



MHPB

CLUB BALL



OUTLINE OF PLAY – 2008

A. CLUB BALL PHILOSOPHY

1. THE CLUB TEAM PROGRAM IS DESIGNED FOR PINTO THROUGH PONY PLAYERS WHO DESIRE A MORE INTENSE BASEBALL EXPERIENCE WITHIN OUR LEAGUE.
2. CLUB TEAM MEMBERS, BOTH PLAYERS AND COACHES, ARE EXPECTED TO PUT FORTH CONSIDERABLE TIME, EFFORT, AND COMMITMENT BEYOND THAT FOR A TYPICAL REGULAR SEASON.
3. PARTICIPANTS WILL BE REWARDED WITH MORE FREQUENT PLAYING OPPORTUNITIES UNDER MORE CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES WITH MORE INTENSIVE COACHING AND TRAINING.
4. THESE TEAMS ARE FORMED WITH THE INTENTION OF INCENTIVISING OUR TOP-TIER PLAYERS TO CONTINUE TO PLAY IN THE MHPB PROGRAM SO AS NOT TO LOSE THEM TO TRAVEL TEAMS.

B. STRUCTURE

1. NON-INTERFERENCE RULE
 - a. MHPB SANCTIONED CLUB TEAMS MUST ABIDE BY A NON-INTERFERENCE RULE. THE CLUB TEAMS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SCHEDULE GAMES OR PRACTICES WHICH INTERFERE WITH SPRING SEASON SATURDAY OR WEEKDAY GAMES OR PRACTICES AFTER OPENING DAY.
 - b. CLUB TEAM PLAYERS SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR POST-SEASON “ALL-STAR” SELECTION, BUT ONLY UNDER THEIR REGULAR SEASON TEAM. NO CLUB TEAM PLAY SHALL INTERFERE WITH SPRING SEASON PLAY-OFFS OR POST-SEASON PLAY.
 - c. THE CLUB TEAM DRs SHALL FACILITATE AND ENSURE PROPER COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CLUB TEAM MANAGERS AND SPRING SEASON MANAGERS, SPECIALLY TO ENSURE THAT PITCHING LIMITATIONS ARE FOLLOWED.
 - d. CLUB TEAMS SHALL BE ENTITLED TO SUNDAY PRACTICES AND AGE SPECIFIC DRs SHALL ENSURE ANY SPRING SEASON TEAMS WISHING TO PRACTICE ON SUNDAYS DO NOT INTERFERE WITH THE CLUB TEAM PRACTICE. **FOR EXAMPLE, IF A LEAGUE TEAM REQUESTS THE USE OF A FIELD FOR PRACTICE, THE DR SHOULD ACCOMMODATE THE LEAGUE TEAM FIRST. FOR A CLUB PLAYER, IF THEIR LEAGUE TEAM HAS PRACTICE THE SAME TIME AS CLUB PRACTICE, THE PLAYER SHOULD PRACTICE WITH THEIR LEAGUE TEAM.**
 - e. SPRING SEASON LEAGUE GAMES SHOULD, WHERE POSSIBLE, BE PLAYED TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY, TO FACILITATE NON-INTERFERENCE BY CLUB TEAMS PLAYING SUNDAY AND MONDAY.
2. NUMBER AND TYPE OF TEAMS
 - a. THE NUMBER OF CLUB TEAMS WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE CLUB TEAM DRs AND THE AGE SPECIFIC DRs AND WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE AVAILABILITY OF PLAYERS AND COACHES.
 - b. IT IS PREFERABLE TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE TEAM PER AGE GROUP PER DIVISION
EXAMPLE: BRONCO (ONE 11 YEAR OLD TEAM AND ONE 12 YEAR OLD TEAM)
 - c. MORE TEAMS MAY BE ADDED IF NEEDED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE BOARD

