

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 exclusively for players who consistently demonstrate advanced baseball skills. It's intended for players who wish to compete at a higher level than they experience on their regular season team. This program is for players who love baseball. Club Ball teams demand a lot of time from their players and coaches. These players have good baseball knowledge, demonstrate proper mechanics, and always help their team win. If you like spending your weekends playing baseball 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 Toros**". Below are examples of Club Ball teams that can be formed depending on the number of interested players available to form teams:

Pony Division Club Ball Teams

Morgan Hill Toros 14U
Morgan Hill Toros 13U

Bronco Division Club Ball Teams

Morgan Hill Toros 12U
Morgan Hill Toros 11U

Mustang Division Club Ball Teams

Morgan Hill Toros 10U
Morgan Hill Toros 9U

Pinto Division Club Ball Teams

Morgan Hill Toros 8U

If there's more than one team in an age group they will still be called Morgan Hill Toros 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 Toros 10U - White
Morgan Hill Toros 10U - Gray
(White or Gray will be the color of their pants)

3. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS

Players who wish to play on a 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 team tryouts will be held on Saturday February 6th at Britton Middle School. This tryout is a separate tryout from the spring season player evaluations. Club Ball tryouts are free for all MHPB players. There's no extra fees charged to tryout.

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 a MHPB regular season team are not eligible to be on a MHPB Club Ball team.

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. Managers and coaches MUST have completed all mandatory MHPB coaching clinics and first aid classes. The MHPB board will make the final decision on who manages and coaches our 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 all practices and games but never play in the tournament. This is unlikely to happen but can happen due the competitive nature of Club Ball tournaments. A manager will be selecting players they want to play, not players they want to sit.

8. SEASON SCHEDULE

Club Ball teams will startup when spring season starts and end on 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 are suggestions & can change if they sellout)

- Easter Saturday (March 26) TPR: Modesto 8U-14U, Rainbow Fields
- Spring Break Weekend (April 16-17) TPR: Ripon 8U-14U, Mistlin Fields
- Cinco De Mayo Weekend (May 7-8) NCTB: Twin Creeks/Manteca/Mather
- Club Ball Weekend (June 18-19) NCTB: San Jose Area 10U-14U & TPR 8U-9U, Mistlin Fields
- Possibly a couple tournaments after spring season ends, but not after July 31st.

During the August timeframe MHPB will hold another Club Ball team tryout for the upcoming Summer/Fall season. At that time Club Ball teams will be reformed and startup again. Tryouts will be for both new and returning players. All players must tryout including returning players.

9. **FEES**

A. Each player shall pay \$100 startup fee payable to MHPB. This \$100 fee provides each player with a practice shirt, hat, league insurance, practice baseballs, and a maintained practice field. If you haven't paid your \$100 startup fee you will not be able to practice with the team until the \$100 fee is paid. An additional \$50 will be collected for the team Jersey after the team is formed.

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

C. Club Ball tournaments hosted by MHPB are free for all Morgan Hill Toros players. Any Club Ball tournaments NOT hosted by MHPB will be paid for by the Morgan Hill Toros team separately. For example if a Morgan Hill Toros 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 must be paid to the Club Ball manager before the tournament starts. If you haven't paid the tournament fee you will not be able to play in that tournament. Gate fees, parking fees, food, lodging and any other travel expenses are also paid for separately by the player and not by MHPB.

D. If a 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 Toros teams will have the same color jersey and hat regardless of the age group/team. The socks, belt and any long sleeve undershirts will be black. The pants will be gray. If there is a second team in the same age group their pants will be white. Having the same uniforms in all Club Ball teams helps build the Morgan Hill Toros 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.

C. Uniforms will also have the player's LAST name on the back of the jersey.

11. **Tournament Rules**

All Club teams will follow Pony National Tournament Rules whenever possible. If a MHPB Club Team is playing in a tournament with different rules then those rules should be followed unless Pony National Tournament rules can be transparently followed in that tournament.

TOURNAMENT PITCHING RULES

A. MHPB pitching rules will be followed.

B. Pony National Tournament pitching rules will not be followed.

C. Club Ball managers need to check with the division directors to know how many pitches and innings a player can pitch before they are pitched out.

12. CONCERNS

Any concern involving a Club Ball player or team should first be addressed to the Club Ball team manager, the Club Ball Director, 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.