

TRI CITY BASEBALL

LOCAL LEAGUE RULES

2011

All play and administration shall be governed by Rules and Regulations for PONY Baseball, Inc., Official Baseball Rules and the Bylaws and Guidelines of Tri-City Baseball with the exception and elaboration noted herein

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1) GENERAL RULES

- A) All play and administration shall be governed by Rules and Regulations for PONY Baseball, Inc., Official Baseball Rules published by The Sporting News, and the Bylaws and Guidelines of Tri-City Baseball with the exception and elaboration noted herein.
- B) All Managers, Commissioners, Scorekeepers and Officers of the League must be provided with copies of the Rules and Regulations for PONY Baseball, Inc., the Bylaws of Tri-City Baseball, the guidelines corresponding to their position, and the Local League Rules of Tri-City Baseball.
- C) The Board of Directors, by two-third majority vote, is the only body with the authority to revise the Local League Rules. No general membership vote is required.

2) REGISTRATION FEES

- A) Registration fees will be set by the Board of Directors based on the budgeted operating expenses of the League. The Board of Directors shall make every effort to make the registration fee reasonable and comparable to other leagues. Fundraisers may be necessary to accomplish this.
- B) A letter requesting waiving or reduction of the registration fee shall be submitted by the parent/legal guardian at the time of registration.

3) GENERAL CONDUCT

- A) Consumption of alcoholic beverages by anyone at a Tri-City sponsored event is prohibited. Any Manager, Coach, Official or Board Member under the influence of alcohol during a Tri-City sponsored event will be subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors
- B) Use of tobacco products by a Manager or Coach is prohibited during any practice or game in which he/she is participating. Any Manager, Coach, Official, or Board Member found using tobacco products during a Tri-City sponsored event will be subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.
- C) Either the Manager or Coach of each team must be certified by a PONY approved clinic.
- D) Umpires may eject from the game or spectator area any individual (Manager, Coach, Player, or Spectator) whom the Umpire deems to be detrimental to the game in progress or in grievous violation of the Rules and Regulations of PONY Baseball, Inc., the Official Rules of Baseball, or the Bylaws and Local League Rules of Tri City Baseball.
- E) Persons who engage in unsportsmanlike conduct such as fighting or similarly derogatory activity may be immediately ejected from the ballpark and be subject to further disciplinary action.

- F) Umpires shall provide the Commissioner and/or the Official Scorekeeper with the name, if available and known, of anyone ejected from a game and the reason for being ejected.
- G) Acts of violence, especially against a Player or umpire, will not be tolerated and shall be reported to the police. Individuals committing an act of violence shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors, to include being banned from Tri-City Baseball for life.
- H) Ejections, suspensions and other disciplinary action of any Manager, Coach, or Player may be considered by the Board of Directors for the purpose of eligibility for All-Star participation.
- I) Any Manager, Coach, or Player ejected from a game will serve an automatic one (1) game suspension unless overruled by the Executive Board.
- J) Official warning procedure: At the time of the infraction, the umpire-in-chief shall call time and notify Managers, the offender, and the official Scorekeeper of the official warning. All official warnings are to be entered in the official scorebook.

4) *PLAYER PARTICIPATION*

- A) Each Player, regardless of division, shall play at least two (2) entire defensive innings and have at least one (1) official at-bat per regular season game for which that Player is in attendance.
 - 1) NOTE: This rule only applies to games that complete at least four (4) innings. For games less than 4 innings then it is the discretion of the coach to get all players in the game.
- B) Discipline of Players for misconduct or absenteeism, as it relates to participation, shall be at the discretion of the Manager, but is subject to review by the League Commissioner and the Executive Board. If disciplinary action is taken, the Manager must inform the opposing Manager and the Official Scorekeeper, who must note it in the official scorebook.
- C) If a Player does not play at least two (2) defensive innings and have at least one (1) official at-bat, that Player shall start the next Tri-City league game for which that Player is in attendance; except when the Player does not play due to disciplinary action. This rule does not apply for games that do not go complete four (4) innings. (See Rule 4.A.1)
- D) Any Manager who violates Player participation rules shall be subject to disciplinary action.
- E) Player participation rules shall not apply to tournament play.

