

## I-80 Pony League Rules - 2020

| Rule No.   | Text  |
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| League Purpose / Organizational Structure                        | <p>The I-80 Pony League is a recreational, town-team league. <u>This league is a <b>not</b> a tryout / travel / select league.</u> If tryouts are used to establish a team, that team will not be permitted to play in the league.</p> <p>The league season will consist of 12-16 regular season games (depending on league size) and a league tournament at the end of the season.</p> <p>Teams are permitted to entered local tournaments during the season and schedule non-league games with area teams.</p>  |
| RULE 1<br>AGE LIMIT /<br>PLAYER<br>ELIGIBILITY                   | <p>The league has a 14 &amp; under age limit and is primarily for 7th &amp; 8th graders. 9th graders are permitted to play provided they have not turned 15 prior to May 1st of the year of the current season. <i>Younger players are permitted to play up in order to fill rosters. Players of legal age from American Legion or select teams are NOT permitted to come down to fill a roster position on a team. Exception: if the only option for playing a game and having a 9-player roster is to use a legion or select player, those players players will not be permitted to play the positions of pitcher or catcher.</i></p> <p><b>Exceptions on players older than the age limit will be voted on by the “board of coaches” at the pre-season league meeting.</b></p> <p><i>In order to be eligible for the league tournament, a player must have been in uniform and on the lineup card for no fewer than 50% of regular season league games.</i></p> <p>Coaches should have the ability to show proof of a player's age either by a birth certificate or some legal form of identification that includes date of birth.</p> |
| RULE 2<br>GAME TIME /<br>POSTPONED &<br>RESCHEDULED<br>GAMES     | <p>Games will begin at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise posted in the schedule. In the event of postponements due to weather, the home team shall notify the visiting team as soon as possible, but no later than 4:00 p.m. on the game day.</p> <p><i>If a game needs to be postponed due to weather or player availability, coaches should work together to find a date, time and location that works for both teams.</i></p>   |
| RULE 3<br>UMPIRES  | <p>The home team will be responsible for providing two umpires who are knowledgeable of the game and existing rules.</p> <p><i>It is suggested (but not required) that umpires have received some formal training through a certification program and/or clinic.</i></p>  |
| RULE 4<br>BASE &<br>PITCHING<br>DISTANCE /<br>PORTABLE<br>MOUNDS | <p>Bases will be 80 feet apart</p> <p>The pitching rubber will be 54 feet from home plate.</p> <p><i>Portable pitching mounds are NOT to be used in this league.</i></p>  |
| RULE 5<br>BATTING<br>HELMETS                                     | <p>All players are required to wear a double-ear flap batting helmet <i>with a face guard</i> while at bat, on-deck or on base. The helmet is <i>not</i> required to have a chin strap. If in a chin strap is attached to the helmet, it must be securely attached and tight to player's chin. Loose, dangling or unattached chin straps are not permitted.</p> <p>A player acting as a base coach or any bat boy or girl must wear a batting helmet.</p>   |



