



Pony vs. Little League

The primary features that distinguish Pony baseball from Little League baseball are those of a two year age bracket system and scaled diamonds. Additionally, Pony teaches lead offs and base stealing starting at age 9 (Mustang Division), or earlier while pitchers learn pick off moves and holding runners on base to counter the potential steal. In organizations such as Little League players can differ by as much as 3 years within a division. As a result, the younger players because of their lack of maturity, ability, and size, find it hard to communicate with the older players. Generally they find themselves spending a disproportionate amount of time on the bench and may feel disconnected from their team. With players of only two ages involved, as in the case with Pony baseball, it is far easier to permit every player to play more positions since the difference in skills within the age groups is not that great. Pony baseball, scales the size of their diamonds to match the physical capabilities of the players within each division.

The base and pitching dimensions for Pony baseball are:

50ft bases for Shetland 4, 5 & 6 year olds,
50ft bases and 38ft pitching for Pinto 7 & 8 year olds,
60ft bases and 44ft pitching for Mustang 9 & 10 year olds,
70ft bases and 48ft pitching for Bronco 11 & 12 year olds and
80ft bases and 54ft pitching for Pony 13 & 14 year olds.

These base dimensions are the result of extensive experimentation to determine the size on which players of each age group can properly play the game of baseball. Pitching distance is also scaled to the ability of the player in proportion to the size of the diamond. The scaled down diamonds allow the players to make the plays made by the major leaguers. Home runs become a possibility. Outfielders can play in a position proportionately equaled to that played by a major leaguer. The double play, squeeze play and various strategy tactics, difficult for adults and nearly impossible for youngsters on a full size diamond become a probability rather than impossibility.