



Orinda Baseball Rules Pinto 2007

Orinda Baseball Association

Pinto Rules - 2007

The Orinda Baseball Association (OBA) follows and uses the Official Baseball Rules Of Major League Baseball except where those rules are modified by the rules of Pony Baseball, Inc., or by the rules of OBA.

In this document, the rules of OBA and the rules of Pony Baseball, Inc. have been combined for the convenience of players, managers, coaches, scorekeepers and umpires. (Omitted from this document are Pony Baseball Inc.'s organizational provisions and rules which don't apply to actually playing the game as well as provisions which OBA has elected not to use.) Modifications and additions made by OBA to Pony Baseball Inc.'s rules are clearly indicated. When small font like this is used, it indicates Pony Baseball Inc.'s rules which OBA does not use or provisions which do not apply to the playing of the game on the field.

OBA has added comments to some of the rules to provide reference to other rules or to explain and clarify rules. Comments look like this: Comment: See Rules 18-F-1 for penalty.

By decision of the OBA Board Of Directors, these rules apply to OBA games played during the regular season, during divisional playoffs and during Fall Ball. Managers, division Commissioners and umpires do not have the authority to modify, suspend or ignore these rules during games.

1.
Pony Baseball's rules regarding The League are omitted
2.
Pony Baseball's rules regarding Insurance are omitted
3.
Pony Baseball's rules regarding Teams are omitted
4.
Pony Baseball's rules regarding Legal Players are omitted
5.
Pony Baseball's rules regarding Boundaries are omitted
6.
Pony Baseball's rules regarding Selection Of Players are omitted

7. PLAYING FIELDS

- A. The distance between bases in Pinto is 50 feet (15.24m).
- B. The pitching distance for Pinto is 38 feet (11.58m).
- C. The distance from home plate to second base in Pinto is 70 feet 8 ½ inches (21.56m).
- D. Pony Baseball Inc.'s rules regarding home run distances are omitted
- E. Pony Baseball Inc.'s rules regarding the height of the pitching mound are omitted
- F. Pony Baseball Inc.'s rules regarding the size of the bases and home plate are omitted
- G. Pony Baseball Inc.'s rule regarding a restraining line along the first base foul line is omitted.

8. EQUIPMENT

- A. The Ball:** The ball shall weigh not less than five nor more than five and one quarter ounces avoirdupois (142-149 gms.), and measure not less than nine nor more than nine and one-quarter inches (22.9-23.5cm.) in circumference. Baseballs specifically manufactured and designed in such a way as to reduce injuries, or the seriousness of injuries, are approved for use in local league play. (Not approved for tournament play.)
- B. Pony Baseball's rule regarding approved types of baseballs is omitted.
- C. Bats:** Wooden, metal, graphite or ceramic bats, manufactured specifically for baseball play, which are round and not more than two and one-fourth inches (2 ¼") in diameter at the thickest part, nor more than 42 inches (106.7cm) in length, are acceptable. Bats manufactured specifically for use in T-Ball play shall not be used in games.
- D. Shoes and cleats:** Baseball shoes should be worn by all players but no metal cleats or spikes are allowed. Tennis shoes and "sneakers" are not recommended. (OBA)
Comment: See Rule 18-F-2 for penalty.
Pony Baseball's rule regarding rubber soled shoes is omitted
- E. Protective headgear:** The batter, players in the on-deck batting area, and base-runners are required to wear protective headgear which gives protection to the top of the head, temples, ears and base of the skull. Headgear shall be NOCSAE approved and shall be in safe condition.
No decal other than the player's name, number, team name or logo shall be added to the protective headgear.
Comment: See Rules 18-F-1 and 18-F-3 for penalty.
Pony Baseball's rules regarding face masks on headgear is omitted

- F. **Catchers' equipment:** Catchers are required to wear a **mask** with throat guard, **chest protector**, cup type athletic supporter, **shin guards** and **protective headgear** (which gives protection to the top of the head) when catching behind the plate. Catchers are not required to use catchers' mitts. Catchers are encouraged, but not required, to wear **cup type athletic supporters**. (OBA)
- G. **Athletic supporter:** It is recommended that managers encourage players to wear cup-type athletic supporters. (OBA)
- H. **Uniform:** Players must wear their team's full baseball uniform, consisting of team cap, team jersey, and team socks while playing regular season games and play-off games. The appropriateness of a team's selected uniform is within the judgment of the division Commissioner. (OBA)

