

Pony Express Baseball, Inc.
St. Joseph, Missouri

OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES
of Pony Express Baseball, Inc.

Revised May 12, 2011

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MISSION STATEMENT

PONY EXPRESS BASEBALL is an established league of approximately 225 teams per year in the “A” and “AA” National divisions since the early sixties, known then as Pony Express Boys Baseball once affiliated with Pony Baseball. The league made the transition in 2000 to USSSA. In 2011 the league chose to remain unaffiliated from any nationally recognized organization. The league encourages enthusiasm, competitiveness, and skills which continue to grow with our youth. Pony Express Baseball is a non-profit organization ran strictly by volunteers to manage and maintain the fields leased from the City of Saint Joseph. We hope you enjoy our organization and would provide feedback for any potential improvements.

FORWARD

Playing rules not specifically covered herein, shall be governed by The Official Rules of Baseball – National League, as published by Major League Baseball on the MLB.com website. In the event of a conflict in rules between these Official Baseball Rules of Pony Express Baseball, Inc. and The Official Rules of Baseball – National League, as published by Major League Baseball on the MLB.com website, these Official Baseball Rules of Pony Express Baseball, Inc. shall govern. This set of rules is intended to be a living document that shall be reviewed and revised as deemed necessary by the Pony Express Baseball Board of Directors.

SECTION 1 – NAME & OBJECTIVE

- 1.01 This organization shall be known as Pony Express Baseball, Inc., hereinafter referred to as PEB.
- 1.02 The PEB Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as PEB Board, shall have final say on all matters pertaining to the organization, ball games, park events, the rules herein, appeals, disciplinary actions, etc.
- 1.03 The PEB Board shall implement rules and/or decisions deemed necessary for the greatest good of the players and all involved.

SECTION 2 – CLASSIFICATION, LEAGUES, & PLAYING SEASONS

- 2.01 All teams playing within the PEB organization shall be classified as one of the following:
 - 2.01.1 INSTRUCTIONAL (T-Ball & Coach Pitch): Teams in this division shall be formed by assignment by PEB Board and/or the League Director.
 - 2.01.2 DRAFT (K-Ball through Pony): Teams in this division are formed by the Draft Process as outlined in Section 5 below.
 - 2.01.3 HIGH SCHOOL: Teams in this division may form by a combination of hand-picked and/or draft processes.
 - 2.01.4 SELECT: Teams in this division are hand-picked and shall play in accordance with the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA), shall be sanctioned with USSSA, and shall follow the Official Baseball National By-Laws & Rules of USSSA except where specifically amended herein.
- 2.02 Each team shall provide a sponsorship fee of \$250 payable to PEB (K-Ball through Pony, see below).
- 2.03 PEB Board Directors shall adopt an acceptable method to form and classify teams within their respective league.
- 2.04 Leagues shall consist of the following age groups:

PLAYER'S AGE PRIOR TO MAY 1 ST OF ANY CALENDAR YEAR	DIVISION OF PLAY FOR SPRING SEASON OF THAT YEAR	DIVISION OF PLAY FOR FALL SEASON OF THAT YEAR
5	T-BALL	-
6	COACH PITCH	K-BALL
7	K-BALL	K-BALL
8	K-BALL	MUSTANG
9	MUSTANG	MUSTANG
10	MUSTANG	BRONCO
11	BRONCO	BRONCO
12	BRONCO	PONY
13	PONY	PONY
14	PONY	PONY (see note below)
15	HIGH SCHOOL	-
16	HIGH SCHOOL	-

17	HIGH SCHOOL	-
18	HIGH SCHOOL	-

Note: After a player has completed his 14 year old spring season of Pony, he/she is allowed to play one (1) final fall season of Pony; however, player shall not be allowed to pitch in any game.

- 2.05 Fall leagues shall be considered a pre-season to the upcoming spring season of the following year. Players shall advance, if applicable, into the next division of play as governed by their age for the upcoming spring season.
- 2.06 Spring seasons shall consist of a City-wide twenty (20) game schedule for K-Ball through Bronco leagues. Pony league shall consist of a sixteen (16) game schedule with the option of an end of season, double elimination tournament. High School league shall consist of a sixteen (16) game schedule. T-Ball and Coach Pitch leagues shall consist of a ten (10) game schedule.
- 2.07 Fall seasons shall consist of a ten (10) game schedule for all leagues available.

