

SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

JUNIOR PONY POLICY MANUAL - 2018

(as adopted January 12, 2004, amended November 8, 2010, January 23, 2014 & April 19, 2018)

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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 by coaches and players and upon review by the Review Committee consisting of the President, Junior Pony Coordinator, and one other board member (none of which may be Junior Pony coaches) shall result in a one (1) game suspension that is subject to adjustment by the Review Committee and appeal by the affected party:

- 1) Profane or vulgar language;

2) Use of tobacco and/or smoking within the confines of the playing area or use of alcoholic beverages anywhere in or about a playing field;

3) Harassment of players, umpires or coaches;

4) Gestures of bad taste;

5) Fighting;

6) Handling equipment in a manner that could cause physical harm to anyone or the damaging of equipment and league property;

7) Ejection from a league game will result in an automatic one (1) game suspension to be served the next game.

c) The Head Coaches are expected to enforce the following rules each game:

1) STBA Junior Pony Policy Manual.

2) Official Little League playing rules (latest edition).

Section 2: Official League Games

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

b) Prior to the start of a game, the home team Head Coach shall be responsible for postponing a game due to rain or wet grounds (see part (c)).

c) Postponed official league games are to be rescheduled and played within seven days, if possible. 1) The home team coach must determine at least thirty (30) minutes before game time that the field is not suitable for play. 2) The home team coach must notify the opposing coach, Junior Pony Coordinator, and snack bar of the postponement. 3) The Junior Pony Coordinator in consultation with the Head Coaches will reschedule the game.

d) The coaches will act as umpires for the games and will cooperate with each other in performing that function.

e) A uniform league ball must be used in all games. Two (2) new balls, suitable to both head coaches, must be provided by the home team.

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 home team must complete pre-game warm-up practice thirty (30) minutes before game time. The visiting team shall then have the playing field for twenty-five (25) minutes.

h) The Junior Pony Coordinator will provide the official Little League playing rules to coaches, which shall prevail and be enforced unless otherwise superseded by this Junior Pony League Policy Manual.

i) All bats must comply with the Little League rules in effect at the time of the season. If a player uses an illegal bat in an official at-bat, the player will be called out, the bat will be removed from play, and the player and any parent or guardian who is present shall be provided an explanation of the infraction by the Head Coach.

Section 3: Special Playing Rules

a) The fenced in area of Kauffman, McNaughton and Stabler fields shall be known as the “In-Play” area; other fields require a pre-game conference to define “In-Play” areas.

b) Avoiding contact or sliding by a base runner is absolutely necessary anytime a play is made on said player except at first base. If a player does not slide and contact is made, player is out.

c) Head first slides are PROHIBITED.

d) Flagrant or willful contact by any player is strictly prohibited and is cause for ejection from the game.

e) All players must remain in the dugout during the game except as follows:

1) The defensive players;

2) The batter, on-deck hitter, and player base coach.

3) Pitchers and catchers warming up in the “bullpen”.

f) 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. The coaches must be eighteen (18) years of age or older or a high school graduate.

- g) All games will be played on a field with a 38 ft pitcher's mound and 52 ft bases.
- h) 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.
- i) 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, whichever comes first.
- j) Each game shall be six innings, subject to the following: under no circumstances shall the top of 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.
- k) 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.
- l) 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.
- m) Each player must play every out defensively (the exception to this is if both teams have 10 or more players and the head coaches agree to having a lesser number of players in the field, but no less than 9 players should be in the field), and must play at least 2 different positions in each game.
- n) Each player is in the batting order.
- o) 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.

p) A ball hit on the ground or on the fly into the grass (outfield); runners may attempt to advance two bases.

q) Through the first 7 days of the season, the head coach or designated assistant will pitch to the players on his/her team.

r) Through May 14th, NO stealing of any base is permitted. Beginning May 15th, stealing of 3rd only is permitted. NO stealing of 2nd base or Home. A player must maintain the base until the pitch reaches home plate.

Section 4: Composition of Teams

a) Team rosters shall consist of a minimum of 10 players, whose playing ages shall be 7 and 8(exceptions will be made by the Junior Pony Coordinator when safety concerns arise), with playing age to be determined based upon the players' age on August 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 Junior Pony Coordinator will supply a team roster of players to each head coach after the Junior Pony tryouts are complete.

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 5: 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.

2) 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. 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 Jr Pony program the following year.

Section 6: 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 (\$50) dollars.

b) At the beginning of each season each team shall be given baseballs.

c) Hats for team members and the coaching staff should be ordered each year by the equipment manager from a Board approved vendor. Extra hats should be obtained to

replace hats that become lost or damaged during the season. Any player obtaining a second hat must pay the association for the replacement.

Section 7: 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 must be consistent with the purpose of the Susquehanna Township Baseball Association Constitution.

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), (b), and (c) of this manual.

c) A copy of each team's 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 has any right to pass judgment on the disciplinary code established unless there is a contradiction to the Constitution.

Section 8: 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 9: Practice Schedules

Pre-season practice may start the day after team rosters are provided to the head coaches. A schedule for field use shall be developed by the Junior Pony coordinator in consultation with the coaches.

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