



2010 PONY Elite Spring Tournament Rules

TOURNAMENT CHECK IN PROCEDURE: Each team must check-in before the start of their opening pool play game and turn in to tournament Director the following...

- **Payment of Tournament Entry Fee (Cash or Check)**
 - Make checks payable to host Association i.e. Burleson Youth Association
 - Checks returned due to insufficient funds are subject to a \$30 NSF fee
- **Copy of Team Roster**

Payment of tournament fees will be required BEFORE your first game. There will be no exception and refunds will not be issued for failure to adhere to this policy. **Failure to check in will automatically place team at lowest seed regardless of pool play outcome.** PONY Elite will retain copy of team roster and will not return.

ROSTER POLICY: PONY Elite will accept any roster from any organization (USSSA, Super Series, handwritten, etc...) as long as it contains the following:

- Team Name
- Age Division (7U-14U)
- Head Coach's Name
- First and last name of all players with jersey numbers
- Birth date of all players listed on roster
- Minimum of 9 players. Maximum of 15 players

Once a Tournament Roster is turned in, no add-ons are allowed for the duration of the tournament.

Once a player is placed on a team's tournament roster, they are on that team's tournament roster until the end of that tournament and are not eligible to play for another team during that tournament play **within the same age division.**

Rosters are for that particular tournament only. Teams are allowed to pick up and drop any player they wish for the next tournament after a tournament has ended.

FAILURE TO SHOW POLICY: If a team registers to play in a PONY Elite Tournament and fails to show, that team/coach will be assessed a "NO SHOW" fee of \$200 **and will be suspended for 1 full year from participation in any further PONY Elite events.** This fee will have to be paid before team/coach will be allowed to register to play in another PONY Elite Tournament. A team must notify PONY Elite Tournament Baseball before the registration deadline passes for such tournament. A head coach must email info@ponyelitebaseball.com and have the following...

Team Name, Age Division, Head Coach, Phone Number, and reason for withdrawing from tournament.

While every effort to accommodate specific time request are made, there is no guarantee they will be honored. Failure to show to a tournament because a special request is not honored will not excuse a team from the "NO SHOW POLICY". You are registering to play tournament baseball. Games will begin early Saturday morning. If your team cannot accept those times, in the event you are scheduled, you are probably better off not registering to play.

PLAYING CONDITIONS: Ball Park Staff and the Tournament Director will determine field playing conditions. Any coach that fails to field their team after field has been deemed ready to play will forfeit the game to the other team.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT: Both teams must provide two new or like new 9" baseballs for each game. Balls must be cushioned cork center, leather cover. Protective head gear (batting helmets) must be worn by all offensive players while on the playing field. Shin Guards, protective cup, chest protector, catchers mask with throat protector, must be worn while catching. Coaches must make certain all their players have required equipment, it is the coach and parents' responsibility to ensure all players have proper equipment for safety.

AGE ELIGIBILITY FOR ALL DIVISIONS: To determine your team's 2010 Spring Season age, determine your oldest players age as of **April 30, 2010**. That is the Age Division you must play this Spring tournament season.

REFUND POLICY: Full refund if no games have begun; ½ refund if 1 game is started; no refunds once second game started. PONY Elite Baseball will make every effort to accommodate the conclusion of the tournament, including changing dates, alternate location etc...

PROTEST POLICY: All protests will be resolved immediately. **Only team managers may protest.** Judgment calls by umpires may not be protested. Upon a protest, the team manager shall remit a \$50.00 cash protest fee. If the protest is upheld, the \$50 shall be immediately refunded. If the protest is denied, the deposit shall be forfeited to Pony Elite Baseball. Protests shall be resolved by the tournament director and his designees, in consultation with the umpires of the game.

SHORTENED GAME POLICY: Three (3) innings or 2 ½ if the home team is ahead, or one half of the official game time has expired will constitute a complete game. If the visiting team is batting when the game is called as a result of field conditions, inclement weather, or electrical (lighting) the final score will revert back to the last completed inning to determine a winner. If the last completed inning was tied, the game will be determined a tie. Ball Park staff will make every effort to prepare the fields for play. For tournament games, decisions will be made as soon as possible. Coaches can check our website www.ponyelitebaseball.com to check on rain outs. PEB does not have time to return calls as we are trying to get fields ready to play. If games are delayed or cancelled, the website will state that information; otherwise assume the games are on schedule.

SHORTENED TOURNAMENT POLICY: In the event a tournament has to be shortened due to field conditions, inclement weather, or electrical (lighting) after pool play has been completed and during bracket play, PEB will determine final placements of teams based on seeding of teams that are still alive in the tournament. If the tournament comes to a halt during play and cannot resume, the SHORTENED GAME POLICY will go into effect. If the two teams are tied (after the Shortened Game Policy) a coin flip will be used to determine the winner.

