of communication will be by email. Each town will be required to submit an email list for commissioner, directors and coaches.

## **SECTION 2 - SPECIAL EQUIPMENT RULES**

- 2.1 The SCL recommends all players wear an athletic supporter with cup in accordance with Pony Baseball Rule 8 G. Catchers or any player on the team who may be catching in a game or practice MUST wear supporter and cup, protective helmet, chest protector, shin guards, and mask with throat protector at all times. If a catcher is found not wearing proper equipment, he must be removed from the catcher's position until he is properly equipped. Umpires must also wear protective gear. Managers must not allow a game to start or continue unless umpire and catchers are wearing all appropriate equipment. Catcher must wear chest protector, mask, shin guards and catcher's mitt.
- 2.2 Players may not wear watches, rings, or other jewelry items while practicing or playing. Players in the Bronco league may not wear shoes with metal spikes. Metal baseball cleats are permitted in Pony only.
- 2.3 Managers or adult coaches may warm up a pitcher between innings without a protective mask. Players warming up a pitcher must wear a protective helmet and mask.
- 2.4 Adults may coach on the base lines without protective helmets. Player coaches must wear helmets.

- 2.5 The home team shall provide the plate umpire with two NEW game balls prior to the start of the game.
- 2.6 Any player without a complete uniform (hat, jersey, and pants) may be restricted from play by his manager. Jersey MUST be tucked into pants. The intent of this rule is to encourage kids to be properly dressed.
- 2.7 SCL baseball will follow the PONY Baseball rules guidelines for all bat usage.
- Wooden, metal, graphite or ceramic bats manufactured for baseball play, which are round and not more than two and five eighths inches in diameter at the thickest part, not more than 42 inches in length, are acceptable.
  - Only 2-1/4" barrel non-wood bats which are manufactured to achieve a Bat Performance Factor (BPF) of 1.15 or less through the life of the bat are approved for play in PONY Baseball divisions.
  - Effective January 1, 2012, all minus (-) 3 bats must be BBCOR certified.
  - The bat which may be wood or non-wood product shall be not more than two and five-eighths (2-5/8") in diameter at the barrel and shall be a smooth implement, from the top of the cap to the top of the knob. All non-wood bats shall meet the Ball-Bat Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) testing protocol maintaining the length-to-weight difference of 0.50 limit regardless of length. All BBCOR approved bats shall be labeled with a silk screen or other permanent certification mark.
  - 2 3/4" bats are prohibited in all PONY sanctioned leagues.
  - For all other 2 5/8" bats of varying drop(minus -) ratios, they are allowed for play at both Bronco and Pony Divisions.

### **SECTION 3 - DISCIPLINARY RULES**

- 3.1 A manager is responsible for the conduct of his players, coaches, scorekeeper and fans. If an umpire requests his assistance in disciplinary actions, the manager must comply or face ejection and/or forfeiture of the game.
- 3.2 Only uniformed players, manager, coaches, and scorekeeper are allowed in the dugout. Unauthorized persons in the dugout will be asked to leave. After one warning the umpire may declare the game a forfeit if an unauthorized party refuses to leave.
- 3.3 No player, manager, coach, scorekeeper, or spectator is permitted to call an opposing player by name, number or defensive position while he is batting, running, fielding, or pitching. After one warning the umpire may eject the offending party from the game. Additionally, players are not allowed to use excessive chatter while in the field or on the bench. Runners are not to use excessive clapping noises or yelling while on the bases and or taking their lead-offs. Players are to encourage their teammates between innings and between pitches.
- 3.4 Any manager, coach, scorekeeper, or player who commits unsportsman-like behavior (kicks or throws equipment, uses profane language in anger, fights, etc.) **WILL BE EJECTED FROM THE GAME IMMEDIATELY.** If a manager or coach feels a ballplayer requires discipline he may do so immediately. If any team representative physically attacks or threatens an umpire, teammate or opposing player, that individual shall be barred from any further participation in the SCL program upon the investigation and final action of the SCL commissioners.

- 3.5 A manager or coach who has been ejected from the game must leave the area of play which includes the stands and area for the fans. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture. All ejections must be reported to the town commissioner by both teams with 24 hours of the game. If a coach is rejected a second time, he will be suspended for one game.
- 3.6 A player ejected from the game must remain on his team bench; unless parent or legal guardian accompanies him, then he/she may sit in the stands or leave the field. If the player is requested to leave the area and player's parent(s) or legal guardian is present, he must do so. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture.
- 3.7 A disruptive fan can be asked to leave the immediate area by the umpire. Failure to do so may result in a forfeiture of the game by his team.