5) **GENERAL PLAYING RULES**

- A) No game will be played should the scheduled umpires fail to appear, unless both Managers agree. The game's Official Scorekeeper shall enter the conditions into the official scorebook, and the game **will not be protested.**
- B) Official game time will be maintained by the Umpire-in-Chief (the plate umpire) and shall be noted in the official scorebook.
- C) In Mustang, Bronco and Pony divisions an extra-hitter (EH) will be allowed. This will give a team a 10-Player line-up which must be declared before the start of the game and used the remainder of the game. If a team is unable to continue a 10-Player line-up for any reason, that slot will be an out. The Player in the EH position, while not actually playing a defensive position, will be treated as though they are for substitution purposes. The re-entry rule applies for the EH. Example: Bill is the EH and batting 4th. John is the catcher and batting 7th. Bill can become the catcher and John the EH. Both Players would remain in their original batting order. All Players, except pitchers, can move freely in defensive positions. The EH is not considered a defensive position for the purpose of Player participation.
- D) "Roster Batting" will be mandatory in Shetland and Pinto divisions. In Mustang, Bronco and Pony divisions, "Roster Batting" will be allowed, but is not mandatory. "Roster Batting" is defined as a manager placing every member of the team present for the game on the batting line-up. Roster Batting must be declared before the start of the game and used the remainder of the game. If a team is unable to continue a Roster Batting line-up for any reason, that slot will be an out. All Players on a Roster Batting line-up, whether or not actually playing a defensive position, will be treated as though they are for substitution purposes. All Players, except pitchers, can move freely in defensive positions. Players on a Roster Batting line-up are not considered defensive positions for the purpose of Player participation.
- E) Use of a designated hitter is not sanctioned in league play.
- F) In the event of a tie for first place at the end of the regular season, the champion will be decided by the following criteria: (1) head-to-head; (2) best two out of three series if head-to-head is tied.
- G) Should the game be tied at the end of prescribed time limits there are to be NO extra innings played. The game will be recorded as a tie.
- H) Any batter who throws a bat will receive an official warning. After the second (2nd) time, the batter may be ejected from the game.

6) **EQUIPMENT RULES**

- A) An equipment bag complete with practice balls, batting helmets, bats and catcher's equipment is provided to each Manager at the beginning of the season. The Manager is

required to submit a check in the amount of \$100 as a deposit. It is the responsibility of the assigned Manager to keep track of his/her equipment and return it in its entirety at the completion of that baseball season. If the Manager fails to return all equipment, the deposit will not be returned.

- B) Batting helmets are provided to each team for use during the season, however, should a Player wish to use his/her own batting helmet, it must meet all safety requirements set forth in the Rules and Regulations for PONY Baseball, Inc.
- C) Tennis shoes or rubber/plastic spikes are permitted for play. **NO “metal” spikes** will be permitted for use in Shetland, Pinto and Mustang divisions.
- D) The League provides uniforms (hats and shirts). Pants, belts, and sock colors are at the discretion of the Team Manager. Once the “team uniform” has been decided and a Player has obtained all parts of the uniform, he/she shall be required to wear the entire uniform for all games. Any enhancement to the said uniform (i.e. names on shirts, embroidered hats, etc.) shall be done for the entire team and shall not be done for a specific individual(s). Coaches are permitted to wear coaching shorts in place of baseball pants.
- E) Catchers are required to wear all protective gear as stated in the Pony Rules & Regulations. In addition, a male Player that plays the catcher position, in Shetland, are encouraged to purchase and wear a protective cup. In all other divisions male catchers are required to purchase and wear a protective cup. Female catchers are encouraged to wear a cup.
- F) Game balls will be provided by the League and will be PONY approved hardballs with the exception of Shetland, who will use the RIF 5 ball for games.

7) *SHETLAND DIVISION*

- A) Shetland division playing rules shall apply as stated in the tournament play section of the South Zone Pony Tournament Play Rules book except as amended by this section.
- B) Two defensive coaches will be allowed in the outfield to instruct Players through the 3rd Saturday after opening ceremonies. Tournament rules will apply thereafter.
- C) Defensive Players must be rotated after two innings to allow Players to gain a wider perspective of the game. In other words, infielders should learn to play in the outfield and outfielders should learn to play in the infield.
- D) There will be no coach pitching or pitching machines. All Players will use a batting tee.
- E) The pitcher must throw to first base when making a play on the batter who has hit a ground ball. **EXCEPTION:** The pitcher may tag the batter if the ball is within two to three feet of the baseline or the batter fails to run to first. The umpire’s judgment in this case is final.

