



# 2010 Pony Elite Spring League Rules

REV.01

## Table of Contents

OUR MISSION	3
GOVERNING RULES POLICY	3
GAME DAY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	3
SPECTATOR AREAS	3
TOBACCO USE	3
BOUNDARIES	3
UMPIRES & PROTESTS	3
GAME DAY BEHAVIOR	4
DISCIPLINARY POLICY & ACTION	4
FORFEITS	5
EXPULSION	5
LEAGUE MAKE UP	5
AGE CUTOFF	6
POST SEASON TOURNAMENT DECLARATION	6
ROSTER MANAGEMENT	6
TIME LIMITS	6
RUNS PER INNING	7
RUN RULE	7
METAL CLEATS	7
PLAYING UP	7
PROTECTIVE GEAR	8
GAME ATTIRE	8
DUGOUT ASSIGNMENTS	8
PRE-GAME WARM UP	8
MALICIOUS CONTACT	8
MINIMUM PLAYERS	8
BATTING ORDER	8
PLAYER AWOL	9
FREE SUBSTITUTION	9
COURTESY RUNNER	9
PITCHING LOG	9
SCOREKEEPING	9
GAME CANCELLATION	9
RE-SCHEDULE POLICY	9
FAKE BUNT/SLASHING	9
BALKS	10
TIME OUTS PER INNING	10
PLAYER INJURY	10
BETWEEN INNINGS	10
BASE AND PITCHING DISTANCE	10
PITCHING RULES	10
PINTO 7U LEAGUE ONLY	11
PINTO 8U LEAGUE ONLY	12
CODE OF CONDUCT- COACHES	13
CODE OF CONDUCT- PARENTS	14
CODE OF CONDUCT- PLAYERS	15
COMPLAINT PROCEDURES	16
SAFETY POLICY	17
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROCEDURES	17
PLAYING UP CONSENT FORM	19

## Our Mission

The purpose of Pony Elite Baseball is to provide a positive, youth centered learning environment for kids who are interested in playing competitive baseball. PEB 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.

## Governing Rules Policy

All Pony Elite Baseball rules take precedent over current In-City Association Baseball Rules. PONY Baseball rules take precedent over current Official Baseball Rules. Rule or policy changes do not change during an active season. Any rule change made during the season must be approved by the PEB Board of Directors and deemed a necessity for the positive affect of the league/division in which it affects.

## Game Day Schedule of Events

The Head Coach of each team is to meet with the Umpire(s) prior to game time, at home plate, for introductions and rule clarifications. This meeting is NOT to be treated as routine and thus unimportant. Coaches cannot agree to change or ignore the rules. If a Coach feels a PEB rule should be changed, submit the request in writing to PEB Board. The Board of Directors reviews and considers all written requests for adoption if warranted. The Umpire must clearly announce the start time of the game to both the Home and Visiting teams. The official time is kept by the plate Umpire. The Home Team is the official scorer. The Visitor Team shall run the scoreboard. At the end of the game, both teams must have a representative sign the official scorebook. Signature of the score book confirms that you have acknowledged the final score, players participating, and pitching record; in short you agree with the book. Official scorebooks are to be maintained and kept by the Home Team, not the Association.

## Spectator Areas

The Head Coach is responsible to ensure NO WARM-UP ACTIVITY occurs in any Spectator Area. First failure to comply may result in the Head Coach not participating in PEB for one game. Second offense may result in a suspension. A misguided baseball thrown in any spectator area could easily hurt a child, another player, fan or parent. Warm-ups are allowed on the field prior to the start of the game if time permits as judged by the plate Umpire. Coaches are to inform all parents and spectators that NO transportation items (other than wheelchairs and strollers) are allowed on the PEB premises. This includes, but is not limited to skateboards, scooters, roller skates, rollerblades, heelys, or any other type of board that can leave a persons body. This is to ensure the safety of all spectators while at a PEB event. **SOFT-TOSS into any fence of any kind is strictly prohibited. Most of the facilities that we play at are owned and run by the city. Respect for property is a must. The Head Coach is responsible to make sure his team adheres to this rule. Teams are allowed to bring a hitting net and can set up outside the Spectator Area for these types of drills.**

## Tobacco Use

The use of tobacco products of any kind, within the PEB facility boundaries is strictly prohibited unless a designated area is available away from the field of play.

