**Bronco Division Fact Sheet**

The Bronco Division (league ages 11 and 12) is the level at which the players participate in “complete” baseball; including all of the traditional baseball rules, strategies, guidelines, etc.  To determine your player’s league age, please go to [www.PONY.org](http://www.PONY.org). LCYO follows PONY baseball rules which include base runner leadoffs at all bases, full base stealing, pitching from the stretch position, balks, dropped third strikes, the infield fly rule, and all other rules and procedures which normally govern the complete game of baseball.

**FALL SEASON**

Fall baseball tends to be a more casual, less competitive league than spring baseball, with many of the participants working on their skill development and often playing other sports at the same time. Other than the first few weeks of the season, there are no practices and all games are played on Sundays. Unlike spring ball where there are evaluations and a formal draft, fall ball teams are created with an attempt to keep a balanced league but also allowing friends and schoolmates to play with each other. Parents should make any player and/or coach requests known when they register their child for fall baseball. A division director may contact player’s families to learn more about the player’s skill set in order to create balanced teams. Managers will contact families in the middle of August once the fall baseball teams have been formed.

**SPRING SEASON**

Depending on the number of players, LCYO’s Bronco Division may conduct an evaluation day for all of the players. Attendance is **mandatory** and information regarding evaluations will be circulated by the Division Director!  All players will undergo a short series of drills including hitting, running, fielding, and throwing.  Players will be evaluated and rated for each of the various drills. The Bronco managers and coaches will use the player ratings as a general guide for selecting teams.  During the month of December, all Bronco Division players will receive an email regarding assigned times to attend and participate in the evaluation day process.  It is important to set aside this date on your calendar and ensure that all players participate in the evaluation day process at their assigned times.

Evaluations are the best way to ensure equitable teams and missing them will negatively impact the balance of the teams.

Please note that LCYO will not always hold player evaluations. In situations where the overall number of players does not justify holding an evaluation and draft, teams will be created by the Division Director in consultation with the team managers.

**GENERAL BRONCO FACTS**

The Bronco Division games are 7 innings in length.  The bases are 70 feet apart, (10’ farther than in the Mustang Division), the pitching mound is 50’ from home plate (4’ farther than Mustang) and the overall caliber of play is also improved, particularly as the season progresses.

The Bronco Division team managers and director will meet prior to the beginning of the season and, as a group, adopt any necessary modifications to the PONY baseball rules which will help make the games, and the season as a whole, safer and hopefully, a more positive experience for players, parents, and coaches alike.  Examples of our rule changes include limiting the number of innings pitched (two innings maximum per pitcher per game), insuring a minimum number of defensive innings to be played by each player, batting the entire roster instead of just 9 players, prohibiting the use of metal spikes, no straight steals of home and other similar rules which will help make the Bronco level baseball experience more enjoyable for all.

**SKILL DEVELOPMENT**

LCYO has made player development for all skill levels a top priority and has partnered with several organizations to provide clinics to allow the players to enhance their skills. LCYO continually seeks to partner with local organizations such as Big FLY, BPA and Baseball ASAP to bring provide clinics and instructions to players and coaches alike.

**MANAGERS\COACHES**

Our league always welcomes volunteers for Managers and Assistant Coaches, so **please volunteer and or contact me directly to discuss**.  Coaching is a great way to enjoy quality time with your child and we make every attempt to provide practice times that accommodate a coach’s schedule.

**SEASON**

The Spring Season starts with practices in early February.  There are usually 2 practices per week with one on a weekday and one on Saturday.  Games begin in March with the regular season ending in mid May and the playoffs ending in early June.  There are usually 2 games per week with one during the week and one on Saturday.  No games are played on Sunday and games are suspended, for the most part, during the Spring Break.   All Stars are announced shortly after the close of the regular season with practices beginning shortly thereafter.  The All Star season can run through the middle/end of July.  The Fall Season normally starts in late August and runs to mid-November. There is usually 1 practice/game a week, with those being on Sunday.

Depending on the number of teams in LCYO’s Bronco division, LCYO may join with other local PONY Leagues, such as Carlsbad, Escondido, San Marcos and Fallbrook to create a combined division. As such, some local travel may be required.

**TEAM ROSTERS**

Due to limited field availability, the Bronco Division is limited to a specific number of teams of up to 11 players each.  Once the maximum number of teams and players is reached, any player who registers thereafter is placed on a waiting list and fills roster spots if they become available.  Once the regular season starts, no new players will be added to rosters. For the most current information please log onto the LCYO website [www.LCYO.org](http://www.LCYO.org)