# HAAA 13-15 YEAR OLD PONY BASEBALL RULES

# Rev. 01/08/2025

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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.

# 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:

* 80 foot bases
* 54 foot pitching mound

# Fielders:

* 9 Fielders will be used, with 3 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:

* Each team can bat 9, 10 (EH), or a continuous order. If 9 or 10 batters are used, PONY substitution rules apply for batting order.
* If a continuous order is used and a player is injured during the game, the injured player’s spot in the lineup will be skipped until the player is able to return. There will not be an out charged when this occurs. (clarification 05/15/24).
* All players must bat at least once per game. (Approved 01/08/25)

# Pitching:

* Pitcher eligibility is determined by innings pitched and not by pitch counts (Clarification 12/15/2022).
* 4 innings maximum per game and six innings maximum in consecutive days. One (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 6 innings is pitched in consecutive days, then 40 hours rest is required.
* 10 innings maximum per week (Sunday – Saturday)

# Leading/Stealing:

* + Leading is allowed.
  + Unlimited stealing

# Run Limits:

* + There are no run limits per inning.

# 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)
  + 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:

* + Games will be played with free substitution.
  + 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
  + Players are permitted to wear metal cleats in the field, but they are not permitted when pitching on a portable mound. (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 $120. Two umpires per game. If only one umpire shows, they receive $80. (Updated 11/8/23)
* Each team is responsible for paying half of the umpire fees (Updated 8/25/22).
* If the umpire shows up for a game and it is suspended before the first pitch due to weather, the umpire(s) get paid in full (Approved 1/11/23).
* If the umpire shows up for a game and it was cancelled, but never reported to the umpire coordinator then the umpire(s) get 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 (Clarification 8/25/22):

* + - 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 08/27/2023)

# 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 08/27/2023).