

2026

PASS AREA YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL GENERAL LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS

PAYBS WILL FOLLOW THE RULES AND REGULATIONS AS STATED IN THE PONY RULEBOOK.

OVERVIEW:

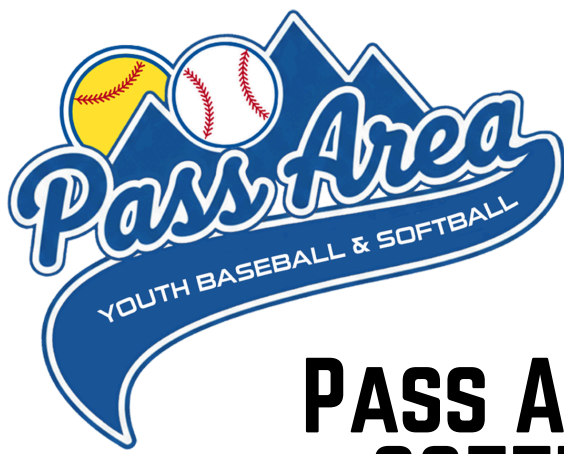
- It shall be the responsibility of the manager to ensure that the manager, coaches, and/or players do not use tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs in any form in the dugout or on the benches or the playing field.
- The manager shall be responsible to the league for all equipment and uniforms issued to the team, and for collection and return of such equipment and uniforms to the league at the conclusion of the season.
- Music before games and walk-up songs are permitted; however, all lyrics must be clean, appropriate, and suitable for a public, family-friendly environment. A team's first violation will result in the loss of music privileges for the remainder of the game. A second violation will result in the loss of music privileges for the remainder of the season. Music may not be played between innings or while the ball is in play.
- **ALL DIVISIONS:** Free substitution is required. All players listed on the roster must bat in lineup order, regardless of whether they are currently playing defense.
- **Mandatory Play Requirement:** Every player must play a minimum of two (2) defensive innings per game. This requirement is mandatory and applies to all players, with no exceptions. Substitute players must enter the game no later than the third inning.
 - Any violation of the Mandatory Play Rule must be reported to District staff immediately. Violations may result in game forfeiture and/or suspension of the team manager for one or more games, as determined by the District.
 - *Coaches are strongly encouraged to rotate players to allow play in multiple positions..*
- Face masks or jaw guards are strongly recommended and expected on all batting helmets for the safety of the players.
- Any protests, challenges, or rule recommendations must be presented in writing to District staff or the Rules Committee for review.
- The HOME team will be responsible for the scorebook. Failure to provide a scorekeeper will result in a forfeit. The VISITING team will prepare the field for the game.
- Teams must have 8 players to start game or continue game.
- *If a game is called due to drop dead time limit during an incomplete inning, the score shall revert to the last fully completed inning. An inning is only complete when six outs have been recorded or the home team scores a run to take the lead.*

PURPOSE (From the PONY Rulebook):

The purpose of the program shall be to implant in the youth of the community ideals of *good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, and reverence*, so that they may be finer, stronger, and happier young people who will grow to be good, clean, healthy adults. This objective is to be reached by providing supervised, fun, safe, competitive athletic games. The league officials shall always bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the *winning of games is secondary* and that the *molding of future citizens is of prime importance*.



UPDATED 4/1/2026



2026



PASS AREA YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL SOFTBALL EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

SOFTBALLS:

PAYBS will supply game balls and each coach will receive a set of practice balls at the beginning of the season.

All balls must be approved by PONY.