#### **SECTION 4 - INCOMPLETE, CONTINUED, & MAKE-UP GAMES**

- 4.1 In the event a team is unable to start a game with 9 eligible players, due to injury or unforeseen circumstances, the game will start and continue with 8 players. If the number of eligible players goes to 7, the team will forfeit. If a ninth player arrives to the game later, he/she will be eligible to play immediately. Eligible player will be entered last in batting order. Pony Baseball Rules, Section 18 C states that a team has 15 minutes from the scheduled starting time to field a team. The interpretation of this is that a game must start on time or as soon as 8 eligible players arrive at the playing field. If 8 eligible players are not available within 15 minutes of the scheduled starting time the game will be declared a forfeit. Teams are not penalized with an out in place of the 9<sup>th</sup> batter if they only have 8 players.
- 4.2 When a game is declared incomplete as defined in the Pony Baseball Rules, the home team scorebook must be correctly marked to indicate the exact situation when play is halted. Umpires and managers will sign the scorebook. The league scheduler will schedule a time to complete the game, which will be resumed at the exact point where play was stopped.
- 4.3 In the event of a game to be continued, all players present for the continued portion are eligible to participate, even if they did not play in the original portion. The batting order must be exactly as it appeared when the game was suspended. All new players will be listed following the last player listed in the original batting order. All pitching regulations will continue.
- 4.4 Every attempt will be made to reschedule games in successive order; i.e., the first game rained out will be played on the first available rain date, etc. Report all rained out games to the Host Town Commissioner within 24 hours. The Host Town Commissioner will be responsible for insuring that all games are rescheduled.
- 4.5 Should several games be rained out on one day (Saturday), Host Town Commissioner will determine the order in which the games will be rescheduled. If all games are rained out on a Saturday, games will NOT be rescheduled; however, if one game is played on Saturday and the remainder of the day is rained out, Town Commissioners will make every effort based on field availability to reschedule all remaining Saturday games.

## **SECTION 5 - PLAYING TIME/BATTING ORDER**

- 5.1 A free substitution rule shall be in effect for all defensive positions. Players may be put in and taken out on defense any number of times without limitation to positions played. The only exception to this rule is that once removed from the pitching position a player may not be reinstated into that position.
- 5.2 A player shall not sit out for two consecutive defensive innings and shall not sit out more than one inning more than any other player for that game except for a player who has arrived late or leaving early (i.e., if you have 12 players everyone should sit out by the 4<sup>th</sup> inning except if your pitcher is in his 4<sup>th</sup> inning of work, then he would sit the 5<sup>th</sup> inning). Any late player will be added to the end of the batting order immediately and play half the remaining innings. If the number of the remaining innings is odd, then the late player must play half of the remaining innings minus one (i.e. 5 remaining innings; player must play a minimum of 2 innings). Failure to comply with this rule (1st offense) will result in the manager being suspended for one (1) game.
- 5.3 Teams will use a "continuous" or "rotational" batting order, whereby all eligible players at the game will be included in the line-up and entered in the scorebook. Therefore, every player has the potential to bat every inning, regardless of whether or not he/she played in the field.
- 5.4 There will be no pinch hitters. In the event a player is ejected, injured, or otherwise unable to continue, his spot in the lineup is eliminated.
- 5.5 If a batter reaches base safely but then must leave the game due to injury, illness, ejection, etc., a temporary runner should be used. This runner must be the last player to be retired.
- 5.6 Rule 5.5 will also be applied when a catcher is on base with two outs. With 2 outs, catchers MUST have a substitute runner; it is optional to remove the pitcher. It is optional to remove your catcher with less than two outs in an attempt to speed up play.

## **SECTION 6 - SAFETY RULES**

- 6.1 No base runner may intentionally run into a fielder just to knock the ball out of his possession. If, in the judgment of the umpire this occurs, the base runner will immediately be called out. If it is a flagrant violation, the player at fault may also be ejected from the game. The offensive player must slide or avoid contact at all times.
- 6.2 If the runner attempting to score intentionally makes contact with the catcher (fielder) by sliding into him above the waist, or using a "football" type rolling block or other similar actions, the umpire will call the runner out and may eject him from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct, if he deems necessary. Ball will be ruled dead and no other runners will be allowed to advance.
- 6.3 If the catcher (fielder) must move into the base path between home and third base to receive the throw, base runner must give way (run around) him to allow him to make the play. NOTE: This is an Official Baseball Rule.
- 6.4 When there is no possibility of contact, the runner should not slide. Umpires may tell the runner "Stand up - Don't slide" when this situation occurs.

- 6.5 On deck batters will stand in the circle behind the batter, regardless of the dugout they occupy and must wear a batting helmet. With a right-handed batter, the 3rd base circle will be used. With a left-handed batter, the 1st base circle is used.
- 6.6 Any Pitcher who hits 3 batters in one inning or 4 batters in one game shall be required to be removed from his position of pitcher(he is not removed from the game). If in the umpire's judgement a pitcher is intentionally throwing at a batter at any time, the umpire has the authority to declare that the pitcher be removed from his position and may be ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct.

### **SECTION 7 -PROTESTS**

- 7.1 Should a disagreement occur, both managers and both umpires should calmly discuss the problem for a maximum of five (5) minutes. Discussions should be held behind the pitcher's mound and should not involve the players or coaches.
- 7.2 After this discussion the umpires will make a final decision. No protest will be allowed.
- 7.3 If a manager or coach decides to pull their team off the field without finishing the game, that team will forfeit the game.

