



Elaine Magner
Region Director
North Region
805-832-2015
e.magner@pony.org

April 2017 Newsletter

League Presidents,

Where has time gone! April is here and most of our leagues are now in full swing for the regular season after the rains and are working out all of the little kinks that come along with running a league.

I wanted to pass on some information as we move further into the 2017 season.

Please share the information in this newsletter with your board of directors and entire league membership. It will be posted on our PONY webpage also.

RULE CHANGE REMINDERS

Last week I sent out the information that PONY will be adopting the new intentional walk rule that MLB just approved. Please institute it in your leagues as it will be used in all stars.

Also there were a few changes made in the West Zone Supplement Shetland rules. One of the changes was that the batters will get 6 pitches instead of 5 pitches this year. Please review the 2017 WZ Supplement rules for Shetland and Pinto. They are posted on our webpage and all presidents should have copies that I have sent to them several times since the change.

BAT TESTING

PONY Baseball will continue to implement bat testing as we move forward. You can expect this testing to be conducted at a much lower level in 2017

BYLAWS

I am still missing some 2017 league bylaws and this has caused a few issues. Please forward your 2017 league bylaws to me immediately.

LEAGUE REGISTRATION

Registration is moving along. The new database is a little messed up on the backside but the tech people are working very hard to get it straightened out. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I would like to remind you that you **MUST** register all of your teams – including your 3 and 4 year olds – no matter what you call them. If you have not registered them, I encourage you to do it immediately. The Section Directors and I will be checking all of the websites for team schedules and will be checking the number of teams you have registered against your team schedules. If we find a difference, you will be receiving a call from me.

I want to thank the leagues for their feedback that was requested earlier this week. The Tech guys will be meeting with Affinity to work out some of the kinks that may impact the entering of the Tournament Team Eligibility Affidavits (aka TTEA). Just what that process may be, we are not sure. Stay tuned for further info.

CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

California AB53, effective January 1, 2017, regarding concussions in youth sports. It is an amendment of a previous law that covered high school athletes and now covers all athletes under the age of 18. Its' purpose is to provide specific safety protocols in order to protect athletes from injury. Youth baseball is included in this law. Hopefully your league has adopted a concussion protocol and that all of your coaches umpires and league administrators have taken the training course. No information as to how we will implement it for the upcoming tournament season has been sent out yet. As soon as it is received, the leagues will be notified.

NORTH REGION WEBPAGE

Just a reminder, we have a webpage on the PONY website. The page currently lists all of the PONY Sanctioned tournaments and the locations are being added as payment is made by the leagues. The dates are estimated dates and are subject to change depending upon the number of teams that register to play.

You can find the webpage by following these few steps. I would encourage you to mark it as a "favorite." Also please share this information with your board and membership so they know where to find the Region information. The information posted there will save a lot of time for parents, league officials and PONY directors.

1. Go to www.pony.org
2. Click on "West Zone" in the upper right corner of the page
3. On the red banner, click on "Baseball (SoCa)"
4. Then click on "SoCal North Region"
4. Here you will find North Region's information - including the 2017 Tournament Listing.

ALL STARS

No... it's not too early to start thinking about All-Stars. The Presidents' meetings will be May 5 in Camarillo and May 6 at William S Hart. Exact times and locations will be sent out in the next week or so. These meetings are for the purpose of registering your teams for All Stars. Additional information regarding All Stars and team registration will be sent out to the presidents prior to that meeting.

Please keep in mind the following:

- Players can only participate in **ONE PONY** League during the season. If you have players that are signed up with more than one league, they are ineligible to participate in All-Stars with ANY team. This is an issue every year.
- All players need Proof of Residence (utility, cable, etc), Medical Waiver, COPY of Birth Certificate or proof of birth.
- Dates for binder reviews and managers' meetings are being finalized and will be posted soon.
- Your teams can expect travel to and from the Los Angeles, Riverside and/or Orange County areas for Super Region, Zone and some World Series Tournaments. Our Region tournaments for Shetland 6, Pinto 7 and Pinto 8 will be held at William S. Hart and the Mustang 9, Mustang, Bronco 11, Bronco, Pony 13 and Pony will be held at Bakersfield. I realize these can be long commutes and there is no per-diem paid for the teams. Teams must be fully committed and should be prepared to bear the costs. Schedules are not adjusted to accommodate the teams that may have to drive further than others. Again, commitment from your players and coaching staff is a must.

- We recommend you begin notifying parents of the following rules that will be enforced during All Star Tournaments. These are just some of the rules that will be enforced but are the most common that are not followed. Notification to our parents prior to our All Star tournaments is our best avenue to help eliminate these problems. Enforcement during the regular season and Memorial Day weekend and pre-sanction tournaments will also help.
 - o No parents/siblings in the dugouts or field of play
 - o Discourage your parents from going to the dugouts to communicate with their children
 - o Allow the coaching staff to coach the team. They don't need help. It is confusing
 - o Absolutely NO ALCOHOL
 - o Smoking in designated areas (if available) (City of LA has new ordinance banning smoking at all sporting events)
 - o Smokeless tobacco and E Type cigarettes are not allowed
 - o Remove unauthorized stickers on players' helmets
 - o No artificial noisemakers
 - o Expect gate fees at all facilities – either pre-paid or actual gates
 - o Tee Ball and Coach Pitch Bats are not allowed at any level

OPEN TOURNAMENT

Once again, we will be hosting an Open Tournament for all divisions Pinto 8 and up with three or more teams. It is a non-elimination tournament. This will be a mandatory tournament for all advance baseball teams and will start on or about June 22 in Camarillo. Please consider entering your teams that advanced to the Super Region and above last year. The winners in each division will receive byes to the Region level tournaments.

Sincerely

Elaine

Elaine Magner
Region Director
North Region
West Zone
PONY Baseball and Softball
e.magner@pony.org
(805) 832-2015

