

## PONY RULES

### GOAL

1. This division is to provide thirteen (13) and fourteen (14) year old boys with the opportunity to learn and play organized baseball.
2. Emphasis will be on teaching and learning the fundamentals of baseball, following the rules and regulations of NDHBL.

### FIELDS

1. Bases are eighty (80) feet apart.
2. The pitcher's mound is fifty-four (54) feet from home plate.

### SCHEDULES

1. The number of games will be determined by the number of teams in the League.
2. All games will count towards divisional standings.
3. Incomplete games or games postponed by rain will be made up on the first available day.

### LENGTH OF GAMES

1. For 6:00 PM games: each game will consist of seven (7) complete innings; no inning will start after 8:00 PM in the condition that there is an 8:00 PM or 8:30 PM game. Two (2) hour time limit for all regular season games. If there is an 8:00 game following, no inning will start past 8:00 regardless of start time. Playoff games will have no time limit. Start time is determined during ground rules.
2. For 8:00 PM games: each game will consist of seven (7) complete innings; No inning will start after 10:00 PM on school nights, regardless of start time (school night will be determined in ground rules). ; No inning will start after 10:30 PM on non-school night.
3. **Each team must field at least 8 players within 15 minutes of scheduled start time or team is subject to forfeit. League official may overturn this decision on the spot.**
4. Each half inning will conclude with three (3) outs, or maximum batters per inning. Except last inning (7th or extra inning only), when unlimited runs are allowed.
5. New inning begins after last out is made from previous team batting. For example, if last out is made at 7:58 PM then the new inning begins at 7:58 PM.
6. Each team will bat their line-up.
7. If a game is called because of weather, before it is complete, it shall be played from the start. For Rainout games – check website.
8. If a game is called because of weather, it shall be a complete game if five innings have been completed, or if the home team has scored more runs in four innings or four and a fraction innings, than the visiting team has scored in five complete innings. **A game is also considered complete if it qualifies as such under the mercy rule.**
9. Teams must accept the date of the reschedule makeup games within 1 week or both teams are subject to forfeit.
10. Lightning rule: Garden City, and Dearborn Heights - Umpire's decision.

## COACHES

1. Coaches will set a good example of sportsmanship for all players, spectators, and umpires.
2. Managers must call all team members to notify them of the time and place for all practices, make up games, and all other NDHBL events.
3. No team member, coach, or spectator may dispute an umpire's judgment call. This rule will be strictly enforced. Any abuse of this rule can lead to the player or coach's suspension or dismissal by the NDHBL Governing Board.
4. The coach for each team will meet with the opposing coach and umpire prior to the game to exchange batting orders and to discuss ground rules. Batting orders are to be written prior to this meeting.
5. Batting lineup is submitted to opposing team prior to ground rules.
6. Batting lineup must consist of uniform number and last name.
7. Announce no shows, injuries, and suspensions prior to the game. A no show may be placed at the bottom of the batting lineup when he arrives.
8. A coach ejection from the game is subject to suspension of future games.
9. Score, Pitchers and innings pitched must be reported by each team to ensure fair play. Scorebooks must be signed by coaches of both teams next to pitchers of record in that game, in BOTH scorebooks, in ink. If no signature from previous game in current week, pitcher in question may only pitch one (1) inning.
10. Coaches from opposing team may review your team's current week worth of pitching at any point during the game.

## OFFENSIVE RULES

1. All players **MUST** be placed in the batting rotation, and **MUST** bat in proper sequence. Batting orders cannot be changed after the game begins, unless a player is unable to complete the rest of the game.
2. Each team will bat their line-up per inning. For example, if the Tigers have 10 players show up for the game and the Braves have 12 players show up for the game, then the Tigers may bat 10 players per inning with less than 3 outs and the Braves bat 12 players per inning with less than 3 outs. No batter shall bat more than one turn in an inning, except for last inning (7<sup>th</sup> or extra inning only), when unlimited batters are allowed.
3. If a player **intentionally** throws a bat, that batter will be called out **and may be subject to ejection.**
4. **If a batter accidentally throws and hits the catcher with the bat, the Team shall be issued a warning, second time any batter will be called out.**
5. If a player leaves the lineup, **for any reason including** injury or ejection, the batting position will not be considered an automatic out. The player will not be eligible for reentry into the lineup. The opposing team will be notified.
6. If a player is skipped because he is unavailable to bat, not because of injury or ejection, his team will accept the out and the player will continue to participate in the game. The opposing team will be notified.

