

Los Gatos PONY Baseball Rules & Regulations 2009 Season



Los Gatos PONY 2009 League Rules

1. DISCIPLINE

- A. The League President or, in his absence, ANY Board Member, shall have the authority to temporarily suspend a manager, coach or player who causes physical abuse or is suspected to be under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.
- B. The Board, by a majority vote, shall have the authority to discipline, suspend or expel any member of any class (i.e., player, coach, manager, umpire, board member) when the conduct of such member is considered detrimental to the best interest of Los Gatos PONY Baseball and/or PONY Baseball overall. The person involved shall be notified of the nature of the charges and given an opportunity to respond to such charges at a special meeting scheduled for that purpose. The Board shall have the sole power to make a ruling and determine the consequences.
- C. Any member facing disciplinary action shall have the right of appeal before the Board. Appeal of suspensions must be placed through the League President within twenty-four hours. The Board has the option to postpone a suspension, pending an appeal. However, in the event the suspension is upheld, the Board may impose an additional one game suspension.
- D. Any manager, coach or fan ejected from a game shall automatically be suspended from their team's next scheduled game. The suspended or ejected individual shall be prohibited from the premises.
- E. A special meeting of the Board may be called to address disciplinary actions or appeals, at the option of the League President.
- F. If a manager or coach is expelled, he/she shall not be allowed to manage or coach for Los Gatos PONY Baseball during any subsequent season, at any level, without Executive Board approval

2. PLAYING AND FIELD RULES

- A. *All play shall be governed by Official Baseball Rules and by PONY baseball, Inc., 'Rules and Regulations.'* However, the following Los Gatos PONY Baseball rules shall supersede the others when applicable:
 - 1) Whenever a play is being made at home plate, the runner must slide into home plate or avoid colliding with the catcher.
 - 2) If the runner fails to slide, and interferes with the catcher's ability to make the play, the runner shall be declared 'out' regardless of the play's outcome.
 - 3) If the runner fails to slide and intentionally collides with the catcher, the runner shall be declared 'out' and ejected from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - 4) If the catcher has moved up the 3rd base line, away from the plate, the runner shall not have to slide but must attempt to avoid contact with the catcher.
 - 5) The umpire shall make all rulings regarding runner's interference and intentional or unintentional collisions, and **SUCH RULINGS CANNOT BE PROTESTED.**

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- 6) A hit ball that lands in fair territory and continues past the home run fence shall be declared a 'ground rule double' whether or not a fielder in fair territory touches it.
EXCEPTION: If the umpire deems that the fielder intentionally deflected the ball past the fence, the ball shall remain 'live' and play shall continue.
- 7) A runner shall not be allowed to steal home plate during the pitch, unless the batter bunts or 'squares' to bunt the ball. If the runner runs to home plate and the batter does not square to bunt, the runner shall be declared 'out.'
- 8) A game may be called due to insufficient daylight. This decision shall be at the discretion of the umpire. If the umpire determines that there is insufficient light to continue play, he/she shall stop play. If the visiting team has not tied the game or taken the lead during the current inning and at least 5 innings have been completed, the game shall be considered an official game and whichever team is in the lead shall be declared the winner. If the visiting team has tied the game or taken the lead and the inning has not been completed the game shall be considered suspended.
- 9) In the event a manager, coach or parent umpires a game, that person shall not be entitled to compensation.
- 10) Tie games: If a game is tied and is called for any reason (darkness, rain, etc.) prior to completion of a regulation length game, the game shall be considered suspended. The game will be completed at the earliest possible make-up date. The League Commissioner will determine make-up game time.
- 11) 10 run rule: If a team is leading an opponent by at least 10 runs after 5 or more complete innings have been played or after four and one-half innings if the home team shall have a 10 run lead at the end of its fourth inning, or before the completions of its fifth inning, the game shall be terminated and the team in the lead shall be declared the winner. If both managers agree, the game may continue (as an unofficial game) to the completion of regulation length, however, the recorded outcome will NOT change

Innings pitched rules still apply. Innings played can be counted toward the minimum playing time requirement.