### **SECTION 8 - TEAMS/CALL-UPS**

- 8.1 Each team in the league shall consist of not less than 10 or more than 15 players.
- 8.2 At no time shall a team roster include more than eight (8) players of the older age.
- 8.3 The minimum number of players required to start, or continue a game is eight (8). A team may use a call-up player or players to avoid a forfeit. *We will allow whatever number of call-ups are necessary to play the game for each team.* All call-ups will be allowed to play regardless of the amount of regular players who may show up unexpectedly. All call-up players will be placed at the end of the team batting order. Call-ups may not pitch or catch. All call-up players must play offense as well as defense in accordance with the rules defined in Section 5.
- 8.4 Bronco Division may only call-up players from any Mustang team. Pony Division may call-up from any Bronco team. All call-up players must come from the next younger age league.

### **SECTION 9 - LEAGUE DECISIONS COMMITTEE**

- 9.1 Inter-league decisions committee to consist of the league director/commissioner from each association.

### **SECTION 10 -UMPIRES**

- 10.1 The host community will schedule one (1) umpire for Bronco games and two (2) umpires for Pony games. If only one umpire is present at the scheduled game time, the game should be

played with only one umpire. At least one of the scheduled umpires should be an adult "Patched" umpire for all Bronco and Pony games.

- 10.2 Umpires to be instructed by host associations regarding league rules and regulations. Field ground rules to be available for umpires at all fields.
- 10.3 In the event of injury during play, the umpire may discontinue play at any time regardless of whether or not the ball is in play, if the umpire feels the injured player requires immediate attention.
- 10.4 The following is common to all umpire associations:
  - a. Family members of participants may not umpire a game.
  - b. Umpires cannot coach players.

### **SECTION 11 -LENGTH OF GAMES**

- 11.1 10 Run Rule - If a team is leading its opponents by at least ten (10) runs after five (5) or more equal innings have been played or after 4 1/2 innings if the leading team is the home team, the game should be terminated and the team in front declared the winner.
- 11.2 All games will be scheduled for seven (7) innings.
- 11.3 A game called for darkness/time limit after five (5) innings is considered a complete game. An exception to this rule is described in "Pony Baseball Rules" Section 11 D. The Umpire in Chief of the game has the responsibility to call the game due to darkness. A game called due to darkness, time limits or rain after the 5th inning will be considered an official game with the score reverting back to the end of the last complete inning of play. All games that are tied at official game time will be recorded as a tie. EXCEPTION: Play-off games if still tied after reverting back thru OFFICIAL innings, then will be played until an inning ends with a winner. Championship Game will be played out.
- 11.4 No new inning shall start after 1 hour and 50 minutes from the start of the game. The umpire will declare last inning at the start of a new inning when approaching the 1 hour and 50 minute mark. At that time both visiting and home teams will be allowed to bat in the final inning(home team only required to bat if they are trailing at the end of the half inning). The last inning will be played to completion and the score will be considered final in the case where the game has reached official length. If the game is tied, the score will be recorded as a tie. If the game has not reached official length, the teams will make every effort to complete the game the next time they play each other or attempt to reschedule a date for game completion, at the home town commissioner's discretion. In playoff scenarios, the game will continue and additional inning until a winner is determined. There is no "drop dead" time limit.
- 11.5 No new inning may start after 10:30 PM in either Bronco or Pony.

### **SECTION 12 - INDIVIDUAL BRONCO LEAGUE RULES**

- 12.1 No pitcher can pitch more than four (4) innings per game.

- 12.2 Pitching rules summary: (Reference PONY BASEBALL RULES for specifics)
- a. A Player may pitch a maximum of ten (10) innings per calendar week.
  - b. A calendar week is from 12:01 AM Monday to 12:00 midnight the following Sunday.
  - c. A Player may pitch a maximum of seven (7) innings in any calendar day
  - d. Forty (40) hours rest is required if a player pitches four (4) or more innings in any given calendar day.
- 12.3 No team may score more than six (6) runs in any half inning during the first six innings. There is no restriction in the number of runs scored in the 7<sup>th</sup> inning or any inning declared the FINAL inning by the umpire.
- 12.4 **Balk Rules**  
One balk warning per pitcher per game will be granted until May 21st; no warnings will be granted after May 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **SECTION 13 - INDIVIDUAL PONY LEAGUE RULES**

- 13.1 No pitcher can pitch more than seven (7) innings per game.
- 13.2 Pitching rules summary: (Reference PONY BASEBALL RULES for specifics)
- a. A Player may pitch a maximum of ten innings per calendar week.
  - b. A calendar week is from 12:01 AM Monday to 12:00 midnight the following Sunday.
  - c. A Player may pitch a maximum of seven innings in any calendar day
  - d. Forty (40) hours rest is required if a player pitches four (4) or more innings in any given calendar day.
- 13.3 No team may score more than ten (10) runs in any half inning during the first six innings. There is no restriction in the number of runs scored in the 7<sup>th</sup> inning or any inning declared the FINAL inning by the umpire.
- 13.4 **Balk Rules**  
One balk warning per pitcher per game will be granted until May 21st; no warnings will be granted after May 21<sup>st</sup>.