

2019 SEASON



PONY LEAGUE

RULE MODIFICATIONS & GENERAL RULES

For Upper Divisions:

Mustang, Bronco, and Pony

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SFYBL CODE OF ETHICS

COACHES HEREBY PLEDGE TO LIVE UP TO THE FOLLOWING SFYBL CODE OF ETHICS

- 1) I will place the emotional and physical well being of my players ahead of any personal desire to win.
- 2) I will remember to treat each player as an individual, remembering the large spread of emotional and physical development for the age group.
- 3) I will do my very best to provide a safe play situation for my players and staff.
- 4) I will review and practice the necessary first aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players.
- 5) I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.
- 6) I will lead, by example, in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.
- 7) I will ensure that I am knowledgeable in the rules of sfybl baseball, I will teach these rules to my players plus share with their families as needed.
- 8) I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills that I teach and take into consideration the age/skill of players.
- 9) I will remember that I am a youth coach, the game is for the benefit of children and not adults.

SFYBL CODE OF CONDUCT

Coaches are responsible for the adherence of their team's members and team's supporters to the following Code of Conduct. Coaches may be either warned or ejected, and the game may be declared a forfeit for failure to comply.

Coaches, Players, and Parents shall not use any words and/or actions to incite their team's members and/or supporters to demonstrations of unsportsmanlike conduct.

- 1) Demonstrations, which disrupt the game, are unsportsmanlike.
- 2) Demonstrations abusive to the umpires are unsportsmanlike.
- 3) Coaches shall not encourage or allow attempts at verbal intimidation of the opposing team by their team's members and/or supporters.
- 4) There shall be no "negative chatter" directed at the opposing team.
- 5) "Positive chatter" by team members with their teammates is permitted and encouraged.
- 6) Ejected participants are henceforth illegal participants, and any further misconduct on their part will result in the suspension of the game by the umpire(s), and may result in forfeiture of the game.
- 7) An ejected manager/coach must leave the vicinity of the playing field. The game can continue only if another person, affiliated with said team, who is listed as a coach on the team roster and has been background checked through SF Rec & Park, assumes the responsibility for the team for the remainder of that game.
- 8) Any ejected adult team member must leave the vicinity of the playing field.
- 9) Any ejected team supporter must leave the vicinity of the playing field.
- 10) Any ejected non-adult team member may remain in his/her team's area if the manager/coach's supervision is necessary. The manager/coach is responsible for further misconduct on the part of the ejected player and will be required to remove the ejected player from the field area if so instructed by an umpire.
- 11) An umpire may suspend the game in the event of a situation which he/she judges to be threatening to or detrimental to the healthy continuation of the game
- 12) No contact is allowed with umpires after the game is completed. Coaches, players, and supporters are not allowed to address, question, speak, or confront umpires regarding the umpires' performance after the game. If there is an issue in question, those questions and issues should be directed to the SFYBL Division Commissioners.
- 13) All Adults (18+) who are working with our teams in either practices and/or games must be fingerprinted and background checked through SF Rec & Park and be listed on the team's roster.
- 14) SFYBL reserves the right to withdraw membership from any team, player, or adult volunteer whose conduct, on or off the playing field, reflects in a manner that is detrimental to the best interest of SFYBL.
- 15) Coaches, players, and spectators who engage in unsportsmanlike conduct, such

as fighting, abusive language or similar derogatory activity, can be suspended for one or more games. Coaches, players, parents or spectators in violation of any of these Rules of Conduct may be removed from the league at the discretion of the SFYBL Board.

16)RULE 1: ADMINISTRATION

The overall direction of the SFYBL is the sole responsibility of the SFYBL Board of Directors, whose members have been appointed to represent all players, coaches, and teams.

1.) Board of Directors

S.F. Recreation & Park Representatives – Linda Barnard and Jimmy Chin

S.F. Fire Dept. FLAME Representative – Ricky Hui

2.) SFYBL Baseball Committee

The Baseball Committee will be composed of the members of the SFYBL Board of Directors serving as division commissioners and will have the authority to render all decisions regarding the conduct of all matters involving the rules and philosophy of the SFYBL, and to hear and decide protests, and discipline appeals.

4.) Division Commissioners

SFYBL League Commissioner and
PONY Summer All Star Teams Ricky Hui

Shetland Tee-Ball Erin McClure, Scott McDonald, Delsa Rendon

Shetland Coach Pitch Allyson Rupp, Erin Evangeline, Delsa Rendon

Pinto Chris LaMotte

Mustang Brent Lewellen

Bronco Elijah Bonner

Pony Ricky Hui

Girls Baseball Commissioner Annie Jupiter-Jones

Umpires Director Gerald Reader

Umpires Commissioner Rick Bates

RULE 2: ELIGIBILITY

1.) Player Eligibility Requirements and/or Restrictions shall be as follows:

- a. A player must either reside in or attend school within the City and County of San Francisco. Any request for an exception to this requirement must be made in writing to the SFYBL Committee.
- b. Players enrolled in the Mustang, Bronco, and Pony division are eligible to play in the division that corresponds to their age.
- c. SFYBL uses the following date of birth (DOB) ranges to determine division eligibility:

Division	DOB (Date of Birth) Range
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Pinto (-8U)	DOB: September 1st, 2011 – August 31st, 2012
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Mustang (9U-10U)	DOB: September 1st, 2008 – August 31st, 2010
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Bronco (11U-12U)	DOB: September 1st, 2006 – August 31st, 2008
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Pony (13U-14U)	DOB: May 1st, 2004 – August 31st, 2006*
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14U born May 1st - August 31, 2004 are not eligible for Pony 14U All-Stars

- d. Players may “play up” in a division one year higher than their age-eligible division (e.g. an 8U in the 9-10U Mustang division). Players who are playing up more than one year (e.g. a 7U playing in the 9-10U Mustang division) are Ineligible Players. Players who are playing down to a division they are too old for are Ineligible Players.
- e. If a player “plays up” to a division above his/her age level, he/she is eligible to try out for Summer All-Star teams only in that division. Exemption: a player that is age eligible for 8U All Stars.
- f. Teams with Ineligible Players are subject to forfeit any game played using those Ineligible Players. Coaches to report to the league if they suspect an age ineligible player. Player/Coach to provide proof age eligibility upon league’s request.
- g. Players who are on a high school baseball or softball team are not eligible to play in SFYBL.
- h. Players who play on multiple SFYBL teams are Ineligible Players.

RULE 3: Player Transfers – Voluntary, Involuntary, Team Disbanded

A.) Definitions:

Transfer Player: a player who has been on a roster of a SFYBL Team (Not Disbanded team) from the previous season who is moving to a different team. NOTE: Not Disbanded teams are allowed only one(1) “transfer player” addition to their roster per year.

New Player: a player who has not been on a roster of an SFYBL Team from the previous season or a player who was on a team that is now “Disbanded” or a player whose former team has advanced to a higher division and said player has chosen to stay at the lower division, or a player who has aged out of the division where his former team is still playing. NOTE: Not Disbanded teams are allowed as many “new players” additions as their roster will accommodate.

Disbanded team: a disbanded team is a team not returning for the upcoming season. There may be several reasons why a team disbands. However, the league has established guidelines as to what constitutes disbandment: A team is considered disbanded when fewer than 7 players from the previous year’s roster remain playing on the same roster.

A team is NOT disbanded when:

- i. Seven (7) or more players from the previous or current year’s roster are still on the roster
- ii. The coach has left the team, yet the roster, from last season still remains intact (with at least 7 players).
- iii. The team changes its name.

If a team is not determined to be disbanded, then any player wishing not to play on that team will follow said guidelines as listed below (Voluntary Transfer - When a PLAYER chooses to leave his/her team)

Two (or more) coaches may decide to merge their teams into one team. However, any such merger must be submitted in writing, and approved, by the SFYBL Board of Directors.

B.) Voluntary Transfer - When a PLAYER chooses to leave his/her team:

- i. Player and/or Parent(s)/Guardian(s) must notify the coach in writing that the player requests to leave the team. The League must be copied on this letter if the player intends to play/transfer onto another SFYBL team .
- ii. There is a limit of one “transfer” onto a team.
- iii. Under special circumstances and at the discretion of the League Board, exceptions may be made.

C.) Involuntary Transfer - When a COACH excuses a player:

The Head Coach must notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the dismissed player in writing.* A copy must be sent to the League. (* “in writing” here and at all other

places in this document includes email notification)

1) Process to place excused player:

Child/parents find a new team (as a “new” player).

Coaches and Parents should be aware that a team may add as many new players to the team as it likes. However, only one transfer player per team will be allowed per year.

2.) The League may assist in finding a team according to the following criteria:

- a. neighborhood/school vicinity of player
- b. practice schedule/player’s schedule
- c. roster size of teams
- d. other factors as decided by the SFYBL Board of Directors.

D.) When a TEAM DISBANDS:

There may be some cases in which a team will disband, meaning that this team will not be returning to play in the upcoming season. The League requests that the coach notify the League as soon as it is determined that the team will be disbanded.

If a team disbands before the Roster freeze deadline, then the remaining players may go to other teams as though they are New Players. If a team disbands during a season but after the Roster freeze deadline, the Board will place players on the three bottom teams still playing in the Division.

RULE 4: EQUIPMENT

- 4.1 If a pitcher's plate is not available, the game shall be played without it unless the plate umpire judges the situation to be unsafe. The Home Plate umpire and both Managers may install a temporary plate, upon the agreement of its placement. The Umpire will be the final judge of its placement. Lacking any plate, the Umpire, with the consultation of both managers, will designate a spot from which pitchers will throw. The Umpire will be final judge of the spot from which pitchers will throw.
- 4.2 Each team is expected to bring a set of 3 regulation bases to each and every game it plays, although the Home team is responsible for providing the bases for each game. A game cannot be legally played without Regulation Bases. There shall be no exceptions to this rule. The use of carpet squares or other substitute for regulation bases is prohibited.
- 4.3 The league will provide each team with two (2) dozen approved game baseballs. **Use these game balls for games; do not use them in practices.** Teams are responsible to purchase additional approved baseballs as needed.
- 4.4 Each team shall provide a minimum of two (2) balls to begin the game, and the teams shall provide additional balls as required.

The game shall be played with approved game baseballs whenever they are available.

Whenever necessary, the game shall be either played or continued with any acceptable regulation baseball.

