

**MORGAN HILL PONY BASEBALL
2008 BRONCO DIVISION OUTLINE OF PLAY**

I. Division Philosophy

A. The Bronco Division is where Pony Baseball begins to play competitive baseball and follow the rules of Major League Baseball more closely. Managers have the opportunity to execute the finer tactics of advanced baseball. It is a competitive division, where umpires are used and league standings are kept. At the end of the regular season, a double elimination tournament is held with all teams participating. We will play separate league championships with one game deciding the City Champion.

B. The Bronco Division is also the next step for most players as they continue to build on the skills and knowledge gained in Shetland, Pinto and Mustang. To that end, there is still a large emphasis placed on instruction and fundamentals. All managers and coaches, in addition to having prior coaching experience, must participate in all coaching clinics, which focus on providing them with the tools they need to provide adequate instruction to their players in the following areas:

General	Basics	Pitching	Hitting	Catching
- Warm up Exercises- Warm Up throws- Baseball Safety- Baseball Etiquette- Baseball Rules- Mental Preparation	- Throwing – Fielding Ground Balls- Fielding Fly Balls – Relay/Cut Off Throws- Base Running- Leading Off	-Basic Mechanics- Arm Action- Arm Care – Break- Release Point- Hips & Follow through- taking signs- pick off moves	-Basic mechanics- Load/Stride/Pivot- Contact and Extension- Follow through- Bunting	Safety equipment- Framing pitches - Blocking pitches- giving signs- Plays at home- Throwing to bases- Fielding Bunts-Fielding Foul Pop ups- Umpire protocol

II. Division Structure

A. 10 Team Division

1. 5 Teams in American League
2. 5 Teams in National League

B. 12 players maximum per team drafted IAW MHPB Rules.

III. Field Preparation

A. Field Days. Two will be held, with the first in early January. The purpose is to get the fields back into safe, playing shape. All Managers, Coaches and Parents are required to participate in this effort.

B. During the regular season, all managers and coaches are responsible for the playing conditions of the fields. They should review the field for existing hazards or issues prior to the start of play. The managers and coaches are expected to take precautions to ensure the field is safe and playable. Managers and coaches shall report unsatisfactory conditions to the Division Reps (DR's) within 24 hours. If the managers, coaches and DR's feel the hazard is serious enough to suspend play, the DR's shall contact the Player Agent immediately.

C. During regular season, pre-season scrimmages and post-season tournament games, BOTH teams are responsible for preparing the field. Each team will have representatives (parents/players) working the field in harmony. Mutual agreement between the two teams will determine who does what. It is expected that both teams will prepare and take down the field. Players learn a valuable lesson about care of their fields if they are involved in field work. It is more practical for them to do after game work. Parents from both teams are also required to assist in this effort.

D. For all Saturday games, the home run fence must be put up. Teams playing the last game of the day are responsible for taking down the fence, dragging the field, watering, putting the equipment away and locking all storage areas.

E. During Memorial and Post Season All Stars, ALL All-star parents are required to participate in field preparation days as well as set up and take down. The fields remain up for the duration of the tournament, but it all needs to be put away at the end.

IV. Managers and Coaches

A. Managers and coaches will be selected by the Division Reps (DRs) and approved by the MHPB Board. All managers should have coached in MHPB, or have some other type of baseball coaching experience. Managers and coaches that are volunteering for the first time in MHPB will fill out a coaches application and/or meet with the DRs to discuss their background and philosophy as it pertains to coaching Youth Sports.

B. Managers and coaches best suited for providing the best possible instruction, guidance, training and positive and effective sports attitude will be chosen.

C. All Managers and coaches are required to attend ALL League Sponsored coaches clinics, in addition to First Aid, Skills and Drills, Rules, and scorekeeping clinics.

D. Managers and coaches are expected to attend all Managers/Coaches meetings as dictated by the DR's.

E. Memorial and Post Season All Star coaches will be selected in accordance with MHPB rules.

V. Practice Scheduling

A. The preseason practice schedule will be assigned on draft night. Any changes that need to be made to the practice schedule will be at the discretion of the DRs.