## Boundaries

Pony Elite Baseball will follow the same set of boundaries that the PONY Associations from the North Texas PONY Baseball Fort Worth Metroplex chapter follow.

## Umpires & Protests

PEB recommends 2 Umpires for all leagues. Any Umpire's decision which involves a judgment decision like balls, strikes, outs, balk, etc. is final. No player, coach or parent may object to or question any such judgment decision. If you want to know an Umpire's strike zone, ask the Umpire during the pre-game

meeting at the plate. If there is reasonable doubt that an Umpire's decision may be in conflict with the rules, the **Head Coach** shall first ask an Umpire for permission to leave the dugout or coaches box. The Head Coach may then appeal the decision and ask that a correct ruling be made. Note: **Only the Head Coach**, or acting Head Coach if the Head Coach is absent (Acting Head Coach MUST notify Umpire of such duty during the pre-game meeting), shall have the right to initiate such an appeal. **Any appeal shall be made only to the Umpire who made the protested decision and the appeal must include the specific rule in question and any supporting facts (Head Coach MUST have the rule book with the specific rule present to appeal any call)**. When a decision is appealed, the Umpire who made the original decision may ask another Umpire for additional information before making a final decision. The plate Umpire can not overrule any field Umpire call. Any Umpire may overrule their original call after reviewing the rule in question. At no time shall a coach, player or spectator verbally or physically abuse an Umpire. At no time should a player, assistant coach, parent or spectator approach an Umpire about a call. This includes rude comments from the spectators and dirty looks from the players. A Coach may not protest a ruling unless the coach has a copy of the rules in hand. This applies to PEB rules, PONY Baseball Rules, and Official Baseball rules. The maximum time allowed for a rules protest is three (3) minutes. Umpires are required to allow the coach to protest a rule's interpretation. If the Umpire rules against an appeal request, the coach is required to drop the protest and return to playing the game. If there is confusion on how a rule should be applied, first seek the Venue Director, followed by a PEB Board Member to help clarify the rule. If there is no Venue Director or Board Member available the Umpire's decision is final.

## Game Day Behavior

The Umpires do not care which team wins or loses. They have no personal investment in the game. Umpires are not all knowing; they are people just like you and me. Umpires occasionally make mistakes and when they do, they want to be treated in a respectful manner. Do not give the Umpires a reason to rule against your team. During offensive innings one coach is allowed in the first base coaching box and one coach is allowed in the third base coaching box. **All other coaches must remain within arm's length of, or inside the dugout. During the defensive inning all coaches must remain within arm's length of, or inside the dugout.** This rule does not apply during a time out. Please remember a large part of PEB's mission is to build character in our young players. Demonstrating respect for authority that the children can follow goes a long way towards this goal. PEB is not the big leagues nor are there millions of dollars involved. Please keep the adults under control and keep the game fun for the players. When a Coach continuously argues with the Umpire it sends the message to the players that only the coach is in the best position to make the call, when in reality that is seldom the case. Keep your players focused on playing and enjoying the game, not blaming a game lost on an Umpire's judgment call.

## Disciplinary Policy & Action

The Head Coach is responsible for the behavior of their players, assistant coaches, parents and other team spectators. If an assistant coach, player or parent is ejected during a PEB game, and in the Umpire's opinion the Head Coach could have done something to prevent the situation and didn't, the Head Coach will also be ejected during the same game. A Head Coach may also be ejected for behavior of their players, parents or spectators. **Any coach, parent, spectator or player who uses profanity towards an Umpire, comes in physical contact with an Umpire or otherwise harasses an Umpire is automatically ejected from the game. That person must leave the immediate area (field, spectator stands, etc.) and go to the Parking Lot. That person will be subject to disciplinary action by the PEB Board of Directors.** Stay far enough away from the Umpire so that you do not accidentally bump or touch them. Any physical contact could result in criminal charges. Unsportsmanlike contact by a coach or player is called at the discretion of the Umpire. This includes defensive interference and inappropriate contact by a runner. Penalty for unsportsmanlike contact is ejection from the game. Arguing with the Umpire or using obscenity constitutes unsportsmanlike conduct. For the first offense in the game, the coach, player or spectator may be issued a warning or ejected from

the game. Second offense in the same game is an automatic ejection. The Umpire may or may not issue a warning before ejecting a player, coach or spectator.

