

# **WILLIAM S. HART PONY BASEBALL & SOFTBALL 2018 GENERAL LEAGUE RULES**

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## SECTION I

### GENERAL LEAGUE INFORMATION

**1. Hart Complex** - The Wm. S. Hart Baseball and Softball complex is located on land donated to the Wm. S. Hart Baseball and Softball Corporation by the Newhall Land and Farm Corporation. It is to be used only for league functions and is not open to the public. As private property, we reserve the right to refuse entry to any person or to revoke permission for entry at any time. There is no trespassing, and violators will be subject to arrest. Persons granted permission to be on the complex must follow all league rules, regulations, and policies or they will be asked to vacate immediately and at such time will be considered trespassing.

**2. Identification Badges/Background Investigation** - All adult coaches, managers, and team parents will be subject to a background investigation. Upon successful completion of a background check they will be issued a league identification badge. Only adults with a valid badge visible on their person will be allowed on the field or in the dugout area. Designated adults will be allowed on the field before and after the game only to perform team duties. Umpires will verify with the managers at the pre-game meeting that all adults on the field have a badge. Any adult on the field who is not in possession of a badge visible on their person will be required to leave the field/dugout area immediately. It is the responsibility of the manager to insure that all adult volunteers on the field have valid badges and cooperate fully with this policy. If an individual without a badge refuses to leave the field/dugout immediately when requested and the manager fails to enforce this policy, both the manager and the offending individual in question will be required to leave the complex. Persons refusing to leave the complex shall be considered trespassing.

**3. Concussion Training is mandatory per State of California AB 2007 for all youth sports. PONY and USA Softball both require training for all managers, coaches, umpires and league directors. A link to the on-line training can be found on the HART website. This is required prior to the first game of the season.**

#### **4. Game Times**

**a. Shetland** weekday games will be scheduled to begin at 4:30 pm.

**b. Pinto** early weekday games will be scheduled at 4:30PM. (Some 7:00 P.M. games are possible especially during playoffs)

**c. Mustang** early weekday games will be scheduled at 4:30 PM and 7:00 PM.

**d. Bronco** regular season weekday games will be scheduled at 4:30pm and 7:00pm.

**e. Pony** regular season weekday games will be scheduled at 4:30pm and 7:00pm.

**f. Pony 60-90 and Colt** early weekday games will be scheduled at 4:30pm and 7:15pm.

**g. Bronco/Pony Spring Club League** weekday games will be scheduled at 4:30pm and 7:00pm.

***h. For softball, regular season weekday games will start on softball 3 at 4:30. Games on softball 1 and softball 2 will start at 4:45pm and 7pm.***

**5. Complex Supervision** - At least one, and preferably two, members of the Board of Directors, serving as a league duty official, shall be present and supervise all league activities on the complex.

**6. Cooperation** - All persons, players, parents, fans, and spectators are required to follow league rules, regulations, and policies, and to cooperate with the league and the directions of the League Duty Officials at all times.

**7. Prohibited Substances** - There are no alcoholic beverages allowed on the complex, including parking areas. Use of or being under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or any other substance while on the complex is strictly forbidden.

**8. Tobacco Products** - Smoking or use of any tobacco product, including but not limited to e-cigarettes/**vaping**, while supervising any child participating in any activity associated with Wm. S. Hart Baseball/Softball is prohibited. Smoking while on the Wm. S. Hart complex, will only be permitted in the parking areas.

**9. Code of Conduct** - The Wm S. Hart Baseball/Softball program is designed to provide an experience for the boys and girls of the Santa Clarita Valley that is positive, safe, developmental and fun. The Board of Directors has a zero tolerance policy for violations of the Parent's Code of Conduct and the Coach's Code of Conduct. All parents, managers, coaches, players, spectators, league officials, and umpires will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner while participating in any league activity, on or off the Wm S. Hart Baseball/ Softball complex. Any player, manager, coach, umpire, league official, spectator, or other person who engages in un-sportsmanlike conduct such as fighting, publicly audible foul or abusive language, violent display of temper or other derogatory action, or whose conduct otherwise is considered detrimental to the best interest of the organization shall be ejected from the complex, and subject to additional disciplinary action by the League Rules Committee.

**10. Litter** - All persons on the Wm. S. Hart complex are required to keep the complex free of litter.

**11. Canteen Support** - All persons, players, parents, fans, and spectators are asked to support the league by patronizing our canteen (snack bar) while on the complex, as this is a major source of income for the league. You are asked to refrain from bringing on the Wm. S. Hart complex food or drink from outside the complex. Ice chests, glass bottles, or cans are forbidden on the Wm. S. Hart complex.

**12. Insurance**-Wm. S. Hart Baseball and Softball carries supplemental medical insurance to cover players injured while participating in sanctioned, authorized, and organized games and practices. However, this insurance is secondary insurance only, and only covers what your personal medical insurance does not cover. Insurance claim forms are available ***on the Hart Website***. These claim forms must be filled out completely and mailed along with all supporting doc-

uments to the insurance carrier as soon as possible. Allow 8-12 weeks for processing of your claim. Wm. S. Hart cannot accelerate this processing time.

**13. Photography** - No photographers of any kind will be allowed on the playing field. Team photographers can be in the dugouts while a game is in progress if given prior approval by the Director on Duty. *No cameras/go-pros will be allowed inside of the scorebooks.*

**14. Animals/Pets** – No animals or pets are allowed on the Wm. S. Hart Complex at any time. The only exception to this rule is service animals with valid credentials.

