



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

Pursuant to Article IX, Section 1 of the Bylaws of SCAA, Inc., the Board of Directors of SCAA, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the "Board of Directors") hereby adopts the following rules to be applied to the organization and administration of teams participating in any league games played under the auspices of SCAA, Inc. and to the playing of any such games:

Official Playing Rules of Baseball and Softball, 2020 Pony Rules and Regulations and official notes and comments quoted or paraphrased herein are to be used for the 2020 Baseball and Softball Spring and Fall Season

Approved for adoption on 13 March 27, 2023.



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

Table of Contents

The Line Up.....	3
Administration.....	3
Rules Committee	3
Disciplinary Actions	3

Rules and Regulations

1 - League	4
2 - Insurance	4
3 - Teams	4
4 - Legal Players	4
5 - Boundaries	5
6 - Selection of Players for Team Play	5
7 - Playing Fields	8
8 - Equipment	8
9 - Playing Rules	9
10 - Pitching Rules (See Pony Rules with these modifications)	14
11 - Length of Games	15
12 - Schedule	15
13 - Umpires	17
14 - Scorekeepers	17
15 - Sponsors	17
16 - Managers and Coaches	17
17 - League Decisions Committees	21
18 - Penalties	21
19 - Protests	22
20 - General Conduct	22
21 - Select Teams	23
22 - Tournament Teams	25



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

The Line Up

Southern Chesapeake Athletic Association, seeks to implant in the youth of the community ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, and reverence, so that they may be finer, stronger, and happier youth who will grow up to be good, clean, healthy adults. This objective will be reached by providing supervised competitive athletic games. The supervisors shall bear in mind at all times that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the winning of games is secondary and that the molding of future citizens is of prime importance.

Administration

As per Pony Rules.

Rules Committee

The Rules and Regulations Committee consists of the following:

Rules Chairman

Shetland Field Director and Player Agent

Pinto Field Director and Player Agent

Mustang Field Director and Player Agent

Bronco Field Director and Player Agent

Pony Field Director and Player Agent

Palomino/Colt Field Director and Player Agent

Disciplinary Actions

The Board of Directors shall have the authority to suspend, discharge, or otherwise discipline any member, manager, coach, player, umpire, or other person whose conduct is considered detrimental to the best interest of the organization.

Members of the Board of the Directors shall upon evidence of misconduct of any youth, notify the manager of the team of which the youth is a member within forty-eight (48) hours of the act. The said manager shall appear, in capacity of an advisor, with the youth and parent before at least three (3) members of the Board of Directors within seven (7) days of the act, for appropriate action.

Members of the Board of Directors shall upon evidence of misconduct of any other person mentioned in Article VII, Section 2 of the Bylaws, if appropriate, notify the manager of the team of such other person within forty-eight (48) hours of the act. The said manager shall appear, in the capacity of an advisor with the person before at least three (3) members of the Board of Directors within seven (7) days of the act for appropriate action.



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

SCAA Rules and Regulations

This document contains only those exceptions to Official Baseball Rules and Pony Baseball and Softball Rules, which are modifications for playing of Baseball and Softball in the SCAA league.

Rules and Regulations For Shetland, Pinto, Mustang, Bronco, Pony, Colt, and Palomino Leagues

(Each rule is applicable to Foal, Shetland, Pinto, Mustang, Bronco, Pony, Colt, and Palomino Leagues unless specifically noted otherwise)

1 - League

A. Registration

- (1) The Board of Directors shall establish the dates, places, and fees for the registration of players desirous of playing on teams that are part of SCAA annually.
- (2) Any player (including a returning player) who registers after the final advertised registration shall be placed on the waiting list. Player Agents have the discretion to place waiting list players in the draft if there are not enough players registered to fill all teams in the division which player is eligible. If the Player Agent does not put waiting list players in draft, then Section 6 Player Selection, Section 6.A.9 applies.

2 - Insurance

See Pony Rules.

3 - Teams

Foal, Shetland, Pinto, Mustang, Bronco, Pony, Colt, and Palomino teams consist of not less than 10 players.

4 - Legal Players

A. SCAA will follow the age up rules for Shetland thru Bronco for regular season play. Players may not age up past the Bronco division. **Foal** Player must turn 3 years old prior to march 1 to participate in the spring season and by September! to participate in the fall season. Softball will be authorized to combine Pony thru Colt based on number of players.

B. Pinto Softball Eligibility Players who turn 6 years old on or before the opening day of each season will be eligible to play Pinto softball.

C. Play Up Rule Players in baseball and softball may play up into the next higher division of play if all the following conditions are met. No playing up will be permitted past the Bronco division:

1. The player's parent or guardian must submit a completed Player Age Up Request & Evaluation Agreement to the Vice President of Baseball or Softball (whichever is applicable) no later than 14 calendar days prior to the closing date of registration. Any agreements that are submitted after this time will be denied.
2. Any player that is requesting to play up into the next higher division of play must have played a minimum of one full season in the player's applicable age division. The player must also be in their



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

final year of playing eligibility within the applicable age division. The players applicable age division is defined by the player's birth date in accordance with Pony rules.

3. SCAA will appoint a three-person committee to evaluate the skill level of all players who have submitted the proper paperwork to play up into the next higher division of play. The committee will consist of members of the SCAA board of directors that will be appointed to the committee each season. SCAA may elect to have separate committees for baseball and softball and for different age groups.
4. SCAA will select a date and time when players will be evaluated on their skill level. This will be the only opportunity for players to be evaluated. Players who do not attend the evaluation will not be approved to play up into the next higher division of play.
5. Player skill evaluations will include, at a minimum, throwing, catching, fielding, running, and hitting within the skill level of the division in which the player is requesting to play. Each player should bring their own equipment to the evaluation.
6. Players must exhibit a minimum skill level that is consistent with the median level of play in the division that they are requesting to play in. The SCAA appointed committee will determine if the request to play into the next higher division will be granted or denied. There will be no reconsideration or appeals of the committee's decision.
7. If the next higher division of play has reached its capacity with players who are of appropriate league age for the division, then requests to play up into such higher division may be denied.

5 - Boundaries

League boundaries as defined by Pony Baseball and Posted on League Website. It is the responsibility of the player's parents to ensure they are within League boundaries for Tournament play. Players residing outside of SCAA boundaries are eligible for regular season play only. NO EXCEPTIONS will be considered for this rule. For softball there are no boundaries.

6 - Selection of Players for Team Play Baseball and Softball

- A. SECTION 1. The following policies shall apply in the selection process:
- (1) Each manager shall be permitted, but is not required, to select his or her own child or children.
 - (2) Each manager shall be permitted, but is not required to select the child or children of that manager's "eligible team coach."
 - (3) Children from the same immediate family and permanently living in the same household and playing in the same division shall be placed on the same team unless a written request from the children's parent or guardian is received by the Board of Directors prior to the commencement of team selection.
 - (4) Managers/ who do not have any children in the league he is managing shall be allowed to have one player assigned to his team.
- A player described in subsection 6.A.1, of this section shall be selected at the end of the appropriate age group round of the draft. For players described in section 6.A.2 and 6.A.3, the following priority applies: A player(s) described in section 6.A.2 MUST be selected before any other players in the age group round in which that player is eligible to be selected. Players described in section 6.A.3 of this section shall be selected with one intervening pick allowed between siblings if



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

they are in the same age group round. If the siblings are in different age group rounds (including the second, third, etc manager's children) the second, third, etc sibling **MUST** be selected after players described in section B and with one intervening pick allowed before any other players in the age group round. If a Coach Eligible Player assigned pick is the first round of that age unit's draft, there should be an intervening pick between the Coach Eligible Player and the first sibling.