Ball size varies based on age division:

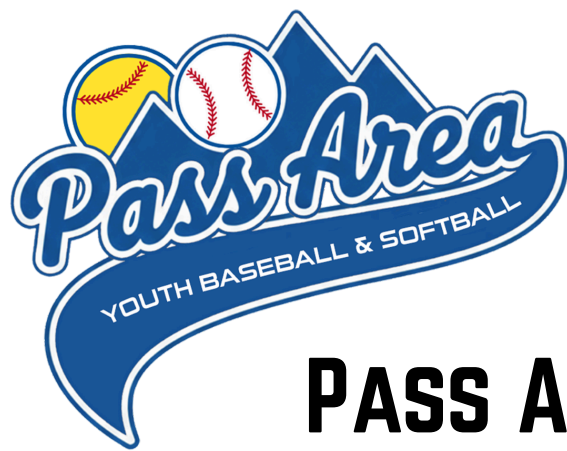
6U & 8U: 10" softie

10U: 11"

12U & 16U: 12"

PLAYER EQUIPMENT:

- All defensive players must wear a glove while on the field.
- No white, gray circles, or optic yellow will be allowed on the outside of a pitcher's glove.
- Shoes must be worn by all players; metal spikes will not be allowed for 12U, 10U, 8U or 6U, use of these will result in ejection with no warning.
- Catchers must wear a protective helmet and mask with a throat protector that is connected to or part of the mask. It shall meet NOCSAE standards and have full ear protection.
- Body protectors and shin guards are mandatory for catchers.
- Custom sweatshirts and practice jerseys are permitted during practices and warmups only. During games, all players must wear the league provided uniform matching in color, trim, and style. Players not in proper uniform will not be permitted to participate, and failure to comply **WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC FORFEIT.**
- All players must wear batting helmets with double ear flaps and a protective mask/face guard that has been approved by NOCSAE
- Only bats that pass through a 2 ¼ inch diameter bat ring are legal.
- There shall be no devices, attachments, or wrappings that cause the handle of the bat to become flush with the knob.
- ALL bats shall meet the USA/ASA bat performance standard, and must bear the USA/ASA approved certification mark. They must not be listed on an USA/ASA Banned Bat list. Exceptions are listed in the PONY rulebook.
- Players may not use cell phones or any other communications devices while on the field of play, with the exception of medical devices. The field of play includes dugouts, bullpens, coaches' boxes, and other such areas where coaches, players, and umpires have access.



UPDATED 3/12/2026

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PASS AREA YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL SOFTBALL PITCHING RULES

PRELIMINARIES:

Before starting the delivery, the pitcher must:

- Take a position with her pivot foot on the pitchers plate and her non-pivot foot on or behind the pitcher's plate. Both feet must be on the ground within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate. Hands shall be separated. The ball can be in the glove or the pitching hand.
- While in the position described above, she shall hold the ball in both hands for not less than one second and not more than 10 seconds before releasing the ball.
- The pitcher shall not be considered in pitching position unless the catcher is in position to receive the pitch.
- The pitcher may not take the pitching position on or near the pitcher's plate without having the ball in her possession.

THE PITCH:

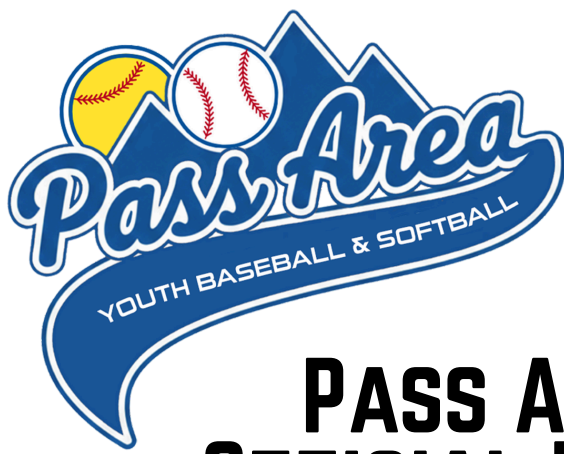
- Starts when one hand is taken off the ball or the pitcher makes any motion that is part of the wind-up after the hands have been brought together.
- Once the hands are brought together, the pitcher may not take more than one step, which must be forward, toward the batter, and simultaneous with the delivery of the ball to the batter.
- The pivot foot may remain in contact with or may push off and drag away from the pitching plate prior to the front foot touching the ground.
- Pushing off or replanting of the pivot foot from a place other than the pitcher's plate is illegal.

THE DELIVERY:

- May not be two full revolutions.
- The wrist may not be further from the hip than the elbow.
- Delivery may not have a stop or reversal of the forward motion.

