



HYBSA General Rules and Procedures

2026 Spring and Fall Seasons.

The following rules and procedures have been adopted by the HYBSA Board of Directors to ensure that fair play and good sportsmanship is followed by all players, coaches, parents, and other participants in the League. These rules have been established to supplement and modify the official Rules and Regulations of PONY Baseball/Softball, Inc. The order of rules application for baseball is Official Baseball Rules (OBR), PONY rules, HYBSA rules; for softball, the application is PONY and then HYBSA.

HYBSA COMPLEX

- No “soft toss” hitting into any fence.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited within the HYBSA complex to include all land belonging to our parent association; therefore, alcohol is prohibited in any area after turning off RR 2770.
- The use of any tobacco, or related products are prohibited within the complex (this includes electronic cigarette variations and vapors).
- **Pets are prohibited within the complex, except for ADA service animals.**
- Glass containers are prohibited throughout the complex.
- Coaches, Player, and Guests **MUST** be aware of their surroundings as the rural nature of fields interfere with some of the wildlife in the area (e.g. snakes, rats, raccoons).
- Profanity and abusive language will not be tolerated. Violators are subject to removal from the complex.
- Artificial noisemakers are prohibited at HYBSA.
- The use of loudspeakers (walk-up music) is an allowed privilege but must maintain good sportsmanship, not interfere with gameplay, must be in good taste, and must not consist of profanity or abusive language. Once a team has a turn to bat, the batting team has priority of music. Walk up music must stop once the batter steps into the batter's box. HYBSA Board Members and umpires can suspend this privilege. Teams that do not comply with noisemaker standards are subject to losing this privilege.
- Outside food and drinks are prohibited within the complex with the following exceptions:
 - a. In the parking area such is allowed.
 - b. Snacks and ice chests/coolers with water for players and coaches are allowed.
 - c. Snacks may be brought in when the concession stand is not operating.
 - d. With prior approval by the President, food and non-alcoholic drinks may be brought in for special occasions, scheduled meetings, or fundraising activities.

REGISTRATION and REFUNDS

- Only player registration and payment are required for regular season league play. If selected for an All Star or Tournament team a copy of the player’s birth certificate will be required.
- 100% refunds will be honored until uniforms are ordered; 50% up until the first league game is played; and no individual refunds after the first league game is played. If the season is canceled after the first game, a league standard refund percentage or amount will be set based on the number of games played by the league. No refunds will be given for the All Star or Elite Seasons.
- HYBSA shall have both Spring and Fall Seasons, with beginning and ending dates determined by the Board. The

All-Star season shall be considered an extension of the Spring Season

- Discounted Rates for Board Members and Coaches.
 - 50% off registration for board members; must be active board members for 30 days prior to the start of the season and must be an active board member through the final day of the regular season (fall and spring seasons). If a board member does not have a child playing, they may defer their discount to one family in the league.
 - 30% off registration for head coaches; the head coach must be in good standing with the league. No ejections during the season from a game, no disciplinary actions from the board. Must be a coach for at least one full season (spring or fall) prior to receiving the discount. Head Coaches must return all HYBSA equipment prior to receiving discount.
 - 10% off registration for assistant coaches. No ejections or disciplinary actions by the board during the season. Must be a coach for at least one full season (spring or fall) prior to receiving the discount.
 - All discounts will be refunded after the completion of the season.
- Registration fees cover use of the fields, umpires, uniforms, and operational expenses.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

