

# 1. GBI PONY AND COLT LEAGUE RULES

The purpose of our Pony and Colt Leagues is to provide a recreational league that allows instruction in a competitive environment. Its rules are governed by the official Tarheel League Rulebook and the National Federation of High School(NFHS) Baseball Rulebook, with the exception of GBI local rules contained herein.

## 1. THE LEAGUE

- a) The number of teams in the Pony League and Colt League and the number of players on each team shall be left to the discretion of the Pony/Colt League Director and the GBI Board.
- b) The league shall furnish two (2) umpires for each game.
- c) A season shall consist of ten (10) games. The league will reschedule enough rained-out games to guarantee a minimum of nine (9) regular season games.
- d) All players are required to pre-register and attend an evaluation. The League Director and the coaches will draft players to select equitable teams. Siblings within the same league will be allowed to play on the same team. Special requests will be reviewed but may not be honored.
- e) Players shall be permitted to play up to another league if all coaches agree the player's skill level is to a standard where the player will be successful throughout the season. This must be voted on by the coaches after evaluations have been completed, and the result must be unanimous for a player to be allowed to play up.
- f) Rained-out games will be rescheduled as quickly as possible. A team that cannot complete a lineup for a rescheduled rained-out game will forfeit that game. During the regular season, if time does not permit for a rained-out game to be made up and it does not affect league standings, the game will not be played.
- g) All players must register in the league and have made payment or worked out payment through the league Director and Treasurer. Issues in this matter could result in the player not being eligible to play in a game until resolved.

## 2. AGE ELIGIBILITY

### **PONY**

A player must not turn 16 before May 1. Any player that turns 16 on or after May 1 is eligible.

All players "age up" to the next league in the fall season. For example, a player may be 12 years old and must play in the 13-15 year old Pony league even if their birthday is after the fall season, but before the May 1 cut off of the next year.

### **COLT**

A player must not turn 19 before May 1. Any player that turns 19 on or after May 1 is eligible.

All players "age up" to the next league in the fall season. For example, a player may be 15 years old and must play in the 16-18 year old Colt league even if their birthday is after the fall season, but before the May 1 cut off of the next year.

### 3. PLAYING FIELD

- a) Games will be played at the North Garner Middle School field or the Garner Rec Park Field or any other field that is deemed suitable by the GBI Board of Directors.
- b) The Pony and Colt leagues shall use a full-sized baseball field. The distance between bases is 90 feet and the pitcher's mound shall be set at 60'6" from home plate.

### 4. PITCHING

- a) Tarheel Baseball governs all pitching rules, except where local rules supersede.
- b) In a combined Pony/Colt league, pitchers will be limited to players 16 years of age or younger [as of May 1 of that year](#)
- c) Violations of this rule will result in the player and the coach being removed from the current game and the coach suspended for the next game.
- d) Pitching records are maintained online. Each head coach must enter the following information in the pitching record: Player name, date, and number of innings pitched. This pitching record is available to any GBI Pony/Colt League Head Coach to view. It is the responsibility of the league director to periodically review the pitching records for completeness and intent. Failure to record pitching information or adhere to pitching guidelines may result in a game forfeit or player(s) not being eligible to pitch the following game. By entering records, coaches are indicating this is the official score and stats for that game.

- e) [The following applies to both Pony and Colt](#)

#### **[DAILY MAXIMUM PITCHES: 95](#)**

[REQUIRED REST \(PITCHES\) Note : Rest is Calculated as per a calendar day.](#)

- [0 DAYS: 1-30 Pitches](#)
- [1 DAYS: 31-45 Pitches](#)
- [2 DAYS: 46-60 Pitches](#)
- [3 DAYS: 61-75 Pitches](#)
- [4 DAYS: 76+](#)

[Example: John pitches 75 pitches on Monday, John will be able to pitch on Friday.](#)

- a) [A pitcher may not start a new inning if he/she is within five \(5\) pitches of the maximum allowable limit. For example, a pitcher who finished the 5th inning and has thrown 90 pitches may not start the next inning even though they have not reached their allowable pitch count limit of 95. The reason for this is so we do not introduce any more unnecessary time delays in the game due to pitcher substitution. The best place to conduct a pitching change is between innings.](#)
- b) [If a player reaches his maximum pitch count in the middle of a batter's at bat – they may finish pitching to that batter even though they will slightly exceed the pitch count limit.](#)

