

SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

JUNIOR PONY POLICY MANUAL - 2014

(as adopted January 12, 2004, amended November 8, 2010 & January 23, 2014)

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Section 1: Code of Conduct

(a) The purpose of the code of conduct is to further amplify Article II of the Constitution of the Susquehanna Township Baseball Association.

(b) The following types of conduct will not be acceptable and upon review by the President, Coordinator, and one other board member (none of which may be Junior Pony coaches) shall result in a one game suspension that is subject to adjustment by the review committee and appeal by the affected party:

- (1) Profane or vulgar language
- (2) Harassment of players or coaches
- (3) Gestures of bad taste
- (4) Fighting
- (5) Handling equipment in a manner that could cause physical harm to
- (6) anyone or the damaging of equipment and league property

Section 2: Official League Games

(a) Starting times will be determined as set forth in the official league schedule.

(b) The coach of the home team, in cooperation with the coach of the away team, shall be responsible for postponing a game due to rain or wet grounds.

- (1) The coaches must determine that the field is not suitable for play as far ahead of game time as is possible under the circumstances.
 - (2) In the event the game is postponed, the coordinator must be notified of the
 - (3) postponement.
 - (4) The coaches, with the agreement of the coordinator, will reschedule the game.
- (c) Postponed games are to be rescheduled and played within seven days, if possible.
- (d) The coaches will act as umpires for the games and will cooperate with each other in performing that function.
- (e) A board-approved official Pony ball must be used in all games. The home team shall provide game balls.
- (f) Batting helmets or other appropriate head gear must be worn by base runners, player base coaches, and catchers at all times. Throat protectors and athletic supporters with cup are mandatory for all players used as catchers.
- (g) The Junior Pony coordinator will provide the official League playing rules which shall prevail and be enforced unless otherwise superseded by this policy manual.

Section 3: Ground Rules

- (a) Avoiding contact or sliding by a base runner is absolutely necessary anytime a play is made on said player except at first base. If contact is made, player is out.
- (b) Head first slides are PROHIBITED.
- (c) All players must remain in the dugout/bench area during the game except:
- (1) The defensive players;
 - (2) The batter and on-deck hitter
- (d) Only players and coaches are allowed in the in play area during the game. All other persons shall be considered unauthorized and are subject to removal.

Section 4: Game Rules

- (a) All games will be played on a field with a 38 ft pitcher's mound and 52 ft bases.
- (b) Balls and strikes will be called, with a strike zone from the chin to the top of the ankles and from inside line of the left hander's batters box to the same line on the right. The umpire will be the head coach, or a designated assistant, of the batting team and may umpire from either behind the catcher or behind the pitcher.

- (c) Walks will not be permitted. Each batter will have the opportunity to hit as follows:
- (1) The pitcher will either allow the batter to reach base by base hit/error, strike the batter out, or, after throwing the batter 4 balls, will be replaced by a coach, who will give the batter three strikes to hit or strike out.
 - (2) Batter hit by a pitched ball will constitute ball four (4) at which time the coach will come in to pitch.
- (d) Each half inning shall end when three outs are made, or three runs scored, which ever comes first.
- (e) Each game shall be six innings, subject to the following: under no circumstances shall an inning commence more than one hour and a half after the first pitch was thrown. The home team shall be responsible for keeping time.
- (f) Game scores will be kept. However, there will be no standings kept, nor will there be a championship game or playoffs. This program is designed to minimize the competitive aspect of baseball. At all times, coaches will act cooperatively as instructors, and will seek, in ways appropriate to this age level, to teach the fundamentals of baseball, including throwing, catching, hitting, and basic position play and rules.
- (g) A pitcher must be removed if he pitches to nine batters in one inning, or pitch two innings, whichever occurs first. If a pitcher hits 2 batters in a given inning, he must be replaced.
- (h) Each player must play every out defensively, and must play at least 2 different positions in each game.
- (i) Each player is in the batting order.
- (j) The catcher, who must be fully equipped, will be utilized in every inning. It is the head coach's responsibility to ensure the catcher is so equipped, including cup and supporter.
- (k) Advancing two bases:
- (1) Through May 14th, a ball hit on the fly into the grass (outfield); runners may attempt to advance two bases.
 - (2) Beginning May 15th, a ball hit to the outfield on the ground or on the fly; runners may attempt to advance two bases.
- (l) Special playing rules:
- (1) Through the first 7 days of the season, the head coach or designated assistant will pitch to the players on his/her team.
 - (2) Through May 14, NO stealing of any base is permitted.
 - (3) Beginning May 15th, stealing of 3rd only is permitted. NO stealing of 2nd base or Home.

