

**LOCAL RULES –MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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**Policies & Procedures**

Temecula Youth Baseball shall establish local rules appropriate to the age group, consistent with the player’s advancement through the various division of play and as allowed by the official rules of PONY Baseball, Inc.

- a) No part of this policy shall be interpreted as superseding the Constitution or By-Laws of Temecula Youth Baseball.
- b) Temecula Youth Baseball may establish rules specifically for use during League play (“local rules”), which supersedes the official PONY and Major League rulebooks. The official PONY and Major League rulebooks shall take precedence unless otherwise stated in the following document. These rules shall be approved by the Board and stated in this document.



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### Injured / Dropped / No-Show / Substitute Players

- a) Throughout the season injuries, no-shows, and confirmed dropped players do occur. Replacement players will be assigned to teams requiring additional players up until a predefined point made by the Board of Directors.
- b) A player that misses two games due to any reason must be reported to the Player Agent and Division Commissioner within 24 hours of the second game missed.
- c) Throughout the season Division Commissioners will be making routine dugout checks to validate team rosters.
- d) A manager that fails to disclose an injured, no-show, or dropped player will be subject to disciplinary action by the league in the form of possible multiple game suspensions or permanent removal from managing in our league.
- e) The Player Agent will confirm all legitimate drops and act accordingly to place a new player if time allows.
- f) A player that cannot play both defensively and offensively is not eligible to play in any game.
- g) Substitute players can be from the leagues rec divisions, they must bat at the bottom of the batting order and play the outfield only, they will not be allowed during the tournament.

### Information and Communication over the Internet

- a) Temecula Youth Baseball utilizes the Internet as our primary source of information and communication. It is highly recommended that all managers and coaches check your emails daily for any correspondence that may have been sent by the Division Commissioners or TYB officials.
- b) Our website [www.temeculapony.com](http://www.temeculapony.com) contains up to date information such as upcoming events, schedules, standings, scores, makeup information, rainouts, general notices, etc. Please make it a point to check the website on a regular basis for updated information. It is also suggested that all managers inform your parents to check the website regularly and especially on days where weather may be a factor.

### Safety / Malicious Play

- a) A player may be warned or ejected from the game for play deemed by the umpire(s) to be unsportsmanlike, unsafe, or intended to harm an opposing player. Such instances of malicious play may be unnecessary contact by a runner on an attempted putout, intentionally throwing at a batter, swearing, throwing of equipment, etc. It is the responsibility of the manager to ensure that their players maintain good sportsmanship throughout the entire game.
- b) TYB “DOES NOT” have a slide or avoid rule and any player that demonstrates intent to harm or injure another player, while in the process of running the bases, will be ejected from the game if the umpire deems necessary. At the time of the violation the runner will be considered an automatic out, the ball will become dead, and no other runners can advance. The ejected player is an automatic out the rest of the game.



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### Minimum Play Rule

- a) Player rotation is highly important in our league. Managers are instructed and encouraged to rotate players between infield and outfield to the furthest extent possible.
- b) A team with 11 or more available players will be required to sit no player more than two innings in an official 7-inning game and they cannot be consecutive. If the game is forced into an 8th inning or more then no player can sit two consecutive innings will be in effect.
- c) A team with 10 or less available players will be required to sit no player more than one innings in an official 7-inning game. If the game is forced into an 8th inning or more then no player can sit two consecutive innings will be in effect.
- d) Teams are responsible for annotating the bench-players in their scorebooks to ensure that this rule is followed.
- e) A manager, in violation of the minimum play time, may be subject to immediate disciplinary action from the league and be subject to the following penalty:
  - The manager is suspended from the next scheduled game and/or games
  - The player, impacted by the violation of the ruling, shall play in its entirety, the next two scheduled games
  - The Board of Directors may further sanction repeat offenders.
- f) The manager has the authority prior to a game to decrease a player's playing time if he or she feels that it is warranted for disciplinary reasons. The manager must contact their division commissioner prior to limiting a player's time and explain the circumstances. In instances, which may occur during a game, the opposing manager shall be informed immediately and the division commissioner shall be notified in writing with 24 hours to explain the circumstances.
- g) A manager must notify the umpire and opposing manager if one of their players sits out two consecutive innings for any reason.
- h) Minimum play rules will change for the end of season tournament. Refer to end of season tournament section in the sections below.