### Forfeits

If any team is found to forfeit a scheduled PEB league game to go play a tournament or other league game, the Head Coach of that said team will be expelled from PEB for the remainder of the current season plus one (1) additional seasons. Multiple infractions will mandate a lifetime ban from PEB.

### Ejection/ Expulsion

If a Coach is expelled from PEB, he/she will not be allowed to participate in ANY PEB activity. This includes league play and PEB sponsored tournaments. The Coach must then request reinstatement directly to the Board of Directors President when the expulsion time has terminated. **Note:** This includes any expulsion/suspension imposed by In-City Association or PONY Baseball. If a player is ejected from a game, that player is to remain in the players’ dugout during the duration of the game. The Umpire, under no circumstance, will force the player to leave the dugout. If the player that has been ejected continues to disrupt the game being played, the Umpire does have the authority to confront the said player’s coach and request that the player’s parents or legal guardian remove the player from the field. Removal of the player from the playing field can only be done by the player’s coach after it has been determined that a parent or legal guardian over the said player is available at that time. If a parent or legal guardian is not available, the player must remain in the teams’ dugout until the conclusion of the game. If the player has disrupted the game and cannot be removed from the playing field, the Umpire will issue a warning to the player’s coach. If the player continues to disrupt the game after the Umpires warning, the player’s team will forfeit the game and the coach will serve a one (1) game suspension. If a player, coach, or spectator is ejected from a game, the individual(s) are suspended automatically for an additional game. If the person is ejected from a game twice in one season that individual will serve a two (2) game suspension. If the person is ejected from a game three times in one season that individual is not allowed to participate in PEB baseball in any capacity for one year from the date of the infraction. The Venue Director is notified immediately of any ejection/ suspension for review by the PEB Board. Umpires may call a player out for throwing helmets or bats in anger. Second offense by the same player will result in automatic ejection from the game. If a coach throws a helmet or bat in anger, the batter is out. ***If the batter is already out, then the next batter is out.*** All players must adhere to the decision of the Umpire without argument.

**Illegal Players: If a player is not on the League’s Official Team Roster and plays, then the coach will be suspended for one game. The team will forfeit all games the player played. If a second offence occurs then the coach may be subject to permanent suspension in PEB.**

**NOTE: An ejection of a head coach or assistant coach can be appealed to the Venue Director for review. All penalties are at the discretion of the PEB Board of Directors. Additional penalties can be added at anytime based on the situation and nature of the offense. The penalties outlined in this rule book are guidelines for the coaches, parents and players and are not final. Final penalties will be governed by the PEB Board of Directors and issued by the PEB President.**

### League Make Up

Divisions:	Leagues:	League Divisions:	Conferences:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pinto</li> <li>• Mustang</li> <li>• Bronco</li> <li>• Pony</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pinto 7U</li> <li>• Pinto 8U</li> <li>• Mustang 9U</li> <li>• Mustang 10U</li> <li>• Bronco 11U</li> <li>• Bronco 12U</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American- Less competitive/ Less Experience</li> <li>• National- More competitive/</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pony Elite North- Teams based north of I-30</li> <li>• Pony Elite South- Teams</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pony 13U</li> <li>• Pony 14U</li> </ul>	More Experience	based south of I-30
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## General Rules: These apply to all Leagues

**Age Cutoff:** *April 30, 2010*

**Post Season Tournament Declaration:** *May 1, 2010* Teams wishing to participate in the PONY post season All Start tournament will need to pay the \$175 entry fee and declare their intent to play in the post season tournament. Payment will be collected by Pony Elite Baseball Board of Directors

