

# **THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF BANNOCK BASEBALL INC.**

## **SECTION I—LEAGUE ORGANIZATION**

Bannock Baseball, Inc. (“BBI”) shall be governed by a Board of Directors (“the Board”), who shall elect Officers to run the league.

## **SECTION II—OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES**

The Official Baseball Rules found at mlb.com, as amended annually, govern the playing of baseball games unless otherwise superseded as follows: The special rules of Pony Baseball, Inc., have been adopted by BBI which may modify the Official Baseball Rules for use in games sponsored by BBI. Also, the Board has modified some rules and regulations which ay supersede the rules of professional baseball and Pony Baseball, Inc. Such rules and regulations are set forth herein.

## **SECTION III—COACHES**

1. The Board shall review applicants for coaching positions. Head coaches shall be selected on a yearly basis for each playing season unless removed for disciplinary reasons. Head coaches shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
2. New coaches, or coaches changing divisions, approved by the Board, shall receive teams by lottery drawn out at random. If there are more coaches applying than there are teams to a coach, a Board Director will have preference over a Non-Board Director only as to becoming a coach. If a new coach has a child who is a second year player on a team, the new applying coach will be given preference as to coaching that team, upon Board approval. Coaches shall coach in their respective boundaries unless there is a need for a coach in another boundary and the coach is willing to coach outside their normal boundary, upon board approval.
3. Coaches shall be responsible for all equipment and uniforms assigned to them. The coach shall account for all equipment checked out to them at the end of the season. Failure to do so will result in a coach having to reimburse BBI for financial loss, and/or the Coach may lose his coaching position for the following season.
4. The home team coach shall be responsible for providing the scorekeeper for the game, and for reporting game results and scores.
5. Coaches and their players shall be responsible for cleaning out their dugouts and the bleachers on their side of the field following each game.
6. Both coaches shall also be responsible for raking the infield following their game and filling in any holes which have resulted during the game.

#### **SECTION IV–REGISTRATION**

1. The player birth date cutoff is April 30<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, the age the player is on May 1<sup>st</sup> shall determine the league in which they play that season.

Age Groups:

Pinto 7 & 8

Mustang 9 & 10

Bronco 11 & 12

Pony 13 – 15

2. The seasonal registration fee in all divisions must be paid in full to City of Pocatello for each player on the roster of each team prior to the start of the season. A player shall not be permitted to play in any division until the correct amount has been paid. Any player registering late shall be charged an additional late fee as set by the City of Pocatello Parks and Recreation Department and be put on a waiting list for team availability.

#### **SECTION V–TRYOUTS AND DRAFTING PROCEDURES**

1. Tryout and draft dates shall be set each season by the Board.

2. Any second year player requesting a team release must submit the reason for the release in writing to the President of BBI. The request will then be taken under consideration by the Board. Upon approval from the Board, the player will be placed back in the draft as a second year draft choice.

3. Children of head coaches playing on the team their parent coaches shall automatically be on their parent's team.

4. If a child is drafted in a round, and they have a sibling, the sibling must be drafted in the next round automatically.

5. If a team is dropped from the league, all returning players from that team will reenter the draft.

6. New teams will automatically be given first pick in the draft if more than one team is new then it will be by blind draw between the new teams.

7. Players who do not attend tryouts shall be picked by lottery at random in the last round of the draft, along with all remaining last round draftees.

9. Draft selection shall be determined by the position of the teams' regular season league standing in the previous year. The last place team will receive first pick and the first place team last pick.

10. Standings will be determined by win/loss percentage. In case of a tie, the first tie breaker is head-to-head meetings, the second tie breaker is the record against higher ranked teams, the third tie breaker is total runs allowed in head to

head play and the fourth will be a coin flip. This tie breaker system will be used to determine final standings, which will be used to determine draft positions for next year and tournament seeding for this year.

11. All teams will draft in every round until they have 7-8 players, at which time they will sit out until the final rounds of the draft. All teams will draft in the final rounds, which are reserved for the drafting of players not seen at the tryouts and those remaining to be picked. In each round the coach may pick either a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year player, but at the end of the draft all teams shall be as equal as possible with the number of 2<sup>nd</sup> year players. Coaches will be notified as to how many 2<sup>nd</sup> year players each team needs to balance out the draft. This rule is designed to encourage coaches to call all of their prior year players to have them sign up by the deadline. To provide some flexibility in this rule, the Board will address special cases only as they arise.

