YOUNGSVILLE RECREATIONAL SPORTS PROGRAMS

The Sweetest Sports Program in Louisiana!

3-4 Co-Ed Tee-Ball League Rules

1. RULES AND REGULATIONS

Official Pony Baseball Rules and Regulations and Official Baseball Rules published by Sporting News shall govern league play except where amended by the Youngsville Recreational Sports Programs.

2. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The Youngsville Recreational Sports Programs shall reserve the right to withdraw privileges from any player, umpire, fan or adult volunteer whose conduct, on or off the playing field, reflects in a manner that is detrimental to the best interest of the Youngsville Recreational Sports Programs and the youth of the City of Youngsville. The reputation of PONY in your community can be drastically injured by the actions of one or more of a small group of people, on or off the playing field. A player, parent, manager, fan, coach, umpire and league official all bear the responsibility of upholding the good name of the program. Public quarreling and bickering, whether over playing field situations or league administrative problems, only serve to weaken the entire organization in the community. This is a youth program designed to benefit young people. Much of the benefit they derive from stems from the example set by adult leaders. Be sure it is a good example.

It is mandatory if an employee, parent, manager, fan, head coach, assistant coach, umpire, league official or volunteer are thrown out of the game you must serve a one game suspension. The coach must serve his/her one game suspension away from the ballpark. During his/her suspension game the coach cannot be at the ballpark which includes field, dugout, parking lot, stands, etc. Any suspended coach violating this rule will be dismissed from the league for the remainder of the current year with a possibility of being barred from future participation in the league, permanently, or for a specific number of years. If a suspended coach is a coach in another league, he/she will not be allowed to coach or be at the Youngsville Sports Complex for their other game until the one game suspension has been served. If you are thrown out of two games in the same calendar year, you will be dismissed from the league for the remainder of the current year, with possibility of being barred from future participation in the league, permanently, or for a specific number of years. All head coaches are responsible for the conduct of their assistant coaches and fans. The actions of an assistant coach or fans are a gross reflection of a head coach's inability

to control his team and the head coach will be held responsible. All coaches will be issued an Official Pony League rulebook.

The following will be adopted by the league as a guide for the handling of player or adult discipline problems:

A. The Director shall have the authority to suspend, discharge or otherwise discipline any player, manager, coach, umpire, league officer or other person whose conduct is in violation of the Rules and Regulations of PONY Baseball and the league and/or is considered detrimental to the best interests for the league.
   (1) Persons subject to such discipline shall have the right to a hearing before the Director before such discipline is imposed.
   (2) In the event of discipline procedures involving a player, or other person under the age of 18, that person's parents shall be invited to attend the hearing with the person concerned.

B. Persons, youth or adult, who refuse to comply with the rules of Baseball, PONY baseball, or the League, may be considered for disciplinary action.

C. Recognizing the difficulty of establishing specific penalties for a variety of violations of acceptable conduct, the following penalties are suggested. The Director may impose the one which, in their opinion, appears to match the severity of the offense.

   (1) Warning. The offending person is to be advised, in writing, of the offense, and further advised that repetition of the offense will result in a more severe penalty.
   (2) Suspension. The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been suspended from all league activity for a specific number of games, or days.
   (3) Dismissal. The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been dismissed from the league for the remainder of the current year.
   (4) Barred. The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been barred from present and future participation in the league, permanently, or for a specific number of years.

Any player, coach, or fan having to be ejected from a game for any reason must leave the premises within one minute after being ejected. Failure to leave the premises will result in the dismissal of that player, coach, or fan for the remainder of the current year, with a possibility of being barred from future participation in the league permanently, or for a specific number of years.

Cursing and undue or continuous baiting of any official is unsportsmanlike conduct and is cause to eject any player, coach, or fan from a game.

3. TEAMS (AGE)

Age, for the league purposes, means "league age," which is that age attained by a player on or before August 31st of the previous year (for girls), and on or before April 30th (for boys).

4. SELECTION OF COACHES

All head coaches will be selected yearly by the director. An assistant coach will not automatically become the head coach the following year. All coaching selections, whether head or assistant, must be re-appointed and approved each year.

