

## 2024-2025 Mustang Rules

1. The Mustang Division is for player's ages 9 and 10. At the discretion of the MBA, if a child is determined to have a physical and/or mental handicap and wants to play baseball, he may then play in the Mustang Division when he is 11 years old.
2. The Mustang Division shall play on a field with the following dimensions:
  - a. 46 ft. Pitching Distance
  - b. 65 ft. Bases
3. The game schedule stands. Only rain outs will be rescheduled.
4. Protests will not be allowed. The decision of the umpire will be final.
5. The home team is responsible for field set up. Field set up includes lining the batter's box, lining the base lines, putting in the bases and making sure the field is in playable shape. The visiting team is responsible for operating the scoreboard and supplying an adult for concessions should it be necessary. Both teams are responsible for field clean up.
6. The home team dugout is on the third base side. The visiting team dugout is on the first base side.
7. All rules are subject to change per MBA board discretion.
8. Coaches will report game scores to the Mustang VP following the end of the game.

### EVALUATIONS/DRAFT

9. Players who do not attend evaluations shall be put into the draft and selected via hat pick. Hat picks will be designated randomly, unless the coaches decide by majority rule that the player should be fairly placed on a team. If that is deemed the case, the board will place that player on a specific team to provide for a competitive balance. There will be no trades.  
FALL: All players will be available to be drafted.

### COACHING

10. Coaches must meet with the umpire for ground rules prior to the start of the game. Coaches must also exchange line up cards at this time.
11. It is permissible to have a maximum of 2 adults within the playing field in foul territory and 3 adults ONLY if the third adult is warming up a pitcher. A warning will be issued

by the umpire if this rule is violated and further discipline will be at the umpire's discretion including, but not limited to, ejection.

12. During an inning, adults (base coaches, etc.) may not stand within 30 feet of home plate after the ump has given the ball in play signal. A warning will be issued by the umpire and further discipline will be at the umpire's discretion including but not limited to, ejection.

#### CALL UPS

13. A Manager may call up to 2 players to make a 10-player team. If more than 2 players are needed, the Mustang Division V.P. must be notified. The V.P. will then select the additional players. The called-up players must play in the outfield and bat last in the lineup. If before or during the game a team's missing player(s) show up, they must be put into the game at the bottom of the batting lineup.

14. A list of available call-ups will be given to all team's Managers and Coaches. Only 2<sup>nd</sup> year Pinto players are available for call-up. No Pinto player is allowed to play in a Mustang game if it means missing one of their Pinto games.

15. Forfeits are not allowed due to absent players. However if a team has less than 8 players, an out will occur in the position where a player is missing from the roster.

#### TIME/INNING/RUN LIMITS

16. A regulation game consists of 6 innings. No extra innings may start after the game is 1 hour and 45 minutes old. Once started, an inning must be completed regardless of time limit. The umpire's watch is official and the game starts when the umpire says, "play ball."

17. The Mustang Division shall use 4 complete innings as a regulation shortened game.

18. All innings will have a 5-run limit per team. The 5th and 6th inning of the game will have a 10-run limit per team.

19. Each team's half inning consists of 3 outs. A team will continue to bat until 3 outs are made or until 5 runs are scored. The only exception to this rule is if a home run is hit that exceeds the 5-run limit. The batting team may score as many runs above 5 as runners on base including the batter if the batter hits a home run over the fence.

20. Tie games go extra innings until the time limit has been reached (1:45).

21. A game may end in a tie due to darkness or time limit.

22. The slaughter rule in the Mustang Division shall be 15 runs at any point after 3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead or after 4 innings if the visiting team is ahead.

## PLAYERS

23. Each and every player who shows up for the game must play a minimum of 4 innings if 11 or more players are present, and 5 innings if 10 players are present. If, for disciplinary reasons a Manager would like to sit a player for extra innings, the player and his parents should be informed in advance as to this action. A team policy must be explained to the players in advance concerning what actions on the player's part would result in this penalty. This would also include a Pinto call-up.
24. By the end of the 4<sup>th</sup>inning in the field, every player on the team must have played at least 1 inning (3 outs) in at least one of the 6 infield positions. This rule does not apply in playoff games.

