

# Lafayette Youth Baseball

## 2008 Pony Rules



The purpose of the Lafayette Pony League is to develop the young people into better baseball players. The league is for thirteen and fourteen year old players and all players will learn the basic fundamentals of baseball. Sportsmanship will be conducted on and off the field. Your games will be played at McCaw Park. The Rules for the 2008 season and double-elimination tournament are as follows:

### **I. TEAMS**

Each team in the league will consist of no more than 12, nor less than 11 players. The names of these players will be registered with the league commissioner.

### **II. LEAGUE AGE**

The league is for thirteen and fourteen year old players. Any player who will be thirteen years old by April 30<sup>th</sup> and who does not turn fifteen until after May 1<sup>st</sup> will be eligible to participate in the Pony Program.

### **III. PLAYING FIELD**

- A. Distance between bases is eighty (80) feet.
- B. The pitching distance will be at fifty-four (54) feet.

### **IV. GENERAL DRESS CODE**

Every player will be expected to wear his\her full uniform, unless cleared by the commissioner.

The full uniform includes the team hat, team shirt (tucked in at all times), pants, and socks.

Only tennis shoes, shoes with cleats (metal or rubber), or "turf shoes" will be allowed on the playing field.

The catcher will be equipped properly and accordingly (PONY 7-F)

All coaches will be expected to wear their team shirt and hat. The shirts will be tucked in at

all times. Also, coaches will wear shoes, no sandals will be permitted. Baseball pants, slacks,

respectable jeans or coaching shorts are permissible. Exceptions to the dress code will be non-staff fathers who are helping for the game.

## **V. CONDUCT**

Generally, it is the duty of the league commissioner to insure proper conduct by all league personnel. Players, coaches, and parents will treat the umpires with the highest respect and kindness. When there is a disagreement with a play or a call, they should inquire in a calm, courteous manner, rather than shouting and berating an umpire.

Coaches are expected to control their players, and it is recommended that if your fans have become obnoxious, ask them to quiet down. If the fans persist, the commissioner will ask them to leave.

## **VI. FIELD REGULATIONS**

Except for players warming up in the bull pen or on deck, all players must remain inside the dugout. This means inside, not on the ledge, against the fence, or in the warm up area!

All equipment will be kept behind the protective fence and in an orderly fashion, so that it will not be stepped on.

Any player caught throwing, kicking, or destructing any equipment (including his own) will be removed from the game without a warning. A second offense will result in removal from that game plus a one game suspension.

Players are asked not to be allowed to leave the field area, except for trips to the drinking fountain or the restroom.

Only coaches and players will be allowed in the dugout. NO BATBOYS ALLOWED.

The home team will take the third base dugout and take infield first, if time permits for infield.

## **VII. MAKE UP GAMES**

Both coaches will meet with the commissioner. The commissioner will have the final decision if a mutual time can not be worked out.

## **VII. COACHES RESPONSIBILITY**

- A. Players are not to be punished for any other organized commitment.
- B. Watch the language carefully

- C. Sign up for practice time on the field.
- D. Take excellent care of the equipment. Keep everything in the dugout except bats.
- E. Be good role models.
- F. Support the program.
- G. Do not be negative, always be positive.

## **IX. PLAYING RULES**

- A. Each team will bat their entire order. Each inning will consist of three outs.
- B. Each player on the team will play at least THREE innings in the field.
- C. Lead offs and steals will be allowed.
- D. There will be free defensive substitution. The batting order will stay the same and players may rotate in and out of the game.
  - a. In case of a team only having 8 players the 9<sup>th</sup> spot in the lineup is NOT an out.
- E. The dropped third strike is not an automatic out. The player must be tagged out or the ball must be thrown to 1<sup>st</sup> base.
- F. Nine players will play defense
- G. Sliding is encouraged on all close plays. A player may be called out at home if he does not slide and there is contact at the plate. This is a judgment call by the umpire.
- I. Bunting is acceptable
- J. There will be an infield fly rule.
- K. Throwing of the equipment will not be tolerated and could result in a suspension.
- L. Throwing the bat where there is a chance for injury will result in a no pitch and the batter being called out. Each team will be awarded one warning.
- M. There will be walks and hit batsmen.
- N. Games will be seven innings in length. There will be extra innings in case of a tie.

## **X. LENGTH OF GAME**

- A. Regulation games will be seven innings or a **120**-minute time limit. The scorekeeper and home plate umpire will monitor all time limits. An inning will not start after the time has expired.
- B. An official game is five innings.
- C. A 10 run rule will be in effect after five innings for the visiting team and four and a half innings for the home team.

## **XI. PITCHING RULES**

- A. A pitcher shall throw in no more than 3 innings in 1 calendar day.
- B. Walks will be allowed.
- C. Balks may be called. Warnings will not be given by the umpire.
- D. Once the pitcher is removed from the mound, the player may move to another position but may not return to the mound in the same game.

For further explanation of any rule please visit the official Pony Baseball web site.  
<http://www.pony.org/rules/boysrules.pdf>

**Pony Commissioner**

**Adam Niswonger**

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