- F) The pitcher may run and tag out the runner or touch the base on a force play at any base except first.
- G) Runners are allowed one base on an overthrow, unless the defensive Player throws the ball or runs down a runner in an attempt to make a play, runners are then allowed to advance at their own risk.
- H) If a Player refuses to participate (unless it is due to injury), he/she will be removed from the game and not allowed to re-enter. The Player removed from the game will be counted as an out on his/her next offensive inning only. If the team is unable to field nine Players, the game is forfeited.
- I) No inning shall begin after one hour. Innings started before one hour shall be completed.
- J) Coaches may assist the batter in the batter's box for ten seconds through the 3rd Saturday following Opening Ceremony. Tournament rules shall apply thereafter.
- K) Time may be called only after the defensive team has stopped the advance of the lead runner.
- L) No more than five (5) runs per inning are allowed except in the sixth inning, when scoring is unlimited.

8) *PINTO DIVISION*

- A) Pinto division playing rules shall apply as stated in the tournament play section of the South Zone Pony Tournament Play Rules book except as amended by this section.
- B) Once a coach removes himself/herself as a pitcher, they are not permitted to return to the pitchers mound.
- C) Two defensive coaches will be allowed in the outfield to instruct Players through the 2nd Saturday after opening ceremonies. Tournament rules will apply thereafter.
- D) No inning shall begin after one hour. Innings started prior to one hour shall be completed. (Refer to division rulebook for definition of complete game.)
- E) Teams will be allowed an extra outfielder if so desired.
- F) If a Player refuses to participate (unless it is due to injury), he/she will be removed from the game and not allowed to re-enter. The Player removed from the game will be counted as an out on his/her next offensive inning only. If the team is unable to field nine Players, the game is forfeited.
- G) No more than five (5) runs per inning are allowed except in the sixth inning, when scoring is unlimited.

9) MUSTANG DIVISION

- A) Mustang division playing rules shall apply as stated in the tournament play section of the South Zone Pony Tournament Play Rules book except as amended by this section.
- B) No inning shall begin after one hour and forty-five minutes. Innings started prior to one hour and forty-five minutes shall be completed. (Refer to division rulebook for definition of complete game.)
- C) No more than five (5) runs per inning are allowed except in the sixth inning, when scoring is unlimited.

10) BRONCO DIVISION

- A) Bronco division playing rules shall apply as stated in the tournament play section of the PONY rule book except as amended by this section.
- B) No inning shall begin after one hour and fifty minutes. Innings started prior to one hour and fifty minutes shall be completed. (Refer to division rulebook for definition of complete game.)
- C) No more than ten (10) runs per inning are allowed except in the seventh inning, when scoring is unlimited.

11) PONY, COLT and PALOMINO DIVISIONS

- A) Pony, Colt and Palomino division playing rules shall apply as stated in the tournament play section of the PONY rule book except as amended by this section.
- B) No innings shall begin after one hour and fifty minutes. Innings started prior to one hour and fifty minutes shall be completed. (Refer to division rulebook for definition of complete game.)

12) GAME PROTESTS

- A) All protests must be entered in the Official Scorebook immediately after the protest is filed in accordance with the PONY rulebook and the Official Rules of Baseball.
- B) When a game is protested, the game umpire-in-chief must file a written report with the vice president of operations within forty-eight (48) hours.
- C) The protesting Manager must file a written protest with the Commissioner within forty-eight (48) hours of the protest and post a \$25 bond in cash or money order with the Commissioner, who will issue a receipt for the bond.

- D) If the protest is upheld, the \$25 will be returned to the protesting Manager. If the protest is denied, the fee will be forfeited to Tri City Baseball.
- E) The Decision Committee shall be comprised and act as stated in the By-laws of Tri City Baseball. A decision will be rendered and provided in writing to the team managers involved and the umpire-in-chief of the game at issue. The decision will be filed by the League Secretary and become part of the League records.