- All Coaches and Board Members must submit a criminal history background check via the HYBSA website. Checks are good for one year only; a new application must be submitted each year.
- The League Secretary or other appointed Board Member(s) will process and review the background checks and will be responsible for maintaining a secure account of the background checks for a period of 12 months.
- Background checks that return a finding of any level of misdemeanor convictions other than a Class C misdemeanor may result in the applicant being denied permission to coach and/or serve on the Board. The Board may waive this for non-violent, non-felony final types of conviction.
- Background checks that return a finding of a criminal charge or conviction of a felony, assault, family violence, narcotics, prostitution, or any other type of moral turpitude offense will result in an automatic denial. If the applicant's charge or conviction was longer than 5 years ago without any new charges or convictions having been added, the Board may choose to waive this.
- Details of any findings on a background check will be kept confidential and not be openly discussed during general Board Meetings. The Board may elect to have a special closed meeting or close-off part of a meeting to discuss this issue.
- An applicant who has a finding on his/her background check will be notified by the Board and will be given a copy of the findings. The applicant has a right to appeal to the Board if denied permission to participate in League activities based solely on their background check findings. The Board will make a final decision based on the facts presented. The appeal process is as follows:
 - a. The applicant must notify the League President or Vice President in writing (either paper or electronic) within 72 hours of being notified of the denial.
 - b. The League President will determine if a special meeting is required or if time permits, a normally scheduled Board meeting will suffice for the appeals hearing.
 - c. Not later than one week from receiving the appeal notification, the applicant will be notified (either written or electronic) of the date, time, and location of the appeal hearing.
 - d. The appeals hearing will follow this procedure as outlined:
 - 1) The League President or other appointed Board Member will announce to the Board the name of the applicant, league/position they are wanting to volunteer for, reason for the denial, and answer any questions the Board might have at this point. The League President or other appointed Board Member may choose to have the applicant remain in the room or wait outside until this has been completed.
 - 2) Once the Board fully understands the reason for the denial, the applicant will be given a chance to explain and give their reason why they believe the denial should be overturned. (This is the applicant's opportunity to bring any supporting documentation)
 - 3) The Board will have the opportunity to ask any follow-up questions they feel relevant.
 - 4) The applicant will then be asked to step outside, and the Board will discuss the appeal further.
 - 5) The Board will then vote to uphold the denial, overturn the denial, or grant conditional approval. (A conditional approval is an approval where the Board will place certain stipulations with the approval for a determined length of time).

- 6) The applicant will be asked to come back into the room and the League President or other appointed Board Member will verbally notify the applicant of the ruling.
- 7) There are no appeals beyond the HYBSA Board.

COACH SELECTION and RESPONSIBILITIES

- Any adult over the age of 18 may submit their name to be considered for the position of Head Coach. A minor under the age of 18 may be selected as an Assistant coach and must be family related to a board approved Coach. Anyone who has been denied a coaching position may appeal the decision to the Board.
- Maximum of four (4) coaches per team (one Head and three Assistant Coaches).
- Baseball Head and Assistant Coaches wanting to coach together can do so if they are selected and approved before Try Outs. A Mustang, Bronco and Pony Division Head Coach may identify only one Assistant Coach prior to the team rostering. A Shetland and Pinto Division Head Coach may identify only two Assistant Coaches prior to team rostering. A Head Coach can then identify the remaining Assistant Coaches after the team has been rostered.
- Softball Head Coaches may identify three Assistant Coaches prior to the team roster regardless of division.
- Foal teams will be limited to one coach whose primary function is to provide communication with the rest of the team's parents. Foal will not have assistant coaches.
- Once the draft is complete, additional Assistant Coaches can be selected from the parents of the player roster or from outside the team (neighbors, friends, etc.).
- No one may enter the dugouts during games unless they are an approved coach or have an approved background check.

HEAD COACH SELECTION

1. Candidates must either contact the appropriate Division Commissioner or on their child's registration form select they want to be considered for a Head Coach position.
2. To be eligible for Head Coach the candidate must:
 - Submit and pass a background check through the League Secretary.
 - Have no previous, unresolved, or outstanding HYBSA rules violations.
3. Once the League Secretary has verified the candidate meets the above requirements the candidate's name will go on a Head Coach candidate list.
4. The Division Commissioner will recommend to the Board for approval Head Coaches from this list.
5. Head Coach selection priority is, in order:
 - Returning Head Coaches in that Division from the most recent season (Spring or Fall)
 - Returning Head Coaches in a lower Division and are moving into this Division from the most recent season (Spring or Fall)
 - Returning Assistant Coaches in that Division from the most recent season (Spring or Fall)
 - Individuals who have coached in any Division at HYBSA
 - Individuals who have coached in other PONY leagues
 - Individuals who have coached in other baseball leagues
 - Individuals who want to coach
6. Head Coaches will be selected prior to player tryouts (if possible).

ASSISTANT COACH SELECTION

- Head Coaches propose their Assistant Coaches (maximum of 3) to the Division Commissioner for approval.
 - 1) Assistant Coaches must also submit and pass background checks.

PLAYER PLACEMENT

PLAYING UP OF PLAYERS

- Players are only eligible to play up one age level in baseball, but more than one in softball.
- If playing up during the regular season, the player becomes ineligible to return to the lower level of play for that season, including All Stars.