- 4.5 Conventional and matching baseball uniforms must be worn by all players.
- a. A player's uniform must include his/her team's uniform shirt, uniform pants, and team cap, and these must all be appropriately worn (as used by teams in the major leagues).
 - b. All Uniforms must have numbers, and no number may be repeated.
 - c. When a player is out of uniform, the Plate umpire shall decide whether the player may play.
- 4.6 Any player occupying the catcher's position must wear the required gear.
- a. Required gear includes: shin guards, a chest protector, a catcher's mitt, and a catcher's mask with helmet and throat guard (hockey style mask is exempt from throat guard), and a protective cup. The catcher's headgear must be NOCSAE approved and give protection to the top of the head and both ears. No player will be allowed to catch an SFYBL game without all the required gear.
 - b. Any non-adult warming up a pitcher at any location must wear an approved mask.

- 4.7 The batter, players in the on-deck batting area, base runners, and any non-adult coaching in the baseline coaching boxes are required to wear protective headgear which gives protection to the top of the head, temples, ears, and base of skull.
- 4.8 **METAL SPIKES ARE NOT ALLOWED.** The penalty is an automatic out.
- 4.9 A player may not wear jewelry. Medical alert bracelets are exempted.
- 4.10 The pitcher's glove shall be uniform in color, including all stitching, lacing, and webbing. The pitcher's glove may not be white, gray or multicolored. Pitchers may not wear white or gray sleeves.
- 4.11 A pitcher may wear mirrored sunglasses provided that the opposing coach does not object.
- 4.12 All equipment is subject to the approval of the umpire(s), whose decision is final. Any equipment judged by an umpire to be potentially dangerous is illegal and should not be used.
- 4.13 For the 2019 season, non-wood bats must meet one of the following standards:
- a. USA Baseball bat standard
 - b. BBCOR Certified .50
 - c. 2 ³/₄" barrel bats are not allowed
 - d. The penalty for the use of an illegal bat is an automatic out.

RULE 5: PLAYING RULES

- 5.1 The Rules and Regulations of SFYBL contained herein have precedence whenever they apply.
- 5.2 All games shall be played in accordance with the current season's MLB (Major League Baseball) Rules, PONY rules, and SFYBL PONY Rule Modifications, which include the NFHS rules for base running and issues of safety. When there is a discrepancy among rules, the order of precedence is: SFYBL rules, PONY rules, MLB rules.

5.3 PLAYING RULES MODIFIED FOR SFYBL

- 5.3.1 Game time is forfeit time. If the scheduled start of a SFYBL game is delayed due to a previous game, practice, etc., the SFYBL game shall begin immediately after the completion of the previous activity.
- 5.3.2. All pre-game activity, such as but not limited to, inspection of gear for safety by the umpires, submission of the SFYBL orange lineup card to the umpire, and review of ground rules, shall be completed before the appointed starting time.
- 5.3.3 Taking the field for pre-game infield and/or outfield warm-ups is not guaranteed. Neither the League nor the umpire(s) are under any obligation to allow infield/outfield warm-ups. Due to time limits and other considerations, umpires are expected to start games on time.
- 5.3.4 Teams must to be ready either to hit or take the field at game time. A team will forfeit a game when it cannot field a minimum of 8 players in the field. During the game, if a team has fewer than 8 players available (e.g., players unavailable because of injury, ejection, etc.), it forfeits the game.
- 5.3.5 Home and Visiting Team are designated in the SFYBL Schedule. However, an umpire may switch Home and Visiting designations in an attempt to get a game started. For example, if the Home team is waiting for its catcher's gear to arrive, the Home team will switch to become the Visiting team and bat first, with the original Visiting team becoming the Home team and taking the field.

5.4 Lineups and Substitutions

5.4.1 Lineups

- a. The SFYBL orange lineup card contains the official lineup and batting order. Before the game, coaches of both teams must fill out this card.
- b. During the game, the lineup card is in the possession of the plate umpire, who must be notified of any lineup corrections or changes. The opposing coach/scorekeeper must also be notified.

- c. Each team must decide to use one of the following batting lineups: the standard MLB 9-player lineup; a 10-player lineup, which contains 1 EH (extra hitter); or a continuous lineup, which contains all present players. **This decision must be made before the start of the game and told to the plate umpire.** A team cannot change its decision during the game; for example, change from a continuous lineup to a 9-player lineup at the 4th inning.
- d. If a team uses a continuous batting lineup, late arriving players are added to the lineup after the final slot in the order.
- e. If a team is not using a continuous batting lineup, late arriving players are substitutes. They enter the game only when a teammate (who is currently in the lineup) exits.
- f. A player must be in the batting lineup in order to play defense on the field.
- g. A team may play a game with only 8 players. However, the 9th spot in the batting order is an automatic out. **EXCEPTION:** If this automatic out were to end the inning, this out is postponed until the next inning. That is, the team will start the inning with one out already recorded.
- h. When it is a player's turn to bat, but the player is not available (e.g., injury, ejection, etc.) and a substitution has not been made, an automatic out occurs.
- i. When there are two outs, the team on offense may courtesy run for its catcher, who must immediately return to the dugout and put on his/her catcher's gear.
- j. When a player becomes injured running the bases, the team may courtesy run for him/her.
- k. If a team is using a continuous batting lineup, the courtesy runner is the player who made the last out. If a team is not using a continuous batting lineup, the courtesy runner must be a player who is not in the batting lineup.