3. 12 – 18 PLAYERS PER TEAM

C. RULES

1. RULE HIERARCHY:
 - a. 1ST: 2008 MHPB CLUB BALL OUTLINE OF PLAY (THIS DOCUMENT)
 - b. 2ND: 2008 MHPB RULE BOOK (ORANGE BOOK)
 - c. 3RD: 2008 PONY RULE BOOK (BLUE BOOK)
 - d. 4TH: 2008 MLB RULE BOOK (SPORTINGNEWS EDITION)
2. ALL CLUB TEAM PLAY SHALL BE JUDGED ON PONY-NATIONAL TOURNAMENT RULES.
3. PITCHING
 - a. CLUB TEAM PITCHING MUST ABIDE BY PONY PITCHING RULES AND MHPB PITCH COUNTS AND REST HOURS.
 - b. INNINGS AND DAYS PITCHED FOR BOTH LEAGUE AND CLUB PLAY ARE CUMULATIVE. TOTAL INNINGS PITCHED OR DAYS PITCHED IN EITHER TYPE OF GAME CONSTRAIN THAT PLAYER FOR FUTURE PITCHING
 - c. DURING SPRING SEASON, IT IS PREFERABLE THAT WHENEVER POSSIBLE, CLUB TEAM PITCHERS BE LIMITED TO ONE PITCHED INNING PER CLUB TEAM GAME, EXCEPT FOR MULTI-GAME OR TOURNAMENT PLAY.
 - d. PITCH COUNTS SHOULD BE MONITORED CAREFULLY AND THE NUMBER OF PITCHES IN THE PLAYER'S MOST RECENT MHPB LEAGUE GAME AND THE PLAYER'S NEXT SCHEDULED MHPB LEAGUE GAME SHALL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT PRIOR TO SCHEDULING PITCHERS.
 - e. CLUB TEAM PLAYERS, PARENTS AND THEIR COACHES SHALL WORK WITH THEIR REGULAR TEAM COACHING STAFF ON INNINGS PITCHED AND VICE VERSA.
4. WHEN HOSTING PLAY AT HOME, "WITHIN LEAGUE BOUNDARIES"
 - a. ALL GAMES OR TOURNAMENTS SHALL BE ON MHPB FIELDS AS SCHEDULED BY THE AGE SPECIFIC DRs.
 - b. ONLY FIELDS THAT HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE BOARD MAY BE UTILIZED.
 - c. THE BOARD SHALL ENSURE INSURANCE COVERAGE AT THOSE FIELDS.
 - d. CLUB TEAMS SHALL COORDINATE LEAGUE UMPIRES WITH THE HEAD UMPIRE.
5. CLUB TEAMS SHALL BE ISSUED AND EXCLUSIVELY PLAY IN THEIR OWN, SEPARATE AND DISTINCTIVE UNIFORMS FROM THE REGULAR SEASON TEAMS, WHICH CLEARLY AND PROMINENTLY SHOW THEIR AFFILIATION WITH THE LEAGUE. ALL CLUB TEAM UNIFORMS SHALL BE ISSUED SOLELY BY MHPB.
6. PLAY TIME IS AT THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE COACHING STAFF.
 - a. AS THESE TEAMS ARE FOR BUILDING OF SKILLS AT A HIGHER LEVEL, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT PLAY TIME BE AS EVEN AS POSSIBLE SUCH THAT ALL PLAYERS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP.
7. ISSUES NOT DISCUSSED WITHIN THIS DESCRIPTION OF CLUB TEAMS MUST BE ADDRESSED IN THE SAME MANNER AS THEY ARE ADDRESSED IN THE REGULAR SEASON OPERATIONS OF THE LEAGUE. IN THE CASE OF ISSUES NOT DEFINED ADEQUATELY BY THIS OUTLINE OF PLAY OR THE MHPB RULE BOOK, THE MHPB BOARD SHALL MAKE FINAL DETERMINATIONS.