PLAYING FROM ELITE TO RECREATION

- Previous Elite players within the last year, returning to the recreational league must be dispersed to teams equally within the division. Additional elite players cannot be protected by utilizing the assistant coach option.

TRYOUTS

- In the Spring season, all players in Pinto and above (excluding a Coach's son/daughter), will participate in tryouts. All Head Coaches will evaluate the players based on a uniform set of standards.
- Foal and Shetland will not hold tryouts. Teams will be selected using leveling and blind draft procedures as detailed below.
- All approved Head Coaches will participate in the Try Out evaluation process, scoring each player in their division. If a division lacks at least five (5) Head Coaches available for Try Outs, the Board will identify additional league officials or other Division Coaches such that at least five Coaches/officials participate to ensure a proper evaluation of player skills. The score sheets will be collected and tallied to build a rank order listing of all players in the Division. This rank order listing will be utilized during the draft process to ensure all Coaches have a fair and equitable opportunity to select players.
- In the Fall Season, no age group, except for Pony 13U-14U, will hold tryouts. All teams will be assigned using leveling and blind draft procedures as detailed below.
- Requesting a coach **will not** be accommodated in the Spring or Fall Seasons.

DRAFT PROCEDURES

CONFIDENTIALITY

- Only Head or one Assistant Coach, Division Commissioner, League President, League Secretary, and an appointed Board Officer, as needed, will be present and participate in the draft meetings. Physical presence is required; virtual presence cannot be accommodated to ensure confidentiality of proceedings. The player's draft order along with any comments or discussions during the draft will remain confidential and "stay in the room". Electronic recording is prohibited during any draft proceedings. Exceptions will be for League officials conducting the draft who need to take notes. Coaches found to be in violation during draft proceedings will be removed from the draft. Coaches found to be in violation of confidentiality agreement or to have participated in pre-draft collusion will be subject to disciplinary actions.
- During the Spring season, Shetland and above divisions will conduct a draft if the number of players registered merits for more than one team. In the Fall season, only the Pony division will conduct a draft.
- Any player who has registered but did not tryout will be placed into a "blind list" to be selected by random pull after all other players have been selected.
- The Division Commissioner shall determine the total number of players for the teams and how many teams will be fielded for the season if there are a minimum of ten players per team and the maximum number does not exceed that allowed by PONY Rules (13-15 players). The following procedures will be followed:
 1. Leveling of Teams
 2. Open Draft
 3. Blind Draft
 4. Trades (if approved)

LEVELING

- Team leveling is done to ensure all teams have an equal number of players. "Leveling players" will be selected from the tryout group of players. Leveling will be done prior to the open draft and will be conducted as follows utilizing the draft order:
 1. Teams starting with zero players will draft kids to their team first. Followed by teams with only one player, then teams with two players.
 2. This process continues until all teams have an equal number of players.
- Head Coaches can only be assigned their own children/grandchildren before the Try Out process and those of their pre-Try Out approved Assistant Coaches. In other words, there are no "protected players" in the draft process. Any exceptions need to be approved by the Commissioner and Executive Committee.

SELECTION OF PLAYERS

1. Teams will draw a number to establish a draft order for the selection of all players.
2. The order of selection will follow in an up-and-down progression. (e.g. with five teams: 1-2-3-4-5-5-4-3-2-1-1-2-3-4-5...).

3. The selection will continue until all players are chosen.

- Any team that has over the minimum number of players (due to siblings or other reason) will not participate in the draft until all teams have the same number of players, regardless of age.
- If siblings are playing in the same Division, when one is drafted, the other is automatically drafted as the next selection for the same team. If desired by the parents, the siblings can be separately eligible for drafting to different teams.
- Foal Division only conduct blind leveling and draft for player assignment to teams.

BLIND DRAFT

- Players registering late, and/or players which did not try out, will be selected in a blind draft. Players in the blind draft will be listed by birthdate age order and assigned to a team in draft order. Draft Order in the fall season is randomized.
- Prior to the conclusion of the draft meeting, teams will participate in an additional number draw to establish a new “draft” order for any subsequent players registering who will then be placed on the next available team. Only the League officials will know the new draft order. This is done to prevent players from attempting to wait until a particular coach is next on the draft order to register.

TRADES

- In general, trades will not be allowed. However, if allowed, trades occur after all selections have been made and each trade must meet the approval of the Board Members present. Trades should only be conducted to benefit the League and Division, not individual teams.

