



Bulldog Baseball 2010 Pinto League Parents' Guide

On behalf of Pinto Vice President, Tom Vranicar and the entire Bulldog organization, I would like to welcome all families to the 50th year of Bulldog baseball! We appreciate the opportunity you have afforded us to teach your son or daughter the great game of baseball.

Communication: To clearly define and communicate league happenings, rules and expectations for 2010, we have created this Parents' Guide for your review and reference. If questions arise or if assistance is needed during the season, please do not hesitate to contact the following league officials:

Don Mayo	President	773-269-0259 (cell)	donald.mayo@sbcglobal.net
Tom Vranicar	Vice President	403-2028	tkvranicar@comcast.net

We strongly encourage ALL Bulldog families to sign up for the e-mail information notification service at our website, www.tpbulldogbaseball.com. The website offers a great deal of information and resource links. Please check it out and refer back to it often to keep on top of the activities in your organization.

Parental Involvement: The Bulldog Baseball organization is comprised of many dedicated **volunteers** who donate numerous hours of time and effort to make your child's baseball experience an enjoyable one. We are always looking for new ideas and energetic people to execute them. General Meetings are scheduled on the second Wednesday of every month at 8:00 pm at the Bulldog Fieldhouse. Please get involved in your organization!

Parents play the largest role in the baseball development of their kids. Reinforce the lessons being taught at practices with your kids. Managers should provide drills for the kids to work on at home. Encourage them to work on them. Play catch with your kids. Purchase a batting tee and work on the proper swing and motion. Throw them pop-ups and ground balls. If you need drills for practice at home, check out the coaches corner at the website. Work with them to help them improve their throwing, catching, fielding and hitting. This extra effort will only increase their enjoyment of the Pinto baseball experience. It might just work wonders for you off the field as well.

League goal for 2010: It is critical for all parents to understand that Pinto level is **instructional** baseball. It is **not** recreational baseball. It is about teaching baseball fundamentals, developing good and repetitive habits and extending them into competitive game situations. The efforts and actions of our managers and coaches will be directed toward teaching our kids basic skills & fundamentals, teamwork, respect, cooperation and good sportsmanship. **We will be teaching players of all skill levels how to succeed in their own way and have FUN doing it!**

Managers and coaches will formulate their baseball "curriculum." There will be a plan of what to teach and notes pertaining to how they plan on teaching it. Creation and use of practice plans will be used for each and every practice. As practice time is limited and valuable, planning and organization will help make the most of the time with the kids.

Guidelines for the dugout and stands: Managers, Coaches, Parents and Fans:

Parents, fans and coaches behaviors can make or break a kid's baseball experience. All too frequently, we read stories about outrageous parental behavior within kids' sports. It is crucial that we all agree with and observe the following league rules:

1. Cheer for all of the players, on both teams. Those who wish to instill the "will to win" by screaming at the kids only make them tense and confused about the goals of the sport.
2. Parents are **strongly discouraged** from coaching from the sidelines. If you have some ideas or recommendations, please do not hesitate to bring them to the coaches' attention in a private setting after the game or practice. The managers and coaches deserve this respect.
3. There will be **NO** abuse of umpires. None. Period. **Everybody** must understand this ZERO TOLERANCE policy. This is the first year the league will provide umpires for the Pinto League. Umpires who are employed by the Bulldogs are not professionals. They will do the very best that they can and they must have our support. All infractions must be reported to the League President's attention for investigation and appropriate action.
4. The use of profanity, tobacco products or alcoholic beverages is prohibited. This Bulldog policy applies to both practices and games.
5. The coaching staffs are responsible for the behavior of their fans.

Important Dates:

1. Team Mom Meeting: March 31 @ 6:30PM @ the Bulldog Field House.
2. Raffle ticket turn-in / Team uniform distribution: April 9.
3. Team Pictures: April 14 @ Easter Seals (Kirby School).
4. Field Maintenance Day: TBD. Mandatory for all Managers and Coaches. Parents are encouraged to also assist.
5. Opening Day Parade and games: April 18th.
6. Golf Outing: June 4th @ Green Garden (2:00 pm)
7. Joliet Jackhammer night: June 10 @ Silver Cross Field (7:00 pm)
8. Movie Night: June 19 @ Guenzi Field (dusk)
9. End of season picnic: June 26 @ Complex (12:00 noon – 3:00 pm)

Practices

Each team will practice and work on fundamentals **at least** twice a week prior to the start of the season. The more practice your team gets, the better the kids will become. Practice will continue, though not at the same pace, once the season begins. If you need drills for practice, check the coach's corner of the website.

