



*Gompers Park Athletic  
Association*  
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## **PONY DIVISION RULES FOR 2023**

### ***GENERAL RULES***

1. The home team is listed second on the schedule and is responsible for the setup and takedown of the bases, screens, helmet racks, raking all bases and pitcher's mound after the game to ensure there are no divots left at any of them and storing bases and other necessary equipment in the provided equipment bag in gearbox. Home team will occupy the third base dugout.
2. Base lines are 90' from the back of home plate to the back of the base; pitching distance is 60' 6" from the front of pitching rubber to rear point of home plate.
3. Each team supplies one game ball to the Home Plate Umpire.
4. Length of game will be 7 innings. 5 innings will be considered a complete game or 4½ innings if the home team is leading. There are no tie games.
5. If an uncompleted game (as defined in #4 above) is stopped by darkness or weather it shall be rescheduled as a new game.
6. If a game is stopped by darkness or weather when the score is tied and it is a complete game (as defined in #4 above) it shall be suspended and continued from that point on the next available date. The only players that are allowed to play in the continuation of the game are the players present at the original game and pitching rules apply as if the game never stopped. If an original player is not available for the rescheduled game, a callup can be used in their place.
7. All rostered players present at a game will bat the entire game, and must play a minimum of three innings in the field. Once removed from the game defensively, all players may be reinstated at any position for a minimum of one inning.
8. A team can play with 8 players. When starting the game with 8 players, the 9<sup>th</sup> batter in the lineup is an out. Once the 9<sup>th</sup> player shows up they will be inserted into the lineup and will be put in the field immediately. If a team starts with 9 and then a player leaves, the out is taken in that spot. If a player leaves due to injury and a team now has 8 players, no out is taken for the 9<sup>th</sup> spot. If a team falls below 8 players, the game is immediately forfeited.
9. For a 5:45PM game start time, there's no new inning after 7:45PM (When there's a game immediately after you). For a game that starts at 8PM there's no new inning after 10:30PM

### ***FORFEIT TIME***

Forfeit time for all games shall be 15 minutes after the official scheduled starting time. (Exception: This time may vary only on agreement among two opposing managers and the Home Plate Umpire.)

## ***BATTING AND BASERUNNING RULES***

1. Bats must have the USA Baseball logo, the BBCOR logo, and be no less than a -7 (i.e. -8 is illegal) or be wood. All other bats will be illegal. If a player is caught using an illegal bat they will automatically be called out. The play is dead and all runner(s) will return to their bases.
2. Regular baseball rules apply.
3. Batter/runner may advance on a dropped third strike if first base is unoccupied or there are two outs.
4. If a batter throws the bat after a swing, he will automatically be out. The play will be dead; runners may not advance.
5. Runners may lead off and steal as in official baseball rules.
6. A batter may not fake a bunt and then swing. Batter will be out and the play will be dead; runners may not advance.
7. When there are two outs and the catcher or pitcher is on base, a courtesy runner may be used for the catcher or pitcher so that they may put on his equipment or warm up. (Runner will be the player that made the last out).
8. On any ball hit that reaches the bike/running path, a ground rule double will be called to protect players from injury. A ball that bounces over the fence is a ground rule double. A ball that clears the fence on the fly is a home run. A ball that hits the scoreboard, the red portion, not the black posts, on a fly is a home run.

## ***PITCHING RULES***

1. Each pitcher is allowed three innings. One pitch is considered an inning. The three innings do not need to be consecutive, but the pitcher may only come back to pitch one time in a game. For doubleheaders, a pitcher is limited to 4 innings per day.
2. A pitcher must be removed for the remainder of the game upon hitting the third batter of his stay on the mound.
3. On the manager or coach's second visit in the same inning, the pitcher must be removed from the game. EXCEPTION: If there is an injury, the Manager/coach will not be charged with a visit to the mound.
4. Balk rules will be in effect for all games. Each pitcher will receive one warning after that a balk will be called. No warnings will be given in the second half of the season.
5. Going to the mouth while on the pitching rubber will result in a ball called by the umpire.
6. "Off rubber" area will be outside a three (3) foot radius of the rubber.
7. Batter must be pitched to. There are no intentional walks.

## ***SLAUGHTER RULE***

Upon leading by 10 or more runs after 5 complete innings, or 4 ½ if the home team is in the lead, the game will be terminated and the team in the lead will be the winner.

## ***INFIELD FLY RULE***

An Infield Fly Rule is a fair ball which can be reasonably caught in the infield by an infielder or outfielder and which occurs when there are fewer than two outs and there are runners on first and second or first, second and third, the batter will automatically be out and the runners may advance at their own risk. If the umpire fails to call INFIELD FLY the rule cannot apply.

## ***LIGHTNING POLICY***

When thunder is heard or a lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and remove all players from the field and park. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is seen prior to resuming play. For any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count, reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.