SECTION 3 – INDIVIDUAL PLAYER & TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- 3.01 Individual Player Eligibility
 - 3.01.1 Players MAY be allowed to play up one (1) division ONLY per the discretion of the respective Park Director.
 - 3.01.2 A player that is found to be illegal due to an age violation during or after a league game, shall result in the offending team losing the game (if applicable), the player being ejected from the game (if applicable) and possibly barred from the organization as determined by the PEB Board.
 - 3.01.3 Players shall be permitted to play within the PEB organization on any single level. Players shall be limited to only one (1) roster within the PEB organization regardless of age division, class of play, etc. to include regular season, PEB sanctioned tournaments, etc. unless express permission is granted by PEB Board.
 - 3.01.4 No individual shall participate in a PEB sponsored game or practice unless proper registration has been received, to include players AND coaches.
- 3.02 Team Eligibility
 - 3.02.1 No team shall be allowed to compete in any PEB sponsored event without complete registration and payment of individual and/or team required fees.
 - 3.02.2 All teams shall maintain an official roster (Team Eligibility Affidavit) as established per draft and/or registration process and posted on PEB website prior to start of scheduled games. Amendments to official roster shall **ONLY** be made with express permission by PEB Board.
 - 3.02.3 Rosters shall be re-established for each new season.
 - 3.02.4 Teams rosters shall not exceed fourteen (14) players.
 - 3.02.5 The team manager shall be responsible for all aspects of eligibility of the players and the information of the players contained on the team’s official roster as submitted to and approved by PEB.

SECTION 4 – BOUNDARIES

- 4.01 Players shall play at their respective ball park as defined hereinafter. Mandatory boundary enforcement shall take place for new K-Ball through Bronco members starting for the spring 2011 season. Exceptions shall **ONLY** be granted with express permission by PEB. Existing members are allowed to remain at the ball park previously established during the 2010 spring season OR to return to their respective ball park as defined hereinafter.
- 4.02 Park boundaries shall be defined by school attended for the current year for K-Ball through Bronco as follows:

BARTLETT
 Edison
 Hall
 Mark Twain
 Parkway
 St Francis

DEER PARK
 Bessie Ellison
 Pickett
 Seventh Day Adventist
 Skaith
 St Paul Lutheran

EAGLES
 Coleman
 Eugene Field
 Noyes
 St Joe Christian

LIONS
 Cathedral
 Humboldt
 Lindbergh
 Pershing

SOUTH SIDE
 Hosea
 Hyde
 Lake Contrary
 St James

- 4.03 Any new players attending schools other than those listed above shall have field eligibility determined by the PEB Board during or shortly after registrations.
- 4.04 T-Ball & Coach Pitch players shall play at Noyes Field or as determined by PEB Board.
- 4.05 Pony players shall play at South Side ball fields or as determined by PEB Board.
- 4.06 High School players shall play at South Side ball fields or as determined by PEB Board.

SECTION 5.00 – DRAFT PROCEDURES

Teams within K-Ball through Pony leagues shall be formed by a structured draft system as follows:

- 5.01 All players shall attend a scheduled tryout where they will be given a score.
- 5.02 Individuals selected as a Head Coach shall be allowed to secure one (1) Assistant Coach and his/her child/children. Securing of additional coaches and players shall be at the sole discretion of the PEB Board.
- 5.03 Scoring at tryouts shall be conducted by all Head and Assistant Coaches.
- 5.04 Scores shall be given on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 = lowest and 5 = highest) based on the player's ability to perform the tasks given. General mechanics, coordination, and focus are some key elements that should be considered for scoring purposes. Scores shall be assigned to players for HITTING, FIELDING, and THROWING.
- 5.05 Assigning scores for absent Coach's children shall be discussed and unanimously agreed to by all Coaches in attendance. If a unanimous decision is not made, the Coach's child(ren) may either receive a score of five (5) or a score no less than the highest scored player in attendance.
- 5.06 Assigning scores for absent ball players not related to any Coach in their division shall be discussed and unanimously agreed to by all Coaches in attendance. If a unanimous decision is not made, the players shall be placed in a drawing for random selection after all scored players have been selected.

Note: The intent is to fairly score all players so a relatively equal draft process can take place. If the league Coordinator and/or PEB Board Representative determine that coaches are refusing to give a fair assessment on a player for any reason such as to improve their chances of obtaining that player, the Coordinator and/or PEB Board Representative may intervene by assigning a score to the player or any other action deemed necessary by those individuals in the spirit of conducting a fair draft process. Likewise for assigning scores to a Coach's child. Intentional high and/or low scores may be discarded if it is apparent that the score is not an honest depiction of the player.

