# HAAA 7-8 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:

* 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 08/28/23)
* 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 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.
* 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
* 38 foot pitching mound. With a ten foot diameter circle around it. The coach must start his pitch inside the circle. (Clarification 08/28/23)
* A 15 foot foul arc will be drawn from home plate. If a ball is touched prior to crossing the arc it is a foul ball. (Approved 10/09/24)

# 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 on the infield. Infield positions are Catcher, Pitcher, 1st Base, 2nd Base, Shortstop, and 3rd Base.
* A minimum of 8 players is required to start a game.

# Batting Order:

* Continuous batting order

# Pitching:

* Coach must start the pitch with one foot in the circle.
* Batter will have maximum of seven pitches or three strikes.
* On a third strike or seventh pitch is fouled the at bat continues.
* Any ball that hits the pitching coach will be a dead ball.

# Leading/Stealing:

* + No leading off or stealing. Player must remain on base till the pitch is hit.

# Run Limits:

* + Maximum of 5 runs per inning. Sixth inning in unlimited.

# General rules:

* + If a ball is fielded and overthrown to any base by an infielder the runners or runners including the batter cannot advance past the base they were running to at the time the ball was thrown. A ball thrown from the outfield is not considered an overthrow, but must be processed by an infield player before the ball comes dead. Under no circumstances may runners achieve extra bases on a batted ball that does not pass beyond the infield. (Clarification 8/27/23).
  + Once an infielder has possession of the ball on the infield, base runners can no longer advance.
  + If a base runner has passed the base when play is stopped they may advance to the next base, if not they must return to the previous base. Any runner trying to reach extra bases is at the risk of being put out until all base runners are on base or the ball is returned to the coach “pitcher”. (Approved 12/13/23)
  + Whenever a tag play is evident, a runner must slide or seek to avoid contact with the fielder and/or catcher. (Clarification 5/3/24)
  + NO head first slides are permitted, except returning back to a base. (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)

# Equipment:

* + Each team will supply one new PONY certified game ball prior to the start of the game. (Wilson 1074 or equivalent)
  + Only bats containing a stamp “USA Baseball” are legal.

Bats marked for T-ball use should not be used to hit a baseball. If a bat marked for T-ball use is used in a game it should immediately be removed (Clarification 8/25/22).

* + 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 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).
  + Seeds for playoffs will be drawn at random at 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).

# 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 08/27/2023).