

# 2022

## *Morgan Hill PONY Baseball Rules and Regulations*



Champions    Shetland    Pinto    Mustang  
Bronco    Pony    Colt    Palomino    Club

Morgan Hill, California

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Date	Player Agent	Version	Change Reference
8/27/2004	Gregg Hall	1.0	Updated rules passed 8/23/04
9/27/2004	Gregg Hall	1.1	Updated rules passed 9/27/04
12/08/2005	Gregg Hall	1.2	Updated rules passed 9/26/05
1/9/2006	Gregg Hall	1.2.1	Update rules passed 1/9/2006
1/21/2007	Gregg Hall	1.3	Update rules passed 12/11/06
2/21/2008	Manny Brum	1.4	Update rules passed 1/21/08
1/4/2011	Ed Struzik	2.0	Re-Organized, Updated 1/3/2011
11-28-2011	CW McGowen	2.1	Updated rules passed 11/28/2011
12-17-2013	CW McGowen	12-17-2013	Updated rules passed 12/17/2013
12-05-2016	Michael Myhre	3.0	Updated rules passed 12/5/16
03-05-2018	Michael Myhre	3.1	Updated rules passed 3/05/18
01-06-2020	Michael Myhre	3.2	Updated rules passed 1/6/20

## FORMAT OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document was created to match the Baseball Rules and Regulations of PONY Baseball with corresponding headings and numbering. This was done to allow quicker reference between the Rules of Morgan Hill PONY Baseball and the rules of PONY Baseball.

## LEAGUE AGE KEYS

- A. "Traditional Ages" and "And Under"
  - (a) Shetland, Pinto, Mustang, Bronco and Pony use the "And Under" age key
  - (b) Colt and Palomino Divisions use the "Traditional Ages" age key and do not allow "and under" player participation except as noted below.
  - (c) Colt uses the "And Under" age key to allow inclusion of Pony age, rostered high school players to play in the Colt Division. This is done to support High School players who are not allowed to play in the regular spring season in the Pony age group and where Colt play is timed to begin after the end of High School play. Clarification: if a player is of Pony age, and makes their High School team, they cannot register for Pony Division play and join their team at the end of the high School season, they are to play Colt as an "And Under" Player.

## THE LINEUP

- A. Morgan Hill Pony Baseball makes no modifications or additions to this section.

## ADMINISTRATION

- A. Morgan Hill Pony Baseball is governed by the following documents which can be found on the Morgan Hill Pony Baseball Website:
  - (a) Constitution of Morgan Hill Pony Baseball
  - (b) By-Laws of Morgan Hill Pony Baseball



## MHPB Mission Statement

*Through strong family involvement, community interaction, and hands on learning, MHPB will develop lifelong skills of parents and children prepared to be innovative participants in the baseball community.*

We are committed to:

- Developing the baseball skills of players from Shetland through Pony ages
- Partnering coaches, players, parents, and community, to create a unique, challenging, and individualized learning environment with strong parent involvement standards and expectations
- Applying practical learning to real-life game situations through parent oriented programs
- Providing advanced opportunities in the baseball league for coaching, board positions, team support, field maintenance and all aspects of MHPB,
- Respecting diversity and whole player/parent relationship development - cognitive, emotional, social, and physical

### Background of MHPB Vision and Mission Statement

MHPB developed a vision delineating elements that would be critical components to the future of MHPB. Emphasis was placed on creating an academically strong, community-connected program with a strong parent involvement component. Our mission statement was written to reflect the key elements of this model, which are outlined below:

- **Standards** - Athletic achievement will be highly valued; all players are expected to perform at their highest level and to excel in the content areas outlined in the skills standards.
- **Family participation** - Parents and extended family will contribute in a variety of meaningful ways on and off of the field to enhance the learning experience.
- **Hands on learning** - Players will develop and acquire new skills by participating in practices, drills, and games. Hands on learning will be meaningful, long-lasting, and effective when the parents support the efforts of their children by participating.
- **Technology** - Every player will have ready access to modern equipment and use technology across all athletic areas.
- **Formal enrichment activities** - All players will benefit from regular exposure to a variety of skills such as pitching, hitting, catching, and strategy.
- **Community connection** – Players and parents will understand their connection to the community and their responsibilities as players and parents. This could include community service projects and activities as well as having community members come into the field.
- **Diversity** - A multi-ethnic and multi-lingual population will attend MHPB and all cultures will be valued. The diversity of language, culture, and occupations in our south valley community will be an important building block in the program's structure.
- **Personalization** - The goal is to have a league that each player is well known and individualized coaching can be applied.
- **Other innovative programs** - The leagues' structure, and strong family and community involvement components will lead to increased opportunities for implementing successful innovative programs



## DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- A. Any Spring season player who chooses to miss a MHPB game or MHPB tournament game to participate in another non MHPB organized baseball event shall be suspended for the next regular season game and the first City Championship playoff game and forfeit rights to play in all-stars.
- B. Players excessively missing practices and presented to the E-Board may face penalties determined by the E-Board.
- C. Game Ejections
  - (a) The use of profanity by a Manager, Coach, Parent, Spectator or Player shall result in an ejection from the game.
  - (b) The throwing of equipment in anger by a Manager, Coach, or Player will result in an ejection from the game.
  - (c) A player who causes, or attempts to cause, bodily harm (i.e. fighting, intentional spiking or ramming, etc.) will be ejected and brought before the Executive Board for further review.
  - (d) The use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products of any form, or illegal drugs will not be tolerated during any activity or function of Morgan Hill Pony Baseball in which children are present.
    - i. A Manager, Coach, or Player who has been using illegal drugs, tobacco products, or alcoholic beverages will be ejected from that game and will be brought before the Executive Board for further review.
    - ii. Spectators that have been using illegal drugs, tobacco products, or alcoholic beverages will be asked to leave the fields.
      - 1. If a spectator refuses to leave the police will be called.
    - iii. Managers, Coaches, Spectators and Parents ejected from a game shall leave the school property for the duration of the game for which they are suspended.
- D. Game Suspensions
  - (a) Any physical or verbal abuse of a Player or an Umpire by a Manager or a Coach will result in an automatic suspension of a minimum of one game pending the outcome of an Executive Board hearing, with all parties involved within seven (7) days of the infraction.
  - (b) A Manager, Coach, Parent, Spectator or Player who has been ejected from a game shall also be suspended for at least his/her next game unless otherwise directed by the Executive Board.
  - (c) An ejected player who is subsequently suspended shall sit out his/her next game, in uniform, on the bench, supporting their team. The player will not be allowed to play until this suspension is served on the bench for a complete game.
  - (d) Any Manager, Coach, Spectator or Parent who is suspended shall not be allowed on the premises for the game for which they are suspended unless otherwise ruled by the Executive Board.
- E. Further Disciplinary Action
  - (a) A second ejection of a Manager, Coach, Parent, Spectator or Player, may result in suspension for the remainder of the season, or more, as directed by the Executive Board.
  - (b) Any Spring season Manager or Coach who plans/schedules participation of player(s) in a non MHPB organized baseball event in which the players are taken away from an MHPB game or MHPB tournament game shall be suspended for the remainder of the season and forfeit rights to manage or coach all-stars.
  - (c) Any Manager who violates these rules is subject to disciplinary action at the direction of the Executive Board, up to and including permanent banishment from MHPB.



**RULES AND REGULATIONS for CHAMPIONS, SHETLAND, PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO,  
PONY, COLT, PALOMINO and CLUB BALL DIVISIONS of MHPB**

**Rule Precedence and Management**

- A. The Rules, Regulations, and Procedures of Morgan Hill Pony Baseball as set forth herein are non-restrictive with respect to the gender of any Player, Manager, Coach, Umpire, Officer, Official, or Member of Morgan Hill Pony Baseball.
- B. Clarifications and interpretations of any Rule, Regulation, or Procedure shall be given only in writing, and then only upon receipt of a written request submitted to the Board of Directors of Morgan Hill Pony Baseball
- C. Each Rule herein is applicable to all divisions of Morgan Hill Pony Baseball, unless specified otherwise.
- D. Morgan Hill Pony Baseball uses the following Rules in the listed order or precedence:
  - (a) Outlines of Play for each Division in MHPB as approved by the MHPB Board.
  - (b) These Morgan Hill Pony Baseball Rules, Regulations
  - (c) "Rules and Regulations for PONY BASEBALL INC."
  - (d) MLB.com "Official Baseball Rules"
  - (e) In general, our Outline of Play takes first precedent over the Rules of Morgan Hill PONY Baseball which take precedent over the Rules of PONY Baseball which takes precedent over the Official Baseball Rules
  - (f) If looking for a ruling first check the Outline of Play and if not covered, check these Rules, if not covered, then check PONY BASEBALL Rules and if still not covered, then the "Official Baseball Rules" are in effect.
  - (g) For Champions Division, the Board Approved Outline of Play is the sole document governing play.
- E. A two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors is required to amend or alter these Rules, Regulations, and Procedures of Morgan Hill Pony Baseball. Any outline of play that modifies the existing rules of MHPB, shall require a 2/3 majority vote, as would be required of any rule change.
- F. As the Colt and Palomino Divisions are run as an interlocking league, the rules will be that of PONY Baseball, the interlocking league, and the outline of play approved by the Board of Directors.

**1–THE LEAGUE**

- A. Morgan Hill Pony Baseball makes no modifications or additions to this section.

**2–INSURANCE**

- A. Morgan Hill Pony Baseball makes no modifications or additions to this section.

**3–TEAMS**

- A. Divisions with more than 10 teams shall split the teams into two Leagues (American and National Leagues).
  - (a) To divide the teams, use the team's draft pick priority number determined in the draft. Players are picked for both leagues in a common draft. Odd numbered teams would be in one league and even numbered teams would be in the other. This should be done at the draft selection meeting.
- B. Divisions with 10 teams or less will be put into one League.
- C. Playoff seeding will be based on regular season standings. For playoffs with byes in the tournament bracket, byes will be awarded starting with the first place team and continuing down the list to the number of teams with byes.
  - (a) Home team shall be the team with the better overall regular season record/higher seed for first round games; games in which one team received a bye in the previous round; and games in which both teams won the previous playoff games that they played, or games in which both teams lost the previous playoff game they played.
  - (b) Home team shall be the team to have won the previous playoff game that team played, when playing a team that lost the previous playoff game they played, regardless of regular season record or seeding.