- B. In order to reserve a field shown as “open” contact the DRs directly.
- C. Every effort will be made to fairly distribute the practice times between Britton, Burnett and Nordstrom Schools.

VI. Seasonal Play

- A. Both leagues will alternate play between Britton and Burnett.
- B. There will be two games per weeknight, one on each field, and three to four per field on Saturday.
- C. The season will consist of 18 games. Each team will play each other twice.
- D. All games will count in the standings.
- E. The home team will occupy the third base dugout and take infield first.
- F. Infield will start 25 minutes prior to game time and each team will have 10 minutes.
- G. The umpires meeting will take place 5 minutes before the game.
- H. During the post season playoffs, the higher seeded team will be the home team. During the City championship, a coin toss will determine the home team.

VII. Rules in Effect

- A. Hierarchy of rules:
 - 1. Bronco Division 2007 Outline of Play (this document)
 - 2. 2007 MHPB Rule Book
 - 3. 2007 Pony Baseball Rule Book
 - 4. Major League Baseball Rules (The Sporting News Edition)
- B. Games are seven (7) innings. There is no 5 run per inning or 10 run mercy rule.
- C. Players are allowed to leadoff from all bases and steal all bases
- D. The Infield Fly Rule is in effect.
- E. There is no must slide rule, the Umpire’s discretion will determine if a player should have slid for safety reasons.
- F. Minimum Playing time
 - 1. Required minimum playing time shall be in accordance with the MHPB Rules except:
 - a) All players shall play in at least four (4) complete regular season games.
 - b) Violations will be strictly enforced.
 - c) Substitutions will be in accordance with MHPB and Pony National Rules.
 - d) To avoid minimum play time violation, particularly in the early part of the season, when games typically do not get through all seven(7) innings, substitutions should be made by the top of the fourth(4th) inning.
 - e) Memorial All Star Team managers must follow MHPB minimum play time and pitching rules.

G. Pitching

- 1. Player pitch all innings

2. Pitch counts.

- a) Pitchers may pitch up to five (5) innings per game or a maximum of 75 pitches per game, whichever comes first, for all league play.
- b) If a pitcher reaches 75 pitches during a batter he may finish the batter. Managers should use their discretion whether or not the pitcher should. Be allowed to finish the batter.
- c) Score keeper has the official pitch count.
- d) Managers verify the number of pitches thrown when they make a pitching change.

3.No curve balls will be allowed.

G. EH Rule.

1. If a team has 11 or more players present at the start of the game they must use an EH. Although the EH is considered another defensive position as far as substitutions are concerned, it DOES NOT count toward defensive innings played or minimum play time requirements.
2. The use of an EH must be declared to the umpire and official scorekeeper prior to the start of the game and must be indicated on the line up card.
3. The EH must be maintained throughout the game.
4. No player shall start the game as EH in more than 8 games.

H. Ground Rules.

1. For BRONCO 2 (Burnett), if a ball disappears into the greenery, it is the duty of the outfielder to raise his arms and indicate the ball is out of play.
2. The Umpire shall decide, based on the batter/runners, what base to award the batter and base runners, this is NOT an automatic double.

VIII. Post Season Playoffs

A. Two Brackets- American and National Leagues

B. Seeding determined by regular season standings

1. Tie Breaker: Head to Head record
2. Tie Breaker: Head to head runs allowed
3. Tie Breaker: Head to head runs scored
4. Tie Breaker: Coin Toss

C. Tournament is double elimination

D. ALL MHPB pitching rules apply.

E. MHPB Provides trophies for 1 and 2 Place Teams in the League Championship Game.

F. City Championship

1. One game on Championship Saturday

- 2.MHPB Provides commemorative awards for both teams
- 3.Coin toss determines Home team.

