

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

NAME

This Association shall be known as the Benbrook Youth Baseball and Softball Association; hereinafter referred to as the Association.

ARTICLE II

OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of the Association shall be to provide the opportunity, facilities, and leadership for the youth of Benbrook and surrounding areas to participate in sports and other developmental activities. All funds received shall be expended for this purpose.

All members of the Association shall bear in mind that all activities must be conducted in such a manner that development of leadership, sportsmanship, honesty, courage, and loyalty are of uppermost importance.

ARTICLE III

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

- Sec. I Any person interested in objectives of the Association and who is willing to uphold its constitution and established policies may become a member.
- Sec. II The Members of the Association shall perform any reasonable service and/or serve on the committees as required. The member shall have the privilege to vote on Board members at the general meeting and file written protest, suggestions, or complaints to the Board of Directors for action at the next regular meeting.
- Sec. III The Board of Directors shall have the authority to suspend or terminate any member whose conduct is considered detrimental to the best interest the Association, by a two-thirds vote at a duly constituted board meeting. Any member that is subject to suspension or termination shall be notified within 24 hours prior to the meeting of the Board of Directors. **Any board member subject to removal, is requested to attend this meeting to discuss any issues relating to their non-participation. If the member subject to removal does not attend this meeting, the board will vote on removal or retention, and their decision is final.**

ARTICLE IV

GOVERNMENT

- Sec. I The Association shall be governed by the Board of Directors.
- Sec. II The Board of Directors shall consist of nineteen (19) members elected by the membership of the Association for a term of two (2) years. Elections shall be held at the general membership meeting. New Board members shall assume office at the first meeting of the Association following the election. Current elected or appointed members of the Board of Directors are identified herein as Attachment 1 (including current positions held and length of term).

Sec. III All vacancies occurring during the term by resignation or otherwise will be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by appointment by the Board of Directors at any of its regular meetings.

Sec. IV The property and business of the Association will be managed by the Board of Directors. All matters concerning policy, sponsorship of additional activities, transfer or acquisition of property or major expenditures of money, (with exception of \$100.00 petty cash) shall be decided by a vote of the Board of Directors at a duly constituted meeting or by any other means necessary such as direct telephone conversations, email or any other means as implemented by the President or his/her appointed representative.

Chairman of the Equipment (Vice President) is authorized to spend \$250.00 per incident for the purchase of required equipment. Expenditures in excess of \$250.00 must be approved by a vote of the Board of Director at any regular scheduled meeting or emergency meeting as appropriate.

Distribution (payment) of Association monies will be accomplished utilizing the Association checking account. Four current Association Board of Directors members are authorized for the purpose of signing checks (each check must contain two Association Board of Directors members signatures) and their names must be on file at the banking institution retained for Association business. Prudence must be exercised for the selection of those persons to sign checks – no two members of the same family are authorized to sign a single check for the distribution of Association funds.

Sec. V The Board of Directors, at the first meeting following election, shall elect from its membership, a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Baseball and Director of Softball. Such Officers will serve for one (1) year beginning with the next board meeting.

Sec. VI Duties of the Officers:

- (a) President – The President shall preside at all meetings the Association or its Board of Directors. He shall appoint committees, as the Association deems necessary to conduct the business of the Association. He shall appoint the chairperson on each committee. At the time of appointment, the President shall state the objectives and action to be taken by the committee for recording in the minutes. The President is an executive-officer member of all committees.
- (b) Vice President – The Vice President shall, in the absence of the President, assume all duties of the President at duly constituted meetings. In absence of both the President and the Vice President, the Board of Directors shall choose a presiding officer from its membership present. The Vice President shall also serve as Chairman on the Equipment Committee, having responsibility for all equipment and uniforms for all sports.
- (c) Secretary – The secretary shall maintain a General Association Membership Roll; conduct the correspondence of the Association; issue all notices of meetings; keep a roll of its meetings; keep and preserve a record of meetings of the Association and its Board of Directors; notify all members of their election. The Secretary in conjunction with the Board, shall prepare a written agenda for distribution to Board members at all regular meetings.

- (d) Treasurer – The Treasurer shall collect and have custody of all fees, dues and other income of the Association and shall deposit those funds in the bank designated by the Board. The Treasurer shall disburse funds on the orders of the Board of Directors. All checks must be signed by two members of the Board designated by the President. The Treasurer shall submit a detailed account of the receipts and disbursements at all meetings of the Association or Board of Directors, and shall furnish information to the board of Directors related to the funds of the Association as they may require. The Treasurer shall prepare the books for an annual audit prior to the first meeting of the Board of Directors following election.
- (e) Baseball Director – The Baseball Director is responsible for all Baseball leagues. The Baseball Director will be on the equipment committee.
- (f) Softball Director – The Softball Director is responsible for all softball leagues. The Softball Director is tournament director for all softball tournaments. The Softball Director will be on the equipment committee.
- (g) Any Board Member voting on behalf of the entire BoD's, will vote according to the majority rule of the BoD's on any subject. (i.e. Pony Presidents Meeting Issues.)

- Sec. VII Board members shall not receive any salary for their services, but may be reimbursed for legitimate expenses incurred on Association business by resolution of the Board.
- Sec. VIII Members of the Board of Directors will be permitted to serve in the capacity of coaches in activities sponsored by the Association.
- Sec. IX Upon dissolution of the Association, The Board of Directors shall after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purpose of the corporation in such a manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purpose as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE V

FINANCIAL POLICY

- Sec. I The Board of Directors shall administer all matters pertaining to the finances of the Association and shall place all income in a common Association treasury.
- Sec. II The Board of Directors must approve all fund raising activities that raise money in the name of the Association.
- Sec. III The Board of Directors shall govern the operation of any concession. Profits of any concession operated at the Association activities shall go to the Association

treasury. Unless the concession is sub-leased to a manager for purposes to be specified to the Board.