- D. Playoff seeding tie breaker procedure is as follows:
- (a) Head to head record between tied teams
  - (b) Look up for head to head records against next higher team
  - (c) Look down for head to head records against next lower team  
Example: In a tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, look up for both teams records against 1<sup>st</sup> place team, if still tied, then look down at the records against 3<sup>rd</sup> place team.
  - (d) Team with fewer runs allowed in games played head to head
  - (e) Coin toss witnessed by the Player Agent
- E. At the end of the regular season, the Division Rep (DR) will submit Final Standings and Playoff Schedules to the Player Agent prior to the start of playoff games, for his/her approval.

#### 4-LEGAL PLAYERS

- F. Legal Age Players Shall Be:
- (a) MHPB follows "And Under" play as defined by PONY Baseball in Pinto - Pony Divisions. Colt and Palomino divisions will use traditional ages. (See League Age Keys (A) (c) for High School Player exception in Colt.)
  - (b) And Under Petitioning Rules
    - Players can petition to play up one age year in the next level division provided the following:
      - Player must declare for play up at the registration table and receive separate evaluation numbers for both the traditional age division and the upper division.
      - Player must be evaluated in the traditional age division.
      - Player must try out in the upper division in the one-year older group.
      - Player must rank in the specified top % (see % below) of all players in the upper division in order to qualify, if Player ranks lower than the specified % the player must play in the traditional age division.
 

• Pinto Machine Pitch:	30%
• Pinto Player Pitch:	30%
• Mustang:	25%
• Bronco:	20%
• Pony:	20%
  - (c) OTHER INFO
    - Player eligibility is solely the league's decision.
    - In the event of maximum players within a division, And-Under players will get bumped back down to the lower division.
    - Once approved to play "And Under", player cannot play back at the lower level for regular season or All-Stars.
    - This rule only applies to classification of a division and does not pertain to playing up in age within that division for All-Stars.
- H. A Player's age may be asked to be verified by a league representative with a birth certificate, baptismal record, or certified copies thereof.
- M. No Player shall be permitted to participate in any activity with any team until a completed registration form, registration fee, and a completed medical release form have been received by the League.
- N. A Player who chooses not to play for the team who drafts said player can bring their case before the Board of Directors. If a 4/5ths majority of the entire Board approves, said Player can move to another team. This change will be determined and directed by the League President.
- O. Registration fees will only be refunded when just cause is shown to the Board of Directors.



## 5-BOUNDARIES

MHPB's boundaries are defined as within Santa Clara County lines.

## 6-SELECTION OF PLAYERS

### A. Regular Season Draft

- (a) In discussion at the beginning of the draft, the top pitching prospects for each division will be picked by a majority vote of Managers and Coaches. The number of pitchers selected shall not be less than twice the number of teams in the Division. The purpose of this discussion is to familiarize the new Managers with the pitching talent available before the draft has started. It is strongly suggested that a team's first pick in the draft be a pitcher.
- (b) The Manager's and one Coach's children:
  - i. Will be considered frozen on their parent's team.
  - ii. Must participate in evaluations
    - 1 Failure to participate in evaluations will result in the manager / coach's child being moved up 2 positions in the draft from the normal frozen position.
    - 2 The Player Agent may allow a player to miss evaluations without penalty due to conflicts deemed appropriate.
  - iii. Any player that declined to play in the previous year's All-Stars will be considered to have played for the team they declined to play for and be frozen in the respective round.
  - iv. Only 1 (one) 1st round pick, as determined below, will be allowed to be frozen per team.
    - 1 1st round:
      - a. 2nd Year All Star Player A team, who was also a pitcher (must have pitched in 50% or more games last season (includes all MHPB scheduled regular season and playoff games), no minimum innings
      - b. or be a returning 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year All-Star or new player to the league who is ranked as a 1st round pitcher by a majority of Division Managers
    - 2 2nd round:
      - a. 2nd year All-Star A team not pitcher
      - b. 2nd year All Star B/C/D who was also a pitcher
    - 3 3rd round:
      - a. 2nd year All Star B/C/D team
      - b. Or 1st year All-star A team who was also a pitcher
    - 4 4th round:
      - a. 1<sup>st</sup> Year All Star A Team not pitcher
      - b. 2nd year player
      - c. or 1st year All-Star B/C/D team who was also a pitcher
    - 5 5th round:
      - a. 1st year All Star B/C/D team
    - 6 6th round:
      - a. 1st year player
  - iv. EXAMPLE: Bronco Division Manager's son is a 12 year old returning B Team pitcher, who also made the All-Stars, and his coach's child is an 11 year old who wasn't an All-Star last year. This team would lose their 2nd and 6th picks in the draft.
  - v. If a simple majority of the Managers agree, a Player can be ranked higher or lower than the above procedure. The Manager of the Player affected cannot vote.





- (d) The drafting order will be determined by the following Draft Pick Priority chart. These same numbers will be used in determining team placement in two League Divisions.
- (e) When two players are frozen in the same round, the frozen positions in the draft will be the round in which both players are frozen and the following round.
  - iii. Example: if both the manager's child and the coach's child are frozen draft picks in the third round, those players will be frozen in the third and fourth rounds of the draft.

