

# 2015 InterCity Colt and Palomino Rules

(North/Central/American/National Divisions)

## General Section for both Colt and Palomino:

These rules apply for our Regular Season and League Playoffs.

The general rules by which we run InterCity Colt and Palomino Baseball League (hereafter "Intercity League") are applied **IN THIS SUPERCEDING ORDER**:

- InterCity Colt and Palomino Rules
  - Current Pony Rule Book
  - Major League Baseball Rule Book
  - Michigan High School Athletic Association (bat & catchers equipment rule only)
1. Teams are to be formed in accordance with each league organization, relative to number of players and geographical requirements. All team managers must be residents or live in close proximity to the league they represent. They must also take active participation with their team both on and off the field of play.
  2. All team players must be registered players of that team and registered by their sponsoring organization. All teams must have and provide proof of minimum insurance coverage as recommended by PONY baseball or their supporting organization. Purchasing of insurance is the responsibility of each team/sponsoring organization, not InterCity baseball.
  3. All bats must conform to the new NFHS **BBCOR** bat rules. All **BESR** bats are now considered illegal for game play. A player caught using a **BESR** bat will be ejected, as well as the manager of the team the player is on. Composite bat are allowed as long as they have not been made ineligible for play by the NFHS. See <http://www.baseballbatlist@nfhs.org> . **The – 3 bat rule remains in effect.**
  4. Preliminary rosters must be submitted to the League Administrator on or before **date in calendar** for upper or lower division placement. Determined divisional placement is based on roster point system (described under Colt or Palomino specific rules section).
  5. Rosters are "frozen" on June 30, except by approval of the President. It is expected that no new players will be added after June 30 unless current players are lost for the rest of the season to injury or other circumstances (requires approval of the President).
  6. Final Roster must be e-mailed to the President by June 30, if not received the President can determine the team and or teams will not be eligible for the playoffs.

7. Each team is required to supply the league Scheduler a minimum of 8 home field dates (more preferred) based on a 16 game season. 8 or less will be reviewed by the President. Also required to be submitted is a complete contact list of each organizations Director/s, team Managers, and Umpire in chief. The contact list must provide an email address, and day and evening phone number. These requirements must be provided on or before date in calendar if not the President can determine the team and or teams will not be eligible for InterCity Colt and Palomino League play.
8. A player/parents CODE OF CONDUCT CONTRACT (as used by the public schools) will be signed for a player to be eligible for games. The contract must be emailed to the President prior to the season start for said player to be rostered and prior to first game for a player(s) later added to the roster.
9. Any league that has a pool of players for a division which has an experience level of 20+ shall place one team in the upper division at that level.
  - i. 19 year old 1 pt, no experience in High School
  - ii. 19 year old highest level of High School (see below)
  - iii. Player with High School level of play awarded following points:
    1. Varsity 3
    2. Junior varsity 2
    3. Freshman 1
10. The league wins/loss shall be calculated as 2 pts for a win 1 pt for game that was tied at the time it was "called by the umpire" (see rule 28) and zero pts for a loss.
11. Any player, manager or coach ejected from a game will be prohibited from any participation in the next scheduled **2** games played. The opposing manager must report any ejections to the President. The player ejected is an out at his turn in the batting lineup. If the number of players fall below seven then the game is over (any additional play would be defined as scrimmage). Any player, manager, or coach can be eliminated from league participation as determined by the President, if they have more than one game ejection in a season or physically/maliciously assaults another participant.
12. During an ejection, a player/manager/coach/parent is not allowed on the field nor allowed in the bench/dugout he or she must leave the vicinity/complex. If the ejection is a manager/coach they are banned from attending the next **2** games.
13. Runners must slide, surrender or avoid contact on close plays at the bases (except first base). In addition, if, in the umpire's judgment, a player has deliberately tried to "run over" or injure another player, the offending player will be ejected from the game.

