

CHEVIOT HILLS PONY BASEBALL ASSOCIATION CODE OF CONDUCT, DISCIPLINARY RULES AND PROTEST PROCEDURES¹

This Code of Conduct, Disciplinary Rules, and Protest Procedures is incorporated by reference into the Rules of each respective Division of the Cheviot Pony Hills Baseball Association (hereinafter CHPBA).

I. CODE OF CONDUCT

CHPBA is committed to promoting good sportsmanship and developing and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for athletic competition through the game of baseball. CHPBA's Board of Directors believes participation in the league's activities is a privilege that is accompanied by the responsibility to act with dignity, integrity and respect at all times. Individuals associated with CHPBA – players, managers, coaches, officials, and spectators – are expected to conduct themselves in such a manner that represents the highest level of honor, and to observe the tenets of good sportsmanship, honesty, fairness, dignity, civility and respect. CHPBA expects players, coaches, administrators, spectators and any individuals associated with such participants to exhibit the values of good sportsmanship that are included but not limited to those set forth in this Code of Conduct. The following is a non-exhaustive set of principles of fair play and sportsmanship to which CHPBA expects all participants in this League to adhere. This Code of Conduct is intended to apply to all members of CHPBA, whether they are attending a CHPBA event a Cheviot Hills or at another facility.

A. Letter and Spirit of Rules

Managers, coaches and players should comply with the letter and the spirit of the playing rules for their respective Divisions. Purposely ignoring or willfully violating rules established by the League is intolerable, even if both teams agree, and any attempt to compromise these rules may subject each team involved to forfeiture of the game (subject to a properly filed protest). Those who break the rules degrade not only themselves but also the game, their team and the community.

B. Respect for Umpires and Opponents

Managers, coaches, players and spectators must show respect for the decisions of umpires and the efforts of their opponents and they must conduct themselves so as to dignify the game. All participants should refrain from heckling game officials and from challenging judgment decisions of the umpires. A manager may discuss an occasional rule interpretation if this is done with dignity and sincerity.

C. No Physical Violence

Any manager, coach, player or spectator who engages in any act of physical violence against any other person at a CHPBA event, whether on the field, off the field, or at another location where a CHPBA event is being held will be subject to immediate discipline by CHPBA. There is a zero tolerance policy for any such acts. Any spectator, coach or manager who violates this rule will be subject to discipline, to be imposed by the Executive Committee, as set forth in section II. below, and/or a referral for potential criminal prosecution.

D. No Stalling

Managers, coaches, players and umpires should cooperate in eliminating game delays and stalling tactics.

E. Positivity Towards Managers, Coaches, Players and Other Spectators

(1) Participants are expected to direct remarks and gestures to their players and not attempt to intentionally upset or distract the opposing pitcher or players (e.g., catcher talking to or

¹ Revised November 2019.

trying to influence the batter). Managers and coaches shall instill in their players the habit of properly respecting opponents and game officials. Players must not direct unbecoming language, gestures or personal remarks to teammates, opponents, or officials.

(2) Managers and coaches are responsible, at all times, for the conduct of all players and spectators. Razzing or disparaging the opponent is strictly prohibited. The game umpire is empowered to enforce this rule and may issue warnings, eject participants, and/or declare a forfeit. The first offense of this rule shall result in a warning delivered to the manager of the offending team that another violation by the offending team may result in the ejection of the manager and/or the forfeiture of the game. An umpire may eject the manager or any other participant or may declare a forfeiture of the game if there is a second offense of this rule by the same team during the same game.

(3) Spectators should be aware that their comments regarding the game, the players' performance, managers and coaches will be heard by other spectators, including the families and friends of those players, managers and coaches. Spectators should endeavor to keep their comments positive and supportive at all times, in keeping with the spirit and purpose of CHPBA as a community-based recreational baseball league. If such comments are reported to CHPBA and are deemed by the Executive Committee to be in violation of the spirit and intent of this Code of Conduct, the spectator may be subject to discipline, to be imposed by the Executive Committee, as set forth in section II. below.