Frozen Player	Pick Priority Number	Frozen Player	Pick Priority Number
6	1	3 & 3	14
6 & 6	2	2	15
5	3	2 & 6	16
5 & 6	4	2 & 5	17
5 & 5	5	2 & 4	18
4	6	2 & 3	19
4 & 6	7	2 & 2	20
4 & 5	8	1	21
4 & 4	9	1 & 6	22
3	10	1 & 5	23
3 & 6	11	1 & 4	24
3 & 5	12	1 & 3	25
3 & 4	13	1 & 2	26

- (f) Player ranking will be held as close as possible to evaluation day.
- (g) Balancing of teams shall take precedence over coach pairing and will be handled at the discretion of the DRs. The DRs should strongly consider not to allow two first round pairings.
- (h) Use a rotating draft order where all players are ranked 1-150 etc. by votes of the managers before drafting begins. No player whose ranking is more than 30 pts higher than the total players at the end of the current round may be chosen. (Example, Round 3 – total of 36 players, no player ranked 67 or higher may be drafted in this round.)
  - iii. Coaches shall first rank the leading pitching prospects to equal twice the number of teams formed, followed by ranking of the remaining players. It is suggested that coaches draft the pitchers first.
- (i) first round draft order shall proceed per the MHPB rulebook based upon frozen players, ties shall be resolved by drawing lots.
- (j) Each round thereafter draft order shall be recalculated by adding the ranking of players drafted from previous rounds. Ties will be resolved by drawing lots.
- (k) Known players who did not participate in the player evaluation shall be included in the draft. These players shall be discussed among the managers prior to the draft. Players new to Morgan Hill Pony Baseball must participate in player evaluations.
- (l) Late signups will be placed by the Player Agent on teams which have openings.
- (m) No placement shall happen after any team in the division has played its third game of the regular season.
- (n) Brothers or sisters (or others approved below) within the same division shall be automatically placed on the same team unless otherwise instructed by their parents/guardian. They shall count as two draft picks. The following are approved examples.



- iii. Twin children shall be placed on the same team regardless of draft ranking
- iv. Brothers/sisters, within the same Division, shall be placed on the same team regardless of draft ranking.
- v. Foster children or children supported by the same family, and living together as a family, shall be placed on the same team. Proof of support will be required.
- vi. Children supported by a family, but not residing with that family, may be allowed on the same team with the approval of the Player Agent. Proof of support will be required.
- vii. No more than one identified sponsor's child may be drafted on any team.

## **7-PLAYING FIELDS**

- J. For regular Spring and Fall season baseball, practice and game play is only allowed on MHPB designated fields:
  - (a) Fields available for both practice and games are at Britton Middle School, Central High School and El Toro Elementary School
  - (b) Additional fields are available for practice; these fields change from year to year and will be communicated by the Board through the Division Representatives
  - (c) For game play, the home team will occupy the third base dugout and take infield practice first.
  - (d) Field Preparation and Care
    - i. For all games, both teams are responsible for field preparation.
    - ii. For all games, both teams are responsible for field closure including dragging the field, watering, putting the equipment away and locking all storage areas.
    - iii. For all games where fences are available, the home run fence should be put up.
      - 1. On weekdays both teams will put the fence up and take the fence down.
      - 2. On Saturdays both teams playing the first game of the day will install the fence and both teams from the last game of the day will take down the fence.

## **8-EQUIPMENT**

- D. Metal or plastic cleats are only allowed in Pony, Colt, and Palomino divisions. All other Divisions must use rubber cleats. This includes practices, regular season and playoff games, and Memorial Day and All-Star tournaments.
- E. All players, while swinging a bat at any time, must wear helmets (before, during and after practices and games). This includes, but is not limited to, on deck, at the plate, warming up, taking practice swings, soft toss, etc.
- F. All Catchers in Mustang, Bronco, Pony, Colt and Palomino shall wear a catcher's mitt. No exceptions to this rule will be made for left handed players. The League will provide a left handed mitt at a team's request.
- G. All Players both male and female shall be required to wear a protective cup while playing or practicing.
- H. Uniforms:
  - (a) Players are required to wear league issued uniforms when participating in all MHPB sanctioned games. League issued uniforms include assigned team jersey and team hat.
  - (b) For the safety of the players, only last name and where needed the first initial of a player's first name is allowed on jerseys or hats.
  - (c) Players may only wear matching pants in the same color as determined by the manager of the team.