IX. All Stars

A. Memorial

1. Managers and coaches selected IAW MHPB rules and are approved by MHPB board.
2. Teams are selected in accordance with MHPB rules with the following modifications.
 - a) Bronco A Team
 1. The Player Agent tallies points from All Star selection ballots, creating an eighteen (18) player list of the highest point receivers among all Bronco players.
 2. Six highest point receivers will be automatic elections.
 3. Manager drafts remaining team members who may come from any number of teams. Before contacting players the Manager must review his potential roster with the DR's and the player agent.
 4. Manager confirms coaching staff and twelve (12) to fifteen (15) players.
 - 5.Declining players are managed as follows.
 - i. 11 year old players may decline A-Team selection to play on the 11 year old A team only.
 - ii. 12 year old players are not allowed to play on lower level teams if they have declined to play at this level
 6. Remaining players are returned to list.
 - b) Bronco 11 Year Old A Team
 - 1.The Player Agent tallies points from All Star selection ballots, creating an eighteen (18) player list of the highest remaining 11 year old point receivers.
 2. Six highest point receivers will be automatic elections.
 3. Manager drafts remaining team members who may come from any number of teams.
 4. Manager confirms coaching staff and twelve (12) to fifteen (15) players.
 5. Players, may come from any number of teams for a team of between twelve (12) to fifteen (15) players.
 - 6.Declining players are removed from list.
 - 7.Declining players are not allowed to play on lower level teams
 8. Remaining players are returned to list.
 - c) Bronco B Teams (One or Two teams depending on player/coach availability).

1. Managers select 1 or 2 balanced teams based upon Serpentine draft of the remaining players, who may come from any number of teams (not limited to 10 teams), for teams of between twelve (12) to fifteen (15) players. Before contacting players the Manager must review his potential roster with the DR's.

2. In the event that Pony Baseball offers an 11 year old only Memorial tournament these two teams will be divided into 11 and 12 year old teams

3.MHPB Pitching and minimum play time rules are in effect.

B. Post Season

1.Managers and coaches selected IAW MHPB rules and are approved by MHPB board.

2.Teams are selected in accordance with MHPB rules with the following modifications.

a) Bronco A Team

1. The Player Agent tallies points from All Star selection ballots, creating an eighteen (18) player list of the highest point receivers among all Bronco players.

2. Six highest point receivers will be automatic elections.

3. Manager drafts remaining team members who may come from any number of teams. Before contacting players the Manager must review his potential roster with the DR's and the player agent.

4. Manager confirms coaching staff and twelve (12) to fifteen (15) players.

5.Declining players are managed as follows.

i. 11 year old players may decline A-Team selection to play on the 11 year old A team only.

ii. 12 year old players are not allowed to play on lower level teams if they have declined to play at this level

5. Remaining players are returned to list.

b) Bronco 11 Year Old A Team

1.The Player Agent tallies points from All Star selection ballots, creating an eighteen (18) player list of the highest remaining 11 year old point receivers.

2. Six highest point receivers will be automatic elections.

3. Manager drafts remaining team members who may come from any number of teams. Before contacting players the Manager must review his potential roster with the DR's.

4. Manager confirms coaching staff and twelve (12) to fifteen (15) players.
5. Players, may come from any number of teams for a team of between twelve (12) to fifteen (15) players.
6. Declining players are removed from list.
7. Declining players are not allowed to play on lower level teams
8. Remaining players are returned to list.

c) Bronco B Teams (One or Two teams depending on player/coach availability).

1. Managers select 1 or 2 balanced teams based upon Serpentine draft of the remaining players, who may come from any number of teams (not limited to 10 teams), for teams of between twelve (12) to fifteen (15) players. Before contacting players the Manager must review his potential roster with the DR's.
2. In the event that Pony Baseball offers an 11 year old only post season tournament these two teams will be divided into 11 and 12 year old teams

3. Pony Baseball pitching rules in effect.
4. No minimum play time rules.
5. Changes may be made to post season All Star uniforms as long as all changes are approved by the Board.

C. Voting

1. ALL managers from both leagues will vote for ALL the All Stars, there will be no separate league voting. DR's and the Player agent will ensure proper league team representation is maintained.

X. Division Reps

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