



PONY Elite Baseball's Mission Statement

The purpose of Pony Elite Baseball is to provide a positive, youth centered learning environment for kids who are interested in playing competitive baseball. PONY Elite is an **educational** organization committed to the development of baseball skills and to instill the ideals of good sportsmanship, personal integrity, and team cooperation in the players, coaches and fans that participate in the program.

2010 Fall League Rules

***League games will be played in accordance with the CURRENT Pony Baseball Rules and Regulations with the following "Exceptions".**

1- THE LEAGUE

- A. All teams will be registered in one common league.
- B. League fee from each team will be collected at registration into league.
- C. League will consist of 8 games plus a league teams only tournament (optional).
- D. Games will be played on scheduled Sundays in Double Header format.
- E. Rainout games will be made up Monday- Saturday on an agreeable date to both coaches.

2- INSURANCE

- A. Each team that plays in league play will be required to have insurance coverage by home association.

3- TEAMS

- A. All teams will be required to submit a roster of players to league office prior to playing first league game.
- B. League teams shall be consisted of no less than nine (9) and no more than fifteen (15) players.

4- LEGAL PLAYERS

- A. The "AND UNDER" age divisions will be followed.
- B. No player is allowed to play down in any age division.
 - a. Exception: In the event a 15U division is not formed, a 14U team may add no more than three (3) players legal age 15. In addition, these players may not pitch in any of these games at any time no exceptions.

5- SELECTION OF PLAYERS

- A. Entire teams, not individuals will be registered into the league.
- B. The decision whether or not a player makes a team is the sole decision of that of the head coach.
- C. Players selected must follow league rules as adopted by PONY Elite Baseball.
- D. Players voluntarily leaving the team, or those dropped for disciplinary reasons may be replaced with the approval of the league officers, but such players shall not participate with any other PONY or PONY Elite team for the remainder of the current playing season.

6- EQUIPMENT

- A. **MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY, COLT:** Metal cleats are allowed.

7- PLAYING RULES

- A. For league game purposes "Participation" is defined as a player must be in uniform, in the dugout and listed in the official book as a player or as a "sub".
 - a. Player not playing in game due to injury or illness shall be noted as such in the official book.

- B. A game may be started with 8 players with the ninth spot in the batting order being an automatic out.
- C. Players arriving late may enter the game at any point and shall be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
- D. The entire roster of players present for the game shall bat in rotation (no exceptions)
- E. No out will be taken for any lost player except a player loss due to unsportsmanlike conduct.
- F. If a team drops below 9 for any reason then that team will forfeit the game.
- G. No player participation rule applies. Free substitution on defense except pitcher. Once removed, a player may not return to the pitching position.
- H. **MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY, COLT:** Runners may lead off and steal bases, as in Official Baseball Rules.
- I. **COURTESY RUNNER:** (optional) for catcher with two (2) outs. Courtesy runner must be last batted out. The intent of this rule is to speed up play not to insert a pinch runner.
- J. **BALKS:** are strictly enforced, no warnings.
- K. Each team is allowed 5 minutes of pre-game warm up (time permitting)
- L. Teams will occupy dugouts as displayed on scoreboard. Home team has choice if no score board is available.
- M. The "official book" will be supplied by the home association for all PONY Elite games. Upon completion of the game, the home association shall collect this book and keep in safe place. The information contained within this book will be constituted as the "official record" of the game and may be called upon to settle any disputes during or after league season is completed. Teams are not allowed to use their own personal book as the "official book".
 - a. A member of the Home team will keep "official book"
 - b. A member of the Visiting team will run the scoreboard.
- N. Home team provides game balls
- O. **Player Injury:** one coach allowed on field... play continues.
- P. **MALICIOUS CONTACT:** Any runner CRASHING into a fielder who HAS THE BALL and waiting to make the tag will be called out and ejected from the game. **This is a judgment call by the Umpire on the field.**
 - a. There is no "must slide" or "give up" rule.

8- PITCHING RULES

- A. PONY Elite will follow current PONY Baseball league pitching rules (white pages).