14. Umpires have the final say on all judgment call matters pertaining to the game and the rules. Thus, there are no protests in these cases. If the managers believe they have encountered a situation that is an obvious misinterpretation of the Rules, they may contact the InterCity President to make him or her aware of the situation.
15. Game times are 6:30 pm unless otherwise noted (weekend games or games under the lights will have listed start times).
16. Minimum 8 players to start a game, 7 to finish a game (no penalty outs [except for ejected players]). No outs registered in the batting line up for having less than nine players. If a team has less than 8 players at game time (or slightly later if umpires and managers agree to wait for a late arriving player) that team will forfeit the game.
17. The Home Team will relinquish the field to the Visiting Team no later than 30 minutes prior to game time if possible. The Visiting Team will have the field for 20 minutes.
18. The Home and Visiting Teams will supply two new baseballs for each game. It is the responsibility of the home team to provide any additional baseballs required during the game (do not need to be new but "playable condition". All baseballs used must be of High School level quality or better.
19. All score books must show innings pitched by every pitcher used in the game and be signed by both the team AND the opposing team's manager or manager's representative (**not umpires**). An incorrect pitching record by a team will result in loss for that team in the game in which that record was still relevant (one game only). Failure to maintain an up to date pitching record will result in expulsion from a playoff berth.
20. The Games will last 7 innings. Five innings minimum are required for a game to be considered official in case of rain or darkness (4 and 1/2 if the Home Team is ahead) otherwise it is considered a suspended game.
21. A courtesy runner may be used for the current Pitcher and Catcher if either reaches base (managers' option). The same substitute cannot be used for both. Courtesy runners can be used for injuries. The last previous out will be the runner (or last batter in order in 1st inning only), or any player not currently in the game (see Palomino rule 4a and 4b)
22. "Mercy rule" If a Team is ahead by 10 or more runs after five complete innings (4 and 1/2 if the winning team is the Home Team), the mercy rule will be invoked. Any subsequent play will be considered "practice" and will not affect the outcome of the game. Completion of the game is encouraged.
23. Postponed or suspended games and/or rainouts must be made up before or on the last official date of the regular season to determine playoff teams. Due to field availability, many make-up games may have to be played on Sunday. Home team managers will be responsible for

rescheduling, including field and umpires unless other arrangements are made between the 2 managers.

24. Both teams must make every effort to accommodate each other's schedules - including the effect on pitching rotations. (This is not a perfect system, but we are counting on you managers to prepare enough pitchers so you can play all the games scheduled.)
25. Cancellation of a game must be made 24 hours before the game starting time otherwise it is considered a forfeit by the team canceling the scheduled game. Arrangements to reschedule must be agreed to by both teams at least 48 hours in advance of the rescheduled game in question. If a team is unable to field at least seven players on the agreed-to date, it forfeits the game.
26. Un-played games count as a loss for both teams after official date regular season ends.
27. In case of rain, the Home Team Manager will determine if the field is playable. He or she must notify opposing team manager by 4:00 PM the day of, if game needs to be postponed. Once a game begins, the decision is in the hands of the Umpire. In the event no call is made both teams must present themselves at the field ready to play.
28. If a game is incomplete and therefore suspended because of darkness or weather arrangements must be made to continue the game until a winner is reached at a mutually agreed upon time and place. If the game cannot be resolved before the end of the season, it will count as a lost game for both teams. Games have no time limit and no inning limit for a tie unless the Umpire "calls the game" complete. Umpire may "call the game":
  - i) on account of darkness,
  - ii) weather or
  - iii) curfew or including instances when the current game must conclude so that games that follow can get started in-order to be completed by city curfew of 11:00pm. Cities who follow 11:00pm curfews are Lyon's Field in Waterford & Livonia's Bicentennial & Ford fields.
29. The Home Team keeps the official score. The Visiting Team is responsible for confirming the score after each inning. If there are any discrepancies in the scoring, they must be resolved and both teams must agree before continuing play and the plate umpire shall resolve any dispute.
30. Pitching record identified in the score book and sign by the opposing managers or managers' representatives must be present at the start of each game to determine eligibility of pitchers. If the record is not produced, then the team with out the pitching record can only pitch their pitchers two inning maximum in the game (or games for double headers).
31. No jewelry may be worn. Shirts must be tucked into pants. Caps must be turned to the front. One warning for jewelry each team, second incident for that team the player or players involved in the second incident will be ejected

from the game. (exception is for a medical alert which must be taped or concealed; religious reasons which requires prior approval from the President).