F. No Profanity or Threatening Language

The use of profanity directed to any participant in a CHPBA activity by any player, coach, manager or spectator during any game, warm up or practice may result in the offender being removed or ejected from the game or practice by the umpire and/or the team manager. Such an instance may lead to additional discipline, to be imposed by the Executive Committee, as set forth in section II. below.

It is the intention of CHPBA to provide a "safe zone" for the members of the CHPBA community, both on and off the field. The use of threatening language or threats of violence (verbal or electronic) towards any player, coach, manager or spectator related to their activities with and/or on behalf of CHPBA at any time will not be tolerated. Any spectator, coach or manager who violates this rule will be subject to discipline, to be imposed by the Executive Committee, as set forth in section II. below, and/or a referral for potential criminal prosecution.

G. No Smoking, Vaping or Tobacco Products

There will be no smoking, vaping or use of other tobacco products on the field, in the stands or in the dugout.

H. No Alcoholic Beverages, Illegal Drugs or Marijuana

This is a children's game which is attended by families. No alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs or marijuana are allowed, either on the field, in the stands or in the dugout. This includes during the game, warm ups or during any practice for a CHPBA team.

While CHPBA recognizes that such substances may be legal, it is the league's intention that they should not be used or consumed during a children's sporting event, either by a manager or coach on the field, or by any spectator in the stands.

Any manager, coach or spectator who brings alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs or marijuana onto the field or into the dugout will be immediately removed or ejected from the game or practice. Such an instance will lead to additional discipline, to be imposed by the Executive Committee, as set forth in section II. below.

Any spectator who consumes alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs or marijuana in the stands during a game, warm up or practice may be removed or ejected from the game or practice by the umpire and/or the team manager. Such an instance may lead to additional discipline, to be imposed by the Executive Committee, as set forth in section II. below.

In addition, any manager, coach or spectator who is visibly or obviously under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs or marijuana during a game, warm up or practice may be removed or ejected from the game or practice by the umpire and/or the team manager. Such an instance may lead to additional discipline, to be imposed by the Executive Committee, as set forth in section II. below.

I. No Weapons

No weapons are permitted at any CHPBA event, including practices, games or warm ups. This includes, but is not limited to firearms of any kind, knives of any kind, pepper spray or mace. Any spectator, coach or manager who violates this rule will be ejected from the game area by the umpire and/or the team manager. Such an instance will lead to additional discipline, to be imposed by the Executive Committee, as set forth in section II. below, and/or a referral for potential criminal prosecution.

J. No Throwing of Equipment

Players who intentionally throw bats, protective headgear, or who discard protective headgear while batting or running the bases, may be ejected from the game following completion of any play in progress at the time the violation occurs. Such action does not constitute an out and such players shall be replaced as batters or baserunners, if appropriate.

Unintentional throwing or discarding of equipment described in the paragraph above may result in a warning of either the player or the team. Subsequent incidents may result in an out being called or ejection of the player or both based on the judgment of the umpire.

K. No Attempts to Injure

Actions by players that are intended to cause harm to another player will not be tolerated (e.g., a pitcher purposely throwing at a batter or a base runner deliberately trying to injure an opponent during a play). Managers or coaches who encourage or tolerate such behavior by their players shall be subject to discipline for the actions of their players.

L. Special Manager and Coach Responsibilities

(1) Managers and coaches are representatives of CHPBA. As such, they should honor, respect and sportsmanship at all times. They should also motivate their players to conduct themselves with honor, respect and sportsmanship at all times.

(2) It is the duty of the manager to make sure he or she or another responsible adult is present at the scheduled time of all games and practices.

(3) Managers, coaches and players shall remain in the area of their designated dugout or on the bench at all times unless otherwise required to be in the field of play (e.g., base coaches, etc.). Managers should make a reasonable effort to keep spectators (other than scorekeepers and scoreboard operators) from standing behind the backstop and involve the umpire so that such persons are not a distraction to the batter or the pitcher.

M. Special Player Responsibilities

Players are representatives of CHPBA. They should conduct themselves with honor and sportsmanship at all times. They should also demonstrate respect for the umpires, managers and coaches on both teams, their teammates, opposing players and spectators at all times.