PRACTICES and EQUIPMENT

- Practice day / time assignments at HYBSA Fields will be determined by the League Scheduler. Coaches are not allowed to host team practices at the facility, regardless of field availability. All practices at the complex must be approved by the League Scheduler. Coaches found to be in violation are subject to disciplinary actions.
- Recommended pre-season practice meetings should be two times per week for Shetland and Pinto teams and three times per week for Mustang, Bronco and Pony, or as field availability allows. Once the season begins, the number of games and practices combined shall not exceed four times per week for any Division. Recommended duration of each practice is one hour for Shetland, 1 ½ hours for Pinto, and two hours for Mustang, Bronco, and Pony.
- Foal will not hold practices. Foal only meets on Saturdays for their games.
- The League will provide all Foal playing equipment, Shetland tees and Pinto through Pony catcher's equipment (with a deposit determined by the Board), as well as scorebooks.

GAME TIME and GAME RUN LIMITS

- No new inning will begin within 5 minutes for pinto and below, or within 10 minutes for mustang and above of game end time:

BASEBALL*	
Foal	45 MIN
Shetland	1 HR
Pinto	1 HR 15 MIN
Mustang	1 HR 30 MIN
Bronco	1 HR 45 MIN
Pony	2 HRS

SOFTBALL*	
Shetland / Pinto	1 HR
Mustang	1 HR 30 MIN
Bronco/Pony	1 HR 45 MIN

*Game will end when time or maximum inning by Pony rule by division is reached

- A new inning starts the instant the third out is made at the bottom of an inning.
- Mercy Rule Run Limits:
 - Softball: 12 runs after 3 complete innings, or 10 runs after 4 complete innings
 - Baseball (Foal to Mustang): 15 runs after 3 complete innings, or 10 runs after 4 complete innings
 - Baseball (Bronco and above): 15 runs after 3 complete innings, or 10 runs after 4 complete innings
- Games tied at the end of the time limits will be recorded as a tie during the Spring Season.
- Coaches and umpires shall strive to keep game starting and ending times on schedule. If a game is starting 15 or more minutes late, field warmups shall be limited to five minutes maximum for each team. Coaches should have catchers in gear and ready before changing innings. Field warmups must be completed 5 minutes before the game begins to allow Coaches and umpires to meet at the plate.
- A courtesy base runner may be substituted for the catcher only with two outs. The courtesy base runner will be the player making the last out.

PLAYING TIME

- All Divisions will bat their full rosters throughout the game.
- There will be free substitution of players throughout the game (except for player pitchers).
- No player will sit out more than one inning at a time in Shetland, Pinto, and Mustang and no more than two consecutive innings in Bronco and Pony.
- Efforts should be made to even the playing time of all players throughout the game unless there are disciplinary or injury concerns.

MINIMUM # OF PLAYERS

- Foal and Shetland: No minimum
- Pinto through Pony:
 - Spring Season: The minimum required to play a game is eight (8). A game may be delayed for up to 5 minutes from its originally scheduled start time to allow for additional players to arrive if the minimum number of players is not present. If the game is played with any team fielding a minimum of eight players, when the ninth batting slot is reached, an out will be recorded. If only seven players are present 15 minutes after the scheduled start of a game, a forfeit is recorded with a score of one to nothing. If at any time during a game, a team fields fewer than eight players, a forfeit will be recorded with a score of one to nothing. No non-roster players will be allowed to substitute for another team unless a forfeit has been recorded and both teams agree to play a practice game.
 - Fall Season: No minimum. Teams may, and are encouraged to, share players to play games as the focus is on skill development and not on winning.

POSITION OF COACHES

- In Foal, a Coach or parent must be always with each child on the field.
- In Shetland, two defensive Coaches are allowed on the field and must remain on the outfield grass.
- In Pinto and above, other than base coaches, all Coaches must remain in the vicinity of the dugout and within arm's reach of the fence. The umpire reserves the right to require all non-base coaches to remain completely in the dugout if circumstances deem it necessary. If so directed, both teams are required to comply.
 - The cement "porch" in front of the dugout is dead ball territory.
 - A live ball that strikes a non-base coach who is standing in live ball territory immediately becomes dead, with applicable base awards or penalties being enforced.