STEP OR RELEASE:

- A step (only one) must be taken, and it must be forward, toward the batter and within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate.
- Leaping, dragging, or pushing off with the pivot foot is allowed.
- Pushing off from a spot other than the pitcher's plate is considered a crow hop and therefore illegal.

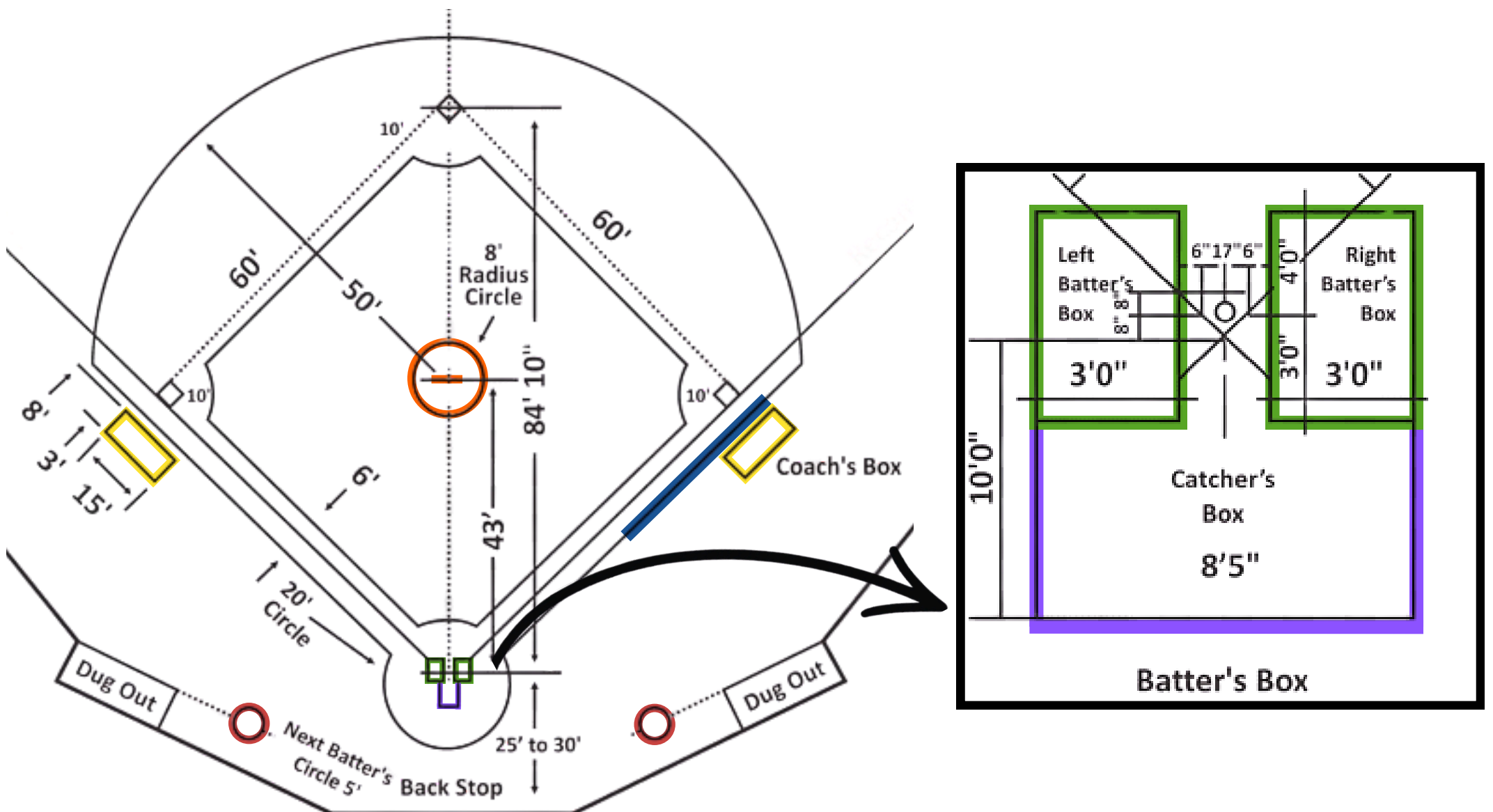


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PASS AREA YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL OFFICIAL DIMENSIONS OF A SOFTBALL DIAMOND