**15. Wheeled Conveyances** - No scooters, skateboards, roller blades, bicycles, Heelys™, hover boards, or any other related item is to be used on the Wm. S. Hart Complex.

## SECTION II

### **PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Wm. S. Hart Baseball & Softball is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing the highest quality youth sports program possible to the boys and girls of the Santa Clarita Valley. This organization relies entirely on volunteers to manage, supervise, organize, and maintain the business affairs of the corporation, its facilities, and the everyday operation of the league. As such, parental participation is essential to the success of our league and organization. We ask that every parent get involved in the league in some capacity, as a full time member of the Board of Directors, as a manager, coach, team mom, scorekeeper, or team or event sponsor. Skills of construction workers, welders, painters, plumbers, mechanics, gardeners, and others are especially needed and donation of your time will ensure a continuing success for the league. If you are unable to commit the time required on a full-time basis, but can help out on a weekend, your assistance will be appreciated. **Remember...IT IS YOUR LEAGUE and YOUR CHILDREN!...GET INVOLVED!... VOLUNTEER!...MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

In addition to the volunteer participation, there are some specific parental responsibilities we all need to follow in order to insure a fair, positive, and enjoyable experience for all of our children in the league. These responsibilities are noted below.

**1. Code of Conduct Form** - A copy of the Code of Conduct form will be provided to each parent. (See Appendix A) The form can also be found on the Hart website.

**2. Parental Responsibilities Handout** - Parents of players must read and be acquainted with the "Parental Responsibilities" section in these rules. Registering the player constitutes agreement with all the terms of "Parental Responsibilities."

**3. Parental Consent** - Parents registering players in the Wm. S. Hart Baseball and Softball League also must sign the "Parental consent for emergency medical treatment" which authorizes any adult (Manager, Coach, Team Mom, or League Official) to seek medical treatment in the event of an injury or illness when a parent or legal guardian is unavailable. Additionally, parent or legal guardian must sign a waiver or release, absolving, holding harmless, and free from liability, Wm. S. Hart Baseball and Softball, its officers, sponsors, organizers, managers, coaches,

team moms, umpires, or any other adult volunteer, for any league related activity including transportation.

**4. Attendance** - It is the parent's responsibility to:

a. To see that your son or daughter arrives at games and practices, properly dressed and equipped, ready to play, at the time and place specified by the team manager.

b. To ensure that your son or daughter is picked up promptly at the time specified by the manager.

c. To call the manager or coach as soon as possible if your son or daughter will be unable to attend a game or practice or other team function due to an illness or other reason.

**5. Team Cooperation** - To cooperate with team manager and coaches, and be supportive of their decisions. Follow team rules as set by the manager.

**6. Encouragement** - To encourage your child to do his/her very best at all times, and to promote positive encouragement and good sportsmanship.

**7. Fan Demeanor** - To attend and participate in your son or daughter's games and to be supportive of your team. To "CHEER", not "JEER", or be negative towards your son or daughter, your team, the umpires, or the opposing team.

**8. Conduct** - To conduct yourself in a responsible and sportsmanlike manner while on the Wm. S. Hart complex or during any league activity. *Each team Manager shall be responsible for insuring that all parents and other spectators at team games and other events comply with League standards of appropriate conduct.*

**9. Litter** - To pick up and dispose of all litter around your team's dugout and stands after each game. Help keep the complex looking good.

**10. Child Supervision** - To supervise, and be responsible for, the activities and conduct of your children (players and non-players) while they are on the Wm. S. Hart complex.

**11. League Cooperation** - To cooperate with league officials, and follow all league rules, regulations and policies while on the Wm. S. Hart Complex or when participating in league functions.

**12. League Support** - To be supportive of, and participate in, all league activities, games, tournaments, and fund-raising events. This includes patronizing our canteen (snack bar).

**13. Rules Familiarization** - To read, understand and become familiar with the Wm. S. Hart Baseball & Softball rules, regulations, and policies for the current season. Wm. S. Hart Rule books are available *on line at the HART league website.*

**14. Assistance** - To assist our league in making the baseball/softball season a rewarding, positive, and enjoyable experience for your son or daughter, and all the boys and girls in the Wm. S. Hart League. Remember, we are all here for our children, and it's only a game, after all.

**15. Volunteer Fee Refund** - Parents are responsible during the season to volunteer for at least one 4-hour duty shift in the canteen or on the fields in order to receive their volunteer fee refund.

Parents must schedule themselves by signing up on the league website for a shift that is convenient for them.

## SECTION III

### **TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES**

**1. Home Team Responsibilities** - Responsibilities of the **HOME TEAM** as designated by the playing schedule:

- a. Prior to the game, prepare the field. This includes chalking the baselines and batter's box. Watering the infield if necessary, raking the pitching mound, batter's box, and baselines. See that their side of the field, including dugout and field bleachers, is cleaned up.
- b. See that the official scorekeeper is present in the scorekeeper's booth and that the official scorebook and scoreboard controller are present. Prepare a lineup card for their team for each inning and furnish one copy to the official scorekeeper and one copy to the opposing manager.
- c. The home team is responsible for paying the plate umpire fee in cash at the plate meeting. For Pinto and Mini-Minor games, and any other game involving only one umpire, the home team is responsible for paying one-half of the plate umpire fee in cash at the plate meeting.
- d. After the game, ensure the return of the official scorebook to the canteen.
- e. After the game, clean up their dugout.
- f. After the last game of the day, ensure that the scoreboard controller is returned to the canteen.