BALLS, BATS & BATTING

- HYBSA provides game balls. Assistant Coaches should be tasked with ensuring foul balls are retrieved to minimize the loss of the game balls.
- Foal: Specialized playing equipment will be provided by the League. Gloves and bats are not required to be provided by parents, nor are they necessary.
- Shetland: Tee Ball bats must carry the USA Baseball mark accompanied by the following text: "Only For Use With Approved Tee Balls". If you already have a tee ball bat you would like to continue

- using, simply purchase a USA Bat sticker directly from USA Baseball and place it on your bat
- Pinto: Bats manufactured specifically for use in Coach pitch play (normally designated with “Coach Pitch” appearing on the bat’s surface) are banned from play in all Division levels.
- Bats may not exceed 2 5/8” (Baseball) / 2 ¼” (Softball) in diameter at any level.
- Baseball bats MUST include the USA Bat stamp, or be made entirely of wood (except for Shetland bats as noted above).
- Batters may use either on-deck circle for warm-up.

SQUEEZE PLAYS & STEALING HOME

In Mustang, Bronco, and Pony, squeeze plays and steals of home are permitted.

SLIDE / AVOID RULE

- Any runner is out when the runner does not slide **or** make an attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag.

The purpose of the rule is to prohibit the runner from deliberately crashing into a fielder who has the ball, for the sole purpose of knocking the ball loose, because the runner knows they are going to be out otherwise.

- The fielder should not be in the base path without possession of the ball or in process of fielding the ball. If they are, however, a runner should not intentionally make contact with a fielder. The runner should deviate around the fielder and let the umpire call obstruction if warranted.
- If the fielder does not have possession of the ball, and a collision occurs as he steps into the path of the runner to catch a thrown ball, there is no penalty, unless the umpire judges the collision to be intentional and/or malicious.
- Any runner that maliciously contacts a fielder (with or without the ball), will be called out and ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct.

FIELD MAINTENANCE

- The home plate area should be broomed and raked after each practice and game by the head coach or assistant coaches.
- Each team shall pick up the trash in its dugout after each practice or game.
- Coaches must ensure their team’s spectators pick up any trash by their stands after the practice/game as well.

OFFICIAL SCORING AND GAME RESULTS

- No official score is kept in Foal.
- In Shetland and above, both home and visiting teams are encouraged to keep scorebooks. Home team is responsible for the official scorebook, for official pitch counts of both teams and for operating the scoreboard.
- Final game results shall be recorded in SportsEngine by the Home team.
- Lightning during a game will result in an immediate game delay for 30 minutes until lightning clears for safety reasons. If lightning conditions continue after 45 minutes of the original lightning strike and the game has passed 50% of the time allowed, the score is entered at the last completed inning. If the game is delayed before 50% of the time allowed is complete, it's postponed and continued to a later date unless both coaches agree to a tie.
- Heavy rain may delay games until it is reduced to a safe level, and if it affects field playing conditions, the game will end immediately. If the game has passed 50% of the time allowed, the score is entered at the last completed inning. If the game is delayed before 50% of the time allowed is complete, it's postponed and continued to a later date.

PROTESTS

- There are no protests in Foal.
- Protests in all other Divisions must be submitted in writing to the Decisions Committee within 24 hours of the end of the game. The Decisions Committee will follow the guidelines regarding protests in the PONY Baseball Rulebook– Section 19, and the PONY Softball Rulebook – Section 12

END OF SEASON STANDINGS

- There are no official standings in Foal.

- In Shetland through Pony, the win/loss/tie records of all the teams will determine the final standings at the end of the regular season. Sports Engine ranking tool will determine the final standings based on the win, loss, tie and run data.
- Spring awards will be presented to the 1st and 2nd place teams in Shetland through Pony if there are five or fewer teams in the Division, and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place if there are six or more teams. Participation awards will be given to Shetland and Foal division players.
- No awards are given in the Fall season.
- Allstar recognition signs will be awarded to teams that excel during the Pony Allstar season.

9U-14U

- Teams qualifying for Zone by placing in a regional tournament receive a sign, while uncontested teams must place in the top 50% of Zone to receive a sign.
- Teams advancing to the World Series by placing at Zone will receive a sign, while uncontested teams must place in the top 50% of the series to receive a sign.

5U-8U

- Teams placed in the top 50% of the Regionals or Super Regionals receive a sign, unless uncontested in these tournaments, the team will automatically advance to the World Series and must place in the top 50% to receive a sign.