## 9–PLAYING RULES

- J. Minimum Playing time
- (a) All Pinto, Mustang, Bronco, and Pony players in attendance at their team’s game shall play three (3) full innings.
    - i. A full inning shall be defined as the period of play where three offensive outs and three defensive outs are recorded in the official scorebook.
    - ii. To satisfy the minimum play rule, a player's name must be recorded in the official scorebook as having been actively in the lineup for a period of eighteen (18) outs.
    - iii. In the Mustang division, for games complete after 5.5 innings, a player actively in the lineup for a period of fifteen (15) outs is considered as having completed three fullinnings.
    - iv. Exception: Mustang, Bronco, and Pony players arriving after the start of the game shall play a minimum of one half the remaining innings (rounded down to the next whole number). In this case the minimum at-bat requirement will not apply.
      - ii. Approved Ruling: A Bronco player arrives after the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning. There are then 5 full innings remaining. One half of 5 is 2 ½, rounded down to 2. The player's minimum required playing time for that game is 2 innings.
  - (b) If for any reason a game is called before completion (5.5 innings in Mustang, 6.5 innings in Bronco and Pony), any player who has not completed his/her minimum playing time will start the next game and complete both the minimum playing time for the previous game and the minimum playing time for the current game before being removed from the game.
    - i. PENALTY - Failure to comply with the minimum playing time rule may result in the manager being suspended for one (1) game on the first offense, two (2) games on the second offense etc. The only exception shall be for disciplinary action, subject to approval of the Division Reps and the Player Agent in advance.
  - (c) All Players, in all Divisions shall, during the course of the regular season, play at least three (3) completegames.
    - i. PENALTY - Failure to comply with this rule will result in the team Manager being disqualified from the playoffs until a hearing is held before the Executive Board of Directors.
- R. In the Pinto Player Pitch, Mustang and Bronco Divisions, a line perpendicular to the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line, shall be marked to serve as a safety line for all base running and squeeze plays between 3<sup>rd</sup> and home. A runner in motion towards home plate, who is closer to home plate than this line when the following occurs, shall be declared out.
- (a) Do Not Cross Line Placement per division
    - i. Pinto Player Pitch: 15 feet from 3<sup>rd</sup> Base when the ball reaches the plate beginning in the 8<sup>th</sup> game of the regular season
    - ii. Mustang: 15 feet from 3<sup>rd</sup> Base when the ball reaches the plate
    - iii. Bronco: 15 feet from 3<sup>rd</sup> Base when the ball is released by the pitcher
    - iv. Pony no requirement, (MLB baseball rules apply)
- S. Pinto, Mustang, Bronco and Pony, players (not just runners) are required to avoid contact at the plate.
- (a) Runners should slide if the catcher has the ball or is in the process of receiving the ball in the baseline. This is an Umpire judgment call.
    - i. Call – Interference by Runner, Penalty – Runner called out.
  - (b) Catchers/fielders should clear the baseline if he/she does not have the ball or is not receiving the ball at the plate or in the baseline. This is an Umpire judgment call.
    - i. Call – Obstruction by Fielder, Penalty – Runner awarded the base.
  - (c) Injury. If, in the course of play, a Player is injured seriously enough to require immediate attention; the umpire shall call time out. Base runners shall be held to the base they were going to at the time the umpire called time out.
    - (a) Example: Bases are loaded when the Batter hits a ball which strikes the pitcher in the face. The umpire calls



time out before any runner reaches the next base. Runners are held to one base each, with the runner on third scoring.

V. Additional Game Rules.

- (a) In Pinto through Bronco, each team will provide 1 game ball and in Pony each team will provide 2 game balls, with the balls being divided equally at the end of the game with the home team getting any odd ball.
- (b) Any player that throws a bat that hits either the umpire or catcher shall immediately be called out.
  - i. If a player throws the bat and does not hit the catcher or umpire, the umpire at their discretion shall issue a team warning on the first offense and shall call the batter out on any subsequent throw of the bat. This is an umpire's judgment call and may not be appealed.

## 10-PITCHING RULES

- Q. Pinto, Mustang and Bronco pitchers will not be allowed to continue pitching after hitting more than one batter in an inning or more than two batters in a game.
- R. Pony division, no pitcher will be allowed to continue pitching after hitting more than two batters in an inning or more than four batters in a game.
- S. Players are not allowed to throw curve balls, sliders or breaking balls (any pitch with forward rotation) in any MHPB sanctioned games except in Pony, Colt and Palomino divisions.
  - (a) PENALTY: Players suspected of throwing this type of pitch will be immediately removed from the mound, and subject to possible disciplinary action at the discretion of the MHPB Executive Board.
- T. (Change to this section no longer noted)
- U. A cap shall be placed on Pitch counts in all divisions. The caps shall be as follows, per calendar day:
  - (a) Pinto 50 pitches
  - (b) Mustang 75 pitches
  - (c) Bronco 85 pitches
  - (d) Pony 95 pitches
  - (e) Pitchers reaching their maximum number of pitches in a day, while pitching to a batter, may finish pitching to that batter before being removed from the game.
  - (f) A pitcher is charged with the number of pitches in the specific calendar day and week in which they are pitched, regardless of whether they are local organization league games, the playoff of postponed games or suspended games, tie games Club/Travel games or exhibition games.
- V. Umpires shall immediately eject any player without warning that is deemed to be intentionally throwing at a batter.
- W. Fall Ball Specific Rule – In all divisions Pitchers may not pitch more than two (2) innings per day, and three (3) innings per weekend.



## 11–LENGTH OF GAMES

- H. There is no mercy rule in Pinto through Pony Divisions.
- I. When a game has taken an unusually long time to play, and is delaying the scheduled start of the following game, an E-Board member or that Division’s DR (if not coaching/managing/child playing in that particular game) can suspend play or declare the game complete, at their discretion.
- J. A suspended game shall be resumed at the exact point of curtailment of the original game.
  - (a) Pitching rules for the day and calendar week must be followed, in addition, the daily pitching restrictions shall be considered to be the pitching restrictions for the continued game.