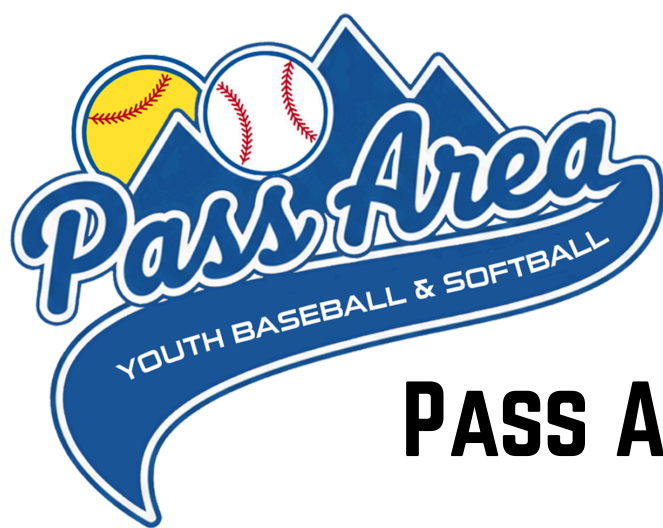
THIS IS AN EXAMPLE FOR LAYING OUT A DIAMOND WITH 60 FOOT BASES AND A 43 FOOT PITCHING DISTANCE



OVERVIEW:

To determine the position of home plate, draw a line in the direction it is desired to lay, drive a stake at the corner of home plate nearest the catcher. Fasten a cord to the stake and tie knots or otherwise mark the cord at 43 feet, 60 feet, 84 feet 10 ¼ inches, and 120 feet. Place the cord (without stretching) along the direction line and place a stake at the 43-foot marker - this will be the front line at the middle of the pitcher's plate.

- The **THREE FOOT LINE** is drawn parallel to and three feet from the first base line, starting at a point halfway between home plate and first base.
- The **BATTER'S ON-DECK CIRCLE** is a five-foot circle placed adjacent to the end of the player's bench or dugout area closest to home plate.
- The **BATTER'S BOX**, one on each side of home plate, shall measure three feet by seven feet. The inside lines of the batter's box shall be six inches from home plate. The front line of the box shall be four feet in front of a line drawn through the center of home plate. The lines are considered as being within the batter's box.
- The **CATCHER'S BOX** shall be 10 feet in length from the rear outside corners of the batter's boxes and shall be eight feet five inches wide.
- The **COACH'S BOX** is behind a line 15 feet long drawn outside the diamond. The line is parallel to and eight feet from the first and third baselines, extended from the bases toward home plate.
- The **PITCHER'S PLATE** shall be permanently attached to the ground at distances indicated in each division's specific rule section. There shall be a 16-foot **CIRCLE** drawn from the pitcher's plate, eight feet in radius.



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PASS AREA YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL RULES OVERVIEW

6U SOFTBALL

BASIC OVERVIEW:

Field Dimensions:

Base Lines: 50 ft.

Pitching Distance: Coach Pitch

Length of Games: 70 minutes maximum

Entire lineup bats every inning

RULES OF PLAY:

1. Base runners are not allowed to steal. They cannot leave the base until the ball is hit.
2. When the ball is in possession of an infielder and all play has ceased, time shall be called and the play is over.
3. One hour, 10 minute time limit.
4. Bunting is not allowed.
5. The infield fly rule is not in effect.
6. If the coach pitching is hit by a batted ball, no pitch will be called.
7. Each team will provide their own pitching coach and they must be listed as an official coach.