5.4.2 Substitutions

- a. SFYBL has a mandatory participation rule. Every player must play at least 2 innings in the field and get at least 1 at bat each game. **Violation of this rule may result in a forfeit of the game.**
- b. A player must be in the batting lineup in order to play defense on the field.
- c. A substitution occurs only when a player not in the batting lineup replaces a player who is in the batting lineup.
- d. If a team is using a continuous batting lineup, there are no substitutions per se. Players are free to switch among the defensive positions (except for pitcher) at any time.

- e. If a team is using a continuous batting lineup, players who have not yet played defense must play on defense in the 4th inning (Mustang) or 5th inning (Bronco/Pony).
- f. If a team is not using a continuous batting lineup, players who have not yet been in the batting lineup must be put into the batting lineup in the 4th inning (Mustang) or 5th inning (Bronco/Pony).
- g. If a team is not using a continuous batting lineup, players who have not yet played defense must play on defense in the 4th inning (Mustang) or 5th inning (Bronco/Pony). It is illegal for a player to be an EH the entire game.
- h. Substitutions occur only when a team is using a 9-player or 10-player batting lineup. Players who are not in the starting batting lineup are the substitutes.
- i. Starting players who are substituted for can re-enter only once. They must return to their original position in the batting order. If a starting player re-enters, the corresponding substitute cannot re-enter the game.
- j. A spot in the batting order consists of the starting player and at most one substitute.
- k. **A player may bat in only one position in the batting lineup.** Players who are substituted out may return to the batting lineup, but only in their original position. For example, a team has a 10-player lineup: Abel, Baker, Charlie, Daniel, Edward, Frank, George, Henry, Irwin, John. Substitutes are Allen and Bob. In the 3rd inning, Allen substitutes for Abel and Bob for Baker. Later, if the coach wants Abel or Baker to return, Abel must substitute for Allen, and Baker for Bob.
- l. An exception to the substitution rule occurs when a player is removed because of injury or ejection. For the previous example, if after Allen and Bob have substituted for Abel and Baker (respectively), and Charlie becomes injured, either Abel or Baker may take Charlie's position in the lineup.
- m. When a team bats out of order, the player who should have properly batted is out. For example, Abel and Baker both strike out to start the inning. Daniel then comes up to bat and gets on base. The defensive team informs the umpire of the batting-out-of-order violation. Charlie (the player who was supposed to bat) is called out, and the inning ends. Daniel is the proper batter to start the next inning.
- n. If a team informs the umpire of the batting-out-of-order violation while the improper batter is still at bat, the proper batter then replaces the improper batter in the batter's box and assumes the count; there is no automatic out in this situation.

5.5 A player or coach who has any amount of blood must immediately have the situation corrected.

5.6 Base Running Safety Rules:

- a. When a defensive player has the ball and is waiting to tag the base runner, the base runner must avoid contact by either sliding or attempting to go around the fielder.
- b. Whenever legitimate defensive plays are made at bases, runners are required to either legally slide or attempt to avoid the fielder. If a runner's failure to comply hinders a fielder's play upon another runner, offensive interference may be ruled.
- c. **Runners at all bases must avoid contact with defensive players, whether such players are legally or illegally in the runner's path.**
- d. When there is no play being made at a base, the runner is not required to slide. For example, the runner from first attempts to steal second. The catcher does not throw the ball to second. The runner is NOT required to slide. Another example, the runner from third attempts to score on a ground ball to the shortstop. The shortstop does not throw the ball home. The runner is NOT required to slide.
- e. If the fielder is illegally positioned (e.g., blocking the base without the ball) and the runner crashes into the fielder, the runner will be called out and ejected from the game. Malicious conduct supersedes obstruction.
- f. If a base runner's actions leading to ejection are judged to be flagrant, the League may further suspend the offender.
- g. When a fielder is illegally positioned and the runner slides or avoids contact, obstruction will be called. The said runner will be ruled safe.
- h. A fake tag by a defensive player is obstruction.

5.7 Additional Base Running and Related Rules

- a. Runners may lead off from all bases.
- b. In the Bronco and Pony divisions, balks will be enforced.
- c. In the Mustang division, balks will be enforced only when a runner is in the process of stealing. For example, when a runner is not attempting to steal and the pitcher illegally stops his delivery, the runner will NOT be awarded the next base.
- d. In the Bronco and Pony divisions, runners may steal second base, third base, and home per MLB rules.