- 12) All players must wear helmets while swinging a bat at all times before during and after practices and games. This included, but is not limited to, on deck, at the plate, warming up, taking practice swings, soft toss, poly balls, etc.

TO ALL PLAYERS, COACHES & SPECTATORS

Judgment calls cannot be protested. A manger or coach can calmly ask the umpire that called the play to ask for help from the second umpire. The umpire may or may not elect to request assistance. However, whether the umpire asks for help or not, once he determines that his judgment is final, the call is final and may not be protested. Only rule interpretations can be protested. Upon that condition the manager/coach may make a protest as per the procedure outlined in the PONY rule book.

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B. Minimum Playing Time for Players

- 1) Provided a player is not ill, injured, or being disciplined for behavior or unexcused absences, the minimum required playing time for each player shall be as follows:

Full Game – Seven (7) innings; each player shall play a minimum of nine (9) defensive outs, six (6) consecutively, and have at least one (1) at bat. Extra innings **MAY NOT** be used to satisfy minimum playing time requirements. Failure to meet the minimum playing time requirements shall result in the forfeiture of that game and the manager shall be suspended from the next scheduled game.

Shortened Game (less than 7 innings): In the event a game ends early (due to rain, darkness, 10-run rule, etc.), a manager may be unable to meet the requirements for minimum playing time. If that should happen, players who did not receive the minimum playing time shall start the next scheduled game.

- 2) The League Commissioner and/or Player Agent shall conduct periodic reviews of each team's scorebooks to ascertain compliance with the minimum playing time rule.
- 3) Playing time violations must be presented to the League Commissioner within 24 hours of the alleged violation. This time limit shall not prevent the League Commissioner from acting on a violation discovered during the course of his/her normal audits.

C. Protested Games

- 1) All protests shall require the payment of a twenty-five (\$25) fee. If the protest is upheld, the fee shall be refunded. If the protest is denied, the fee shall be forfeited to Los Gatos PONY Baseball. All protests shall be submitted to the League President within forty-eight (48) hours of a game's completion.
- 2) A Protest Committee shall be established, as needed, and shall be comprised of the League President and any other two board members. The committee shall meet in closed session.
- 3) Protests shall be resolved within seventy-two (72) hours of consideration by the Protest Committee. Decisions of the committee are final.

D. Complaints (Fans): All complaints from parents/fans shall be submitted, in writing, to the Board through any Board member.

E. Cancelled/Terminated Games – Safety: The Chief Umpire, Safety Officer or his/her designated representative, game umpire or Board member shall have the authority to terminate a game whenever, in his/her opinion, conditions of the field are unplayable. A game shall be delayed a minimum of twenty (20) minutes before being called off. In the event that both managers

3. MANAGER/COACH/PLAYER GUIDELINES

A. Field Use and Maintenance – Use of fields

Managers and coaches, or their designated representatives, shall be responsible for field set up before each game (and practice); in the event field setup is not performed by the

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assigned field crew, and tear down after each game (and practice) according to the following guidelines

1. Weekday Games

- i. The home team manager/coaches, or their designated representatives, shall be responsible for the field set-up and shall arrive at least one-half (1/2) hour before game time so that the field is ready before the scheduled start time. Field set-up shall include spraying water on the dirt areas of the infield (assuming the areas are not already wet), dragging and raking the dirt areas (base paths, home plate area and mound) once wet, setting the bases, applying chalk lines to mark the boundaries, batter's box and required hash marks.
- ii. The visiting team manager/coaches, or their designated representatives, shall be responsible for the field teardown immediately following the game. Field teardown shall include spraying water on the dirt areas of the infield (assuming the areas are not already wet), dragging and raking the dirt areas (base paths, home plate area, and mound) once wet, storing the bases, and picking up trash.
- iii. By mutual agreement prior to a game, the managers shall be allowed to share the field set-up and teardown responsibilities.
- iv. Any manager or acting manager failing to ensure compliance with his/her field responsibilities shall receive a letter of warning for the first offense and lose one-half (1/2) game in the standings for the second offense. In the event of a 3rd offense (or more), the manager will be suspended an additional game for each offense.

2. Weekend Games

- i. If more than one game is scheduled on a given field, the managers/coaches or designated representatives of the home team playing the first game shall be responsible for setting up the field for the first game, as described above in Section 3.A.1.i.