N. Additional Grounds for Discipline

The CHPBA Board and the Executive Committee specifically reserve the right to institute discipline, subject to the procedures set forth below, as to any manager, coach, player, family or spectator who engages in conduct which the Executive Committee in its discretion deems harmful to the overall mission of CHPBA and/or the functioning of CHPBA.

II. DISCIPLINE

Violations of this Code of Conduct, expressly or impliedly, are subject to disciplinary actions by CHPBA. The discussion of discipline herein is not intended to be exhaustive, as situations may arise which were not contemplated by the drafters, or do not specifically fall within the plain language of this Code of Conduct. Such actions will be subject to discipline under the same principles and considerations outlined herein, at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

A. Player Specific Rules

A manager may suspend a player for one game if the player is disobedient or engages in unsportsmanlike conduct. Prior to such manager-imposed suspension, the manager must immediately notify the player's parents and the Division Commissioner stating the reasons for the suspension. The manager-imposed suspension shall be subject to the review and approval of the Division Commissioner. Longer suspensions may only be made by the Executive Committee.

Player violations of this Code of Conduct may also be subject to disciplinary actions by CHPBA's Executive Committee as set forth below. In the case of player discipline, longer than suspension for one game pursuant to the above, a member of the Executive Committee shall, upon evidence of misconduct of any player, notify the manager of the team of which the player is a member and the parents of any such player who is less than 18 years of age, within 48 hours of the Executive Committee learning of the act. The manager shall appear with the player before the Executive Committee for consideration of appropriate action. The player's parents or guardian shall be advised of and invited to attend such meeting.

B. Disciplinary Actions for Managers, Coaches, Players, Spectators and Other Participants

Managers, coaches, players, spectators, and other participants in CHPBA engage with each other in a variety of roles – as managers, coaches, players, spectators, administrators, and parents. There are a myriad of circumstances too numerous to describe in which conflicts may arise. Recognizing the difficulty of establishing specific penalties for all situations, the Executive Committee, in consultation with the respective Division Commissioners, shall have the exclusive discretion to impose penalties and other disciplinary actions to be taken against any manager, coach, player, spectator or other participant who violates this Code of Conduct, or engages in any other unacceptable conduct which violates the intent and spirit of this Code of Conduct, or is deemed to be detrimental to CHPBA. The Executive Committee has the exclusive discretion in determining whether the complained of conduct falls within the latter two categories, and be subject to discipline under these rules.

In fashioning a disciplinary action that meets the severity of the offense, CHPBA may impose a variety of sanctions included but not limited to the following:

- (1) Warning. The offending manager, coach, player, spectator or other participant is advised of the offense in writing and notified that repetition of the offense will result in a more severe penalty.

(2) Suspension. The offending manager, coach, player, spectator or other participant is advised in writing that he or she has been suspended from any and all league activities for a specific number of games or days.

(3) Dismissal. The offending manager, coach, player, spectator or other participant is advised in writing that he or she has been dismissed from the league for the remainder of the current season.

(4) Expulsion from the league. The offending manager, coach, player, spectator or other participant is 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 seasons.

CHPBA specifically reserves the right to impose the foregoing discipline on any family member of the offending coach, manager, player, spectator or other participant if it is necessary to do so in order to formulate an appropriate response to a disciplinary situation, and to effectuate the intent of the disciplinary action. Such a decision is within the exclusive discretion of the Executive Committee.

C. Illegal and Ineligible Player Penalties

(1) Penalty for use of illegal players may include forfeiture of games in which such players participated; provided such games are protested by any of the league managers or officers in writing within 48 hours of the game or games in question. An illegal player is one who is not legally a member of a team as stated in the applicable rules for that Division.