## 12–SCHEDULE

- P. The Division Representative in each Division is responsible for creating a schedule of games. The Player Agent will make available to the Division Reps charts which help to do this. After a schedule has been formed, it should be reviewed by the Player Agent before being submitted to the Board of Directors for approval. Things the DR's take into consideration in developing season schedules include:
  - (a) Holidays (Spring Break, Easter, Mother’s Day, etc.)
  - (b) Daylight Savings time
  - (c) Mid-Season and All-Star Tournaments
  - (d) Total # of games in the season
  - (e) Total # of weeks in the season
  - (f) Amount of time allowable for games
- Q. Once a schedule has been approved by the Board of Directors, it cannot be changed or altered without approval by the Player Agent.
- R. Re-scheduling of postponed, called, or suspended games shall be done by the Player Agent only.
- S. Upon filling any available open dates due to rescheduled games; all subsequent rainouts/cancellations will result in a tie.
- T. Scheduled starting time is the time listed in the printed schedule approved by the Board of Directors, or the starting time of a postponed or suspended game as per the League Official who set the time.
  - (a) When the start of a game is delayed by another game, the following game shall start no more than fifteen (15) minutes after the completion of the late ending game.
- U. A minimum of eight (8) Players must be fielded per team within 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time. If a team has less than the eight (8) required players at that time or at any time after the start of the game, then they must forfeit the game.
  - (a) In Mustang through Pony Divisions, the 9<sup>th</sup> batting position shall be the one left blank if a team starts a game with only eight (8) Players. If a 9<sup>th</sup> Player arrives, the Player shall be placed in the vacant batting position upon insertion into the game. This can occur any time during the game. If no Player is available for the vacant batting position when it is time to bat, the position is skipped with no penalty. If a team with only nine (9) Players loses a player for any reason, the empty batting position shall be skipped with no penalty;
    - i. Exception - If the loss of a Player is due to ejection, in which case the empty batting position shall be declared an out by the umpire. If the empty batting position is not called out by the umpire at the time of the at bat, then batting out of order rules apply.
- V. No unlit inning will begin after 8:00 pm normally or after 8:30 pm in the months of June and July.
  - (a) An inning begins at the time of the last out in the previous inning.
    - i. Example: In a May Bronco game where the last out of the 6<sup>th</sup> inning is made at 7:58pm, then the game will continue into the 7<sup>th</sup> inning. If the last out of the 6<sup>th</sup> inning is made at 8:01pm, then the game is suspended (if tied), or called a complete game (if official).



### **13–UMPIRES**

- A. Morgan Hill Pony Baseball makes no modifications or additions to this section.

### **14–SCOREKEEPERS**

- D. The Home team is responsible for the Official Scorebook, and recording the starting time, when an Official Scorekeeper is not available. The Scorebook of the Home Team shall be considered the “Official Scorebook” for that game.
- E. The Home Team shall be responsible for submitting a completed affidavit signed by the managers of both teams to the Division Representative.

### **15–SPONSORS**

- F. Each team is required to provide a team banner displaying the Sponsor' name. At the end of the season, the banner will be given to the team sponsor, along with a team hat.

### **16–MANAGERS and COACHES**

- H. All persons interested in Coaching or Managing a PONY Baseball team shall contact the Division Representative in the Division he/she is interested in prior to the tryouts.
- I. In Bronco, Pony, Colt, and Palomino divisions, Managers should have one year of coaching experience within Morgan Hill Pony Baseball.
- J. (Change to this section no longer noted)
- K. All Managers and Coaches will be required to complete the following: Coaches Clinic (every year); First Aid (every two years, or have an unexpired First Aid Card); Skills & Drills Clinic (every year) and a league authorized background check.
- L. Failure to comply with the above will result in the Manager and/or Coach being suspended for the last game of the regular season and the first game of the playoffs; and dropping to a reserve role for any All-Star coaching positions. If both the Manager and Coach are in violation of the above, the Coach will be allowed to manage the team until the Manager has completed his/her suspension, then will serve his/her suspension (Excludes Shetland)
- M. Where possible Approval and Pairing of Managers and Coaches will cease fourteen (14) days prior to each division's draft.
  - (a) This is very important for the purposes of freezing players for the draft
- N. Manager and Coach Selection and Approval
  - (a) The Player Agent will discuss with the DRs Qualifications and Coaching Experience to be expected of each potential Manager/Coach.
  - (b) Division Representatives shall vet all potential Managers and Coaches for their respective divisions.
  - (c) The Division Representatives will provide the following to the Player Agent for approval.
    - i. List of potential Managers and Coaches
    - ii. Recommendations for Managers, Coaches and Pairings.
    - iii. Coach Evaluations from the previous year (if available).
  - (d) The Player Agent will review and consult with the Division Representatives on the qualifications and selection criteria and then approve all Manager, Coaches and Pairings considering:
    - i. Qualifications and previous coaching history
    - ii. Standing within Morgan Hill PONY Baseball
  - (e) Division Representatives shall submit the Player Agent approved list of Managers, Coaches and Pairings to the Board for Approval.
    - i. As Part of the approval process, the names of all Manager and Coach Applicants shall be presented to the Board of Directors.



- P. At least one (1) approved Manager/Coach/Assistant Coach must be present at all games. The penalty for the violation of this requirement is the forfeiture of any and all games in which this situation occurs.
  - (a) For this reason, it is recommended that after each team is formed, each Manager submit to the Board of Directors, names of up to two (2) Assistant Coaches to be approved from their team.
- Q. There will be no more than three (3) adults (Manager, Coaches, Scorekeepers, etc.) allowed on the playing field or in the dugout at any time for Mustang through Pony Divisions.
- R. There will be no more than four (4) adults (Manager, Coaches, Scorekeepers, etc.) allowed on the playing field or in the dugout at any time for Pinto.
- S. There will be no more than one (1) adult per child allowed on the playing field or in the dugout at any time for Shetland Division.
- T. At least one (1) approved Manager/Coach/Assistant Coach over the age of 18 must be present at all practices.