- 5.07 All score sheets shall be turned in to the Coordinator or PEB Board Representative. Each Coach is to print their name on their score sheet. **ALL SCORES WILL BE DISPLAYED TO ALL COACHES.**
- 5.08 Coordinators (and all other coaches if they so desire) shall average the scores and then rank the players in order based on these averages.
- 5.09 The players shall be divided into groups of relatively equal scores. The number of players within a group shall be equal to the number of teams in that division or league.
- 5.10 Head Coaches within a division or league shall draw a number to determine their turn in the drawing order.
- 5.11 A single group is displayed to the coaches with numbers (1, 2, 3,...) randomly assigned to each player within the group.
- 5.12 In the order determined by 5.01.J, the Coaches then draw a number to see which player they acquire from the displayed group.
- 5.13 When a Coach's child is displayed in a group, that player automatically is assigned to the Parent-Coach's team. Only the remaining Coaches will draw for that group.
- 5.14 Process repeats until all scored players are selected.
- 5.15 If a group does not have as many players as there are teams, those players shall be placed in the pool with unscored players.
- 5.16 In the same order as previously performed, Coaches shall draw remaining players "from a hat" or other random means.
- 5.17 A list of the Coaches that do not complete the round of random drawing shall be given to the PEB Board. Late sign ups shall be randomly assigned to those remaining teams as determined by the PEB Board.

Note: The purpose and ultimate goal of the draft league and this organization is to teach, coach, and develop young athletes in the sport of baseball. It is NOT to *draft* a winning team.

SECTION 6.00 – LEAGUE CHAMPIONS & ALL STARS

- 6.01 K-Ball through Bronco leagues – Upon completion of the spring season league champions shall be determined by USSSA tie breaker criteria.
- 6.02 K-Ball through Bronco leagues, upon completion of the spring seasons shall be permitted to hold an All-Star tournament as determined by the PEB Board by June 1st of each year.

SECTION 7.00 – PLAYING FIELD & EQUIPMENT

- 7.01 Field dimensions shall consist of the following:

DIVISION NAME	DIVISION AGE	BASE PATHS	PITCHING DIST	SAFETY ARC	FAIR BALL ARC
T-BALL	5	55 ft	-		
COACH PITCH	6	55 ft	-		
K-BALL	7 – 8	60 ft	42 ft to front legs of machine	30 ft	-
MUSTANG	9 – 10	65 ft	46 ft	-	-
BRONCO	11 – 12	70 ft	50 ft	-	-
PONY	13 – 14	80 ft	54 ft	-	-
HIGH SCHOOL	15 - 18	90 ft	60 ft 6 in	-	-

- 7.02 For details on field layout including recommended direction of play, fair and foul territory requirements, infield and outfield grades, pitcher’s mound height and slope, batter’s and catcher’s box dimension, and base and home plate size and construction should be referred to the Official Rules of Baseball as published by Major League Baseball on MLB.com.
- 7.03 Official balls shall be supplied by PEB and only these balls shall be used for game play.
- 7.04 Approved bats shall be round in cross section for its entire length, straight from end to end for its entire length and smooth surface in the hitting area. The maximum diameter shall not exceed two and three fourths (2-3/4”) inches and the maximum length shall not exceed thirty-six (36”) inches. The bat shall be constructed of wood, aluminum, or any other material or combination of materials as originally manufactured. Any material to improve the grip may be used for a distance not to exceed eighteen (18”) inches from the handle end. Any such material or substance, which extends past the eighteen (18”) inch limitation, shall cause the bat to be removed from the game. Any other alteration made to the bat shall, at the discretion of the umpire, cause the bat to be removed from the game.
 - 7.04.1 The bat must be marked approved for baseball play by USSSA® Baseball.
 - 7.04.2 All bats used for age divisions 5-14 shall not exceed the 1.15 Bat Performance Factor (BPF) as defined for baseball bats by ASTM Standards.
 - 7.04.3 All bats used for age divisions 15-18 shall conform to the National Federation of High School Association (NFHS) bat limitations including a maximum length-to-weight differential (drop) of negative three (-3).