32. The regular season champion and playoff seeding (if appropriate) will be based on overall winning percentage. Top 4 teams qualify in each division. Seeding must be verified by InterCity Colt and Palomino President.

- In case of a season ending tie, the following tie-breaker rules will be followed:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> tie-breaker: Regular season head-to-head competition.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> tie-breaker: Fewest total runs allowed (regular season).
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> tie-breaker: Most total runs scored (regular season)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> coin toss.

33. The Intercity league reserves the right to study and render decision on situation not expressed within these rules. The decisions of the President in this regard are final and binding on all members of the InterCity Colt and Palomino League.

34. At the discretion of the League President, any team forfeiting a game may be subject to a penalty including but not limited to: \$150 per game forfeited, loss of playoff spot, loss of playoff seed.

35. If you do encounter any situations that need clarification, please notify the InterCity League President as soon as possible.

36. Current year Michigan High School Athletic Association bat and catchers rules apply and metal cleats are allowed.

## **COLT SPECIFIC RULES:**

### **Colt North & Colt Central rules section:**

1. The majority of the players on the team, regardless of the number of players on that team roster are required to be either 15 or 16 years old (example: 13 players on a team roster, 7 have to be 15 or 16 years old). A 15 or 16 year old player is defined per the PONY baseball age key guide. Team rosters submitted to President must be held to 18 players max. Please note some InterCity Colt eligibility rule requirements may not coincide with PONY rules exactly and eligibility for a team in the InterCity Colt League may not be eligible for PONY tournaments (consult [www.Pony.org](http://www.Pony.org) for their tournament age requirements). Any age requirement exceptions must be preapproved by InterCity Colt President.

2. A 12-point team rule is in affect to determine what division a team will be placed either North (lower) or Central (upper). Any team with 12 or more points must play in the (upper) Central division. Point system is as follows:
    - a. A player on a High school freshman baseball team is assigned 1pt. A player on a High school JV baseball team is assigned 2pts. A player on a High school varsity team is assigned 3pts. Other players receive a point value of zero (0). Rosters showing individual and total team points must be submitted to President and administrator prior to initial league schedules are sent out. The roster at the time points are submitted to the league must have a minimum of 12 players. Before any player/s can be added to a roster after the schedules have been completed which would take a team to the above stated limit the President must be notified. No notification or false points reported may result in forfeited games played and or elimination of any playoff seeding for that team in the discretion of the President. Any team in the lower division which goes undefeated during the regular season will be asked to provide proof their team followed the above point system rule before they enter playoffs.
  3. All players present at game time will bat. Any latecomers must be slotted at the end of the batting order in the order they show up.
  4. Any latecomer who arrives after his team has completed its first cycle through the batting order does not have to be inserted into the game (at the Manager's discretion). If the latecomer(s) complete a nine player roster they MUST be inserted into the game and at the end of the batting order upon arrival.
  5. All players may be freely substituted defensively, but must play a minimum of two innings on defense before the end of the 6th inning.
  6. If a team is short of players during the season, they may call up 13-14yr old registered only players from their local supporting organization league.
  7. One of the two umpires required per game must be 21 years of age or older, while the other umpire must be 18 years of age or older. A manager may question the age of an umpire and may request age verification prior to game start. If the umpire fails to provide verification, managers may postpone the game until satisfactory umpires arrive. Posting of a protest with the President on this issue following a played game will be denied.
- Rules below are for **reference only** (see authorizing rule book for entire content):

**Pony Baseball** - Pitching requirements are listed in the PONY rules, for reference: (Pitchers are limited to 10 innings per week Monday through

Sunday and no more than 7 innings on the same calendar day. If a pitcher throws 4 innings or more in one game, he must have 40 hours of rest before pitching again (e.g., if a pitcher throws four innings or more on a Monday evening, he can't pitch again until Wednesday evening. One pitch thrown counts as one inning, once removed from the mound, a pitcher may not re-enter the game as a pitcher).