### General Regular Season Rules

- a) All teams shall bat the entire roster every game and employ free substitutions subject to the minimum play rules defined in this document. Exception: The pitcher may not return to pitch once removed from the pitching mound.
- b) The official starting line-up shall include, at a minimum, the players number, first name, and last name. This line-up card (batting order) shall be given to the opposing team's scorekeeper 10 minutes' prior to the start of the game. Changes to the line-up can be made prior to the official start time as determined by the umpire. Once the game has started the line-up cannot be modified, except to add players that show up late.
- c) A player placed in the official line-up and who misses their first at bat, will be considered an automatic out for their first plate appearance. The missing player will then be scratched from the line-up and may be placed at the end of the line-up card if they show up later in the game. Any player that shows up late will be placed at the end of the line-up card. It is recommended that any player, not present for the start of the game, be left off the official line-up to avoid the possible one out penalty.



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- d) A player who misses an at bat due to a game related injury (i.e. sprained ankle, pulled muscle) will be removed from the line-up and the team will not be penalized for this game related injury. The injured player, who is now officially removed from the game, will not be allowed to re-enter the game and he will be skipped in the batting order.
- e) A player that becomes sick during a game does not constitute a game related injury and they will be considered an out the next time up to bat; one-out penalty. Thereafter they will be scratched from the lineup with no further penalty. The player will be removed from the game and they will not be allowed to re-enter the game.
- f) A player missing an at bat due to an ejection by the umpire will be considered an automatic out each and every time up to bat.
- g) A player missing an at bat, other than a game related injury or ejection (i.e. restroom break), will be considered an automatic out and the next batter in the line-up shall proceed to bat. If that same player misses their second official at-bat they shall be removed from the line-up entirely, no out will be recorded, and the next batter in the lineup shall proceed to bat. Once removed that player will not be allowed to re-enter into the game.
- h) Any player, unable to play defensively for three consecutive innings, shall be ineligible to play and will be removed from the batting lineup. The player will be considered an out the next time up to bat; one-out penalty. Thereafter they will be scratched from the lineup with no further penalty. The player will be removed from the game and they will not be allowed to re-enter the game.
- i) Courtesy runners, for a player injured while in the process of running the bases, shall be allowed and can occur only once during the game for such player. The courtesy runner shall be the last official recorded out in the scorebook. Injuries to a player, unrelated to the game being played are not eligible for a courtesy runner and must run the bases (i.e. prior skateboard or bicycle accident).
- j) Any player with a hard cast or splint is ineligible to play and must submit an official medical release form to the league in order to be eligible to play.
- k) All managers, coaches, players, parents, and spectators are asked to support their team, as well as, the opposing team. Negative comments including jeering, chanting, or making noise in an effort to distract the pitcher, batter, or other players from the other team are subject to disciplinary action by the umpire if deemed to be excessive. Violators will be warned and the manager may be subject to an ejection for failure to maintain his/her players or spectators.
- l) It is the obligation of the manager and coaches for each team to address any unacceptable behavior by their players or parents.
- m) Only managers, coaches, scorekeepers, and players are permitted in the dugout (or designated dugout area). Home team uses the third base dugout.
- n) Should an umpire fail to appear; the home team manager shall notify their Division Commissioner immediately. The Division Commissioner will make every attempt to get an umpire to the game. Do not wait for an umpire to start the game. The game must proceed utilizing the best available people as umpires. Report all games without an umpire to the TYB Head of Umpires at [umpire@temeculapony.com](mailto:umpire@temeculapony.com).
- o) In instances where a game has interfered with the start time of the next game both teams will leave the dugout immediately after the game has ended or it has been called due to time limit restrictions. The game will be immediately stopped 10 minutes into the next scheduled start time. The umpire will start the next game as soon as possible and try to get the game schedule back on



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track.

