



- The Pony Express -

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MHPB Spring 2006 Season Registration Schedule Announced

Player Agent Manny Brum announced the registration schedule for the Spring 2006 Season at the last meeting of the MHPB Board of Directors.

“As in years’ past, MHPB will again hold the walk-in registration days for the Spring 2006 Season at Mountain Mike’s Pizza at Tennant Station in Morgan Hill.” Continued Brum, “We’ll continue to use Mountain Mikes as long as they’ll have us. Walk-in registration this year will be held from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM on Saturday, December 10th, and again from Noon to 2:00 PM on Saturday, January 14th. We’ll also offer late registration on Wednesday, January 25th and Wednesday, February 8th, from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM, again at Mountain Mikes.”

Flyers inviting new members to the league will be distributed to children in Grades K – 3, through all the public and private elementary schools in Morgan Hill and San Jose south of Bernal Road. The flyers will give a brief description of the **who, what, where** and **when** of the program. The flyer will also give a brief overview of what is required to register (*a birth certificate and a check for the registration fees*) and what is required for a youngster to play. It will also note the open registration dates as listed above in this column. New players to the league must apply in person, with a parent, at one of the walk-in registration dates.

Children that are already members of the program will receive registration forms with the November newsletter (see inside). Existing members may mail in their registration forms and fees to the league. The mailing address is P.O. Box 353, Morgan Hill, CA 95038. Registration forms received after January 14th must include an additional \$25.00 late registration fee.

As with every new season, the league will be looking for volunteers in every capacity. Those interested should make an inquiry at registration time or contact any member of the Board of Directors for more information.

Dates to Remember A New Feature

To assist parents in managing their baseball time, we’ll attempt to publish a list of key dates through the course of the season. This should be a handy reference as the season progresses. Look for more info along the way.

December 10, 2005	Walk-in Registration Day #1
January 8, 2006	Sunday Spring Training begins
January 14, 2006	Walk-in Registration Day #2
<small>(all registrations received after 1/14/06 must pay \$25.00 late fee)</small>	
January 15, 2006	Sunday Spring Training Day 2
January 21, 2006	Player Evaluation Day
January 22, 2006	Sunday Spring Training Day 3
January 25, 2006	Late walk-in Registration Day #1
January 28, 2006	Player Evaluation Rainout Day
January 29, 2006	Sunday Spring Training Day 4
February 8, 2006	Late walk-in Registration Day #2
January 30, 2006	Mustang Draft
January 31, 2006	Bronco Draft
February 1, 2006	Pony Draft
February 4, 2006	Practices Begin
March 4, 2006	Opening Day 2006
April 3, 2006	Weekday Evening games begin
April 14 – 21, 2006	No Games – Spring Break
May 20, 2006	Last Day of Regular Season
May 21 – 24, 2006	Reserved for make up games
May 26-29, 2006	Memorial Day Weekend
May 30, 2006	League Playoffs Begin
June 4, 2006	Coaches Game Day
June 17, 2006	City Championship Day (all Div.)

As the season progresses, look for this column to post the training schedules for new coaches, including ACEP (American Coaching Effectiveness Program), Coaches Clinics, First Aid training classes, Umpire training and Scorekeeper training.

Umpires and Scorekeepers Needed

If you are interested in umpiring, contact MHPB President Mike Rusch. If you are interested in Scorekeeping, contact Head Scorekeeper Joe Grove. Check the website for phone numbers or call the league phone at 778-MHPB and leave a message.

Quotable Quotes:

“Kids are always chasing rainbows, but baseball is a world where you can catch them.” Johnny Vander Meer, Cincinnati Reds / Pitcher (1937 – 1949)

Know the Rules

Check this space for Definitions & Rules

INTERFERENCE:

a. Offensive interference is an act by the team at bat which interferes with, obstructs, impedes, hinders or confuses any fielder attempting to make a play. If the umpire declares the batter, batter-runner, or a runner out for interference, all other runners shall return to the last base that was in the judgment of the umpire, legally touched at the time of the interference, unless otherwise provided by these rules.

In the event the batter-runner has not reached first base, all runners shall return to the base last occupied at the time of the pitch.

b. Defensive interference is an act by a fielder which hinders or prevents a batter from hitting a pitch.

c. Umpire's interference occurs (1) When an umpire hinders, impedes or prevents a catcher's throw attempting to prevent a stolen base, or (2) When a fair ball touches an umpire on fair territory before passing a fielder.

d. Spectator interference occurs when a spectator reaches out of the stands, or goes on the playing field, and touches a live ball.

OBSTRUCTION is the act of a fielder who, while not in possession of the ball and not in the act of fielding the ball, impedes the progress of any runner.

If a fielder is about to receive a thrown ball and if the ball is in flight directly toward and near enough to the fielder so he must occupy his position to receive the ball he may be considered “in the act of fielding a ball.” It is entirely up to the judgment of the umpire as to whether a fielder is in the act of fielding a ball. After a fielder has made an attempt to field a ball and missed, he can no longer be in the “act of fielding” the ball. For example: If an infielder dives at a ground ball and the ball passes him and he continues to lie on the ground and delays the progress of the runner, he very likely has obstructed the runner.

Reference: 2005 Official Baseball Rules; Published by Sporting News Books. Rule 2.00 – Definition of Terms. Interference – see page 19; Obstruction – see page 20.

Morgan Hill Pony Baseball uses (1) the Sporting News “Official Baseball Rules”, (2) “Rules and Regulations for PONY Baseball, Inc., and (3) the

Morgan Hill Pony Baseball Rules, Regulations and Procedures. In general, MHPB Rules take precedent over both (1) and (2), with (2) having jurisdiction over (1). If looking for a ruling, first the the MHPB Rules. If not covered, then check PONY BASEBALL Rules. If still not covered, the “Official Baseball Rules” are in effect. In addition, these MHPB rules may be amended for the current season only, by Division, by the Board approved Division Outline of Play.

Reference: Morgan Hill Pony Baseball Rules & Regulations, p. 1

Executive Board

President	Mike Rusch
Vice President	Bob Benevento
Secretary	Gregg Hall
Treasurer	Carolyn Rusch
Player Agent	Manny Brum

Division Representatives

Shetland	Mike O’Connell Open
Pinto	Tom Moorehead C W McGowen
Mustang	Cody Pyle Open
Bronco	Chris Blocker Damon Grose
Pony	Louie Andrade John Howard
Colt	John Bennett
Palomino Commissioner	Roy Jackson

Staff Positions

Baseball Store Mgr.	Rob Conlan
Boosters Chairperson	Charlene Brum
Equipment Mgr.	Tim Mason
Fields Director	Chris Houle
Head Scorekeeper	Joe Grove
Chief Umpire	Mike Rusch
Newsletter Editor	Bob Benevento
Publicity Chairman	Bob Benevento
Snack Shack Mgr.	Marlene Mooney
Sponsorship Chair.	Daryl Hughes
Training Director	Todd Branon
Webmaster	Gary Winzler
Fund Raising Chair	Rob Conlan
Tournament Director	Open

Website: www.mhpb.org

Phone: Listed on the website, or 778-MHPB

“The Mission of Morgan Hill Pony Baseball is to teach life skills through Baseball”
