Mustang Division

Spring 2025 Outline of Play

1. **MUSTANG DIVISION PHILOSOPHY**
	1. Mustang continues the fundamental development of the player with competitive play. Coaching emphasis should be on learning the game and core skill development. Play should be fun for all skill levels.
	2. Games are competitive with scoring recorded. Season record will determine seeding for a postseason tournament.
	3. The complete rules of baseball will be introduced. 60' diamond with 46' pitching distance.
2. **DIVISION ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE**
	1. The Mustang Division will be formed with 9 and 10 year old players in the Mustang age group. Players must attend a mandatory skills evaluation day prior to division team placement. This assists the DR and Player Agent with creating balanced teams within the division. Players will be drafted onto teams based on evaluation results, returning all-stars, and coach’s children.
	2. Based upon the number of available registered players, Player Agent and DR’s shall create a quantity of teams with the intent to achieve 11- 12 players on each team after late sign-ups. A game schedule will be created to maximize the number of games which can be played depending on the number of teams and available game days in the season (intent to play a minimum of 14 regular season games).
	3. Managers and Coaches must attend a Manager / Coach Mustang specific clinic in addition to all other coaching clinic requirements.
	4. Official season standings will be maintained; Scorebooks are to be kept up to date for each game of the season, Game Changer is an acceptable alternative to keeping a paper scorebook if the score keeper is appropriately experienced or trained on the application. If Game Changer is used the manager is responsible for printing out the scorebook page from each game if/when requested by MHPB Board Member.
	5. Each individual manager determines practices.
	6. Equipment (including equipment bag, catcher’s gear, practice and game balls) will be made available.
	7. Uniforms: Managers need to decide on color of pants, socks and belt (these items are NOT PROVIDED by MHPB).
3. **RULES:** All Managers are responsible to review the MHPB rules of play as noted on the website. Highlights are as follows:
	1. Games are six (6) innings, played to completion with the following time modifications/exceptions:
		1. For games in which there is no game that follows on that field immediately after that game:  No new inning will be started 2 hours after the game began.  If an inning begins 1 hour and 59 minutes, or less, after the start of the game, the inning **WILL** be played to completion.  Completion defined as visiting team bats until division defined inning end and home team bats only if they are behind in the score or the score is tied.  If the game is tied at the completion of the full inning, and it is past the 2 hour time limit, the game will be deemed a tie.  Exception to the "**WILL** be played to completion" statement is in case of darkness or rain or other unforeseen event.  In those cases, umpire judgment will prevail and in the event that inning is not completed, the score in the game reverts back to the score when the inning began.
		2. For games in which there is a game that immediately follows on that field:  No new inning will be started 1 hour and 46 minutes after the game began.  If an inning begins 1 hour and 45 minutes, or less, after the start of the game, the inning **SHOULD** be played to completion.  Completion defined as visiting team bats until division defined inning end and home team bats only if they are behind in the score or the score is tied.  If the game is tied at the completion of the full inning, and it is past the 2 hour time limit, the game will be deemed a tie.  Umpire judgment will prevail if the game nears the 2 hour time limit.  If the umpire deems the game over due to the 2 hour time limit and the full inning has not been completed, the score in the game reverts back to the score when the inning began.
	2. There is a maximum of 4 runs per team per inning for innings one through four. The fifth and sixth innings of a game will be played with no maximum run limit. Last inning is to be determined by the umpire and managers at the start of the inning. The decision should be based on time remaining to play.
	3. There is no 10 run mercy rule due to minimum play time rule.
	4. Each team will have nine (9) defensive players on the field at a time.
	5. All players present will be inserted into the batting line-up
		1. Each team will bat their entire roster, even if sitting on bench.
		2. Late players will be inserted at the bottom of the order
		3. If a player must leave before game completion or a player is injured during the game, that player is skipped in the batting line-up and the team will not be assessed an out.
	6. By the end of the 5th inning, every player must have played at least 3 defensive innings, with at least one inning each in an infield and outfield position.
		1. If a player has not met the minimum play time as outlined in the MHPB rulebook, that player shall play the entire next game.
		2. Beginning with the 8th scheduled game there is no minimum outfield playing requirement.
		3. Beginning with the first postseason game there is no minimum infield playing requirement.
	7. Courtesy runner for catcher will be allowed if:
		1. there are two outs;
		2. the player who made the last batted out will be the runner; and
		3. the same catcher will play the following inning.
	8. No uncaught third strike rule the entire season including through the playoffs. Batter out but runners may advance at their own risk.
		1. The Player Agent and DR may choose to enforce the dropped third strike rule at a later point in the season.
	9. Base runners may lead-off and steal bases per Official Baseball Rules with the following exceptions:
		1. Base runners may not steal home plate on a wild pitch, passed ball, or return throws back to the pitcher. This rule will be in place the entire season including through the playoffs.
		2. Base runners may steal home plate if the pitcher attempts a pickoff at any base.
			1. The Player Agent and DR may choose to allow steals of home at a later point in the season.
	10. Managers are responsible for holding a meeting with competing Managers to ensure rules are discussed and agreed upon with umpires prior to games.
	11. Each manager is responsible for providing a lineup sheet to opposing team for score keeping purposes.
	12. Coaches shall conform to the normal baseball rules and confine themselves to coaching from the dugout AREA and baseline area. Coaches shall not roam or coach from the field of play.
	13. Runners should slide at home plate if, in the umpire’s judgment, there is a play at the plate per Section 9, item S (a) of the MHPB Rules.
	14. Per the MHPB rules at Section 9 item R, a line perpendicular to the 3rd base line shall be marked to serve as a safety line for all base running and squeeze plays between 3rd 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: 15 feet from 3rd base when the ball reaches the plate.
4. **AFFIDAVITS**