Comment: The "team's full baseball uniform" consists of the cap, jersey and socks which have been selected as the uniform that all of the team's players will wear. The cap does not have to be an OBA-issued cap.
- I. Pony Baseball's rule regarding bases is omitted
- J. **Jewelry:** No jewelry shall be worn by any player, except for medical identification.
- M. **Gum, candy, etc. on field:** While on the field, players may not have **anything in their mouths** (such as gum, candy, suckers, sunflower seeds) which could be a choking hazard or which could distract them from paying attention to activities on the field. (OBA)

9. PLAYING RULES

- A. **Rules:** The official playing rules, with the exceptions and variations contained in this book, shall be the "Official Baseball Rules", completely revised, as released through the office of the Commissioner of Baseball, "The Sporting News Edition".

The same rules apply to OBA games played during the regular season, during divisional playoffs and during Fall Ball.
- B. **Field preparation and infield practice.** The home team shall have the responsibility of preparing the field for play including lining of the field.

Normally the field shall be ready for the visiting team's infield practice at least 20 minutes prior to the scheduled game time. Infield practice by the home team shall begin no later than 10 minutes before scheduled game time. (OBA)
- B. Pony Baseball's rule regarding the batting roster in Shetland games is omitted

- C. Minimum number of players:** Play shall not begin until both teams have at least 9 eligible players present and ready to play. A team failing to have nine (9) players at the field and ready to play 15 minutes after the scheduled start of the game or 15 minutes after the umpire would otherwise announce the beginning of the game (whichever is later) shall forfeit the game. Neither the managers nor the umpire have the discretion to waive this rule. (OBA)

Teams must have at least 9 eligible and able players throughout the game. A team that has fewer than 9 players available at any time during the game shall forfeit the game. If by the end of the game you only have 8 players, you forfeit the game regardless if you are ahead. (The sixth inning or two hours should still be played, but the team with 8 cannot win the game.) This rule may not be waived. (OBA)

When a team has forfeited the game for lack of players, the two teams are encouraged to play a practice game.

C2. Dugouts:

- 1. Assignments:** The home team shall have the choice of dugouts.
- 2. Clean-up:** Each team is responsible for the cleanup of its dugout at the conclusion of the game. League officials may take appropriate action against teams which do not clean up their dugouts.

C Pony Baseball's rule regarding the number of defensive players in Shetland games is omitted

D. Batting order and line-up:

- 1.** An official **batting order** must be presented to the opposing team's manager or scorekeeper prior to the game.
- 2. A player's unavailability:** When a manager is aware, before the start of a game or any time during the game, that any player is not able, for whatever reason (such as being disciplined, injury, need of the player to leave the field to go elsewhere, etc.) to play in any part of the entire game, he shall notify the opposing manager and the umpire of that fact. Managers are not required to have such players play the minimum number of defensive innings specified by Rule 9-0. (OBA)
- 3.** Any **line-up** changes must be given to the opposing team's manager or scorekeeper at the start of an inning or immediately when they occur. The opposing scorekeeper shall notify the umpire if an ineligible player or improper batter is about to be used in the game or in the line-up. However, the failure to do so shall have no effect on the application of the rules on the use of the ineligible or improper player.

4. **All players** who are eligible and able to play and are present **must be in the batting order** regardless of who is playing in the field. The **batting order shall be "fixed"** at the beginning of the game and players who are substituted out defensively or substituted in as courtesy runners shall retain their place in the batting order. (OBA)
5. If you bat out of order, then one out is awarded to the defensive team and you start over as where the problem started. Example - the first four players bat and reach base safely, then the sixth player bats instead of the fifth player. Four more players bat and three of the four get on base while one was out. Now, the problem is discovered. What happens is the batting team starts over with the fifth batter, all subsequent scores or base runners or outs in relation to the sixth batter on are wiped out, and the batting team now has one out as a penalty. (The out that naturally occurred is wiped out.) All the batters sixth on can re-bat. (OBA)

- E.** Batters are not permitted to **bunt or swing easy** at the ball. PENALTY: The batter shall be called back to the plate, the swing shall count as a foul-strike, the ball is dead and no runners may advance.