### Roster Management:

- At the start of the season before the first game, each team will submit a roster online with a minimum of twelve (12) players up to a maximum of fifteen (15).
- Prior to the midway point in the season, a team may add up to three (3) additional players to the maximum number of fifteen (15) to qualify that/those players for post season play.
- A team may replace a player that has become ill or has been injured with another player during the season up to the midway point without using an additional roster spot. To replace an injured or ill player medical documentation will need to be verified that the player is no longer capable of playing the current season. Any player being replaced will not be allowed to re-join the team the rest of the league season.
- An add-on or replacement player must be a player not currently on another PEB team participating in the league.
- A player currently playing in a rec league will be allowed to play on a PEB team so long as both teams are from the same Association. If an add-on or replacement player comes from the rec league, that player is not allowed to quit the rec team to be with the PEB team while both are playing league play; he will need to play on both. At the end of the season if such player is eligible for and selected for Rec All Star play, such player would have to make a decision which team they will play for in the post season. They will not be allowed to play for both teams in the All Star season. (Note: this rule is in effect if such Association allows a player to play in both leagues)
- Once a player is listed on a team's roster that player is frozen on that team's roster throughout the league season. Players are not allowed to play on more than one team in the same PEB league season.
- Only qualified teams may play in the post season All Star tournament. Qualified players may be picked up by a qualified team if the team has roster spots available.
- If a qualified team chooses not to play in the post season All Star tournament, as long as the team and the players on that team have qualified by participating in half the scheduled games, the players on those teams will be eligible to be picked up by other PEB teams that choose to participate in the post season All Star tournament and will be allowed to be added to their PONY Tournament affidavit.
- A player becomes qualified for post season PONY All Star season play by participating in half of the scheduled games. Participating is defined as in uniform and recorded in the official scorebook.

### Time Limits:

Pinto 7U & 8U (COACH PITCH)	1 Hour 15 Minutes or 6 innings
Mustang 9U & 10U	1 Hour 30 Minutes or 6 innings
Bronco 11U & 12U	1 Hour 45 Minutes or 7 innings
Pony 13U & 14U	1 Hour 45 Minutes or 7 innings

- A game shall be considered complete when time has expired required number of innings has been played.
- If time has expired, the inning shall be completed if the home team's score is less than the visitor's score.
- If the score is tied, time has expired and the current inning is completed, the game will end in a tie.
- If the maximum number of innings has been played and the score is tied, the game will end in a tie.
- A game called on account of weather or other reasons by the Umpire is considered a complete game when 4 complete innings have expired or 3 ½ innings, if the home team is winning.
- The next inning starts **immediately** after the Home Team has recorded its 3<sup>rd</sup> offensive out. If time expires in the middle of an inning, the inning will be completed unless the Home Team is at bat and ahead in score, in which case the Umpire will the game complete and the score recorded as final.
- The Home Plate Umpire shall announce to both teams that time has expired prior to the last out of the inning being recorded.
- When the game has ended, both teams should immediately **clean out their dugout and leave the field.**
- Under no circumstance should a game continue if the Umpire has declared the game over.

**Runs Per Inning:** There is a 5 run rule per inning per team in the 7UCP-10U leagues. After five runs have scored, the batting team must take the field. This rule does not apply to the 6<sup>th</sup> inning in 7U - 10U. In those innings the runs allowed are 10.

**Run Rule:** The game is declared complete if either team is leading by 15 runs or more after 3 complete innings, 10 runs or more after 4 complete innings or 8 runs or more after 5 complete innings.

Note: In case of run rule, the inning will not be played out. If the Home Team is leading in the last half of the inning the game will be declared complete.

**Metal Cleats:** PEB does not allow metal cleats in the Pinto 7U & 8U COACH PITCH leagues. Players in Mustang 9U – Pony 14U may wear them at their own risk.

## Playing Up

**For a player to be eligible to play up, the following guidelines must be met:**

1. They must have a "Play Up Consent Form" signed by both of their parents, the Head Coach, and a PEB Board Member.
2. They must realize that no Board Member recommends that they play up in age group. They do so at their own risk. No Player may play up more than one PONY Division level. Pure aged leagues will be available based on the number of registered teams within that age group.

**Example:** If only (2) Pony 14U teams register, then the highest level (if possible) Pony 13U and Pony 14U teams will be combined into a single league. It will be at the discretion of the PEB Board of Directors to join Age Leagues when needed.

**NOTE: No player is eligible to play down.**

**Protective Gear:** Players must wear protective headgear when at bat, on deck, on base, and at all times while out of the dugout. All catchers are required to wear some type of throat protection and protective cups. **PEB recommends all players wear protective cups.**

**Game Attire:** Players may not wear **ANY** jewelry, including earrings. Coaches may wear watches, bracelets, and rings. Male coaches may not wear earrings when on the field. Coaches are not required to wear uniforms.