UN-SPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT POLICY: by a coach, manager, player or fan will be called at the discretion of the umpire. Penalty for un-sportsmen like conduct will be ejection from the game. If a player or coach is ejected twice in the same tournament, the player or coach will be suspended from rest of tournament. The umpire may or may not issue a warning before ejecting a player. Upon ejection for unsportsmanlike conduct for any player, manager, coach or fan of the team, the person ejected is required to immediately leave the park premise. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit by team.

Note: An ejected player may remain in dugout so long as they are not a causing further disruption to the game.

MISCELLANEOUS: No hitting baseballs (soft toss) into any chain link fence. No alcoholic beverages are permitted in the park! No outside food or drinks may be brought into the park. No ice chests of any kind or size, this includes small soft side ice chests. No animals permitted in the park, except those assisting a disabled person. No fighting, profanity, abuse, heckling, unsportsmanlike conduct, no soliciting of any kind in park or parking lots area. Water jugs are permitted in the park.

COMBINING AGE DIVISIONS POLICY- PEB reserves the right to combine age divisions if necessary to make tournament. A division will not be combined with any division other than the one immediately younger or older. Rule: a 9U would play with 10U, 11U would play with 12U, and 13U would play with 14U. PEB will not combine ages under any circumstance other than what is defined above.

Minimum team count for a division to make is 4. If less than four teams, the division above or below will be combined. If by combining divisions still does not meet the minimum, then the combined divisions for those two age groups will not have made, thus not being able to play.

Comment: For this example if only three 9U teams sign up and three 10U teams sign up we will make a single 10U division with six teams.

Comment: When possible, during Pool Play only, same aged teams will pool to play one another. All teams will move to Championship Bracket based on seeding after Pool Play regardless of age.

POOL PLAY

This tournament will have two (2) pool games followed by a single elimination bracket. Pool games may begin on Friday night and run through Saturday. The elimination round will begin on Sunday.

The following criteria will be used to seed teams after pool play in the following order:

- Best overall record,
- ***Head to head results**
- Least runs allowed
- Total runs scored
- Coin Flip

***(If three (3) or more teams have the same record. Head-to-Head will not be used as criteria.)**

Ties resulting with more than two teams will use the same criteria as above eliminating teams one at a time. If two teams are tied after all advancement criteria have been used, then a coin flip will determine seeding and advancement in the tournament. The coin flip will be done by a tournament official with both coaches present, if possible. **HOWEVER**, if both coaches cannot be present, then more than one tournament official will be present for the coin flip.

POOL Game time limit:

- 7U-8U CP: **1 Hour or 6 innings**
- 9U-10U: **1 Hour 15 Minutes or 6 innings**
- 11U-14U: **1 Hour 30 Minutes or 6 innings**

A Pool Game can end in a tie.

Teams will have line-up completed and be ready to play at the scheduled game time. **GAME TIME WILL START AT THE COIN FLIP** at home plate by the umpire with both coaches. (Do not delay in getting your players on the field, the game clock is running)

BRACKET PLAY

- Highest seed = Home Team.
- Time Limits
 - 7U-8U CP: **1 Hour 15 Minutes or 6 innings**
 - 9U-10U: **1 Hour 30 Minutes or 6 innings**
 - 11U-14U: **1 Hour 45 Minutes or 6 innings**
- Championship Game will be played with **NO TIME LIMIT & NO MODIFIED TIE-BREAKER, if conditions allow.**
- Due to weather conditions or other factors, time limits may be modified, at any time, in order to complete the tournament.
- **No BRACKET CHANGES will be made after 11:30 pm.** We make every attempt to post game scores as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of teams to check and make sure those scores are posted correctly. Most posting mishaps happen because the scores on the game cards are incorrect or illegible - even though both coaches and both umpires have signed them.
- A winner must be determined

During bracket play only, if any game ends with the scored tied AND official time has expired, the game will continue using a modified tie-breaker as outlined in the following:

Modified Tie-Breaker:

- Each half inning will start with a runner at 2nd base and one (1) out.
- Each team will continue the batting order from the previous inning, with the previous inning's last batter (NOT OUT) occupying 2nd base.
- The game will continue until a winner is determined.

Example:

The game ends in a 3-3 tie. The visiting team determines the # 4 batter is due up. The team will put the # 3 batter on 2nd. There will be one out in the inning and both teams will play like this until a winner is decided.

ROSTER LIMIT: Each team will provide a completed roster. Minimum number of players on roster is 9. Maximum number of players on roster is 15. Each team will be required to provide ballpark staff with copies of birth certificates for each player in the event a team is protested for player eligibility. It is the responsibility of each coach to ensure all information on their team's roster is correct. Any discrepancy in the roster could lead to suspension, forfeiture of game(s), and forfeiture of any and all fees paid.