**Note: If time is called, the score shall revert back to the previously completed inning.**

- p) Games will be subject to a “No New Inning” policy. Although games are scheduled at specific start time, the official start time of the game will be announced by the umpire. The “No New Inning” time will be in affect from the official time” (IE. Game posted for 6:00pm but official call time is 6:05pm, the “No New Inning” will take affect from 6:05pm). If there is a failure to announce the start time, the “No New Inning” will take affect from the time posted on the Temecula Pony website.
- q) Unnecessary stalling of any team (IE. Running the clock) and that is in the judgment of the umpire, will be subject to adding additional minutes to the game time. The umpire will use his discretion to determine how many minutes will be added to the clock.
- r) Noisemakers are not permitted at any time during a game.
- s) The pitcher shall wear rubber cleats when a portable mound is being used.
- t) Hit-A-Way swing trainers (including Sklz Hurricane Category 4 Batting Tee) **are not to be used on the playing field**, while the game is in progress.
- u) Managers and coaches are instructed to hustle their teams on and off the field. Coaches are encouraged to warm up the pitcher while the catcher puts their gear on. The umpires will be instructed to allow 1 minute between innings or eight warm-up pitches between innings, whichever comes first.
- v) A team failing to field 8 or more players within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time shall be forced to forfeit the game. No team shall play with 7 players. If any team, at any time during the game, cannot field eight uniformed players the game shall be a forfeit. The score for the record books shall be:
  - 7-0 in Bronco and Pony Middle School
- w) A team that plays with only 8 players is subject to no restrictions.
- x) For games with no new inning time limits the umpires shall publicly announce the official game start time, relative to his/her watch, prior to the first pitch of the game or when the catcher has thrown the ball down to second base. The managers and scorekeepers should make a note of the official start time. In situations where the official start time was not announced and no one interjected to find out the official start time the start time will revert automatically to the scheduled start time.
- y) The ensuing catcher or ensuing pitcher may be substituted with a courtesy runner with two outs in the inning. The courtesy runner shall be the player who made the last out. In situations where there will be no other inning, the courtesy runner cannot be used. The ensuing pitcher and ensuing catcher are defined as those players fielding that position in the “NEXT” half inning. Managers, in violation of manipulating this rule, will be ejected from the game and may be subject to further suspension from the league.
- z) Any player, ejected from a game by the umpire, shall be suspended from play for the rest of the game. The ejected player may be automatically suspended from the next scheduled game or games. The ejected party must immediately leave the field of play or else the game is subject to forfeit. Any subsequent ejections may result in multiple game suspension or permanent suspension for the remainder of the season, including post-season and all-star play. The Board of Directors may impose further penalties based upon the severity of the offense.
- aa) Any manager, coach, or spectator ejected from a game by the umpire shall be suspended from play for the rest of the game from which they were ejected. The ejected individual may be automatically suspended from the next two scheduled games. The ejected party must immediately



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leave the field of play or else the game is subject to forfeit. Any subsequent ejections may result in multiple game suspension or permanent suspension for the remainder of the season, including post-season and all-star play. The Board of Directors may impose further penalties based upon the severity of the offense.

- bb) Any board member, who observes inappropriate behavior or unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of any player or adult, will report their observations to the Division Commissioner and those individuals may be subject to further sanctioning from the Board of Directors.
- cc) Both teams are responsible for preparing the fields (if both are teams from Temecula Youth Baseball) before the start of the game. Field preparation may include dragging the field, watering the field, chalking the field, setting the bases, and setting the portable pitching mound.
  - After the last game both teams are responsible for removing and storing the portable pitching mound and all field preparation equipment. (If applicable)
  - All teams are responsible for guaranteeing that the storage bins are locked and secured before they leave the field at the end of the day,
- dd) It is the responsibility of each team to clean out their dugouts, stands, and surrounding areas after each game. Please dispose of all trash in the designated trashcans or dumpsters.
- ee) The winning team is required to enter their score directly into our website. The losing team can also enter the score if the winning team has not. Any discrepancies in the score shall be submitted to the Division Commissioner for final review.
- ff) A batter will be notified by the umpire to remove only one foot from the batter's box between pitches if it is felt that their time outside of the batter's box is slowing down the progress of the game. Umpires shall, at their own discretion, make every attempt to enforce this rule.
- gg) Either team, prior to the start of the game, shall not be permitted to take infield practice. Grounders shall be in front of each dugout in foul territory.

