

## MUSTANG Division Ground Rules

### 2026 Fall Ball

Unless modified below, PONY official rules shall govern gameplay.

**Dugouts:** Home team will occupy the 3rd base dugout. Visitors will use the 1st base dugout. All offensive players except for the batter, on-deck batter, and any base runners must remain fully inside the dugout and remain in the dugout during play.

**Uniforms:** All players must wear their team jersey & hat, with the jersey tucked in. Plastic or molded cleats are recommended. No metal cleats allowed. We recommend that all male players wear a cup. No jewelry may be worn at any time on the fields (practices or games) except for medical I.D. bracelets.

**Play Minimums:** All players present and on the lineup, must play a minimum of one (1) inning in the infield in the first three (3) innings. No player may sit out two (2) innings before all other players have been out one (1) inning.

**Pitching:**

- 1) **50** Pitches MAX or 2 innings, whichever occurs first. If a player reaches their pitch limit during an at-bat, they may complete that at-bat.
- 2) Pitcher's mound will be set at forty-six (46) feet for the entire season. The mound is measured from the back corner of home plate to the front edge of the pitching "rubber".

**Field Prep:** **Home team is responsible for preparing the field.** For teams that are inter-leaguering, if one of the teams playing is home to their field, regardless of being home/visiting team for the game, that team home to their field is responsible for field prep. Additionally, if two visiting teams have a game at a location that is not their home location, the team from the previous game that is home to the field, should help prep the field for this following game. Coaches should be aware of game schedules and field prepping responsibilities each Sunday.

**Basepaths:** Bases will be set at sixty (60) feet.

**Batting:**

- 1) Batters must wear a helmet any time they are on the field. Only the batter and the on-deck batter may swing a bat – NO EXCEPTIONS.
- 2) No Tee-Ball, Coach-Pitch, or Softball bats are allowed for play. Bats must have a USA Stamp, BBCOR -3 stamp or be a Wood bat. Please reference Pony Nationals Rulebook for further clarification.
- 3) Every team must bat their complete lineup. All players in the lineup will be batted in order. Late players may be added to the end of the lineup. Managers are encouraged to rotate their batting orders from game to game to provide an opportunity for players to bat in different positions throughout the season.

**Base Running:**

- 1) Leading off is allowed.
- 2) Stealing is allowed.
- 3) Stealing home is not permitted unless a wild pitch or passed ball has occurred. A returned ball to the pitcher is a dead ball. If the pitcher or catcher attempts to pick off a runner the ball is live and the runner may attempt to advance at their own risk.
- 4) There is no sliding at first base, sliding will only be permitted at 2nd, 3rd and home. All players must attempt to slide when necessary. Head-first sliding should be strongly discouraged by coaching staff. If sliding occurs at first base, the player will be called out.

**Innings/Time:** Each of the first four (4) innings will last three (3) outs or five (5) runs, whichever comes first. The 5th inning will last three (3) outs or ten (10) runs, whichever comes first. The 6th inning will last three (3) outs with no limit on runs. The ten-run "mercy" rule will begin in the middle of the 5th inning. All games will be scheduled for six (6) innings. No new inning may begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes. There is NO drop-dead time. Official scores are not kept or reported except to enforce inning run limits as described above.

Because scores are not officially kept or recorded, if the home team has the lead going into, or takes the lead in the final inning, play will continue until 3 outs or the run limit is reached in the bottom half of the inning. **Games may end in a tie.**