- (5) If a team is entitled to a player(s) in more than one of the categories of the special selection policies of sections 6.A.2 thru 6.A.5 and if the selections will give a team an unreasonable advantage, then the Board of Directors and/or the Special Selection Committee may prohibit the selection of one or more of said players.
- (6) The Special Selection Committee shall attend the team selections and shall consist of the player agent for the league involved, the field director for said league and the elected board members of SCAA, Inc.
- (7) Players returning to the same league will return to the same team except as provided below:
 - a. When a parent becomes a manager of another team in the same league the child or children shall, unless the parents make a request to the contrary, be placed on the team that the parent is the manager.
 - b. When a team is disbanded, the returning players from that team shall be placed in the selection pool.
 - c. A player may be removed from the team of the previous season and may be returned to the selection pool if, upon receipt of a written request from a parent or guardian, his or her child may not be drawn by a particular manager. This request may be made with respect to only one manager. All requests described above shall be in writing on a form provided by SCAA, Inc., shall give reasons for said request, shall be received by the Player Agent no later than the end of the last advertised registration, and shall be approved by the collective judgment of the Board of Directors. If that player's chosen by the original manager for whom it was requested that he not play, he shall be returned to the selection pool. If that player is the last on the roster and it is the turn of the original manager, or, as the case may be, by the manager for whom it was requested that he not play, to draw, said player shall be traded to another team. The team to which said player is to be traded shall be selected by a random drawing from a pool of the names of all eligible teams.
- (8) When a player quits a team for any reason, the manager shall notify the Field Director and Player Agent. In addition, the Manager and Field Director shall complete and sign a form provided by SCAA, Inc., indicating the date and time the Manager advised the Field Director that the player quit his team. After receipt of said form, the Player Agent shall verify that decision with the parents of the player and then shall replace the player from the waiting list.
- (9) Players on the waiting list shall be selected and placed on teams by the respective Player Agent of that league or division. The Player Agent will assign a waiting list player to a team in order of their respective waiting list sign up to previous team assignments, and subject to the rules and regulations of Pony Baseball concerning the number of players of an older group on a team. The method for assignment will be as follows:
 - a. If more than one team needs players and/or more than one player is on waiting list, the respective Player Agent will assign waiting list players (as per the order of there being put on the waiting list) starting after the last team to receive a player from the draft of the age group from the pool of names of eligible teams and/or players. Waiting List players may not be traded..
- (10) No player can be dropped from a team roster other than under subsection 6.A.7 and 6.A.8 of this Section unless approved by the Board of Directors. Field Directors will inform the Board of Directors of any recommendations on player status.
- (11) When a player quits or is dropped from a team, that player may not rejoin the team for the remainder of that season. If that player registers to play the subsequent year, that player shall be



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

placed on the same team provided such player is in the same age bracket and the parent doesn't request in writing that player be returned to draft pool. If a player from the waiting list joins the team prior to May 1, that player returns the subsequent year to the same team.

B. SECTION 2. The following selection procedures apply:

- (1) The Foal and Shetland Player Agents will make the player selections for each team, and will make a reasonable attempt to accommodate all requests for players to be placed on specific teams.
- (2) Only a Manager, Coach Eligible, or a designated board member (without a child in that division) will participate in the draft.
- (3) Pinto, Mustang, Bronco, Pony, and Colt division selections will be drawn from lists provided by the Player Agent to all Managers 24 hours prior to the draft. The draft order for teams will be chosen at the meeting for selection of managers for the appropriate season. If this cannot be done on this date the Rules Chairman or an elected executive board member who is not coaching in that league will choose it at a later date.
 - a. Baseball Pinto thru Palomino a snake draft format shall be used. The snake draft is divided into rounds. The first round the draft order will start at the top of the draft matrix. The second round will be the catch up rounds per section 6.B.3.c and will follow the previous round in the same draft order. The following round will start at the bottom of the draft matrix (the first team will now pick last). The next round if there is no catch up will start at the top then next round start at the bottom until all rounds are exhausted. The draft will start at the top for each age group.
 - b. The first round of the draft shall be the selection of the older age group of new registrants, players returned to the selection pool due to approved written requests of parents or guardians, and players from a disbanded team. Before the draft commences the player agent will announce the maximum number of players for the older age group.
 - c. In the first round, (if applicable) expansion teams or teams with no returning players from the spring will draw first from the older age group and shall continue to draw until the number of players drawn equals the number of players from the older age group assigned to the returning team with the least number of players from this group, under policies established in Section 6.A. The first round will continue with each team selecting one player at a time from the older age group, starting with expansion teams, then followed by returning teams as selected randomly by the Player Agent, Field Director, and Rule Chairman prior to the draft. All subsequent even rounds will be "catch-up" rounds and all odd rounds all teams will draw. On the "catch-up" rounds those teams with the same least amount of players will draw.
 - d. The second round shall include all the players coming from the next lower league. This round shall proceed in the same manner as mentioned above, with expansion teams drafting first, followed by returning teams. For the purpose of identification only, all-star players will be identified on the draft lists provided.
 - e. **In softball, each team must have at least one pitcher and catcher before a team can draft one of these players. The Field Director and Player Agents throughout softball will do certification.**
- (4) There Draft List will have the following Headings – Players Name, Jersey Size, How Many Seasons Played, How Many Seasons Travel/Select, Primary Position, Dominant Hand and Previous All Star. There will be no other headings or notes on the draft list
- (5) There will be no trades after the draft except for exceptional reasons as determined by the Player Agent, Field Director, Rules Chairman, and Vice President of Baseball/Softball.
- (6) The Board of Directors shall arrange an informational meeting in order to review all rules with those who will be representing the league in an official capacity at any draft. The Bylaws Committee at the direction of the Board of Directors may conduct this meeting.

C. SECTION 3

- (1) If a team is dissolved after the playing season begins, affected players have five (5) days to register



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

and immediately be assigned to teams by a face down draft starting after the last team to receive a player from the waiting list or draft. The Player Agent then follows the team assignment rule of 6.A.9.

- (2) Softball Pony and Colt/Palomino will merge if there is not a minimum of two teams per division.
- D. Play Up Rules for Pinto, Mustang, Bronco and Pony Players in baseball and softball may play up into the next higher division of play if all the following conditions are met. The player's parent or guardian must submit a completed Player Age Up Request & Evaluation Agreement to the Vice President of Baseball or Softball (whichever is applicable) no later than 14 calendar days prior to the closing date of registration. Any agreements that are submitted after this time will be denied.
1. Any player that is requesting to play up into the next higher division of play must have played a minimum of one full season in the player's applicable age division. The player must also be in their final year of playing eligibility within the applicable age division. The players applicable age division is defined by the player's birth date in accordance with Pony rules.
 2. SCAA will appoint a three-person committee to evaluate the skill level of all players who have submitted the proper paperwork to play up into the next higher division of play. The committee will consist of members of the SCAA board of directors that will be appointed to the committee each season. SCAA may elect to have separate committees for baseball and softball and for different age groups.
 3. SCAA will select a date and time when players will be evaluated on their skill level. This will be the only opportunity for players to be evaluated. Players who do not attend the evaluation will not be approved to play up into the next higher division of play.
 4. Player skill evaluations will include, at a minimum, throwing, catching, fielding, running, and hitting within the skill level of the division in which the player is requesting to play. Each player should bring their own equipment to the evaluation.
 5. Players must exhibit a minimum skill level that is consistent with the median level of play in the division that they are requesting to play in. The SCAA appointed committee will determine if the request to play into the next higher division will be granted or denied. There will be no reconsideration or appeals of the committee's decision.
 6. If the next higher division of play has reached its capacity with players who are of appropriate league age for the division, then requests to play up into such higher division may be denied.

7 - Playing Fields

It shall be the responsibility of both teams playing the first game on any field to ensure that the field is ready for play (bases set and field lined, etc.). The home team has the lead. Similarly, both teams scheduled for the last game on any field, shall return the bases to the storage shed.

8 - Equipment

Baseball and Softball

- A. Players' use of shoes with metal cleats is PROHIBITED, except Pony, Colt, and Palomino. Pitchers on the portable mounds will not use metal cleats.
- B. For Foal, Shetland, and Pinto, the use of a heart protector is mandatory by the pitcher.
- C. The use of helmets for base coaches is optional. Batting helmets are mandatory for players.



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

Baseball

- D. Batting helmet chinstraps and facemasks are optional for Foal, Shetland, Pinto, and Mustang divisions for baseball. Face masks are optional for Pitcher in Pinto.
- E. A cup is mandatory for all male catchers.

Softball

- F. Batting helmet chinstraps are optional and facemasks are mandatory
- G. Face masks are mandatory for all infield and outfield players in Pinto and Mustang. In Bronco and Pony facemasks required for 1st, 3rd, and Pitcher.