(2) Penalty for use of an ineligible player, upon appeal by the opposing manager or notification by the official scorer or league officers, when the official scorebook or other league records verify the ineligibility of the player concerned, may include the immediate removal of the player from the lineup and ejection of the team manager from the game. Both the player and the manager may be declared ineligible to participate in the next scheduled game played by the team.

i. An ineligible player is one who is legally a member of the team, but who is ineligible to play or to pitch in a particular game or games because of the limitations set forth in the Division of Pony National rules, or as the result of a previous rules violation or disciplinary action.

ii. For purposes of interpreting this rule, a player shall not be considered in violation of the rules until at least one pitch has been thrown to the batter after the point of violation.

iii. In the event the manager of an ineligible player refuses to remove the player from the lineup and the manager does not leave the field when the appeal is made, and verified, the game is subject to forfeit.

iv. When the ineligible status of a player is not established until after completion of the game, the game shall stand as played, but the player and manager shall be ineligible to participate in the next game played by the team, or the next game played after the ineligible status has been determined.

D. Game Protest Procedures

(1) What may constitute a protest

i. A protest can only be made on a rule infraction and not on the umpire's judgment.

ii. If the protesting team wins the game, the protest shall not be filed.

(2) Protest procedure

i. The umpire and the opposing manager must be notified at the time of the particular occurrence, before the next pitch, that the manager is protesting or the protest cannot be made.

ii. After the game, the protest must be made in writing and turned into the Division Commissioner within 48 hours.

iii. The protest must be specific, listing:

- (a) the date
- (b) the time
- (c) the inning
- (d) the teams involved
- (e) the diamond number
- (f) the umpire's name
- (g) a complete description of the play and the rule violated

iv. Statements from the umpire and witnesses should be included.

v. All protests will be judged and settled by the Executive Committee and their decision will be final. Before the protest is determined, both managers or their representatives will be given an opportunity to explain their account of the circumstances and views on the protest.

vi. Any member of the Executive Committee involved in the protest under consideration shall not vote or participate in the deliberations, other than as an involved party, as provided above.

vii. If the replay of a game or a portion thereof is deemed advisable, it shall only be played if it could have a bearing on the playoffs. The game shall be scheduled as soon as possible.

E. Appeals

Any adult (persons 18 years of age or older) who is suspended, removed or otherwise disciplined by the Executive Committee in consultation with the respective Division Commissioners, shall have the right to appeal such action before the Executive Committee at a special meeting called for that purpose.

Written notice of the action of the Executive Committee in suspending, removing or otherwise disciplining said person must be sent within forty-eight (48) hours of the Executive Committee's final decision regarding the discipline. The written notice must specify the reasons for said discipline and indicate to said person that they have five (5) days from the date the discipline notice was sent in which to file a written appeal with the Secretary, and that such appeal will temporarily "stay" the discipline until the appeal hearing has taken place. The appeal hearing must be held within ten (10) days of the filing of the appeal, and all Executive Committee members as well as said person should be notified by the Secretary of the date, time and place of the hearing. After a full appeal hearing, the Executive Committee may choose to reinstate the discipline, impose greater or less sanctions, or do away with the discipline entirely.

Any adult (persons 18 years of age or older) whose discipline is upheld by the Executive Committee after an appeal shall have the right to appeal such action of the Executive Committee before the Board

of Directors at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose. Written notice of the decision of the Executive Committee in acting on the appeal must be sent within forty-eight (48) hours of the Executive Committee's final decision regarding the appeal. The written notice must specify the reasons for said decision, and indicate to said person that they have five (5) days from the date the notice of decision on appeal was sent in which to file a written appeal with the Secretary, and that such appeal will temporarily "stay, the discipline until the appeal hearing in front of the entire Board has taken place. The appeal hearing must be held within ten (10) days of the filing of the appeal, and all Board members as well as said person should be notified by the Secretary of the date, time and place of the hearing. After a full appeal hearing, the Board may choose to reinstate the discipline, impose greater or less sanctions, or do away with the discipline entirely.

None of the time frames set forth above are intended to be jurisdictional, or to negate the Board's right to impose discipline where appropriate. Such time frames may be waived by at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

DISCLAIMER

The CHPBA Board of Directors reserves the right to modify, change, delete or add to any of the items contained in this Code of Conduct, Disciplinary Rules and Protest Procedures.