**Dugout Assignments:** The Home Team shall occupy the 1<sup>st</sup> base side of the playing field. The Visitor Team will occupy the 3<sup>rd</sup> base side of the field. Both teams MUST clean their dugouts after the game. Leave the dug out immediately after the game to make room for the next team.

**Note:** If the facility has scoreboard, dugout assignments are designated by scoreboard.

**Pre-Game Warm Up:** Teams are each allowed 6 minutes of pre-game infield warm up (time permitting). Visiting team goes first followed by home team. Pre-Game Warm Up shall start 15 minutes prior to start of game allowing a couple of minutes for coaches meeting at home plate.

**Malicious Contact:** Any runner that does not attempt to avoid contact with a fielder who HAS THE BALL and waiting to make the tag will be called out and the ball is dead. Any runner CRASHING into a fielder who HAS THE BALL and waiting to make the tag will be ejected from the game and both teams will be warned. **This is a judgment call by the Umpire on the field.**

- The pathway belongs to the runner: The catcher may not block the plate without possession of the ball. Fielders should only be in the pathway when they have possession of or attempting to field the ball. Obstruction shall be called on any blocked base where the fielder is not in possession of the ball. Fielders may not block a base on an attempted pick off play; a clear pathway must be present.
- Definition of Malicious- Deliberate harm or intent to injure
- PEB does not have a must slide or give up rule.

**Minimum Players:** PEB league play and standings are based on closed registered team rosters. A team must field a minimum of 8 registered roster players to play an official game. If a team plays with 8 roster players the 9<sup>th</sup> batting position will be called out automatically each time that position is reached. A team forfeits the game if the team cannot field 8 roster players within 15 minutes after posted starting time on the schedule. However, a practice game should be played and Umpires are required to officiate the game in order to receive compensation. A practice game may be played with borrowed players providing those players are appropriate league age and registered with PEB for the current season. A make up or rescheduling of game or games will not be granted for teams fielding less than a minimum of roster players. Coaches violating the spirit of this rule are subject to disciplinary action by the PEB Board, including but not limited to game suspension, games and seasonal forfeits, up to removal and suspension from the league.

**Batting Order:** Every player must bat. The batting order shall list all eligible players that have shown up for the game. Each team exchanges their respective team batting order prior to the start of the game. The batting order may not be changed for the duration of the game. Each player must bat in the order listed before starting over at the top of the batting order. If a player has not shown up at the start of the game, they are moved to the bottom of the batting order. If that player has not arrived by their turn to bat they are recorded as absent and are not allowed to play in that game. If the team does not have nine players then the "9<sup>th</sup> batter" is called out at each turn of bat.

**Player AWOL:** If a player leaves the game for any reason other than a game related injury the team receives an out every time it is that player's turn to bat. If a player leaves the game with a game related injury and there are only eight players left, the team receives an out when it is that player's turn to bat. Note: If player is ejected, an out is recorded for that player each time they were to bat.

**Free Substitution:** This rule is in effect for each league game with the exception of pitchers. Once removed from the mound, the pitcher may reenter the game, but may not return to the mound. An "optional" courtesy runner is available for the catcher if the catcher is on base with two outs in the inning. The player making the most recent out in the inning will become the courtesy runner. The intent of the

rule is for speeding up play and not for inserting a pinch runner into the game.

**Courtesy Runner:** An "optional" courtesy runner is available for the catcher if the catcher of record is on base with two outs in the inning. The player making the most recent out in the inning will become the courtesy runner. The intent of the rule is for speeding up play and not for inserting a pinch runner into the game.

**Pitching Log:** Each team **must** maintain a pitching log. This log can be requested by the opposing coach at the beginning of each game. Failure to produce a pitching log upon request by the Umpire, Opposing Coach or Board Member will result in the ineligibility of the questioned pitcher to pitch in the game the log was requested for. If a Team breaks the pitching rules set by the league, the Head Coach will serve a one game suspension, and the pitcher will not be permitted to pitch for seven (7) days.

