



LOCAL RULES

1. OFFICIAL RULES

The official rules of Major League Baseball and the PONY League Blue Book will apply to all levels of play at Bear Creek PONY League. When concerning safety, local rules will apply.

2. SPORTSMANSHIP

All players, coaches, and fans (family members) will maintain a good sportsmanship attitude at all times while in the confines of Bear creek Recreation Complex. The use of profanity, derogatory comments, threats, trying to incite a riot or fight, or trying to incite others to riot or fight will not be tolerated in this League and will be dealt with in a swift manner. Penalties for such action can range from a written warning to permanently being barred from the League. On field celebrations are not allowed – celebrate behind the dugout.

REMEMBER, WE ARE HERE FOR THE KIDS AND TO HAVE FUN!

3. MUST SLIDE RULE (Shetland through Mustang Divisions Only)

A runner advancing from third base to home plate must slide if a play is imminent. This will be the sole judgment of the umpire. Headfirst slides into home plate are not permitted. The penalty for this action will be that the player will be called out and the run will not count.

4. MALICIOUS CONTACT RULE

A player / runner not only can be called out but also ejected from the game for making contact in a malicious manner. Example: A runner knocks over a defensive player in an attempt to dislodge the ball to avoid being called out. Malicious contact will be in the sole judgment of the umpire. The penalty for malicious contact is also the sole judgment of the umpire.

5. GAME TIME LIMITS

The following time limits are in force for each Division. No new inning will begin after the time limit has been reached. If the game is a tie after the time limit, it will remain a tie:

Wrangler: 1 hour 15 minutes	Shetland: 1 hour and 30 minutes
Pinto 1 hour and 40 minutes	Mustang: 1 hour and 50 minutes
Bronco 2 hours 10 minutes	Pony 2 hours and 10 minutes
Colt: 2 hours and 10 minutes	Palomino: 2 hour and 10 minutes

*Wrangler will play games by Shetland rules and times, or as determined by Director.

**All games subject to 10 minutes decrease due to inclement weather or other situations approved by President (or designee) and Chief Umpire (or designee).



6. RUN LIMIT PER INNING

Shetland through Palomino Divisions will have a 5-run limit per inning, except for the last inning. The 5-run limit will not apply on the Pony through Palomino Divisions. During Spring Season. The slaughter rules declared in the PONY League Blue Book will apply.

Last Inning:

- a. Shetland – May score ten (10) runs. Games will be played until a winter is declared; games shall be considered over when it is mathematically impossible for one team to catch up in six (6) innings.
- b. Pinto through Palomino – The inning will be declared an open inning by the umpire 10 minutes prior to the time limit of the game expiring.
- c. Bronco through Palomino – will have a 15- run slaughter rule after 4 innings. Home team does not have to bat the bottom half of the 4th inning. If ahead by 15 runs or more or complete the bottom half of the 4th inning.

7. MUST PLAY RULE

Shetland Division Only – All players will be in the field each time their team is on defense with six in the infield and the remainder in the outfield.

Pinto & Mustang play a standard 6 inning game. Prior to the state of the 5th inning, a player must play two (2) defensive innings and bat at least once.

Bronco, Pony, Colt & Palomino play a standard 7 inning game. Prior to the start of the 6th inning. A player must play two (2) defensive innings and bat at least once.

Protest for violation of this rule must be made as soon as the opposing team is aware of the violation and definitely prior the last out of the game. Penalty for non-compliance is forfeiture of the game. If a game is called due to the slaughter rule or time limit rule, the forfeiture provision will not apply. The following will apply:

- a. A player that misses practice (habitually or unexcused) or is a discipline problem, does not have to be played. (The manager will bring the problem to the Division Director's attention – wither by phone or email. If manager elects to email directors, a message will be left to inform that email has been sent). Should it be decided that the player will not be allowed to play the manager must advise the parent, opposing manager, and the umpire prior to the start of the game.

