

SFYBL RULE CHANGES & REMINDERS FOR 2019

PONY (Protect Our Nation's Youth) Baseball is the governing body for SFYBL (San Francisco Youth Baseball League). PONY announced some rule changes at the beginning of the 2018 season, which will now be fully enforced by SFYBL beginning with our 2019 season.

Players, coaches, and families should familiarize themselves with these changes now, to avoid any last-minute surprises come Spring 2019.

DIVISIONAL AGE BRACKETS

Rules of Age Qualification – Change Birth Date cut-off to **August 31** (from April 30). The new divisional age brackets for 2019 are as follows. See [our website](#) for general descriptions of each division's level of play and rules.

Shetland T-Ball (4U, 5U, 6U)

4U DOB: September 1st, 2014 – August 31st, 2015

5U DOB: September 1st, 2013 – August 31st, 2014

6U DOB: September 1st, 2012 – August 31st, 2013

Shetland Coach Pitch (5U, 6U, 7U)

5U DOB: September 1st, 2013 – August 31st, 2014

6U DOB: September 1st, 2012 – August 31st, 2013

7U DOB: September 1st, 2011 – August 31st, 2012

Pinto (Modified Kid-Pitch) (7U, 8U)

7U DOB: September 1st, 2011 – August 31st, 2012

8U DOB: September 1st, 2010 – August 31st, 2011

Mustang (9U, 10U)

9U DOB: September 1st, 2009 – August 31st, 2010

10U DOB: September 1st, 2008 – August 31st, 2009

Bronco (11U, 12U)

11U DOB: September 1st, 2007 – August 31st, 2008

12U DOB: September 1st, 2006 – August 31st, 2007

Pony (13U, 14U)

13U DOB: September 1st, 2005 – August 31st, 2006

14U DOB: September 1st, 2004 – August 31st, 2005

Of Note:

- A player may “play up” one year (e.g. a 10U **is** eligible to play in the Bronco division.) Only exception is Shetland T-ball, no playing up is allowed, meaning NO 3U players are eligible.
- A player may not “play down” (e.g. an 11U **is not** eligible to play in the Mustang division)
- A 5U or 6U can play in either the Shetland T-Ball or Shetland Coach Pitch division

Why

The age cut-off will be pushed back to August 31st to better align with school cut-off ages. This also aligns with the most school entry/grade ages plus it matches the Little League age cut-off.

Impact on SFYBL Players & Teams

Some current SFYBL players might lose a year in a division in 2019 and have to skip to the next higher division. *Players on the high end of their age bracket and born May 1 to August 31 will be affected.* Teams in 2018 which have opted to delay the adoption of the new age brackets (see below regarding SFYBL Modification) should ensure all their current players and coaches are aware of the change.

SFYBL Modification Expires

SFYBL extended a ONE YEAR accommodation in the 2018 season, allowing independent teams to choose to use the old standard or the new standard, in an effort to allow our very oldest players to not age out of the league altogether, and to allow some other affected teams to stay together. This accommodation expires at the end of the 2018 season. Beginning in the 2019 season, all players must be on teams according to the new PONY age brackets (September 1 - August 31).

BATS

Rule 8 C 3 – 2 5/8 Bats

All other minus factor bats (-5, -7, -9, etc.) must be YBBCOR Certified (USA Bat Licensing Stamp on bat).

Why

USA Baseball's national member organizations believe that a wood-like performance standard will best provide for the long-term integrity of the game.

Impact on SFYBL Players & Teams

All players will have to use USABat stamped bats, BBCOR stamped bats, or wood bats. Bat manufacturers started making USABat stamped bats available in 2017. SFYBL allowed the use of previous year's bats for the 2018 season, but will adopt this bat standard for Spring 2019.

REMINDERS OF RULE CHANGES & CLARIFICATIONS FROM 2018

PITCHING RULE CHANGE

Rule 10 A –Pitching Rules - Any team member may pitch, subject to restrictions of pitch count as recommended by PITCH SMART guidelines for that particular classification.

Why

Safety. PONY Baseball has never governed the number of *pitches* a pitcher could throw. They only governed the number of *innings*. This rule aligns them with the national standard in the effort to limit wear and tear on our young players' arms.

Impact on SFYBL Players & Teams

SFYBL has implemented additional rules in recent years to help limit the number of pitches our young pitchers throw. Our rules will be tweaked to align with these new regulations. Coaches will report pitch counts when reporting game scores, so the league can monitor and audit for compliance.

GAME TIME LIMIT CLARIFICATION

Mustang

Games are 6 innings or 2 hours, whichever comes first. No new inning may start after 1:45 of playing time. If a full inning has not been completed at the 2:00 limit, the score reverts back to the previously completed full inning. For playoff games, the 2:00 limit will be extended to complete the final inning.

Bronco/Pony

Games are 7 innings or 2 hours 15 minutes, whichever comes first. No new inning may start after 2:00 of playing time. If a full inning has not been completed at the 2:15 limit, the score reverts back to the previously completed full inning. For playoff games, the 2:15 limit will be extended to complete the final inning.

Any attempt by a team to intentionally delay the game may result in forfeit.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY CLARIFICATION

Anyone playing of a high school baseball or softball team is not eligible to play in SFYBL.

To be eligible for the SFYBL Playoffs or Summer All Stars, players must have appeared in at least half of their team's games and in that division.

MISCELLANEOUS CHANGES/REMINDERS

Concussion Protocol with awareness for all (to include: parents and players) and training for coaches, assistant coaches, team managers and umpires. *Coaches/Team Managers to be responsible for reporting incidents to the league.*

Fee structure is per player for ALL divisions (to include our upper divisions: Mustang, Bronco, Pony.)

Code of Ethics always applies individually to:

- Players
- Parents/Fans
- Coaches/Organizers