- e. In the Mustang division, runners may steal second base and third base per MLB rules.
- f. In the Mustang division, a runner on third may not run home as the pitcher is throwing a pitch. Nor may the runner run home as the catcher is returning the ball to the pitcher. However, the runner may run home on a passed ball/wild pitch, an attempt by the defense to put out a runner, or a wild return throw by the catcher to the pitcher.
- g. Once a team has a 10 run lead, it may no longer steal bases or advance on passed balls/wild pitches. A runner may advance only when the batter puts the ball in play; a runner is forced to advance because the batter becomes a baserunner (i.e., uncaught strike 3); or the defense makes a wild pick-off attempt.
- h. Only feet first sliding is allowed. Head first sliding will result in the runner being called out. A headfirst dive or slide back into a previously touched base is allowed.
- i. On strike 3, the batter becomes a baserunner when the catcher does not legally catch the pitch and 1st base is unoccupied (at the time of the pitch), or when the catcher does not legally catch the pitch and there are 2 outs. For example, no runners on, pitcher bounces the pitch, batter swings and misses for strike three, catcher catches the ball. Because the ball bounced, the catch is not a legal catch. The catcher must either tag the batter or throw to 1st base to get the out. Another example, bases loaded, two outs, catcher drops strike three, resulting in the batter becoming a runner. So, to record the 3rd out, the catcher can tag the batter, throw to first, throw to second, throw to third, or step on home plate.
- j. If there are 0 or 1 out and 1st base is occupied at the time of the pitch, the catcher need not catch the 3rd strike; the batter is out.
- k. An exception to the uncaught strike 3 rule occurs if the pitch hits the batter with the end result being strike 3; the catcher need not catch this 3rd strike. For example, the batter's elbow is in the strike zone, the pitch hits the elbow for a called strike 3, the batter is out. Another example, batter swings and misses for strike 3, but the pitch hits him/her. The batter is out. (In both situations, the ball is dead because it hit the batter.)
- l. Runners may steal on a foul tip. A foul tip is a batted ball that goes sharply and directly to the catcher's hand or glove and is legally caught. For baserunning purposes, a foul tip is treated as a "swing and miss" strike. There is no need for runners to "tag up" to advance.

5.8 Distance between bases:

Mustang	60 feet
Bronco	70 feet
Pony	80 feet

RULE 6: PITCHING RULES

6.1. Pitching distances:

Mustang	46 feet
Bronco	50 feet
Pony	54 feet

6.2. Pitch count restrictions for Pitchers:

In the following tables, “Age” refers to a player’s age **as determined by date of birth** and **not their playing age.**)

Age	Maximum per day
7-8	50
9-10	75
11-12	85
13-15	95

If a pitcher reaches the pitch count limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until that batter reaches base; or that batter is put out; or the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game

Days of rest required after throwing X pitches in a day:

Age	1-20 pitches	21-35 pitches	36-50 pitches	51-65 pitches	66+ pitches
7-8	0	1	2	Not allowed	Not allowed
9-10	0	1	2	3	4
11-12	0	1	2	3	4
13-14	0	1	2	3	4

Days of rest required after throwing X pitches in a day:

Age	1-30 pitches	31-45 pitches	46-60 pitches	61-75 pitches	76+ pitches
15	0	1	2	3	4

Note: day of rest is determined ONLY by calendar day.

- 6.2.4 Any pitcher who has completed the pitch count restriction may not return to pitch the completion of a suspended game.
- 6.3 In the first inning in which a player appears as a pitcher, he/she is allowed a maximum of 8 warm-up pitches. In subsequent innings, he/she is allowed a maximum of 5 warm-ups pitches. Warm up pitches are to be completed within 1 minute.
- 6.4 No player can pitch again in the same game once he/she has been removed from the mound.
- 6.5 Each team is responsible for keeping track of the pitch count for its pitchers.
- 6.6 The coach of the winning team is responsible for reporting to the league the pitch count for all the pitchers who participated in the game.

RULE 7: LENGTH OF GAMES

- 7.1 At each game, the plate umpire will announce the official starting time. The starting time is the time at which the plate umpire determines that the home team's pitcher is ready to throw the first pitch.
- 7.1.1 The plate umpire's timepiece or timepiece designated by the plate umpire shall be the official game clock.
- 7.1.2 A new half inning begins immediately after the 3rd out of the previous half inning.
- 7.2 **Game duration limitations:**
- 7.2.1 Mustang games end after 6 innings or 2 hours (2:00) of playing time duration, whichever comes first. The final inning of the game will be determined solely at the umpires discretion in order to complete the game within or around the 2:00 time frame.
- A Mustang game is official so long as at least one inning has been played within the 2:00 time period, unless play was stopped due to rain.
- A Mustang game will be considered a "rainout" if play is stopped by rain before 4 innings are played. (3 ½ if the home team is ahead.)
- 7.2.2 Bronco/Pony games end after 7 innings or 2 hours and 15 minutes (2:15) of playing time duration, whichever comes first. The final inning of the game will be determined solely at the umpires discretion in order to complete the game within or around the 2:15 time frame.
- A Bronco/Pony game is official so long as at least one inning has been played within the 2:15 time period, unless play was stopped due to rain.
- A Bronco/Pony game will be considered a "rainout" if play is stopped by rain before 5 innings are played. (4 ½ if the home team is ahead.)
- 7.2.3 Playoff and championship games that do not reach official status as described in 7.2.1 and 7.2.2 are suspended games and will be rescheduled for completion.
- 7.2.4 **Any attempt by a team to intentionally delay the progress of a game may result in forfeit.**
- 7.2.5 For regular season games, extra innings, if necessary, are allowed, but only within the 2:00 (Mustang) or 2:15 (Bronco/Pony) time limit.
- 7.2.6 Regular season games may end in a tie. A tie shall count as ½ win and ½ loss for each team.
- 7.2.7 Playoff and championship games may not end in a tie; if necessary, the game will continue past the 2:00 (Mustang) or 2:15 (Bronco/Pony) time limit.

7.3 More Length of Games Rules

7.3.1 10-Run Mercy Rule, Mustang Division. If the visiting team is leading by at least 10 runs at the end of 4 or more complete innings, the game shall be declared complete and the visiting team shall be declared the winner. If the home team is leading by at least 10 runs after the visiting team has completed batting in the 4th inning or later, the game shall be declared complete and the home team shall be declared the winner.

