

DEER PARK BASEBALL

Rules and Standard Operating Procedures

Field Locations and Age Divisions:

Spencerview Complex (formerly Durant)

- Shetland (4, 5, and 6 Year Olds)
- Pinto (7U)

Minchen Complex (formerly Little League)

- Pinto (8U)
- Mustang (9 and 10 Year Olds)
- Bronco (11 and 12 Year Olds)

Dow Park Complex (formerly Pony Fields)

- Pony (13 and 14 Year Olds)
- Colt (15 and 16 Year Olds)
- Palomino (17, 18 and 19 Year olds)

PONY © AND OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES WILL APPLY

WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS:

I. **Equipment, Safety Guidelines and Sportsmanship:**

A. *Bats, cleats:*

1. Metal baseball cleats are only permitted in the Pony, Colt, and Palomino Division.

B. *Protective Equipment:*

1. Deer Park Baseball strongly recommends ALL players wear an athletic supporter with cup.
2. Catchers, or any player on the team who may be catching in a game or practice, MUST wear supporter and cup, protective helmet, chest protector, shin guards, and mask with throat protector (unless they are the hockey style) at all times. This section excludes T-Ball where only a helmet is required.
3. If a catcher is found not wearing proper equipment, he must be removed from the catcher position until he is properly equipped.
4. Managers or adult coaches may warm up a pitcher between innings without a protective mask.
5. Players warming up a pitcher must wear protective helmet and mask.
6. Adults may coach on the base lines without protective helmets.
7. Player coaches must wear helmets.
8. Any player without a complete uniform (league issue hat, league issue jersey, pants, belt, and cap) may be restricted from play by his manager or the umpires. The intent of this rule is to encourage kids to be properly dressed and promote respect for the game.
9. Protective batting helmet masks are recommended for the Shetland, Pinto, Mustang, and Bronco age divisions.
10. Players must wear a helmet until they are inside the dugout. If a player removes the helmet before the dugout, the first time is a warning and the second time is ejection.

C. *Safety Guidelines:*

1. Sliding:
 - a) No base runner may intentionally run into a fielder just to knock the ball out of his possession. The runner must strenuously try to avoid contact at all times.
 - b) If the catcher (fielder) must move into the base path between home and third base to receive the throw, base runner must give way (run around) him to allow him to make the play.
 - c) If a runner attempting to advance a base intentionally makes contact with the fielder (catcher) by sliding into him above the waist, or using a “football” type rolling block or other similar actions, the umpire will call the runner out and if he considers it a flagrant violation the umpire may eject the runner for unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - d) In the event of injury during the play, the umpire may discontinue play at any time regardless of whether or not the ball is in play, if the umpire feels the injured player requires immediate attention.
 - e) With a runner on third base, the batter takes a full swing while the runner is attempting to steal home, the batter is ejected and the manager will be ejected from the field. The ball is dead.
 - f) If a batter shows bunt and then proceeds to take a full swing (“fake bunt – swing away”) the umpire will stop play and the batter is out, the manager is ejected for the remainder of the game and if it happens again in the game, the player will be called out.
2. Practice Sessions:
 - a) A Manager or Coach of Record for the team practicing must be present for any practice to occur.

II. **Team Volunteers and Board Members On-Duty:**

A. *Mandatory Volunteers:*

1. Each team will provide:
 - a) At least two field maintenance people.
 - i. Early game is responsible for prepping field for game play. For example placing bases and chalking field of play.
 - ii. Late game is responsible for returning bases to the shed and raking playing surface.
 - b) One person for the press box for each game.
 - c) The visiting team will provide a person to announce and operate the scoreboard.
 - d) The home team will provide a person to serve as the official scorer. The official scorebook will remain in the press box for the duration of the game.
 - e) These duties may be switched if both persons agree.
 - f) Failure to provide volunteers may result in forfeit of game.

B. *Maintenance of Deer Park Baseball Fields and Facilities:*

1. After each game, the teams will rake the pitcher’s mound and home plate. This will help ensure that each game will have a good playing surface and the field will have less chance of retaining water if it rains overnight.