9 - Playing Rules Baseball and Softball

- A. With respect to each game played under the auspices of SCAA, Inc., the decision whether any such game shall begin shall be made by the Field Directors of the league or division in which any such game is to be played, giving due consideration to the weather, the field conditions, and most importantly, the safety of the players. Once play has begun in any such game, the decision whether to delay or suspend the game shall be made by the umpire or umpires. (Except in Foal & Shetland, where the decision shall be made by the Field Director or, in his absence, the manager of the home team.)
- B. Under no circumstances shall any play or practice continue once a lightning strike has been officially detected, as specified herein. A lightning strike is considered to be any visible lightning bolt. When an umpire observes a lightning bolt or in his/her professional judgment a lightning bolt has occurred regardless if the umpire witnessed a bolt, he/she shall stop the game immediately and instruct teams to move off the field including dugouts and seek shelter in vehicles or other safe structures. Note of the time should be taken and the game cannot restart until 30 minutes after the most recent lightning strike observed or heard by the head umpire, meaning that the 30 minute delay restarts with every new lightning bolt detected after which point players should return to the field unless the game is cancelled. Managers are responsible for communicating to their teams throughout all weather delays. While the authority to stop a game due to lightning strikes rest with umpires, coaches, and board members, parents are encouraged to help out in the name of safety when lightning has been observed by immediately notifying the coaches and/or umpires. Non-playing children throughout the complex should also be immediately gathered up and moved to safety by their parents or guardians. Additionally, parents or guardians should remove their child from the field at any time that they feel conditions are unsafe. However, umpires may decide to continue play if it is determined that lightning strikes are not occurring.
- C. If a fielder without the ball fakes a tag, the runner at whom the fake tag was directed shall be awarded one extra base.
- D. MANDATORY PLAY
 - (1) No player will sit more than one defensive innings for Pinto thru Colt until all other players on the same team have sat for at least one defensive inning, unless the player is being disciplined by the Manager. For a team with 10 players or less, no player should sit two innings for that game. Coaches should try rotating players so a player does not sit consecutive innings. If a player is being disciplined, the Manager must inform the official scorekeeper and the opposing Manager by indicating such action with the "DA" behind the disciplined player's name on the official line-up card.



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

A player being disciplined after a game begins must have concurrence of the Field Director.

(Discipline, for example, might result from unexcused absence from games, practices, tardiness, or misbehavior.) A player listed as "DA" shall not play that game on that day.

- (2) Penalty for violation of paragraph 9.D will be a forfeit of the game in which the violation occurs if properly protested by the opposing Manager or the Field Director. In addition to the above penalty, the Manager who violates said rule shall not be eligible to manage at his or her team's next game, and he or she shall not be present at the next game.
- E. In League play only, a team failing to field at least eight (8) uniformed players within 15 minutes of the scheduled starting time of a game, or at any time during the game, shall forfeit the game. If the game is forfeited, the teams are encouraged to play a practice game without uniformed/contracted umpires. A team may start and play an entire game with eight players; however the ninth position in the batting line up will be counted as an automatic out. If a ninth player arrives after the start of a game, the player may be inserted into the ninth position in the batting lineup. The team with only eight players may request a defensive player (not offensive) from the opposing team.
- F. Managers should have a lineup card available that shows the intended player positions by inning for each game. An infield position is Pitcher, Catcher (beginning Fall 2023 season Catcher is a position in Pinto), 1st, 2nd, 3rd base, and shortstop. A player is not required to play the infield if specifically requested by the parent and approved by the Player Agent and Field Director.
- G. Pinto, Mustang, Bronco, and Pony Continuous Batting Order
 - (1) Play will be with a continuous batting order and free defensive substitution.
 - (2) If a player is unavailable to bat, when it is his turn in the batting order, due to a game ending injury or due to having to leave the baseball complex for personal reasons, the next scheduled player in the order will bat without penalty to the team, after agreement between the managers and umpire. A player who is injured and will return to the game but is unable to bat at his scheduled turn will be an out. Leaving the game for personal reasons does not include leaving to play another sport.
 - (3) The "speed up" rule can be used with respect to the catcher whenever he or she is a base runner, there are two (2) outs, and a substitute runner is available. A substitute runner is the player who made the previous last out.

Baseball

- H. Players will play at least two innings of each game in the infield for Baseball Pinto and Mustang and one inning in Bronco. Of the two innings, at least one inning in the infield shall be played prior to completion of the third inning of the game, and the second inning in the infield shall be played prior to completion of the fifth inning of the game. For Bronco, the one inning shall be played prior to completion of the third inning of the game.

Softball

- I. For softball only, one infield inning for Pinto and Mustang is required for all players to be played per game; no infield rule for other divisions (Bronco and Pony).

Baseball - Shetland

- J. Shetland Rules: This league is designed to provide experienced and older players an opportunity to improve baseball skills and knowledge through participation in a blended Shetland/Pinto division. Coaches will expand on basic fundamentals of baseball to improve the transition to the Pinto division.



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

No score will be kept, no team standings will be maintained, and no umpires will be used. Each game will last for three (3) innings, or 75 minutes. The rules of the game are as follows:

- (1) There shall be a preferably ten (10) players on a team, not to exceed 12
- (2) Each player will bat and play the field every inning, unless being disciplined by the manager. Each player will play at least one full inning at an infield position in each game.
- (3) After all players on a team have batted the teams will change sides.
- (4) A coach or manager from the batting team will pitch the ball to the batter from a distance of 30 feet. A maximum of 3 live pitches will be allowed for each batter. If the batter does not hit any of the 3 live pitches, then the ball will be placed on a tee. If he fouls off the third pitch he will continue to receive pitches until he misses or puts the ball in play. The coach is not required to pitch to all players and may elect to have the player hit off the tee.
- (5) All hits are singles and base runners will advance one base at a time except when the last batter comes up and you clear all bases. The defensive team shall attempt to make a legitimate play on the batter or base runners. However, the defensive team shall not attempt to make subsequent plays on the runners as they clear the bases. After the initial attempt, the defensive team should hold the ball and wait in their positions until the last runner has made it to home plate
- (6) If the defensive team makes an out on a batter or base runner, player will return to the team bench. There will be no maximum numbers of outs allowed per inning since each batter will bat in each inning.
- (7) Once the game schedule goes into effect the first three weeks will have weekday practices and Saturday games. All batters will hit off the tee for the first two games.
- (8) Each team is allowed one (1) manager and four (4) coaches. The batting team shall be allowed to have the manager or a coach live pitch to batters and be at home plate, when necessary, to adjust the tee and assist the batter. The batting team shall also be permitted two (2) coaches along the baselines. The fielding team shall be permitted to have up to four (4) coaches in the field of play two in the infield and two in the outfield to instruct, maintain organization and placement of players. One of the coaches must be on the mound close enough to the pitcher to protect the pitcher from the ball. If the coach touches the ball the play is dead and the player achieves first base.
- (9) On defense, six players are allowed to be within the baseline. All other players must be on the outfield grass. Infield positions will include: pitcher, first base, second base, middle infield, shortstop, and third base.
- (10). For infield positions, an optional "Catcher" position may be allowed if the player catching is fully, properly, and safely equipped in catchers protective gear (including helmet/mask, chest protector, and shin guards) as noted in the rules for the Pinto divisions. SCAA will NOT provide Shetland teams with catcher's gear, but players may use coach's/team or their own gear if they have it. A coach must also be positioned behind the plate to monitor and assist the player.
- (11) A coach or manager from the batting team will pitch the ball to the batter from a that will assist the batter to make contact with the ball. A maximum of 3 live pitches will be allowed for each batter. If the batter does not hit any of the 3 live pitches, then the ball will be placed on a tee. If he fouls off the third pitch, he will continue to receive pitches until he misses or puts the ball in play. The coach is not required to pitch to all players and may elect to have the player hit off the tee

Shetland Softball Rules

- K. This league is designed to provide experienced and older players an opportunity to improve softball skills and knowledge through participation in a blended Shetland/Pinto division. Coaches will expand on fundamentals of softball to improve the transition to the Pinto division. No score will be kept, no team standings will be maintained, and no umpires will be used. Each game will last for three (3) innings, or 75 minutes. The rules of the game are as follows:



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

- (10) There shall be a preferably ten (10) players on a team, not to exceed 12
- (11) Each player will bat and play the field every inning, unless being disciplined by the manager. Each player will play at least one full inning at an infield position in each game. No Player will play First Base or Pitcher two consecutive innings. All positions must rotate after each inning
- (12) After all players on a team have batted the teams will change sides.
- (13) A coach or manager from the batting team will pitch the ball to the batter from a distance that will assist the batter make contact with the ball. A maximum of 4 live pitches will be allowed for each batter. If the batter does not hit any of the 4 live pitches in play, then the ball will be placed on a tee. If he fouls off the fourth pitch, he will continue to receive pitches until he misses or puts the ball in play. The coach is not required to pitch to all players and may elect to have the player hit off the tee
- (14) All hits are singles and base runners will advance one base at a time except when the last batter comes up and you clear all bases. The defensive team shall attempt to make a legitimate play on the batter or base runners. However, the defensive team shall not attempt to make subsequent plays on the runners as they clear the bases. After the initial attempt, the defensive team should hold the ball and wait in their positions until the last runner has made it to home plate
- (15) If the defensive team makes an out on a batter or base runner, player will return to the team bench. There will be no maximum numbers of outs allowed per inning since each batter will bat in each inning.
- (16) Once the game schedule goes into effect the first two weeks will have weekday practices and Saturday games. All batters will hit off the tee for the first two games.
- (17) Each team is allowed one (1) manager and four (4) coaches. The batting team shall be allowed to have the manager or a coach live pitch to batters and be at home plate, when necessary, to adjust the tee and assist the batter. The batting team shall also be permitted two (2) coaches along the baselines. The fielding team shall be permitted to have up to four (4) coaches in the field of play two in the infield and two in the outfield to instruct, maintain organization and placement of players. One of the coaches must be on the mound close enough to the pitcher to protect the pitcher from the ball. If the coach touches the ball the play is dead and the player achieves first base.
- (18) On defense, six players are allowed to be within the baseline. All other players must be on the outfield grass. Infield positions will include: pitcher, first base, second base, middle infield, shortstop, and third base.

Pinto Baseball

- (1) If a player chooses not to bat, an out will be recorded and the game shall proceed as normal.
- (2) If a player has any physical disability that limits his or her ability to hit a pitched baseball, a tee can be utilized at the recommendation of the child's parent or legal guardian and with the approval of the Field Director.
- (3) The Manager or any coach of the team at bat will pitch to each member of his team in the regular batting rotation. The Manager/Coach pitcher shall pitch from the regulation pitcher's rubber and shall deliver the pitch by an overhand throw for baseball and underhand for softball. Pony pitching rules will be followed with the exception of the three-strike rule and the batter will not be called out on the sixth or any additional pitch, if the pitch is fouled off. The batter will remain an active hitter for baseball until he no longer fouls the ball off, puts it in play or misses the pitch. The pitcher may coach the batters.



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

- (4) A defensive team in the field shall consist of ten (10) players: a pitcher (who must be positioned to the rear of the pitcher's rubber and on either side of the coach/pitcher), catcher, first baseman, second baseman, third baseman, shortstop, and four outfielders. A team may start the game with nine players in the event that only nine players are present at the start of the game. In this event, three (3) outfielders will be used. If the team starts with eight players the catcher position will be eliminated until the ninth player shows up.
- (5) No infield fly rule infield
- (6) The Manager or one registered coach may be in the field of play while his team is playing defense to help coach and develop the players. The individual should be positioned outside of the infield and will not interfere with play.
- (7) Base runners in baseball on an infield play may not advance because of an overthrow to a second or third base they would not have reached had there been no overthrow.
- (8) If after the ball is thrown into the infield and an infielder makes a play and overthrows the base the player can only advance one base and play is dead.
- (9) Ball thrown in from the outfield is dead after it crosses a foul line

Pinto Softball

- (1) The batter receives six pitches. First 3 pitches from player. If she strikes out, she sits down. If not she gets three pitches from the coach unless she fouls off the third pitch and gets another pitch until he either puts the ball in play or misses
If the sixth pitch hits the plate the batter will be given one extra pitch
- (2) Advancing runners:
 - a. Base runners may advance one base if the batter hits the ball past an infielder or if a ball played by the defense is overthrown in an attempt to make an out and goes into foul territory.
 - b. Examples:
 - The batter hits the ball over, besides, or under the glove of any infielder and the ball is judged by the umpire to have passed the infielder. The batter has the option to advance to second base at her own risk. The umpire will call dead ball once the ball is secured by an infielder. The defense has the option at that time to make a play on any advancing runner. If a play is made by the defense in an effort to record an out and an overthrow occurs, the play will automatically be ruled dead ball and the runner will NOT advance any more bases. If the ball remains in the outfield (past the infielder) the runner has the option to continue around the bases until the ball is secured by an infielder. Any base runners that were on base at the time the batter hit the ball will adhere to the same rules of advancement.
 - Batter hits a ground ball to the pitcher. The pitcher fields the ball and overthrows the first baseman. If the ball travels into foul territory the runner may advance ONE base at his/her own risk. The defense has the option at that time to make a play on any advancing runner. If a play is made by the defense in an effort to record an out and an overthrow occurs, the play will automatically be ruled dead ball and the runner will NOT advance any more bases. The same rule applies if the defense attempts to make a force play at 3rd, or home. Overthrows at 2nd base will be judgment calls by the Umpire if they deem the ball traveled past the defender attempting to make the force out. Any base runners that were on base at the time the batter hit the ball will adhere to the same rules of advancement.
 - **Ultimately it shall be a judgment call of the Umpire whether the base runner advanced within the limits of the said rules. The Umpire will uphold the advancement of the runners or if in their opinion the advancement was accomplished outside the said rules, the Umpire will send the runners back to their previous bases.

Baseball Mustang



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

L. Mustang Rules

- (1) If the pitcher is between home and the pitcher's mound and catches the ball from the catcher then proceeds to walk directly to the mound without any motion towards third base, the runner is not allowed to advance home. Runners may steal bases, with the exception of home. However; on a wild pitch, a passed ball, a play involving a throw from the catcher or if the pitcher misses the ball thrown back by the catcher, the runner on third may attempt to advance home. (A fake throw by the pitcher or catcher does not constitute a play).
- (2) The batter is out after a third strike regardless of whether the pitched ball is caught by the catcher or is a passed ball. All other advancement of runners on the base paths will be subject to pony rules
- (3) Balks - Umpires will give warnings and explain the balk. The runners will not advance.
- (4) No infield fly rule.

Softball Mustang

- M. Dropped third strike will be eliminated the first half on the season and will be reestablished at a date determined by the Field Director and VP of Softball.
- N. Players will not be permitted to steal home base when a pitched ball is caught by the catcher. Players may attempt to steal home base if a pitched ball gets past the catcher. If the player that is attempting to steal home base stops advancing toward home base once the catcher has retrieved the ball, then the player must return to third base once the catcher throws the ball back to the pitcher. If the pitcher misses or does not catch the ball when it is thrown back by the catcher, then the runner on third base may attempt to steal home base.

O. **General Fall League Rules**

- (1) As an amendment to the local spring rules, the following guidelines shall be followed for the Fall League play:
 - a. No score will be kept, however for the purposes of efficient play, each team will be limited to five (5) runs per inning.
- (2) Pinto Baseball Players will be allowed a maximum of 8 pitches.
- (3) Pinto Coaches will be allowed in the field of play to assist their players.
- (4) Bronco There will be no Balks.

10 - Pitching Rules (See Pony Rules with these modifications)

Baseball and Softball

- A. Pinto: Only if the sixth pitch bounces prior to reaching the plate it will not be considered a legal pitch even if the kid hits it
- B. Pinto: If one team does not have its regular pitcher then the other team's pitcher can pitch for both teams.

