

# Burleson Youth Association

[www.bya.org](http://www.bya.org)



## **Prime Softball Rules**

## Grounds Rules

The City of Burleson has asked the BYA to remind its members that soft toss or hitting a hard baseball or softball into the fence is prohibited at all times. Also, the city would like to remind everyone that the fields at Chisenhall Park are for game use only. No practice is allowed at any time on these fields (this goes for the day use fields as well).

All league teams playing through BYA at Chisenhall must have correct credentials (BADGE) to be on field or in dugouts. Anyone that is on field or in dugout who is not a player must have taken a Coaches Class clinic 1 time to receive the coaching credential and must have completed the background check process successfully to receive necessary background check credentials in the calendar year of play. Coaching participants must have badge on and visible at all times (unless coach is pitching – it may be tucked away under shirt but must be presented if asked).

## Warm Up Areas

Coaches may warm up their players in an area of the park away from spectators 30 minutes prior to game time. **THERE WILL BE NO BALL PRACTICE OR WARM UP IN SPECTATOR AREAS (this includes all sidewalks and walkways).**

Warm ups are to take place on grass areas only.

Batting sticks, soft toss, and batting practice are allowed in designated areas only (away from walkways.)

## Rain Outs

A representative of the City of Burleson Parks and Recreation Department and, if possible, a representative of Burleson Youth Association will meet at Chisenhall Fields to determine the playability of the fields and make a joint determination on that day's games.

- The rainout line (817-203-8534) will be updated no later than 4:00 PM on the day in question if games have been canceled. Vice President of Baseball, Vice President of Softball, or their approved designate and the head Umpire will decide all postponements during play. All make-up games will be scheduled by the Vice President of Baseball, Vice President of Softball, or their designated representative.
- **RAIN OUTS:** "In the case of a suspended game, it will be considered a complete game if more than half of the time limit has passed at the time of suspension. If the game is suspended before this, record the time remaining and the suspended game will be completed at a later date."

**PRIME League "may" be asked to play on Tuesday or Thursday nights for Rain outs make ups if we run out of options for makeup dates**

## Other Coach/Team Responsibilities

1. The Home Team will furnish the “official” scorekeeper. **The scorekeeper shall sit at the table or directly behind the home plate umpire and be easily recognized by the umpire. Failure of the home team to provide a scorekeeper shall result in a forfeit**
2. **The visiting team will operate the scoreboard. Failure to provide an operator shall result in a forfeit. Operators should be an adult or under adult supervision.**
3. **Coaches will be required to verify that the score of their game is enter correctly on our standing report. Coaches will receive an email after each game reminding them to enter or verify the score.**
4. Coaches are responsible for fan behavior. If a fan must be removed by an umpire or committee member for unruly behavior, then the head coach will be removed as well.
5. All coaches must have a visible current coaching and background badge.
6. Base coaches should remain within the “coach’s’ box” (no farther than 8 feet from the base at all times.
7. Coaches must provide a lineup with names and number to the scorekeeper at least 10 minutes before game time.
8. No more than 4 coaches may be on the field during a game. All coaches must have a coaches’ badge while they are on the field.

## Coach Disciplinary Action(S)

If a Coach is ejected from any season game, he/she shall serve a one game suspension; to be served at the next scheduled game. The incident may be reviewed by the **respective sports** Committee for possible additional action. If a coach is ejected due to a parent issue, as long as they are attempting to rectify the disruption prior to the ejection, the coach will not have the serve a one game suspension at their next scheduled game. Only relevant testimony and both coaches and both umpires will be heard. VP of softball will determine if a suspension is needed based on this example. If a Coach is ejected 2 times in ONE season (including end of season tournament). That coach will serve a ONE YEAR suspension from any participation at Chisenhall Ballpark.

## Rules Governing Play

1. All games will be played by PONY rules. If there is a difference between a PONY rule and the BYA rule the BYA rule will supersede the PONY rule.
2. Teams that can only field eight players WILL be allowed to play without forfeiting. Only ONE automatic out will be assessed. Teams that have 7 or less players will result in a forfeit
3. No metal cleats will be allowed except for Pony/Colt/Palomino leagues.
4. All safety equipment identified in the PONY rules book MUST be worn during practice and games. Catchers warming up pitchers MUST wear a helmet.
5. Absolutely NO phones (coaches or players) are allowed on the field or dugout.
6. NO artificial noise makers (horns, cowbells, etc.)