Sec. IV The Board of Directors must approve sale of advertising at the Association's activities. No advertising will be accepted for liquor, wine, beer, or tobacco.

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

Sec. I Order of Business
(a) Reading of the minutes
(b) Financial Report
(c) Unfinished Business
(d) New Business

Sec. II Board of Directors

- (a) Regular Meetings
A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held once a month; the exact date, time, and place to be decided by the members of the Board.
- (b) Special Meetings
Special meetings may be held at the call of the President or a written request of three or more Directors. Notice of such meetings shall be made to all Directors at least 24 hours before the date of the meeting.
- (c) Emergency Meetings
Emergency meetings may be called by any single member of the Board with the concurrence of the President. At least four hours notice must be given. The member must insure that the business is of an emergency nature and cannot be delayed without being detrimental to the operation of the Association. Business at an emergency meeting will be limited to that item for which the meeting was called.
- (d) **Quorum**
A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum at any meeting and a majority vote of those present shall govern except when otherwise specifically provided.
- (e) Board members cannot miss two meetings without a reasonable explanation or may be expelled from the Board.

Sec. III General Membership

At least one General Membership meeting of the Association shall be held once each year for the purpose of electing new Board members. The exact date, time and place will be decided by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII

ACTIVITIES

- Sec. I Director of Baseball and Director of Softball shall appoint a commissioner from the general membership for each league or division within that activity subject to board approval.
- Sec. II Team managers will be selected by the Baseball and Softball Director in conjunction with the commissioner of each league. All managers will be approved by the Board of Directors annually, prior to the start of league play.
- Sec. III Rules of Conduct
1. Each coach is responsible for the conduct of his team and his team's fans.
 2. Once the event is underway, the game officials are in charge until the event is concluded.
 3. Non-participants will stay off of the field of play, out of the dugout area and away from team benches just prior to, during and immediately after the event.
 4. No smoking or the use of any Tobacco Products on the field of play as defined by the fence in baseball or softball. No smoking or the use of any Tobacco products in the dugout.
 5. Fees must be paid, contracts signed and returned and proof of birth date checked prior to the issuance of uniforms.
 6. If there is a problem or complaint about a coach or official that cannot be resolved at the team level, the problem will be reported in writing within 24 hours. The order of appeal will be the league commissioner, the director of that sport, and then to the Board of Directors of the Association.
- Sec. IV The by-laws for each activity shall be established by the Board of Directors.
- Sec. V The by-laws for each activity shall be incorporated in an attachment to this constitution.
- Sec. VI Any youth meeting the requirements as to age and residence as set forth in rules of the activity he or she desires to participate in, shall be eligible.
- Sec. VII Upon evidence of misconduct of any youth, the Director of the Activity shall notify the youth and manager of the youth's team within 24 hours. The manager shall appear in the capacity of advisor to the youth, along with a parent or guardian of the youth before the Board. The Board shall be chairmanned by the Activity Commissioner and shall have the power to suspend the youth, when such action is approved by a two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS, REFERENDUM, AND RECALL

- Sec. I This Constitution or any section thereof, may be amended by two-thirds vote of a quorum at a duly constituted meeting of the Board of Directors.
- Sec. II Referendum—An election to request an amendment to the BYBSA Constitution or to request recall of any person(s) elected or appointed to the BYBSA Board of Directors shall be called by the Board of Directors, when a written petition containing signatures of 40% of the BYBSA General Membership is submitted requesting them to do so.

Sec. III Any member of the Board of Directors may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Association members present at a duly constituted meeting.

AMENDMENT: A. We shall provide baseball and softball, along with other sports to broaden the dimension of the youth of the community.

B. Annual audit will be performed each year. This Auditor will be chosen by the Budget Committee and voted on by the Board of Directors.

C. In cases where a player is not on a team, the Director of the sport will place the player on a team within the guidelines of the draft, where a vacancy exists.

New Articles added to the Constitution

1. Definitions of Terms
2. Variations of Text
3. Background Checks for All Association Board of Director Members and Coaches.

ATTACHMENTS to be added to the Constitution:

1. BYBSA Board of Directors, Current Responsibilities and Term
2. Rules Governing Spring Sports
3. BYBSA Code of Conduct
4. Baseball Tournament Rules (See North Texas Pony web-site)
5. Softball Tournament Rules (See North Texas Pony web-site)
6. *Forms used for BYBSA Official Business*

ARTICLE IX

DEFINITION OF TERMS

- A. General Membership is defined as those persons who officially declare in writing (on the form supplied by the BYBA) their intention to be on the roll listing those persons for General Membership in the BYBSA.
- B. BYBSA Board of Directors - those persons elected by vote of the General Membership or appointed by the Board itself (to fill any Board Member vacancy).

ARTICLE X

VARIATIONS OF TEXT

Headings of Articles of the Constitution are for the convenience of reference only, and shall not in any way affect the meaning or interpretation of any of the provisions of the constitution. Words importing the singular only also include the plural and vice versa where context requires. Words importing the reference he only also include she and vice versa where context requires.

ARTICLE XI

BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR BOARD ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AND COACHES

Criminal Background checks will be accomplished for current Association Board Members using the criteria established by the Committee appointed by the Association President for this purpose. Background checks will be considered valid for Two (2) years after which they must be accomplished again.

Criminal Background checks will be accomplished for all Coaches and their delegated Assistant coaches using the criteria established by the Committee appointed by the Association President for this purpose. Background checks will be considered valid for Two (2) years after which they must be accomplished again. (Criteria for exclusion from coaching is any felony conviction and/or being accused or convicted of any offense related to children or youth.)

The purpose of the Criminal Background checks is to protect any and all children participating or considering participation in Association sanctioned sporting events.