Note: A signed official scorebook will constitute a "pitching log"

**Scorekeeping:** Each team is responsible for furnishing a scorekeeper. The Home Team is the official game scorekeeper. The Visiting Team may have someone over the age of sixteen operate the scoreboard. Both scorekeepers should verify the results before the game is finalized to eliminate any discrepancies.

**Coaches of both teams are responsible for the scorebooks signed immediately after the completed game before the Umpire leaves the field in order to ensure accurate and timely team standings.** In Pinto 7UCP - Pinto 8UCP Leagues, the score is kept for the five run rule only and should not accumulate.

**Game Cancellation:** When a game is postponed or cancelled by the host City due to weather or field conditions, it is possible the game may not be rescheduled. PEB will attempt to accommodate when possible. Because of the tremendous interest in baseball and a limited number of fields, rescheduling cancelled games is NOT guaranteed.

**Re-Schedule Policy:** If, for any reason, you find it necessary to reschedule a game, the request must be made a **full 7 days** before the game is scheduled to take place. Both teams **MUST** agree to the reschedule. If a reschedule is approved by PEB, this gives PEB enough time to find a field and game time to move the game to, as well as find Umpires to call the game. If a full 7 days are not given, PEB cannot guarantee the game will be rescheduled. If a full 7 days are not given, but PEB can still reschedule the game (field/time is available and Umpires are available), the team requesting the reschedule will be responsible for paying the Umpire fees **BEFORE** the game is rescheduled. The request can be made and approved by PEB, but the game will not be moved until payment is received.

**Slashing:** Ages 9U-12U, a batter may never show bunt, and then swing at the ball. Once a batter steps into the batter's box and shows bunt, he is no longer allowed to swing at the next delivered pitch, unless time is called and the batter steps back out of the batter's box before the pitch is delivered. If a batter shows bunt and then swings at the pitch, the batter is called out and any runners that may have advanced on the pitch must go back to the previously occupied base. This rule is in place to protect infielders that may have encroached towards the plate after the batter shows bunt. This rule does not apply to the 13U-14U Divisions.

**Balks:** are fully enforced with no warnings. If a balk is observed, Umpires are encouraged to enforce them whenever they are observed.

The pitcher shall not bring his pitching hand in contact with his mouth or lips while in the circle surrounding the pitching rubber. Penalty for violation of this rule is that the Umpire will immediately call a ball and add it to the count. Exception: On days that are cold, the Umpire shall inform both managers that he will allow pitcher to "blow" on hand to keep warm as long as he does not lick, otherwise penalty will be enforced.

**Time Outs Per Inning:** Offensive- 1, Defensive- 2 (Does not include visits to the pitcher. 1 free visit to mound per inning, 2<sup>nd</sup> trip to pitcher in same inning will constitute removal of pitcher).

**Player Injury:** 1 coach on field immediately for injury, play continues.

**Between Innings:** A maximum of 90 seconds, or 5 warm-up pitches, will be allowed between innings with timing started upon the 3rd out. The Umpire shall keep time. Automatic strikes may be called on an offensive team not ready, and automatic balls may be called on defensive team not ready, after the Umpire has directed teams to play. If an injury requires an emergency pitching change, and a relief pitcher comes in “cold” the Umpire shall allow the pitcher to warm up properly with at least ten warm-up pitches.

### Recommended Base and Pitching Distances:

LEAGUE	PITCHING	BASES
PINTO 7U & 8U (COACH PITCH)	38'	50'
MUSTANG 9U & 10U	44'	60'
BRONCO 11U & 12U	48'	70'
PONY 13U & 14U	54'	80'

### Pitching Rules

LEAGUE	DAILY MAXIMUM	WEEKLY MAXIMUM
PINTO 7U & 8U (COACH PITCH)	N/A	N/A
MUSTANG 9U & 10U	3	8
BRONCO 11U & 12U	7	10
PONY 13U & 14U	7	10

- 1 Pitch = 1 Inning:** As soon as a pitcher delivers one pitch to a batter the pitcher shall be considered as having pitched one inning.
- Pitchers who pitch in more than one game on the same calendar day may pitch any combination of innings in those games provided they do not pitch in more innings than the Daily Maximum for their age group.
- 40 Hours Rest Rule:** Pitchers shall have 40 hours rest after pitching in:
  - **MUSTANG 9U & 10U:** three (3) innings on the same calendar day.
  - **BRONCO 11U & 12U:** four (4) or more innings on the same calendar day.
  - **PONY 13U & 14U:** four (4) or more innings on the same calendar day.
- Penalty:** Any violation of these pitching rules shall result in immediate forfeiture of the game. This may be done at any point after an illegal out has been recorded and while the pitcher in violation is in the game and in the pitching position.
  - Additional penalties could be applied from the PEB Board of Directors and will be handled on a case by case basis.

