

DUAL COUNTY PONY LEAGUE RULES 2026

Current WIAA baseball rules will govern the Dual County Pony baseball league, with the following exceptions of the rules listed herein.

LEAGUE FORMATS:

- League format will be determined by consensus at the preseason meetings.
- The goal is to provide a 14 game regular season schedule, or as close to as possible.
- Following the regular season, league tournaments/play-offs will be held involving the top teams to determine the league championship. **Same season rules will be followed for tournament/play-offs.**
- 2026 League Board:
 - Board Member: Bryan Jenders: 262-853-7307 or bryanjenders@gmail.com
 - Board Member: Justin Rhode: 920-948-5040 or rhod0102@gmail.com
 - Board Member: Tanya Burg: 262-894-2742 or rubiconburgs@gmail.com
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INSURANCE:

Each community will handle the insurance needs of their teams.

LEAGUE FEES:

- **\$100.00 per team** payable to **Dual County Little League** (League 1st place, All-Star & Home Run Hitting Trophies (B Ball, A Ball, Pony) &, Championship Game umpires)
- **Fees are due at the 2nd League Meeting in March**

FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

LEAGUE ROSTERS:

- Each team must submit a league **roster no later than April 1 via Google doc shared by** the league
- Additions to the roster after the first game must be approved.
- Include the following player information: First & last name, jersey #, grade, and birth date.

UMPIRES:

- The home team is responsible for providing 2 umpires/game. If possible, a certified plate umpire is preferred or at a minimum an experienced umpire. An adult volunteer may be used as the second umpire.
 - Umpires must be **at least 14 years of age.**
 - **No drinking of alcohol/chew/or other drugs before or during the game duration**

MINIMUM TO START A GAME:

- Teams must field 9 players to start and 8 players to continue a game.

GAME TIME LIMIT:

- No game will start after 6:00pm on fields without lights. There is a 2-hour time limit on all games.
 - **Rain delay/lighting pause does not count toward this time limit**
- **No new inning will begin after the 2-hour limit has been reached unless the game is tied**, in which the game will continue until a winner is determined unless ruled unsafe due to darkness or weather.
 - If not finished, it needs to continue at the point of discontinuation.
- 4 complete innings will be considered a complete game if shortened due to darkness or weather.
- **If 4 innings are not completed, the game must be rescheduled and restarted from the beginning.**

RAIN CANCELLATION POLICY:

- The home team should contact the opposing team coach **at a minimum of 2 hours prior** to the scheduled game time.

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MAKE UPS & RESCHEDULING:

If a game cancellation occurs, arrangements for rescheduling the game should be *completed within 2 days of the cancellation*. Coaches rescheduling a game will only do so at the agreement of the opposing coach (field availability and umpires) with a date that is agreeable to all involved, cc'd to the board. Coaches canceling for any reason other than a rain out will forfeit the game.

FIELD SIZE:

- The pony league will use a downsized field. Pitching distance is 54 ft. **with a 6" to 8" rise.**
- The distance between bases is 80 ft.

BAT SPECIFICATIONS:

- Bats stamped "USA" only (NO USSSA bats allowed) . No wood bats allowed. BBCORE allowed.
Length – Shall not exceed 34" ; Diameter – thickest part shall not exceed 2 5/8"
Weight – The differential between the length of the bat and the weight of the bat cannot be more than -9
 - Possession of an illegal bat will, on first notice, be given an out to the player/team in possession
 - Possession of an illegal bat, upon second notice, will result in a forfeit of the team in possession

EQUIPMENT:

- Rawlings Senior League Ball RSLL-1 or Diamond DuSL-1 **or RPLB** (2 prov by the home team)
- NO METAL SPIKES!
- All catchers **must** wear a protective cup when catching.
 - If not in place when asked by a coach or umpire there will be a 15 MINUTE OR LESS DELAY.
 - If not in place within 15 min of being asked to wear a protective cup, the team will FORFEIT the game.

PLAYERS

- Players cannot be 15 years of age before May 1st of the current year
- 9th grade age qualified ok, if **not** rostered on HS team, and meeting HS eligibility

FORFEIT RULE:

- A 20-minute grace period will be given before the game is forfeited. If a team gets a late travel start, a call should be made to inform the home team of a possible delay in starting the game.

RUN RULE:

- Games consist of 7 full innings.
 - If, however, a team is leading by 12 runs or more *after* 5 complete innings, the game will be discontinued and considered complete.

SCORE REPORTING

- Within 24 hours of the game reporting to be done by BOTH TEAMS on the league spreadsheet
 - Pitcher LAST name, jersey # and number of innings pitched
 - Any rain outs of the week updated by home team via emailing dualcountybaseballleague@gmail.com
 - **Opposing team has 24 hours to object/contend reported pitching**

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PITCHING:

- League Play – No player can pitch more than a total of 8 innings within a period of 4 consecutive days. These are maximum limits for pitchers and it is expected that all coaches will use good judgment. Players may *make only one appearance per game as a pitcher*. NOTE: one pitch in an inning = 1 inning
- There will be a 1 BALK warning per pitcher/game in May. As of June, there will be no warning given and players will advance.

BATTING ORDER:

- Pony league will include 9 or 10 players. The opposing team may set its batting order at the same amount or greater up to 10 players. After the game begins the batting order numbers must remain the same with the following exceptions:
 - If a batter is injured and there is no substitution available to fill his spot in the batting order, that spot may be dropped from the order.
 - If a player is ejected from the game, his spot in the batting order will result in an automatic out unless there is a substitute available.

Extra Hitter (EH) <https://www.umpirebible.com/index.php/rules-batting/designated-hitter-extra-hitter>

RE-ENTRY RULE/SUBSTITUTIONS:

- Only the starting 9 players may come back in the game to play again.
- They must return in the same batting order that the player that replaced them the first time was batting in.
- If a starting player comes back in the game, the substitute that went in for him comes out and is ineligible for the remainder of the game.
- Removal of a starting player for a second time makes him ineligible to return.
- If there is a problem of not having any eligible players left to come in for an injured player or for another reason, the *opposing coach* will decide which player will come in to play.

COURTESY RUNNERS:

- A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher. Only a substitute can be used as a courtesy runner and cannot be used unless there are 2 outs.

BUNTING:

- Playing as WIAA rules: A player may show bunt and still pull back and swing.

SLIDING:

- Head first sliding is allowed.

COLLISION AVOIDANCE:

- A runner is out when he does not slide or attempt to avoid a collision with a fielder who is waiting to make a play.
 - This applies to ANY base.
 - If no attempt is made, the runner will be called out.
 - This is a discretionary call by the umpire trying to enforce the rule.
 - The umpire has the right to eject any player or coach for unsportsmanlike conduct.