There will be a **10-foot arc** inscribed in front of home plate connecting to the foul lines. Any batted ball which does not travel beyond that line shall be considered a foul-strike, the runner shall be called back to the plate, the ball is dead and no runners may advance. (OBA)

- F.** A **coach-pitcher** from the offensive team will throw overhand pitches to batters of his own team from a position with both feet entirely inside the 10 foot pitcher's circle. A batter is out when he/she has three strikes. There are no bases on balls (walks) and no batter shall be awarded first base because he has been **hit by a pitch**. No batter will be awarded first base on a **dropped third strike** and runners may not advance on dropped third strikes. (OBA)

Called strikes: For the first half of the season, from opening day through April 15, there will be no called strikes and no limit on the number of pitches that may be "taken" by a batter. For the second half of the season, starting April 16, to the end of the regular season and during playoffs, a batter gets a total of 10 pitches to hit. The player can still strike out before the 10th pitch, but if he reaches that 10th pitch before striking out, he will still be alive by fouling off the 10th and subsequent pitches. Once he misses or doesn't swing at 10th or subsequent pitch, the batter is out. (OBA)

Pony Baseball's rule regarding strike-outs is omitted

G. The **catcher shall stand away** from the batter and is not expected to catch the incoming pitch on the fly. After the pitch lands on the ground or the batter swings, the catcher shall field the position defensively.

H. Baserunning:

1. No leads or steals:

Once the pitcher has started his motion to deliver the pitch, runners cannot be off base or leave the base before the pitched ball is hit. Baserunners may not advance unless the batter hits a playable ball. (OBA)

Penalty: If the umpire sees that a runner has left a base before the pitch is hit, the umpire shall immediately stop play. The ball is dead and any pitch that was made is a no-pitch. The umpire shall explain the violation to the runner and a base coach and shall issue a warning to the runner and to the coach that the runner will be called out if that runner again leaves a base early during the remainder of the game. (OBA)

2. Base running on over-throws:

A. Definitions: "In play" means that the thrown ball has not gone into the dugout, over or under the fence, or beyond the line of the fence extended to the outfield along the first and third base lines. **"Out of play"** means the opposite. (OBA)

B. Over-throws that remain "in play": After a batter hits a playable ball, base runners including the batter may attempt to advance as far as they can on overthrows which remain **"in play"**.

C. Over-throws that go "out of play": After a batter hits a playable ball, a fielding error may create an overthrow which goes **out of play** into the dugout, or over or under or through the fence which is part of the backstop and which extends towards the outfields parallel to the foul lines, or beyond the line of that fence extended to the outfield along the first and third base. Baserunners including the batter will be permitted to advance to the base that, in the umpires' judgment, they were going to when the over-throw was thrown by the defensive player and will then be awarded **one extra base**. The ball is dead. (OBA)

3. Base running when batted ball goes out of play:

If a batted ball is a "FAIR BALL" (as defined in the Official Rules Of Baseball Rule 2.00) and then bounces, rolls or is deflected **out of play**, baserunners including the batter shall be allowed two bases from their position at the time the ball was batted.

"Out of play" means that the ball rolls, bounces or is deflected into the dugout, or over or under or through the fence which is part of the backstop and which extends towards the outfields parallel to the foul lines, or beyond the line of that fence extended to the outfield along the first and third base, or over or under the outfield fence, or that it become unplayable as a result of entering shrubbery or weeds. (This rule applies only to fair balls.)

When a defensive player believes that a fair batted ball has gone out of play, only the defensive player closest to the ball may throw his/her **hands up in the air** to signal that the ball may be out of play; however play will continue until an umpire personally sees that the ball is in fact out of play and calls the play dead. If the umpire rules the ball went out of play, baserunners shall then be positioned by the umpire two bases from where they were at the time the ball was batted.

4. **Runner missing a base:** If a baserunner fails to touch a base, the runner may return to that base and touch it, provided that the baserunner has not already touched a subsequent base. If the baserunner has touched a subsequent base, he shall be called out by the umpire who saw the violation; there is no need for an appeal play. While the baserunner is attempting to return to the missed base to tag it, he/she is subject to being put out by being tagged or by the base being tagged before the runner tags the missed base. (OBA)
5. **Running outside of the base lines:** If the base runners run outside of the baseline (approximately 1 ½ feet on each side of the line) to avoid a tag, the runner is out.
6. **Catcher cannot block the plate or base path:**
 - A. **Blocking the plate**

With or without possession of the ball, the catcher shall not intentionally block home plate.