**2. Visiting Team Responsibilities** - Responsibilities of the **VISITING TEAM** as designated by the playing schedule:

- a. Prior to the game, see that their side of the field, including dugout and bleachers, is cleaned up. Assist in any way to get the game started on schedule.
- b. Prepare a lineup card for their team for each inning and furnish one copy to the official scorekeeper and one copy to the opposing manager.
- c. The visiting team is responsible for paying the base umpire fee in cash at the plate meeting. For Pinto and Mini-Minor games, and any other game involving only one umpire, the visiting team is responsible for paying one-half of the plate umpire fee in cash at the plate meeting.
- d. On fields that have electronic scoreboards, the visiting team will provide a scoreboard operator.
- e. After the game, drag, rake, and water the field.
- f. All pitching plates and bases, which have been moved/removed at the start of the game, must be returned to their normal position at the end of the game. At the end of the last game of the

day, the bases must be removed from their anchors and placed in the home team's dugout and insert base plugs.

g. After the game, cleanup the dugout and bleacher area.

h. The after game responsibilities should be completed within 15 minutes of game completion.

**3. Joint Team Responsibilities** - The managers of BOTH TEAMS will be responsible for:

a. The conduct of all players on their team, the parents of the players, and the spectators on their side of the field. The managers will comply with the umpire's request to control the parents if necessary. If the manager cannot control offending parent(s), he shall request that a League Duty Official be brought to the field to handle the situation. Refusal to comply with the umpire's request will result in an immediate ejection of the manager.

b. Familiarizing themselves with the field rules for the current year.

**4. Penalties** - Failure to comply with the responsibilities as outlined herein shall result in the suspension of the manager for a minimum of one (1) game.

## SECTION IV

### **MANAGERS AND COACHES**

**1. Application** - Anyone desiring to manage a team must submit a manager's application and volunteer disclosure form to the League Director. Anyone desiring to manage a team is subject to an interview and background investigation. The League Director must submit all names to the League Rules Committee for approval. Prospective managers should verify via email that the League Director received their application.

**2. Approval Criteria** - All managers must be approved by the League Rules Committee using the following criteria:

a. Ability to relate and work with children.

b. Baseball or softball knowledge and teaching ability.

c. Past experience with potential manager, including ejections, past success, problems, parental complaints, following rules, etc.

d. The potential manager's past support of the league (sponsors, fund-raisers, etc.)

e. The potential manager's display of sportsmanship and competitiveness.

f. The potential manager's past sponsorship participation.

**3. Manager Selection Process** - Once approved by the League Rules Committee it is the responsibility of the League Director to select the managers that will manage in their respective

division. The League Director should use the criteria listed above to select their respective managers.

If the League Director determines that more than one candidate is equally qualified to manage under the above criteria, the following order will be used as a "tie-breaker":

1. Returning listed manager.
2. Prior experience managing in same league.
3. Recommendation(s) of the Board of Directors.

**4. Coach Selection/Approval** - Each manager may select his/her own coaches, but final approval of listed coaches must be made by the League Rules Committee *pending background checks*.

**5. Manager Status** - A manager or coach will not be considered permanent or "listed" if he/she has taken over a team during the season. No manager changes will be made official until approval of the League Rules Committee. Commitment - All league and tournament managers and tournament coaches are required to fulfill and complete their league duties for the entire season. Any manager or coach that abandons their duties/ commitments to their team or the league during the regular or post season shall not be eligible to manage or coach at Wm. S. Hart for a period of one (1) year.

## **6. General Information and Responsibilities**

a. Tryout Attendance and Draft Confidentiality - Managers will attend player tryouts and will grade all players based on ability, hustle, fielding, arm range and accuracy, batting, and speed. Managers will then participate in a draft to select their team. This information is to remain confidential and the draft order is not to be disclosed.

b. Initial Team Meeting - Upon selecting their team, managers must contact their players within 48 hours of the draft and setup the first practice and a parent's meeting.

c. Practice Fields - Managers are responsible for reserving practice fields at local schools or parks. *Practice fields can be rented prior to the start of the season and during the season when open game times are available. (See appendix B for field rental rules). This is open to League Directors in good standing.*

d. Parent's Meeting - At the parent's meeting, it is recommended that managers get all their parents involved with the team. Managers will need at least two coaches, possibly two or three assistants to help at practices, a team mom, and at least two scorekeepers. Managers are required to keep the league official scorebook and scoreboard when they are the "HOME" team. The parent's meeting provides an excellent opportunity to inquire if anyone would like to sponsor his or her team or knows someone who would. The parent's meeting is the time for managers to handout their written team rules and goals for the season. It provides an excellent opportunity for managers to get acquainted with their players' parents and for them to get to know the manager.

e. Team Roster - After the parent's meeting, the manager must prepare a team roster listing coaches, team mom, scorekeepers, and players. This roster should include address and phone number and copies distributed to each player and the League Director.

f. Team Calendar - A calendar schedule should be given to all players listing game and practice times, dates, and locations.

g. Practices - At practices, it is important that managers remember that they are responsible for all players and league rules require that a manager or coach remain at the practice field until all players have been picked up by their parents, unless prior arrangements have been made. In addition, managers should keep with them at all times, the signed registration form, which provides a medical waiver for you to request medical treatment on behalf of the parent in case of an injury.