Affidavits must be filled out with pitch count and an “X” for innings a player was on the bench, as well as positions played by each player during the game. Home team manager is responsible for coordination of the completion of the affidavit after each game and obtaining the signature of the opposing manager at the completion of each game. Scan and email all affidavits to the DR within 24 hours of the completion of the game.

1. **UMPIRES**
	1. Umpires will be provided by the league. Each game will have a minimum of one Plate Umpire.
	2. In the event an unbiased umpire is unavailable, each team will umpire when their team is on the field/pitching. Team umpires call the game from behind the mound. They are responsible for calling balls, strikes and outs.
2. **REGULAR AND POSTSEASON GAMES**
	1. Each team will have the opportunity for one or two practices each week and games will be during the week and/or on Saturdays.
	2. The Mustang Division Championship will take place immediately after the completion of regular season games. It will be held in a double elimination format, each regular season team playing a minimum of 2 postseason games.
		1. MHPB provides trophies for 1st and 2nd place teams.
	3. The Memorial Day Tournament: **There is no guarantee that a Mustang player will be placed on a Post Season team**. Number of teams/locations to be determined. This tournament takes place Memorial Day weekend.
	4. All Stars will generally be made up of players from the Memorial Day Showcase, number of teams and location to be determined.
3. **Field/Site Maintenance and Guidelines**
	1. NO ONE IS ALLOWED ON THE EL TORO OR CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL FIELDS PRIOR TO 4:30 PM ON WEEKDAYS. NO ONE IS ALLOWED ON THE FIELD AT BRITTON PRIOR TO 4:45 PM ON WEEKDAYS.
	2. Teams are to drag and rake field after every practice. It is highly recommended to get parents involved in this to fulfill volunteer time.
	3. Both teams are responsible for field set up/take down. The home team is responsible for chalking the field prior to the game and dragging field after the game. Visiting team is responsible for putting fences up (at Britton) first game of the day and taking them down last game of the day.
	4. Locks - The last team on field is responsible for locking all MHPB gates and division equipment sheds. Gate locks to be set lock on lock, not lock on chain.
		1. DO NOT GIVE LOCK CODES OUT TO PARENTS OR PLAYERS! ONLY COACHES.
4. **PITCHING**
	1. Maximum pitches in one day = 75 (soft total – pitcher may complete pitching to a batter if the pitcher starts the batter with less than 75 pitches)
	2. Pitchers who throw between 1-20 pitches in a day are not required to rest a calendar day before throwing any additional pitches. Pitchers who throw between 21-35 pitches in a day must rest 1 calendar day before throwing any additional pitches. Pitchers who throw between 36-50 pitches in a day must rest 2 calendar day before throwing any additional pitches. Pitchers who throw between 51-65 pitches in a day must rest 3 calendar day before throwing any additional pitches. Pitchers who throw 66 or more pitches must rest 4 calendar days before throwing any additional pitches. Per the MHPB Rules at Section 10 item Q, 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. As such, pitchers must be removed if they hit 2 batters in an inning or 3 batters in a game.
	3. Balks will not be called; however the umpire will communicate with the pitcher at an appropriate time during the game to discuss the balk in order to provide instruction to the pitcher on avoiding balks in the future. This rule will be in place the entire season including through the playoffs.
		1. The Player Agent and DR may choose to enforce the balk rule at a later point in the season.
5. **TOURNAMENTS**
	1. Memorial Tournament:
		1. MHPB will hold an in house tournament during Memorial Day weekend.
		2. There will be approximately three to four balanced teams drafted per manager rankings and MHPB rules.
		3. There will be approximately 12 players per team.
		4. Umpires will be provided by MHPB.
		5. Memorial tournament will be played using All-Star Tournament Rules.
	2. All-Stars
6. **MUSTANG DIVISION REPRESENTATIVE (DR)**

Steve Gonzales

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