## PITCHING

25. Players may pitch a maximum of 6 consecutive outs. If the player was Full Travel in the Spring and/or committed to a full travel team in the Fall for the upcoming spring, they may only pitch 3 consecutive outs per game.
26. Once a pitcher is removed, they may not re-enter as the pitcher.
27. There will be no "quick pitch." The batter will be allowed to get set in the batter's box and the pitcher will come to a set position before he pitches the ball.
28. We adhere to the *Pitch Smart* guidelines regarding rest for pitchers. You can find the guidelines on the MBA website under the coaching tab followed by Pitching Guidelines. Coaches are responsible for keeping track of pitch counts.
29. Once a pitcher has hit 2 players in an inning or 3 total, where a base has been awarded in each case, the pitcher must be replaced.
30. Only 1 trip to the mound is allowed per pitcher per inning. On a second trip in an inning to the mound by either the Manager or Coach the pitcher must be removed. No balks will be called.
31. No breaking balls are allowed by twisting the wrist. 1<sup>st</sup> offense will be a warning, 2<sup>nd</sup> offense the pitcher must be removed.

32. Use of an ineligible pitcher, whether intentional or inadvertent, will result in forfeiture of the game to the opposing team, providing the Manager or Coach of the opposing team notifies the Division V.P. or League President within 48 hours of the end of the game.
33. No intentional walks are allowed. Pitchers must throw 4 balls to constitute a walk and the catcher must stay in position at all times. If the catcher is out of position (standing) or the pitcher is throwing the ball intentionally out of the batter's box area, a warning will be issued at the umpire's discretion. After that, the coach may be ejected from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct.
34. There will be no dropped third strike.

#### BATTING

35. Managers and Coaches are responsible for following the adopted USSSA/USA bat rules. If an illegal bat is used the batter is out and the coach is restricted to the dugout (no base coaching) for the remainder of the game. If an illegal bat is used twice in a single game the batter is out and the coach is ejected from the game. If the bat is found to be illegal after a play, the batter is out and the runners return to position before play. Wood Bats are permitted.
36. Bunting is allowed.
37. If a player shows up late for a game (after his assigned batting order spot has passed the first time through the order), the opposing team must be notified by the coach and the player must be placed in the last spot in the line-up.

#### BASE RUNNING

38. Batters may not advance to 2<sup>nd</sup> after being walked until the 1<sup>st</sup> pitch to the next batter.
39. There are no leadoffs. The runner may only advance after the ball has crossed the plate when advancing from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> or from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> base. If a runner leaves a base early, the umpire will send him back to the original base he occupied and issue a warning. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense, the runner will be called out, per inning per game. In the event of a hit and the runner leaving a base early he shall be awarded one base ahead of the hitter and issued a warning, or if it is his 2<sup>nd</sup> offense he will be out. If the hitter is out, the runner must go back to his original base with a warning if it is his 1<sup>st</sup> offense and is out if 2<sup>nd</sup>.
40. The ball becomes dead and the base runners must return to their bases when the pitcher

has the ball in his possession and is standing in the dirt area considered the mound, so long as a base runner isn't advancing to another base as a continuation of the play.

41-1. A base runner may score on a passed ball or wild pitch a maximum of 1 times per inning. After the first score on a wild pitch, runners may only score on balls batted in play or walked home if bases are loaded. One successful steal of home per inning.

41-2. After the 1 successful steal of home, runners may not score on a throwdown from the catcher, or an overthrown ball during a throw down attempt. Example 1: runners on 1st and 3rd, the runner on 1st attempts to steal 2nd and the catcher throws down to 2nd. The runner at 3rd may not attempt to take home unless they have not used their successful steal of home. Example 2: Runner on 2nd attempts to steal 3rd and the catcher overthrows the third baseman, the runner may not continue home.

42. Base runners are not allowed to advance on a throwback to the pitcher from the catcher.

43. Base runners may be substituted after batting in order for players to get catcher gear on towards the end of that team's half of the inning or due to player injury after they have batted.

#### HOME RUNS/DEAD BALLS

44. Balls that hit the yellow tubing (in fair territory) in the outfield on a fly and bounce onto the field are in play. Any ball that bounces off the yellow tubing and hits the tree branches and bounces into play will be deemed a home run.

45. Balls rolling under the outfield fence will be deemed dead balls by the umpire with the batter awarded second base. If in the umpire's opinion the ball is not under the fence OR the outfielder reaches for the ball and the umpire believes the outfielder is making a play on the ball, the umpire may allow the play to continue.

46. Any ball that goes out of the field of play on a non-batted ball will be deemed dead and the runner awarded the base they are going to plus one. Out of play areas include the dugout and any area beyond the fence. Umpires may use their discretion to determine if a ball is out of play.

#### PLAYOFFS

47. Adjustments to rules for playoffs will be determined and provided to coaches at the start of playoffs.