At the plate, the catcher's body position must provide an unblocked space through which the runner may attempt to touch the plate without being blocked out by the catcher. (It is recommended by OBA that the catcher either straddle home plate, take a position on the infield side of home plate, or take a position on either side of the base path, in order to make the tag on the sliding base runner.)

If the catcher blocks the plate, the runner will be called safe and the run shall score, even if the runner did not slide.

B. Catcher cannot block the third base line

With or without possession of the ball, the catcher may not intentionally block, anywhere on the third base line, the path of a runner who is attempting to reach home plate.

If the catcher is blocking the base path, the runner shall be declared "safe" at home and the run scores.

Judgment calls by umpires on this rule shall not be argued and of course shall not be the basis for protests.

- 7. First baseman cannot block base:** The first baseman cannot block, straddle or have one of their feet on the middle of the first base. If they do and it is a very close play at first where the runner has to avoid or slow down as to not run into the first baseman, the runner will be considered safe. (OBA)

H. The **infield fly** rule does not apply in Pinto.

I. End of offensive half innings:

Offensive half innings shall continue until (1) three outs are made; or (2) "the last batter" has batted; or (3) 10 runs are scored. All players who are eligible and able to play and are present must be in the batting order regardless of who is playing in the field. (OBA)

1. **"The last batter" rule:** Before the start of the game, the opposing managers shall confirm the number of batters each team has available in their line-ups for that game. If both teams have an equal number of players, that number shall determine "the last batter" number. If one team has a lesser number of players than the other team, that lesser number of players shall determine "the last batter" number for both teams. (For example, if one team has 13 players and the other has 11, the 11th batter to bat in a half inning for either team will be "the last batter".) After the first pitch, "the last batter" number must be adjusted for both teams anytime an arriving or departing player for either team causes the pre-game "last batter" number to change. (OBA)
 - a. Regardless of how many outs have actually been made in the half inning, when "the last batter" in the order is due at bat, the offensive team's manager shall inform the umpire that his "last batter" is coming to bat. Regardless of how many outs have actually been made, the umpire shall declare two outs at that time and "the last batter" proceeds to bat. The half inning shall end as soon as either of these following two circumstances occur: (OBA)

1. A conventional out is made. For example, "the last batter" strikes out or flies out, or a runner is forced out at a base or is tagged out. (OBA)
2. A defensive player in possession of the ball touches home plate after "the last batter" hits a fair ball. Any and all runners who touch home plate before the defensive player in possession of the ball touches home plate will score a run. (OBA)

Exception: If "the last batter" puts the ball into play but an out cannot be made nor can the bases be cleared by runners scoring because the ball is declared dead, one (and only one) additional batter shall be permitted to bat and he then becomes "the last batter".

Comment: This situation can occur when a fielder throws the ball out of play (an "**out of play over-throw**" covered by Rule 9-G-2), or "the last batter" hits a fair ball which then goes out of play (as covered by Rule 9-G-3).

If an extra batter was not allowed, the half inning could not come to an end. Allowing one additional batter rewards the offensive team for hitting the ground rule double, or it penalizes the defensive team for making the over-throw.

- b. If the offensive team's manager fails to inform the umpire that his "last batter" is coming to bat and, subsequently, at least one pitch has been thrown to the batter, the batter shall be called out by the umpire. Regardless of whether the batter has hit the ball or not, all play shall stop, the umpire shall declare the inning over, and no runs shall score. (OBA)

Comment: If this batter receives at least one pitch, he is called out by the umpire and will not bat again until his position in the batting order comes up again after all other batters have batted ahead of him in the order. To avoid this penalty, the manager and coaches need to diligently monitor and follow their own batting order.

2. **10 runs maximum per half inning:** No team shall score more than ten (10) runs in one half inning. If there are less than three outs when a team scores ten runs, the teams shall change sides.

