# HAAA 9-10 YEAR OLD PONY BASEBALL RULES

# Rev. 04/11/2025

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HAAA will follow PONY league rules with the following exceptions:

# Game length:

* 6 Innings with a 1 hour and 50 minutes time limit - finish the inning (Approved 12/20/24)
* Games are official after 3 ½ innings due to darkness or weather conditions if the home team is winning. (losing team must have at least 4 at bats) (Clarification 08/28/2023)
* If play is stopped in the middle of a subsequent inning after 4 innings have been played and the visiting teams ties the score or takes the lead in an uncompleted inning, the game shall be considered a suspended game and shall be continued from the point of curtailment at a later date.
* If a game is stopped prior to 3 ½ innings being completed, the game will resume at the exact point of suspended play and be finished in its entirety.
* A 10 run rule is in effect after 3 ½ innings

# Canceled Games (Updated 01/11/2023):

* While games can be moved due to scheduling conflicts, this should be done as soon as possible once schedules are released. Games should only be cancelled for inclement weather and/or unsafe field conditions. Every effort should be made to reschedule the game.
* The home team coach must call the umpire coordinator to cancel the game 1 hour prior to start time.
* The home team coach will provide the visiting coach with a list of at least three (3) available make-up dates within 48 hours of the cancellation. If a later date and time can’t be agreed upon, the home team coach will contact the **baseball coordinator**.
* If the visiting coach is not contacted by the home coach or can’t get in touch with the home coach, then the visiting coach will contact the **baseball coordinator**.
* When a game is canceled, it is the responsibility of the home team coach to reschedule the game with the scheduling coordinator and contact the umpire coordinator as soon as possible.
* Forfeits will be granted at the discretion of the baseball coordinator. Forfeit losses will not count as games played for playoff eligibility.

# Playing Field:

* 60 foot bases
* 46 foot pitching mound

# Fielders:

* 10 Fielders will be used, with 4 outfielders positioned at a minimum of 30 feet beyond the base line (Clarification 8/25/22).
* All players must play at least 2 innings in the field with at least 1 inning on the infield. Infield positions are Catcher, Pitcher, 1st Base, 2nd Base, Shortstop and 3rd Base. (Approved 01/08/25)
* A minimum of 8 players is required to start a game.

# Batting Order:

* Continuous batting order

# Pitching:

* Pitcher eligibility is determined by innings pitched and not by pitch counts (Clarification 12/15/2022).
* 2 Innings per game maximum. (1) pitch in an inning = 1 inning. No re-entry (A pitcher can’t pitch the 1st

inning, be pulled, and return to pitch later in the game)

* In the event a team has three games on consecutive days pitchers can pitch a total of 5 innings 2-1-2 or 1-2-

2. If a pitcher pitches 2 innings each in the first two games he is not eligible to pitch in the third game.

* The first inning is dedicated to a developmental pitcher. This should be a player just learning to pitch.
* A pitcher who hits two (2) batters in one inning or three (3) in a game must be removed (Approved 8/17/22).

# Leading/Stealing:

* + No leading off.
	+ Player can steal any base but home.
	+ Player must remain on the base until the pitch has crossed the plate.
	+ Unlimited steals.
	+ A player may not steal second base on a walk (Approved 8/17/22).

# Run Limits:

* + First inning is 3 runs. Innings 2 through 5 are a maximum of 5 runs per inning. Sixth inning is unlimited.

# General rules:

* + Infield Fly rule will not be in effect (approved 8/14/24).
	+ Whenever a tag play is evident, a runner must slide or seek to avoid contact with the fielder and/or catcher. If the umpire deems any contact between a runner and a fielder to be malicious, the initiating player may be ejected from the game. Additional discipline may result. (clarification 5/3/24)
	+ NO head first slides are permitted, except returning back to a base. Runners who attempt to slide head first will be called out (clarification 5/3/24).
	+ Throwing of bats
		- First Offense – Warning to team
		- Second Offense – Batter out
* A maximum of four (4) coaches and one (1) scorekeeper are permitted in the dug-out area during the game. (Approved 12/13/23)
* The team manager/head coach is the only person to be involved in a discussion about a call or ruling with the umpire.

# Equipment:

* + Each team will supply one new PONY certified game ball prior to the start of the game. (Wilson 1075 or equivalent)
	+ Only bats containing a stamp “USA Baseball” are legal. Please review the PONY decertified list for illegal bats. All 2 ¾ bats are illegal.
		- First Offense – Player out for the at bat
		- Second Offense – Coach ejected from the game for not enforcing the rule
	+ Metal cleats are not permitted. (clarification 04/10/24)

# Playoffs:

* HAAA Playoffs will be played under normal playoff rules, not the blue pages
* Players must play in 50% of the teams scheduled games to be eligible for HAAA Playoffs.
* Teams must play 10 games in order to be eligible for the HAAA Playoffs.
* All scores must be reported on the HAAA Website prior to the Playoff Meeting (Clarification 8/25/22).
* If a team forfeits a playoff game, they are eliminated from the playoffs and will be ineligible to place in the tournament. (Approved 12/13/23)

**Umpires:**

• Umpire fees are $60. (Updated 11/8/23)

• Each team is responsible for paying half of the umpire fees (Updated 8/25/22).

• If the umpire isn’t canceled and a game is suspended due to weather before the first pitch, the umpire gets paid in full (Approved 01/11/23).

• If the umpire shows up for a game and it was cancelled, but never reported to the umpire coordinator then the umpire gets paid in full (Updated 8/25/22).

**Reporting scores:**

• Winning Team must report score within 24 hours of the completed game.

**Call Ups and Call Overs:**

• Every attempt must be made to use a call-up player before using a call-over player. A call-over player must be disclosed to the opposing team’s head coach prior to the start of the game. A call-over player can only play the outfield and must bat last in the batting order.

• No call-over players can be used in the HAAA Playoffs.

* All call-up and call-over players must be rostered on a team competing in the HAAA within the same organization as they are playing for. (Clarification 08/27/23)

**Sportsmanship:**

• When the pitcher comes set all chanting/cheering by players, coaches and spectators must stop.

• Poor behavior towards an umpire by spectators, coaches and players will not be tolerated. It is the coaches’ responsibility to maintain a safe environment for all players, umpires and spectators.

* At no time may any parent or spectator enter the dugout area or the field of play. (Clarification 08/27/23).