Attachment 1:

Current Elected and/or Appointed BYBSA Board of Directors

	Name	Position Held	Date Elected or Appointed	Term Expires
1	Randy Thurman	President		
2	Chris Fernandez	Vice President		
3		Secretary		
4	Jenny Cambre	Treasurer		
5	Alan Brown	Baseball Director		
6	George Beaudry	Softball Director		
7	James Schmidt	Sponsorship		
8	Tim Anfin			
9	Derek McBain			
10	Belinda McBain			
11	Gail Manous			
12	Ted Whitlock			
13	Michael Pirrone			
14	Charlotte Owens			
15	Laura Wheeler			
16				
17				
18				
19				

Attachment 2:

**2007 BYBSA SPRING BASEBALL
OFFICIAL GROUND RULES**

Playing rules will be based on The Official Baseball Rules of Major League Baseball. Exceptions to these rules are contained in the PONY Baseball Rules and Regulations for the current year and the following BYB/SA Ground Rules.

1. Time limits for the games are as follows:

Shetland	1 hour or 5 innings
Pinto	1 hour -15 minutes or 6 innings
Mustang	1 hour -30 minutes or 6 innings
Bronco	1 hour -45 minutes or 7 innings
Pony	1 hour -45 minutes or 7 innings

For Pinto and Shetland Divisions – no inning will be started more than 15 minutes after time has expired in any game (except as directed by the Baseball Director to determine final league standings). A new half inning begins when the final out of the previous half inning has been recorded. If time has expired, a new inning does not start.

For Mustang, Bronco, and Pony Divisions all games will be completed until one team prevails, regardless of time limits or innings played, as described above.

2. “Ten Run Spread” rule is in effect in Mustang, Bronco, and Pony. A run per inning rule is in effect in Shetland, Pinto, and Mustang. The runs per inning rules are as follows:

Shetland

5 runs/inning through the fourth inning, then 10 runs in the fifth inning. If game is tied after 5 innings, and time has not expired a 6th inning will be played (10 run inning). As time permits additional innings may be started as long as **1 hour** has not elapsed. After 6 or more innings, if the game is still tied, the game is declared a tie. If a run spread exists of 11+ runs after 4, then the game is considered complete.

Pinto

5 runs/inning through the fifth inning, then 10 runs in the sixth inning. If game is tied after 6 innings, and time has not expired a 7th inning will be played (10 run inning). As time permits additional innings may be started as long as **1 hour and 15 minutes** have not elapsed. After 7 or more innings, if the game is still tied, the game is declared a tie. If a run spread exists of 11+ runs after 5, then the game is considered complete.

Mustang	5 runs/inning
Bronco and Pony	no run limits

Length of Game: Any game that is called before completion for any reason, shall be considered complete if:

Shetland - 3 innings are complete
Pinto/Mustang - 4 innings are complete
Bronco/Pony - 5 innings are complete

3. Forfeits:

For Pony, Bronco, and Mustang Baseball - Any team fielding only 7 players at the start of the game will be declared a forfeit.

- Games may start with 8 players. The No. 9 batter in the line-up is blank and an out is issued each time the No. 9 batter position is reached.
- If the 9th player arrives, this player must be added to the No. 9 batter slot in the batting order. **When the 9th player arrives, they may not participate in the current half inning. If their team is in the field, they cannot enter the game until the team comes into bat, if the team is at bat, he cannot enter the game until the team returns to the field. This applies even if the empty slot in the batting order comes up.** Additional players who arrive for play will be added to the bottom of the batting order.

For Shetland and Pinto Baseball - Any team fielding only 8 players at the start of the game will be declared a forfeit.

- Games may start with 9 players. The No.10 batter in the line-up is blank and an out is issued each time the No. 10 batter position is reached.
- If the 10th player arrives, this player must be added to the No. 10 batter slot in the batting order. **When the 9th player arrives, they may not participate in the current half inning. If their team is in the field, they cannot enter the game until the team comes into bat, if the team is at bat, he cannot enter the game until the team returns to the field. This applies even if the empty slot in the batting order comes up.** Additional players who arrive for play will be added to the bottom of the batting order.

4. Substitution rules will be the same as the current PONY Baseball Rules and Regulations with the following exceptions:

Mustang/Bronco/Pony Free substitution in effect, except for pitchers.

5. Pitching rules are as outlined in the PONY Baseball Rules and Regulations for league play. **All coaches must report pitching changes to the official scorekeeper at time of change.** Pitching innings will be recorded in the scorebook.

Pitching Rules by Division:

Mustang

- Pitchers may pitch in only three innings per day during the regular season.
- When pitching more than one game on the same calendar day, pitchers may pitch any combination of innings in those games provided they do not exceed the maximum of three innings per day.
- Mustang pitchers may not pitch more than 8 innings in a calendar week. (12:01am Monday thru 12:00 midnight the following Sunday).
- Pitchers shall have at least 40 hours rest after pitching 3 innings on the same calendar day.

- As soon as a pitcher delivers one pitch to a batter the pitcher is considered to have pitched one complete inning.
- Concerning Balks – 1st half of season 1 balk warning per inning (additional balks in same inning regular baseball rules apply). 2nd half of season begins Monday April 23rd after this no more warnings for balks will be issued.

Bronco and Pony

- Pitchers may pitch in only seven innings per day during the regular season.
- When pitching more than one game on the same calendar day, pitchers may pitch any combination of innings in those games provided they do not exceed the maximum of seven innings per day.
- Pitchers may not pitch more than 10 innings in a calendar week . (12:01am Monday thru 12:00 midnight the following Sunday).
- Pitchers shall have at least 40 hours rest after pitching in four or more innings on the same calendar day.
- As soon as a pitcher delivers one pitch to a batter the pitcher is considered to have pitched one complete inning.
- Concerning Balks – **All** balks called using regular baseball rules.