## Game Time Limits

DIVISION	NO NEW INNING	DROP-DEAD TIME
BRONCO M.S.	2:00 (2 hours) + Mercy Rule	10 minutes into next scheduled game
PONY M.S.	2:00 (2 hours) + Mercy Rule	10 minutes into next scheduled game

*\*Note: If drop-dead time is enforced, the score will be recorded as the previous completed inning.*

## Bat Standards

Temecula Youth Baseball has adopted the new USA Baseball Licensing Stamp. With the exception of -3 (BBCOR certified) **and** wood bats (bamboo wood bats are not approved, multi-piece wood bats must have the USA Baseball mark), all other 2 1/4" and 2 5/8" barrel bats with a minus factor of (-5, -7, -9, etc.), must have the USA Baseball licensing stamp on the bat in order to be used for league and tournament play.



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*Procedure*

During the pre-game Managers Meeting, the officiating umpire will be asking if all of your players are properly equipped. This question also applies to the bat. This also serves as your one and only warning regarding the bat rule. No further warnings will be given.

*Bat Violation Consequence*

In the event a player brings a bat that is not approved for play in PONY Baseball onto the field of play, both the player AND the manager shall be ejected from the game. No warning will be given. Continued violation will result in further game suspensions by the League.

**Pitch Smart Pitch Count Rules**

Temecula Youth Baseball has incorporated a pitching guide in accordance with Pitch Smart Pitch Count Rules. This shall be in effect for the following age groups.

AGE / DAILY MAX PITCHES		NUMBER OF DAYS REST REQUIRED					
		0	1	2	3	4	5
7-8	50	1-20	21-35	35-50	N/A	N/A	N/A
9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
11-12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
13-14	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
15-16	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+	N/A
17-18	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+	N/A
19-22	120	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81-105	106+

- Days' Rest are **FULL** day's rest (i.e. if a 10-year old pitches 66+ pitches on Monday, they are not eligible to pitch again until Saturday).
- Pitchers reaching their maximum number of pitches in a day while pitching to a batter, may finish pitching to that batter before being removed.
- Number of pitches shall be recorded on the League's website.
- Recommend the use of electronic scoring devices at all levels to help ensure an accurate pitch count.
- In the event of an intentional walk where no pitchers are thrown; 4 pitches are NOT added to the pitchers pitch count.

*Managing Pitch Count & Pitch Count Violation*

*Logging Pitches on TYB Website*

Logging your team's pitch count is **MANDATORY** within 24 hours of the completed game. Managers failing to log their pitch count will be subject to suspension for the next scheduled game. You are responsible for your team's



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pitch count. In order to accurate pitch counts, each team's scorekeepers should meet between half innings to discuss the pitch count. Any discrepancy will be **SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE – No Exceptions!**

### *Pitch Count Violation*

Any player found in violation of the pitch count will be **INELIGIBLE** to pitch for 1 full week starting from the day of the violation.

Example: Dodgers pitcher Johnny throws 55 pitches on Wednesday, making him eligible to pitch Sunday. The Angels manager notices that Johnny is pitching against him at their game Saturday. The Angels manager approaches the umpire regarding the ineligibility. Due to ineligibility, the following actions will take place:

- 1. Player in Violation:**
  - a. Johnny is removed from the mound but not the game.
  - b. Johnny is ineligible to pitch for 1 week (7 full days) from the violation date
- 2. Manager in Violation:**
  - a. The manager will be ejected from the game
  - b. The manager will be suspended from the next scheduled game.

### *Pitch Count Manipulation*

Any Manager found in violation of purposefully manipulating their pitch count on the Temecula Youth Baseball website will be subject to immediate disciplinary action.

- First Offense – 1 game suspension
- Second Offense – 3 game suspension
- Third Offense – Possible expulsion from the league.