Exception: This rule does not apply in the **sixth inning** or in **extra innings**. (OBA)

Comment: Assume that the score at the end of 5 ½ innings is 22 to 10 in favor of the visiting team. This rule limiting a team to 10 runs per half inning does not apply to the game's last inning (see rule immediately above) but the "the last bat-

ter" rule does apply to all innings. Therefore, if the "the last batter" number for this game is less than 12, it would not be possible in this example for the home team to either win or tie the game. Nevertheless, the teams should proceed to play out the game if time permits and the rules regarding minimum defensive play shall be in effect.

J. Stop Play Rule:

Play is stopped by getting the ball to the pitcher-player (or another defensive player but not to the coach/pitcher) within the pitching circle. Once the ball is in possession of the defensive player and all parts of the player's body are within the pitcher's circle, the umpire shall call "Time" and the ball is dead at that time. Runners will return, without danger of being put out, to the last base reached safely when the play is called "dead."

Comment: This rule is applicable when a ball is hit to the infield or outfield and the batter or other base runner is not put out, or when defensive players are uncertain where they should make the play. The defensive players should be practiced in getting the ball to a defensive player teammate inside the pitcher's circle. Once a player pitcher is inside the circle with control of the ball, they cannot leave the circle to make a play on a base runner, with exception of a batted ball fielded inside the circle.

Comment: If the pitcher-player or other fielder has a ball outside the circle and runs toward a base runner with the clear intention of making a play on that runner, play will not be stopped if the fielder then inadvertently runs through the circle in his attempt to get to the runner.

Bases awarded - If you are on a base or past a base when the pitcher- player (or other fielder) has control of the ball inside the circle, you are awarded that base. If you are short of a base when the pitcher- player has control, you must go back to the previous base. If there are multiple runners on base and the lead runner does not reach his base in time (e.g. home plate) but the runner behind does reach third base in time, both runners must go back. (OBA)

K. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted

L. **Huddles by defensive players:** There is no limit to the number of defensive players who can "huddle" on the field at one time. (OBA)

Umpires should discourage such gatherings when they tend to delay the game.

Pony Baseball's rule is omitted

M. **Defensive substitutions:** Unlimited substitutions are allowed at all defensive positions. The batting order shall be "fixed" at the beginning of the game and players who are substituted defensively shall retain their place in the batting order. (OBA)

Pony Baseball's rule is omitted

N. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted

- O. Minimum defensive play:** All players shall play the equivalent of four (4) defensive innings (12 outs) in a six (6) inning ball game. The required 12 outs may be spread out through any of the defensive innings of the game. This does not mean that every player, including a team's best defensive players (up to 3 designated players on a 13 player squad) must sit out at any time. It is up to the Manager to rotate his players to achieve a minimum of four (4) defensive innings in a typical six (6) inning game for each player. If a player plays fewer than 4 defensive innings in one game, it is expected that the manager will play that player more than 4 innings in the next game. It is the intent of OBA that, at the end of the regular season, each player has played the equivalent of about $2/3^{\text{rds}}$ of the team's defensive innings. Enforcement of this rule is a matter for the Managers and the division Commissioner, not the umpires. (OBA)

Pony Baseball's rule is omitted

- P. A 10th defensive player:** All teams are encouraged (but not required) to use a 10th player who, defensively, shall be considered a roving outfielder. When each pitch is made, this player shall be in a position that is entirely on the outfield grass and shall not take a defensive position on any portion of the infield "skin." However, following a hit, that fielder, as well as any other outfielder, may move onto the infield "skin" to assist in making defensive play(s). (OBA)
- S. Speed of the game:** To maximize the amount of actual playing time in the two-hour game, to avoid having the game called due to darkness or bad weather, and to avoid delaying the start of the next scheduled game on the same field, the time necessary for the change-over between innings must be kept to a minimum.

Catcher's readiness: To avoid unnecessary game delays caused by catchers not taking the field with the rest of the defensive team, the offensive manager may insert the last offense player to be put out as a courtesy runner for a catcher who is on base. In addition, managers and coaches must designate their catching assignments in a timely manner and assist their catchers in putting on the catcher's gear if assistance is needed. Whenever the catcher's position in the batting order permits, the catcher should start putting on the catcher's equipment even before the end of the other team's offense half-inning.

Comment: The offensive manager is not required to use a courtesy runner for his catcher who is a base runner but should make this substitution when necessary to ensure that his catcher can take the field promptly when his team goes on defense.

By this rule the manager has no choice of who his courtesy runner will be. It must be the player who suffered the last put-out.