7.3.2 10-Run Mercy Rule, Bronco/Pony Division. If the visiting team is leading by at least 10 runs at the end of 5 or more complete innings, the game shall be declared complete and the visiting team shall be declared the winner. If the home team is leading by at least 10 runs after the visiting team has completed batting in the 5th inning or later, the game shall be declared complete and the home team shall be declared the winner.

7.3.3 It is the responsibility of the umpires, in consultation with both coaches, to terminate a game before the time limit is reached, if, in their judgement, field conditions, darkness, or weather poses a safety threat to the participants or spectators.

7.3.4 A game is subject to forfeit if a coach disagrees with a decision of an umpire and withdraws his/her team from the field. Any appeal must be submitted in writing to the SFYBL Board of Directors within 48 hours.

7.3.5 In any situation where play is suspended for more than 5 minutes due to injury, field conditions, or adjudication of a protest or inquiry, the full amount of the delay shall not be included in the 2:00 (Mustang) or 2:15 (Bronco/Pony) playing time. The time limit shall be extended accordingly.

- a. The plate umpire shall make this determination.
- b. The plate umpire shall announce the new time limit before resuming the game.

7.4 For all regular season, playoff, and championship games, a team may score a maximum of 5 runs (Mustang) or 8 runs (Bronco/Pony) in its half inning, subject to the conditions below.

- a. Once the maximum runs have scored, teams change sides, regardless of the number of outs
- b. All runs scored in the excess of the maximum are disallowed.
- c. If more players bat than should have, these at bats shall stand, and the teams change sides, and the score is corrected when the error is discovered.
- d. Exceptions to the maximum run rule are as follows:
 - i. This rule does not apply in the 6th inning (Mustang) or 7th inning (Bronco/Pony) or any inning that is considered the final inning.
 - ii. This rule does not apply in any extra inning.

RULE 8: SCHEDULING & RESCHEDULING

Scheduling and rescheduling of league games and Playoff and Championship games shall be the sole responsibility of the SFYBL Board of Directors.

- 8.1 All managers/coaches must submit all special scheduling requests (i.e. dates their team is unable to play) no later than the date established by the League.
- 8.2 The League reserves the right to move teams to a higher or lower subdivision in order to balance the level of competition.

RULE 9: UMPIRES

- 9.1 Pony, Bronco, and Mustang division games are umpired by SFYBL umpires. The authority of the umpires begins as soon as they appear on the field.
- 9.2 If an SFYBL umpire fails to appear for any game, the game shall be played and the coaches shall mutually agree upon a method to officiate the game from behind the pitcher.
- 9.3 Any member of the SFYBL Board may serve as emergency umpires to officiate if necessary.
- 9.4 Umpires shall be treated in a sportsmanlike and respectful manner by all managers/coaches, players, and spectators.9.6 The responsibilities of the umpires at every game include the following:
 - a. Fill out and have coaches fill out their team's lineup portion of the SFYBL Lineup Card (provided by the Umpire).
 - b. Hold a pre-game plate meeting with the coaches to discuss issues such as ground rules. Umpires will ask the coaches, "Are all your players legally and properly equipped?"
 - c. Coaches must present their SFYBL coaching cards to the umpires. Not having at least one rostered coach with a valid coaching card may be grounds for forfeit for that team. Only coaches with coaching card are allowed on the field. Umpires will document any missing coaching cards on game reporting card.
 - d. At the end of the game, the plate umpire will meet with the coaches of both teams while the coaches verify the final score and the number of pitches thrown by all pitchers.
 - e. The coach of the winning team is responsible for reporting the final score of the game.
 - f. The coach of the winning team is responsible for reporting the pitch count for all the pitchers who participated in the game.

9.7 The use of any tobacco or alcohol in any form by SFYBL umpires is prohibited.

RULE 10: SCORE KEEPERS

10.1. The official scorekeeper shall be the scorekeeper of the designated home team. If the home team has no scorekeeper, the visiting team's scorekeeper shall assume the duty.

10.2. Both scorekeepers shall be responsible for the following:

- a. Maintaining a scorebook and consulting and/or exchanging information whenever necessary.
- b. Keeping accurate score.
- c. Keeping accurate pitch counts for all pitchers.
- d. Informing the plate umpire whenever the maximum half-inning run rule (5 runs for Mustang, 8 runs for Bronco/Pony) occurs.
- e. Informing the plate umpire whenever the 10-run mercy rule occurs.
- f. Informing the plate umpire when an illegal substitute is in the game.
- g. Informing the plate umpire when an illegal pitcher is in the game.
- h. Informing the other team's scorekeeper and the plate umpire whenever his/her team makes a batting lineup change.
- i. All batting lineup changes must be reported to the plate umpire by the manager/coach, scorekeeper, or player.
- j. Except for pitcher, reporting defensive switches to the plate umpire is optional.
- k. Informing his/her own team's manager/coach when batting out of order takes place.

10.3 The plate umpire should confirm that both scorekeepers have the following information:

- a. The original lineups and any batting order/pitching changes.
- b. Any umpire ruling which may affect score keeping.
- c. Notice whenever any participant is ejected.
- d. Notice whenever any protest is lodged.