### 5. GENERAL PLAYING RULES

- a) The home team will maintain the official score book.
- b) Open bases and no restrictions on lead offs
- c) Players are allowed to slide headfirst into any base. [There is no mandatory slide rule. However, any overt action by the runner or failure to avoid contact will result in an out](#)

and possible ejection at the discretion of the umpire. The Director will evaluate the situation for future disciplinary action.

d) Dropped third strike and infield fly rule is in effect

e) **LINEUPS**

- a. Each team must be on the field and ready to play at the scheduled time. If a team does not have enough players to begin the game, a forfeit will be called ten (10) minutes after the scheduled time. A team must field eight (8) players to begin and end an official game and may add additional players to the end of their batting order as they arrive during the game. After that ten-minute delay the game must begin. The team will have to begin play with their eight players.
  - b. The opposing team cannot provide an additional fielder. If injury or player loss has reduced a team's lineup to below 9 players, head coaches may solicit a "guest" player from another league team to a maximum of 9 players and a maximum of 2 "guest" players. Guest player(s) must be equally ranked in the preseason rankings by the league director and both head coaches must approve. If a team requires more than the allowed 2 "guest" players, the game may still be played as a scrimmage, with the depleted team forfeiting.
  - c. A player may be removed from the game due to injury, sickness, or disciplinary reasons. Said player's spot in the batting order will be skipped without penalty. If a player is ejected from a game, an out will be recorded when the ejected batter is each due up to bat.
  - a. All players present at a game must play in every game unless serving a suspension or due to a coach's disciplinary action. The head coach must notify the scorekeeper and the opposing coach of any player on the bench that is not on the lineup card.
  - d. Free substitution and a continuous batting order will be used. **No player shall sit out more than one (1) consecutive inning and must start every other game.** Any player arriving late is inserted at the bottom of the order.
  - e. The batting order never changes.
- f) **Intentional walks are not permitted in the Pony and Colt League.**
- g) Bunting is allowed. However, a player cannot pull back a bunt to swing at a ball.
- h) In order to maximize playing time, a courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher or catcher at any time. The courtesy runner will be the last player to make an out.
- i) Each team shall be entitled to one (1) offensive time out per inning. The umpire shall determine the length of the time out.
- j) **Mound visits:** A defensive coach can make one mound visit per pitcher per inning without needing to remove the pitcher from the game. If the same pitcher is visited twice in one inning, the pitcher must be removed. A mound visit to check on a potential injury shall not count against the two allowed visits.
- k) Penalty for use of an ineligible player, upon appeal by the opposing manager, when the official scorebook or other organization league records verify the ineligibility of the player concerned, shall be the immediate ejection of the head coach from the game. The head coach shall be ineligible to participate in the next scheduled game played by the team. For the purpose of interpretation of this rule, a player shall not be considered in violation of the rules until at least one (1) pitch has been thrown to the batter beyond the

maximum allowed. When the ineligible status of a player is not established until after completion of the game, the game shall stand as played, with no penalty.

## 6. OTHER GENERAL RULES and GUIDELINES

- a) Appeals to plays can be made only by the head coach but must take place immediately before the next pitch or no appeal can be addressed. Only exception is ineligible pitcher. This appeal can be made at any time before the game is complete.
- b) GBI players are selected to a team through a draft in an effort to equalize talent on each team and develop a competitive program overall. No player will be added to a team after the deadline set by the Director unless there are not enough players to fill a team or at the discretion of the Director.
- c) All players must start at least every other game and may not sit on the bench more than one (1) consecutive inning.
- d) No tobacco products are allowed on the playing field by a player, coach, or parent at any time. This includes practices.
- e) Good sportsmanship is required of all parents, coaches, and players. Coaches are to govern the conduct of their players and the parents of their players. Any player or coach ejected from a game by the umpire shall also sit out the entire next game (including tournaments). The ejected player will sit on the bench with the team during their suspension in full uniform. The ejected coach will not be allowed in the dugout or on the playing field.
- f) Each team is responsible for picking up trash in their dugout at the end of each game. Only adults or children with adult supervision shall be permitted in the score booths.