DIVISION RULES

- The following rules are in addition to, or modify, PONY Baseball and Softball rules.
- Visiting teams will be given a copy of HYBSA's rules, either in writing or electronically, prior to the start of the season. HYBSA will also request a copy of all League rules for the Leagues with which we interlock. When participating in an Interlock League, teams will use the home complex's house rules to play by, unless an agreed upon set of interlocking rules have been approved by all participating leagues.

Foal

- Designed for both baseball and softball players.
- Teams will consist of 10 to 12 players.
- Each child must be assisted by a Coach/parent while on the field.
- No scores or standings will be kept.
- There are NO OUTS and every player gets to bat each inning.
- Runners will advance one base at a time.
- The last batter of each half inning will run around all the bases to home plate.
- Players will hit off a batting tee with league provided bats and balls.
- Gloves and helmets are not required.
- Batted ball must pass a line 10 feet in front of the tee to be fair.
- Defensive players (5 infielders only) will position no closer to the tee than the pitching circle.
- Defensive players will rotate in with each new batter.

Shetland (Baseball T-ball 1 and Softball)

- A maximum of 10 players (minimum of 4 outfielders) are allowed on the field for the defensive team.
- A player shall not play at the same position more than 2 consecutive innings, except for pitcher, only 1 inning. A player can only play the pitching position for 1 inning per game unless an injury occurs to the pitcher who started the inning.
- A runner may advance only one additional base on an overthrow.
- The pitcher must throw the ball home to the catcher if a force is in place. The pitcher cannot run and step on home plate for the out.
- The Pitcher is not allowed to run and tag a batter-runner when a force is in play. The ball must be thrown overhand to the base. (This rule includes all bases).
- Five run limit per inning, sixth inning ten run limit (Spring); Five run limit all innings (Fall).

Shetland (Baseball T-ball 2)

- A maximum of 10 players (minimum of 4 outfielders) are allowed on the field for the defensive team.

- A runner may advance only one additional base on an overthrow.
- Five run limit per inning, sixth inning ten run limit (Spring); Five run limit all innings (Fall).

Pinto (Baseball and Softball)

- Coaches that pitch must be one of the four Coaches listed for the team that he/she is pitching.
- **The Coach Pitcher cannot communicate with anyone (coaches, umpire, players, or spectators) as their sole job is to pitch and should act like a machine.**
- Any Coach Pitcher, who is not a Coach, listed for the team they are pitching for shall be deemed an illegal pitching coach. If it is determined that an illegal Coach is pitching during a game, the game will be forfeited. If a second offense occurs during the season, then that game will be forfeited as well, and the Head Coach will be suspended from the next game. If it is determined after a game has been completed that an illegal pitching coach was used, the game shall stand as it was completed. The Head Coach of the offending team and the illegal Coach (if a Coach of another team at HYBSA) shall serve a 1 game suspension.
- A maximum of 10 players (minimum of 4 outfielders) are allowed on the field for the defensive team.
- For baseball only, batters will be allowed six pitches. Umpires will call swinging strikes only and three strikes will be out. The sixth pitch will be out, unless hit fair or foul.
- Batters are not permitted to bunt or soft swing at the ball.
- A Coach from the defensive team will stand behind the catcher against the fence. The purpose of this Coach is to throw balls back to the pitcher to help speed up game play. These Coaches will not intentionally interfere with game play (the umpire will determine if the action was both intentional and interfered with game play) nor signal or communicate with anyone on the playing field. They can communicate to other Coaches in the dugout who in turn can relay that information onto the field.
- Five run limit per inning, sixth inning no limit (Spring); Five run limit all innings (Fall).
- For Softball Only - The ball cannot be rolled to bases to make a play.

Mustang, Bronco, (Baseball and Softball)

- Five run limit per inning first two innings (Spring); Five run limit all innings (Fall)
- A mandatory pitcher change will be conducted when 3 hit-by-pitches have occurred during the same inning by the same pitcher.

Pony

- Five run limit all innings (Fall) for games played at HYBSA. Games not played at HYBSA are subject to hosting league rules due to the nature of traveling and interlocking with other leagues. Team managers are responsible for knowing playing rules based on the game location.
- A mandatory pitcher change will be conducted when 3 hit-by-pitches have occurred during the same inning by the same pitcher.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

- HYBSA is a proud supporter of PONY's Champions League Division, which provides every child, regardless of special needs, the opportunity to participate in America's favorite pastime. It is HYBSA and the Champions League's goal to provide an environment that enhances the participants' self-esteem, physical mobility, and embodies the spirit of teamwork and community.
- Every child with different abilities who is provided with services through a local school district can participate in Champions League. HYBSA strives to make this a cost-free program for every participant's family.
- The number of teams, game schedules, and rule modifications will be decided on field availability and participation levels.

