

## Ponytail League Playing Rules - 2008

The official rules as adopted by the Amateur Softball Association of America shall be adhered to except where amended by these rules. These rules have also been adopted by Ohio High Schools.

1. Game time is 6:15 p.m. on weekdays and 11:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. for weekend games. No new inning will start after 8:30 p.m. on weekday games, or 1:15 or 4:15 p.m. on weekend games. A team must have 8 players to start and finish a game. A fifteen-minute grace period will be given before the game must be forfeited.
2. On a school night, practices will not exceed 8 p.m. The combination of games and practices will **NOT** exceed 3 per week.
3. Complete uniforms must be worn for a player to be permitted to play. Steel spiked shoes are not permitted to be worn by players, coaches or managers.
4. A NOCSAE compliant facemask on the batting helmet is **MANDATORY**.
5. No jewelry or accessories shall be worn by any player. Managers must check the team prior to the start of the game.
6. All players must play at least three (3) innings in every game unless the manager is using disciplinary action. All substitutions must be made by the fourth inning. All players bat in order (round robin). All outfielders must stand at least 10 feet behind the base lines.
7. A game consists of six innings. In the event of a tie game, an extra inning will be played, time permitting. If a game is still tied after the time limit is up, each team will receive 1/2 win. Teams must have played at least 4 ½ innings for it to be considered as an official game.
8. No one may touch or physically assist a player to run or to be stopped from running. If a runner is assisted, the runner is out.
9. The distance from home plate to the pitching mound distance is 32 feet. The distance of the base path is 60 feet. The distance from home plate to second base is 85 feet. A circle with a diameter of 16 feet must surround the pitchers mound.
10. An 11-inch ball will be used.
11. Pitchers must use the "round house" style of pitch. A player is limited to pitching a maximum of 6 innings per game. A player is also limited to pitching a maximum of 6 innings per week. Pitching one ball counts as a full inning pitched. Pitchers may pitch 4 additional innings in a week with 3 scheduled games. Maximums are 6 innings in a 2-game week, and 10 innings for a 3-game week. Penalty for breaking the pitching rule will be forfeiture of the game.

12. If a pitcher hits a batter three times in one game, or hits two batters in the same inning, she must be removed from the pitching position. The umpires have the right to determine if the batter did not make an attempt to avoid the pitch and therefore not count it against the pitcher for the sole purpose of enforcing this rule. The batter will be awarded a base as a result of being hit by the pitch. If a pitch that is in the strike zone hits a batter, it is a strike and will not be awarded a base.
13. The dropped third strike is not in effect.
14. The infield fly rule will be in effect. Umpire will call "Infield fly if fair." When first and second bases are occupied, even if the fielder drops the ball, it is still an out. Others run at their own risk.
15. Sliding into bases is not mandatory but is encouraged. However, if a player does not slide and interferes with the fielder, she may be called out for interference.
16. Runners can steal any base, including home, on any pitch. Lead offs are not permitted until the pitcher releases the ball. If a runner leaves her base before the pitcher releases the ball, she will be called out, it will be ruled a no pitch, and other runners will return to their original base.
17. A batter-runner who reaches first base safely and then overruns or overslides may immediately return without liability of being put out, provided she does not feint toward or attempt to advance to second. **Look Back Rule:** Failure to immediately proceed to the next base or return to her base once the pitcher has the ball within the 16-foot circle will result in the base runner being declared out. Once the runner returns to a base for any reason, she shall be declared out if she leaves the base, unless a play is made on her or another runner (a fake throw is considered a play), the pitcher no longer has possession of the ball in the 16-foot circle, or the pitcher releases the ball by a pitch to the batter.  
  
**Note:** A base on balls is treated the same as a batted ball. The batter/runner may continue past first base and is entitled to run toward second as long as she does not stop at first base. If she stops as she rounds first base, then she must comply with the Look Back Rule.
18. If the score differential is 10 runs or more after the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, the umpire will declare the game over. Modified 8-run rule is in effect.
19. An injured player may return to the line up in her original position only once. If the same player leaves the game twice, they are out for the remainder of that game. No penalty will be assessed for that player. They are just removed from the line up.
20. Unsportsmanlike conduct including throwing the bats or equipment and verbal abuse will not be allowed. Managers are to warn their teams prior to the start of the game. A first offense by any player will result in a warning to both teams. A second offense will result in ejection from the game. This rule includes the conduct of managers, coaches and spectators.

21. Players may not remove batting helmets until they are in the dugout area. A warning will be issued to each team before the start of the game. Subsequent offenses will result in the runner being called out. If the runner crossed home plate before removing the helmet, the run will not score.
22. The catcher may not make any remarks to the batter. No player from an opposing team can make any remarks to a player in position by calling her by name, number, position, etc. Negative chatter is not allowed. This will draw a warning and subsequent offenses will result in ejection from the game.
23. No manager will take his/her team from the playing field, nor will they be permitted to refuse to take the playing field once the game has started. Any manager disregarding this rule will cause the game to be forfeited and is subject to suspension for one calendar year.
24. Any player, manager, or coach who directly or indirectly causes an attack on an official or player shall be subject to suspension from the league. Any player, manager, or coach refusing to leave after being ordered from the playing field by an authorized official or umpire will result in a forfeit. Badgering an umpire by a manager or anyone affiliated with the team will not be tolerated. A warning will be given before the start of the game and a second offense will result in an automatic ejection from the game.
25. No tobacco products of any kind are permitted within 20 feet of any playing area.
- 26. Home team is responsible to return bases and pitching rubber and keeps the game ball. Home team gets the first base side of the field. The umpire is responsible to report game scores to the concession stand.**
- 27. Each team is responsible for working at the concession stand one night in the season (three adults).**
- 28. All teams are responsible for the clean up of the field area after each practice and game.**