h. Team Equipment - Managers may check out team equipment for which they will sign and be held financially responsible. Care should be taken to ensure that the equipment is not lost, stolen, misplaced, abused, or damaged. Equipment must be returned to the canteen following the last game of the season. (If you are a tournament or All-Star manager then the last game of the season will be the completion of the All-Star game or tournament season. Notify your league director immediately if the canteen is closed and you are unable to return your equipment bag.) **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Managers who do not turn in their equipment in good condition shall be charged the value of the issued equipment. In addition to being financially liable for the equipment, managers who fail to return league equipment will be ineligible to manage in the following season and their child will not be allowed to register at Wm. S. Hart until the equipment is returned or payment for missing equipment is received.

i. Team Sponsor - Managers are encouraged to obtain a team sponsor. The Sponsorship fee is payable to Wm. S. Hart Baseball. The Sponsorship link on our Website will provide potential sponsors with all of the options available to them. It is possible someone on your team owns a business and would like to sponsor your team, or knows someone who would. Restaurants and retail stores are good places to seek a sponsor. Sponsorship forms are available from the league office. If you obtain a sponsor it is always a good idea to patronize your sponsor as much as possible, thank them in person, and provide them with a game schedule and invite them to attend your games. We ask that all teams patronize and support all of our sponsors.

j. Roster Changes - Due to the possible existence of a wait list, Managers are obligated to immediately report to the league director any roster changes including player withdrawals or players suspected of withdrawing from the league (i.e. has not been heard from for over a week). Failure to do so will be considered an act of unsportsmanlike conduct and may result in suspension, or other disciplinary action.

k. Umpires - Wm. S. Hart Baseball and Softball will do everything possible to insure we have umpires at every game; however, in the absence of an umpire, the managers will agree on an individual or individuals to serve in their absence. This individual or individuals will not be paid and the game will be considered a legal game.

l. Coaches Clinics - It is the responsibility of all managers to attend any Wm. S. Hart sponsored "Coaching Clinic". The intent of these clinics is to further the knowledge and abilities of each individual manager and coach. Attendance at such meetings will be mandatory for team managers and recommended for the coaching staffs. If a manager is unable to attend a "coaching clinic"

ic” he/she must notify their league director. If a manager does not attend each coaching clinic he/she may be brought before the Rules Committee and could be suspended for one game.

## SECTION V

### **OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER**

- 1. Home Team Responsibilities** - The team designated as 'HOME TEAM' must provide the official scorekeeper who will have the following duties:
  - a. Keep the official score (in accordance with the Official Rules of Baseball, Rule 9 – The Official Scorer or Rules of USA Softball, Rule 11) in the scorebook designated as the Wm. S. Hart Baseball and Softball official scorebook.
  - b. The official scorekeeper shall sit in the scorekeeper's booth provided by the league so that each of the opposing managers will have equal ease of access for submitting lineups and confirming changes in same; checking the score as the game progresses; to be able to easily confer with the umpires, as to runs scored, count on the batter, etc.
  - c. Complete the scoring of each game by filling out the totals, i.e., runs, hits, errors, pitchers and innings pitched for each of the teams in the game. Write final score in red and circle at the top of the home team's page.
  - d. Replace the official scorebook in the place designated by the league following each game, and record the results of the game in the Master Scorebook, if one is provided.
- 2. Visiting Team Responsibilities** - The visiting team will provide a scoreboard operator. The scoreboard operator will return the score box to the canteen after the last game of the day on that particular field.
- 3. Additional Scorekeepers** - Each of the teams playing in the game may have their own scorekeeper who may sit in the scorekeeper's booth.
- 4. Official League Scorekeeper** - All official scorekeepers are under the jurisdiction of the Official League Scorekeeper. Questions and scorekeeping procedures will emanate from and through the Official League Scorekeeper.
- 5. Manager Responsibilities** - Both home and visiting managers shall report all changes of their team's line up to the official scorekeeper before the start of each inning.
- 6. *If a team does not have a parent that would like to keep score, a scorekeeper can be hired through the League's Official Scorekeeper.***

## SECTION VI

### **TRYOUTS AND DRAFT**

#### **1. Tryouts**

- a. League Director Responsibilities - Tryouts will be held prior to the drafting of players. Each League Director will be responsible for conducting the tryouts for his/her league, and notifying the managers of the tryout schedule.
- b. Tryout Schedule - Tryouts must be on days and at times designated by the Board of Directors.
- c. Tryout Participation - ALL prospective players (including manager's sons and daughters) who registered in the League prior to tryouts must participate in the appropriate tryout for their age bracket.
- d. Tryout Roster - Each manager must receive a complete roster of the players who will tryout in their league.
- e. Draft Eligibility - Only those players who tryout will be eligible for drafting to a team unless added to the draft per rule 2.1.
- f. Concurrent League Play - All players playing in other leagues concurrently with the Hart's season must announce this fact prior to try-outs. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from the league.
- g. Tournament Team Eligibility - Any player playing for other Pony leagues concurrently with the Hart season may not be eligible for consideration to be placed on a Hart tournament team. (See Pony rules to determine player eligibility). *Any player playing for other USA Softball leagues concurrently must declare which one league they would like to be considered for tournament play. (See USA Softball of SoCal yellow book for complete rules pertaining to tournament team selection)*