6. Protests

Protests based on a play which involves the umpire's judgement shall not be permitted.

Protests based on any interpretation of baseball rules will be handled as follows: 1) Coach must inform the head umpire, opposing head coach, and official score keeper of the decision to protest the game; and 2) submit the nature of the protest in writing (including a \$25.00 fee (cash), fee will be refunded if protesting coach wins the protest) to the BYBSA President, or Vice President, or Baseball Director within 48 hours of the completion of the game; and 3) the head umpire will make a public announcement that the game is being played under protest. The head umpire will permit two (2) minutes for the protesting coach to search the rule book and find the rule under protest. If the coach cannot find the rule within the two (2) minute time limit the game will start again, and proceed under protest. The two (2) minutes provided will not be deducted from the game time.

BYBSA Rules Committee and BYBSA Board Members shall meet to discuss the protest and a ruling on the protest will be issued within 72 hours of receipt of the written protest.

If the protest is upheld, the game shall resume from the point of the protest through completion.

Any team that withdraws from the playing field under any circumstances prior to the official completion of the game shall forfeit all rights to protest, and the game is considered a forfeit.

7. Play Requirements

Shetland, Pinto, Mustang, Bronco, and Pony – It is recommended that each player play in at least two complete innings in the field each game. Play requirements may be waived for disciplinary action with prior approval from league commissioner.

In all age groups, entire lineup will bat.

8. **Concerning throwing of Bats, Helmets, or Gloves**

Umpire may call player out for throwing helmets, bats, or gloves in anger. The second offense by the same player will result in automatic removal from the game.

If coach throws helmets, bats, or gloves in anger, coach will be ejected. All coaches and players will adhere to the decision of the umpire without argument. Arguing with the umpire constitutes unsportsmanlike conduct. The first instance of such in the game, the coach or player may be issued a warning or ejected from the game. The second instance, in the same game, will result in automatic ejection.

Any coach or player ejected from game, according to PONY rules are also suspended from the next scheduled game, and are subject to additional disciplinary action as deemed necessary by the BYBSA Board of Directors.

Based on the Umpires discretion, any player in Pony, Bronco, or Mustang may be thrown out of a game for throwing bats, helmets, or gloves. Players in these older divisions have participated in baseball for several years and are fully aware of the rules governing this type of behavior. The umpire should only take this severe action in the case where the safety of other players, coaches, or the umpires is at risk. Accidental throwing of the bat – The umpire will call time and notify the coach of the player who committed the offense. The player will be informed of the offense and it will be recorded in the scorebook by his or her name. If the same player accidentally throws the bat again, the player will be out and the team will be given a warning regarding accidental throwing of the bat. Any player on the same team who accidentally throws the bat will be called out. The opposing team gets the same “chances” for this rule.

9. Coaches and players are the only persons allowed in the dugout during the game.

10. Coaches will be held responsible for their actions and the actions of their players and fans. [Refer to the Code of Conduct](#)

11. Each team is required to clean out their dugout and fan area after each game. Failure to do so may result in the Head Coach being suspended from the next game.

12. The **visiting team is responsible for providing an adult to operate the scoreboard.** The **home team is responsible for providing the official scorekeeper.** The visiting team should occupy the third base dugout and the home team should occupy the first base dugout.
13. Make-up games will be rescheduled and posted.
14. Cleats:
- Metal cleats are permitted in Baseball Bronco and Pony divisions only. All other baseball divisions are not permitted to wear metal cleats. *This includes screw in football cleats. (Exception: Mustang Tournament Play Teams)*
15. Leading Off Bases:
- | | |
|----------|---|
| Shetland | Runners shall remain in contact with each base until the ball is hit or crosses home plate. |
| Pinto | Runners shall remain in contact with each base until the ball is hit or crosses home plate. |
| Mustang | Regular baseball rules apply |
| Bronco | Regular baseball rules apply |
| Pony | Regular baseball rules apply |
16. Baseball Shetland Division
- The pitcher must throw the ball to first base. The same player may play the Pitcher position only two (2) innings and then a different player must play the pitching position.
 - Pitchers may tag out or run down and tag out runners going to 2nd base, 3rd base, or home plate.
 - The batter may take a maximum of 5 swings. Any batted ball which does not travel beyond the 10-foot arc line will be considered a foul-strike for the purpose of this rule. If a batted ball stops on the 10-foot chalk arc it is considered a fair ball.
 - Two Defensive Coaches are permitted in the field of play (must remain on the outfield grass during play) for the 1st half of the season, 2nd half of the season begins Monday April 23rd, after this, no defensive coach is permitted in the field during play.
 - Outfielders must be in the grass outfield prior to the start of play.
 - Regarding batting from the Tee – The batter may not swing at the ball until the pitcher has made the throwing motion, or the batted ball is declared a dead ball and must be replayed with no penalty to the batter. A coach may assist the batter only one time during the at bat for the 1st half of the season. Umpire or Batter must adjust the tee, coach may not touch the tee. The batter may address the tee (measure up) one time prior to the ball being placed on the tee, once the ball is placed on the tee the batter must swing, if the batter addresses the tee (measures up) again a strike shall be called, resulting in an out if it is the batter's fifth attempt to hit the ball.
- Baseball Pinto Division
- A batter shall be declared out after failing to hit a fair ball after six pitches are delivered by a "Coach Pitcher". The batter is out if there are three

strikes before the sixth pitch. Missed swings are counted as strikes, as are foul balls and foul tips. A batter is not out on a foul ball or foul tip unless it is also the sixth pitch.