10. PITCHING RULES

A. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted

B. **Pitching** options:

1. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted
2. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted

3. **Coach pitchers:**

- a. A circle 10 feet in diameter, centered on the pitching rubber, shall be chalked. The pitching rubber is 38 feet from the point of home plate.

Adult coaches or managers shall pitch with both feet inside this 10 foot diameter circle. If on their pitching follow through their feet go outside of the circle, it is a dead ball and considered no pitch.

- b. The player-pitcher (who may also be called the "pitcher's assistant" or "PA") will take a position even with or to the rear of the pitching rubber and on either side of the coach-pitcher. At the time each pitch is delivered to the batter, the player-pitcher must be inside the pitcher's circle or within a distance not more than 4 four feet outside the circle. (OBA)

Pony Baseball's rule is omitted

- c. If the **coach-pitcher is inadvertently struck** by a batted ball, the ball is "dead," the pitch is a "no pitch," and any runners may not advance. (OBA)

The coach-pitcher has the duty to move out of the way of defensive players in their attempts to either field or throw the ball. If, in the umpire's judgment, the coach-pitcher has interfered, either intentionally or inadvertently, with the fielding or throwing of the ball by a defensive player, the batter or runner who is the object of the attempted play shall be out and no other runners can advance on that play. (OBA)

The **coach-pitcher shall not coach** or give any instruction to batters or baserunners from his position on the field. Coaching of batters and baserunners may only be done by the first and third base coaches. If a coach-pitcher violates this rule, the umpire shall give him a warning. If the same coach-pitcher violates the rule again, a pitching change must be made and that coach-pitcher shall not pitch again in that game. (OBA)

Pony Baseball's rule is omitted

- C. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted
- D. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted
- E. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted
- F. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted
- G. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted
- H. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted
- I. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted
- J. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted
- K. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted
- L. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted

11. LENGTH OF GAMES

- A. An official game is six innings. No new inning shall start after two hours from the start of the game (except if the game is tied - see #1 below). The clock time of the final out of the bottom of the previous inning is used to determine the two hour time limit. Just prior to the first pitch of the game, an umpire will loudly announce the actual starting time of the game and record it. The same watch should be used to time the game. (OBA)
 Pony Baseball's rule is omitted
 - 1. If the game is tied but the two hour rule would otherwise prevent the start of a new inning, one (but only one) new inning may be played. If the game is still tied after that one extra inning, the game shall be declared a tie. (OBA)
 Pony Baseball's rule is omitted
 - 2. If a game is tied at the end of six innings and the game is still under the two hour limit, as many innings as possible can be started within the two hour limit but in no case shall more than three extra innings be played. (OBA)
 Pony Baseball's rule is omitted
- B. Complete game: If a game is called for any reason (other than a forfeiture reason), it is a complete game if four innings have been completed or if the home team has scored more runs in three innings or three and a fraction innings, than the visiting team has scored in four completed innings. (OBA)
- C. If a game is called for any reason (other than a forfeiture reason) before it is a complete game as described in paragraph B, or when the score is tied, it shall be considered a suspended game and is to be resumed from the point of curtailment at the time scheduled by league officials. (OBA)
- D. If a game is called for any reason (other than a forfeiture reason) in an uncompleted inning, after having reached complete game lengths as described in Section C, and the visiting team ties the score or takes the lead in the uncompleted inning, and the home team does not tie the score or retake the lead in its portion of the uncompleted inning, the game shall be considered a suspended game and is to be continued from the point of curtailment at the time scheduled by league

officials. (OBA)

- E. **No ten run "wipe out" rule:** There is no ten run "wipe out" rule in Pinto. Games are not terminated before the end of 5 ½ innings (if the home team is ahead) or 6 innings (if the visiting team is ahead) or before the two hour time limit, whichever comes first—even if one team is ahead by ten or more runs and you know the other team cannot win. (OBA).

Pony Baseball's rule is omitted

12.

Pony Baseball's rule regarding Schedule is omitted

13. UMPIRES

- A. Assignment of umpires shall be the responsibility of the league officials. If an assigned umpire fails to report, or is otherwise unavailable to work the game, another OBA umpire who has previously umpired at the Pinto level may agree to work the game. Both managers must agree if someone other than an OBA umpire is proposed to umpire the game.