FALL BALL

- Fall Ball is intended to be an instructional season, to allow for a slower paced, skill developmental approach to the game. Fall Ball is not an extension of the Spring Season or All-Stars and is not to be used as an avenue for competitive play where the emphasis is on winning games and dominating other teams.
 - All Divisions will use a five-run rule limit per inning the entire season.
 - Score books will not be used.
 - The League will provide an umpire if available for all games in Mustang, Bronco and Pony.

ELITE RULES

Purpose: HYBSA has developed a program after the All-Star season, offering top players the chance to compete in higher competitive games through open travel baseball tournaments in (but not limited to) Central Texas.

- Player Eligibility Criteria:
 - Must have Played with HYBSA during the previous 12-month period, prior to Tryouts. Or be a current elite player.
 - Must have participated in at least 51% of the most recent season (Spring or Fall) scheduled games within the previous 12-month period.
 - Must not be an active member with another travel team during the Elite Season.
- Head Coach Selection:
 - Individuals who want to be considered as an Elite Head Coach will submit their names to their Division Commissioner prior to the Elite tryouts. The HYBSA board will select the Elite Head Coaches based on coaching and developmental skill, character and standing with HYBSA.
- Selection of Players:
 - A tryout will be conducted prior to the end of the All-Star season for players that meet the eligibility criteria.
 - The Elite Team Head Coach will lead tryouts.
 - Tryouts will be scored by the Elite Team Head Coach, Division Commissioner and a board member not affiliated with the team.
 - A Draft will be conducted at the end of the Pony All-Star season with a panel consisting of the Head Coach, a Division Commissioner and a Board Member not affiliated with the team.
 - Fall Elite may Roster up to 15 Players. If less than 12, the team must hold a Spring tryout to fill the 12-man roster. Teams' Spring tryout can be to fill vacant spots or open for all positions. Only eligible players may try out.
 - Only one Elite team per age division.
- Filling Vacant Positions After the Draft:
 - A tryout may be conducted between the fall and spring seasons for any vacant spots due to players dropping from an Elite team.
 - A standby list will be created from tryouts for Head Coaches to choose from in case of unexpected drops during the active seasons. Elite teams may pick up players from the current or most recent previous HYBSA season in case of unexpected drops, player injury or illnesses
 - Players must meet eligibility criteria.
- Selection of Tournaments:
 - Team Managers are solely responsible for choosing which Tournaments to participate in. The All-Star Coordinator can assist in identifying tournaments and gathering information regarding rules and fees.
 - Teams will be responsible for fees associated with tournament fees and umpire fees.
- HYBSA Fees:
 - Scholarships are not available for Elite participation and there are no refunds.
 - Season registration fees will be due at the beginning of Fall, Spring and All-Star Seasons.
 - HYBSA will provide teams with uniforms consisting of two jerseys and one hat at the beginning of the Elite Fall, Spring, and All Star Seasons.
- Sponsorships/Donations:
 - Teams are strongly encouraged to seek sponsorships and Donations to offset the cost of All-Stars and tournaments. All funds in the form of checks made out to HYBSA will be funneled through the HYBSA checking account and will be subject to non-profit 501c.3 regulations before being distributed to the team. Proof of 501c.3 tax forms are available from the HYBSA All-Star Coordinator in case a business requests them.
 - Below is an example of items that HYBSA can purchase on behalf of the team with sponsorship checks made to HYBSA.
 - Tournament fees (to include umpire fees)
 - Game balls

- Specialty equipment (catchers gear, tees, etc.) *
 - Facility rentals (batting cages, etc.)
 - Lodging cost (distributed equally among the team)
- *Any durable equipment such as catcher gear is considered HYBSA property and must be returned at the end of All-Stars under 501c.3 regulations.

- Cash donations to the team are not subject to non-profit 501c.3 regulations but must be reported to the team treasurer for accountability purposes. Teams may use cash donations for all other team expenses such as personal gear, team functions, snacks, etc. HYBSA does not inherit any agreements with donors by the team members seeking sponsorship. Any special considerations or requests by sponsoring businesses must be presented and approved by the HYBSA Board of Directors before funds are accepted.
- HYBSA Complex Use:
 - Elite teams will have access to the HYBSA complex for team practices based on availability. Special consideration must be made to ensure facility maintenance is conducted, complex preparation for special events and the HYBSA Fall and Spring Recreation seasons and tournaments. Team Managers will coordinate with the league scheduler to ensure appropriate use is scheduled for practices.