(NOTE TO MANAGERS: ALL PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND BALLPLAYERS ARE TO BE ADVISED OF POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES FOE HABITUAL AND/OR UNEXCUSED TARDINESS OR ABSENCE FROM PRACTICE OR GAMES).



- b. The umpire and the opposing manager must be notified prior to the beginning of the game of any player who must leave prior to the completion of the game. Failure to do so will result in the player being called out each time the player is scheduled to bat, (This rule will not apply to the Pony through Palomino Divisions during Spring Season).
- c. A player arriving after the start of the game will be placed at the bottom of the batting order; the player must play a defensive inning prior to batting. (This rule will not apply to the Pony through Palomino Divisions during the Spring season).
- d. Any present, non-starting player will start in the next succeeding game. Non-compliance will be forfeiture of the game. Starting positions must be noted in the Official Scorebook prior to the state of each game.

8. STANDING BATTING ORDER

Shetland through Bronco Divisions – will play each game with a standing batting order with free substitutions, Manager / Coach has the option to bat down to the equal number of players of the other team. Example, A team has 9 players present – B team has 12 present but can choose to bat 9.

Pony through Colt Divisions – During the fall season, will play each game with a standing batting order with free substitutions. During the Spring season, will play by the Official Rules of Major League Baseball: bat only nine (9) and use substitutes.

9. INJURED PLAYERS

- a. A courtesy runner may be used for an offensive player injured on the preceding play of the game. The injury must be apparent to the umpire (umpire's judgment). The courtesy runner will be the batter making the last BATTED out.
- b. The manager must make a decision before the next time the play is at bat, and notify the opposing manager and umpire of the decision to remove a player due to injury or sickness. Failure to do so will result in the player being called out each time the player is scheduled to bat. (This Rule will not apply to the Pony through Palomino Division during the Spring season).
- c. If the player is injured on the field or off the field and received medical attention by a doctor or hospital, the player must obtain a medical release form from the doctor or hospital in order for that player to resume practice and / or game participation.

10. SPEED-UP RULES

- a. A courtesy runner can be used for the catcher only and only when there are two (2) outs. The courtesy runner will be the batter making the last BATTED out. Use of the courtesy runner for the catcher is optional.
- b. If the catcher is not ready to warm-up the pitcher at the inning change, than a coach or player wearing the mask and protective cup must warm up the pitcher as soon as the pitcher takes the field.



11. **FAILURE TO FIELD A TEAM**

- a. An inability to field a team of nine (9) uninformed (baseball pants, league T-shirt numbered on the back, hat and socks) players within 15 minutes of game start time or maintain nine (9) uniformed players throughout the entire game will result in a forfeiture of the game.
- b. If eight (8) rostered players are available to play, an alternate player can be used, An alternate cannot be chosen from the opposing team (except in the Shetland Division). The Division Director will have a list of alternate players available and that list will also be available in the Concession Stand.
- c. (FALL SEASON ONLY) If seven (7) rostered players are available to play. Division Director, with President (or designee) approval, may authorize use of players from alternate list.
- d. Alternates will play in the outfield only.
- e. Alternates will be last in the batting order.
- f. Forfeited games will be played but considered a practice game if eight (8) players can be field and no alternated are available. Forfeited games will play no longer than following:

Shetland through Mustang – 4 innings
Bronco through Palomino – 5 innings

12. **WARM-UP PITCHES**

- a. New pitchers will be permitted 10 warm-up pitches.
- b. Pitchers between innings will be permitted five (5) warm-up pitches.
- c. A player wearing the mask and a protective cup may warm-up the pitcher between innings.
- d. A Coach may warm-up the pitcher when the catcher is detained.