- **The coach pitcher may not instruct the batter, the 1st or 3rd base coach may address the batter. The first time the pitcher addresses the batter, a warning is issued. On a second offense with the same pitcher, the pitcher will be removed from the mound.**
- Regarding the Coach Pitcher – If a batted ball hits the coach pitcher the ball is dead. The pitch is a foul strike and no runners may advance. If the batted ball hits the pitcher on the 6th pitch the batter is out. The coach pitcher must exit the field of play once the ball is hit. If a live ball hits the coach pitcher, or in the umpire's judgment the coach interferes in the fielder's attempt to make a play, the ball is dead and the lead runner is out.

Mustang/Bronco/Pony

- Must slide rule is in effect at all times. This call is at the umpires' discretion, not to be disputed by coaches. Intentional contact by a runner will result in the runner being out and can be ejected from the game at umpire's discretion.

17. Player Draft Rules:

- In each league, no team shall have more than 8 players of the older age on the roster. Provided that all teams are of equal number of the older players, exceptions may be granted to allow for additional players of older age.
- **Rule Change:** In each league, blind draft players will be selected by age to provide every chance possible for an even age spread of older and younger players on each team. **If a parent/ guardian does not want their child playing for a specific coach, the parent/guardian may exercise a Parental Veto.** The parental veto may only be utilized once per calendar year, and will be tracked by "Players Name". (If a veto is exercised for the Fall '06 league, then another veto will not be allowed until the Fall '07)
- **Shetland/Pinto – 4 coaches**
- Head Coaches may protect a number of players equal to the number of coaches, not to exceed **4**, prior to the draft selections. Additional players are selected utilizing a blind draft according to player's age until rosters are completed.
- **Mustang/Bronco/Pony – 2 coaches**
- League try-outs will be conducted prior to the drafting of players. Head Coaches must declare their 2 protected players, to include the players of coaches, to their league commissioner prior to the league try-outs.
- Any coach not declaring his/her 2 protected players prior to league try-outs may select an additional player(s) after the third drafting round is complete.
- Any coach, who might have more than one offspring playing in the same league, may protect all for the roster, at the cost of the third round pick, and additional rounds if necessary.

- Additional players are selected (drafted) until rosters are completed. Players participating at the league try-outs will be selected first and those players not participating in the league try-outs will be selected utilizing a blind draft. Drafting rules addendum.
- Regarding players not present at the league try-outs – Players that are clearly front-line or “A” Players may be added to the non-draft player pool upon majority decision by coaches. These players must be discussed by the coaches prior to this occurring.
- **Rule Exception:** Any coach, who might have more than one offspring, of league age, and eligible to play in the same league, may protect all for the roster, at the cost of the third round pick, and additional rounds if necessary.

Rule Change: '08

Returning Players who want to return to the same team they were on in the previous Spring season may elect to do so. Example: The Yankees had four 1st year players in the previous spring season and are eligible age wise to play another season of T-Ball. Those 4 players may request to return to the Yankees team even if it does not have a returning coach or assistant coach. Players may not request a specific coach. This Rule will be nullified in the Spring of 2008. Recommendation was adopted by the BoD.

Spring '08 rule: Spring Recreation Player retention will be set by the allowable number of coaches recognized by PONY for that league. (i.e if PONY allows 2 coaches for that league then a coach may only protect 2-players. Exception: siblings within the same family, eligible to participate in the same league. Prime is also exempted from this rule.)

18. Baseball Pitching and Base Distances and Baseball Type

Division	Bases	Pitching Distance	Ball Size
Shetland	50 feet	38 Feet *	Reg. Baseball
Pinto	50 feet	38 Feet **	Reg. Baseball
Mustang	60 feet	44 feet	Reg. Baseball
Bronco	70 feet	48 feet	Reg. Baseball
Pony	80 feet	54 feet	Reg. Baseball

* Pitcher must start with one foot on the pitching rubber, and stay in contact with rubber until ball is hit.

** Pitcher must have one foot in contact with the rubber when the pitch is released.

19. Coaches may retain 9 players for Fall Instructional League.

Rule Additions:

20. BYBSA will No longer charge “Gate Fee’s” for tournaments. Budget Committee will determine, based upon 2006 fiscal numbers the appropriate amount per team to charge, per tournament.
21. BYBSA will reimburse any team representing BYBSA @ that leagues, “Highest” Pony recognized level of competition. Amount to be recommended by the Budget Committee.

Rule Update &/or Change Overview:

2007:

- Parental Veto: May be utilized once per calendar year. (and will be tracked by player name, not parent who is vetoing)
 - Coaches may retain 9 players for Fall Instructional League.
 - BYBSA will no longer charge "Gate Fee's" for tournaments. Budget Committee will determine, based upon prior years fiscal numbers the appropriate amount per team to charge, per tournament.
 - BYBSA will reimburse any team representing BYBSA @ that leagues "Highest" Pony recognized level of competition. Amount to be recommended by the Budget Committee.
- *Pony*:** -Change rule 4A(1) to: Shetland League age will be 6 and under. (4, 5, 6)
-Add to Rule 8F:Catcher's helmet must be NOCSAE approved and have protection for both ears.

Rule Update &/or Change Overview cont'd:

2008:

- Prime Coaches will submit their roster to BYBSA's Prime Coaches will submit their roster to BYBSA's League President at least 48hrs. prior to such time as is required by Prime-Interlock League.
- Spring Recreation Player retention will be set by the allowable number of coaches recognized by PONY for that league. (i.e if PONY allows 2 coaches for that league then a coach may only protect 2-players. Exception: siblings within the same family, eligible to participate in the same league. Prime is also exempted from this rule.) *This will nullify the playing for the same team as Spring last year clause, that is currently recognized within BYBSA rules.*
- Picture ID cards for coaches. Must be worn while on the field of play, regardless of where the field of play resides.
- Try-outs for Pinto level players.