GENERAL CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

- Board Members, players, coaches, parents, fans, and umpires are expected to conform to generally accepted standards of conduct and good sportsmanship. Use of profanity, insults, yelling, bullying, intimidation, badgering, etc. will not be tolerated. Anyone violating the HYBSA Standards of Conduct, HYBSA General Rules and Procedures or PONY Baseball/Softball Rules and Regulations are subject to disciplinary actions as determined by the HYBSA Board of Directors and/or PONY Baseball/Softball.
- Coaches, as both leaders and mentors, are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Any Coach who conducts him/herself in an abusive manner or is overly argumentative may be warned by the umpire or ejected from the game. If ejected, the Coach must leave the playing field area prior to the resumption of play. He or she may remain in the parking area but may not in any way communicate with anyone involved in the game in which he/she was ejected from.
- Players who violate the standards of conduct or any HYBSA rule may be removed from the game by his/her Coach or an umpire. The player must leave the bench. If the player is unattended by a parent or guardian, he or she may remain on the bench but must refrain from any interaction with his/her teammates during the game.
- Any spectator violating the standards of conduct or any HYBSA rule will be warned and/or asked to leave the premises by the umpire or any HYBSA Board Member. The Head Coach must reinforce the rules with spectators/parents and encourage them to abide by them. If a spectator continues unacceptable behavior after being warned or asked to leave, the game may be forfeited at the discretion of the umpire.
- Any disciplinary action taken by an umpire, coach, league official, or Board action resulting in more than a warning, one-day suspension or ejection may be appealed subject to the HYBSA Bylaws. Any Coach who has been suspended for more than one game, dismissed, or barred based on the HYBSA General Rules and Procedures or the official PONY Rules and Regulations, must refrain from any coaching of his/her team. This individual must remain off the playing fields for the duration of the disciplinary action.

BOARD MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN OTHER LEAGUES

- Neither Board Members or their children may participate in other PONY Leagues or other baseball or softball teams, programs, or organizations outside of HYBSA during the spring and fall recreation seasons. As Board Members they represent HYBSA in a leadership position and participation in such activities reflect poorly on HYBSA. A board member's child may be exempt from this rule if no program is available for the child.
- Board Member children may, however, participate as "guest players" on non-HYBSA teams no more than three times in each of the spring and fall seasons to help a team that is short of players for particular game(s).
- Violation of the above rules will result in a Board review and vote to determine the member's retention on, or separation from, the Board.

HYBSA BOARD

- The HYBSA Board will be responsible for the continuation of the league through planning, fundraising, operations, and repairs/maintenance of the League.

- **Board Membership:** The HYBSA Board will consist of both elected officials and Committee Chairpersons. Bi-annually (even years), general elections will be held in accordance with the by-laws to elect the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Coordinator and Division Commissioners. In June of those same years, the Board will elect Committee Chairpersons.
- **Offices / Committees:** Decisions concerning the daily operations of each office/committee will be made by the applicable Board member. In cases where functions are shared by multiple members, the Board will determine who has what responsibilities for that function.
- **Finances:** Board members assigned a debit card may not spend over \$500 on any single transaction/item without first obtaining approval from the full Board or the Executive Committee. Exceptions will be for the League Treasurer and only when paying recurring bills such as utilities, dues, fees, etc.
- **Meetings:** Board meetings are open to the public. In special cases where confidentiality is needed, the Board may elect to have a special closed-door session or choose to have part of a meeting closed off to the public.

ACTIONS BY RULES COMMITTEE AND AMENDMENTS

- The Rules Committee will solicit and retain proposed rule changes throughout the year and then discuss and bring them to the full Board for vote in the fall at the annual rules review meeting for the following year's season.
- The Rules Committee will not act on matters that do not involve a league rule, for example, complaints about umpires or changing the age of eligibility.
- The Rules Committee will determine if sanctions for violating rules have been fairly applied if requested by the League President or the Board.
- Amendments to these Rules and Procedures must be reviewed and approved by the majority of the HYBSA Board annually during October/November.

* These General Rules and Procedures were approved on October 26th, 2025, by Board vote.