2. Each Manager of the last scheduled game of the day/evening is responsible for insuring that all DPB facilities are secure at the end of day/night.
 - a) Failure to do so will carry a one game suspension the first time.
 - b) A second failure will carry a three game suspension.
3. All managers are requested to be mindful of the importance of the concession stand to the league, and to make sure parents and supporters do not bring drinks and food from outside the ball park. Support Your League!

III. Being a Manager or a Coach:

A. Purpose:

1. Managing and coaching baseball is about teaching the players how to play the game of baseball.
2. At Deer Park Baseball, we are dedicated to guiding the future adults that come into our league in the ways of being a better citizen during and after baseball.

B. Appointment:

1. Managers will be appointed in spring and in fall by the Board of Directors and shall be responsible for the selection of their team members and team conduct on the field of play.
2. Returning managers will be considered first when filling teams.
3. All managers and assistants including volunteers will be subject to a background investigation.
4. Managers shall be selected for a one (1) season term and are subject to dismissal by the Board of Directors for any conduct considered detrimental to the best interest of the organization.
5. Managers will be responsible for returning all DPB equipment to the Equipment Manager and be required to pay for any lost DPB equipment.
6. Managers are responsible to acquire a sponsor for their team for the spring season.
7. Deposit for equipment will be \$100.

IV. Discipline:

A. Team Discipline:

1. The DPB organization will follow the discipline rules established in the PONY rules and regulations section of the book.
2. The manager is responsible for the conduct of his players and parents at all times.
3. A batter that unintentionally throws his bat will be warned by the umpire the first time.
4. Should the same batter unintentionally throw his bat for a second or more times during a game, he shall be declared out. No runners shall be allowed to advance, DEAD BALL.
5. Any player or coach who exhibits unsportsmanlike behavior (intentionally kicks or throws equipment, uses profane language in anger, fights, etc.) WILL BE EJECTED FROM THE GAME IMMEDIATELY and also be suspended from their next game, including play-offs.
6. Umpires' decisions, when this happens, will have the full support of the Board.
7. A player ejected from the game must remain on his team bench; unless a parent or legal guardian accompanies him/her, then the player may sit in the stands or leave the field. The player will also be suspended from their next game, including play-offs. The player will serve

the one (1) game suspension in uniform on the bench or will be subject to discipline from the Board of Directors.

8. If the player is requested to leave the field of play and player's parent(s) or legal guardian is present, he must do so.
9. If an umpire requests the manager's assistance in disciplinary actions, the manager must comply or face ejection and/or forfeiture of the game.
10. Managers and players are also subject to suspensions by the League when warranted.

B. *Managers/Assistants, Parents and Fans:*

1. Our league will NOT tolerate any prolonged outburst directed at the other team, coaches, umpires, or league officials.
2. If the manager cannot control his fans, he will be subject to suspension, as outlined by the Board of Directors of Deer Park Baseball.
3. Abusive behavior or language of any kind to the other team will also NOT be tolerated.
4. A manager or coach who has been ejected from the game MUST leave the ballpark and may be suspended from their next game pending review from the Discipline Committee. Play-off games are included. Failure to leave the ballpark will result in forfeiture.
5. A disruptive fan can be asked to leave the immediate area by the umpire. If they do not leave, authorities will be called.
6. Disciplinary action to be taken against any manager, coach, player or spectator shall be decided on a case-by-case basis by the Discipline Committee.
7. Suspensions may be appealed to the Board of Directors within twenty-four (24) hours from the time of ejection in writing with signature or email to the Vice President of their respective complex.

C. *Dugout Responsibilities:*

1. Adults inside the fence during the game will be determined by age division.
2. If a player has to leave, the manager will be notified.
3. All team members will have on identical uniforms (pants, jerseys, hats, belts and socks). Jerseys MUST be tucked inside the pants at ALL times.
4. All managers and coaches will have matching team hats. Solid color shorts will be allowed.
5. All managers and coaches are to stay within the fenced dugout or on deck area except official time outs.
6. When the team is at bat, the manager and a coach will be at the coaches' box on first and third base.
7. A team player will be allowed at first base ONLY if wearing a batting helmet.
8. No player is allowed outside the dugout unless he is in the on deck area, or a pitcher and catcher warming up in the bullpen or playing defense.