### **17–LEAGUE DECISIONS COMMITTEE**

- A. Morgan Hill Pony Baseball makes no modifications or additions to this section.

### **18–PENALTIES**

- A. Morgan Hill Pony Baseball makes no modifications or additions to this section.

### **19–PROTESTS**

- B. A protest based on a play which involves an Umpire's judgment is not permitted. When a protest is based on an interpretation of the Rules, the objecting Manager must call time out before the delivery of the next pitch. He/she shall notify the Umpire, the opposing Manager, and the Official Scorekeeper that the game is being played under protest, and submit the protest in writing to the Division Rep within 48 hours of the time of the protest.
- C. If this protest pertains to an in-house tournament game with games following on the same or following day where the tournament schedule would be affected by the outcome, the protest must be handled on the field immediately.
  - (a) All Rules to begin and complete a protest must be followed the same as any other protest with exception of: no written protest is necessary and immediacy vs. submission within 48 hours.
  - (b) The protest shall be ruled by at least 3 DRs present on the field (Board members may be substituted for DRs if there are not 3 DRs present at the field).
  - (c) Any DRs whose teams or children may be affected by the decision shall recuse themselves.
- D. Both Managers and the home plate Umpire must verify the Official Scorer's record of the protested play, and sign the scorebook.
- E. The Manager will be allowed five (5) minutes, once per game, to find a protested rule in the Rule Book.
- F. A filing fee of \$25.00 cash shall accompany any written protest.
  - (a) The filing fee will be returned if the protest is upheld.
- G. The Protest Committee shall meet as soon as possible following the receipt of a written protest.
  - (a) The Protest committee shall be made up of 5 representatives of the various Divisions of Pony Baseball appointed by the League President.
- H. The Managers involved in a Protest shall be notified of the time and place of the protest hearing. Both Managers must attend this meeting.
- I. If the protest is upheld, the game will be replayed from the point of protest, with the proper interpretation of the Rule in place.
  - (a) Pitching rules of the week in which the protested game is replayed are in force.
  - (b) If the protest is upheld, potential replay of the game is subject to the provisions of the Official Baseball Rules 4.19 paragraph 2 which states:
    - (c) Even if it is held that the protested decision violated the rules, no replay of the game will be ordered unless in the opinion of the League President the violation adversely affected the protesting team's chances of winning the game.



## **20–GENERAL CONDUCT**

### **Standard of Conduct**

**For all**

#### **Morgan Hill Pony Baseball Players**

Baseball teaches us many things and it is great fun. We learn teamwork, fair play, competition, self-respect, and many other valuable things as we go through life. These things are best learned when player behavior contributes to the overall team well-being. Over time, the following guidelines have passed the test of time:

1. School work/homework comes first. The best baseball players tend to be good students.
2. Respect yourself – work to improve your skills.
3. Respect each other – help your teammates improve their skills
4. Respect your parents – they made this season possible for you
5. Respect the managers, coaches and umpires – they are volunteering their time for you
6. Respect the equipment – don't throw it
7. Be early for both practice and games; come with a positive attitude
8. No swearing or profanity at practice or games
9. Cheer your team's success not the other team's mistakes
10. Find the fun and reward the teamwork

If you don't understand any of the above work habits, your Manager or Coach will explain them to you. Make the best of the season, and good luck to you.

### **Standard of Conduct**

**For all**

#### **Parents Relatives and Spectators**

1. I will strive to make positive comments only, being mindful that every player has family members in the stands
2. I will respect the efforts of managers, coaches and all volunteers, remembering that they have donated their free time for the benefit of our children
3. I will try to not find too much fault with the umpires and scorekeepers, as I really can't expect them to be as perfect as myself.
4. I will refrain from Profanity of any kind, as it is expressly prohibited by MHPB rules
5. I will abstain from Alcohol and Illegal drugs at obligatory MHPB functions.
6. I will allow designated coaches to coach during games and will not attempt to coach or give signs to my child during games. I understand that if I do coach my child during games, I may be asked to leave the field or may be suspended from MHPB games after being warned of violations. As the lines between cheering, encouragement and coaching can blur, this will be managed at the discretion of coaches and umpires.





**TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS for SHETLAND, PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO,  
PONY, COLT, PALOMINO and CLUB BALL DIVISIONS of MHPB**

**T1–T19 - TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- A. Morgan Hill Pony Baseball makes no modifications or additions to this section.