## ***INJURIES***

When a player is injured the umpire will call a time out immediately. Runners will be entitled to the base(s) as determined appropriate by the umpire. Home Plate Umpire's decision is final on all matters related to injuries.

## ***UNIFORMS***

1. Uniforms are to be worn in regular season games only, not for practice.
  - (A) Uniform is hat/visor, shirt, socks & pants/shorts approved by the Association. Athletic shoes must be worn. No other head apparel will be allowed.
  - (B) Player without full uniform will not be allowed to play. EXCEPTION: In the event of a last minute substitution managers must agree if player can play without uniform.
2. Uniform shirts must be tucked in at all times. Failure to comply with this rule will be as follows: Batter will be called out if this is noticed before the batter has taken a swing. If the play has happened and this is noticed, then the batter will not be called out, but must fix the shirt. A fielder will be warned once and removed from the game for 1 inning if shirt continues to not be tucked in.
3. All boys are required to wear an athletic supporter and protective cup at all practices and games. No boy will be allowed to play or practice without a supporter and cup.
4. All players are required to wear a helmet when at bat or on the bases, during the games and practices. Intentional removal of a helmet by a batter or base runner, while the play is in progress, will result in that player being called "OUT." (Umpire judgment).
5. A catcher's mask must be worn by any player who warms up the pitcher, whether during practice, before a game or during a game.
6. All batters must remove jacket, sweater, sweatshirt, etc. so that the uniform number is visible while batting. (In cold weather, a jacket or sweater may be worn over the uniform shirt on the bases and in the field.)
7. No metal spikes are allowed on the pitcher's mound. No player is allowed to wear open toe shoes while playing in the game.

## ***SUBSTITUTIONS***

1. When less than nine members of a baseball team are present for a game, the manager may substitute from a lower (younger) division of Gompers Park rostered players to make nine players. A forfeiture of a game occurs when a team has seven or less players. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> occurrence of this situation, for any one team, after a report from the Vice-President, the Board of Directors may review for possible action to remedy the situation.
2. Substitutes may not be used as part of the battery for Pony.
3. Substitutes must bat at the end of the lineup and not before any rostered players. If a rostered player arrives late, then that player will bat after the substitute.
4. Substitutes from baseball divisions for baseball and softball divisions for softball.
5. Substitutes will abide by rules of division in which they are substituting.
6. Substitutes can play on any team that calls for a specific game.
7. If a substitute is called up for a game and for any reason there are now ten or more rostered players of the team that called the substitute up, the substitute cannot play for the team that called him/her up. The manager must use his or her best efforts to not have the situation occur, since it is not fair to the player that has come to the game as a substitute. The substitute would be eligible to play on another team that was short on players, if this situation occurred.

8. Managers are expected to work together to field full teams for all games. For example, under no circumstances should a team with ten players (nine regular rostered players of that team and one call-up) win by forfeit over a team that has only seven or eight rostered players. The other team should transfer the call-up to the other team and the game played to completion.
9. When call-ups play in a game, they must play at least ½ of the game in the field and bat the entire game.

### ***FIELD REGULATIONS***

1. No smoking and **ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** will be allowed on the field or in the dugouts at any time. This applies to all spectators as well as managers, coaches, umpires and parents. Failure to comply with the alcohol regulation can result in forfeiture of the game, suspensions from the league, or at worst, arrest. (Alcohol is prohibited by the law on Park District Property.)
2. No one except rostered players, managers and coaches are allowed in the dugout during the game.
3. Only 2 coaches for the batting team are allowed on the field during the game. All other coaches and players not in the field or batting must remain in the dugout.
4. Any player throwing or kicking equipment may be ejected from the game. (Umpires Judgment).
5. Players are required to be at the field 30 minutes before game time. This allows proper time for warm-up.
6. No one will be permitted to stand or sit behind the backstop during the game. Only the on-deck batter is allowed behind the backstop in the on-deck cage.
7. Each team's spectators will be responsible for keeping their area cleaned of empty cans, food wrappers, etc., following the game.
8. A contact avoidance rule will be enforced. Any deliberate, forceful or intentional contact with a fielder will result in the runner being called "out" regardless of the location of the ball.  
REMEMBER: it is the responsibility of the runner to avoid the fielder whether the fielder is fielding a batted ball, receiving a thrown ball or tagging a runner. If the fielder impedes the runner, interference will be called on the fielder and the appropriate base or bases will be awarded to the runner, but under NO circumstances should the fielder be considered "fair game" to the runner.
9. An overthrow is a dead ball. An overthrow is defined as a ball thrown beyond the boundaries of the field. The runner is entitled to the base he is facing and advancing towards plus one. -
10. A pitcher is allowed 5 pitches between innings. Any new pitcher will be allowed 8.