V. *Player Registration and Draft Selection:*

Definitions:

Frozen Player – A player that is dedicated to a new manager in writing that cannot be drafted

A. *Registration for Pony / Colt / Palomino:*

1. Returning players must register prior to the draft.
2. Returning players not wanting to return to his/her team will be placed back in the regular draft.

3. Players who have been cut from the high school team or who currently play on the high school team may play in their respective division.

B. Registration for Blended League (Bronco Division and Down):

1. Players will be redrafted each year.
2. Freezes allowed: Manager, Coach of Record, and two (2) additional freezes. If a coach utilizes the 4th freeze, that player will be taken in the 1st round of his respective draft.
 - a) During fall seasons only six freezes will be allowed.

C. Tryouts:

1. All new players as well as players re-entering the draft must attend at least one (1) tryout to be eligible to be drafted to a team.
2. All players in the draft will be drafted.
3. No refunds will be given after the player has been drafted to a team.
4. Siblings will be drafted in consecutive rounds and must be declared when the first sibling is selected.
5. Players not registered before draft or who do not attend a tryout will be a hat pick during the draft.
6. Frozen players do not have to try out.

D. General Draft:

1. The draft order for all divisions will be determined by the draw of a number. The draft sequence will follow a left-to-right, right-to-left format (snake draft).
2. All freezes must be selected and presented to the age division coordinator with parent signed permission slip prior to the start of tryouts.
3. It will be an open draft and each team will select until the team is full or until all players are selected. The number of players per team may change to accommodate teams for the league. Freeze will be placed in the 3rd round if accompanied by a sibling that sibling will be drafted in the 4th round. Manager and Coach of Record children will be placed in the 9th and 10th round. Manager and Coach of Record siblings will be placed in the 8th round. Sibling of frozen player will be placed in the 4th round. Trades will be allowed for thirty (30) minutes after the conclusion of the draft. Frozen players and hat picks may not be traded. The Vice President must approve all trades.
4. Managers in the league may have three (3) frozen players. If the manager and coach of record have no sons playing then they must have a signed letter from player's parent approving the freeze.

E. Roster Maintenance:

1. All teams will be required to maintain a minimum number of players set by the league.
2. All player replacements must take place within seven (7) days of the roster vacancy and will be governed by the Vice President of the complex in which the age group is assigned.
3. Direct player contact by the Manager is not permitted. The Coordinator will contact all replacement players in the order of waiting list registration and will be placed on the team roster in that order.
4. Managers are required to report any player that has quit or is injured for extended period of time to the age division coordinator within 24 hours. Failure to do so will result in forfeit of all games played in that time period.

VI. About the Game:

A. Warm Ups:

1. There will be NO batting or throwing of any type of baseball (except whiffle balls) against the fences during warm ups, including outside the batting cages. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!
2. Game balls will be furnished by the league.

B. Game Start:

1. The game clock will start when the head umpire signifies the game has started and it will be his / her responsibility to maintain the game clock.

C. Game Duration:

1. Please refer to the PONY rule book for game time duration, unless specified in your age divisions rules.
2. No inning will start after 1 hour and 45 minutes of playing time.
3. If an inning is started prior to the expiration of the time limit, the game shall continue until that inning is completed.
4. Umpires have the authority to extend the time limit when they deem appropriate in the event of time-consuming injuries, rain delays, or light failure.
5. Starting times for the games will be posted on the league website if different from the regular start times.
6. It is important that games start on time. For this reason, infield practice:
 - a) Will not be allowed between games.
 - b) Warm up in the outfield will be allowed between games after the previous game has been completed.
 - c) The home team should be warmed up and on the field ready to throw the first pitch by the designated start time.
7. Courtesy runners are NOT permitted EXCEPT:
 - a) A substitute runner (one not in the defensive line-up) WILL RUN FOR THE CATCHER when there are 2 outs.
 - b) In the case of a team only having 9 players, the player making the last out BEFORE the catcher bats will be the courtesy runner.

D. Complete Game:

1. Game time and innings duration will be determined by age division.
2. However, a complete game shall also be declared in the following instances:
 - a) When the home team is leading by 10 or more runs at the end of four innings or any inning thereafter.
 - b) When the home team is leading by 10 or more runs at the end of 3-1/2 innings or any inning thereafter.
 - c) When a game is shortened for any reason (rain, light failure, etc.), if at least four innings have been played (3-1/2 innings if home team is ahead).