13) *PLAYER POOL RULES*

- A) A Player pool shall be formed in each division to provide eligible Players for any team that is unable to field nine (9) Players due to the absence, illness or injury of regular team Players.
- B) The League Commissioner shall establish a Player pool for each division prior to the start of regular season games.
- C) Pool Players shall consist of Players within the division that are inexperienced and/or underutilized on their regular teams.
- D) The purpose of the Player pool is:
 - 1) To prevent the rescheduling or forfeit of games
 - 2) To provide inexperienced or underutilized Players opportunity for additional playing time
 - 3) To discourage the use of Players from an opposing team to play the game
- E) Pool Players shall only play in an outfield position and bat at the end of the lineup for the duration of the game.
- F) A pool Player that enters a game already in progress due to a regular Player leaving the game shall bat in that Player's position in the lineup and only play in an outfield position.
- G) Use of pool Player(s) is subject to all time limits for the start or resumption of play in accordance with all applicable official rules.
- H) You may not use a Player from the opposing team. If both Managers agree, a different Player every inning may be used to play a scrimmage game, but the game will be considered a forfeit.

14) *PLAYER DISTRIBUTION GUIDELINES*

- A) The Board of Directors will rank all Players as either experienced or inexperienced. The Commissioner and Vice President of Operations will conduct a Player draft no later than March 1st.
- B) There will be no tryouts for the Shetland division. Tryouts for all other divisions will be scheduled prior to March 1st.

C) Playing Up:

- 1) Players must meet eligibility requirements in accordance with Pony Baseball Age Chart (reference Pony Rules Book).
- 2) Any player that is eligible to play up will have to try-out in the division they would like to participate.
 - (1) Prior to the Draft, the division Coaches with concurrence of the League Commissioner and Executive Board will determine if the player has the proficiency to safely play in the upper division.
- 3) Players not considered proficient enough to Play Up will still have to try-out in the traditional division for their age group.
- 4) Tri-City Executive Board reserves the right to keep players in traditional division for their age group if and when they are needed to complete team rosters.

D) Drafts will be conducted as follows:

- 1) Managers should have an approved coach selected prior to tryouts.
- 2) The only protected Players will be the child or children of the Manager and one (1) coach. Each team should come to tryouts with two (2) protected Players named. These Players will not be part of the tryouts or draft selection. If the Manager and coach have more than two children in the same division, the other children must be drafted consecutively beginning in the third round.
- 3) Should a Manager not have a child and/or designate a coach prior to draft, the protected Player(s) will be determined by method prescribed by the board member conducting the draft.
- 4) Any agreements made prior to the draft, i.e. special requests, must have the approval of the majority of managers and the board member conducting the draft.
- 5) Managers will draw numbers for original picking order immediately preceding the draft. The serpentine method will be used thereafter (ex: 1,2,3,4,4,3,2,1..). All Players attending tryouts will be eligible to draft beginning with their first pick.
- 6) Any Player who does not participate in tryouts will have his/her name placed in a hat. Managers will draft in the serpentine manner until teams are equal in number and there are not enough remaining Players to be distributed equally. At this time, the remaining Players names will be placed in the hat with the Players not attending tryouts; and managers will continue drafting in the serpentine manner.
- 7) Each team should consist of not more than twelve (12) Players with the intention of providing more playing time for each Player during a game.

E) Trades may be made immediately after the draft. All trades must have the approval of the board member conducting the draft.

F) Any Board member may attend the draft.

G) Any Player wishing to register after tryouts have been concluded will be placed on a waiting list. Players added after the draft will be distributed to the first team that would

be next in the serpentine order during the draft.

- H) Managers can appeal the decisions of the board member that conducted the draft to the Executive Board. Any appeals must be made prior to beginning the draft, with the exception of appeals pertaining to trades made after the draft.