STARTING A GAME: A team may start a game with as few as eight (8) players, taking an automatic out in the 9 position in the batting order. If a team does not field at least eight players within five (5) minutes of called game time, that team will forfeit the game. If a player arrives late they will take the batting position in the lineup where the automatic out is listed.

If the Tournament Director is advised of a problem concerning a team not being on time, at the discretion of the Tournament Director, the game may be held until the team arrives.

PLAYING RULES:

RULE BOOK: PONY Elite Baseball tournaments will play by *Official Baseball Rules*, as published by *Sporting News* except those outlined below.

DISTANCES:

Age Division	Bases	Pitching
Pinto 7U-8U CP	50'	38'
Mustang 9U-10U	60'	44'
Bronco 11U-12u	70'	48'
Pony 13U-14U	80'	54'

UNIFORMS: Although matching uniforms are not required, no two players may have the same number. All players are required to have a number on their jersey. Coaches are not required to wear uniforms.

DUGOUT ASSIGNMENT: Home/Visitor does not determine dugout assignments (i.e. first come first serve). Each team will be required to clean dugout of trash and debris after each game.

HOME/VISITOR RESPONSIBILITES: Home team will be responsible for the official book. Visiting team will be required to operate the Scoreboard.

PRE-GAME WARM UP: No Pre-Game warm up is allowed during tournament play for any age division.

GAME LENGTH: 6 innings or time limits whichever comes first. No game will be extended because of remaining time in time limit.

RUN RULE: 20 after 2 (1 ½ if home team is winning), 15 after 3 (2 ½ if home team is winning), 10 after 4 (3 ½ if home team is winning), 8 after 5 (4 ½ if home team is winning)

RUN LIMIT PER INNING:

Age Division	Run Limit per Inning
Pinto 7U-8U	5
Mustang 9U-10U	None
Bronco 11U-12U	None
Pony 13U-14U	None

BEGINNING AN INNING: An inning begins immediately after the third out of an inning is recorded. The Umpire-in-Chief shall announce to both teams that game time has expired prior to the third out being recorded. If third out occurs while third out is in process of being recorded and before the announcement, then new inning shall start.

BATTING/OFFENSE: Teams will be allowed to bat 9 or 10 players (EH). **NO DESIGNATED HITTER.** A team may finish the game with ONE less player than they started; however upon the loss of the second player, regardless of the batting order you have chosen, the game will become an immediate forfeit. If a team only has nine players and loses a player for any reason, an out will be record each time that batter comes to the plate to bat. A team must have at least eight (8) players to start - an out will be

recorded for the ninth position. If a team chooses to ROSTER BAT and a player is lost for any reason an out will be taken for that spot in the batting order.

WE ALLOW ROSTER BATTING; HOWEVER, unless declared before EACH game, it will be assumed the team will bat only 9.

EXTRA HITTER RULE: The extra hitter (EH) rule shall apply to the teams who choose to bat ten (10) players with additional players eligible for substitution on the bench. The EH must be declared on the lineup card prior to the game. Once the game has started a team cannot choose to add an EH. The EH may hit in any place in the batting order and is considered eligible for re-entry under the re-entry rule like any regular position player. The EH rule allows ten (10) individual players to hit in the batting order. Once the EH is indicated on the lineup card the EH can not be eliminated at the discretion of the coach or manager. The EH is eligible to be put into the game defensively at anytime. If this happens, the batting order does not change. The ten (10) players in the batting order can be rotated among the nine (9) defensive positions at the discretion of the coach or manager, and all are eligible for reentry under the reentry rule. For example, a manager can move the EH into LF, and the LF now becomes the EH. This would be just like switching the shortstop and the second baseman. This does not require a substitution, as the batting order is not affected. If a team using the EH drops below ten (10) players due to injury, ejection, or some other reason, the team will be allowed to continue the game with nine (9) players and no EH. The penalty, should this occur, would be an out taken in the batting order where the player was lost. Please note, unlike a designated hitter (DH), when a team decides to use an EH in a game, the only way an EH can be eliminated from the game is to have no more eligible players available in that game.

Note: *The intention of the EH rule is to provide a mechanism for coaches to increase playing time to players.*

THROWING THE BAT: For safety reasons, any player that throws their bat after swinging at the ball will be declared out, no warnings, no base runners will advance. Please teach all players to hit the ball and drop the bat. Kids get hurt every year by thrown bats. The umpire will be the judge of a thrown or dropped bat.

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.

TIME OUTS PER INNING: Offensive-1, Defensive- 2 (Does not include visits to the pitcher. 1 free visit to mound per inning, 2nd trip to pitcher in same inning will constitute removal of pitcher).