Baseball



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

- C. Mustang, Bronco, Pony Colt and Palomino will use Pitch Smart.
- D. Pony Only- The starting pitcher does not have to sit prior to others as long as he has not exceeded his pitch count and remains as the starter. He must after completion of his last eligible pitch sit the following inning

Softball

- C. No borrowing of pitchers between teams

11 - Length of Games Baseball and Softball

- A. If a game is tied at the end of the time limit, it will be rescheduled only if it affects the standings for determining the divisional champion. This game will be played as a new game.
- B. There will be an end of year tournament for Pinto thru Pony, weather and time permitting. Tournament will use SCAA and Pony rules.

Baseball

- C. In Foal and Shetland each game shall be limited to three innings or no new inning after 1 hour 5 minutes, whichever occurs first. All games have a drop-dead time of 1 hour and 15 minutes. The hitting team may finish batting through their lineup if the drop-dead time occurs after the hitting team has already starting batting
- D. Pinto and Mustang – no new inning after 1 hour 30 minutes.
- E. Bronco– no new inning after 1 hour 40 minutes. A complete game will be four innings or 3 ½ innings if the home team is winning.
- F. Pony no new inning after 2 hours.
- G. Shetland, Pinto, and Mustang will not score more than 5 runs per inning to include the last inning.
- H. Bronco – Five run rule per inning, except for seventh inning for baseball and unlimited after the third inning for softball.

Softball

- I. Pinto Softball – no new inning after 1 hour 15 minutes. All other softball divisions 1 hour 30 minutes.
- J. Mustang will be limited to five runs per inning
- L. Bronco five runs for first two innings unlimited there after

12 - Schedule

- A. All teams shall be limited to three (3) team activities per week during the school year, except the Colt League, which will be limited to four (4). An activity is defined as any meeting or occasion in which four (4) or more players meet with a manager and/or coach for the purpose of playing or practicing baseball. All practices shall be limited to two hours per activity. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be the suspension of the Manager for the next game after the violation has been discovered. During the suspension, the Manager shall not manage or coach and shall not be allowed in the dugout.



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

- B. A manager's first obligation pertaining to practices and games must be to his or her SCAA team. Managers who are managing another team must conduct an adequate number of SCAA practices in comparison to other teams in their respective divisions. A team cannot conduct a practice without a background check manager or coach present.
- C. All teams will play a minimum of 10 games in the Fall and Spring.
- D. If there is no end of season tournament at the end of the schedule season and two teams are tied for the division title, the Field Director will schedule a championship game. If there are three or more teams tied for the championship at the end of the season it will be up to the Field Director and Vice President to determine if there will be a round robin playoff if time permits.
- E. Sunday Select (SS) and Tournament Team (TT) field usage.
 - (1) The above teams have priority for field usage on Fridays and Sundays, except due to excessive rainouts that require the SCAA recreational league to use the fields for make-up games.
 - (2) At the beginning of each season (Fall & Spring) the Field Directors will submit their respective practice and game schedule to the VP of Baseball/Softball who will coordinate with the Sunday Select Coordinator and Field Directors to see if any field usage during the week is available for use by the SS & TT.
 - (3) If field usage is available, a formal schedule will be posted on the web site with all the other schedules. However, weekday usage is subject to the same make up games as Friday and Sunday usage.
 - (4) Upon selection of the TT, the respective managers will submit their practice schedules to the VP of Baseball who will coordinate with the Sunday Select Coordinator and Field Director to publish the schedule for the TT.
 - (5) The final arbitrator for all scheduling will be VP of Baseball/Softball and the Sunday Select Coordinator.

F. Season Ending Tournaments

The division winner will be based on win percentage, where a tie is equal to half of a win. Tie breakers will be as follows in order of priority:

- 1. If two teams have the same win percentage, the team with the better head to head record will prevail.
- 2. If more than two teams have the same win percentage, the team with the better record in games against the tied subset of teams will prevail.
- 3. If teams still have the same win percentage after matching head to head records per the above, the team with the lowest number of runs against will prevail.
- 4. If teams still have the same win percentage after 1 – 3, then a coin flip will determine higher seeded team. The team name closest to the beginning of the alphabet will be heads in the coin flip and the other team will be tails.

For season ending tournaments:

- 1. Each baseball division from Pinto through Pony shall have a season ending tournament to determine the division champion.
- 2. The tournament shall be structured such that no team plays more than 13 overall games in the season, including the tournament.
- 3. Single elimination tournaments shall be used in all division that have more than 6 teams.
- 4. If a double elimination tournament is used in divisions that have 6 or fewer teams, the tournament may need to begin with the 9th or 10th game of the regular season to assure that criteria #2 is met.
- 5. If a division has more than 6 teams, then the top 8 teams based on win percentage will be eligible to play in the tournament. The top 8 teams will be ranked from #1 to #8 based on win percentage



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

and tie breakers as defined above. The first round of the tournament will feature Team #1 vs. Team #8; Team #2 vs. Team #7; Team #3 vs. Team #6; and Team #4 vs. Team #5. The second round of the tournament will include the highest remaining ranked team vs. the lowest remaining team and the remaining two teams will play each other. The final round of the tournament will feature the two remaining teams. The highest ranked team will be the Home team in each game. In the event that a division has only 7 teams, then the top ranked team will receive a bye in the first round of the tournament.

6. Divisions with a larger number of teams may elect to break the teams out into two groups, but it is not required. If a division is subdivided into two groups, then the top 4 teams from each group will qualify for the season ending tournament. The 4 teams from each group will be ranked as previously described for tournament seeding. The winning team from each group will play in the division championship game as the third round of the tournament.

13 - Umpires

- A. See Pony rules.
- B. Coaches and Parents are not permitted to approach or confront umpires outside of the playing field or parking areas to challenge calls made during games.
- C. Managers may send an assistant coach to the plate meeting.
- D. Pinto Managers may stand along the fence by home plate to coach and assist the batter

14 - Scorekeepers

See Pony Rules.

15 - Sponsors

See Pony Rules.

16 - Managers and Coaches Baseball and Softball

- A. SECTION 1.
- B. The Board of Directors shall make the selection of managers and coaches for teams that are part of SCAA, Inc. each season. This process shall be held in a closed executive session. Such selections shall be made by the exercise of the collective judgment of the Board of Directors after having given due consideration to the applicant's character, ability to work with youth, demonstrated ability as a manager or coach, attitude, leadership ability, sense of responsibility, and willingness to support the efforts and objectives of SCAA, Inc
- C. SECTION 2.
 - (1) Each person desirous of managing or coaching one of the teams that is a part of SCAA, Inc. must, in order to be considered by the Board of Directors for such a position, submit a written application to SCAA, Inc. relating to the season during which such person wishes to hold such a position. As previously stated, the selection of managers for the teams that are a part of SCAA, Inc. is to be made each season through the exercise of the collective judgment of the Board of Directors.



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

Therefore, each applicant must submit a written application for such a position each year, notwithstanding that one has managed one of the teams that are a part of SCAA, Inc. in previous years. Although not obligatory or binding in any respect, the following factors or priorities are to be considered by the Board of Directors in the exercise of this judgment:

- (2) For both the spring and fall season (for the purposes of this section, "manager/coach" shall refer to individuals approved as a manager or coach by the Board of Directors) the following selection priority applies:
 - a. Whether the applicant was the manager in the same division during the previous spring season.
 - b. Whether the applicant was a coach in the same division during the previous spring season.
 - c. Whether the applicant managed any previous SCAA teams (exclusive of Shetland league) for the previous four out of five consecutive spring seasons.
 - d. Whether the applicant was the manager of a team in another league or division in SCAA, Inc. during the previous spring season.
 - e. Whether the applicant was a member of the Board of Directors during the previous year.
 - f. Whether the applicant was a coach in another league or division within SCAA, Inc. during the previous spring season.
 - g. Whether the applicant was a manager or coach of one of the teams that are a part of SCAA, Inc. or a member of the Board of Directors during any prior year.
- (3) Any prior season manager or coach eligible who decides to place his or her child in the draft cannot manage or be a coach eligible for that season.

D. SECTION 3.

- (1) For the purpose of the application of the factors or guidelines set forth in SECTION 2 of this RULE, only persons who actively participated in at least 50% of team practices and games, as determined by the Board of Directors, will be considered by the Board of Directors to have been managers or coaches in any year prior to the year for which those persons' applications to manage or coach are under consideration.