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| <b>RULE 6<br/>CATCHER'S<br/>FACE &amp; HEAD<br/>GEAR</b>    | Catchers must be properly equipped with either a one-piece "hockey-style" face mask/helmet or a two-piece mask and skull cap. Proper throat protection is required. The mask/helmet must be worn while catching in game or warming up a pitcher.  |
| <b>RULE 7<br/>UNIFORMS</b>                                  | All players must wear a cap while in the field and caps <u>should</u> be alike. Each player should have a number on his/her jersey. Duplicate numbers are discouraged and must be brought to the attention of the umpires at the plate meeting  |
| <b>RULE 8<br/>GAME LENGTH<br/>TIME LIMIT<br/>MERCY RULE</b> | <p><b>Game length:</b> 7 innings<br/> <b>Time limit:</b> 1 hour, 45 minutes<br/> <b>Mercy Rule:</b> 15 runs after 3 innings; 10 runs after 4 innings; 8 runs after 5 innings<br/> <b>Tie-Breaker Rule:</b> If the game is tied after 7 innings, OR after the time limit has been reached, the next inning will begin with one out and the player making the last out in the previous inning being placed on 2nd base.<br/> <b>Complete Game:</b> If a game must be called because of weather or darkness, it is not a complete game unless four innings have been completed (or 3-1/2 innings if the home team is ahead).</p>   |
| <b>RULE 9<br/>LINEUP<br/>SUBSTITUTION<br/>RULES</b>         | <p><b>Lineup Options:</b> Teams may use either a traditional 9-player lineup; a 9-player lineup with a designated hitter option; OR a continuous batting lineup. Coaches must declare what option they are using at the plate meeting. <i>Games may be started with a minimum of 8 players. An out will be taken when the ninth spot in the order comes up. If a ninth player arrives, he/she can be added to the end of the lineup at any time.</i></p> <p><b>Designated Hitter:</b> a designated hitter may be used for the pitcher only. Once the designated hitter enters the game as a fielder, the team will revert back to a traditional 9-player lineup and will lose their DH option.</p> <p><b>Continuous Batting Option:</b> Teams using the continuous batting option must include ALL available players. If a player arrives late, that player can be added to the end of the lineup without penalty. If a player must be removed from the lineup due to illness or injury, the team will not be required to take an out unless their lineup falls below nine players.</p> <p><b>Re-Entry Rule:</b> Teams using a 9-player lineup can re-enter a starter back into the game provided they return to their original spot in the lineup. Substitutes removed from the lineup may NOT be re-entered or used as courtesy runners. <i>Note: if an injury occurs that takes the team below 9 eligible players, a removed substitute can be used to keep the team at 9 players.</i></p> <p><b>Courtesy Runners:</b> Courtesy runners may be used for the pitcher and catcher that were in the lineup when the team was last on defense.<br/> <i>If using a 9-player lineup:</i> courtesy runner must be an eligible substitute that has not been entered in the game. Starters that have been removed from the game are NOT eligible to courtesy run.<br/> <i>If using the continuous bat option:</i> the courtesy runner must be the player that made the last out at the time the use of a courtesy runner is requested. If that player's turn to bat comes back up while he is on base, he will be replaced by the player that was most recently put out.<br/> <i>Keep in mind, the spirit of the courtesy runner rule is a speed-up / safety rule designed to get a catcher back in the dugout to get his gear on or to keep a pitcher from wearing out by running the bases.</i></p> |