Attachment 3:

Complaint Procedures

BYBSA desires every child and adult participating in BYBSA activities to enjoy a positive and fun learning experience. The Board of Directors, League Commissioners, and Head Coaches are all volunteers with no compensation for their service. The growth of our programs and services are dependent on the positive maturity of our volunteers and players. Over the years BYBSA has developed code of conduct rules for parents, players and coaches along with BYBSA Ground Rules designed for the protection and safety of our athletes. With this purpose in mind the BYBSA established a procedure for filing a complaint or grievance that can not be resolved by the Head Coach or League Commissioner. This is not a game protest procedure, as that process is outlined within the BYBSA Ground Rules.

Process

If a situation should arise that warrants a complaint please discuss the situation first with your player's Head Coach. If the situation isn't resolved to your satisfaction contact your League Commissioner. If further involvement is necessary a written complaint must include the following information.

1. Your Name / Players Name & Birth Date
2. Address:
3. Phone Number:
4. E-Mail Address:
5. Division: Example / Bronco
6. League: Example / American
7. Team: Example / Rangers
8. Head Coach:
9. Nature and Detail of Complaint, including responses from Head Coach and League Commissioner.

If the complaint involves another team, coach or specific umpire crews please include the dates and times games were played along with what fields and teams were involved. The written complaint should be submitted to email to all BYBSA board members. BYBSA board member emails are listed on www.bybsa.org. The President of BYBSA leads the investigation. The BYBSA board shall participate and review the investigative findings and rule in accordance with In-City Rules, BYBSA Mission Statement and Code of Conduct guidelines. The board's decision and any disciplinary action are final. The final conclusion and results of the investigation shall be forwarded to all parties involved.

BENBROOK YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION CODE OF CONDUCT

The primary purpose of the Benbrook Youth Baseball and Softball Association (BYBSA) youth sports program is to offer each participant the opportunity to pursue, through recreational and competitive sports, the physical and emotional benefits of such activities. Too often the emphasis has been placed on winning at any cost. To ensure this goal the BYBSA has developed a **Code of Conduct** that emphasizes teaching and good sportsmanship over winning, proper conduct on and off the sports venue and full compliance to the rules and policies of the BYBSA.

The BYBSA **Code of Conduct** applies to all players, coaches, association officers and parents who are involved in any BYBSA activity. All parties must understand and agree to follow the **BYBSA CODE OF ETHICS** prior to participating in that sport.

PLAYER CODE OF ETHICS

“I play the game for the game’s sake and will be generous in victory, gracious in defeat and fair always, no matter what the cost.”

1. I will practice good sportsmanship and encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at every game and practice.
2. I will attend every practice and game that I can and will notify my coach if I cannot.
3. I expect to receive a fair and equal amount of playing time.
4. I will do my very best to listen and learn from my coaches, teammates and officials.
5. I will treat my coaches, teammates, opposing team, officials and fans with respect regardless of their abilities, sex, creed, or race and I will expect to be treated the same.
6. I will have fun during my sports experience and will tell my parents and/or coaches if it stops being fun!
7. I deserve to play in an environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and expect adults to refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
8. I will encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity because it's important to me.

9. Profane language will not be tolerated by anyone including myself during a game or at practice!
10. I will remember that during a game I am there to play, not to coach or officiate. There is absolutely no arguing of an Officials call.

PARENT CODE OF ETHICS

“This game is not about parents but the children and I will praise every child and make them all feel like winners”

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating **positive** support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or youth sports event.
2. I will place the emotional and physical well being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.
3. I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment. I will inform the coach of any physical or mental disability that may affect the safety of my child or others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the association.
5. I will respect the decisions of the officials understanding their job is difficult but could be made easier with cooperation and support from all parents and friends.
6. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
7. I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child and their teammates.
8. I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials, with respect regardless of ability sex, creed, or race.
9. I promise to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience by doing what I can to assist the team and coach, by bringing snacks or by providing transportation.
10. I will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player or parent such as booing or taunting, refusing to shake hands or using profane language or gestures. I will ensure the same conduct of my guests.
11. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

COACH/VOLUNTEER CODE OF ETHICS

“Coaching is a Privilege not a Right and I will do everything within my power to be a positive role model for my players”

1. I hereby pledge that I will place the emotional and physical well being of my players ahead of my personal desire to win.
2. I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group.
3. I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players.
4. I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.
5. I will provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
6. I will be knowledgeable in the rules of each sport that I coach and the policies of the association.
7. I will remember that I am a youth sports coach, and that the game is for children and not adults.
8. I will never yell at or ridicule a player for making a mistake or losing a game nor will I allow it from others.
9. I will accept the decision of the officials. I will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player or parent and will ensure the same conduct of my players and parents.
10. Profanity in any form will not be allowed at my practice or youth sports event.
11. I will establish objectives for my team and will encourage open communication between my players, coaches and parents.
12. I will play my players a fair amount of time and will not allow retribution in any form against another player, coach, parent or official.
13. I promise to review and practice the basic first aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players.
14. I will require that my team’s parents and players understand and have agreed to the **BYBSA Parent and Player Code of Ethics**

VIOLATION OF THE BYBSA CODE OF ETHICS

These guidelines are for the benefit of our association participants. The BYBSA cannot list every ethical or moral situation that would not be considered as portraying a positive role. In the event that the BYBSA Board feels that an individual(s) is acting in a way that is detrimental to the association or its participants the individual(s) may be reprimanded, suspended or barred from further participation in future BYBSA activities.

There are two (2) types of violations to the **BYBSA Code of Ethics** and each is handled differently. The intent of the association is to address minor infractions at the lowest leadership level applicable and as early as possible to the time of the infraction. Major infractions will be addressed by a formal Grievance Committee and will report directly to the BYBSA Board of Directors.