#### **2. Drafting**

- a. Draft Schedule - A player draft will be conducted by each League Director at a time and place designated by the Baseball and/or the Softball Commissioner. Draft order and player draft selection is **CONFIDENTIAL** and must not be discussed with anyone outside of the draft, or at any time after the draft.
- b. Draft Participation - All designated managers should attend their league draft. In his or her absence, they may have a representative attend, and this person will have the authority to speak for the manager. Only listed manager or representative (approved by the rules committee) for each team may attend the draft. A minimum of two (2) Rules Committee members must be available at the draft location.
- c. Draft Attendance Exclusion - Other than the listed manager, or designated representative, no person may attend a draft in which his/her child is being considered.

d. Draft Absences - Should there not be enough managers in attendance at the draft (one for each team to be drafted) the draft may be postponed until such time as there are enough managers or at the discretion of the League Director he/she may designate someone to draft each of the teams not represented.

e. Players per Team - The number of players that constitute a full roster will be determined and set prior to the draft by the appropriate Commissioner with approval by the board, and may vary from league to league. Unless approved by the Commissioner and League Director, there shall be no more than 12 players per team. (Exception: Filly and Shetland)

f. Draft Order - The order of draft will be decided by random drawing. In baseball and softball, National League teams will draft first followed by the American League.

g. Serpentine Process - Teams will draft in serpentine order. Example: Following is an example of the serpentine method using a six-team league.

	1 <sup>st</sup> pick	2 <sup>nd</sup> pick	3 <sup>rd</sup> pick	4 <sup>th</sup> pick	5 <sup>th</sup> pick	6 <sup>th</sup> pick
Round 1	A	B	C	D	E	F
Round 2	F	E	D	C	B	A
Round 3	A	B	C	D	E	F

Continue until rosters are full. Team A drafts first, then drafts 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, etc. Team B drafts second, then 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, etc., and so forth until all rosters are full.

h. Manager's Sons and Daughters - Prior to the draft, and before the draft order is selected, each manager will indicate to the other managers in the league the round in which he/she wishes to draft his/her son or daughter. This is to place the son or daughter in the draft in the same manner as other players - based on his or her ability. If the other managers agree, the son or daughter will be drafted on the designated round. If the managers cannot reach unanimous agreement, the League Director will designate in which round the manager's child shall be placed.

i. Siblings - Brothers or sisters registered in the same league will be drafted on the same team roster unless the parents request, in writing, to the League Director that they may be drafted on different teams. Prior to the draft, the ability of the siblings will be compared to each other to determine if they must be selected in back-to-back rounds or to determine how many rounds should separate their selection (by manager majority). Once the sibling with the greater ability is drafted, the sibling with lesser ability will then be assigned to the team roster at the round specified by the manager majority, unless this interferes with the draft of a manager's child (See "i" above); then the sibling will be drafted on the next open round. If there are no available rounds left, then that manager may not draft the stronger sibling unless the parents have authorized in writing that they may be drafted to different teams.

j. Non-Tryout Players - Players who did not tryout cannot be drafted, and will be assigned to teams by random drawing after all other players have been drafted. An exception to this rule may be made if a player's abilities are well known to a two-thirds majority of the drafting managers and if the player being assigned by drawing may adversely affect the competitive balance of the league. Any exceptions must be approved by the Rules Committee.

k. Hat-Picks - All random drawings shall contain a sufficient number of players such that there is a complete round of hat picks. For example, if there are 24 teams in the draft and only 10 players did not tryout, then the last 14 players eligible for drafting will also become hat picks.

l. Trades - Trades will only be allowed for a ten (10) minute period immediately following the draft. A Rules Committee member must approve all trades. Only drafted players may be traded (Hat-Picks may not be traded - Rule 21 players above). Players being traded may be separated in the draft by a maximum of one round.

m. Manager Exclusion - A parent may request that their player not be drafted by a certain manager/coach, only if that player has played at least one full season, either spring or fall, with that manager or coach by notifying the appropriate League Director or Commissioner. This rule does not apply to the selection of the tournament team.

## SECTION VII

### **PLAYER SHORTAGE**

**1. Player Shortages** - In the event that a team has nine (9) or fewer players available for a game:

a. Player Farm Usage - A manager may fill his/her roster up to ten (10) players if he/she has nine (9) or fewer players. If the farm team player is the tenth (10th) player, he/she must play every other inning on defense beginning in the second (2nd) inning - no more and no less. If multiple farm players are being used (for example, as the 9th and 10th players) none of the team's regular players may sit out. Substitute farm player(s) must play the outfield. Absent players and farm team players must be reported to the opposing manager and official scorekeeper prior to the start of the game with the exception of 2e below. If a player is called to be a farm player and comes to the field in uniform ready to play, they must play in the game.

b. Late Arrivals - When a farm team player is called up he/she must play every other inning, as stated in X.1.a. even if the player he/she is substituting for arrives.

c. Minimum Players - A team may play with eight (8) players, but not less than eight (8). *No out will be recorded when the missing 9<sup>th</sup> player is reached in the batting order.*

d. Postponement - **No manager or coach may postpone a game for any reason.** Farm team substitute players are available and should be acquired and utilized in the manner described in two (2) below.

