# HAAA 11-12 YEAR OLD PONY BASEBALL RULES

# Rev. 04/11/2025

Baseball Coordinator: Mike Biondi

412-601-1309

[mbiondi6687@gmail.com](mailto:mbiondi6687@gmail.com)

Scheduling Coordinator: Rob Miller 724-516-2337

Umpire Coordinator: Heath Cahn 724-600-4375

HAAA will follow PONY league rules with the following exceptions:

# Game length:

* 7 Innings with a 2 hour and 15 minutes time limit - finish the inning (Approved 12/20/24)
* Games are official after 4 ½ innings due to darkness or weather conditions if the home team is winning. (losing team must have at least 5 at bats)
* If play is stopped in the middle of a subsequent inning after 5 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 4 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 4½ 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:

* 70 foot bases
* 50 foot pitching mound

# Fielders:

* 10 Fielders will be used, with 4 outfielders positioned at a minimum of 30 feet beyond the base line.
* A minimum of 8 players is required to start a game.
* All players must play a minimum of two (2) innings in the field per game. (Approved 01/08/25)

# Batting Order:

* Continuous batting order.

# Pitching:

* Pitcher eligibility is determined by innings pitched and not by pitch counts (Clarification 12/15/2022).
* 3 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)
* If a combination of 5 innings is pitched in consecutive days, then 40 hours rest is required (Clarification 8/25/22).
* 10 innings maximum per week (Sunday – Saturday) (Clarification 8/25/22).

# Leading/Stealing:

* + Leading is allowed.
  + Runner can only steal home on a passed ball/wild pitch. Runner may advance home on a “baseball play.” A baseball play includes pick-off attempts, throw at back runners, or errors (e.g. catcher overthrows pitcher). Runners may not steal home on a “straight” steal or “delayed” steal. (clarification 05/03/24)
  + Unlimited stealing

# Run Limits:

* + Innings 1 through 6 are a maximum of 5 runs per inning. Seventh inning is unlimited (Approved 8/17/22).

# General rules:

* + Infield Fly rule will be in effect.
  + Third strike rule is in effect. A batter can advance to first on a dropped third strike.
  + 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 05/03/24)
  + NO head first slides are permitted, except returning back to a base. Runners who attempt to slide head first will be called out (clarification 05/03/24).
  + 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)
  + All bats containing a stamp “USA Baseball” are legal. Please review the PONY decertified list for illegal bats. The only exception to the “USA Baseball” is a bat with a -3 facto must be BBCOR certified and stamped. 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 playoff will be played under normal PONY rules, not the blue pages.
  + Players must play in 50% of the teams scheduled games to be eligible for the 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).