

[January 2025]

1. CLUB BALL PHILOSOPHY Morgan Hill Pony Baseball (MHPB) is committed to providing talented baseball players with a Club Ball option. The MHPB Club Ball program is designed for players who consistently demonstrate advanced baseball skills and a unique love and respect for the game. It's intended for players who wish to compete at a higher level and are willing to dedicate the extra time and effort that Club Ball demands. These players have good baseball knowledge and mechanics, demonstrate a willingness to work hard to get better, and support their teammates in a fun and competitive environment focused on personal and team success. If you like spending your weekends playing baseball and competing at a higher level, this program is for you.

2. ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE Club Ball teams will be organized and formed by age groups according to Pony National age restrictions per the instructions from Pony National on October 9, 2022.

All Club Ball teams will play under the name of "Morgan Hill Pony Toros".

Below are examples of Club Ball teams that can be formed. The number of teams is dependent on the number of interested and qualified coaches and players:

- Morgan Hill Pony Toros 14U
- Morgan Hill Pony Toros 13U
- Morgan Hill Pony Toros 12U
- Morgan Hill Pony Toros 11U
- Morgan Hill Pony Toros 10U
- Morgan Hill Pony Toros 9U
- Morgan Hill Pony Toros 8U

Roster sizes are as follows:

- 8U-12U: 11
- 13U+: Mgr discretion
- Guest players are allowed for tournaments. Guest players must be registered with MHPB.

3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION Players who wish to play on an MHPB Club Ball team must also be registered for the current MHPB season.

Players who wish to play on a Club Ball team should opt in during registration (league to ensure this option is clear during registration). Or families can express interest to the appropriate Club Ball manager or Club Ball Rep.

Teams will be selected each **August**. Comp Evals to be run **in early August prior to Fall rec evals**. Comp player selection must conclude within three days of **Fall Rec evals**, so Rec drafts can be held in a timely fashion after evals. Toros managers are expected to be open, responsive, and communicative with the league throughout.

Club Ball teams can use a series of practices and scrimmages in early to mid-August as the evaluation tool to form their rosters. At the conclusion of the practices/scrimmages, the manager shall have full discretion to choose the roster for the team. The manager will consult with the Club Ball rep(s), Player Agent and age-appropriate DR's before finalizing roster. If a player leaves the team at any time, the Manager and Club Ball rep shall have a separate evaluation to add a player (preferably from MHPB).

4. MANAGERS AND COACHES Managers and coaches who are interested in Club Ball teams should express interest by contacting the Club Ball Director (club@mhpb.org). Division Reps are encouraged to recommend potential managers and coaches for Club Ball teams. Club Ball managers and coaches will have completed all mandatory MHPB coaching requirements. The MHPB Board will ratify all Club Ball Committee decisions, including selection of the managers and coaches of the Club Ball teams.

Manager selection process to be completed prior to Spring evals. Club Ball Rep to ensure the process is communicated to all eligible managers. The Club Ball Committee will provide endorsement for managers.

Conflict resolution: in the case of multiple manager nominations, a rejected nomination, removal of a manager, or any other unforeseen conflict; Club Ball Committee to make decision.

Club Ball Committee: age-appropriate DR(s), Club Ball Rep, and Player Agent. Parents are encouraged to share feedback, both positive and negative, regarding coaching performance to club@mhpb.org. For unresolvable issues concerning the performance of any manager or coach, parents should contact club@mhpb.org. Every effort should be made to resolve concerns at the team level. Coaches: Manager is able to designate up to two coaches prior to season and those coaches will go through the same process as above.

5. MINIMUM PLAY TIME In the field, players will get equal time on Saturday of tournaments or during weekday games, and the Manager will have discretion on Sunday. It is highly encouraged for equal field playing time on Sunday as well. For Batting, manager must bat full lineup in all games until the 13U season. In 13U, manager discretion on Sunday (highly recommended to bat all players who show up to tournaments).

As a reminder, this is a player development organization, and Managers are expected to develop ALL players to max extent possible. Exceptions to above rule can be made if a player does not attend practices.

6. **SPRING SEASON SCHEDULE** The decision on whether or not a particular Toros team is to play rec games will be made by Player Agent, Age Appropriate DRs, Club Ball Rep, and Toros team Manager.

At high school ages, Toros managers should be aware of the Colt division and look for opportunities to play. Mid-June through July are All-Star months and Toros are encouraged to make players available for All-Stars. All-star team run separately from Toros. Toros players and coaches are eligible only if they meet MHPB and Pony National criteria.

7. **FEES** Costs for Toros are separate from league fees, and families should be aware of the significant extra costs associated with Travel Ball. To offset costs, Toros teams are allowed to run independent fundraising. 100% proceeds to the team. Additionally, 100% of Corporate Donations tagged for a specific Club Ball team or the Club Ball program are to be provided to that team or the Club Ball program. **Toros participants shall have the ability to acquire sponsors for their team. Each sponsor shall be designated to the proper team and shall show on the ledger kept by Managers. Sponsorships shall only be acquired from December 1st to March 1st and August 1st to October 1st of each season.** For each Spring registration for a Club Ball player, \$50 will go to the Morgan Hill Pony Baseball general fund and the remainder of the registration fee for that player will go to the individual Club Ball team that the player is on.

Each Toros manager should have their own budget in coordination with the Toros Director and MHPB Treasurer. It will be tracked on a ledger by the Toros Director and the MHPB Treasurer. The ledger will be reported on quarterly at MHPB Board meetings. A credit card is to be provided to the Toros Club Ball Rep to facilitate payments on behalf of the club ball teams. All payments will be made directly to MHPB. No third party payment applications shall be used other than what is used by the league. This is to avoid any appearance of funds not being reported. Scholarships are available for Toros fees.

8. **UNIFORMS** All Morgan Hill Club teams will share consistency in color scheme (primary: Forest Green/Navy Blue, secondary: Gray/White), logo, and wording (Morgan Hill and Toros) regardless of the age group/team. Having similar uniforms across all Club Ball teams helps build the Morgan Hill Pony Baseball brand while allowing teams a level of independence to express their team pride.

9. **TOURNAMENT PITCHING RULES** **While tournament pitching rules will always be followed, Toros managers and coaches are held to a high standard in protecting the health of their players. As such, managers and coaches must use common sense in the amount of pitches they allow players to throw in an event. Each teams pitch counts will be monitored by the Club Ball Director and Player Agent and if a pitcher is being excessively used the manager and coaching staff will be subject to disciplinary measures and a hearing in front of the MHPB Executive Board.**

10. **CONCERNS** Any concern involving a Club Ball player or a Club Ball team should first be addressed to the Club Ball team Manager, the Club Ball Rep, and the Player Agent (in that order). The Club Ball team Manager should be the first to know any concerns and have the

opportunity to resolve it. The Club Ball Committee will be the final resolution body on all conflicts.