7. Walk up music WILL be permitted. Music between innings and during team warm ups will be permitted, however any complaints of inappropriate music (including profanity) at the ballpark, will result in that team not being able to play music going forward. This will be determined by the VP of softball.
8. Only players and coaches (of the scheduled team playing) are allowed in the dugout, during game time.
  - Rainouts: In the case of a suspended game, it will be considered a complete game if more than half of the time limit has passed at the time of suspension. If the game is suspended before this, record the time remaining and the suspended game will be completed at a later date.”
9. **Ties will stand during regular season play. In Tournament play, you must have a winner. International Tie breaker rules will be in effect.**

*Tie breaker rules are as follow: The last batter from the previous inning will be placed on second. 1 pitch (unlimited fouls.) Innings will be still capped at 5 or 6 runs per team (depending on age division). If the home team advances a run to take the lead, the game is over.*

10. If a batter/ baserunner is injured where they cannot complete the at bat or complete their advancement on bases, a Pinch runner is allowed. The pinch runner will be the player that was the last out of the prior inning.
  11. All Bats MUST have a USA/ASA softball stamp to certify them as “Legal bats”. Any other bat will be removed from the dugout and kept by a committee member until the game is over. After one warning, if the illegal bat is found in another game, the player and the head coach will be ejected from the field
  12. Teams must carry their own insurance. Insurance must be verified by VP of softball prior to the season to be eligible to play.
  13. Coaches may add players to their roster throughout the season, however only players that have been registered though the Burseson Youth Association and accepted our player code of conduct, is eligible to play in a game. No pick up players are allowed in End of Season Tournament.
- \*Tournament seeding will be determined by team standings during the regular season. If two or more teams are tied for a position, head to head record will be the first tie breaker. If a tie still exists, the team with the lessor amount of runs allowed will be the tie breaker. If in that case the team is still tied, the team with the highest runs scored will be the top team. If all else is still tied, we will flip a coin to determine the winner.
14. In End of Season Tournament, the team that is the higher seed will have home field advantage.

## Pinto Rules (Coach Pitch 8U)

1. Bat your entire line up. All players on your roster will need to bat. No subs allowed on the rosters. Last batted out can run for your pitcher or catcher. The pitcher and catcher of record must be identified on your lineup card and presented at the plate meeting to the umpire prior to the game.
2. 5 Runs Per half inning
3. Ten players on defense, rover MUST be in the outfield (at least 10 feet behind the baseline).
4. Maximum of 4 coaches per team.
5. Time limit will be in effect. (55 minutes, finish the inning, unless the home team is winning, or the visiting team cannot catch up) A game may be called if a team is ahead by 11 runs after 4 full innings or 6 runs after 5 innings. Ties will stand during regular season play.
6. Ties will stand during regular season play, once the inning is complete. In tournament play, tie breaker rules will be in effect to determine a winner: **ITB Tie breaker rules are as follow: The last batter from the previous inning will be placed on second. 1 pitch (unlimited fouls.) Innings will be still capped at 5 runs per team. If the home team advances a run to take the lead, the game is over.**
7. Time outs as noted in the PONY rules.
8. A fielder holding up the ball DOES NOT constitute a dead ball; runners may continue to run until the Umpire calls time.
9. Coach pitches to his/her own team.
10. Pitching coach may NOT communicate with any player or coach unless time has been called. Coach pitchers should duck or exit the field in a manner that does not interfere with the defensive players (in front on the pitcher in her line of site of the ball)
  - Coach-pitcher may not communicate in any way with the batter or another coach unless there is an offensive or defensive time out called. The coach pitcher may not communicate during a routine time out when a play has been completed. Communication includes gestures, motioning, verbal, or any other action that could be considered instruction. They are not allowed to communicate with other coaches to have them adjust any batters. If the pitcher warned of this during the game and as a second violation, the pitcher will be removed from that position for the remainder of the game. One of the other 3 coaches “on the field” during the game can take the pitchers place.
11. The batter gets 3 swings or 4 pitches whichever comes first and unlimited foul balls.
12. NO infield fly rule.
13. Intentional Walks are allowed in Pinto. There will be no more than 3 walks per team per game. No player shall be walked more than once per game. **The coach will need to call time “before” the player has any pitches thrown to them. The coach must notify the umpire, the other coach, and the scorebook keeper of the decision to walk to player.**
14. NO Intentional bunts.
15. Six innings