## Pinto 7U League Only

1. 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.**
2. PEB recommends two (2) Umpires for all games.
3. No coach is allowed to be behind the catcher during play. When the ball is put in play the pitching coach needs to get out of the way. The pitching coach needs to get off the infield if the ball is hit into the outfield. He/she at that time may go behind home plate to get the bat out of the way of the catcher and runners.
4. 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.**
5. Base stealing and leadoffs are **not** permitted. Runner is out if runner left the base before the ball is hit. Bunting is NOT allowed.
6. There is no infield fly rule.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. If a hit ball hits the Coach Pitcher 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 Coach Pitcher hits the ball and it is deemed intentional by the Umpire then the batter is called out.
10. The definition of an infield is the area around the bases that the Umpire deems to be his/her 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.
11. **COACH PITCHER: will not be allowed to communicate with or coach any runner or batter while he/she is on the field.** If in the judgment of the Umpire the Coach Pitcher is coaching the batter and/or runner, that runner or batter will be called out. The Coach Pitcher 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 League Only

1. 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. A batter is not out on a foul ball or foul tip unless it is also the sixth pitch.
2. PEB recommends two (2) Umpires for all games.
3. No coach is allowed to be behind the catcher during play. When the ball is put in play the pitching coach needs to get out of the way. The pitching coach needs to get off the infield if the ball is hit into the outfield. He/she at that time may go behind home plate to get the bat out of the way of the catcher and runners.
4. 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 nine (9) defensive players.**
5. Base stealing and leadoffs are **not** permitted. Runner is out if runner left the base before the ball is hit. Bunting is NOT allowed.
6. There is no infield fly rule.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. If a hit ball hits the Coach Pitcher 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 Coach Pitcher hits the ball and it is deemed intentional by the Umpire then the batter is called out.
10. The definition of an infield is the area around the bases that the Umpire deems to be his/her 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.
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## 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](http://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.

## **SAFETY POLICY**

**SPEED LIMIT IS 5 MPH IN ROADWAYS AND PARKING LOTS WHILE ATTENDING ANY PEB FUNCTION. LOOK OUT FOR SMALL CHILDREN AROUND PARKED CARS.**

1. NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED IN ANY PARKING LOT, FIELD, OR COMMON AREA WITHIN ANY PEB FIELD.
2. NO PLAYING IN PARKING LOTS AT ANY TIME.
3. NO PLAYING ON AND AROUND ANY FIELD EQUIPMENT.
4. NO SMOKING ON PREMISES (UNLESS DESIGNATED AREA IS PROVIDED)
5. NO PROFANITY.
6. NO SWINGING BATS OR THROWING BASEBALLS AT ANYTIME WITHIN THE WALKWAYS AND COMMON AREAS OF PEB FIELDS.
7. NO THROWING BALLS AGAINST DUGOUTS OR AGAINST BACKSTOP. NO SOFT TOSS INTO ANY CHAIN LINK FENCE!
8. NO THROWING ROCKS.
9. ONLY A PLAYER ON THE FIELD AND AT BAT MAY SWING A BAT. BE ALERT OF AREA AROUND YOU WHEN SWINGING A BAT WHILE IN THE ON DECK POSITION.
10. OBSERVE ALL POSTED SIGNS.
11. PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS SHOULD BE ALERT AT ALL TIMES FOR FOUL BALLS AND ERRANT THROWS.
12. DURING GAMES, PLAYERS MUST REMAIN IN THE DUGOUT AREA IN AN ORDERLY FASHION AT ALL TIMES.
13. AFTER EACH GAME, EACH TEAM MUST CLEAN UP TRASH IN DUGOUT AND AROUND STANDS.
14. NO SKATEBOARDING, BIKE RIDING OR ROLLERBLADING ON PEB FIELDS.
15. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE MAY RESULT IN EXPULSION FROM THE PEB FACILITY