- 10.4 If a scorekeeping dispute should arise, the plate umpire shall resolve it by doing what he/she believes is correct. If he/she is uncertain of what to do, the umpire shall accept the record of the official scorekeeper.

RULE 11: PROTESTS

- 11.1 No protest shall ever be considered on judgment decisions by the umpire. Judgement decisions include, by is not limited to: ball or strike; safe or out; fair ball or foul ball; interference or obstruction or lack thereof.
- 11.2 When a protest is based on an interpretation of the rules, the objecting manager/coach shall, at the time the play occurs and before the next pitch is made or a runner is retired, notify the plate umpire, the opposing manager/coach and the official scorekeeper that the game is being played under protest.
- a. The protesting manager/coach must make clear the rule interpretation which is under protest, and the umpire must confirm the decision to both sides before continuing the game.
 - b. The plate umpire shall, as soon as possible, notify either the Division Commissioner or an authorized league representative within 24 hours whenever a team has played a game under protest and either lost or tied said game.
 - c. If a manager/coach was unable to protest a game ending play at the game site he/she must contact either the Division Commissioner or an authorized league representative within 24 hours to give notice of his/her intent to file a protest.
- 11.3 If the protesting team either lost or tied the game, the manager/coach must submit the protest in writing to either the Division Commissioner or to the SFYBL Board of Directors within 72 hours of the completion of the game.
- a. The submission should include a copy of the protesting team's score sheets for the game. Any score sheet, which bears obvious alteration germane to the protest, shall be cause for denial of the protest.
 - b. If the protest is properly filed, it shall be accepted and ruled upon by the Baseball Committee per SFYBL RULE #1
- 11.4 If the protest is upheld by the committee, the game shall be continued (replayed) from the point of protest.
- 11.5 If unsportsmanlike conduct/behavior is involved as part of a protest situation, disciplinary action thereon shall be considered separately by the Division Commissioner, who will determine the appropriate penalty for manager/coach, team member, team supporter, and/or team.
- 11.6 Rulings rendered by the SFYBL Board are final and are not subject to appeal.

RULE 12: PENALTIES

- 12.1 The participation of an ineligible player in any game makes that game subject to forfeit at the discretion of the Division Commissioner.
- 12.2 Violation of Rule 2 is subject to penalty upon discovery. There is no statute of limitation to the imposition of any such penalty.
- 12.3 A manager/coach may be subject to penalty, at the discretion of the Division Commissioner, if any ineligible player participates.
- 12.4 A manager/coach may be subject to penalty, at the discretion of the Division Commissioner, if an illegal substitute participates.
- 12.5 A manager/coach may be subject to penalty, at the discretion of the Division Commissioner, for repeated failures to have an 11 player roster.
- 12.6 Illegal equipment shall be removed from the game and all required equipment shall be available and shall be properly used and worn. Otherwise the game cannot be legally played.
 - a. Players must comply when ordered to remove such equipment, to properly use equipment, or to wear equipment. Failure to comply when ordered is unsportsmanlike conduct, and is subject to penalty.
 - b. If necessary, equipment may be shared, and/or the game can be reasonably delayed until the required equipment can be obtained.
 - c. A manager/coach may be subject to penalty, at the discretion of the Division Commissioner, for repeated failures to have the proper equipment available.
 - d. The disposition of any game not played for lack of equipment is at the discretion of the Division Commissioner.
- 12.7 Players should be in proper uniform in order to participate.
 - a. Failure to field a minimum of 8 players in proper uniform at game time is a forfeit.
 - b. A player participating in violation of SFYBL Rule 4, section E must immediately comply with said rule or be subjected to ejection for failure to be in proper uniform.
- 12.8 Participants who are ejected may not participate further in the game.
 - a. If an ejected participant returns and participates, the game is forfeited upon discovery.
 - b. Ejections are subject to review by the Division Commissioner who may suspend the ejected offender for one or more games.

RULE 13: FORFEITS

- 13.1 SFYBL games may be forfeited because of violations of these Rules.
- 13.2 Forfeits because of non-appearance or not enough players at game time:
- 1ST OFFENSE - \$100
 - 2ND OFFENSE - Another \$100 + Elimination from Playoffs
 - 3RD OFFENSE - Immediate expulsion from the League and the team's future games will be granted to other teams in the Division
- 13.3 Use of an ineligible player, upon discovery, will result in loss of games in which the ineligible party participated but will not cause the offending team to be automatically removed from further league play.

RULE 14: MANAGERS AND COACHES

- 14.1 Managers and/or coaches are responsible for the actions of their team's players, team members, and team supporters (spectators).
- a. Managers/coaches shall not use any word(s) and/or actions to incite their team's members and/or supporters to demonstrations of unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - b. Demonstrations, which disrupt the game, are unsportsmanlike.
 - c. Demonstrations abusive to the umpires are unsportsmanlike.
 - d. Managers/coaches shall not encourage or allow attempts at verbal intimidation of the opposing team by their team's members and/or supporters.
 - e. There shall be no "negative chatter" directed at the opposing team. "Positive chatter" by team members with their teammates is permitted and encouraged.
 - f. Managers/coaches are responsible for their team's adherence to the requirements of part 14.1a through 14.1e of this rule, and the responsible manager/coach may be either warned or ejected and the game declared a forfeit for failure to comply.
- 14.2 Ejected participants are henceforth—illegal participants, and any further misconduct on their part will result in the suspension of the game by the umpire(s), and may result in forfeiture of the game.
- a. An ejected manager/coach must leave the vicinity of the playing field. The game can continue only if another person, affiliated with said team, who is listed as a coach on the team roster and has been background checked through SF Rec & Park assumes the responsibility for the team for the remainder of that game.