D. MANAGERS AND COACHES

1. MANAGERS AND COACHES WILL BE RECOMMENDED BY THE CLUB BALL DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES, FROM THE POOL OF APPLICANTS, TO THE MHPB BOARD FOR APPROVAL.
 - a. CLUB TEAM MANAGERS MUST ACTIVELY MANAGER OR COACH A SPRING SEASON MHPB TEAM.
 - b. MANAGERS AND COACHES CANNOT COACH OR MANAGE MORE THAN ONE CLUB TEAM AT THE SAME TIME.
 - c. THE CLUB TEAM DR SHALL DETERMINE DEADLINES FOR MANAGER AND COACH SELECTION.
2. CLUB TEAM MANAGERS AND COACHES SHALL REPORT TO THE CLUB BALL DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES.

3. ALL ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE COACHING STAFF SHALL BE SELECTED FROM THE POOL OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF THE DRAFTED PLAYERS OR FROM INDIVIDUALS SPECIFICALLY APPROVED BY THE DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES.
4. LIKE CLUB TEAM PLAYERS, CLUB TEAM COACHES ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE AN EXTRA COMMITMENT IN TIME AND EFFORT. WHILE UPHOLDING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF THE LEAGUE'S CODE OF CONDUCT, CLUB TEAM COACHES MUST LEARN AND THEN PRACTICE FIRST-CLASS LEADERSHIP AND BASEBALL COACHING SKILLS. THE REWARD IS TO BRING THE BEST OUT OF OUR PLAYERS WHILE REPRESENTING OUR LEAGUE THROUGHOUT OUR AREA OF PLAY.
 - a. A SUSPENSION FROM THE REGULAR SEASON TEAM SHALL AUTOMATICALLY BE A SUSPENSION FROM THE CLUB TEAM AND VICE VERSA.
 - b. A RESIGNATION FROM THE REGULAR SEASON TEAM SHALL AUTOMATICALLY BE A RESIGNATION FROM THE CLUB TEAM.
5. ALL MANAGERS AND COACHES WILL SUBMIT AN APPLICATION.
6. EMPHASIS FOR MANAGER AND COACH SELECTION WILL BE ON:
 - a. ADHERENCE TO TENETS OF PONY BASEBALL AND POSITIVE COACHING ALLIANCE.
 - b. ON FIELD BEHAVIOR
 - c. POSITIVE INTERACTION WITH PLAYERS
 - d. PREVIOUS HISTORY OF COMPLETION OF ALL MANAGER / COACH TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.
7. MANAGERS SHALL KEEP A COPY OF THE LEAGUE'S INSURANCE CERTIFICATE WITH HIM/HER AT ALL TEAM FUNCTIONS (PRACTICES, GAMES, ETC.)

E. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. CLUB TEAM PLAYERS MUST HAVE ACTIVELY PLAY ON A MHPB TEAM FROM THE MOST RECENT SPRING SEASON
 - a. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE CAN BE MADE FOR NEW PLAYERS TO THE LEAGUE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE BOARD
2. AFTER THE END OF SPRING ALL STAR TOURNAMENT PLAY, THE PLAYERS ARE PROMOTED TO THEIR NEXT YEAR
(EXAMPLE: MUSTANG 10 YEAR-OLD PLAYERS BECOME BRONCO 11 YEAR-OLD PLAYERS (U11)).
3. A SUSPENSION FROM THE REGULAR SEASON TEAM SHALL AUTOMATICALLY BE A SUSPENSION FROM THE CLUB TEAM AND VICE VERSA.
4. A RESIGNATION FROM THE REGULAR SEASON TEAM SHALL AUTOMATICALLY BE A RESIGNATION FROM THE CLUB TEAM.