Batting cages: Each team will have equal and frequent use of the batting cages (both indoor at the White Sox Training Academy & outside on the Bulldog Complex) throughout the year.

Pinto Field Practices: There will be a schedule given to each manager in order to coordinate the use of a field for practice. The league will have to double up the practice space for teams.

Game Play

Games are 6 innings long. No slaughter rule for regular season, but it will be used in the playoffs. Games will have a drop dead limit during the regular season of **2 HOURS**. The umpire will announce the official starting time as soon as the HOME team takes the field for the first inning. No new inning can start after 1:45 minutes.

HOME teams occupy the 3rd base dugout.

VISITING teams occupy the 1st base dugout.

Field Setup: It is the home team's responsibility to setup the bases and chalk lines prior to each game. The managers will appreciate any help you are willing to provide for field set-up to ensure that your game gets started on time. The home team is also responsible for breaking down the field after the game. The visiting team is expected to help.

Pitching: Pinto will use the following pitching schedule:

- The first **2** games: Coaches will pitch to their own kids the entire game. Coaches cannot walk kids.
- The next **2** games: Kids will pitch innings 2, 4 & 6. Coaches will pitch innings 1, 3 & 5.
- **Game 5:** 100% kids pitch.

Pitching rules:

- 3 innings maximum per game. One pitch during an inning equals one inning (includes warm-ups before an inning).
- After 3 total innings are pitched, one full **calendar** day off. Pitch 3 on Monday, cannot pitch again until Wednesday.
- 6 innings maximum per week.
- **Hit batsmen:** If the same pitcher hits 2 batters in one inning OR 4 batters in multiple innings, a pitching change must be made.
- When the pitcher has possession of the ball inside of the 15 foot pitcher's circle, it is a dead ball situation. Baserunners, not half-way to the next base, must return to the previous base. This is the umpire's judgment call. If the pitcher throws the ball out of the pitchers circle, it is again a live ball.

Batting:

- Continuous batting order of all team players will be used. All players bat whether or not they are currently playing in the field that inning.
- The maximum number of runs per half-inning is **5**. The inning ends when the 5th run crosses the plate OR the 9th batter has completed an at-bat, regardless of the result.
- No bunting.
- No swinging of bats in the dugout area! An on-deck circle will be provided and is the only approved swinging space near the dugout.

Positions and batting order: Based on their abilities and skill levels, each player will play different positions throughout the game/season. This doesn't imply to put a player at 1st base that cannot yet confidently catch. It means that the managers will use discretion, common sense and fairness. Rotation of the team batting order from game to game should also be expected.

Rainouts: If your game is rained out, it will be made up on the upcoming Sunday @ Fulton Field. If time slots are available, this is an automatic.

Equipment and Safety:

Bats: Wood bats and aluminum bats that are smaller than 2.75” in diameter are allowed. Big Barrel bats (2.75” diameter) are not allowed. One of the biggest reasons kids do may not hit well at the Pinto age is the weight of the bat. The 15-second bat test is also a good judge of strength for your player.

Safety: Safety is everything. All batters must wear a helmet with a face cage. No exceptions. All players must wear a protective cup; even girls have protective cups available. No exceptions. Players can also wear chest (heart) protectors underneath their uniform if they wish. Ice packs are provided to each manager.

If a player is hit in the head / face with a ball without wearing a helmet, they are to be taken out of the game for the remainder of the game. The parents and the League President must be notified immediately. No exceptions.

Metal cleats are NOT allowed.

Please talk to the kids about bat safety. No swinging of the bats anywhere but in the on-deck circle and in the batters box.

No throwing of bats or equipment.

Playoffs:

Last year, we had a single elimination tournament at the end of the regular season to determine the league champion. It is the League’s intent to offer that again. More information to follow once the season starts.

All-Star Teams:

There will be at least two All-Star teams this year for the Pinto League, one 7 year-old and one 8 year-old team. All 6 and 7 year olds (only) are eligible for the 7 year old team and all 8 year olds (only) eligible for the 8 year old team. 6 & 7 Year olds cannot tryout for the 8-year-old team.

Roster spots for each team will be generated through tryouts. To be eligible to play, each player must attend the respective try-out. Tryouts will be conducted later in the year and all managers and coaches are part of the evaluating process.