### ***MANAGERS AND COACHES FIELD DECORUM***

1. The manager or acting manager will be the only person to hold discussions with the umpire once the game is underway. No one other than the manager or acting manager will be permitted to approach the umpire. This applies to players, spectators, parents and other coaches. Failure to comply with this rule may result in forfeiture of the game.
2. Managers are responsible for the behavior of all their players, coaches, and fans.
3. Managers and coaches should wear team shirt and hat at all games.
4. Only the team on offense may have a coach in each coach's box at first and third bases. All other coaches, offensive and defensive, must remain in the dugout.
5. No verbal abuse of any kind should be allowed by one team toward the other. (Opposing team should not say "swing" when opponents are at bat.) Derogatory remarks about a specific batter to the pitcher should be strongly discouraged. (He can't hit! or "Easy Out!" for example) **IN THE INTEREST OF SPORTSMANSHIP, ONLY POSITIVE ENCOURAGEMENT TO ONE'S OWN TEAMMATES SHOULD BE ALLOWED.**
6. At the conclusion of the game, teams should line up behind their managers and, in a sportsmanlike manner, shake hands at the center of the field.

7. Managers will instruct their players not to spit in their hands before shaking hands with the opposing team. Any players found guilty of spitting in his hand may be subject to suspension of one or more games. (Per board approval)
8. No cell phones allowed on while on the playing field.

### ***UMPIRES***

1. All decisions by the umpire are final. Umpires have the authority to eject players, managers, coaches and spectators from the game. They also have authority to call a game a forfeit if actions of the spectators or participants warrant.
2. There are no appeals. Umpire has final judgment on all calls.
3. The Home Plate Umpire has the final word on any play. In certain situations, he/she may confer with the base umpire if requested to do so by a manager or coach. In those cases, the decision may or may not be overturned depending on the outcome of the conference. The Home Plate Umpire still has the final decision in these cases.
4. Umpires and base coaches are part of the playing field. If a batted or thrown ball hits an umpire or coach, the ball is still in play.
5. Managers and/or coaches cannot call off a game for any reason.

**The Home Plate Umpire's decision shall be binding and final on all matters not specifically covered in any GPAA rules. The Board of Directors retains the right to interpret, amend or add to these rules at any time.**

***PROTESTS:*** There are no protests

### ***EJECTIONS***

- 1 Any manager, coach, or player that gets ejected from the game will automatically be suspended for the next game. There are no exceptions. NOTE: Until the umpire leaves the playing field you can still be thrown out
2. Any person that gets ejected will have to leave the playing area. Playing area is dependent on the umpire's judgment.
3. IF MANAGER/COACH GETS EJECTED FROM A GAME THEY CAN NOT MANAGE OR COACH ANY TEAM IN ANY DIVISION UNTIL THEY HAVE SERVED THEIR SUPENSION FOR THAT DIVISION THEY WERE EJECTED FROM. THIS INCLUDES IF THE MANAGER/COACH IS A SPECTATOR AT ANOTHER GAME IN ANOTHER DIVISION.

### ***SPECTATORS***

1. Only the on deck batter is allowed behind the backstops.
2. Any problems or questions regarding the interpretation of rules should be directed to the Division Vice President or the President.
3. Any problems or questions regarding the umpires should be directed to the Umpire in Chief or the President.

### ***WEATHER***

1. Unless notified by their manager or the league, all players must report to the playing field as scheduled. In the event the field is determined to be playable by the umpire, the forfeit rule goes into effect automatically.
2. Some games may be played on the grass if approved by the GPAA Board.
3. The decision to cancel a game will be delayed as long as possible, right up to game time, if necessary.

4. If managers of both teams do not agree on playing conditions, the Home Plate Umpire will decide whether or not to play the game.
5. All canceled games will be scheduled for the next available open date.
6. Canceled games must be reported to the Division Vice-President and the Umpire-in-Chief immediately by the manager of the Home Team.
7. Once the game has begun, stopping, or cancelling the game becomes the responsibility of the Home Plate Umpire.

### ***PLAYOFFS***

1. Playoff seeding will be based on record. In case of a tie, the tiebreakers are: 1) head to head record; 2) runs allowed head to head; 3) coin flip.

### **STATE LAW (720 ILCS 5/12 – 4 FROM CH.38 PAR. 17)**

Knows the individual assaulted to be a sports official or coach at any level of competition and the act causing the assault to the sports official or coach occurred within an athletic facility or an indoor or outdoor playing field or within the immediate vicinity of the athletic facility or an indoor or outdoor playing field at which the sports official or coach was an active participant in the athletic contest held at the athletic facility. For the purposes of this paragraph “sports official” means a person at an athletic contest who enforces the rules of the contest, such as an umpire or referee, and coach means a person recognized as a coach by the sanctioning authority that conducted the athletic contest.

### **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

**ANY CONDUCT DETRIMENTAL TO THE LEAGUE WILL BE GROUNDS FOR IMMEDIATE DISMISAL FROM THE GOMPERS PARK ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**