- d) If 4 innings (3-1/2 if home team is ahead) have not been played due to rain, light failure, etc., then the game will be completed at the next available time and date unless the manager of the team behind in the score wishes to accept the score for the innings played.
 - e) Game will resume at the time in which it was halted, and will be a completed game when time has expired.
3. Games may end in a tie.

E. Post-Game Proceedings:

- 1. Clean Up:
 - a) Managers are asked to have their post-game talk out of the dugout area.
 - b) The dugout shall be cleaned before vacating. Failure to comply with this regulation

could result in a forfeit.

VII. Pitching:

A. Pitching Rules:

- 1. PONY PITCHING RULES APPLY to regular season games per division.

VIII. Playing Time:

A. Minimum Play:

- 1. Please refer to the PONY rules and regulations book for minimum playtime.
- 2. All divisions will bat the roster.
- 3. Any player ejected from the game is an out when the spot comes up in the batting order.
- 4. If a manager has to discipline a player, he must report the player's name being disciplined and reason to the division coordinator.
- 5. If a player gets during his at bat and needs to leave the game, then a pinch runner will be allowed.
- 6. The injured player will NOT be allowed to return for the remainder of the game to prevent further damage to the original injury.
- 7. Both managers are required to sign the official scorekeeper's book at the completion of play. Failure to do so will result in the manager or coach of record being given a one (1) game suspension.

IX. Weather Problems:

A. Stormy Weather:

- 1. If the game HAS NOT started, the On-Duty Officer and/or any Board Members on site will make the decision whether or not to start the game if very bad weather (lightening, etc.) is imminent. If the game has started the umpire in charge will make the decision.
- 2. Games posted on the website are the official game times and location.

X. Standings and Championship:

A. Standings:

1. Regular season standings will be calculated based on winning percentage. All games played will count, along with added losses.
2. In the case of a tie, PONY tournament tie breaking rules will apply.

XI. Post Season:

A. Post Season Tournament Team:

1. Shetland, Pinto, Mustang, and Bronco tournament team manager will be the order of finish for the regular season of play pending board approval.
 - a) The Board reserves the right to amend this on a case by case basis.
2. Pony, Colt and Palomino teams will be selected by the President and voted on by the Executive Board of Directors.

XII. Miscellaneous:

A. Injuries:

1. Deer Park Baseball officials should be notified within 24 hours in all cases of injury to a player.
2. An accident form must be completed for all injuries that require medical attention.

B. Board of Directors:

1. Board members are expected to attend 50% of all meetings during the calendar year.

C. Executive Board of Directors:

1. The Executive Board of Directors is comprised of seven (7) members that include: President, three (3) Vice Presidents (Minchen / Spencerview / Dow Complexes), Treasurer, Secretary and a Past President. This board will give directive to the General Board of Directors for final voting approval.
2. The Executive Board of Directors will appoint executive and general board members to serve as a discipline committee for the organization.
3. In order to be elected to the Executive Board of Directors, you must serve a minimum of one (1) year on the General Board of Directors.
4. The Treasurer will be appointed to the Executive Board of Directors when the spot becomes vacated by the President of the league to be approved by the board.
5. The Executive Board will serve two year terms. The President, Minchen Vice President, and secretary will be elected in even number years with the Spencerview and Dow Vice Presidents being elected in odd number years.

D. General Board of Directors:

1. The election of the General Board of Directors is held annually by ballot with candidate's names presented for vote. Candidates are elected by the Board of Directors.
2. Removal of a General Board Member will be by $\frac{3}{4}$ votes of all board members.
3. Annually the Board of Directors has the right to change or amend the Deer Park Baseball By-Laws.

E. Questions and/or Complaints:

1. Any person with questions or complaints should direct those questions or complaints directly to the board member on duty.
2. If unable to resolve, then the question or complaint should be put in writing, dated, and signed, and sent to the president of the league. Email information is located on the website.

3. The Board will consider the question/complaint, and, if necessary, request the presence of the complainant at a Board meeting.