16. BYA encourages coaches to teach their players to throw the ball in the air in order to get the players out. Coaches failing to do this will result in their player to be called safe vs. out. If in the judgment of the umpire a runner is tagged out by a defensive player running the ball, that player shall be called safe (example, a pitcher fields the ball on the first base side, tags the runner out-she is out, but then runs the ball and tags a runner going to third-the runner going to third is safe) OUTFIELDERS cannot cover bases, make tags, and the ball must be “thrown in” to an infielder, pitcher or catcher

Division rules: 10U/ 12U/ 14U/16U/18U

1. Bat your entire line up. All players on your roster will need to bat. No subs allowed on the rosters. Last batted out can run for your pitcher or catcher. The pitcher and catcher of record must be identified on your lineup card and presented at the plate meeting to the umpire prior to the game.
2. 9 players on defense
3. Maximum of 4 coaches per team.
4. Time limit will be in effect (75 minutes, finish the inning, unless the home team is winning, or the visiting team cannot catch up)
5. A game may be called if a team is ahead by 12 runs after 3 full innings or 10 runs after 4 innings, or 8 runs after 5 innings. Time outs as noted in the PONY rules.
  - a. 3 conferences can occur between a coach and any defensive player(s) during the game. The fourth and each additional in excess of the one per inning shall result in removal of the pitcher. Only original starting pitcher will be allowed to resume the position w/ no warm up.
6. A coach may visit to the pitching mound multiple times per inning however, if the coach visits the mound for the second time in the same inning, the pitcher MUST be changed.
7. **Six runs per half inning.**
8. Six innings
9. Intentional Walks are allowed. There will be no more than 3 walks per team per game. **No player shall be walked more than once per game. The coach will need to call time “before” the player has any pitches thrown to them. The coach must notify the umpire, the other coach, and the scorebook keeper of the decision to walk to player.**
10. Ties will stand during regular season play, once the inning is complete. In tournament play, tie breaker rules will be in effect to determine a winner:
  - a. *ITB Tie breaker rules are as follow: The last batter from the previous inning will be placed on second. 1 pitch (unlimited fouls.) Innings will be still capped at 6 runs per team. If the home team advances a run to take the lead, the game is over.*
11. \*\*\*\*\*The max amount of pitches allowed by a pitcher in a warm up prior to an inning or a pitching change is 5 total. This will be a strict rule, to prevent delay in games.

Catchers and players must be on the field ready to play to avoid delays in games. If the umpire determines that the opposing team is not taking the field in a timely matter, the inning will continue even if time expires. The time between innings for a team to be ready is 2 min. If a catcher is not ready, a coach should be catching the pitcher for warmups, to prevent delays\*\*\*\*\*

12. **Pitching Guideline:** Foot Placement: She shall take a position with her pivot foot on the pitcher's plate and non-pivot foot on or behind the pitcher's plate. Both feet must be on the ground within 24-inch length of the Pitchers plate. Her shoulder shall be in line with the first and third bases. She shall hold the ball in both hands no less than one second and not more than 10 seconds before releasing the ball. BYA will allow a rock or step back with her non pivot foot prior to her releasing the ball in a forward motion.

### **End of Season Tournament**

1. The 4 top ranked teams in each division will qualify to compete in a single elimination tournament at the end of the regular season, to determine 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place for the league. The regular season standings will determine the bracket seeding for the tournament.
  - a. If two or more teams are tied for a position at the end of the season, head to head record will be the first tie breaker. If a tie still exists, the team with the lessor amount of runs allowed will be the tie breaker. If in that case the team is still tied, the team with the highest runs scored will be the top team. If all else is still tied, we will flip a coin to determine the winner.
2. To qualify as an **eligible player** in a tournament game, that player must have played in at least 1 regular season game in the current season with your team. **No pick up players will be allowed for the end of season tournament. Even if the player is on your roster all season, and NEVER plays in a game, they are NOT eligible to participate in your end of season tournament.** If a coach is protested and found guilty of playing an ineligible player, the team will be disqualified from the tournament and not eligible to participate in the league in the following season.
3. Ties will not stand in Tournament play. International Tie Breaker rules will be in effect.
4. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place team will be awarded rings at the end of the tournament.