MINOR INFRACTIONS

Minor infractions are single incidents of misconduct that breach the BYBSA Code of Ethics but generally do not result in harm to others. All disciplinary situations involving minor infractions will be dealt with by the appropriate person having direct authority over the individual(s) involved. This person may include, but is not restricted to, a BYBSA board, sport director, commissioner or coach. The coach of a sport will have authority over assistant coaches, players and parents. The commissioner of a sport and/or age division will have authority over the head coach. The sport director will have authority over all commissioners. The Board of Directors will have authority over the sport director.

Procedures for dealing with minor infractions will be informal as compared to those for major infractions and will be determined at the discretion of the person having authority, provided the individual being disciplined is told the nature of the infraction and has had a chance to respond to the allegation. This policy will not prevent an appropriate person having authority from taking immediate, informal, corrective disciplinary action in response to behavior that constitutes a minor infraction.

It is the policy of this association to use the lowest form of discipline that insures compliance to the **BYBSA Code of Conduct** based on the nature of the infraction.

Disciplinary sanctions for minor infractions may include any or a combination of the following:

1. Verbal or written reprimand (explain the infraction and the possibility of further, more severe sanctions if behavior continues).
2. Verbal or written apology (explain the infraction and the possibility of further, more severe sanctions if behavior continues)
3. Service or other voluntary contribution to BYBSA.

4. Suspension from the **current** activity or competition (removal).
5. Any other similar sanction considered appropriate for the offense.

Examples of Minor infractions:

1. A single incident of disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist or sexist comments or behavior directed towards others, including but not limited to peers, opponents, athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, spectators and sponsors.
2. Conduct contrary to the ideals of fair play such as angry outbursts or arguing.

MAJOR INFRACTIONS

Major infractions are instances of misconduct or repeated minor infractions, which violate the **BYBSA Code of Ethics** and which result, or have the potential to result, in physical or mental harm to other persons.

If the incident is a major infraction, a hearing by the BYBSA Grievance Committee is required. The Chairman of the Grievance Committee will notify the individual alleged to have committed a major infraction of the matter within 72 hours after being notified of the incident by an Association Officer and will provide the individual with a copy of the Incident report and a copy of this policy.

The appropriate person having authority over the individual(s) may deal with major infraction(s) occurring within a competition immediately, if necessary. This person may include, but is not restricted to, a BYBSA Board member, sports director, commissioner or coach. The individual being disciplined will be told the nature of the infraction and will have an opportunity to provide information concerning the incident. In such situations, disciplinary sanctions will be for the **duration of that competition only**. Further sanctions may be applied but only after review of the matter in accordance with the procedures set out in this policy for major infractions. This review does not replace the appeal provisions of this policy.

Depending on the nature and severity of the major infraction, the Grievance Committee Chairman may appoint an independent individual to conduct an investigation in a timely manner (within 3 days).

The Grievance Committee will govern the hearing as appropriate provided that:

1. The individual being disciplined will be given seven (7) days written notice of the day, time and place of the hearing.
2. The individual being disciplined will receive a copy of the Investigator's report, if applicable.
3. The decisions will be by majority vote where the Chairman of the Committee carries a vote (unless there is a conflict of interest and he/she abstains).
4. A representative may accompany the individual being disciplined.
5. The individual being disciplined will have the right to present evidence and argument.
6. The Investigator may participate in the hearing at the request of the panel.

7. The panel may request that any witness be present at the hearing or submit written evidence in advance of the hearing.
8. If the individual being disciplined chooses not to participate in the hearing, the hearing will nonetheless proceed.
9. The hearing will be held in private.
10. The Committee will have the authority to abridge or extend timelines associated with any aspect of the hearing.

After hearing the matter, the Grievance Committee will determine by majority vote whether or not the individual has breached the **BYBSA Code of Ethics** and if so, the appropriate sanction to be imposed and any measures to mitigate the harm suffered by others as a result. The Committee's written decision, with reasons, will be distributed to all parties including the BYBSA Board President within seven (7) days of the conclusion of the hearing.

Where the individual acknowledges the facts of the incident, he or she may waive the hearing, in which case the Committee will determine the appropriate disciplinary sanction. The Committee may hold a hearing for the purpose of determining an appropriate sanction.

Examples of Major infractions:

1. Fights, Scuffles, etc.:
Any player, coach, parent or association officer at any youth association sports event who initiates a fight, scuffle, or any type of physical abuse or threats of abuse towards any player, coach, official, parent, guest or spectator.
2. Entering the Field of Play:
Any parent, guest, coach or association officer at any youth association sports event that enters the field of play or court during any youth sports event for the purpose of physically or verbally abusing or confronting coaches, players or officials.
3. Obscene or profane language, etc.:
Any player, coach, parent or association officer at any youth association sports event who verbally abuses officials, players, coaches, guests or spectators, including the use of obscene or profane language or gestures, or racial, ethnic or sexual slurs. Examples include repeated incidents of disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist or sexist comments or behavior directed towards others, including but not limited to peers, opponents, athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, spectators, volunteers and sponsors. Repeated conduct contrary to the ideals of fair play such as angry outbursts or arguing.
4. Throwing Objects on Field of Play:
Any player, coach, parent or association officer at any youth association sports event who throws or causes to be deposited any object on the field of play during any youth sports event.
5. General:
 - a) Pranks, jokes or other activities, which endanger the safety of others.
 - b) Any conduct that result in harm to the image, credibility or reputation of the BYBSA and/or its sponsors.

- c) Abusive use of alcohol, tobacco or any illicit substance at a BYBSA activity where abuse means a level of consumption which impairs the individual's ability to speak, walk or drive; causes the individual to behave in a disruptive manner; or interferes with the individual's ability to perform effectively and safely.
- d) Abuse of facilities or equipment
- e) Any use of alcohol or any illicit substance by minors while participating in a BYBSA activity.