5. PLAYING FIELDS

Distance between bases: 50 feet
Pitching rubber distance: 38 feet

6. EQUIPMENT

Players are responsible for a batting helmet, glove and pants/socks/belt or matching shorts. Coaches will determine whether the team is to wear shorts or baseball pants. YSC will provide team jerseys and hats.

Rubber soled or rubber cleated shoes or tennis shoes are permitted.

Protective helmets are to be always worn when batting, running the bases, or on-deck hitters. Headgear shall be NOCSAE approved. A runner who intentionally discards his/her helmet while running the bases shall be removed from the game at the completion of the play. No out will be called.

All coaches will sign out equipment at the beginning of the season. All equipment shall be returned immediately after the end of the season, clean and ready for storage.

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7. PLAYING RULES

- All players are to be used defensively; no players are on the bench on defense. The outfielders must play behind the baseline or on the outfield grass.
- The batting order shall be changed every inning to ensure each player gets an equal number of at bats. Entire roster of players present for the game shall bat in rotation.
- Batters are not permitted to bunt or swing easily at the ball. PENALTY: Ball is dead and swing counts.
- The batting tee will be placed on home plate. The coach is responsible for removal prior to any play at home plate.
- A batter shall be allowed to swing until the ball is put into play.
- Base runners shall remain in contact with the base until the ball is hit.
- No infield fly rule.
- Coaches and parents will be allowed on the field to assist.

8. PITCHING RULES

Not Applicable

9. LENGTH OF GAMES

Duration of game to be 45-minute time limit. The side will be retired after the entire roster has batted.

Teams shall bat their entire lineup twice, if time allows and both teams agree.

10. SCHEDULE

Scheduling and rescheduling of games shall be the responsibility of the director.

Make Up: We will attempt to make-up all scheduled games.

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11. UMPIRES

No umpires will be used.

12. SCOREKEEPERS

No score will be kept.

13. MANAGERS AND COACHES

Each team will pick up trash on their side of the field after each game.

Teams are **required** to congratulate each other on the field after each game.

The use of tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs in any form by players or adult leaders in the dugout, on the benches or on the playing field shall not be permitted.

14. PENALTIES

Not Applicable

15. PROTESTS

Not Applicable

16. GENERAL CONDUCT

YSC staff will grade the coach's conduct during a game and turn in his comments to the Youngsville Recreational Sports Programs and kept on file by the Director.

17. ALL-STAR CONDUCT

Not Applicable

18. ALL-STARS

None

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19. COACHES, JUST LET THE KIDS PLAY:

When you organize a youth sports program, when you sign up your child, or when you watch him or her at practices or at games, continually ask yourself a question: Is this program, practice or game primarily serving the needs of the children in this age group-all the children-or is it primarily serving the needs of the adults? Your answer to that question will guide you toward making good choices in the best interest of your children.

If winning is not the children's top priority-and they have told us time and again that it is not-then making choices about which children play and which children do not play based on how best to win the most games does not serve primarily the children's wants. It serves primarily the adults' wants.

Kids want to have fun; that is their top priority. If all the drills, all the yelling and screaming from the sidelines and the pressure-packed schedules ruin the fun, the adults have missed the mark.

Kids want to play. They don't want to sit and watch other kids play or watch adults' coach. If you are making choices that keep kids on the bench, you are making choices that do not serve the wants, the needs and the rights of all the children, rather than just a select few.

Kids deserve the chance to succeed. If you are intent on identifying "talent" at an early age, selecting elite teams and discouraging those who are cut, you are damaging what is every child's right to have a chance to succeed. You are doing it for no good reason because until children are more fully developed, their "talent" should not be and cannot be accurately evaluated.

Kids learn best by doing, not just by listening, and they learn by being spontaneous, creative and by taking chances. Thus, practices and games do not serve children's needs if they discourage those natural instincts and create fears about making mistakes.

Kids need time to relax, time for their bodies to recharge, time for their minds to wander. Kids need to daydream now and then. They need a day off. If their youth sports schedules overexert their bodies, overtax their energies and rob them of their free time, those schedules are not meeting children's needs. You see the point. You see the pattern. So much of what adults create in the

name of youth sports violate the very nature of being a child, the natural wants and need of children.

So please adhere to the Youngsville Recreational Sports Programs philosophy:

JUST LET THE KIDS PLAY!