9- LENGTH OF GAMES

Time Limits:

Shetland	1 Hour 15 Minutes or 6 Innings
Pinto	1 Hour 15 Minutes or 6 Innings
Mustang	1 Hour 30 Minutes or 6 Innings
Bronco	1 Hour 45 Minutes or 7 Innings
Pony	1 Hour 45 Minutes or 7 Innings
Colt	1 Hour 45 Minutes or 7 Innings

- A. Run Rule:
 - a. **SHETLAND, PINTO, MUSTANG:** 15 after 3, 10 after 4, 8 after 5
 - b. **BRONCO, PONY, COLT** 15 after 4, 10 after 5, 8 after 6
- B. **PINTO:** Maximum five runs per inning except in the sixth or extra inning which is ten runs.
- C. Tie Breaker: Last batted out on second from previous inning with one out, no count on the batter. Continue this format until a winner is determined.

- D. In addition to rule 11 (E.) of the PONY Rule Book, play will be resumed at point of suspension with remaining time left as recorded in official book.
- E. New half inning/ inning will start when third out is recorded.
- F. The chief umpire shall announce to both teams that time has expired prior to the last out of the inning being recorded.
- G. The inning will be played out if the home team is losing when time has been called.
- H. Under no circumstance should a game continue if the Umpire has declared the game complete.
- I. In the event a game is declared a forfeit due to one team not having enough players, the two teams may play a practice game with borrowed players with umpires on hand to call the game.
- J. Due to tremendous interest in baseball, games cancelled due to any reason other than weather or other act of nature will only be rescheduled by league office if field availability exists. Teams will agree to pay the additional umpire fee, if required, prior to game being rescheduled. League office will reschedule all rainouts.

10- MANAGERS AND COACHES

- A. Coaches are not required to wear uniforms.
- B. Coaches will be allowed to stand outside of dugout as long as in the judgment of the umpires they are not interfering with play. If they or any of the equipment i.e. buckets get touched with a live ball, the ball is dead and umpires will award one additional base than last touched to all runners.
- C. Timeouts per team- 1 Offensive, 2 Defensive

11- PENALTIES

- A. A team failing to field at least 8 uniformed players within 15 minutes after scheduled starting time of a game, shall forfeit the game.
- B. The Head Coach is responsible for the behavior of their players, assistant coaches, parents and other team spectators.
- C. Penalty for ejection from a game as a coach, player, or fan is rest of game plus next game.
- D. If a team forfeits a league game to participate in a tournament, the team will be removed from the league for the remainder of the season with no refund. In addition, the head coach will be suspended for 1 year from PONY Elite Baseball events.
- E. If a Coach is **DISMISSED** or **BARRED** from PONY or PONY Elite, they will not be allowed to participate in ANY PONY Elite activity. This includes league and tournament play until they have been reinstated by PONY or PONY Elite.

12- PROTEST

- A. A coach is allowed 3 minutes to protest a rule interpretation. The rule book of the protested rule must be shown to chief umpire before chief umpire makes final decision; chief umpire's final decision is final. A coach must file a formal complaint to league office if he/she feels rule was not interpreted properly by chief umpire within 24 hours of completion of game; ruling will not be changed but will be reviewed for future decisions.

13- TOURNAMENT (optional)

- A. A post season tournament will be scheduled at conclusion of league play.
- B. Participation in this tournament is not mandatory.
- C. Only teams that participated in league are eligible to play.
- D. Cost to play in tournament will be an additional cost to league.

- E. Tournament format will be a Sat-Sun 2 pool play games followed by single elimination.