### **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROCEDURES:**

1. BLEEDING MUST BE STOPPED, THE OPEN WOUND COVERED, AND THE UNIFORM CHANGED IF THERE IS BLOOD ON IT BEFORE THE ATHLETE MAY CONTINUE.
2. ROUTINELY USE GLOVES TO PREVENT MUCOUS MEMBRANE EXPOSURE WHEN CONTACT WITH BLOOD OR OTHER BODY FLUID IS ANTICIPATED.
3. IMMEDIATELY, WASH HANDS AND OTHER SKIN SURFACE IF CONTAMINATED WITH BLOOD.
4. CLEAN ALL BLOOD CONTAMINATED SURFACES AND EQUIPMENT.
5. MANAGERS, COACHES, AND VOLUNTEERS WITH OPEN WOUNDS SHOULD REFRAIN FROM ALL DIRECT CONTACT UNTIL THE CONDITION IS RESOLVED.
6. FOLLOW ACCEPTED GUIDELINES IN THE IMMEDIATE CONTROL OF BLEEDING AND DISPOSAL WHEN HANDLING BLOODY DRESSINGS, MOUTH GUARDS AND OTHER ARTICLES CONTAINING BODY FLUIDS.
7. WHENEVER POSSIBLE, MAKE SURE SOMEONE AT YOUR PRACTICE OR GAME HAS A CELL PHONE TO USE (ESPECIALLY ON THOSE FIELDS WHERE NO PUBLIC PHONE ACCESS IS AVAILABLE)!!!
8. **H1N1 (SWINE) FLU-** AT TIMES PEB MAY ASK THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED IN THE EVENT A HEALTH ADVISORY IS ISSUED REGARDING H1N1. ALL TEAM POST GAME HAND SHAKES WILL BE SUSPENDED (PLAYERS MAY LINE UP ON EACH BASE LINE AND TIP THE CAP TO OPPOSING TEAM). EACH PLAYER IS TO BRING THEIR OWN WATER JUG AND MAY NOT SHARE WITH A TEAM MATE. TEAM MATES ARE ENCOURAGED NOT TO SHARE ANY EQUIPMENT. ONLY PLAYERS AND COACHES ARE ALLOWED IN DUGOUT. IF PLAYER, FAN OR COACH APPEARS TO BE SICK BETTER TO BE SAFE TO JUST HAVE THEM STAY HOME.

REMEMBER, SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S JOB. PREVENTION IS THE KEY TO REDUCING

ACCIDENTS TO A MINIMUM. REPORT ALL HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS TO YOUR VENUE DIRECTOR OR BOARD MEMBER IMMEDIATELY. DON'T PLAY ON A FIELD THAT IS NOT SAFE OR WITH UNSAFE PLAYING EQUIPMENT. BE SURE YOUR PLAYERS ARE FULLY EQUIPPED AT ALL TIMES, ESPECIALLY CATCHERS AND BATTERS. ALSO, CHECK YOUR TEAMS EQUIPMENT OFTEN.

**WHEN TREATING AN INJURY, REMEMBER:**  
PROTECTION – REST – ICE – COMPRESSION - ELEVATION – SUPPORT

## PONY ELITE BASEBALL PLAYING-UP CONSENT FORM

The PONY ELITE BASEBALL organization requires permission from a parent/guardian for any baseball players to play up in an older age group than the age group governed by birth year.

*I, as a parent/guardian, am aware that my younger player will be playing against older, usually more physically developed players whose baseball skills are more advanced and whose play may be more physical. As parent/guardian, I give MY PERMISSION for*

*my child, \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) to play up*  
*Name* *Age*

*in the older age group of \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ baseball season.*  
*Age* *Season*

*In granting my permission, I release the above-mentioned baseball organizations from all responsibility should my child be injured, no matter how seriously, while a member of the team, and will not hold the above baseball organizations liable for any injuries that might occur.*

*(Before giving your child approval to play up, please consider your child's maturity, size, coordination, muscular development, attitude, and social development in comparison to the team members of the older team. Pony Elite does not recommend any player playing up in the next age league or division)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent/guardian*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Approval Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Head Coach*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Approval Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Pony Elite Officer*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Approval Date*