E. SECTION 4.

- (1) Each approved applicant to manage a team that is part of SCAA, Inc. shall be assigned to a team as follows:
 - a. An applicant who managed a team in the same division in the previous spring season shall be assigned to manage the same team.
 - b. An applicant who coached eligible a team in the same division in the previous spring season shall be assigned to manage the same team if the previous spring season manager does not return.
 - c. An applicant who managed a team in the same division in the previous fall season shall be assigned to manage the same team, provided that the applicant meets the criteria of section.
 - d. An applicant who's child is a returning player on the team and the previous manager and or coach eligible will no longer manage this team.
 - e. All other applicants shall be assigned pursuant to a random selection from facedown cards with the names of the applicable teams thereon. The random selection shall be conducted by the Rules Chairman or by an Executive Board member prior to the draft. Each applicant shall make the selection from said facedown cards.
- (2) In the event that the above selection, in the collective judgment of the Board of Directors and/or the Special Selection Committee appointed by the Board of Directors, is not fair and equitable to all approved applicants, then the selection described herein shall be made by the collective judgment of the Board of Directors.
- (3) A new manager in the fall may elect to manage the same team in the spring provided the returning team manger does not return.

F. Requirements for Eligible Team Coach status are as follows:



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

- (1) Each upcoming first-year manager shall be permitted to designate one coach as his or her eligible team coach. Any eligible team coach must be approved as such by the Board of Directors prior to commencement of the draft.
- (2) A second-year manager may select an eligible team coach if:
 - a. In his first year he did not select an eligible team coach. -Or-
 - b. His eligible team coach and his eligible team coach's son (or daughter) from the previous year will both not be part of his team this year.
 - c. If an eligible team coach becomes the manager of a team in the same division the next year he/she may ONLY select a new coach eligible if the previous years manager's child is not on that team.
- (3) A person may manage two teams per season,
- (4) providing the teams are in different leagues, if approved by the Board of Directors. In addition, the respective managers shall approve a coach who coaches on two teams. However, before the season begins, the coach shall select one team on which he or she is to be officially listed for the purpose of achieving eligible team coach status. An officially listed coach who has a son or daughter playing can achieve eligible team coach status only for the team on which the son or daughter plays. The manager and eligible team coach may attend the player selection draft. If neither the manager nor the eligible team coach can be present, a Special Selection Committee appointed by the Board of Directors shall select someone to select players for that team.
- (5) If, before the draft, a field director in any SCAA league determines that a team/teams need to be disbanded, the following guidelines apply:
 - a. The decision to disband a team/teams can be made if there is a reduction in the number of registered players from the previous year, or if it is necessary due to scheduling availability. The decision to disband a team/teams must be mutually agreed upon by the player agent and the field director for that league/division and approved by the SCAA President or authorized delegate.
 - b. The team/teams to be disbanded will be the team/teams with the fewest number of players returning from the previous spring season, as compared to all other teams in that league/division.
 - c. In the case where the number of teams with the fewest players (of the same number) exceeds the number of teams to be disbanded, the team/teams with a returning manager and/or coach from the same league/division will be given priority.
 - d. If paragraphs B and C do not resolve the team/teams to be disbanded, the decision of the Field Director for that league/division will determine the disbanded team/teams.

G. Background Checks:

1. All coaches, including assistants shall be subject to background checks.
2. All Members of the Board of Directors shall be subject to background checks.
3. Should background checks reveal any person who has a record of a conviction under the guidelines stated below that person shall not coach or manage at SCAA.
4. Guidelines for Background Check Disqualification

A person will be disqualified and prohibited from serving as a volunteer for SCAA if he/she has been found guilty of the following crimes. Guilty means the individual was found guilty following a trial, entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, entered a no contest plea accompanied by court's finding of guilty, regardless of whether there was an adjudication of guilt (conviction) or a withholding of guilt or the record has been expunged. This policy does not apply if criminal charges resulted in acquittal or dismissal.

1. All sexual offenses, regardless of the amount of time since the offense. Examples include, but are not limited to:



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

- a. Child molestation, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sodomy, prostitution, solicitation, indecent exposure.
2. All felonies that constitute offenses against the person, regardless of the amount of time since the offense. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Murder, manslaughter, aggravated assault, kidnapping, robbery, aggravated burglary.
3. Any crimes involving children, regardless of the amount of time since the offense.
4. All felony offenses other than those against the person or sexual within the past 10 years. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Drug offenses, theft, embezzlement, fraud.
5. All misdemeanors that constitute offenses against the person within the past 7 years. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Simple assault, battery, domestic violence, hit & run.
6. All misdemeanor drug and alcohol offenses within the past 5 years or multiple of such offenses in the past 10 years. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Driving under the influence, simple drug possession, drunk and disorderly, public intoxication, possession of drug paraphernalia.
7. Any other misdemeanor within the past 5 years that could be considered a potential danger to children or is directly related to the functions of the applicant.
 - a. Example of this is theft if the person is handling money.

In addition, applicants will be disqualified if they have:

8. Been adjudged liable for civil penalties or damages involving sexual or physical abuse of children.
9. Been subject to any court order involving sexual abuse or physical abuse of a minor, including but not limited to a domestic order or protection.
10. Had their parental rights terminated.

For offenses listed in numbers 4-7, prior to the time period noted, the Board of Directors may consider accepting the applicant on a case by case basis. Careful consideration will be given to the nature of the offense, the rehabilitation of the individual, and the offense as it relates to the position being applied for and the potential risk to children.

Appealing Decisions

Any volunteer denied by SCAA may request an interview/review by the Executive Board. The vote of the Executive Board regarding the appeal will be final.

How to Appeal

A request for an appeal meeting must be submitted in writing to the VP of the division the applicant wanted to coach in with 48 hours of notification their application was denied.

H. Code of Conduct:

- (1) All coaches shall sign a Code of Conduct that clearly states behavioral expectations. (See Coaches



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

Application Appendix A)

- (2) Signing of the Code of Conduct shall be an indication that they understand coaching is a privilege and not a right, and that SCAA reserves the right to revoke those privileges at any time if behavioral issues arise and persist.
- I. Responsibilities:
 - (1) Teach players the fundamentals of baseball in accordance with the SCAA mission.
 - (2) Provide support for SCAA complex workday to perform seasonal maintenance on the field on which they play and throughout the overall complex.
 - (3) Perform field prep, as required, if they are the home team and have the first game of the day for weekend schedules.
 - (4) Manage the behavior of all assistant coaches and parents during games and practice.
 - (5) Be familiar with and adhere to the modified Pony Baseball/Softball format played at SCAA.
- J. Year-End evaluations: All coaches may be subject to a year-end evaluation that may include input from any and/or all of the following:
 - a. Survey of player parents.
 - b. On and off field behavior by members of the SCAA Board.
 - c. Input from coaching peers.

17 - League Decisions Committees

- A. **Rules and Protests Committee** - The Committee shall consist of three (3) persons including the Rules (By-Laws) Committee Chairperson and any two (2) Field Directors selected by the Rules Committee Chairperson. The Rules Committee Chairperson shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors and shall serve for one (1) year. The Committee Chairperson shall rotate the selection of Field Directors for each protest based upon their impartiality and their availability to serve. However, the Field Director of the league from which the protest originated shall not serve for that protest. The President shall assemble the Protest Committee and a decision shall be given to the protest originator within ten (10) days of receipt of the protest. A representative of each team involved with the protest and any person deemed necessary by the Protest Committee will be invited to attend the protest meeting to present all pertinent facts to the protest. The Protest Committee will consider no further facts after this meeting.

18 - Penalties

- A. If a defensive player has the ball and is waiting for the runner and the runner remains on his feet and deliberately, with great force, crashes into the defensive player, the runner is to be declared out and is to be ejected from the game.
- B. If a player is ejected from a game for any reason, that player must sit on the bench, in uniform, at the next game he attends, and may not participate in that game.
- C. Thrown bats constitute a safety hazard and will not be tolerated. AFTER ONE WARNING, the batter shall be called out if, in the umpire's judgment, the thrown bat resulted from carelessness, lack of training, or lack of discipline. Runners will be allowed to advance at their own risk.
- D. In the event a player is declared ineligible by the Protest Committee and a protest is made and upheld as a result thereof, the Manager of said player shall not be eligible to manage at his or her team's next game and he or she shall not be present at the next game.
- E. If a manager/coach is ejected from the game, the Field Director, Player Agent, Vice President and the Rules Chairman will be notified and this group will review the offense and will determine if the



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

manager/coach will be required to sit out the next game as a minimum.