**12. After draft night, rosters are final.**

**SECTION VI - PLAYING RULES**

1. All teams must begin and end each game with at least eight players, or a forfeit will result. Also, all players must bat the entire game; all players must also play defense a minimum of 3 innings per game. Therefore, no player shall sit out more than two consecutive innings unless injured or extenuating circumstances exists.

2. It is the coaches' responsibility to see that all male catchers are wearing an athletic supporter with a cup and protective head gear while warming up the pitcher, playing a game, or practicing.

3. All catchers must wear a protective throat guard while warming up the pitcher, catching in a game or practicing. This applies to players only, not adult coaches.

4. All base runners are required to wear helmets. The umpire shall not allow a player to enter the batter's box without proper equipment.

5. Mustang and Bronco players shall not wear metal cleats.

6. There shall be no chatter or negative comments by players or especially coaches. Cheering for players is encouraged

7. Pony pitchers shall pitch a maximum of 7 innings per game and 10 innings per week. If they pitch more than 3 innings in one game, 40 hours of rest is required before pitching again. Bronco pitchers shall pitch a maximum of 3 innings per game and 10 innings per week. Mustang pitchers shall pitch a maximum of 2 innings per game, and 6 innings per week. For tournament play, the same per game maximums shall apply, but there shall be no weekly maximum. During the regular season, innings pitched by a player in out-of-league games, including

scrimmages and super league games, shall be counted towards the players weekly maximum.

8. A base coach at either 1<sup>st</sup> base or 3<sup>rd</sup> base may not have foreign objects, other than a line-up, in his hands while in the coaches' box.

9. All regular season games will start at 6:00 P.M.

10. Coaches must report substitutions to the official scorekeeper.

11. Coaches must submit a batting order to the scorekeeper and other coach at least **15 minutes** prior to their scheduled game time.

12. Only one paid umpire (home plate) shall work Mustang and Bronco games. The home team coach shall be responsible for designating a volunteer, parent or otherwise, to act as base umpire for the game.

13. Home team will be the first team listed on the schedule.

Home Team	3 <sup>rd</sup> Base Dugout
Visiting Team	1 <sup>st</sup> Base Dugout

14. There will be 10 minutes of infield allowed for each team.

Visiting Team	5:35 to 5:45
Home Team	5:45 to 5:55

15. Warm up pitches.

- A. Start of the game 10 pitches or 2 minutes
- B. Substitute 10 pitches or 2 minutes
- C. Between innings 5 pitches or 1 minute

16. Coaches shall use their best efforts to speed the games along without delay, between innings. **No new inning shall start after 1 hour 50 minutes from the start of game.** Home plate umpire shall declare start of game time to scorekeeper.

17. Runners will be called out if they intentionally remove their helmet while running bases.

18. Each team will be allowed two base coaches. Bat boys must wear protective headgear and remain out of the way during play.

19. Only one on-deck batter will be allowed in the on-deck circle at one time.

20. Other than the batter, on-deck batter, and base coaches, all coaches, players and equipment shall remain off the field, and in the dug out, or behind fences. A coach may stand or sit in the dugout entryway.

21. All base runners must slide at second base, third base, and home plate, if there is any possibility of a defensive play. It will be the umpire's discretion as to calling a runner out for a violation of this rule. Therefore, when in doubt, players should slide.

22. There is a non-aggression rule for all base runners. This is an umpire's judgment call. If, in the umpire's opinion, a base runner intentionally makes contact or tries to make contact with a defensive player, he is in violation of this rule. Penalties will range from warning the player, to calling the player out and imposing the interference rule if applicable, to ejection of the player from the game, depending on the severity of the offense.

23. Regulation games shall be seven innings in duration in Bronco and Pony League. Mustang games shall be six innings in duration, and shall be subject to the special rules set forth in Section VII.

24. Bronco and Pony League 10 Run Rule: If a team is leading its opponent by at least 10 runs after 5 innings (or 4 and ½) have been played and the home team is ahead, the game shall be terminated and the team in front is declared the winner. Mustang League will play a 14 Run Rule: If a team is leading by at least 14 runs after 4 innings (or 3 and ½), and if the home team is ahead then the game shall be terminated and the team in front declared the winner.

25. Defensive players may not block the base path without possession of the ball. The runner will be called safe if the defensive player is deemed to have blocked the base path without possession of the ball.