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**Notes:**

**PALOMINO SPECIFIC RULES:**

**American & National Palomino League Rules:**

The majority of the players on the team, regardless of the number of players on that team roster are required to be either 17, 18 or 19 years old (example: 13 players on a team roster, 7 have to be 17, 18 or 19 years old). A 17, 18 or 19 year old player is defined per the 2011 pony baseball age key guide. Team rosters submitted to President must be held to 18 players max. Please note some Inter-city Palomino eligibility rule requirements may not coincide with PONY rules exactly and eligibility for a team in the Inter-City Palomino League may not be eligible for PONY tournaments (consult [www.Pony.org](http://www.Pony.org) for their tournament age requirements). Any age requirement exceptions must be preapproved by Inter-City Palomino President.

1. Only 3 players of league age 19 will be allowed on each team for the American League division and only 7 players age 19 will be allowed on each team for the National League division.
  
2. An 18-point team rule is in affect to determine what division a team will be placed either American (lower) or National (upper). Any team with 18 or more points must play in the (upper) National division. Point system is as follows:
  - a. A player on a High school freshman baseball team is assigned 1pt. A player on a High school JV baseball team is assigned 2pts. A player on a High school varsity or collegiate team is assigned 3pts. A 19yr old who was on a High school Varsity baseball team roster his senior year is assigned 3pts. Other 19yr old players will be assigned 1pt. Roster showing individual and team total points must be submitted to President prior to initial league schedules are sent out. The roster at the time points are submitted to the league must have a minimum of 12 players. Before any player/s can be added to a roster after the schedules have been completed which would take a team to the above stated limit the President must be notified. No notification or false points reported may result in forfeited games played and or elimination of any playoff seeding for that team at the discretion of the president. Any team in the lower division which

goes undefeated during the regular season will be asked to provide proof their team followed the above point system rule before they enter playoffs.

3. League age 16 year old players are allowed on the Palomino teams, but cannot make up a majority of the team. Only exception to the above rule for a player to be on a Palomino team if they were called up for a game or two because of injury or has been placed on a team by prior approval of the President (otherwise contact InterCity Colt League to place such a player on one of their teams). Please note that these age requirements do not coincide with PONY rules exactly and eligibility for a team in the InterCity Palomino League may not be eligibility for PONY tournaments (consult [www.Pony.org](http://www.Pony.org) for their tournament age requirements)
4. Three types of formats can be used for play. It is solely up to each manager to decide on which format his team will be using for a particular game and will be determined and announced before the games first pitch. After the first pitch, neither team's format can be changed.

**4a.** Palomino rules (nine bat) except DH is allowed for pitcher only.

**4b.** Palomino rules except AH can be used (10th batter must stay in that batting position all game and will share fielding position with another specified batter).

**4c.** Everyone on bench bats with free field substitution (except at pitcher's position).

4. **All umpires must be 21 years of age or older. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE ALLOWED.** A manager may question the age of an umpire and may request age verification prior to game start. If the umpire fails to provide verification, managers may postpone the game until satisfactory umpires arrive. Posting of a protest with the President on this issue following a played game will be denied.

- Rules below are for **reference only** (see authorizing rule book for entire content):

Pony Baseball - Pitchers are limited no more than 9 innings on the same calendar day. If a pitcher throws 5 innings or more in one game, he must have 40 hours of rest before pitching again (e.g., if a pitcher throws 5 innings or more on a Monday evening, he can't pitch again until Wednesday evening. One pitch thrown counts as one inning, once removed from the mound, a pitcher may not re-enter the game as a pitcher.)