

Morgan Hill Pony Baseball



1. CLUB BALL PHILOSOPHY

Morgan Hill Pony Baseball (MHPB) is committed to providing talented baseball players with a Club Ball option. The MHPB Club Ball program is designed for players who consistently demonstrate advanced baseball skills. It's intended for players who wish to compete at a higher level. Club Ball teams demand a lot of time from their players and coaches. These players have good baseball knowledge, demonstrate proper mechanics, and always work hard to help their team win. If you like spending your weekends playing baseball and competing at a higher level this program is for you.

2. ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

Club Ball teams will be organized and formed by age groups similar to the regular season divisions. All Club Ball teams will play under the name of "**Morgan Hill Club**". Below are examples of Club Ball teams that can be formed. It depends on the number of players interested to determine how teams will form:

Pony Division Club Ball Teams

Morgan Hill Club 14U

Morgan Hill Club 13U

Bronco Division Club Ball Teams

Morgan Hill Club 12U

Morgan Hill Club 11U

Mustang Division Club Ball Teams

Morgan Hill Club 10U

Morgan Hill Club 9U

Pinto Division Club Ball Team

Morgan Hill Club 8U

If there's more than one team in an age group they will still be called Morgan Hill Club and also include a color of White or Gray in their name. For example, if there are two Mustang 10U teams they will be named:

Morgan Hill Club 10U - White

Morgan Hill Club 10U - Gray

(White or Gray will be the color of their pants)

3. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS

Players who wish to play on an MHPB Club Ball team must also be registered on a MHPB Spring season team and must follow regular season participation rules as stated in MHPB League Rules. Players who wish to play on a Club Ball team must attend a Club Ball team tryout. This is not an evaluation, rather it's a tryout. A player could tryout and not be selected to play on a Club Ball team.

4. TEAM TRYOUTS

Club Ball tryouts will take place on a date to be determined. Practices will be at Britton Middle School, typically on Sunday, date and time is TBD. The Club Ball tryout is open to all Spring MHPB registered

players. The Club Ball tryout is a separate tryout from the Spring season player evaluations. Spring season player evaluations do not replace Club Ball tryouts. There's no extra fees charged to try out for Club Ball.

5. PLAYER SELECTION

Player selection for Club Ball teams will be based on a player's ability to demonstrate advanced baseball skills during the Club Ball tryout. Areas of focus will be on pitching, hitting, infield ground balls, outfield pop flies, base running, strong accurate throws in both infield and outfield, and their ability to demonstrate good sportsmanship. Players who are not on an MHPB regular season team are not eligible to be on a MHPB Club Ball team. Club Ball teams will not have more than 12 players on the roster. The team manager will make the final decision on who makes the team and who doesn't.

6. MANAGERS AND COACHES

Managers and coaches who are interested in Club Ball teams should express interest by contacting the Club Ball Director (club@mhp.org). Division Directors are encouraged to recommend potential managers and coaches for Club Ball teams. Club Ball managers and coaches will have completed all mandatory MHPB coaching requirements. The MHPB Board will approve the managers and coaches of the Club Ball teams.

7. MINIMUM PLAY TIME

There is no minimum playtime rule for players on Club Ball teams. This means a player may come to a tournament but not play in all games. This can happen due the competitive nature of Club Ball tournaments. This typically only happens when a mercy (run) rule is met in a short period of time. It can also happen in championship games. Club Ball teams will not have more than 12 players on the roster. Limiting rosters to 12 players, maximum, helps to give players their best chance for play time.

8. 2017 SEASON SCHEDULE

Club Ball teams will startup shortly after Spring season starts and end no later than July 31st which is the last day of the travel baseball season. Club Ball practices will be primarily on Sunday at Britton school baseball fields.

Possible Tournament Dates: (Locations subject to availability).

- Club Ball Weekend – March 4th - 5th
- Spring Break Weekend – April 8th - 9th
- Easter Saturday – April 15th
- Club Ball Weekend – April 29th – 30th (Britton Carnival weekend)
- Club Ball Weekend – June 3rd – 4th (Weekend following Memorial All Stars)
- Possibly a couple tournaments after Spring season ends, but not after July 31st.

9. FEES

A. Each player shall pay \$175 startup fee payable to MHPB in the form of a check. This \$175 startup fee provides each player with a Jersey, Hat, and covers the first two tournaments. This fee will be due prior to the first tournament. If you haven't paid your \$175 startup fee you will not get your Jersey and Hat or be able to play in any Club Ball tournaments until the \$175 fee is paid. An additional \$100 will be collected at the first practice following the first tournament to pay entry fees into the next two tournaments.

B. In the event your fees are paid, and later you determine your player cannot make a tournament or game, you are not entitled to a refund.

C. Each player will also need to purchase their own cleats, pants, socks, belt, helmet, bat, athletic protective cup, glove(s) or mitt(s), batting gloves, and any other baseball accessories they wish to use.

D. Any Club Ball tournaments hosted by MHPB are free for all MHPB Club Ball teams. Any Club Ball tournaments NOT hosted by MHPB will be paid for by the Morgan Hill Club team separately. For example if a Morgan Hill Club ball team plays in a tournament at Twin Creeks each player can expect to pay a tournament fee of \$50 or more per tournament. Fees in the form of a check payable to MHPB must be given to the Club Ball manager who will turn in all money collected to the MHPB Treasurer. Gate fees, parking fees, food, lodging and any other travel expenses are also paid for separately by the player and not by MHPB.

E. Additional fees can be requested. For example, if an MHPB Club Ball team scrimmages another team any umpire fees will be paid for separately by the teams participating in the scrimmages.

10. UNIFORMS

A. All Morgan Hill Club teams will have the same color jersey and hat regardless of the age group/team. The belt and socks will be black. The pants will be white. If there is a second team in the same age group their pants will be gray. Having the same uniforms across all Club Ball teams helps build the Morgan Hill Club brand. It also helps managers call up players from the lower age group if they need to borrow a player to fill a roster spot for a game or tournament. An example could be a 10U manager can bring up a 9U player for a 10U tournament if “both” Club Ball managers (9U & 10U) and the player agree.

B. Players will be asked to pick 3 uniform numbers in order of preference. A player can have their first uniform number preference if it’s not already taken. If their first preference is taken then their second uniform number choice will be given. If that number is taken then their 3rd choice will be given.

11. REGULAR SEASON, MEMORIAL DAY and ALL STARS GAMES & CLUB BALL

Club Ball teams will not play in tournaments that conflict with any MHPB regular or post season game. Regular season games always have priority over Club Ball. Club Ball is a 2nd priority to regular season games.

12. MEMORIAL DAY and ALL STARS & CLUB BALL

The MHPB Memorial Day and All Star selections processes does not consider a players Club Ball status. There is no guarantee that a Club Ball player will be selected for an MHPB Memorial Day or All Star team. Club Ball teams will not play “as a team” during Memorial Day or All Stars. Memorial Day and All Star teams will be formed according to the MHPB Memorial Day and All Star selections processes.

13. TOURNAMENT RULES

All Club teams will follow Pony National Tournament Rules whenever possible.

TOURNAMENT PITCHING RULES

A. MHPB pitching rules will be followed. These pitching rules are found on the affidavit.

B. Club Ball managers need to confirm with division Directors their players pitch counts to know how many pitches and innings a player can pitch before they are pitched out and need to be removed from the mound.

14. CONCERNS

Any concern involving a Club Ball player or a Club Ball team should first be addressed to the Club Ball team Manager, the Club Ball Director, and the Player Agent (in that order). The Club Ball team Manager should be the first to know any concerns and have the opportunity to resolve it.