

## DHYS Pre-Season Coaches Brief

### 1) Use of sheds and field supplies

- a. When you leave a shed, you should close the door and lock it. Do not leave sheds unattended with the door open.
- b. If you return a pitching machine, you should secure it with the chain. It should always be upright. Pitching machines should only be used for games or team practices. They should NOT be used for personal practices.
- c. Diamond dry:
  - i. Do not attempt to get a field into playing condition by spreading bags of diamond dry. This will eventually make the infield worse. Diamond dry is designed to be mixed with dirt.
  - ii. Bags of diamond dry should not be left outside of the sheds. The bags deteriorate and the diamond dry absorbs water, making it useless
- d. Lime/Paint:
  - i. Lime should be applied to the foul lines and batters box where there is DIRT
  - ii. Paint should be applied to foul line where there is GRASS.
- e. Lost & Found: The shed at between fields 2 & 3 has been designated the drop-off point for lost and found objects in the park. The DHYS website has a notice to this effect.

### 2) Use of field areas and batting cages

- a. DO NOT SOFT TOSS AGAINST THE FENCES!!!!
  - i. Use the soft-toss nets or use a personal, self-standing net. One net is currently available by the batting cages. Two more will be installed prior to this season.
- b. If you remove equipment such as batting helmets from the field, please return it to the same bin or bag that it was removed from.
- c. If you see a piece of equipment that is labeled for a specific field that is out of place, please take the time to return it to the correct location.
- d. Please turn the lights off immediately after a game or practice ends. These lights cost our league approx. \$60 per hour per field. Also, please make sure the scoreboards are turned off. (Code: \_\_\_\_\_)
- e. Do NOT pull your vehicles onto the sidewalks or onto the grass to unload equipment (*park neighbors are watching!*)

### 3) Guidelines for on-field behavior

- a. **Read the Pony and DHYS rulebook.** The manager should have working familiarity with both sets of rules to avoid violating substitution and other rules (see below). Both sets of rules can be found at [www.dhys.org](http://www.dhys.org).
- b. The manager is the only person who can discuss a rule interpretation with an umpire. Judgment calls are NOT subject to discussion.

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- c. The manager is responsible for the conduct of his coaches, players—and parents! If you are having difficulty with an individual, please notify your league director.
- d. (DHYS Rules)
  - i. No player shall be selected for DHYS All-Star teams if during the season he has been suspended for instigating or being involved in physical altercations or otherwise suspended as called for in the DHYS bylaws.
  - ii. Any player or coach ejected during a game for any reason will be suspended in the team's following game. There shall be no appeal.
- e. Pony Rules
  - i. **PROTESTS**
    1. A protest based on a play that involves an umpire's judgment shall not be permitted.
    2. When protests are based on an interpretation of the rules, the objecting manager shall, at the time the play occurs, notify the head umpire, the opposing manager and official scorer that the game is being played under protest, and submit the protest in writing to the league president or secretary, or to the Decisions Committee, within 48 hours of the completion of the game.
      - a. When protests based on the interpretation of a rule are upheld by the Decisions Committee, the game concerned shall be replayed from the point of protest.
      - b. Umpires should make a public announcement to the crowd when a game is being played under protest.
      - c. Any team manager or other adult leader who withdraws a team from the playing field under any circumstances prior to the official completion of the game shall forfeit all rights to protests as prescribed in this section.
  - ii. **GENERAL CONDUCT**
    1. PONY Baseball, Inc., through its headquarters staff and its designated Field Directors, shall reserve the right to withdraw membership from any league, team, player or adult volunteer whose conduct, on or off the playing field, reflects in a manner that is detrimental to the best interests of PONY Baseball, Inc. Please refer to rule 1A concerning PONY's policy on disabilities.
    2. Players or adult volunteers who engage in unsportsmanlike conduct, such as fighting, abusive language or similarly derogatory activity, may be suspended for one or more games.
    3. **Teams, players or adult volunteers in violation of this General Conduct policy may be refused entry.**

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### 4) Operation of field maintenance equipment:

#### a. General rules

- i. The field maintenance equipment is to be used ONLY by managers and coaches or by ADULTS designated as a field prep assistant
- ii. No children should sit on or ride any of the equipment at any time
- iii. Only persons who have been properly trained in the operation of the equipment will be given the combination to the lockbox
- iv. If no one is available who is properly trained and has access to this equipment, the field should be dragged by hand
- v. Persons who use field maintenance equipment improperly will be barred from using equipment in the future.

#### b. SandPro infield groomer

- i. To start the engine
  1. Bring throttle to  $\frac{1}{4}$  position
  2. Pull choke out fully
  3. Turn key to engage starter
  4. Push choke in almost immediately and the engine should start
  5. Never run the starter more than 10 seconds continuously.
- ii. To lift the groomer, raise the throttle to full and then raise the handle on the right side of the machine upward. Make sure the handle returns to the middle position
- iii. To back up, hook your toe under the pedal on the right side of the machine and lift upward. The SandPro will back up.
- iv. To go forward, press the pedal on the right side of the machine downward.
- v. To drag using the rake and/or the brush
  1. Raise throttle to full
  2. Lower the groomer by pushing down on the handle on the right side of the machine until the rake rests on the ground.
  3. Use the same handle to tweak the groomer up a little to reduce drag until the SandPro moves through the infield without too much resistance (a little should be felt). Make sure the handle returns to the middle position.
  4. After a rain, it is recommended to use the rake and NOT the brush. This will roughen the infield dirt to speed up drying.
  5. Before a game, it is recommended to use the rake and the brush.
- vi. When you return the SandPro to the shed, lower the infield groomer until it is in contact with the ground to reduce pressure on the hydraulic seals. Make sure the handle returns to the middle position.
- vii. **Lawn Chief riding lawn mower**
- viii. This machine SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR DRAGGING.

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- ix. This machine should only be used for mowing or pulling the trailer
- x. Operation:
  1. Start the lawn mower using the throttle, choke, and key as with any other type of lawn mower. If you turn the key and nothing happens, make sure the transmission is in neutral, the clutch pedal (left side of machine) is pushed, and that the mower blade is disengaged (handle on the right side of the machine). You must also be seated on the mower. There is a kill switch that shuts off the machine when you get out of the seat.
  2. To move forward, push the clutch, select a speed for the transmission (second handle on the right. Use "3" for mowing and "4" or higher to move forward when not mowing), move the transmission lever in front of the seat to Forward and release the clutch.
  3. To mow, make sure the throttle is up full and the transmission speed handle is in "3". Use the handle on the right to engage the blade and select a height setting.