**2. Farm Team Substitute Player Selection** - Farm team substitute player selection:

a. Farm Club Assignments - Each team (except in Shetland and Filly Divisions) shall be assigned one or more farm teams. Pinto, Mustang, Bronco, Pony, Minor, Junior, and Senior National League teams shall have their farm clubs assigned from their respective American League teams. Pinto American, Mustang American, Bronco American, and Pony American Leagues shall have their farm clubs assigned from the opposite division. Colt/Palomino shall share out-

fielders whenever there are less than nine (9) players on any team for a game. The team that is shorthanded will bat a line-up of the players they have in attendance. The Mini-Minor Division shall have their farm clubs assigned from the Filly Division and eligible farm players shall be limited to league age 6-year olds only. Minor American will have their farm team assigned from the Mini-Minor Division. Junior American will have their farm team assigned from the Minor National League. Senior American will have their farm team assigned from Junior National League. ***Farm teams will not be assigned to another team that is the same name (i.e. Pinto Dodgers will not be a farm team for Mustang Dodgers)***

b. Substitute Player Requests - A manager who needs a player from his/her farm team will request a list of three players' names from the farm club manager that are available for loan if the manager needs one player, and a list of four names if the manager needs two players. Baseball only - Players submitted to the requesting manager are to be from the same draft round or higher (Example: Player A was drafted in the fifth round. Only players drafted in round 5-12 are eligible to farm for player A). The manager will then advise the farm team manager which player or players he/she wishes to borrow. If a team has more than one farm team club, the manager must alternate between the farm team clubs when requesting substitute players. League directors must be notified of all farm team players utilized. Farm team players must wear the uniform of the team by which he/she was drafted. The League Director must be notified of the farm assignment prior to their participation in a game. This procedure will be strictly enforced. Failure to properly follow this procedure will result in a suspension of the manager and/or forfeit of the game.

c. Players Lost for the Season - If a player is lost for the entire season on any team, the manager must notify the league director within 24 hours and a player will be placed on the team from the waiting list. Players added from the waiting list after the midpoint of the season are not eligible for play in League playoffs or Pony sanctioned tournaments. Players lost on national league teams are not replaced with players from the waiting list unless approved by the Rules Committee.

d. Maximum Games – The same farm team player may not be utilized by the same team for more than two games during the season.

e. Last Minute Shortages - When a team is unable to find last minute players and the opposing team offers their team players to avoid a forfeit and allow the game to play, upon approval of both managers in the presence of the umpire, the game shall be considered a legal game.

f. Farm Player Usage - Farm players must bat at the end of the batting order and may only play the outfield positions. Rostered players arriving after the start of the game are inserted in the batting order following the farm players.

g. Penalties - Failure to follow these farm team substitution rules will result in a one game suspension of the manager and/or forfeit of the game.

h. Playoff Usage - The above rules apply for playoffs except in the event that the farm club is also in the league playoffs. In this case the next alphabetical team not in the playoffs shall be the designated farm club. This shall be in effect for the entire playoff even should the original farm club be eliminated from playoffs.

## SECTION VIII

### UMPIRES

- 1. Umpires per Game** - There will be at least one (1) league certified umpire on the field of play for every regularly scheduled game, and any playoff games, whenever possible.
- 2. Training and Certification** - They must be trained and certified under the direction of the Chief Umpires of this league. Baseball umpires are required to register with PONY Baseball, Inc. Softball umpires will register with USA Softball. Assignment of the umpires to a certain league will be made after careful consideration by the Chief Umpires, according to ability and knowledge of the game.
- 3. Umpire Protest Involvement** - Any protest involving an umpire will be considered by the League Rules Committee.
- 4. Umpire Attire** - Umpires shall be properly attired according to the standards set by the Chief Umpires of the league. PONY registered umpires will wear the PONY patch on the right sleeve, ½ inch below the shoulder seam. Baseball Umpires may not wear any type of earrings and PONY registered umpires will follow the no jewelry rule (rule 8-J of the PONY rule book) .
- 5. Division Exclusion** - No one may umpire a game in a division in which they or an immediate family member are affiliated. The Umpire Assignors will pay close attention to this.
- 6. Insurance and Liability** - Umpires are required to carry proof of insurance.
- 7. Calling Games** - Umpires shall call games per the time limits and rules for each respective league. When a game is called due to time limits, no last batter shall be declared and the game will be called promptly at the completion of the current at bat.
- 8. Identification Badges** - Any adult who is to participate on the field or during practices will be subject to a background investigation and will be issued a league identification badge. Only adults with a valid badge in their possession will be allowed on the field or in the dugout area. Umpires will ask the managers at the pre-game meeting if all adults on the field have a badge, which is visible, and take the manager at his/her word. Directors will enforce this policy. Any adult on the field who is not in possession of a badge will be required to leave the field/dugout area immediately. It is the responsibility of the manager to insure that all adult volunteers on the field have valid badges and cooperate fully with this policy. If an unbadged individual refuses to leave the field/dugout immediately when requested and the manager fails to enforce this policy and control the situation, both the manager and the offending individual in question will be ejected.
- 9. Inclement Weather** - In the event of inclement conditions, the umpire may halt the game and direct players into their respective dugouts. The Director on Duty will make the judgment as to whether the game will be delayed or postponed, however an adult umpire may postpone the game if, in their judgment, the conditions are hazardous to a player, coach, or umpire. When a junior umpire deems conditions to be unsafe, he may consult with any adult umpire on the complex and the adult umpire will decide whether or not to postpone the game.