## Division Rules

### *Bronco and Pony*

- a) Middle School games shall be played under official PONY Baseball Rules and Regulations, subject to the general League rules defined in this document.
- b) There will be a maximum of 6 runs allowed per inning for the first 4 innings. The fifth inning & beyond will be subject to unlimited runs. The only exception to the 6 run limit is in the case of a homerun over the fence that puts the team over the 6 run limit. The offense will be entitled to all runs scored.
  - Teams are not allowed to “run the bases” on a non-homerun hit for the sole purpose of adding runs beyond 6.
- c) Game duration / Time Limit / Mercy Rule
  - MS Game duration / time limit: 7 innings. No new inning or extra innings shall start after 2 hours
  - Mercy Rule is in effect and as follows: 15 runs after the 4th inning or 10 runs after the 5th inning & beyond.
  - Extra innings are allowed within the official PONY rules subject to time limitations (ties are allowed).
  - For example: if the game is tied after 7 innings and there are 10 minutes' left on the clock then another inning will be played until the no new inning rule has taken effect.



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- d) If the home team is winning and the no new inning time limit has been reached, then the game shall be stopped and the final score shall be recorded from that specific point.
- e) Metal cleats are allowed in the MS division.
- f) The pitcher shall wear rubber cleats when a portable mound is being used.
- g) Pitching Regulations – Please refer to the Pitch Smart Pitch Count Rules grid below.

AGE / DAILY MAX PITCHES		NUMBER OF DAYS REST REQUIRED					
		0	1	2	3	4	5
7-8	50	1-20	21-35	35-50	N/A	N/A	N/A
9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
11-12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
13-14	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A

- Managers must enter their previous game’s pitch count within 24 hours of their completed game.
  - If an ineligible pitcher is mentioned before throwing a pitch to a batter, the pitcher will be replaced with a new player. The manager **will not** be removed from the game.
  - If an ineligible pitcher throws a pitch to a batter and is discovered **during** the game, the following actions will occur:
    - The player will be removed from the mound and will be ineligible for the next scheduled game.
    - The manager shall be removed from the game as well as the next scheduled game.
  - If an ineligible pitcher throws to a batter and is discovered **after** the game, the player will not be eligible to pitch the next scheduled game.
  - Managers in repeat violation may be subject to sanctions by the league.
- h) Balks in Middle School shall be enforced from the start of the season.



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### End of Season Tournament

- a) All teams are eligible for the end of season tournament.
- b) TYB reserves the right to modify and publish local tournament rules that may not be covered in this section.
- c) All team seeding will be established by regular season record.
- d) TYB will conduct a double elimination tournament; finalists will play each other in a 3-game World Series.

### Tournament Rules

#### *Middle School Tournament Rules*

- Home team and tournament seeding is determined by the regular season results.
- Home team shall occupy the **third base dugout**.
- 2:00 no new inning.
- Unnecessary stalling of any team and that is in the judgment of the umpire, will be subject to adding additional minutes to the game time. The umpire will use their discretion to determine how many minutes will be added to the clock.
- Unlimited number of runs per inning and the mercy rule are in effect
- 20-run Mercy Rule after 2 innings; 15-run Mercy Rule after 3 innings; 13-run Mercy Rule after 4+ innings; 10-run Mercy Rule after 5+ innings.
- Regular season pitching rules still apply.
- Balks will be enforced.
- No player shall sit more than two consecutive innings defensively.
- **Must** bat entire roster.
- **NO** substitute players are allowed during the tournament.
- Pitching resets for the World Series for the final two teams.
- Home team for 1st World Series game will be the winner of the winner bracket. Thereafter, it is the winner of the previous game.
- World Series games have no time limit and are 7 innings in length subject to the extra innings and tiebreakers rules if applicable.
- CA tiebreaker is in effect for the **“first overtime inning”**; place the last out on 2nd base with no outs and play out the inning.
  - Second and subsequent overtimes will require the offensive team to place the last two outs on 2nd and 3rd, and play out the inning until a winner is determined. Start the inning with no outs.