**T20–MHPB TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- A. Pinto and Mustang All-Star or Tournament Players shall play a minimum of two (2) complete innings in each 6 inning complete game that their team plays in post season All-Star competition.
- (a) PENALTY: Any Manager or Coach who fails to comply with this rule may be suspended from participating in League activities for one (1) year. He/she may appeal to the Board of Directors.
- B. Players are not allowed to throw curve balls, sliders or breaking balls (any pitch with forward rotation) in any MHPB sanctioned games except in Bronco (Club Ball and post-season tournaments only), Pony, Colt and Palomino divisions.
- (a) PENALTY: Players suspected of throwing this type of pitch will be immediately removed from the mound, and subject to possible disciplinary action at the discretion of the MHPB Executive Board.
- C. Metal cleats are only allowed in Pony, Colt, and Palomino divisions. All other Divisions must use rubber cleats. This includes practices, regular season games, and All-Star tournaments.
- (a) CLARIFICATION: Plastic cleats which have sharp surfaces similar to metal cleats are also banned from play.
- D. Otherwise, all pitching and game play rules shall revert to the PONY Rule Book and or the Rules of the Tournament being played for:
- (a) Interleague Games
- (b) Mid-Season Tournaments
- (c) Post Season All-Star Play
- (d) Club Ball Play

**T21–MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT AND ALL-STAR PLAYER SELECTION**

- A. VOTING AND BALLOTING
- (a) Ballots will be cast at a meeting scheduled by the Division Representative and attended by at least one Division Representative and the Player Agent.
- i. This process may be used for combined division teams or for age specific teams as befits the tournaments entered. If for age specific teams, the older age chooses first and remaining younger players are eligible choices for the older age team. Divisions may use the results of the Memorial Draft as a starting point in the All-Star draft subject to changes to rankings as recommended and approved by a majority of the managers.
1. Example Draft Orders:
- a. Age Specific Mustang Tournament
- i. Mustang 10A chooses first
- ii. Mustang 10B chooses second
- iii. Mustang 9A chooses third
- iv. Mustang 9B chooses fourth
- b. Division-Wide Age Pinto Tournament
- i. Pinto A chooses first
- ii. Pinto B chooses second
- iii. Pinto C chooses third
- iv. Pinto D chooses fourth



- ii. All eligible Managers, or an Executive Board approved representative, will vote for the top players nominated in their division. Total number of players to be voted upon will be determined by the Division Representative and the Player Agent for each division.
  - 1. As an example, if there are a total of 45 players nominated, a manager will cast a vote of 45 for the player he/she feels is the best in the division, then vote 44 for the second best player, and so on.
  - 2. Managers will NOT be able to vote for the players on their own team.
- iii. All votes will be transferred to an overhead or similarly shared and will be displayed for all present. Any vote which cannot be justified to the majority of those present must be modified.
- iv. When selecting balanced teams for an in-house Memorial tournament, the selection of teams shall be completed by a serpentine draft with lots drawn to determine starting draft order.
- v. Should a team not have a representative at the meeting to vote, the manager and coach from that team will be ineligible for All-Star participation, unless prior arrangement has been approved by the Executive Board.

(b) The voting results will then be given to the “A” team manager. The “A” team manager will then have 48 hours to obtain commitments from his/her players. The list of remaining All-Star players will be given to the “B” team manager and he/she will have 48 hours to obtain commitments from those players. This process will continue for any “C” and “D” or “A” and “B” younger age teams being formed.

**B. Must-Take Players**

- (a) The 8 players receiving the most votes will be “must-take” players for the “A” All-Star team.
  - i. If any of the top 8 cannot play, the player receiving the next highest number of votes will become the number 8 player, and must play on the “A” Team.
  - ii. If necessary, this procedure will be repeated to replace any “must-take” player who cannot play. All remaining players will move up on the list. The manager may then add from 4 to 6 players from the list of the top 18 vote getting players.
- (b) Players may not pass on the “A” team and elect to play on the “B” team.
- (c) After the “A” team selection, the next 8 players receiving the most votes will become “must-take” players on the “B” team. If these 8 players cannot play, the above procedure will be followed to fill the team and these declining players will be considered “B” all-stars for next year’s draft.
- (d) Repeat the above procedure for “C” and or “D” teams.
- (e) There will be no alternates selected for any team.

**C. TOURNAMENT AND ALL-STAR MANAGER SELECTION PROCESS**

- (a) Every Manager or Coach wishing to be eligible to be selected as a Tournament or All-Star Manager must:
  - i. Have completed all required training
  - ii. Must be a Manager, Coach or Board Member or any other individual with the approval of the Executive Board.
- (b) The final selection will be a compilation of the total votes from the following where each Manager will be given a list of eligible candidates.
  - i. More than two candidates: Each Manager will vote for three managers, they will give their first choice 5 points, their second choice 3 points, and their third choice 1 point.
  - ii. If only two candidates, use a straight up vote for the managers.
- (c) Nominated managers are not allowed to vote, and manager voting will be done on a division-wide basis.



- (e) In the event of a tie, a coin toss approved by a member of the Executive Board will determine outcome.
- i. The Manager who receives the most points will have the first opportunity to manage one of the teams. The Manager receiving the second most points will then have the next choice, and so on.
  - ii. Managers of the All-Star teams shall pick their coaches from among the approved managers, coaches, and assistant coaches within their division who have completed all their requirements as noted above.
  - iii. The All-Star Managers and coaches must be approved by the Board of Directors.
  - iv. Substitutions of the Manager, Coach or Business Manager are subject to Executive Board approval.
  - v. No Manager or Coach that has been suspended by action of the Board during the year is eligible to participate as a Manager, Coach, or Business Manager for any Mid-Season or Post Season All-Star team for that year.
  - vi. In the event that there are no volunteers to manage an All-Star Team and the league drafts a Manager, then the Manager's child will be an automatic add to the team regardless of ranking.