*For information on approved/disapprove bats in various leagues for the current and upcoming seasons, visit:
<http://baseballexpress.wordpress.com/little-league-bat-ban/>*

- 7.05 All players shall be properly uniformed during the game, which includes hat, shirt, baseball pants, belt, socks, and shoes. No protest on uniforms shall be allowed; however, nothing shall be worn or used by any player or coach that is considered distasteful, distracting, or otherwise in compliance to the intent of the rules herein as determined by the umpire and/or any acting PEB representative. Violations may be immediately corrected or the player or coach may be removed from the game and/or park.
 - 7.05.1 In age divisions 5-12, ONLY non-metal spikes/cleats may be worn.
 - 7.05.2 In age divisions 13-18, traditional metal baseball spikes may be worn.
 - 7.05.3 Uniform shirts and hats shall be supplied by PEB for T-Ball, Coach Pitch and all draft divisions, K-Ball through Pony. Coaches may choose colors for shirts (1 solid color for shirt with 1 color print) and hats (1 or 2 colors). Expense for additional colors on shirts, if approved by PEB, shall be incurred solely by the head coach.
- 7.06 Proper protective gear must be used at all times by players, bat/ball boys, non-adult base coaches, etc. Violations shall be immediately corrected. Failure to correct may, at the discretion of the umpire, result in ejection from the game.
 - 7.06.1 Catchers shall be fully outfitted with catcher’s helmet and mask with throat guard, chest protector, shin guards, and protective cup.
 - 7.06.1.1 The catcher’s helmet shall fully cover both ears.

- 7.06.1.2 Any player assuming a catcher's position for the purpose of receiving a pitched ball, whether during game play or warming up, shall be suited with the catcher's helmet and mask.
- 7.06.2 Offensive players shall wear an approved batting helmet that fully covers both ears and approved by the National Operating Committee for Safety in Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE).
 - 7.06.2.1 Helmets shall be worn at all times when at bat, on deck, on base, outside the dugout, and while warming up with the use of a bat.
 - 7.06.2.2 Helmets shall be worn by players, bat/ball boys, and non-adult base coaches.
 - 7.06.2.3 Helmets shall remain on the individual's head until that individual enters the dugout or leaves the field. Intentional removal of a helmet from a player's head while on the field may, at the discretion of the umpire, result in the player being declared out and/or being ejected from the game.

SECTION 8.00 – GAME PRELIMINARIES

- 8.01 Schedule shall determine home team. Home team shall occupy 3rd base dugout.
- 8.02 Games are to start no later than the scheduled time.
- 8.03 Teams are NOT provided the opportunity to take infield and/or other warm up drills if game time is near. Teams are allowed ample time to enter the dugout and to take their offensive or defensive positions. If necessary the umpire shall, after allowing ample time and verbal warning, announce the start time of the game regardless of the teams' readiness to begin.
- 8.04 TIME LIMITS: No game shall start a new inning after 1 hour 40 minutes (K-Ball through Bronco) or 1 hour 50 minutes (Pony and High School) regardless of score to include tied ballgames.
- 8.05 No alcoholic or tobacco products are allowed on the ball field or inside the dugouts.
- 8.06 Defensive coaches shall not be allowed on the field of play and shall coach from the dugout.
- 8.07 MUSTANG through HIGH SCHOOL teams are allowed a maximum of three (3) coaches within the dugout at any given time. K-BALL teams are allowed a maximum four (4) coaches within the dugout at any time.
- 8.08 Teams in ALL leagues, including High School, shall bat a continuous lineup to include all present, eligible, uniformed players.
- 8.09 No player shall sit on defense for more than one (1) consecutive inning.
Exceptions: 1) Rule shall not apply to High School league, and 2) players may be allowed to sit for more than one (1) inning if due to disciplinary reasons where the coach and parent are involved. The coach should notify the opposing coach and umpire prior to disciplinary action being taken.
- 8.10 Players that leave the game for injury or illness shall not be called out during their subsequent at-bat and may return to the game if possible. This should be communicated with the opposing team and umpire upon time of incident.
- 8.11 Any player arriving after the game has started shall be added to the bottom of the batting line-up.
- 8.12 Teams in ALL leagues must start an official game with a minimum of eight (8) players and may finish with any number of players. If a team plays with less than a full roster, NO out shall be declared for the unfilled positions (9th, 10th, ...) in the batting line-up each turn at bat.
- 8.13 In the event a team is playing with less than a full defensive roster, the team must field a pitcher and catcher for every inning. K-Ball teams may leave the pitcher's position unfilled.
- 8.14 A regulation game consists of six (6) innings for K-Ball through Bronco, and seven (7) innings for Pony and High School, unless a game is:
 - 8.14.1 Shortened because the home team has more runs than the visiting team after the first half of the last inning
 - 8.14.2 Shortened because of imposed time limit
 - 8.14.3 Shortened because of mercy rule, as follows:

GAME LENGTH	RUN DIFFERENTIAL	INNING COMPLETED
KBALL	15	4 th
KBALL	8	5 th
6 Innings	15	3 rd
6 Innings	8	4 th
7 Innings	15	3 rd
7 Innings	12	4 th
7 Innings	8	5 th

- 8.15 If a game is called due to rain, weather, light failure or other acts of God and cannot be resumed, it is a regulation game if:
 - 8.15.1 For a scheduled six (6) inning game, if three (3) innings have been completed or if the home team has scored more runs in two (2) innings or two and one half (2-1/2) innings than the visiting team has scored in

- three (3) complete innings or if the home team scores one (1) or more runs in its half (1/2) of the third (3rd) inning to tie the score.
- 8.15.1.1 If a regulation game is called with the score tied and one (1) or more innings has been completed beyond three (3) innings, the score shall revert back to last completed inning, or last completed half (1/2) inning if the home team leads but back no further than the third (3rd) inning.
- 8.15.2 For a scheduled seven (7) inning game, if four (4) innings have been completed or if the home team has scored more runs in three (3) innings or three and one half (3-1/2) innings than the visiting team has scored in four (4) complete innings or if the home team scores one (1) or more runs in its half (1/2) of the fourth (4th) inning to tie the score.
- 8.15.2.1 If a regulation game is called with the score tied and one (1) or more innings has been completed beyond four (4) innings, the score shall revert back to the last completed inning, or last completed half (1/2) inning if the home team leads but back no further than the fourth (4th) inning.
- 8.16 All games that for any reason cannot be declared a regulation game shall be a suspended game. A suspended game, when resumed, shall resume from the exact point of suspension.
- 8.17 **CODE OF GENERAL CONDUCT/EJECTION RULES** (*adopted on 5-12-2011*)
- 8.17.1 Pony Express Baseball, INC. through its headquarters staff and its designated Field Directors, shall reserve the right to withdraw membership from any league, team, player, or adult volunteer whose conduct, on or off the playing field, reflects in a manner that is detrimental to the best interest of Pony Express Baseball, Inc.
- 8.17.2 Any Coach or Person who is involved in a physical altercation (I.E. fist fighting) on the field, or off the field (park grounds) will be permanently suspended from Pony Express Baseball.
- 8.17.3 Teams, players, spectators, or adult volunteers in violation of this General Conduct policy may be refused entry.
- 8.17.4 We would hope that all of our spectators, coaches, umpires and players would remember that good sportsmanship promotes mutual respect and courtesy and helps to ensure the orderly operations of the games. All coaches are hereby given notice that it is their responsibility to keep their players and spectators under control at all times. Trouble-makers from any team may be benched and not play as long as the other coach has been notified. The Pony Express Baseball, Inc. board members will not tolerate any threats spoken of and/or carried out against any player, coach, and/or umpire. Violation of the aforementioned could result in permanent suspension from Pony Express Baseball, Inc. Reminder to parents: The registration fee may not be refunded after teams have been chosen unless otherwise approved by a vote of the board. It is the intention of the Pony Express Baseball, Inc. board to promote a safe and enjoyable season for all. Pony Express Baseball, Inc. will run personal history background checks as part of the process for approved coaches.
- 8.17.5 Any coach, player, and/or spectator that is ejected from a game by an umpire shall leave the park complex for the remainder of that game and shall also be suspended the following played game. If any coach, player, and/or spectator uses very severe profanity (this will be a judgment call by the umpire) they will be given no warning from the umpire, they will immediately be ejected from a game by an umpire and shall leave the park complex for the remainder of that game and will also be suspended the following played game. The coach or player shall be allowed to attend the following played game but must remain in the stands and in no way participate other than as a spectator. The spectator will not be allowed at any PEB park for the following played game. PENALTY: Subsequent ejection from the park complex and/or forfeiture of the game. If a coach, player, and/or spectator are ejected from a second game, he/she will be suspended for the remainder of the season and a review by the PEB Board shall take place to determine whether individual(s) is allowed to return the following season in any certain capacity.
- 8.17.6 All coaches are responsible to keep their players and spectators under control at all times. In the event that coach, player, and/or spectator uses very severe profanity (this will be a judgment call by the umpire) and no warning was given from the umpire which resulted in being immediately ejected from the game the umpire will give a verbal warning to the head coach or acting head coach (if not present) to control his coaches, players, and/or spectators. If the umpire has to eject another coach, player, and/or spectator from that team then the head coach or acting head coach will also be ejected for the remainder of that game and shall also be suspended the following played game. Note: This rule will also apply to umpires giving a verbal warning for any other altercations to the head coach or acting head coach (if not present) to control his coaches, players, and/or spectators.
- 8.18 **BATTER, BATTER-RUNNER, & RUNNER**
- 8.18.1 An intentional walk may be issued upon announcement from either the pitcher or catcher. The four (4) pitches need not be thrown.