F. PLAYER EVALUATION

1. REGISTRATION WILL BE DONE BETWEEN NO EARLIER THAN MAY AND NO LATER THAN AUGUST.
 - a. REGISTRATION SHALL BE ADVERTISED IF POSSIBLE ON THE WEB SITE AND THROUGH THE MHPB NEWSLETTER PRIOR TO SIGNUPS.
2. CLUB TEAM FEES, \$200
 - a. CLUB TEAM FEES ARE SEPARATE FROM AND IN ADDITION TO SPRING OR FALL SEASON FEES
 - b. FEES SHALL BE COLLECTED AT REGISTRATION AND BEFORE EVALUATIONS.
 - c. CLUB TEAM FEES WILL BE COLLECTED AND PROCESSED BY THE TREASURER.
 - d. ADDITIONAL FEES MAY BE ASSESSED EACH PLAYER DEPENDENT ON THE NUMBER OF TOURNAMENTS PLAYED.
3. EVALUATIONS SHALL OCCUR AFTER ALL-STAR TEAMS HAVE COMPLETED COMPETITION. A SECONDARY EVALUATION MAY OCCUR AT ANY TIME FOR AN ADDITIONAL TEAM OR FOR REFORMATION OF AN EXISTING TEAM
 - a. ALL PLAYERS, INCLUDING MANAGER AND COACH'S CHILDREN, WILL PARTICIPATE IN

- PLAYER EVALUATIONS.
- b. PLAYERS ARE SELECTED FROM THE TRYOUT CANDIDATES IN THEIR ONE-YEAR AGE BRACKET.
 - c. PRE-FORMED CLUB TEAMS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED INTO THE PROGRAM.
 - d. PLAYERS WHO ARE NOT SELECTED WILL BE REFUNDED THEIR CLUB TEAM FEE AND MAY CHOOSE TO BE PLACED ON A CLUB TEAM WAIT LIST. SHOULD AN ADDITIONAL PLAYER BE REQUIRED BY A CLUB TEAM, SUCH PLAYER SHALL BE SELECTED FROM THE RESPECTIVE WAIT LIST WITH A PRO RATA PAYMENT OF THE CLUB TEAM FEE.
 - e. PLAYERS WHO WISH TO SIGN UP AFTER CLUB TEAMS HAVE BEEN FORMED MAY REQUEST TO BE PLACED ON THE WAIT LIST, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PLAYER AGENT.
4. ALL CLUB TEAM MANAGERS AND COACHES WILL ATTEND AND ASSIST IN PLAYER EVALUATIONS.

5. FOR THE 2008 SEASON, CLUB BALL EVALUATIONS WILL BE HELD AT BRITTON ON MARCH 1ST.

G. PLAYER SELECTION

1. CLUB TEAM MANAGER, COACHES, CLUB TEAM DR AND AGE SPECIFIC DRs WILL PLACE QUALIFIED PLAYERS ON THEIR RESPECTIVE TEAMS IN AN EFFORT TO FIELD THE MOST COMPETITIVE TEAM POSSIBLE.
 - a. PLAYERS WILL BE PLACED AT THEIR APPROPRIATE AGE LEVEL (I.E. 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U AND 14U)
 - b. YOUNGER PLAYERS MAY BE ALLOWED TO PLAY UP BUT ONLY WITHIN THEIR AGE DIVISION. EXAMPLE: MUSTANG (A NINE YEAR OLD COULD PLAY ON THE 10 YEAR OLD TEAM, IF INVITED)

H. SEASON

1. EACH CLUB TEAM SHALL PLAY TOGETHER FOR ONE FULL YEAR. THE YEAR WILL BEGIN FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF ALL-STARS AND CONTINUE THROUGH THE NEXT SPRING SEASON.
2. PRACTICE SCHEDULES ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AGE SPECIFIC DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES.
3. GAME SCHEDULES ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CLUB TEAM MANAGERS AND CLUB TEAM DRs AND SHOULD BE MADE WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE AGE SPECIFIC DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES.
4. THE CLUB TEAM MANAGER WILL DETERMINE THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF TOURNAMENTS TO BE PLAYED.

I. DIVISION REPS

- a. ED STRUZIK
HOME: (408) -776-6758
CELL: (408) -840-9052
WORK: (408) -852-9568
EMAIL: CLUB@MHPB.ORG

REVISION HISTORY:

DRAFT REV 1: FIRST DRAFT TO BE SUBMITTED FOR BOARD APPROVAL

DRAFT REV 2: ADDED CLARIFICATION TO B.1.D.; ADDED F.5- BASED ON BOARD FEEDBACK 11/26/07

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