## 7. GUEST PLAYERS

- a) If a team does not have 9 players, they are allowed to have a guest player from another Pony league team (for a Pony league game) or Colt/Pony league team (for a Colt league game) that can substitute to bring the total number of players up to 9
- b) The guest player must be of similar or lower draft position than the player they are replacing and the player must be approved by the opposing head coach
- c) The guest player must be registered to a GBI recreational league. Express players are not allowed to substitute if not also playing in the recreational league.
- d) If two guest players are required to bring the total number to 9, both players must adhere to the similar draft position rule
- e) A maximum of two (2) guest players are allowed
- f) Guest players are not allowed to pitch
- g) Guest players must bat at bottom of the order
- h) No guest players will be allowed for tournament games. An exception may be requested to the Pony/Colt league director for approval.

## 8. COACHES

- a) One (1) head coach will be assigned to each team, and the head coach may recruit up to three (3) assistant coaches and one (1) team coordinator to help during the season. The GBI Board of Directors reserves the right to approve the coaching staff.

- b) The head umpire has complete authority over the game. ONLY THE ACTING HEAD COACH SHALL CONFER WITH THE UMPIRE.
- c) Coaches will refrain from criticizing officials in the presence of players or fans. Head Coach may be held responsible by the officials for the behavior of himself, the team, and the fans. Coaches may not argue judgment calls (balls/strikes, etc).
- d) Assistant coaches are not permitted to be in foul territory in the pitcher's periphery or near the baselines. Exceptions are for offensive team and their first and third base coaches.

## 9. GAME AND INNING LIMITS

- a) An inning will be complete when three (3) outs are made. A game is complete after seven (7) innings, or the time limit has expired.
- b) There will be a 1 hour 40 minute time or seven (7) inning limit per game. No new inning will start after 1 hour and 40 minutes has elapsed.
- c) A new inning is considered to be started at the time of the last out of the last inning.
- d) **Mercy Rule:** 15 runs after 3 innings or 10 runs after 4 innings or 8 runs after 5 innings
- e) In the event of a tie of a regulation game, any new inning(s) shall begin if it is within said time limit (1 HR. 40 MIN.) If, at the end of extra inning(s) and the game is still tied and the time limit is up, the game shall end in a tie.
- f) Time delays due to weather, injuries, or disputes can be added back at the discretion of the umpire.
- g) Tournament games will be same time limit as regular season games or seven (7) innings and cannot end in a tie. Championship game will be 2 hours and cannot end in a tie. If the game is still tied after the 7<sup>th</sup> inning, the 8<sup>th</sup> inning will start with no outs and a runner on second base. The runner on second shall be the last recorded out.
- h) In the event of inclement weather during the regular season, a complete game is 3 full innings or 2-1/2 innings if the home team is ahead. For tournament games this is increased to 4 full innings or 3-1/2 innings if the home team is ahead.
- i) No game may begin after 8:30 p.m. Any game not started by this time will be postponed and rescheduled.

## 10. EQUIPMENT

- a) **Bats allowed:**
  - a. USA stamped bats
  - b. Wood bats
  - c. BBCOR -3 bats
  - d. Bats other those listed above are not allowed
- b) Players are required to wear long pants during all practices and games. Baseball or athletic shoes are also required.
- c) Catchers are required to wear protective equipment during games, warm ups and practices. All players are encouraged to wear protective cups.
- d) Catchers do not have to wear a throat guard.
- e) Batting helmets are allowed to have logos.
- f) Metal spiked baseball shoes are permitted.

## 11. END OF SEASON TOURNAMENT

- a) During tournament play, in a single elimination format, the higher seeded team will be the home team. If a double elimination format is used, the higher seeded team in the winner's bracket will always be designated as the home team. In the loser's bracket, the higher seeded team will be designated as the home team. In a double elimination tournament format, a coin toss will determine the home team in the event of two teams arriving at tournament final tied in tournament play. The home team dugout shall be along 3rd base and the visiting team dugout shall be along 1st base.
- b) See PITCHING section for tournament pitching rules
- c) GBI may select all-star teams from this league during the spring season. These teams may participate locally, statewide, and nationally.
- d) Ties count as  $\frac{1}{2}$  win and  $\frac{1}{2}$  loss
- e) The following criteria will set tournament seedings and be used for tie breakers:
  - 1. Overall record
  - 2. Head to head record
  - 3. Runs Allowed (Head to Head)
  - 4. Runs Allowed (Season)
  - 5. Runs Scored (Season)
  - 6. Run Differential between runs scored and runs allowed
  - 7. Coin toss

Any questions or comments should be directed to the league director.