Pony Baseball's rule is omitted

- B. The use of tobacco in any form by umpires on the field is prohibited.

14. SCOREKEEPERS

- A. Each team is expected to provide a scorekeeper to score the game. The scorekeepers' records shall include the actual starting time of the game as announced by the umpire. (OBA)

Pony Baseball's rule is omitted

- B. Omitted

- C. The scorekeepers shall notify the managers and the umpire if an ineligible player or an improper batter is in the game or is about to be used in the game. If that player is at bat or is on the bases before being put out on a play, that player shall be called out.

15.

Pony Baseball's rule regarding Sponsors is omitted

16. MANAGERS AND COACHES

- A. Base coaches must be adults or teenagers, usually and preferably team coaches and/or the manager. (OBA)

Only two offensive base coaches are allowed on the field. They must remain in the coaching boxes at first and third base. (OBA)

Pony Baseball's rule is omitted

Maximum number of non-players: Each team shall be permitted to have not more than one manager and three coaches inside the fenced area of the field (which includes the playing field, foul territory, and the dugout). Parents and others are not permitted except when and as necessary to render aid to an individual player or to satisfy the rule immediately below. A bat boy is permitted but he must wear protective head gear when outside the dugout. (OBA)

Comment: This rule does not prohibit non-players from warming up players outside the fenced area of the field when the manager or a coach requests or permits that.

Adult In the dugout while team is at bat: An adult (either a team manager or coach, a parent or another adult) must be in the dugout to help maintain order and assist players with the batting order while the team is at bat. (OBA)

1. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted
2. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted
3. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted

B. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted

C. Players in the dugout: When not properly on the field, players shall remain in the dugouts, or in the prescribed areas throughout the game. Players assigned by the manager or coach to warm up may be outside the dugout. (OBA)

On deck batter; other players; bats: The on-deck circle is the enclosed cage area adjacent to the dugout; it is not on the field. When a team is at bat, only one player may be in the on-deck circle and that player must wear a helmet. Other players must remain in the dugout in an orderly manner. Bats must be kept within the dugout or the enclosed on-deck circle, with the exception of the bat being used by the batter. (OBA)

Positions of managers and coaches When not properly on the field, managers and coaches must remain within the dugout or within the area immediately in front of the dugout entrance. (OBA)

D. When a team is on defense, its manager and/or coaches may make only two trips onto the playing field to talk to one or more players. Exceptions to this rule are for injuries, time outs requested by the other team, and official's time-outs. (Examples of official's time outs are those called to remove a dog from the field, to attend to an injured player, to clarify a scorekeeping or rule issue, to discuss weather, darkness or field conditions, etc.) (OBA)

Pony Baseball's rule is omitted

E. When a team is on offense, its manager and/or coaches may have two time outs

per half inning to talk to batter(s) or baserunners. Exceptions to this rule are for injuries, time outs requested by the other team, and official time-outs. (OBA)

Pony Baseball's rule is omitted

- F. The use of tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs in any form by players or adult leaders in the dugout, on the benches or on the playing field shall not be permitted.
- G. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted

17.

Pony Baseball's rule regarding a League Decisions Committee is omitted

18. PENALTIES

- A. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted
- B. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted
- C. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted
- D. Penalty for the **use of illegal players** shall be forfeiture of games in which illegal players participated, provided such games are protested by any of the league managers or officers in writing within 48 hours of the game or games in question. An illegal player is one who is not legally a member of the league because the player does not meet the requirements as to age and/or residence as stated in Pony Rules 3 and 4.
- E. Penalty for use of an **ineligible player**, upon appeal by the opposing manager or notification by the official scorer or league officers, which the official scorebook or other league records verify the indelibility of the player concerned, shall be immediate removal of the player from the lineup and ejection of the manager from the game. Both the player and the manager shall be ineligible to participate in the next scheduled game played by the team.
 - 1. An illegible player is one who is legally a member of the league, but who is ineligible to play or to pitch in a particular game or games because of the limitations set forth in these Rules, or as the result of a previous rules violation or disciplinary action.
 - 2. For purposes of interpreting this rule, a player shall not be considered in violation of the results until at least one pitch has been thrown after the point of the violation.
 - 3. In the event the manager of an ineligible player refuses to remove the player from the lineup and the manager does not leave the field when the appeal is made, and verified, the game is subject to forfeit.