Pinto 7U only Division

- A. A batter shall be declared out after failing to hit a fair ball after six pitches are delivered by a coach pitcher. The batter is out if there are three strikes before the sixth pitch. Missed swings are counted as strikes, as are foul balls and foul tips. **If a foul ball or foul tip occurs on the 6th pitch then the batter gets another pitch until the ball is hit in fair territory or it is a swinging strike. If the batter doesn't swing on the 6th pitch or additional pitches then it is considered a strike and the batter is out.**
- B. When the ball is put in play the Coach Pitcher (CP) needs to get out of the way. The CP coach needs to get off the infield if the ball is hit into the outfield. The CP at that time may go behind home plate to get the bat out of the way of the catcher and runners.
- C. There shall be at least eight players on the field at all times and each player shall be in a regular baseball position. **The game will be played with ten (10) defensive players provided the tenth player is positioned in the outfield.**
- D. Coach Pitcher must start each play in the regular pitching position, in contact with the pitching rubber until the ball is released. No outfielder may start play in the infield area.
- E. Player Pitcher must start each play on either the first or third base side behind the pitching rubber and must be within 5 feet of the pitching rubber. If a chalk circle is present, both feet must be within the circle at time of pitch. The Coach Pitcher cannot field the ball once the ball is in play.
- F. If a fair ball hits the CP before being touched by a player, then the play is dead and a pitch is counted for the batter as a foul ball. If the CP hits the ball and it is deemed intentional by the Umpire then the batter is called out.
- G. The definition of an infield is the area around the bases that the Umpire deems to be their idea of an infield. Example: on fields that have the bases cut out and a dirt apron, the infield begins where the dirt starts and ends where the outfield grass begins. On fields that are all grass, the infield is either the base paths or the extended area from that towards the outfield that the Umpire has decided is where they will call an infield. Ask the Umpires at the coaches meeting before the game or risk not knowing.
- H. **COACH PITCHER: will not be allowed to communicate with or coach any runner or batter while they are on the field.** If, in the judgment of the Umpire, the CP is coaching the batter and/or runner, that runner or batter will be called out. The CP must call "time" (and it must be granted) in order to talk to the base coaches. Communication includes gestures, motioning, verbal, or any other action that could be considered instruction.

Note: Pending both Head Coaches agree before the game begins, a Coach from the Defensive team will be permitted to stand behind the catcher to retrieve passed balls. This coach's impact on game is to speed it up when passed balls occur, not to coach from that position.

COMMENT: This coach can not communicate in any way to anyone. A warning will be given by Umpire to team on a first offense; an ejection from the game will take place if rule continues to be violated. If ejection occurs, then PONY Elite ejection rule will be enforced.

Pinto 8U Division

- A. When the ball is put in play the Coach Pitcher (CP) needs to get out of the way. The CP coach needs to get off the infield if the ball is hit into the outfield. The CP at that time may go behind home plate to get the bat out of the way of the catcher and runners.
- B. There shall be at least eight players on the field at all times and each player shall be in a regular baseball position.
- C. Coach Pitcher must start each play in the regular pitching position, in contact with the pitching rubber until the ball is released. No outfielder may start play in the infield area.
- D. Player Pitcher must start each play on either the first or third base side behind the pitching rubber and must be within 5 feet of the pitching rubber. If a chalk circle is present, both feet must be within the circle at time of pitch. The Coach Pitcher cannot field the ball once the ball is in play.
- E. If a fair ball hits the CP before being touched by a player, then the play is dead and a pitch is counted for the batter as a foul ball. If the CP hits the ball and it is deemed intentional by the Umpire then the batter is called out.
- F. The definition of an infield is the area around the bases that the Umpire deems to be their idea of an infield. Example: on fields that have the bases cut out and a dirt apron, the infield begins where the dirt starts and ends where the outfield grass begins. On fields that are all grass, the infield is either the base paths or the extended area from that towards the outfield that the Umpire has decided is where they will call an infield. Ask the Umpires at the coaches meeting before the game or risk not knowing.
- G. **COACH PITCHER: will not be allowed to communicate with or coach any runner or batter while they are on the field.** If, in the judgment of the Umpire, the CP is coaching the batter and/or runner, that runner or batter will be called out. The CP must call "time" (and it must be granted) in order to talk to the base coaches. Communication includes gestures, motioning, verbal, or any other action that could be considered instruction.

Note: Pending both Head Coaches agree before the game begins, a Coach from the Defensive team will be permitted to stand behind the catcher to retrieve passed balls. This coach's impact on game is to speed it up when passed balls occur, not to coach from that position.