## SECTION IX

### **TOURNAMENT TEAM**

**1. Tournament Authority** - All Wm. S. Hart tournaments will be conducted in accordance with Baseball/Softball Rules and Regulations for with PONY/USA Softball Tournament Play as appropriate.

a. To be eligible for Post-Season (*Pony/USA Softball* Sanctioned Tournament) play players must sign a letter of intent (or eligibility statement) declaring their availability for post-season play. This letter of intent must be submitted to the Director of the player's division, prior to the tournament draft meeting. Each League Director is responsible to distribute, collect and determine the eligibility for each league player.

**2. Tournament Team Managers** - A three (3)-person panel will select the baseball tournament team managers. This panel will consist of the Baseball Commissioners and the League Director. If one of the panel members is coaching or managing in the division in question or there is only one baseball commissioner, the Executive Vice-President will serve as the third member of the panel. The League Director, softball Commissioner, and softball Chief Umpire will select softball managers. This panel/committee will select each tournament team manager taking into consideration the recommendations of the Softball Commissioner, League Director, League Managers, and League Umpires. Managers being considered will be judged on their personal conduct, teaching skills, and their knowledge of the game. In all cases the tournament manager will be selected to serve the best interest of the Hart program, the respective League and the League Tournament team. All tournament team managers will then be approved by the Rules Committee. Any softball manager wanting to be considered for a Gold or Silver Tournament Team shall attend the current year's annual USA Softball Clinic.

**3. Player Intent** - Tournament players must have submitted the signed eligibility statement to be available for post season play. All managers in consultation with the League Director and the Baseball/*Softball* Commissioner select tournament players. Managers shall nominate players from their team whom they feel are among the top players in the division. Pony rules require a maximum of fifteen (15) per team and a minimum of twelve (12) per team. The exact number of players on each team will be determined by the Tournament manager. No alternates will be chosen at the time of the original selection. The league director and at least three (3) Rules Committee members will be present at the tournament team selection and all managers will be advised of this scheduled meeting.

a. Baseball National Leagues - In all National divisions, the division managers will pick the first nine (9) players by unanimous vote during the selection meeting. The tournament team manager will select the balance of the players with a majority of the division manager's approval.

b. Softball Divisions – Each year, the intent will be to field tournament teams in all divisions. Players from both the National and American Leagues will be eligible for tournament selection.

The division managers will pick the first nine (9) players by unanimous vote. The tournament team manager will select the balance of the players with a majority of the division manager's approval.

**4. Number of Tournament Teams** - The number of tournament teams for each league will be determined by the respective Commissioner(s) with the approval of the Board of Directors.

**5. American League Tournament Teams** - At the discretion of the Commissioners, the League may agree to have tournament teams selected from the American League. Players for the American League tournament team will be selected after the National League tournament teams have been selected. The selection of players will be in accordance with the rules set forth for the selection of tournament teams with the exception that the first nine (9) players will be selected from the American League. These selections will be by a unanimous vote of the Managers present at the tournament selection meeting. The remaining players may be added by the manager from either the American or National League with a majority of the attending division manager's approval.

**6. Shetland/*Filly* Tournament Teams** – At the discretion of the Commissioners, the league may agree to have teams from the Shetland/*Filly* Division participate in tournament play. The selection of the players will be in accordance with the rules set forth for the selection of tournament teams in each ~~Shetland~~-age group.

**7. Advanced Baseball League (ABL) Tournament Teams** – At the discretion of the Commissioner(s), and with approval of the Rules Committee, the League may agree to have club team(s) participate in Tournament Play. This arrangement shall be made prior to the deadline stated within Pony rules for sanction play. To be eligible for play all players must register and participate in regular season play and live within league boundaries as well as satisfy all other PONY requirements. In cases where a team needs to add players, the club team (who shall play as a "Hart Tournament Team") shall not select players until the regular league tournament team players have been selected and approved per the tournament selection process. Players selected for the league tournament teams shall not be eligible to play on the select team(s) whether or not they have agreed to participate in tournament play. The team will wear official Hart tournament jerseys. All costs associated with tournament play (including registration fees, uniforms, etc) shall be the responsibility of the club team.

**8. Special Arrangements** - All special arrangements for tournament play will be made by the tournament/ Rules Committee, with approval of the Board of Directors.

**9. Player Team Eligibility** - League players shall play on only one tournament team in each respective league (sanctioned teams selected first). A player may not play on both a tournament team and an All-Star team.

**10. Tournament Entry Fees** – Tournament teams are responsible for all sanctioned and non-sanctioned Tournament entry fees.

**11. Tournament Finances** - Generally, tournament teams will be financially responsible for all expenses including uniforms, travel, lodging, meals, and entertainment while participating in tournaments. These expenses are generally paid by parents, tournament team sponsors, and tournament team fund-raisers. The league may grant tournament teams traveling to a sanctioned

tournament which is in excess of 100 miles, a one time grant of \$1,000 to be used for player's and coaching staff's expenses only. Receipts documenting valid expenses will be required.

**12. Tournament Team Notebook** - Tournament teams must immediately prepare a notebook, maintained by the business manager, which will include the following:

- a. A team roster including team manager, one coach and a business manager (who may also serve as a second coach).
- b. Photostat copies of certified birth certificates for all players.
- c. Individual player pictures (preferably the league's picture).
- d. A current major utility bill (e.g., gas, water, electric) showing the player's last name and address on it. If player's last name is different than that on the utility bill, then additional documentation must be provided. **(Baseball Only)**
- e. Typed and signed affidavit and registration form.
- f. A team picture (5 x 7).
- g. Proof of league insurance and claim forms. Forms are available on the *Hart website*.
- h. Signed medical release forms for each player. Forms are available *on the Hart website*.
- i. School Report Cards (Baseball only).
- j. USA Softball Player *Photo* ID cards (Softball only).
- k. And any other requirement stated within current Pony or USA Softball rules.