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THIS DIVISION WILL FOLLOW PONY SOFTBALL RULES WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS:

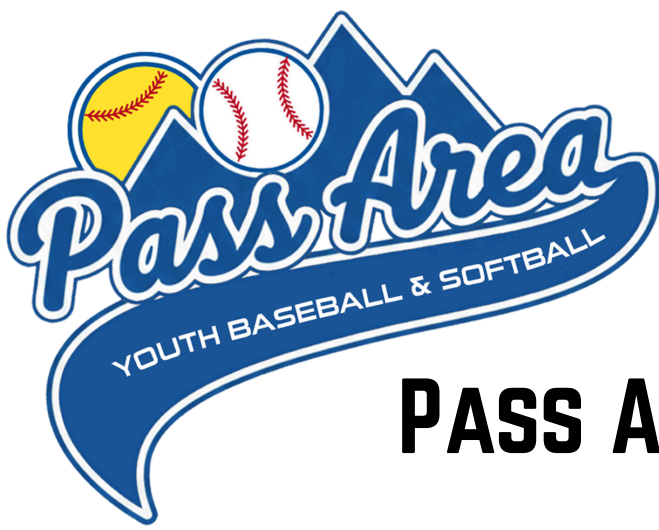
RULES OF PLAY:

1. No machine pitch. A coach will be allowed 3 pitches, if the batter is unable to put the ball in play, she will be awarded two swings off the tee.
2. No outs will be recorded, every player will remain on base, regardless of the outcome of the play. This allows the girls to learn how to run the bases.
3. There will be no tag play at home to end the inning. Players are encouraged to make the force out at first while the runners all continue until they reach home, therefore ending the inning.
4. All girls play on defense. Positions will include: pitcher, first base, second base, shortstop, third base, and all remaining players must be positioned behind the base line. No catcher position.

PURPOSE (From the PONY Rulebook):

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PASS AREA YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL RULES OVERVIEW

8U SOFTBALL

BASIC OVERVIEW:

Field Dimensions:

Base Lines: 55 ft.

Pitching Distance: 30 ft.

Length of Games: 75 minutes (no new inning)

90 minutes (drop dead)

5 run maximum per inning

RULES OF PLAY:

1. Base runners are not allowed to steal. They cannot leave the base until the ball is hit.
2. When an infielder has control of the ball in the infield and raises both hands above her head, play will be stopped. **Runner past halfway advances, runner not halfway returns.**
3. 90 minute time limit with a run limit of 5 per inning (no new inning after 75 minutes).
4. Bunting is allowed.
5. The infield fly rule is not in effect.
6. No dropped third strike rule - batter is out on third strike.
7. Catchers must wear equipment designed for fast pitch catchers.
8. If the coach pitching is hit by a batted ball, no pitch will be called.
9. Each team will provide their own pitching coach and they must be listed as an official coach, they must use the underhand windup to deliver the pitch.
10. No defensive player except for the pitcher may be closer than 30 feet from home plate when the play begins.
11. **Metal cleats are NOT ALLOWED.**

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THIS DIVISION WILL FOLLOW PONY SOFTBALL RULES WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS:

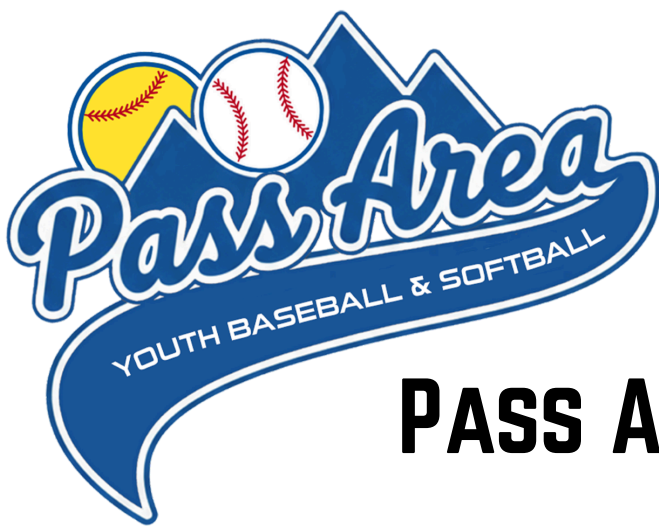
RULES OF PLAY:

1. There will be no walks. After a pitcher throws four pitches, the hitting team's coach will assume the strike count and be awarded the appropriate number of pitches. (Example: a player has a 3-1 count after the fourth pitch, the coach will be awarded two pitches).
2. If a player is hit by a player pitch, the batter can choose one of two options: 1) the hitting team's coach will assume the strike count and finish the at bat, or 2) the batter is awarded first base. The batter must have made an attempt to avoid being hit by the pitched ball.
3. If a player fails to hit off the coach, they are considered out.
4. Pitchers are limited to **one inning** of pitching to encourage development of other pitchers.
5. 10 girls play on defense. Positions will include: pitcher, catcher, first base, second base, shortstop, third base, and four outfielders.
6. All players will bat, regardless of which ten are currently on defense.
7. Coaches may pitch from a distance where they can make the ball hittable, preferably within the pitching circle. The goal is to get the ball in play.

PURPOSE (From the PONY Rulebook):

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PASS AREA YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL RULES OVERVIEW

10U SOFTBALL

BASIC OVERVIEW:

Field Dimensions:

Base Lines: 60 ft.

Pitching Distance: 35 ft.

Length of Games: 90 minutes (no new inning)

105 minutes (drop dead)

5 run maximum per inning

Open play begins in the 5th inning

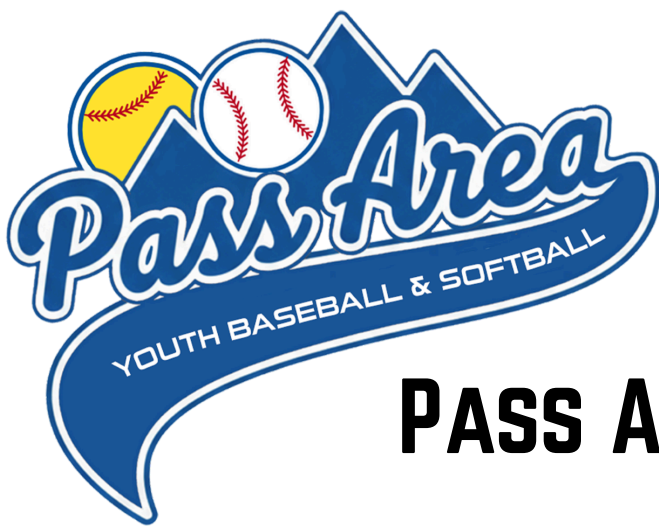
RULES OF PLAY:

1. Base runners are allowed to steal. They cannot leave the base until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
2. When the ball is controlled by the pitcher in the circle, play will be stopped.
3. 105 minute time limit with a run limit of 5 per inning (no new inning after 90 minutes), 6 inning maximum.
4. Open innings begin in the 5th inning. If time expires during an inning, the final score will revert to the last completed inning.
5. Bunting is allowed.
6. The infield fly rule is in effect.
7. Dropped third strike rule in effect.
8. Catchers must wear equipment designed for fast pitch catchers.
9. Free substitutions for defensive players, all players shall bat.
10. Pitchers are limited to **three (3)** innings per game maximum.
11. Mercy rule is 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings, 8 runs after 5 innings.
12. **Metal cleats are NOT ALLOWED.**

PURPOSE (From the PONY Rulebook):

The purpose of the program shall be to implant in the youth of the community ideals of **good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, and reverence**, so that they may be finer, stronger, and happier young people who will grow to be good, clean, healthy adults. This objective is to be reached by providing supervised, fun, safe, competitive athletic games. The league officials shall always bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the **winning of games is secondary** and that the **molding of future citizens is of prime importance.**





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PASS AREA YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL RULES OVERVIEW

12U SOFTBALL

BASIC OVERVIEW:

Field Dimensions:

Base Lines: 60 ft.

Pitching Distance: 40 ft.

