**LCYO Pony Division Facts Sheet**

The LCYO Pony Division provides an opportunity for league age 13 & 14 year olds (please go to [www.PONY.org](http://www.PONY.org) to determine your player’s league age) to play competitive baseball in an atmosphere that fosters and supports the recreational attitude of the La Costa Youth Organization.

Pony Division baseball is virtually real baseball at 80' bases and 54' to the pitching rubber.  We use MLB baseball rules and equipment with only a few minor modifications.  A few of the modifications include free fielding substitutions. All players play at least five innings in the field in a seven-inning game.  Further, we’ve modified traditional baseball rules to allow for batting the entire order, not just those players in the field.  Most teams are limited to 11-12 players, so everyone gets a lot of playing time during the season.

Players will receive team jerseys and hats from the league. Each player supplies his own cleats (metal cleats are allowed but not on portable mounds or turf fields), pants, cup, sliding shorts, glove, bat and batting helmet.

Pony games can be 7 innings long and take 2 to 2 1/2 hours to complete. Games are currently slated to be played at Poinsettia Park, and at the Zone 5 field on Faraday Drive along with possible interleague play against CYB, SMYB, SD Pony, FYB and others.

Depending on the number of players, the spring baseball season for the LCYO Pony Division may hold a mandatory player evaluation on a date to be determined.  The Division Directory will determine that prior to the start of each season and notify the registered players. That notification will be send near the end of December and will contain information regarding the evaluation process and the player’sassigned times to attend and participate in the January evaluation day.

Pony teams may be selected in late January via a formal draft and the twice a week practices will begin soon after.  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.

League games are scheduled to start in late February/early March, and will run through the second week in June. No games will be scheduled during public school break in April, or any over the Memorial Day weekend in May.  Otherwise, each player will have a game during the week (Mon-Thurs), and a game on Saturday from the beginning of March until the end of May.  Playoffs will be conducted in late May, with the finals scheduled for early-June.  For the most current information please log onto the LCYO website [www.lcyo.org](http://www.lcyo.org/).

Please address any questions you may have regarding the Pony division to the Division Director.

High School (HS) baseball players, who often finish their HS season towards the middle of May, **will not be allowed** to participate in our Spring season and, therefore, will not be eligible for our Pony Division All-Stars. Even though PONY Baseball allows for the return of High School players to a PONY Spring season, PONY Baseball provides the league (LCYO) the ability to construct "local law" enhancements of PONY rules that best address their immediate community. Our experience in allowing them to return in in prior years created many challenges with placement on teams that were both at capacity and also 95% finished with their season. Allowing them to return for just 1-3 games in order to become eligible for All-Stars is agreed (by an overwhelming majority of polled coaches and board members) not appropriate for our recreation league and the intent of providing youth baseball for all - no matter what skill level.