The manager/coaches or designated representatives of the visiting team playing in the first game shall be responsible for setting up the field for the next game. As is Section 3.A.1.i, the duties may be shared by mutual agreement.
- ii. For all subsequent games, with the exception of the last scheduled game, the managers/coaches or designated representatives of both the home and visiting teams shall share responsibilities for setting up the field for the next game, as described above in Section 3.A.1.i.
- iii. For the final scheduled game, the managers/coaches or designated representatives of both the home and visiting teams shall share responsibilities for field teardown immediately following the game, as described above in Section 3.A.1.ii.

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- iv. Any manager or acting manager failing to ensure compliance with his/her field responsibilities shall receive a letter of warning for the first offense and lose one-half (1/2) game in the standings for the second offense. In the event of a 3rd offense (or more), the manager will be suspended an additional game for each offense

B. Field Set-Up/Equipment Removal

1. **The dirt areas of the field must be sprayed with water before dragging** (unless already sufficiently wet). This both reduces dust and improves the quality of the field surface.
2. At the conclusion of each game **BOTH TEAMS** shall be responsible for picking up any trash in and around the dugouts and bleachers areas.
3. Everyday, after each game, both managers shall be responsible for removing the trash bags from the cans around the field, discarding them in the dumpster located by the road, and placing new trash liners into each can.
4. Managers shall ensure the dugouts, equipment storage boxes, bathrooms and batting cage remain locked. The last manager/coach to leave a field shall be responsible for locking up

C. Motor Vehicles: No motor vehicles, including motorcycles and mini-tractor vehicles shall be allowed on the field or blacktop areas at any of the fields designated for Los Gatos PONY Baseball use for any reason, unless approved by the school AND the league. Exception: Board Members responsible for field maintenance when acting in that capacity.

D. Team Meetings: It shall be the responsibility of each manager to hold a team meeting, including the parents, prior to the first game of the season, and at any other appropriate times during the season.

E. Fundraisers/Snack Shack

1. It shall be the responsibility of the manager to ensure his/her entire team's participation in fundraisers and snack shack duty, and to account for all money and fundraiser merchandise.
 - i. **Snack Shack Shift No-Show:** Any player whose parent (or a parent representative at least 18 years old) fails to work his/her assigned snack shack shift shall sit out the next scheduled game. If that player's suspension would prevent the team from having enough players for a legal line-up, the players' suspension shall be delayed to the following game. If the parent does not wish to have their players sit out a game for the suspension, the parent will pay a \$50 no show fee to the snack shack within 48 hours of the missed shift.

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- ii. If a manager knowingly allows a suspended player to play, other than to field a minimum number of players, the game shall be forfeited and the player shall be suspended for the next game.
- iii. The Snack Shack Coordinator shall be responsible for reporting those parents who did not work their assigned shifts to the League Commissioner.
- iv. If a parent needs to make a shift alteration, that parent or the team parent shall be responsible for finding a replacement or the parent will be subject to the penalty in Section E.1.i above.
- v. Buy-Out Option: In the event a parent does not want to work their snack shack shift after it's been scheduled, the parent may buy out their shift for \$50.

F. Uniforms

1. It is mandatory for the managers and coaches to wear team jersey during a game. It is optional, but preferred, that managers and coaches wear full uniforms during a game. Managers shall be responsible for ensuring that players are properly dressed on the playing field, according to baseball rules.
2. Player uniforms shall be the uniforms distributed by Los Gatos PONY Baseball (cap and jersey). No substitutions shall be made, unless approved by the Board.
3. No uniform shall be issued to a player unless the required registration fee has been paid and a birth certificate is on file.
4. Managers shall be responsible for collecting all League equipment and returning it to the Equipment Director at the end of the season. Failure to return the equipment by the date designated by the League shall be grounds to deny that manager the opportunity to continue managing within the League. In addition, the manager shall be held liable for the replacement cost of any and all missing items.

