**Center Township Athletic Association**

**Governance for Partner Organizations - Policy**

Article I – Overview of Partner Organizations

Section 1 – Definition and Coverage

Center Township and all leagues playing recreational youth baseball/softball games with Center Township Athletic Association (from here forward known as “Partner Organizations”) are subject to this policy document.

Section 2 – Acknowledgement

Prior to each new season, the President of the Board of Directors for each Partner Organization is required to acknowledge that they have read and accepted the terms of this policy document.

Section 3 – Requirements

All Partner Organizations are required to:

1. Be adequately insured for damage or liability
2. Be incorporated as a legal entity
3. Have documented bylaws
4. Have an elected Board of Directors
5. Have adequate field space to support their organization and games with Partner Organizations

Article II – Game Play Rules

* 1. Partner Organizations will use The Official Rules of Pony Baseball for all age groups.
  2. Representatives from each Partner Organization will provide input to CTAA League Administrators regarding rule modifications for the upcoming Spring and Fall seasons. League Administrators will submit proposed variances from the official Pony rules by March 20th of each year. Variances will be voted on by the CTAA Board of Directors at the regularly scheduled April Meeting (or in a separate session if needed).
  3. Rules will be maintained on the CTAA website for universal understanding between partner organizations.

Article III – Rosters

Rosters for all Partner Organizations shall be constructed with the following constraints:

1. Each League Administrator will be responsible for fair and equal player distribution for all teams within each age group. An evaluation day which rates the players by performance in a series of drills is strongly recommended to assist with player distribution. Equally skilled teams provide a better experience for the vast majority of players and coaches in the league.
2. Equal distribution of pitching talent must be a high priority of each league (where applicable).
3. While CTAA and Partner Organizations can attempt to accommodate parent’s requests for their child to be placed with specific coaches and players, it is our policy to place priority on equal talent distribution well before parent requests. Pairing siblings and children of a manager are exceptions to this policy.
4. Pairing managers with coaches whose children would disrupt the equal player distribution policy must be avoided.
5. At least 2 weeks prior to the start of the season, all Partner Organizations are required to provide evidence to all Partners of their equal player distribution process (eval scores, draft, etc).
6. No roster shall exceed 13 players. Players on partial teams will be shared among partner organizations and assigned teams to ensure equal roster talent as much as practical.

Article IV – Schedules

Game Schedules for all Partner Organizations shall be constructed with the following constraints:

1. Registration for all Partner Organizations will close at least 2 weeks prior to the start of the season to allow adequate time to split teams, identify managers, order uniforms, and create the schedule. An earlier closure is recommended (3-5 weeks), especially for the larger Spring season.
2. Schedules will be drafted to reflect the following criteria (as much as practical):
   1. Equal travel
   2. No games on back-to-back days (especially for player pitch leagues)
   3. No weekend games
   4. Balanced schedule (equal games against each opponent)
3. At least 2 weeks prior to the start of the season, representatives from each Partner Organization, including League Administrators and Schedulers, will meet in person to discuss the upcoming season schedule.
4. During this meeting, all representatives will provide the following inputs:
   1. Ideal season opening and closing dates
   2. Ideal number of games in the season
   3. Dates where entire league or specific teams cannot play
   4. Dates when specific fields are unavailable to play on
   5. Ideal dates for playoff games
5. Based on this meeting, a draft schedule will be assembled, led by a representative from CT. This draft schedule will be sent out no later than 1.5 weeks prior to the season start (but ideally sooner).
6. All Partner Organization representatives may review the draft schedule and provide comments/proposed revisions during a 3 day window after the schedule draft is initially communicated. Partner Organizations are encouraged to share the draft with coaches and other interested parties to obtain all necessary feedback.
7. After making all proposed revisions (as much as practical) the final schedule will be sent to all Partner Organization representatives at least 1 week prior to the start of the season.
8. Schedules will be posted on the Center Township website for mutual understanding across all Partner Organizations.
9. Any schedule revisions (including rain make ups) after the final schedule is created must be agreed upon by both involved coaches and both involved league administrators. As much as possible, rain makeups should be scheduled on a weekend date when fields are available or as a double header on fields with lights.
10. Revisions will be posted on the CT website for universal understanding across all Partner Organizations.
11. Any revisions not agreed upon by both teams will be deemed a forfeit by the team requesting the revision. This is NOT the desired outcome and both coaches should make it a priority to find a date that works for most of their team, even if call-ups are necessary.

Article II – Grievances

Each Partner Organization is required to elect or appoint a Grievance Administrator for their organization that is active throughout the year.