- 8.18.2 At anytime, the offensive team may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher and catcher of record the previous inning on defense. The courtesy runner shall be the player that made the previous out during that inning. If no outs have been recorded in the inning, the courtesy runner shall be the previous batter not on base.
- 8.18.3 Whenever a tag play is evident, a runner must slide or seek to avoid contact with the fielder and/or catcher. Attempting to jump, leap, or dive over the fielder and/or catcher is not interpreted as seeking to avoid contact. Malicious contact shall supersede all obstruction penalties.
- 8.18.3.1 Penalty: The runner shall be called out and may be ejected from the game at the umpire's discretion.
- 8.18.3.2 Comment: When enforcing this rule, the umpire should judge the runner's intent. If the umpire feels that the contact was unintentional, then the runner should only be declared out. If the umpire feels that the contact was intentional and/or malicious, then the runner should be declared out and ejected.
- 8.18.3.3 A runner may leave the baseline without being declared out for the sole purpose of getting around a fielder that is in the baseline without the ball.
- 8.18.4 Thrown Bat Rule: A player may be called out if an umpire determines that the batter released the bat in way that endangers any other participant. Determination is at the sole discretion of the umpire. If the bat or any other equipment is thrown in anger or other display of unsportsman-like conduct, that player may be ejected at the discretion of the umpire.

8.19 PITCHER

- 8.19.1 Any player may pitch a maximum number of innings per game as outlined in the following table. One (1) out equals one-third (1/3) of an inning, two (2) outs equals two-thirds (2/3) of an inning, and three (3) outs equals one (1) full inning. A pitcher that pitches in a game and records no outs is not charged with any innings pitched. Exceeding the maximum innings allowed in the case of a double or triple play shall not be counted against the pitcher.

LEAGUE	MAX INNINGS
Mustang	3
Bronco	4
Pony	5
High School	

- 8.19.2 Only the starting pitcher may reenter the game as pitcher provided the maximum innings per game, as listed above, have not been met.
- 8.19.3 If an illegal pitcher is permitted to pitch, any pitch or play that results is legal. The violation should be caught by the umpire or the opposing team and immediately corrected without penalty.
- 8.19.4 A team's manager and/or coaches may visit a pitcher one (1) time per inning without penalty. A second (2nd) visit to the same pitcher in the same inning shall cause the pitcher's automatic removal from the pitching position. A second (2nd) visit to the mound while the same batter is at bat is prohibited.
- 8.19.5 BALKS: Umpires should bear in mind that the purpose of the balk rule is to prevent the pitcher from deliberately deceiving the base runner. If there is doubt in the umpire's mind, the "intent" of the pitcher should govern. In age divisions 9U-12U, pitchers should be allowed some leniency especially pertaining to balance and mechanics where the violation is uncontrolled and unintentional. Warnings may be given for minor violations that do not affect the outcome of a play. In age divisions 13U and older, balks shall be strictly enforced without warning.

SECTION 9.00 – RULES OF PLAY – LEAGUE SPECIFIC

9.01 T-BALL (5 year olds)

9.02 COACH PITCH (6 year olds)

9.03 K-BALL (7-8 year olds)

- 9.03.1 Safety Arc: There shall be a thirty (30') foot arc drawn from first (1st) baseline to third (3rd) baseline measured from the rear point of home plate. Infielders must stay behind this line until the ball is struck.
- 9.03.2 Pitching Circle: There shall be a ten (10') foot diameter circle with the front edge set at forty-two (42') feet from the rear point of home plate. The defensive player listed as pitcher shall not leave the pitching circle until the ball is struck.