4. When the ineligible status of a player is not established until after completion of the game, the game shall stand as played, but the player and manager shall be ineligible to participate in the next game played by the team, or in the next game played after the ineligible status has been determined.
5. **A player's unavailability:** When a manager is aware, before the start of a game or any time during the game, that any player is not able, for whatever reason (such as being disciplined, injury, need of the player to leave the field to go elsewhere, etc.) to play in any part of the entire game, he shall notify the opposing manager and the umpire of that fact. Managers are not required to have such players play the minimum number of defensive innings specified by Rule 9-6. (OBA)

Pony Baseball's rule is omitted

F. **Illegal equipment** shall be removed from the game.

1. Players are not permitted to use **illegal headgear** even if no other headgear is available. When proper headgear is not available, the game shall be delayed until the equipment can be obtained, or postponed and then rescheduled by the league officers.
2. Penalty for the use of illegal shoes shall be removal of the shoes from the game, and, if no other legal footwear is available, removal of the involved player or players from the lineup.
3. Players who do not wear **protective headgear** and catching equipment as required by these rules, shall be removed from the lineup.
4. Players who **intentionally**, in the judgment of the umpire, **throw bats or protective headgear**, or discard protective headgear while batting or running the bases, shall be ejected from the game following completion of any play in progress at the time the violation occurs. Such action does not constitute an out and such players shall be replaced as batters or baserunners if appropriate.

If the batter is out as a result of the play in the field, the incident is a disciplinary matter for the player's manager and the Pinto Commissioner to handle. (OBA)

A batter who **unintentionally throws a bat** will receive a warning. The umpire will also notify the player's manager or coach of the warning. A second occurrence will result in the batter being called out and the pitch shall be a dead ball. (OBA)

G. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted

19. PROTESTS

- A. A protest based on a play, which involves an umpire's judgment, shall not be permitted.
- B. When protests are based on the interpretation of the rules, the objecting manager shall, at the time the play occurs, notify the head umpire, the opposing manager and official scorekeeper that the game is being played under protest, and submit the protest in writing to the league president or secretary, or to the Decisions Committee, within 48 hours of the completion of the game.
 - 1. When protests based on the interpretation of a rule are upheld by the Decisions Committee, the game concerned shall be replayed from the point of protest.
 - 2. Umpires should make a public announcement to the crowd when a game is being played under protest.
- C. Any team manager or other adult leader who withdraws a team from the playing field under any circumstances prior to the official completion of the game shall forfeit all rights to protests as prescribed in this section.

20. GENERAL CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- A. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted
- B. Players, managers, coaches or spectators who engage in unsportsmanlike conduct, such as fighting, abusive language or similarly derogatory activity, may be ejected from the game and/or the field and may thereafter be subject to disciplinary action by the OBA Board.
- C. Pony Baseball's rule is omitted
- D. The OBA Board shall have the authority to suspend, discharge or otherwise discipline any player, manager, coach, umpire, league officer or other person whose conduct is in violation of OBA's rules or the Rules And Regulations of Pony Baseball Inc. and/or the Official Baseball Rules, and/or is considered detrimental to the best interests of the league.
 - 1. Persons subject to such discipline shall have the right to a hearing before the OBA Board before such discipline is imposed.
 - 2. In the event of discipline procedures involving a player, or other person under the age of 18, that person's parents shall be invited to attend the hearing with the person concerned.

- E. Blank
- F. Recognizing the difficulty of establishing specific penalties for a variety of violations of acceptable conduct, the following penalties are suggested. League officers may impose the one which, in their opinion, appears to match the severity of the offense.
1. **Warnings:** The offending person is to be advised, in writing, of the offense, and further advised that repetition of the offense will result in a more severe penalty.
 2. **Suspensions:** The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been suspended from all league activity for a specific number of games, or days.
 3. **Upon Dismissal:** The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been dismissed from the league for the remainder of the current year.
 4. **If Barred:** The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been barred from present and future participation in the league, permanently, or for a specific number of years.

TOURNAMENT RULES

Omitted

Pinto Division Rules written and revised by:

1. OBA Pinto Rules Committee, 2007
Jon Conner, Pinto Commissioner
Tony Foster, Pinto Manager
John McGonigle, Pinto Manager