26. If a game is to be called for any reason, only an authorized league official or umpire may call the game.

27. If a game is to be protested, it shall be properly communicated right then and/or not later than the end of the game. The coach calling the protest must inform the umpire, opposing coach and the scorekeeper, in that order. **The making of a protest will not be permitted to hold up the game nor should time be taken to look up the rules.** The game will continue from the time the protest is made. All protests must be filed in writing (email accepted) with the League Commissioner within 48 hours from the time the game started. The League Commissioner shall rule on the protest within 5 days after receiving the protests, excluding weekends and holidays. Any Appeal of the League Commissioner's decision must be filed in writing with the Board. The Board will render its decision within 5 days excluding weekends and holidays. All protests and appeals must be in writing. Note: A protest cannot be made in a judgment call.

28. For tournament play, the home team shall be the higher seeded team (lower

number in the seeding rankings). With the exception of the final tournament game. In a double elimination format. The unbeaten team shall be the home team.

### **SECTION VII–PLAYING RULES FOR MUSTANG ONLY**

1. There is not a penalty for a balk in Mustang. The opposing coach can bring it to the attention of the umpire; the umpire will stop the game and show the pitcher what he is doing wrong. A quick pitch or an illegal pitch with the bases unoccupied shall be called a ball unless the batter reaches 1<sup>st</sup> base on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batter or otherwise. Runners may advance at own risk.

2. A batter cannot advance to 1<sup>st</sup> base on a dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike. Base runners may advance at own risk.

3. Runners may steal bases, but may not leave the base they are occupying at the time of the pitch until the pitched ball has reached or passed the catcher. Once the pitcher has stepped on the rubber with the ball in his possession, runners who leave the base before the pitched ball reaches or passes the catcher shall be called out and the pitch shall be considered a dead ball.

4. As to any base runner who has made a move to advance to the next base or home plate, once the runner makes a move to retreat to his former base, they must return to such former base, unless they are already involved in a rundown, in which case the rundown play shall be completed. This rule is to avoid “dancing” which occurs between bases, especially between 3<sup>rd</sup> base and home plate.

5. Regulation games shall consist of 6 innings in Mustang games cannot go past 9 innings. Each team will bat each inning until they have a maximum of 7 runs or 3 outs, whichever comes first. The 6<sup>th</sup> inning or extra inning will be played in accordance with the Pony Baseball Rules and Regulations. No player can sit more the 2 consecutive innings and must play at least two innings per game unless a shortened game occurs.

### **SECTION VIII–DISCIPLINE**

1. A league official and/or umpire can end a game prior to its regular completion because of parental harassment, foul language, and/or unsportsmanlike conduct. The team whose parents are causing the disturbance will forfeit whether winning or losing. It is the coaches’ responsibility to control the parents of the players on his team.

2. Any player, head coach, manager, or assistant coach caught throwing or damaging equipment belonging to BBI will be suspended for the remainder of the game. This also includes in practice. An authorized league official or umpire will enforce this rule. It is the responsibility of the coaches to maintain an acceptable behavior and control over the ballplayers.

3. The use of tobacco in any form will not be allowed during the games on or off the field by the players, coaches or assistant coaches. Any player or coach using tobacco in any form during the game will be suspended from that game and in the next scheduled game.

4. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the playing field or where spectators are watching the ball game. If it is brought to the attention of a league official that someone is in violation of this rule, the official will ask them to dispose of the beverage or leave the park. The game will be stopped until the violator responds accordingly.

5. Any disciplinary action regarding players, coaches, or umpires is to be administered by the officers of BBI, who shall have the authority to suspend, discharge or otherwise discipline any person whose conduct is in violation of the rules and regulations or whose actions are considered detrimental to the best interests of BBI.

6. In recognition of the difficulty of establishing specific penalties for a variety of possible violations of acceptable conduct, the following penalties will be suggested: (The Officers may impose the penalty which appears to match the severity of the offense).

- a. **Warning:** The offending person is to be advised in writing that repetition of the offense will result in more severe penalty
- b. **Suspension:** The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been suspended from all league activity for a specific number of games or days.
- c. **Dismissal:** The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been dismissed from further participation in the league for the remainder of the current year.
- d. **Banned:** The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been banned from present and future participation in the league for a specific number of years or permanently.

7. Individuals have the right to appeal all actions or decisions regarding such affected party provided the following procedure is followed: The appealing party must submit in writing the nature of the appeal and request for a hearing to the Board for consideration and decision. The Board will meet and investigate the appeal, and a hearing will be held if requested. A final decision will then be rendered by the by the Board.