## **DEFENSIVE RULES**

1. There will be three outfielders, unless there only 8 fielders.
2. Outfielders must be inbound and on the grass with both feet, before the ball reaches home plate.
3. **No player will sit for more than one more inning than any other player on the team.**  
**Clarification: No player may sit for more than one inning while there are players on the team who have not sat for one inning. No player may sit for more than two innings while there are players on the team who have not sat for two innings. No player may sit for more than three innings while there are players on the team who have not sat for three innings. See pitching exception below.**
4. **Pitching exception to mandatory sitting rule: A pitcher may legally be in violation of this rule if he is still pitching but once he is taken from the mound for another position while in violation of the rule, this pitcher must be placed on the bench until he has sat the required innings in rule 3.**

## **PLAYER CONDUCT**

1. Players not in the field, batting, or in the on deck circle must stay in the dugout at all times.
2. There will be absolutely no harassment of opposing players. Penalty is player, coaches and spectators' removal from the game
3. A player's ejection from the game is subject to suspension of future games.

## **PITCHING RULES**

1. No intentional walks
2. Pitchers may pitch a maximum of ten (10) innings per week. A week is considered Monday through Sunday.
3. **Pitchers cannot pitch more than 5 innings per game.**
4. Pitchers must have at least 40 hours rest between outings.
5. One (1) pitch constitutes an inning/outing.
6. Balks: One (1) warning per pitcher. Arguing a balk is not permitted but clarification may be requested.
7. Violation of these pitching rules will subject the game to be forfeited and the coach dismissal.
8. If a pitcher hits three (3) batters in a game or inning, he must be removed, but allowed to stay in the game and play another position. This does not mean he cannot pitch the next game.
9. Innings pitched in a game, which is rained out, cancelled, or suspended, will count toward weekly pitching totals.

## **Playoffs: Subject to number of teams in the league**

1. Seeding will be determined through the tiebreaker rules as follows:
  - Overall record.
  - Head to head based on first scheduled meeting.
  - Least runs allowed among teams involved.
  - Run differential between tied teams (+ high number = higher seed).
  - Coin Toss.
2. Playoff pitching rules will be the same as the regular season.

## TOURNAMENT TEAMS

1. Only one Tournament Team per division.
2. No more than twelve (12) players per Tournament Team.
3. Each coach in the division will nominate three (3) or more players for the Tournament Team. More players can be nominated depending on the number of teams in that year. The Division director is eligible to coach the Tournament Team.
4. If there is not a coach interested in coaching the Tournament Team, there will not be a team for that year.
5. If a player cannot compete in a Tournament Game he may be replaced by an alternate as long as the alternate is from the same divisional team as the player he is replacing. The Division Director MUST be notified of any changes in the Tournament Team Roster twenty-four (24) hours prior to the tournament.
6. Absolutely NO Travel Players allowed to play on any Tournament Team.
7. Each player MUST play three (3) innings.
8. Thirteen and fourteen year old players may compete on the Tournament Team.
9. No player brought up or held back is eligible for the Tournament Team.
10. All expenses are the responsibility of the tournament Team and their participants.
11. All jerseys MUST match. NDHBL has a signature jersey that is to be used, but the cost is the responsibility of the player.

## GENERAL RULES

1. Injured players must be attended to immediately. All play must stop if the injury appears to be in the slightest way serious. The player's parents must be contacted immediately. An accident report must be filled out immediately. Base runners shall be awarded bases at the umpire's discretion.
2. NO ALCOHOL, DRUGS OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE WILL BE TOLERATED ON OR NEAR A PLAYING OR PRACTICE AREA. ANY VIOLATION OF THIS RULE BY A COACH, PLAYER, OR SPECTATOR WILL LEAD TO IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION AND/OR DISMISSAL FROM THE LEAGUE.
3. All rules not covered above will be covered under Pony Baseball Rules.
4. There is no smoking on the Playing Field, or in the Dugout.
5. **MERCY RULE: 15 run lead after 4 complete innings (3 ½ if home team is ahead) or 10 run lead after 5 complete innings (4 ½ if the home team is ahead).**
6. Teams can play with 8 players. 7 or less is a forfeit.
7. Any violation of the before mentioned rules may result in forfeiture of that game.
8. Home team supplies two NEW game balls and the Visitors supply one good USED ball.
9. The league reserves the right, with the power vested in the Governing Board, to amend, nullify, alter, or change any rule or policy it deems, to be in the best interest of the league and its participants.
10. Score, pitchers and innings pitched per pitcher must be reported by each team to ensure fair play.
11. Players must run on and off the field.

**HAVE A GREAT SEASON AND REMEMBER YOUR  
GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP!!**