PENALTY FOR 9.03.1 & 9.03.2: The play continues. After the play has ended, the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or no-pitch.

ADDITIONAL PENALTY: First Offense: Warning; Second Offense: Removal of player from that position for the remainder of the game.

- 9.03.3 Pitching machines shall pitch at a speed as indicated on the display as thirty-nine (39) miles per hour.
 - 9.03.4 Ten (10) defensive players shall play in the field with four (4) outfielders. Outfielders shall not assume an infield position.
 - 9.03.5 The offensive coach feeding the machine shall instruct only the batter. After the ball is put into play, the coach shall not instruct the runners and shall move to a position so he/she will not cause obstruction, interference, or hindrance to the players or play. PENALTY: First Offense: Warning; Second Offense: Removal of the coach from that position for the remainder of the game.
 - 9.03.6 The Infield Fly Rule shall not be in effect at anytime.
 - 9.03.7 Teams may bunt a maximum of two (2) times per inning. Fake bunts shall be prohibited. A batter that “shows” bunt is committed to an attempt to bunt or take the pitch. PENALTY: A batter who swings after “showing” bunt shall be called out and no runners may advance.
 - 9.03.8 The batter shall receive a maximum of six (6) pitches or three (3) swinging strikes. In the event the batter hits a foul ball, that is not legally caught by the catcher, on the sixth (6th) pitch, the batter shall be given one (1) additional, final pitch.
 - 9.03.9 A team may intentionally walk a batter on an opposing team one (1) time only per game by announcement to the umpire.
 - 9.03.10 Runners shall not lead-off or steal bases. Runners shall not leave the base before the ball is struck by the batter or reaches home plate. First Offense: Warning; Second Offense: Out.
 - 9.03.11 Courtesy runners shall be given at anytime only for the catcher of record for the previous inning. The courtesy runner shall be the player that made the previous out during that inning. If no outs have been recorded in the inning, the courtesy runner shall be the previous batter not on base.
 - 9.03.12 A team may score a maximum of seven (7) runs per inning, including the last inning or record three (3) outs.
 - 9.03.13 Umpires shall call “Time” after every play and declare the ball dead. “Time” shall be called at a logical instance when the umpire determines that runners are no longer making earnest attempts at advancing and/or no defensive play is likely to be attempted. The ball should be in the vicinity of the infield under the control of a fielder. The position of all runners, whether to advance or to return to a previous base after “Time” is called shall be at the sole discretion of the umpire. The purpose of this rule is to end a play at a logical yet fair time and to prevent the exploitation of the defensive players’ possible inability to make a play on the runners.
 - 9.03.14 When a batted ball hits the pitching machine, the ball is dead, the batter is awarded first (1st) base and all runners shall advance one (1) base. The coach feeding the machine, electrical cord, and electrical box are considered a part of the pitching machine for the purpose of this rule.
- 9.04 MUSTANG (9-10 year olds)
- 9.04.1 Runners are not allowed to leave the base until the ball is struck by the batter or reaches home plate. PENALTY: First Offense: “No Pitch” and the runner leaving the base early shall be given a warning and shall return to that base if he/she advanced. Second Offense: “No Pitch” and the runner leaving the base early shall be declared out.
 - 9.04.2 Runners shall return to and remain on the base when the pitcher is on the pitching rubber with the ball in his/her possession and the catcher is in position to receive a pitch.
 - 9.04.3 Stealing is allowed at any base.
 - 9.04.4 Balk rules shall not apply.
 - 9.04.5 A dropped third (3rd) strike shall be declared an out. Batters are not allowed the opportunity to reach first (1st) base on a dropped third (3rd) strike.

SECTION 10 – UMPIRES

SECTION 11 – PROTESTS

- 11.01 Umpires shall work to settle all situations on the field. Protests shall be allowed for age and pitching violations or rule interpretations only. Protests must be declared to the home plate umpire before the next pitch following the dispute. If a call to be protested is the last recorded out of the game or on a game ending play, the protest must be

filed prior to the umpires and the protesting team leaving the field of play. No protest will be allowed following the game. PEB Board shall rule on all protests in a timely manner and their decision shall be final.

11.02 Protest fee of \$100 cash shall be submitted to the home plate umpire upon declaring a protest. In the event the protest is upheld the \$100 shall be returned along with written notification. In the event the protest is not upheld, the \$100 shall be forfeited to PEB and written notification shall be given to the protesting team.