13. **UNIFORM / EQUIPMENT RULES**

- a. Players must be dressed in full official League uniform per official PONY Blue Book rules. Players not dressed accordingly will not be permitted to play.
- b. No patch or decoration of any kind will be affixed to the uniformed.
- c. All catchers must wear an athletic supporter with protective cup.
- d. All catchers must wear a dull helmet with dual earflaps. NO SKULL CAPS.
- e. Shetland through Mustang players are required to wear batting helmets with a protective wire or Plastic cage mask while at bat (no c-flaps allowed). Failure to wear a protective mask will result in the play not being allowed to bat.
- f. Metal cleats will not be permitted during any practice or game in the Shetland through Bronco divisions.
- g. Metal cleats are permitted for Pony through Palomino Divisions. Alternations of metal cleats, such as sharpening; which might make them, dangerous to participants, is specifically prohibited per the official PONY Blue rules, page #13 – 8 equipment D.



14. OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER

- a. There must be an Official Score kept of each game. Director should designate a neutral scorekeeper for all games. In the absences of a designated scorekeeper, the Home team will provide an official scorekeeper.
- b. Player's printed last name and at least 1st initial of player's first name must be in the Official Scorebook.
- c. It is strongly recommended that all scorebooks follow this same process.
- d. The home team will use the dugout on the first (1st) base side of the field. The visitor team will use the dugout on the third (3rd) base side of the field.
- e. Official scorekeeper is to be seated at the official score table behind the backstop at home plate. Team scorekeepers may also be seated at the official score table with authorization.
- f. An eight (8) foot clearance to be maintained around score's table. Authorized official of the league is an exception to this requirement.
- g. The official scorekeeper is to remain neutral and impartial for all games. They are not to **interfere with or report to either team** (Mangers, Coaches, Parents, Fans or Players) any errors they may notice while keeping the official score. **For example:** players out of batting order, lack of innings played defensively, improper substitutions, etc. They are to record the game objectively and without comment to anyone. They will provide confirmation to the umpires and to the teams when requested - with the approval of the game umpire. It is the responsibility of each team to keep their own book for each game; to notice, prevent and point out errors on the field accordingly – through the team Manager.

15. MANAGER / COACH PRESENCE ON THE FIELD

- a. Shetland and Pinto Division can have 3 coaches on defense in the following designated areas: (1) coach behind home plate to help speed up the game, but cannot coach any time. (1) Coach beside the foul territory outfield grass at 1st base, (1) coach beside the foul territory outfield grass at 3rd base.
- b. Mustang through Palomino Divisions may have (2) coached in the field in designated areas while on defense. All other coaches must remain in the dugout or behind the fence.
- c. Umpire can remove coaches at any time from these areas as they deem appropriate and / or necessary.
- d. Only official baseball field business may be conducted on the field by all Managers/Coaches.

16. UMPIRE COMPLIMENTS / COMPLAINTS

- a. Umpire compliments, comments and or complaints must be put in writing in the Official Scorebook for the game.
- b. Note – Anyone who has an issue, including parents, coaches, and players with the calls made at the game regarding the umpire can notify the Division Director and / or Assistant Director to address the issue.



17. DIVISION RULES

Individual Division Directors may establish local rules to their division. Such rules must be in writing and submitted to the League president and Chief umpire for approval. Any such rules may not conflict with the Bear Creek Local Rules and/or the Official PONY League Blue Book rules.

18. ARTIFICIAL NOISEMAKERS

Use of artificial noisemakers is prohibited. This is in accordance with PONY tournament rules as noted on page 24 letter I in the PONY blue book.

19. JEWELRY

Absolutely no jewelry (regardless of materials) may be worn during games as noted in the PONY blue book on page 16 letter J. Penalty for non-compliance as noted by the umpire is an automatic at bat out. (For example, the play will be called out when at bat not when scoring or already on base. If the jewelry is noticed while on base or scoring, the umpire will notify the official scorekeeper that the player's next at bat will be an automatic out).

20. BEAR CREEK WEBSITE

Bear Creek PONY League will regularly maintain a website at the following address: www.bearcreekponybaseball.org with updated information including game schedules, practice schedules, team standings for each division, as well as posting Play of the Week if the information from each division and / or coach is received on a regular basis. To be included, please send your information to: webmasterbearcreekponybaseball.org.

21. PHOTOGRAPHY

All photographs taken at the fields must be taken from outside the playing field area.