The League Grievance Administrator shall:

1. Maintain an organized list of any grievances filed by individuals participating in their organization.
2. Communicate issues to the Board of Directors of their organization as necessary for further resolution.
3. Directly communicate with individuals that have filed grievances with the league.
4. Communicate with Partner Organization Grievance Administrators on any issues that involve members of other organizations.
5. Enforce discipline based on CTAA Partner Organization Code of Conduct Policy listed below. If any member of any partner organization refuses discipline per the policy, the Partner Organization agreement will be subject to termination.
6. If there is a conflict of interest between the party named in a grievance and the League Grievance Administrator (i.e. the subject of the grievance is the Grievance Administrator, family member, or fellow board member), adjudication and discipline will be determined by a majority vote of the remaining Partner Organization Grievance Parties.

Article V – Code of Conduct

In an effort to make recreational baseball a desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, Center Township adheres to the following points of emphasis relating to sportsmanship and conduct for managers, coaches, parents, players and spectators.

The discipline policy below is the minimum required, individual Partner Organizations (subject to their by-laws and internal processes) may enforce harsher penalties if deemed necessary.

Section 1 – Managers/Coaches

A manager and/or a coach may be removed from the game for any of the following reasons:

1. Openly disputes or argues in an unsportsmanlike or unprofessional manner any decision by an umpire.
2. Uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including swearing, regardless if it is directed at a particular person or not.
3. Visually displays a sign of dissatisfaction with any umpire decision with the intent of inciting the umpires, players, or spectators.
4. Is unable to control the conduct of their respective team’s players and spectators.
5. Taunting of players, coaches, managers, umpires, or spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or use of physical violence.
6. Failing to abide by game play rules

Any time a manager and/or coach participates in any of these actions, he/she will be removed from the game by the umpire and will also be required to miss the next game. If a manager and/or a coach is removed from 2 games, he/she will be suspended for the remainder of the season. Managers/coaches who have been ejected from a game must leave the park immediately. They must also stay away from the park the following game.

Additionally, if the any of these actions are observed by parents, other coaches, board members, etc., those individuals may submit a grievance to the Grievance Administrator. The Grievance Administrator will review the evidence and if corroborated by appropriate witnesses, the Coach or Manager is subject to a 1 game suspension. If a Coach or Manager is suspended for two full games during a season, he/she will be suspended for the remainder of the season and post season play.

Section 2 – Parents/Spectators

A game will be stopped by the umpires or managers/coaches when parents or spectators display inappropriate and disruptive behavior that interferes with other spectators or the game.

Where applicable, the umpires will place each team in their respective dugouts and communicate in a professional manner to each manager the reason for stoppage of play.  The umpire will identify violators to the manager for the purpose of removing the parents or spectators from the game and park. Should the spectators refuse to adhere, Partner Organizations reserve the right to contact local law enforcement to escort the individual(s) from the park.  Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by Partner Organization Board of Directors.

Inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include, but is not limited to:

1. Use of obscene or vulgar language to anyone at any time.
2. Taunting of players, coaches, managers, umpires, or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or use of physical violence.
3. Throwing any object in the bleachers or playing field directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.
4. Consuming alcohol, smoking tobacco or vaping at the field complex.

If Parents/Spectators are ejected for a 2nd time during a season, he/she will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

Additionally, if the prior actions are observed by parents, other coaches, board members, etc., those individuals may submit a grievance to the Grievance Administrator. The Grievance Administrator will review the evidence and if corroborated by appropriate witnesses, the Parent/Spectator is subject to a 1 game suspension. If a Parent/Spectator is suspended for two full games during a season, he/she will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

Section 3 – Player

A player may be removed from the game for any of the following reasons:

1. Openly disputes or argues any decision made by an umpire.
2. Uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including swearing, regardless if it is directed at a particular person or not.
3. Visually demonstrates a sign of dissatisfaction associated with an official's decision.
4. Conducts himself or herself in an unsportsmanlike fashion.
5. Taunting of other players, coaches, managers, umpires, or spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or use of physical violence.

Any time a player commits any of these actions they shall be removed from the game and are also required to miss the next game. If a player is removed from a game for the second time, that player will be suspended for the balance of the regular season and post season play.

Additionally, if the prior actions are observed by parents, coaches, board members, etc., those individuals may submit a grievance to the Grievance Administrator. The Grievance Administrator will review the evidence and if corroborated by appropriate witnesses, the Player is subject to a 1 game suspension. If a Player is suspended for two full games during a season, he/she will be suspended for the remainder of the season.