Section 5: Composition of Teams

- (a) Team rosters shall consist of 10, and under no circumstances, more than 11, whose playing ages shall be 7 and 8, with playing age to be determined based upon the players' age on July 31 of the year during which they seek to participate.
- (b) If approved by the Board, the Junior Pony coordinator shall have the authority to alter, by either increasing or decreasing, roster sizes, based upon the presence of exceptional circumstances. However, in doing so he must make every reasonable effort to ensure roster size parity.
- (c) The coordinator will supply a team roster of players to each head coach after the Junior Pony level selection meeting. This roster will include name, age, address, and telephone number.
- (d) There will be no trading of players at any time.
- (e) All 7 and 8 year olds must participate in this program subject to the following exceptions:
 - (1) All 8 year olds must try out for a regular Pony team, as provided in the Pony policy manual, and must play on a Pony team if selected.
 - (2) All players who wish to play either "up" or "down" must so request, in writing, to the Board President, at least two weeks before the team's first game. The writing must specifically, and in detail, set forth the reasons for the request. If the player has previously played for an Association team, the request must be accompanied by a written concurrence by the player's previous head coach. If the head coach is not available, the written concurrence shall be provided by one of the player's former assistant coaches. Failure to supply a coach's concurrence may be considered grounds to deny the request. The requesting parent/guardian must then present his/her request to the Board at a regularly scheduled Board meeting, so that the Board has a reasonable opportunity to inquire into the basis of the request.

Section 6: General Dissatisfaction of Players/Parents/Coaches

- (a) In the event that a dispute arises or general dissatisfaction develops during the season between any member of the coaching staff of a team and the parents or guardians of a team member (hereafter referred to as "Parent") the following procedure shall be followed:
 - (1) The problem shall be thoroughly reviewed by the head coach and the coordinator as soon as possible. Every effort should be made to resolve the conflict. If the conflict cannot be resolved to the mutual satisfaction of all parties, the head coach or parent may elect to remove the player from the team's active roster.
 - (2) When this occurs, the party taking action must forward a detailed written report within seven days of such action to the coordinator setting forth all reasons for removing the player from the active team roster.

- (3) Within seven days of receipt of said report, the coordinator shall confer with the coach and parents separately in an attempt to resolve the conflict. At the discretion of the coordinator, a meeting of all concerned parties may be convened. If these attempts at resolution are unsuccessful, the player shall be permanently removed from the roster and may re-enter the T-Ball program the following year.

Section 7: Emergency Equipment Purchases - Equipment, Supplies

- (a) Article VII - Finances - Section 6 prescribes the manner in which all necessary baseball equipment purchases shall be handled. However, when an emergency purchase is necessary, the head coach or designee shall inform the Junior Pony coordinator or Association President of the need for equipment. The Junior Pony coordinator may grant permission for the purchase as long as the cost does not exceed fifty dollars.
- (b) At the beginning of each season each team shall be given one dozen baseballs.

Section 8: Team Rules and Discipline

- (a) It shall be the inherent right of all head coaches to establish their own team rules and team discipline policy. The rules and discipline policy shall be consistent with the Constitution of the Association, its By-Laws and rules, and this manual.
- (b) Each head coach shall explain the team discipline policy to the players and parents prior to the start of the season. It is strongly suggested that the policy be given to each player in written form along with a statement about the code of conduct set forth in Section 1 (a), and (b) of this manual.
- (c) A copy of each teams' disciplinary code must be provided to the Junior Pony coordinator prior to the start of the season. This copy will be filed for reference in the event that a general dissatisfaction conflict should occur. Neither the Junior Pony coordinator nor the Board of Directors have any right to pass judgment on the disciplinary code established unless there is a contradiction to the Constitution.

Section 9: Post Game Clean Up - Field Maintenance

- (a) Prior to the first game of each day, the home team coaches of the first game shall rake, line, and otherwise prepare the field for play, including setting out the bases.
- (b) At the conclusion of each game, the head coaches will insure that team members for each team clean their dugout area. Also, the away team coaches should assign to their players areas around the field of play for general removal of paper, cans, and other litter.
- (c) Following the final game of the day on each field and between games as necessary, the home team will be responsible for raking the dirt areas of the infield and for returning the bases and any other league equipment to the storage shed. The batter's boxes and pitching mound should be

raked and leveled to eliminate holes caused by routine play. Additionally, the area around each base should be raked to return dirt to low spots. The visiting team will remove any litter from the areas surrounding the playing field and dispose of it properly.

Section 10: Practice Schedules

Pre-season practice may start the day following the date of the coaches' meeting. A schedule for field use shall be developed by the Junior Pony coordinator in consultation with the coaches.

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