G. Scorebooks/Line-Up Cards

1. Each manager shall be responsible for submitting a line-up card to the opposing manager and the umpire before the start of the game.
2. When recording player names on the line-up card, the manager shall include the first initial, last name, and correct number of each player on the team's roster. In the event a player bats out of order, and the opposing manager raises the issue to the umpire, a dead ball out shall be rewarded. The offending team shall be given the opportunity to correct the line-up.
3. The home team is responsible for designating a scorekeeper responsible for maintaining the official score book. The home team is also responsible for designating a person to run the scoreboard. The official scorebook is kept in the snack shack.

H. Player Conduct Rules

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1. The manager shall be responsible for the conduct of his/her coaches, fans and players.
2. Each player shall observe the following Player Conduct Rules or be subject to appropriate discipline, which may include immediate ejection from the game, suspension from games or season. All calls regarding player conduct are judgment calls of the umpires and are not reviewable.

PLAYERS SHALL NOT

- i. Throw any item (cap, helmet, bat, glove, etc.) in anger
 - ii. Use profanity either in the dugout or on the field or at any time when representing Los Gatos PONY Baseball. Players caught using profanity, racial slurs, or engaged in sexual harassment shall be ejected from the game and suspended for the next scheduled game following the incident. A second incident shall result in an automatic two (or more, at the discretion of the Board) game suspension. A third incident will result in expulsion from Los Gatos PONY Baseball.
 - iii. Use alcoholic beverages or controlled substances at any time
 - iv. Smoke or use chewing tobacco either in the dugout, on the field or at any time when representing Los Gatos PONY Baseball.
 - v. Leave the dugout area or playing field during his/her game except in the case of an emergency and with the approval of the manager or coach.
 - vi. Harass or agitate another player, or otherwise disrupt any game in progress, whether acting as a player or a spectator.
 - vii. Fight with any person (player, manager, coach, umpire, official or spectator) at any time when representing Los Gatos PONY Baseball. Any player caught fighting during a game and shall be ejected from the game and shall also be suspended for the next three (3) scheduled games for the first incident. Any additional incidents will result in expulsion from Los Gatos PONY Baseball.
 - viii. Any player facing disciplinary action, other than those actions taken automatically (i.e. ejection from a game for fighting) shall have the right of appeal before the Board. Suspensions may be postponed pending appeal; however if the suspension under appeal is upheld, the Board may impose an additional one-game suspension.
- I. *Discipline of Players:*** If a player is not allowed to play in a game for any reason, the manager/acting manager shall be required to notify the opposing manager, scorekeeper and game umpire as soon as the decision is made. The manager shall also notify the League Commissioner and Player Agent as soon as possible. All disciplinary action must be clearly documented in the team's scorebook. The Board shall have the right to impose further disciplinary action as stated in Section 1.
- J.** Managers of both teams shall report postponed (due to weather) and incomplete games to the League Commissioner that day. The Commissioner shall schedule corresponding make-up games as soon as possible. Managers shall have 24 hours to respond to the Commissioner regarding the date and time of a proposed make-up game. Managers are

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required to acknowledge this new time and date with the Commissioner. In the event the managers do not accept the first date and time for the schedule for the make-up game, the Commissioner shall schedule a new date or time and it shall thereafter be treated as a regular scheduled game, and failure to field a team shall result in a forfeit.

- K. *Manager Discipline:*** Managers and coaches shall participate in at least 80% of league activities and related responsibilities (e.g. required field work days, practices, games, snack shack duty, fundraising, equipment return, etc.) Failure to meet this requirement may result in the loss of the right to manage or coach the following season.

In accordance with Section 1, the Board, by a majority vote, shall have the authority to suspend or expel a manager for failing to adhere to any of the previously listed manager's guidelines.

- L.** Once a game begins, a maximum of 4 coaches (manager plus 3 coaches) are allowed in the dugout and/or playing field and are the only ones allowed to interact with the ball players, other than the umpires. If any other parent or coach is in the dugout once play begins, the umpire shall call time and not resume play until the other people have left the dugout and/or playing field

A team scorekeeper, identified by the manager prior to the start of the game, may be considered the fourth coach. If a manager already has three other coaches in the dugout, the scorekeeper must remain outside the dugout.

PLEASE NOTE: Rules pertaining to All Star/Tournament Teams will be posted at a later date