- F. Protests shall be submitted in writing to the Field Director within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the protested game. Protests forwarded to the Vice President and Rules Committee Chairman shall be accompanied by the sum of \$25.00. That sum will be returned to the originator of the protest if the protest is upheld, or shall be deposited to the treasury of the organization if the protest is denied.

19 - Protests

See Pony rules and SCAA By Laws.

20 - General Conduct

- A. The use of tobacco in any form is prohibited on the field or in the dugouts. Smoking is only allowed in the parking lot.
- B. The use, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances, at any gate, practice, meeting, function or event, sponsored or endorsed by SCAA Baseball is strictly prohibited. This shall apply to all players, managers, coaches, league officials, or spectators. Any player, manager, coach, or league official found in violation shall be subject to proceedings as defined in Article VII, Sections 2, 3, and 4 of the Bylaws. In addition, in the event that the violation occurs while they are acting in an official capacity, they shall be immediately relieved of their responsibilities and shall vacate the game, practice, meeting, function, or event. Any spectator found in violation shall be required to leave the game, practice, meeting, function, or event.
- C. Payment and registration obligates the Player, all Parents or Guardians, family members or relatives of the registered player to the following:
 - (1) Parents or Guardians are responsible to ensure that correct information has been provided for player registration. Failure to enter the correct date of birth or verify the DOB in a returning player's profile may result in your child being placed in the wrong age group. Players found to be in the wrong age group will be removed from the assigned team. If the correct age group is not available your child will be placed on a waiting list for a team in the correct age group.
 - (2) Pony Baseball has determined SCAA league boundaries for tournament season play and if a child does not reside full time within these boundaries the child may not play on an SCAA Baseball tournament team entered for Regional Pony tournaments. These boundaries do not apply to Softball players. Players and families who do not reside in these boundaries are welcome to play SCAA Spring and Fall Recreational Baseball; however, these players are not eligible for SCAA Pony Tournament teams.
 - (3) Parents or Guardians agree to follow and abide by all SCAA rules, obligations, and decisions of the SCAA Board of Directors. Failure to do so may result in suspension from participating in SCAA games or activities, up to and including loss of membership with no refund of fees paid.
 - (4) Parents or Guardians agree to not hold the managers, coaches, officials, board members or anyone connected with SCAA, Pony Baseball or the City of Chesapeake liable for any injury in any degree.
 - (5) SCAA may post non-personal information about, and images of players on its website & social media.
 - (6) Parents or Guardians are responsible to be aware of the activities their children are participating in and the risks involved with participation. All SCAA associated personnel are volunteers and are not responsible for determining whether a child is physically and medically fit for this sport.
 - (7) No refunds will be made after 30 days from the last scheduled day of sign ups. A written letter of request is required for a refund. Accounts for which payment by check is returned for non-sufficient



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

funds will be assessed a \$25.00 returned check fee. If your check is returned unpaid we may re-present it electronically.

- (8) To coach or manage a team (including assistant coaches or “helpers”) or volunteer for any position, applicants are required to fill out an application and submit to a background check. Applications can be obtained from the website or any Board member.
 - (9) Parents or Guardians will be required to work the concession stand at least once during the season with their child’s team parents. Failure to support the concession stand on the assigned team date may result in the loss of field playing time for their child. In the event of a rain out concession duty may be rescheduled.
 - (10) Team parents will be required to participate in field maintenance at least one Friday during the season. This will consist of weed whacking the fence line and ditches, preparing the infield by dragging and lining the fields, and cleaning up the dugouts. Field Directors will assign each team dates for this duty. Team managers are responsible for ensuring adequate participation by the team parents.
 - (11) Each team must empty all trash from the dugout and trashcans behind their dug out after the last game of the day. If they’re half-full or more, they must be emptied. Supplies are located at the concession stand. All teams are responsible for the trash in their area.
 - (12) SCAA reserves the right to require a seasonal fundraiser to support league financial needs as approved by the Board of Directors.
 - (13) Player and team photos are available from a league-authorized vendor only. Parents may purchase official team photos from this vendor. The league has contracted a photographer for this service and proceeds from the purchase of team and individual photographs benefit the league. Use of another photographer is not permitted. Parents are responsible for the purchase and payment of photograph packages.
 - (14) No children under the age of 10 are allowed inside the concession stand.
 - (15) No children under the age of 7 are allowed on any of the utility vehicles (tractors, golf carts, etc.). No person under the age of 16 is allowed to operate these vehicles at any time.
 - (16) Complex Speed Limit is 10MPH – Speeding may result in suspension and loss of membership.
 - (17) NO SMOKING around or near fields and SCAA buildings. Smoking is only permitted in the parking area.
 - (18) NO PETS - Animals are not permitted on SCAA property for any reason.
 - (19) Parents or Guardians are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with good public behavior and sportsmanship and to ensure family members, relatives, and players conduct themselves accordingly. Profanity, derogatory language, and behavior deemed detrimental in a youth sports environment will not be permitted. Umpires and league officials reserve the right to warn and or remove parties from the complex if warranted.
- D. Parents or Guardians have the obligation to report any problems on the field or SCAA complex with umpires, managers, coaches, other parents, or players. For the SCAA Board of Directors to take action the complaint or incident must be reported in writing within seventy-two (72) hours by letter or email to a minimum of two SCAA executive board members.
- E. SCAA is a 100% volunteer operated non-profit organization, which is not supplemented by the City of Chesapeake. We are in constant need of volunteers and strongly encourage the active participation of our parents as coaches, team Moms/Dads, committee or board members. Please check the web site or talk to league officials and coaches for ideas on where your talents can make a difference.

21 - Select Teams

- A. The Select program is offered by SCAA, so that those players wishing to experience a higher



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

competitive level may have an opportunity to do so. This program is a supplemental program to our normally provided Recreational program.

- B. All Teams must be registered, have turned in a roster and paid all fees through the Select Field Director to be recognized as a SCAA Select team. The Season for Select team play will be August 31 till May 31. Select and Travel team fee will be due no later than March 15 for the Spring season and September 15 for the Fall season
- C. Select teams should have a minimum of 10 players and a maximum of 15 players. For end of season Tournament Play they will need minimum 12 players.
- D. New Select teams must hold tryouts for at least 25% of the roster and open to all SCAA eligible players.
- E. Established Select teams must advertise within the SCAA general membership and hold tryouts for players to fill openings or replacement of players.
- F. All (100%) of Select players for baseball must be registered and participating on an SCAA Recreational team during the spring season. Participation in the fall season is optional unless the player is new to the area and did not play in the Spring Season. For Baseball, if a player joins the select team after the spring season for baseball they must register and pay the recreational season player fee.
- G. Players who play on their HS teams may participate in the select program provided they register with the league.
- H. Select participants will complete all of their commitments to the SCAA Recreational League before participating in any Select events. (i.e. monies paid, etc.)
- I. All Select participants, Managers and Coaches must have a signed commitment letter on file with the Select Field Director before they can participate in Select events.
- J. All Select teams will be associated with the same baseball governing body as the SCAA associated leagues. Membership in other baseball associations is strictly a separate cost to be paid by the Select players, and not part of the SCAA registration fees. Any Select team with an affiliation other than SCAA will not be recognized as a Select team for field usage. These teams must put in a field rental request to the SCAA Board.
- K. Select Team players, coaches and parents are subject to the same rules, codes of conduct and restrictions that apply to Pony Rules and SCAA league players and parents.
- L. If any Select team is found in anyway bypassing, abusing or not obeying SCAA rules & guidelines then at the discretion of the SCAA board that team may be dissolved immediately. In these situations no reimbursement of SCAA fees or funds will be granted to the Select team.
- M. Select Team fees
 - (1) Team fee for use of the complex and field from Aug 31 to May 31 will be based on 12 players at 50% of the spring season registration fee for the age group of the team. (Example: Pony Select team $12 \times 95.00 \times 0.5 = \570.00) Team fee is due by Aug 15th. Teams formed after Aug 31 must pay a monthly prorated fee based on the above team fee divided by 9 months X the # of remaining months to Sept 1st. (Example: Pony Select team starts April 1st – $570.00 \text{ team fee} / 9 \text{ months in season} \times 5 \text{ months April-Aug} = \317.00)
 - (2) Select teams who work the concession stand during select events may have the fee waived if they participate in at least one event in the spring and one event in the fall.
- N. Managers and coaches will submit each year an application to coach a Select team and will be approved by the Board. Managers, coaches and parent volunteers must have an approved application on file with the SCAA Board.
- O. All games and practices must be scheduled through the Select Field Director. SCAA Recreational make-up games will take precedent over any scheduled Select function. SCAA will make the complex available for all months except from the end of SCAA Spring Season till the end of the use for Pony Tournament play (approximately mid-August). Fields will be available on Fridays from 5 till 9 PM during the season for practice and Sundays 12 till 6 for games. Also see Section 12 Schedule.
- P. All costs, such as, baseballs, equipment, umpires and field maintenance, will be the explicit



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

responsibility of the Select team. Teams may use assigned SCAA equipment.

