

# **SOUTH COUNTY PONY BASEBALL**

## **PLAYING RULES 2014-2015 SEASON**

### **STANDARD MLB RULES WITH THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS:**

*Player age for 2014-2015 season determined by league age on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015*

#### **1. PLAYER, TEAM ELIGIBILITY and EQUIPMENT**

- A. All teams must pay registration fee in advance
- B. 15 player roster, must play in proper age group or play up an age group
- C. Teams must have following items in their player book at all times:
  - 1. Roster of all eligible players
  - 2. Copy of birth certificates
  - 3. Copy of insurance policy (South County Pony teams are already insured)
- D. 8U Division is allowed to have 10 defensive players on the field (optional)
- E. A team must start with 9 players on the field, may finish with 8 or less
  - 1. If a player is injured and cannot finish a game, the team is allowed to have a substitute player replace them at NO penalty
- F. Bats must be stamped and approved USSSA bats with bpf of 1.15
  - 1. BBCOR and Wood Bats are allowed at all divisions
  - 2. If bat is -3, it must be BBCOR or wood bat
  - 3. Pony rules currently allow -5 at all ages, provided the bpf is 1.15 and stamped with USSSA approval

#### **2. SUBSTITUTION RULE**

- A. Coaches may elect to play 9 players with substitutes, or bat 10 and use an Extra Hitter (EH) **OR** a coach may elect to bat all players with free substitution
- B. Courtesy runner for pitcher and catcher of record (last person out or a substitute player if there are no outs in the 1<sup>st</sup> inning)
- C. Coaches must discuss their option at the plate and stick with it during the game

#### **3. PITCHING RULES and LIMITATIONS**

- A. 8U and 8/9U Division – 2 innings per game maximum
- B. 9/10U Division – 3 innings per game maximum
- C. 11/12U Division – 5 innings per game maximum
- D. 13/14U Division – 7 innings per game maximum
- E. ALL LEVELS – Coaches please use your best discretion for innings pitcher per week for players at all levels
- F. BALKS
  - 1. 8U Division – Will not be called
  - 2. 8/9U Division – Will be warned at umpires discretion
  - 3. 9/10U Division – Will be given one warning then called
  - 4. 11U – 14U Division – Will be called in all games

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4. **GAME TIMES** (If games following, umpire may end game at 2 hours)
  - A. 8U – 12U (6 inning games, 2 hours)
  - B. 13U – 14U (7 inning games, no new inning after 2 hours, drop dead at 2:15 hours)
    1. Umpire has final say but will discuss time limitations with coaches in advance
  - C. All Divisions
    1. If game is called, the score will revert back to the previous inning
    2. End of season championship will have additional time rules at that time
  - D. INTENTION IS TO FINISH ALL GAMES
    1. Final call is up to the umpire
  
5. **MERCY RULES** (ALL DIVISIONS)
  - A. After 4 innings, if team is leading by 15 runs
  - B. After 5 or 6 innings, if team is leading by 10 runs
  
6. **BASE STEALING and SLIDING**
  - A. 8U Division – Runner may steal 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> base or home (when pitcher releases ball)
    1. 3<sup>rd</sup> base is open during tournament play
    2. Ball is dead when Pitcher receives ball (within 10' feet of mound)
    3. Bunts are allowed in 8U division
  - B. 8U/9U Division – Lead offs and stealing bases in in full effect
  - C. 9U – 14U Division – Lead offs and stealing bases is in full effect
  - D. Squeeze play is only allowed when batter attempts to bunt ball into play (safety rule to avoid injury and collisions)
  - E. All Divisions - Players must slide to avoid contact on close plays (umpire discretion)
  - F. All Divisions - No intentional spiking or malicious contact with another player
  
7. **DROP 3<sup>rd</sup> STRIKE RULE**
  - A. 8U Division – Does not apply
  - B. 8U/9U Division – in full effect
  - C. 9U – 14U Division – In full effect
  
8. **STANDINGS and REPORTING SCORES**
  - A. Winning team send scores to your division Rep following game and to [info@scpony.com](mailto:info@scpony.com)
  
9. **RAIN PROCEDURES**
  - A. Check website at [www.scpony.com](http://www.scpony.com) at 7am and 12pm weekends for updates, check website at 1pm during the week for updates
  
10. **CONDUCT ON THE FIELD**
  - A. All coaches are expected to treat the umpires with the utmost courtesy at all times

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- B. All parents are expected to treat the umpires with respect and not to question their calls
- C. Umpires have the full authority to remove a coach or parent from game at any time after giving one warning for misconduct
- D. Umpire will inform the board of any continued misconduct by a coach or a team parent and the board may elect to take further action
- E. If an umpire ejects or removes more than one parent and multiple coaches, the umpire may elect to end the game and forfeit the team
- F. Players are expected to treat the umpires fairly and with respect also or they are subject to the same removal and ejection policies. If a coach is ejected a second game, they will be ejected for the remainder of the tournament and possibly for a longer period of time (TD discretion)
  - 1. Coaches are expected to keep their fans in order, if the umpire has to formally warn the fans twice, the coach could be ejected from the game at the umpire's discretion

***Play fair, have fun and enjoy the games...***