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| <b>RULE 10<br/>PITCHING<br/>LIMITATIONS</b>           | <p>Pitchers may pitch no more than 10 innings in three consecutive days.<br/>An inning is defined as three outs.<br/>Coaches are expected to honor this rule during the regular season.<br/>During league tournament, this rule will be strictly enforced.</p> <p><i>Proposed change to be in line with other leagues/organizations:</i><br/>Pitchers may pitch no more than 6 innings in one day.<br/>Pitchers may pitch no more than 3 innings to still be eligible to pitch the next day.<br/>Pitchers may pitch no more than 8 innings in a 3-day period.</p> <p>— OR — <i>(Pitch counts - guidelines provided by pitchsmart.org)</i><br/>No player may pitch more than a total of 95 pitches per day . A pitcher will be allowed to finish a batter if he reaches or exceeds the maximum limit during an at-bat, but must exit the position after that hitter . No player may enter the game as a pitcher without having fulfilled the required rest days as mandated in the chart below . No player may make more than two appearances as a pitcher during any consecutive three-day period . <b>PENALTY</b> – The pitcher is removed from the pitcher’s position and head coach shall be ejected from the game and serve an additional game suspension.</p> <table><tr><th><b>DAILY MAX</b><br/>(pitches in game)</th><th colspan="5"><b>REQUIRED REST (pitches)</b></th></tr><tr><th></th><th>0 day</th><th>1 day</th><th>2 days</th><th>3 days</th><th>4 days</th></tr><tr><td>95</td><td>1-20</td><td>21-35</td><td>36-50</td><td>51-65</td><td>65+</td></tr></table> | <b>DAILY MAX</b><br>(pitches in game) | <b>REQUIRED REST (pitches)</b> |        |        |  |  |  | 0 day | 1 day | 2 days | 3 days | 4 days | 95 | 1-20 | 21-35 | 36-50 | 51-65 | 65+ |
| <b>DAILY MAX</b><br>(pitches in game)                 | <b>REQUIRED REST (pitches)</b>  |                                       |                                |        |        |  |  |  |       |       |        |        |        |    |      |       |       |       |     |
|   | 0 day   | 1 day                                 | 2 days                         | 3 days | 4 days |  |  |  |       |       |        |        |        |    |      |       |       |       |     |
| 95  | 1-20  | 21-35                                 | 36-50                          | 51-65  | 65+    |  |  |  |       |       |        |        |        |    |      |       |       |       |     |
| <b>RULE 11<br/>SLIDE /<br/>CONTACT<br/>RULE</b>       | <p>A runner is never required to slide but, if the runner does not slide, he/she must seek to avoid contact. Intentional, unnecessary contact will result in an immediate dead ball and the player being called out. Other runners will return to the last base touched at the time of the play becoming dead. If the umpire determines the contact was malicious, the player may be ejected from the contest.</p>  |                                       |                                |        |        |  |  |  |       |       |        |        |        |    |      |       |       |       |     |
| <b>RULE 12<br/>PLAYER &amp;<br/>COACH<br/>CONDUCT</b> | <p>No player, coach or any person associated with any team shall use or have any tobacco product (or tobacco substitute) on the field or in the dugout / bullpen areas. Violation of this rule results in an automatic ejection and suspension from the following league or league tournament game.</p> <p>No coach or player shall abuse, heckle, or make uncomplimentary remarks whatsoever to any opposing player or team official. Any individual in violation will be given a warning, upon a second warning, the offending player or coach shall be ejected from the contest and will serve a suspension from the following league or league tournament game.</p> <p>Any coach or player ejected for arguing an umpire’s call will serve a suspension from the following league or league tournament game.</p> <p>An ejected coach or play must leave and not be within sight or sound of the contest.</p> <p><i>Ejections should be reported to Heath Kramer (402.416.3677) so he can inform the team scheduled next of the individuals that will not be permitted to participate. Ejections should be reported by either team involved in the game.</i></p>   |                                       |                                |        |        |  |  |  |       |       |        |        |        |    |      |       |       |       |     |
| <b>RULE 13<br/>ROSTER<br/>SUBMISSION</b>              | <p>A player roster <u>listing each player’s full name, date of birth, and uniform number shall be submitted no later than <b>May 15, 2020</b>.</u> Rosters will be distributed to all coaches in the league. No roster alternations will be allowed <i>after the opening date of the season</i> without approval of the “Board of Coaches”.</p> <p>Rosters should be emailed to HEATH KRAMER at <a href="mailto:HeathKramer28@gmail.com">HeathKramer28@gmail.com</a></p>  |                                       |                                |        |        |  |  |  |       |       |        |        |        |    |      |       |       |       |     |



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| <b>RULE 14<br/>LEAGUE<br/>TOURNAMENT<br/>FEE</b>            | There is a \$200.00 entry fee, payable before JUNE 1, 2020 to: VABA<br>Send to: TIM NELSON PO BOX 26 VALPARAISO NE 68065  |
| <b>RULE 15<br/>RESULTS &amp;<br/>RECORDS<br/>SUBMISSION</b> | Each Team should email Tim Nelson at <a href="mailto:nelson1095@windstream.net">nelson1095@windstream.net</a> every Saturday with their wins/losses and who they played.<br><br>Coaches will be asked to call or text in season records by _____ to TIM NELSON at 402-310-0901 or email to <a href="mailto:nelson1095@windstream.net">nelson1095@windstream.net</a> . |
| <b>RULE 16<br/>BOARD OF<br/>COACHES</b>                     | A league "Board of Coaches" was established for the purpose of settling disputes, protests and other matters that may arise. The Board consists of one representative from each town.<br><br>The members of the board of coaches will be determined at the pre-season league meeting.   |
| <b>RULE 17<br/>LEAGUE<br/>MEETINGS</b>                      | The league will have no fewer than TWO meetings each year. One meeting will take place no later than August 31st in order to review the previous season and address concerns that arose during the season. A pre-season league meeting will take place in the month of February to prepare for the upcoming season.   |
| <b>RULE 18<br/>LEAGUE<br/>TOURNAMENT</b>                    | The tournament will be held in VALPARAISO from _____.<br>No Gate fee (covered by entry fee).<br>Format will be determined after the number of teams in the league has been established.<br>Tournament will be a two-game guarantee.   |