15) ALL-STAR SELECTION GUIDELINES

- A) All-Star teams shall be comprised of Players who are PONY tournament eligible. These teams shall consist of the Players with the best individual ability from the entire division and therefore, equal representation from each team is not required.
- B) The Board of Directors may sponsor more than one All-Star team from a division if the Board determines by majority vote that the division has enough eligible Players to create more than one competitive team.
- C) SHETLAND, PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO and PONY teams shall consist of twelve (12) regular Players and three (3) alternative Players. Alternate Players will be listed on the official team roster and may practice with the team. However, alternate Players will not be issued a uniform and will not play in an All-Star tournament unless a regular Player is unable to play. Any substitutions of alternate Players in tournament play will be reported to the Board of Directors as soon as possible.
- D) The age division Commissioner and Vice President of Administration (or any other Board Member as designated by the Board) will conduct a draft no later than one week prior to their division's closing ceremonies. Any member of the board may attend the draft unless he/she has a child participating in the draft. Only the Manager from each team will attend the draft. If the Manager is unable to attend, the coach will attend in his/her place.
- E) The draft will be conducted as follows:
 - 1) One week prior to All-Star draft, Managers will be provided with a list of all eligible Players in the division who have elected to be considered in the All-Star draft. Managers will be responsible for scouting to determine the best Players in the division.
 - 2) Each Manager will bring a list of his selections for the tournament team comprised from all eligible Players in the division. The lists are compared and kept confidential. The secret ballot will determine tournament team members. Players shall be voted on by secret ballot from the lists. Those with a higher number of votes will be added to the team by a majority vote of the Managers. The age division Commissioner or Vice President of Operations will vote only in the case of a tie.
 - 3) The Manager shall provide all statistics of eligible Players to the Managers at the draft; to include any and all disciplinary actions taken against a Player during the regular season.
 - 4) The Vice President of Administration shall provide the League Secretary with a copy of the all-star rosters for the official records.

- 5) The Manager from the winning team in each division shall be designated the All-Star Manager for that division; unless that Manager has been subject to disciplinary action during the regular season; in which case the Manager must be approved by the majority vote of the Board of Directors. If the Manager from the winning team does not accept the All-Star Manager position, or is excluded by a majority vote of the Board of Directors to participate in All-Stars due to disciplinary action during the regular season, the All-Star Manager shall be selected by the Board of Directors from other Managers and coaches in the same division. The Shetland and Pinto All-Star Manager shall select two Coaches and a Business Manager, to be approved by the Board of Directors. The Mustang, Bronco, and Pony All-Star Managers shall select one Coach and a Business Manager, to be approved by the Board of Directors. All-Star Coaches and Business Managers shall be selected from the regular season Tri-City coaching staff. The Shetland and Pinto All-Star Managers shall select two Coaches and a Business Manager to be approved by the Board of Directors. The Mustang, Bronco and Pony All-Star Managers shall select one Coach and a Business Manager to be approved by the Board of Directors. All-Star Coaches and Business Managers shall be selected from the regular season Tri-City coaching staff.
- F) An All-Star team must conform in all ways to the rules of PONY Baseball.
- G) All-Star uniforms in each division will be the same hat, jersey, belt, pant and socks. (Exception: Shetlands may wear draw string pants).

16) TEAM PARENT GUIDELINES

- A) A Team Parent meeting will be held once practice begins at the beginning of March. The goal of the meeting is to familiarize the Team Parents with how the league works and the fund raising events planned for the season.
- B) The Team Parent shall serve as a business manager for the team. The duties may include the following, but may vary from team to team:
 - 1) Distribute fundraising items to Players such as candy, pictures, etc.
 - 2) Collect monies from Players and deliver funds, inventory sheet, etc. to Parent Auxiliary Chair by the appointed deadline.
 - 3) Upon Manager Request, call Players with practice or game schedule changes (i.e. rainouts, make-ups, location changes, etc.).
 - 4) Prepare a parent schedule to provide after game drinks/ snacks for the Players and coaches after each game (These can be made available in the concession stand at a reduced price).
 - 5) Plan and discuss end of season party with Manager and parents. (Funds for this party will not be provided by the league).
- C) Upon Manager request, additional help may be needed in the dugout during the Game, such as keeping Players in correct batting order, helping to prevent injuries from bats, helmets, or balls being thrown in the dugout, and picking up trash when the game is complete.

D) Fund Raising Procedures (when applicable)

- 1) A receipt for all monies must be given to the Player.
- 2) Count all monies in front of the parent. This is for the protection of the parent and Team Parent.
- 3) Write the Player's name on the receipt and memo part of any check.
- 4) All checks are to be made payable to tri-City Baseball.
- 5) There is a \$25 NSF fee for each returned check. (Please make sure parents are aware of this procedure.
- 6) Collect the ENTIRE TEAM and balance your orders before turning it into the Parent Auxiliary Chair.

17) BOARD ELECTIONS

A) In addition to the guidelines set forth in the Bylaws of Tri-City Baseball, the following shall apply.

- 1) A list of the members in the general membership will be provided at the election site. Members must sign to receive a ballot. Each member shall receive only one (1) ballot.
- 2) Members of the current Board of Directors shall not influence voters at the election site.