DEFENSIVE POSITIONS: 9 players

SUBSTITUTION RULE:

- a. A team that chooses to bat entire roster will have free substitution except for the pitcher.
- b. A team that chooses to bat either 9 or 10 with an EH will play by regular baseball rules with the exception that a starter may re-enter the game one time in the same batting position in the lineup that he was originally at. The substitute player he replaces is now out of the game.
- c. **INJURY TO A STARTER:** If a starter gets injured during a game and no eligible subs are available, the last sub that was removed from game will enter the game for injured starter. The starter is now out of the game. An out will be recorded in batting lineup for such player.
- d. **COURTESY RUNNER:** An "optional" courtesy runner is available for the catcher of record on base with two outs in the inning. The player making the most recent out in the inning will become the courtesy runner. **Remember, the intent of the rule is for speeding up play. Courtesy runner is not allowed for pitcher at any time.**

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.

PLAYER INJURY: 1 coach on field immediately for injury, play continues.

METAL CLEATS: are allowed in Mustang 9U - Pony 14U Divisions.

Are not allowed in any Pinto 7U-8U "Coach Pitch" divisions.

SLASHING: Divisions 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.

***Note: This rule does not apply to the 13U-14U Divisions**

PITCHING RULES

PITCHING LIMITATIONS

AGE DIVISION	DAILY LIMIT	TOURNAMENT LIMIT
7U-8U CP	N/A	N/A
9U-10U	18 OUTS	27 OUTS
11U-14U	18 OUTS	30 OUTS

- **Daily Limit:** The maximum number of outs a player can pitch in one (1) calendar day.
- **Tournament Limit:** The maximum number of outs a player can pitch in current tournament.
- **Comment:** For age divisions 9U - 10U, this is to be interpreted as a player can pitch any combination of innings that equals nine (9) innings for the entire tournament as long as he doesn't pitch and record more than 6 innings in any one day.
- **Comment:** For age divisions 11U - 14U, this is to be interpreted as a player can pitch any combination of innings that equals ten (10) innings for the entire tournament as long as he doesn't pitch and record more than 6 innings in any one day.
- A day begins with the first game scheduled for a particular day and ends with the last game completed of same particular day. A game that starts after midnight is still considered in the same calendar day.
- PONY Elite League 40 hour rest rules do not apply to tournament play. Coaches are advised to use common sense and allow their pitchers adequate rest between pitching appearances.
- A pitcher that pitches in a game and records no outs is not charged as having pitched in that inning.
- Outs recorded during a game that ends in forfeit shall count towards pitchers' out limits.
- For purposes of pitching limitations rules, a pitcher is in violation of the rule if he records any out above the legal pitching limits pursuant to these rules.

Exception: Exceeding the maximum innings allowed in the case of a double or triple play shall not be counted against the pitcher.

Penalty; It shall be the responsibility of each team manager to challenge pitching violations by notifying the Umpire-in-Chief and then filing a Protest with the Tournament Director. A protest may be filed at any point after the pitcher in violation records an out beyond his legal limit AND while the pitcher in violation is in the game and in the pitching position. Any violation of pitching limitations Rule shall result in immediate forfeiture of the game. If such violation occurs during Pool-Play, the team in violation of the Rule may not advance to the championship bracket regardless of record.

BALKS: are fully enforced with no warnings. If a balk is observed, it will be enforced.

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 a ball 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.

COMPLETION OF GAME: Upon completion of the game, umpires will return game cards to a tournament official or to designated location.

Both coaches must return to the pavilion office no later than 30 minutes after the conclusion of the game to sign the game cards.

Game cards will contain the final scores for that game and pitching records. In signing the game card, you are stating that the information on the card is correct. Any objections to the umpire's game card will require that both coaches be present with their respective scorebooks. Any coach which does not show up to sign the game card within 30 minutes of the end of the game will be stating that the information on the game card is correct. **There will be no changes to game cards after the manager's have signed or the allotted time to sign has expired.**

Pinto 7U Only Division

1. A batter shall be declared out after failing to hit a fair ball after six (6) pitches are delivered by a coach pitcher. The batter is out if there are three (3) 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. 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.
3. 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. The tenth (10th) player is positioned in the outfield.**
4. Base stealing and leadoffs are not permitted. Runner is out if they leave the base before the ball is hit.
5. 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 touches 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 Only Division

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. 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.
3. 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.**
4. Base stealing and leadoffs are **not** permitted. Runner is out if runner left the base before the ball is hit.
5. 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 five (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.

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 PONY Elite 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.
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 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.
8. I will strive to ensure the safety of the players with whom I work.
9. I will be knowledgeable about the PONY Elite Baseball Rules and Official Baseball rules, providing instruction to players and parents.

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.