

Mel Harder Pony Baseball League (MHPBL)

Guidelines and Rules

Revised 5 April 2008

Section 1

- A. An executive board made up of representatives from each league community will govern the league. Each community will have one vote.

- B. The executive board shall elect a chairman, vice chairman and secretary/treasurer for a one year term, with the intent that the vice chairman moves into the chairmanship the following year.

- C. The treasurer shall collect from each member community the fee voted on by the executive board, and shall disperse the funds as directed by the board for tournament trophies, or other expensed subject by a majority vote of the executive board.

- D. The vice chairman acts in the absence of the chairman, and will perform duties assigned by the chairman.

- E. The secretary will record the minutes of each meeting, and present them to the executive board at the following meeting for review and acceptance.

- F. Mel Harder Pony Baseball League will be under the umbrella of Chardon Baseball. One at-large officer of MHPBL will be a Chardon Baseball member. MHPBL finances will be run through Chardon Baseball.

Section 2

- A. Each community retains players from their geographic community or school district, unless their community does not field a team in the particular division in question.

- B. The resident community permits a player to play with another community's team, as long as they seek approval from the executive board. No MHPBL team is required to play a team not following this rule.

- C. Communities that participated in the MHPBL the previous season have the right of first refusal to participate in the upcoming season. The League will endeavor to maintain an even number of teams to facilitate scheduling, however, an odd number of teams is acceptable for a given season, with League approval.

- D. Teams comprised of mostly or all 13 year olds are acceptable to the MHPBL.

- E. Upper age limit is 14 years old. 14 year olds are eligible to play regardless of current grade in school.

- F. 15 year old boys are eligible to play, but must meet the following conditions: must be in the 8th grade, cannot pitch, and must be equally distributed between multi-team communities.

- G. Age is determined by player's age on 1 May.

H. Coaches are to carry birth certificates for all players and provide them if requested by opposing coaches before the game. Once a game has begun, a player's age cannot be challenged. Penalty for violation of age limit: player is removed for the season. Team with offending player forfeits the game. Coach of non-offending team notifies the commissioner. Commissioner notifies all other coaches.

Section 3

A. The Mel Harder Pony Baseball (MHPB) League follows the National Federation High School Rules.

B. 54 foot pitching distance.

C. 80 foot base paths, if possible.

D. NO METAL SPIKES!

Section 4

A. Each player must play a minimum of 3 innings and all substitutions must be made no later than the defensive 4th inning. All subs must play at least 3 consecutive innings in the field. No free substitutions.

B. An "EH" (Extra Hitter) may be used at the coach's discretion. However, that EH must also play a minimum of 3 innings in the field as stated under rule 4(A). Should an EH be used when a team has only 10 players, and an injury occurs where one player cannot return to the game, an out will be scored in the official score book when that spot in the batting order is due to bat.

C. Official bat size not to exceed -5, delta of bat length to weight, or 2-3/4 inches barrel width.

D. Pitcher limits: 7 innings in a game, 10 innings in a week. The pitcher's week starts on Monday.

E. The home team's scorebook shall be the official scorebook.

F. Home team pays for umpire and supplies 2 new game balls

Note: Per High School rules, the starting pitcher may return to the mound 1 (one) time, as long as he has not exceeded the inning requirements in rule 4(E).

Section 5

A. All postponed games must be rescheduled as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of the home team to arrange a makeup date with the visiting team, and to reserve a field and umpire for the game. The league requires all games, to be made up by the date designated by the board. For 2008, the last date for makeups is July 6.

B. Games are only to be rescheduled because of rain outs or school functions. Any other reasons must be approved by the board.

C. Rosters are to be turned in by the preseason date assigned by the board, unlimited player rosters within community limits.

D. Games start 6:15pm in the month of May, and 6:30pm in June and July on weeknights. Rainouts are to be called by the home team. The coach of the home team is responsible for calling the visiting team and umpire to advise of the cancellation and reschedule date. They must also advise their commissioner and the MHPBL president of rainouts and reschedules.

E. Every effort should be made to play a game. If a team forfeits, and/or doesn't show, they are responsible for paying the forfeit fee (Umpire Fee) within one week to the umpire.

F. For 2008 ties are allowed.

G. All home team coaches must email, or call, in their scores and pitcher's innings to the appointed person after the game each night. For 2008, the contact is Jim Stone, email coachstone@mail.com, or call 285-3935. All coaches are asked to provide a working email address. Standings and pitchers innings will be emailed to all coaches. Use the pitcher's last name and first initial.

Section 6

A. A certified (or carded) umpire is required at each MHPB game. A second certified umpire may be used depending on the home team community's decision. A non-certified umpire may be used, as long as the second umpire is over 16, agreed upon by both coaches, and approved by the certified umpire.

B. Should an interpretation of the rules arise between competing coaches or a coach and the umpire-in-chief, a time limit of 5 minutes shall be set, at which time the umpire-in-chief shall make the final decision.

C. Home team coach will contact the umpire association to schedule or reschedule any umpires as needed. Coaches should be set up on thearbiter.net.

Section 7

A. For 2008, the regular season will last from 28 April until 6 July. Each team will play the others one time to determine the league standings. Teams may elect to play additional games within their communities or with other teams, which will not be designated as league games and will not be included in the league standings.

B. Playoffs will be held after the completion of the regular season.

C. The top 50% of the teams will play in the Gold division tournament. The next 50% of the teams will play in the Silver division tournament.

D. The standings to determine the tournament participants and placement will be determined as follows:

1) Total Points will determine team standings. 3 points for a win, 1 point for a loss, and 2 points for a tie.

2) Least runs allowed

3) Coin toss

The higher ranking team in each playoff game will be designated as the home team, and will be responsible for scheduling a field and 2 umpires for the playoff game. The two teams will split the umpire costs. The League pays for the Championship umpires and game balls

E. For 2008, the playoff schedule will be as follows:

Monday, 7 July first round
Wednesday, 9 July second round
Friday, 11 July Championship round

F. Trophies will be awarded to the Gold Division Champions and Runners Up. Medals will be given to the 3rd and 4th (consolation participants) place teams, and also the Silver Division Champion.

G. In case of rain during the playoffs, games shall be made up on the next playable day on any available field. It is the home team's responsibility to get the game played. If necessary, the commissioner will set game dates and locations. Sunday 13 July has been designated as the last day available for games to be played. If the games are not able to be completed by 13 July, then the trophies will be awarded based upon the records of the teams in the remaining games.

F. All-Star Game is 7 June at Middlefield. Three players from each team are to be included in the All-Star Game. In addition, one player from each team is requested for the Homerun Derby before the All-Star Game. The Homerun Derby participant can be an All-Star. You are encouraged to make your Homerun hitter and All-Stars different players so as many players as possible can participate.