COMMENT: This coach can not communicate in any way to anyone. A warning will be given by Umpire to team on a first offense; an ejection from the game will take place if rule continues to be violated. If ejection occurs, then PONY Elite ejection rule will be enforced.

CODE OF CONDUCT- COACHES

Youth sports are supposed to be fun – for the children. Unfortunately, many parents, fans and coaches don't realize that their actions, whether verbal or nonverbal, can have a lasting emotional effect on children. Too many children are leaving sports activities because the fun is unfairly taken away by adults.

1. I promise to treat everyone fairly abiding by appropriate Association/ Pony Elite/ PONY rules, policies, and in compliance with the spirit of Pony Elite Baseball's mission statement, regardless of gender, ethnic background, color, sexual orientation, religion, political belief or economic status. I will display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved in Pony Elite Baseball (players, coaches, opponents, umpires, administrators, parents, spectators).
2. I will direct comments at the performance rather than the person. I promise to be constructive in my criticisms and to direct comments, observations and referrals, to the relevant individuals; I will avoid gossip, innuendo and malicious comments. I will refrain from any form of personal abuse towards players and others, including verbal, physical and emotional abuse.
3. I will consistently display high personal standards and project a favorable image of Pony Elite Baseball.
4. I will not engage in public criticism of fellow coaches. I promise to respect the efforts of appointed and elected representatives of Pony Elite Baseball/ PONY Associations/ PONY Baseball.
5. Use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco products is strictly prohibited while engage in any Pony Elite Baseball activity. I will never advocate or condone the use of drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances.
6. Use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language while coaching is grounds for game ejection with subsequent infraction resulting in dismissal from Pony Elite Baseball. I will not tolerate use of profane language or player taunts towards opposing team by my players, parents, spectators or assistant coaches.
7. I will seek continual improvement of my coaching techniques through available coach education materials and seminars.
8. I promise to treat opponents, umpires and Pony Elite Baseball officials with respect, both in victory and defeat and encourage athletes to act accordingly. I agree to adhere to all Pony Elite Baseball policies and procedures.
9. I promise to communicate with all players and parents or legal guardians regarding my coaching style, philosophy, position assignment decisions and any team activities outside practices or games. I will stress parental involvement in improving their child's baseball skills.
10. I will strive to ensure the safety of the players with whom I work; at practice and during the game.
11. I will be knowledgeable about the Pony Association Rules, Pony Elite Baseball Rules and American Baseball rules, providing instruction to players and parents.
12. I acknowledge I must be aware of the academic pressures placed on players and conduct practices and games in a manner so as to allow academic success.

I understand that if I violate this Code of Conduct I will be subject to a range of consequences, up to and including being prohibited from coaching in Pony Elite Baseball as ruled by Pony Elite Board of Directors.

CODE OF CONDUCT- PARENTS

Youth sports are supposed to be fun – for the children. Unfortunately, many parents, fans and coaches don't realize that their actions, whether verbal or nonverbal, can have a lasting emotional effect on children. Too many children are leaving sports activities because the fun is unfairly taken away by adults.

1. Talk about kids on the other team in same manner you would want other parents to talk about your child. This is the golden rule applied to sports. Watching youth sports tends to be a social affair. When you are making conversation on the sideline with your friends, think about what you are saying before you say it. To be on the safe side, only voice praise for the other players. That way, you will never go wrong.
2. Remember that all coaches are volunteers who are sacrificing their own time to help your child. So, give them a well deserved salute, especially when their team has not fared well that day.
3. Do not hesitate to give the ref, umpire or official a pat on the back, either. As you might have guessed, refs and umps are people, too. They like it when parents and fans acknowledge their on field efforts.
4. Remind your child that it is the effort that counts. 'We know all kids want to win. That's a given. Be prepared to cushion your child's disappointment after a loss by pointing out that he or she played hard and put forth a tremendous effort.
5. Avoid the post game analysis. When the game is over and your child climbs back into your car, avoid at all cost the detailed, excruciating, post game analysis of everything he did right or wrong. Just let your child chill out, savor the fun of having played, and relax. The absolute worst time for "friendly criticism" is immediately after the game.
6. Smile a lot. Kids' sports are about having fun, and because kids take their behavioral cues from you, try at least to look like you are enjoying yourself.
7. If you are not a "good sport" at the games, the kids will not be either. This should be self evident. If you set a pattern of being a sideline loudmouth who likes to yell and scream at the ref coach or opposing team, do not be surprised when your kids start copying your behavior. You will have only yourself to blame.
8. Take time to learn the rules of the game.
9. If you must make noise at the games, shout only praise and encouragement. There's never any place for derogatory, snide or sarcastic comments at youth games.
10. Above all, be there for your kids. Support them, praise them, and let them know you can always be counted on for unconditionally, regardless of the final score.

