



Ahwatukee Foothills Pony Baseball

PO BOX 93184, PHOENIX AZ 85070 • PONYBASEBALLAZ.COM

Officers

Jerry Marino
President

Don Ricciotti
Vice President

Bobbye Hicks
Secretary

Barb Phillippi
Treasurer

Dear Ahwatukee Foothills Pony League Parents:

In order to keep you up to date on the happenings in the Ahwatukee Foothills Pony Baseball League, we wanted to send this letter to address several of the questions that have come up. We hope this is informative and answers most of the questions you may have; if not, please don't hesitate to visit the league's web site at www.ponybaseballaz.com or ask your son or daughter's coach or a board member.

Opening Ceremonies

We have streamlined the Opening Ceremonies this year with the event scheduled to last no more than about 45 minutes. The players will march onto the Bronco field at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday March 29, teams, sponsors and last year's All-Star players will be introduced, and we will begin games promptly at 10 a.m.

Snack Bar

All parents are asked to contribute 2 hours during the season as a volunteer in the snack bar. The snack bar is both an outstanding amenity for those attending games and an excellent source of funds for the league. Please work closely with your child's team parent to schedule your shift.

Code of Conduct

AFPBA has a no-tolerance policy regarding verbal abuse of players or umpires by fans, coaches or other players. Any player in violation will be ejected from the game immediately. Parents, fans and others in attendance at games will be asked to leave the field area immediately if deemed in violation, and coaches who violate the policy are subject to suspension from coaching duties and review by the league board of directors prior to being approved to coach in future seasons. Everyone wants to win and their child to do well; let's create a positive atmosphere for our players to make that possible.

Sponsorships

Our league is very fortunate to be supported by wonderful parents, business owners and corporations in our community, as evidenced by the more than \$24,000 in sponsorships we received for the spring 2008 season. Our major league sponsors, Go Wireless, Sweet Tomatoes, Kokopelli Family & Cosmetic Dentistry, Complete Paint & Body Collision Center and Cactus Bike, have been joined by nearly 50 other sponsors to provide funds to prepare and maintain our fields, purchase new baseball equipment, pay for field rentals and many more items that make our league possible. Please support these companies in any way you can to keep them coming back to AFPBA.

Playing Fields

We have made some dramatic improvements to our Mustang and Bronco playing fields this year. You will notice the addition of a new outfield fence on the Bronco field, as well as a new fence for the Mustang division, eliminating the use of cones to define the outfield boundary. We also have upgraded the sprinkler system and brought in a field maintenance supervisor to upgrade the pitchers mounds and infields of both fields, provide ongoing field maintenance and groom both fields prior to each night's games. This allows coaches more time for pre-game preparation with their team. This year, the pinto division will play the majority of their games at Altadena middle school fields. The Shetland division will play the majority of their games on the newly developed Akimel middle school west. The league would like to extend its special thanks to Alan Gobel for all his hard work in providing our boys with a high-quality field on which to play and learn the game of baseball.

D-Back Night

Deadline to purchase tickets is April 5th. The game is against the Phillies on May 6th at 6:40pm. All the teams get to parade on the field prior to the game. It's a fun night and a fundraiser for our league. More information is available on our web site; www.ponybaseballaz.com.



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Umpires

This year, the league offers the youth of our community paid umpire positions. The umpires selected to officiate the pony, bronco and mustang division games must go through a mandatory umpire clinic. Gary Darling, a 22-year veteran of MLB Umpire Association, runs a volunteer umpire clinic for all the boys. Please remember that these umpires are teenagers and will work hard to do their best, but at the same time they are learning each and every day. We ask that you support them and treat them as you would your own child.

End of Season League Tournaments

The Mustang and Bronco divisions will all hold a single-elimination tournament beginning on Monday, May 12 and running through Saturday, May 17. The team from each division with the best record in regular season play will be crowned as season champions.

All-Star Tournaments

AFPBA will send two All-Star teams each from the Mustang and Bronco divisions into the regional Pony Baseball tournament. The coach of the regular-season American Division champion in each division will be the head coach of the first team with the second-place coach leading the second team. Each team will submit up to 4 players names for consideration for the All-Star team, and selections will be made by the coaching staffs in conjunction with the league board of directors. In order to be considered for the team, the players must commit to being available during all tournament dates, which are (dates are approximate within one or two days):

Bronco

Regional Tournament in Scottsdale – July 10-14

Zone Tournament in Valencia, CA – July 31-August 3

World Series in Monterey, CA – August 5-11

Mustang

Regional Tournament in Scottsdale – July 10-14

Zone Tournament in Chino Hills, CA – July 31-August 3

World Series in Irving, TX – August 5-11

Ahwatukee Foothills Pony Baseball provides your child with an outstanding opportunity to learn and play the game of baseball in a fun, safe and sportsmanlike environment. We thank you for supporting the organization and for allowing your child to play, and look forward to a great season.

Sincerely,
Ahwatukee Foothills Pony Baseball Association
Board of Directors

Please patronize our very generous league sponsors!

MAJOR SPONSORS: Go Wireless • Sweat Tomatoes • Kokopelli Dentistry • Cactus Bikes • Complete Paint & Body Collision Center

LEAGUE SPONSORS: Intertec Consulting • Shipping Point Marketing • Adolfson & Peterson, Inc • Honeywell-Consumer Products Group • Indians Team Parents • Sports Castor Group • Reliable Glass • Arizona Rockhill Capital • Specified Electrical Contractors • Big O Tires • Cornerstone Remodeling • LendingByLance.com • D.E. Jones Associates • Pegasus Logistics Group • Triple R Child Care • The Spearnock Family • Dave and Karen Jones • Police Dept., Central City Precinct • DeGraff Insurance • Mary & Mickey Johnson • Robert & Libby Johnson • Cindi & Fred Friedl • Mike & Kate Malone • Newgaard Mechanical • Bank of Arizona • Hercules Industries • Air Specialties Products • W. Johnson Construction, Inc. • Gordon Bergin, Inc. • Bob & Lisa O'Brien • Don May, Realtor • Mark & JaNae Barrow • BP • Bauman, Loewe, Witts & Maxwell, PLLC • The Sheedy Family • Louie & Carla Medina • Premiere Automotive • Achen-Gardner Engineering • Chauck & Lucille Fraas of Realty Executives • Diversified Building Supply • Florencia Pizza Bistro • Snell & Wilmer, LLP • Will & Stacey Lykins, West USA Realtors • Foothill Family Chiropractic • Advanced Coating Systems • Equity Management Group-Mortgage Brokers • Today's Dental