## SECTION X

### **ALL-STAR TEAMS**

#### **1. All-Star Teams**

- a. All-Star Team Determinations - The leagues fielding All-Star teams for intra-league play, and the number of games played will be determined each year by the Baseball and Softball Commissioner(s). The number of players per team and the method of selection will be determined by the league director with the approval of the Commissioner(s). Only American League players are permitted on the All-Star Teams. National league players are not permitted on any All-Star team.
- b. All-Star Selections - All Stars will be selected by the team manager to represent his/her team. The number of All Stars (total & per team) will be determined by the appropriate Commissioner(s). All Star players should be the best ball players from each team. No player shall be on both a sanctioned tournament team and All Star teams.

**Team assignments to each All-Star team are based on overall season records for each team within their respective league. (Players from the 1<sup>st</sup> Place team with players from the last place team and so on.)**

c. Managers from within the league or division, selected by the League Director(s) and the Commissioner(s), will manage each All Star team. Usually, the first place manager is selected followed by the second place manager and so on. Remaining managers will serve as coaches.

d. All players on the All Star team will play, utilizing free substitution and rotation in the lineup. No player shall play more than 2 innings in any one position. All Star games are for exhibition only.

e. Leagues with No All-Star Teams - There will be no All-Stars in Shetland or Filly Leagues.

## **SECTION XI**

### **SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD**

#### **1. Sportsmanship Awards**

a. The sportsmanship award is one of the most important awards the league provides. It is awarded to the one player from each team who demonstrates good sportsmanship throughout the season. This is the player who always smiles, always hustles, does whatever he/she is asked to do, the player who never complains, the player who cheers on their fellow teammates, never argues a play, and never criticizes other players on their own or opposing team. This award has nothing to do with a player's ability only their attitude toward the game and their fellow players.

b. Sportsmanship awards should be presented at the Award Ceremonies on All-Star game day.

## APPENDIX A

### **PARENT’S/MANAGER’S/COACH’S CODE OF CONDUCT**

#### **Parent’s Code of Conduct**

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in the William S. Hart Baseball/Softball league, by following the **HART Parent’s Code of Conduct**:

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, umpires and any league officials at every game, practice or associated event.
2. I will place the emotional and physical well being of my child ahead of my personal desire to win.
3. I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
4. I will support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
5. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
6. I will remember that the game is for youth – not adults.
7. I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.
8. I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
9. I will help my child enjoy the Hart experience by doing whatever I can, such as being a respectful fan, assisting with coaching, or providing transportation or assisting the William S. Hart Baseball and Softball program as a volunteer.
10. I will abide by the all of the rules and regulations of William S. Hart Baseball and Softball and know that I am responsible to read and know them.

#### **Manager’s and Coach’s Code of Conduct**

As a condition for coaching or managing a team for the William S. Hart baseball and Softball program I will abide by the following Code of Ethics:

1. 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 lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.
6. 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.
7. I will be knowledgeable in the rules of baseball or softball, and I will teach these rules to my players.
8. I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for all of the skills that I teach.
9. I will remember that I am a youth softball or baseball coach, and that the game is for the children and not adults.
10. I promise to review and practice basic first aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players.
11. I understand that in addition to my own actions, I am also responsible for the actions of the other team coaches, the team parents and other team spectators.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Appendix B*

### *Hart League Field Rental Guidelines*

#### High School Rentals

Colt Field-\$150/game –Baseball Upper Division Commissioner to manage reservations  
Hourly rate is \$25/hr without lights and \$35/hr with lights

Softball-\$60/game- Softball Commissioner to manage reservations.  
Hourly rate is \$15/hr without lights and \$25/hr with lights

#### Commercials and special use

To be reviewed by Executive Board on case by case basis

#### USA Softball and Pony Baseball

Hart is affiliated to these organizations so no charge for field use since this will directly benefit our players.

#### Practice Field rentals

No travel ball team rentals

Fall Season-Only teams registered at Hart may have one practice spot per week at no charge. ABL League teams (14U only) may rent the Colt field for one practice per week at the posted hourly rate . No renting out additional practice spots beyond one practice per week. Spring Season-Field space can be rented out the week after drafts until opening day to teams. DOD shifts will be needed and they can be covered while running a practice but only until the season starts. Once the season starts, available game slots can be rented out for practice but will be cancelled at the leagues discretion to reschedule rainout games. DODs may not run a practice while covering a DOD shift once the season starts. Directors who are in good standing will have first choice on field rental. Directors will be asked in order of the number of shifts completed during winterball. There will be a 24hr response time required for field choice by a director. Field rental is available for directors who have players on a Hart drafted team or an ABL team. Time slots are not available to any other teams. Field rentals will offered evenly to all directors in good standing.

#### Payment of field rentals

**Field rentals will be paid the day of use to the canteen.**

High School rentals-High School AD can deliver a check for the field rental when delivering the umpire checks. If a game starts earlier than the canteen office is open the DOD will collect the check and deliver to the Canteen supervisor.

Practice field rentals-Payment must be made prior to the start of practice to the canteen office. The canteen supervisor will have a list of practice fields being used each day and will track pay-

ment. If a team has not paid the DOD will remove the team from the practice field and all further practice slots for that team will be forfeited.