Disciplinary sanctions for major infractions may include any or a combination of the same sanctions as a minor infraction including the following:

- 1. Removal of certain privileges of participation
- 2. Suspension from certain events which may include suspension from the current competition or from future teams or competitions
- 3. Suspension from serving in certain BYBSA leadership roles such as such as coaching for a designated period of time
- 4. Suspension from all BYBSA activities for a designated period of time
- 5. Expulsion from association participation.

Unless the Committee decides otherwise, any disciplinary sanctions will commence immediately. Failure to comply with a sanction as determined by the Grievance Committee (Board of Directors if appealed) will result in automatic suspension of participation in any BYBSA activity until such time as the sanction is complied with.

In applying sanctions, the Grievance Committee (Board of Directors if appealed) may consider the following aggravating or mitigating circumstances:

- 1. The nature and severity of the infraction
- 2. The extent to which others have been harmed by the infraction
- 3. The cooperation of the individual being disciplined in the proceedings under this policy
- 4. Whether the incident is a first offense or has occurred repeatedly
- 5. The individual's acknowledgment of responsibility
- 6. The individual's remorse and post-infraction conduct
- 7. The age, maturity or experience of the individual
- 8. Whether the individual retaliated, where the incident involves harassment
- 9. The individual's prospects for rehabilitation.

For serious infractions, the BYBSA Board may determine that the alleged infraction is of such seriousness as to warrant suspension of the individual pending the hearing and

decision of the Grievance Committee. Where the behavior reported in an Incident Report may constitute harassment, or is of a similar sensitive nature, BYBSA participants will keep all proceedings confidential, except where disclosure is directed by the Grievance Committee as part of a sanction, is required by law or is in the best interests of the public.

APPEALS

Except where otherwise provided, the decision for both minor and major offenses may be appealed to the appropriate venue. Decisions by the coach may be appealed to the appropriate commissioner, the commissioner to the appropriate sports director, the sports director to the athletic director, the athletic director to the Grievance Committee, and the Grievance Committee to the Board of Directors. The following rules for an appeal shall apply:

1. Any person receiving a sanction(s) who wishes to contest same shall appeal to the proper venue within seven (7) calendar days with a written request for appeal, specifically setting forth the basis of such person's contest of the notice of violation, via personal delivery, fax, email or certified mail, to the President or Secretary of the BYBSA Board of Directors.
2. Upon receipt of such appeal the Board President or Secretary will present the appeal to the proper authority for making the decision. This individual shall review and decide on the appropriateness of the decision within seven (7) days. The accused will be provided an opportunity to appear and be heard with respect to the occurrence of any violation prior to final action being taken.
3. For a major infraction, the BYBSA Board of Directors shall review statements, accounts and any other pertinent information or documentation relevant to the violation and, upon a majority vote of members of the Board of Directors present at such hearing, may sustain, overturn, or modify the sanction(s) consistent with the **BYBSA Code of Conduct**.
4. All notices of sanction(s) and banning or other actions taken shall remain in effect until overturned or modified by the appropriate person.
5. **In the event any sanction(s) is not appealed within seven (7) days of such notice (normally in the form of a certified letter), said notice of the sanction(s) and action taken, including banning from youth sports events or other action taken shall become final.**

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

The Grievance Committee shall consist of the Director of the Sport that the incident occurred and a minimum of three (3) others: such as a Coach, Executive Board Member, Commissioner, Volunteer, Parent, or other specified individual. The Chairman of the Committee shall be the Director of the Sport and vote only in the case of a tie. Upon receiving the complaint from an Association Officer, the Chairman of Grievance Committee will do all in its power to notify the individual who is the subject of the

grievance within 72 hours. The Committee may assign an impartial individual to investigate the grievance or investigate the matter themselves. **In most cases, a decision by the Committee will be rendered within 10 calendar days of receiving the complaint.** If the decision is not made within the 10 calendar days, the Chairman of the Committee shall notify the Board President and the individual being investigated of the reason(s) for the delay

FILING A GRIEVANCE

It is important that there be open communication between players, parents, coaches and association officers. Most situations can be resolved through open dialogue. When an issue can not be resolved at one level the next level of association leadership should be used. In some cases the only option left is to file a grievance. If a coach, volunteer, player or parent is alleged to have violated any point of the **Code of Ethics**, a grievance may be made. Except in an extraordinary case, the grievance must be submitted within 3 calendar days of the incident and in writing. **The grievance may be submitted by anyone, whether a participant in the BYBSA or not.** Without a complaint in writing and submitted within the time allotted, the proper authority may not be able to take action. A grievance form is available on the BYBSA web page and can be found in the BYBSA Concession Stand or Field House. The grievance must be submitted in complete, written form, signed and presented to a member of the BYBSA Board, a sports director or commissioner. The individual receiving the grievance will notify the Board President or Secretary who will decide on the type of infraction (minor or major) and the proper venue for resolving the grievance.

The association officers, will do everything possible, to insure the confidentiality of any individual filing a grievance.

If a submitted grievance is found to be frivolous or not pertaining to the **BYBSA Code of Ethics**, the proper authority may dismiss it.

OTHER

The incident and results of all formal disciplinary actions concerning a major infraction shall be reported by the athletic/sport director at the next planned Board of Directors Meeting.

**BENBROOK YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL
ASSOCIATION**
Sports Incident/Grievance Report

Date and time of incident: _____

Name of Writer: _____ Position: _____

Location of incident: _____

Individual(s) involved in the incident:

Objective description of the incident (please be concise, accurate and non-judgmental):

Witnesses (Name/Phone #):

Disciplinary action THAT was taken (if applicable):

Signature of Writer: _____ Date: _____

Presented to Association Officer:

Name _____ Signature _____ Date: _____

Type of Infraction: Minor ____ Major ____