***Any Pony Elite Board Member, Association Director, or On Duty Umpire can remove any parent or fan that acts in an inappropriate manner from the baseball facility. If a parent or fan is removed from a game they will not be allowed to return for the next game. If a parent or fan is removed twice in the same season or if it is necessary to call the police to have the person removed, they will not be allowed to attend Pony Elite activities for a period of one year from the date of the second removal or the date that it was necessary to contact the authorities.**

CODE OF CONDUCT- PLAYERS

1. Players must always adhere to the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play) and never condone violations of the game rules, behavior contrary to the spirit of the rules of the game, or the use of prohibited substances or techniques.
2. Players must consistently display high standards of behavior.
3. Players must appreciate the importance of *striving* to win, not winning itself.
4. Players will not use any form of profanity.
5. Players must respect the rights, dignity, and worth of each and every person involved in the sport.
6. Players must accept responsibility for their own behavior and performance, and not argue with the game officials.
7. Players will not refuse to abide by an official's decision, or perform a verbal, forceful or disrespectful demonstration of dissent to an official's decision.
8. Players will not engage in an abusive verbal attack, including "trash talking" or taunting, to any official, participant, coach, team representative, or spectator.
9. Players will not engage in a physical attack, including but not limited to, the laying of a hand upon, pushing, shoving, striking, or kicking of any official, participant, coach, team representative, or spectator.
10. Players will not use deliberately rough tactics during a game against an opponent.
11. Players will do their best to remember that youth sports are suppose to be FUN, and that winning and losing are part of everyone's experience.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Pony Elite Baseball desires every child and adult participating in PEB activities to enjoy a positive and fun learning experience. The Board of Directors, Venue Directors and Head Coaches are all volunteers with no compensation for their service. The growth of our programs and services are dependent on the positive maturity of our volunteers and players. PEB has developed code of conduct rules for parents, players and coaches along with Association Rules designed for the protection and safety of our youth athletes. With this purpose in mind the Pony Elite Baseball has established a procedure for filing a complaint or grievance that can not be resolved by the Head Coach or Venue Director. This is not a game protest procedure, as that process is outlined within the Baseball rules.

Process

If a situation should arise that warrants a complaint please discuss the situation first with your player's Head Coach. If the situation isn't resolved to your satisfaction contact your Venue Director. If further involvement is necessary a written complaint must include the following information.

1. Your Name / Players Name & Birth Date:
2. Address:
3. Phone Number:
4. e-Mail Address:
5. Division: Example / Mustang 10U
6. Team: Example / Athletics
7. Head Coach:
8. Nature and Detail of Complaint, including responses from Head Coach and Venue Director.

If the complaint involves another team, coach or a specific umpire crew please include the dates and times games were played along with what fields and teams were involved. The written complaint should be submitted via email to all Pony Elite Baseball board members. Pony Elite Baseball Board Member emails are listed at www.ponyelitebaseball.com. The investigation is led by the President of PEB. The PEB Board shall participate and review the investigative findings and rule in accordance with Association Rules, PEB Mission Statement and Code of Conduct guidelines. The Board's decision and any disciplinary action are final. The final conclusion and results of the investigation shall be forwarded to all parties involved.