Length of Games: 90 minutes (no new inning)

105 minutes (drop dead)

6 run maximum per inning

Open play begins in the 5th inning

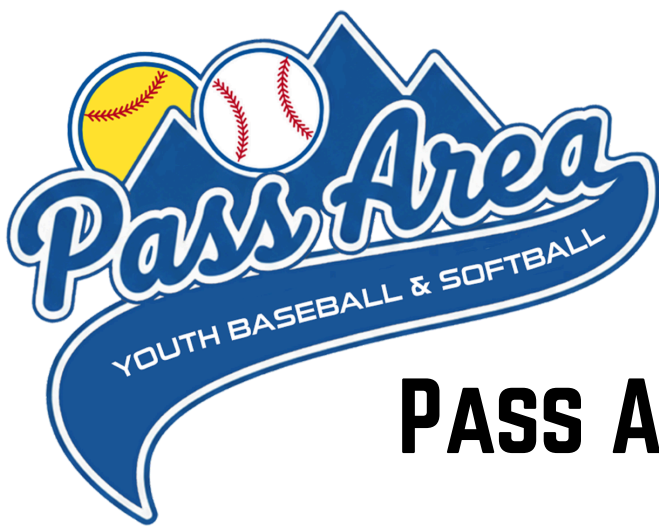
RULES OF PLAY:

1. Base runners are allowed to steal. They cannot leave the base until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
2. When the ball is controlled by the pitcher in the circle, play will be stopped.
3. 105 minute time limit with a run limit of 6 per inning (no new inning after 90 minutes), 6 inning maximum.
4. Open innings begin in the 5th inning. If time expires during an inning, the final score will revert to the last completed inning.
5. Bunting is allowed.
6. The infield fly rule is in effect.
7. Dropped third strike rule in effect.
8. Catchers must wear equipment designed for fast pitch catchers.
9. Free substitutions for defensive players, all players shall bat.
10. Pitchers are limited to 3 innings per game maximum.
11. Mercy rule is 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings, 8 runs after 5 innings.
12. Players must slide to avoid contact, they can be called out at the umpire's discretion.
13. **Metal cleats are NOT ALLOWED.**

PURPOSE (From the PONY Rulebook):

The purpose of the program shall be to implant in the youth of the community ideals of **good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, and reverence**, so that they may be finer, stronger, and happier young people who will grow to be good, clean, healthy adults. This objective is to be reached by providing supervised, fun, safe, competitive athletic games. The league officials shall always bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the **winning of games is secondary** and that the **molding of future citizens is of prime importance.**





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PASS AREA YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL RULES OVERVIEW

14U/16U SOFTBALL

BASIC OVERVIEW:

Field Dimensions:

Base Lines: 60 ft.

Pitching Distance: 43 ft.

Length of Games: 90 minutes (no new inning)

105 minutes (drop dead)

6 run maximum per inning

Open play begins in the 5th inning

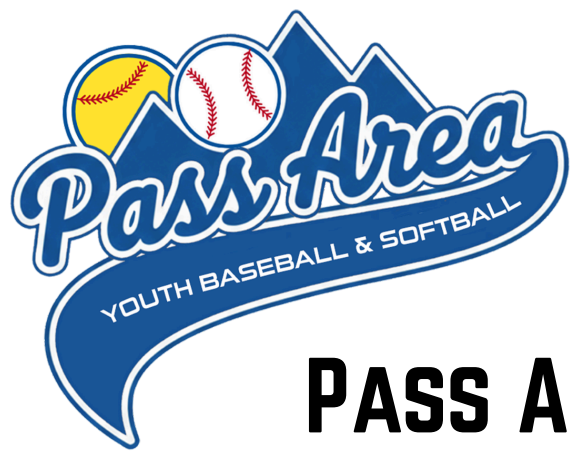
RULES OF PLAY:

1. Base runners are allowed to steal. They cannot leave the base until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
2. When the ball is controlled by the pitcher in the circle, play will be stopped.
3. 105 minute time limit with a run limit of 6 per inning (no new inning after 90 minutes), 6 inning maximum.
4. Open innings begin in the 5th inning. If time expires during an inning, the final score will revert to the last completed inning.
5. Bunting is allowed.
6. The infield fly rule is in effect.
7. Dropped third strike rule in effect.
8. Catchers must wear equipment designed for fast pitch catchers.
9. Free substitutions for defensive players, all players shall bat.
10. Pitchers are limited to **three (3)** innings per game maximum.
11. Mercy rule is 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings, 8 runs after 5 innings.
12. Players must slide to avoid contact, they can be called out at the umpire's discretion.
13. **Metal cleats are allowed but molded cleats are preferred.**

PURPOSE (From the PONY Rulebook):

The purpose of the program shall be to implant in the youth of the community ideals of **good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, and reverence**, so that they may be finer, stronger, and happier young people who will grow to be good, clean, healthy adults. This objective is to be reached by providing supervised, fun, safe, competitive athletic games. The league officials shall always bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the **winning of games is secondary** and that the **molding of future citizens is of prime importance.**





UPDATED 4/13/2026

2026



PASS AREA YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RULES

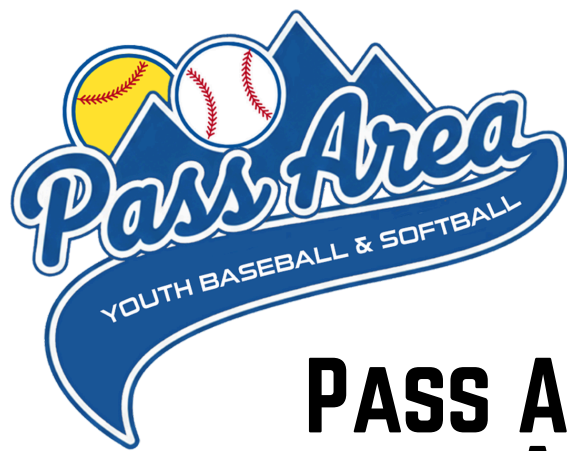
GAME LENGTH:

- No time limits - all games must be played to completion
 - 8U/Pinto - **FOUR** innings
 - 10U/Mustang - **FIVE** innings
 - 12U/Bronco - **SIX** innings
 - 16U/Pony - **SIX** innings
 - Colt/Palomino - **SEVEN** innings

IN CASE OF A TIE:

- **International Tie Breaker rule will be in effect.**
 - Each half inning begins with a runner on **second base**.
 - The runner is the **last out from the previous inning**.
 - The offensive team begins with **no outs**.
 - Normal batting order continues.
 - Game continues inning by inning until a winner is determined.

UPDATED 4/13/2026



2026



PASS AREA YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL ALL STAR SELECTION PROCESS

ELIGIBILITY:

- Participants must be actively enrolled in the PAYBS program and exhibit positive sportsmanship and behavior throughout the season.
- Participants must complete the All Star Commitment Form to be considered.

PLAYER NOMINATIONS AND SELECTIONS:

- Nomination process will be led by coaches within each division.
- Each coach will nominate a designated number of players (varies according to number of players in each division).
- Nominations are based on performance, sportsmanship, and contribution throughout the season.
- **Selection meeting will be held on Monday, MAY 11th at the Noble Creek Community Center.**
- Coaches and staff will review nominations and vote to finalize All-Star team rosters.
- Selected participants will be notified on Closing Day, **May 16th** at Noble Creek Regional Park.

COACH SELECTIONS:

- The winning coach from each division will earn an automatic nomination as the head coach.
- If the remaining coaches in the division unanimously support the nomination, that coach will be the top nominee.
- If the remaining coaches do not support the nomination, they will nominate two additional coaches for consideration.
- The All Star Committee (comprised of Treasurer Diercks, Mickey Valdivia, Deidre Chatigny, Noah Valdivia, and Austin Gilmour) will meet after the championship games and make a final determination from those nominated, taking all recommendations into consideration while prioritizing overall District representation.
- The head coach will have the opportunity to choose one assistant coach and one other coach **within their division** to serve as a second assistant.

In the event that there is a disagreement, BCVRPD Board and Staff will make the final decision.

Phone: 951-845-9555 Email: PAYBS@bcvparks.com Website: bcvparks.com