- b. Any ejected adult team member must leave the vicinity of the playing field.
 - c. Any ejected team supporter must leave the vicinity of the playing field.
 - d. Any ejected non–adult team member may remain in his/her team’s area if the manager/coach’s supervision is necessary. The manager/coach is responsible for further misconduct on the part of the ejected player and will be required to remove that ejected player from the field area if so instructed by an umpire.
 - e. Any violation of part 14.2a through 14.2d herein, and any situation in which the plate umpire may judge to be threatening to or detrimental to the healthy continuation of the game, shall be cause to suspend the game.
- 14.3 The following shall apply to ALL Divisions’ Base coaches:
- a. A team may utilize base coaches at both 1st and 3rd in every offensive half inning.
 - b. Any eligible player or rostered coach can be used as a base coach.
 - c. A non-adult base coach must wear a batting helmet.
- 14.4 If the defensive manager or coach is granted a timeout to talk to any player or players more than once in a half inning and while the same player is pitching, a pitching change must immediately be made. If a pitcher is not removed after the first time out, he/she must complete pitching to the batter, and a second timeout is prohibited while the same batter is at bat.
- 14.5 Manager/coaches shall not be permitted more than one offensive timeout in each half inning to talk with a batter and/or runner(s).
- 14.6 Except when legitimately on the playing field in accordance with rules, the managers, coaches, players, and team members shall remain within their designated team areas (bench, dugout, bullpen, warm–up area, etc.) throughout the game.
- a. If a player/team member leaves the vicinity of the field for any reason, he/she remains the responsibility of the manager/coach.
 - b. A manager/coach may enter the playing field to make inquiry and/or obtain a ruling only by permission of an umpire.
 - c. First come first serve on dugouts.
- 14.7 All Adults (18+) who are working with SFYBL teams in either practices and/or games must be fingerprinted and background checked through SF Rec & Park. They also must have taken the concussion protocol course.

RULE 15: GENERAL CONDUCT

1. San Francisco Youth Baseball supports these policies regarding general conduct:
 - a. The SFYBL, shall reserve the right to withdraw membership from any league, team, player or adult volunteer whose conduct, on or off the playing field, reflects in a manner that is detrimental to the best interest of SFYBL.
 - b. Players or adult volunteers who engage in unsportsmanlike conduct, such as fighting, abusive language or similar derogatory activity, can be suspended for one or more games.
 - c. Teams, players or adult volunteers in violation of this General Conduct Policy will be removed from league and/or tournament play.

RULE 16: INJURY REPORTS

- 16.1. When a player or manager/coach is injured, an injury report must be filed the next working day with the Recreation & Park Department Office with the following details surrounding the injury and information about the treating facility must be submitted in writing.

Sundays and legal holidays are not working days.

RULE 17: DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

- 17.1 The Division Commissioner and designated staff have the direct authority to warn, suspend, or dismiss any manager, coach, player, spectator, umpire, or other person from the division under their jurisdiction, when that individual's conduct has been determined to be in violation of the SFYBL Rules and/or Philosophy or is detrimental to the best interests of the SFYBL.
- 17.2 The Division Commissioner upon receipt of a written report by an umpire, league official or league member, may suspend or revoke the coaching/playing privileges of any member charged with unsportsmanlike conduct or conduct detrimental to the league. Such penalties shall only be considered if charges are filed in writing.

17.3 DISCIPLINARY APPEAL PROCESS

- a. All Sanctioned Individuals have the right to appeal any penalty imposed on them to the SFYBL Board of Directors within 48 hours of receiving written notification
- b. A MANAGER, OR COACH EJECTED FROM A SFYBL GAME IS AUTOMATICALLY SUSPENDED FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED LEAGUE, PLAYOFF OR CHAMPIONSHIP GAME.
- c. A player ejected for a flagrant offense which deliberately threatens the health or safety of another individual (e.g. deliberate equipment throwing, running into an opposing player, fighting, etc.) may also be suspended from the next regularly scheduled game.
- d. The SFYBL Board of Directors will read all appeals. The Board will render their decision by removing, reducing, sustaining or increasing the penalties imposed. No further appeal will be considered.
- e. In the event that a player, coach or manager fails to appear as required, the SFYBL Baseball Committee may at its discretion, proceed with a hearing and render a decision.
- f. San Francisco Youth Baseball League has jurisdiction over all members participating in its activities. The term "Members" refers to managers, coaches, players, and others persons whose direct action may cause them to be deemed participants. No member shall bring any action at law in equity against San Francisco Youth Baseball unless all rights, remedies and appeals granted by San Francisco Youth Baseball have been exhausted. If a member brings any action before exhausting all rights and remedies herein set forth, such members agree that the court of law or equity, in which such action is pending, may award San Francisco Youth Baseball the legal cost and attorney's fees incurred in a successful defense of any such action.
- g. All disciplinary rulings of any SFYBL Committee shall be emailed to the involved parties within 72 hours of said ruling.