- Q. Field Maintenance must be performed after the last practice on Friday nights and after Sunday Games to include: emptying all trashcans, dragging and lining the field, and cleaning the restrooms.
- R. Failure to do so could result in the loss of field usage or fines.
- S. Select managers should not schedule any tournaments from mid-June till mid-August to allow players to participate, in the Pony Tournaments.
- T. Uniform costs are the responsibility of each team. Uniforms may be purchased from SCAA vendors with any league volume or discount available to SCAA. SCAA logo will be purchased by SCAA and worn by all teams on the left sleeve of their respective uniforms.
- U. Teams will not have use of the concession stand, unless specifically approved by the manager of the concessions and President.
- V. All proceeds from league-sponsored events will go to SCAA.
- W. Teams are responsible for complex security (i.e. locking buildings and gates).
- X. Team players will be allowed to have no more than five events per week. This will include SCAA recreational practices and games. All pitching requirements and rules must be complied with. During spring season for baseball recreational pitching takes priority.
- Y. There will be no more than two Sunday Select teams per division. Teams will follow Pony age guidelines.
- Z. The following are a list of Sunday Select required forms: a) Statement of Managers Understanding Agreement and b) Sunday Select Letter of Commitment.

AA. Definition of a Select Team

- (1) If a team was not a Select Team the previous season, then the team is considered new. The exception shall be that the team may be considered a returning team if it did not participate in the previous fall, but did participate the previous spring. Not operating in the previous spring or for one fall/spring year deems the team new.
- (2) If the manager departs and one of the coaches does not step up to manage then the team is considered new unless the team retains greater than 50% of its roster and a parent of one of those players become the manager.
- (3) Changing the team name does not change the team status.
- (4) If a team officially announces to the Select Coordinator and/or the VP of Baseball/Softball or President that it is disbanding, and the later decides to reform, it will be considered a new team.
- (5) If the team decides to forego the fall season with the intent to participate in the next spring season it will not lose its status or seniority.

22 - Tournament Teams

A. Teams

- (1) SCAA Tournament teams will represent SCAA in Official Pony District, Section, Region, Zone, and World Series Tournaments as scheduled by PONY Baseball and upon advancement.
- (2) SCAA Select teams will be eligible to represent SCAA in Official Pony Tournaments as stipulated in rules governing Select team selection
- (3) SCAA will provide a minimum of one tournament team per available Pony Tournament age group.
- (4) Team formation is subject to player and coach participation.
- (5) All Tournament teams must comply and maintain eligibility based on Pony Tournament rules. Teams failing to maintain their eligibility may be disqualified and disbanded for failure to comply with Pony Baseball Rules and SCAA League Rules.
- (6) All Tournament teams will start with 12 players and 3 alternates or at the selection time the tournament coach may request any combination up to 15 players.
- (7) During regular season play, tournament team members are limited to a total of 5 events per week



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

including regular season team events. Tournament team players must complete all regular season team obligations.

- (8) All Players must play a minimum of two complete innings in any warm up tournament game, scrimmage, or practice game prior to the Official Pony tournament. Playing time and position for the official Pony tournament is at the manager's discretion. Managers and Coaches are strongly encouraged to insure all players are utilized in tournament play. This rule does not apply to Select Teams playing as an SCAA Tournament team.
- (9) See Section 12 for scheduling of fields.
- (10) All Tournament team players and coaches must wear the full official SCAA uniform and Pony tournament patches. All coaches for warm up tournaments as an option may elect not to wear tournament attire however they must be in similar athletic attire (same color athletic shorts and shirts i.e. no blue jeans).

B. Players

- (1) Tournament team play will be open to all eligible SCAA players as per Pony tournament rules who were registered and participated in the spring season prior to the tournament season. Team players must reside within SCAA league boundaries determined by residence address and school attended.
- (2) The managers of that league will nominate tournament team players after consultation with their coaches.
- (3) Nominated players will be given of two opportunities to attend "showcase/tryout" workouts attended by the managers, coaches, player agent, and field director (time and weather permitting). Players may attend all of the workouts. If a player cannot attend due to circumstances beyond their control they must inform the league Field Director prior to the tryouts.
- (4) Each Field Director, Managers and the VP Baseball will determine the workout drills. The team selection shall be completed by the 3rd week in May.
- (5) Selected Players must pay a uniform fee set by the BOD and sign a written letter of commitment one month prior to the start of the Pony tournament season and must remain with their respective team until the team's tournament season play is concluded due to failure to advance to higher level play.
- (6) If a player leaves the tournament team after signing the commitment letter they may not join any other SCAA Tournament or Select team for two spring seasons. The board of directors must approve deviations from this section. The reason for failure to honor the commitment must be submitted to the VP of Baseball and Rules Committee Chairman in writing and prior to withdrawing from the team.
- (7) The selection of players for the tournament team shall be by written ballots. The Player Agent and an Executive Board Member shall tally selection committee votes. On the first ballot each selection committee member shall select the number of players necessary for a full team. Those players who receive the unanimous vote of all members shall be selected.
- (8) If a full team is not selected on the first ballot, then a second written ballot shall be taken and all members shall vote for the number of vacancies remaining after the first ballot. Those players who receive the unanimous vote of all managers shall be selected to fill said vacancies. Additional written ballots, if necessary, shall be taken in the same manner as the second ballot until a complete team is selected.
- (9) It is the objective of these rules that all players are selected to the tournament team by a unanimous vote of all members. However, after the first round if on any ballot no player receives the unanimous vote then the player(s) who receive one less than the unanimous vote of all managers, shall be selected to the tournament team. Finally, if on any ballot, no player receives either the unanimous vote of all managers or one less than the unanimous vote of all managers, then the player(s) who receive two less than the unanimous vote of all managers shall be selected to the tournament team. If there is a tie vote among players eligible for selection to the tournament team,



2023 SCAA Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations

the tie shall be broken by the VP of Baseball or other Executive Board Member. Manager's son will automatically be on the team. After nine players have been selected to include the Manager's player the Tournament Manager will select the three remaining players and three players with the highest votes after the 12 player selection will be the alternates in order of votes received.

- (10) Sunday select teams that enter the tournament who do not have the required 12 players will select the additional players they need from the tournament player list after the tournament players have been selected. Those players selected will be from the next highest votes from the selection process. Select rosters are established at the start of the first spring game.

C. Managers

- (1) The manager for each tournament team shall apply during the Spring season and by the deadline set each year by the VP of Baseball.
- (2) Each Manager will be selected by vote from his fellow managers of their respective league.
- (3) The selection of managers and coaches for the tournament team shall be by written ballots. The Player Agent and an Executive Board Member shall tally selection committee votes.
- (4) If there is a tie vote among players eligible for selection to the tournament team, the tie shall be broken by the VP of Baseball or other Executive Board Member.
- (5) The tournament team manager will recommend assistant coaches and business managers for their teams. The #1 assistant coach cannot be from the same team as the manager. Assistant coaches and business manager selection must comply with Pony tournament rules and be approved by the BOD or designated committee.
- (6) Managers and coaches must remain with their respective team until the team's tournament season play is concluded due to failure to advance to higher-level play.
- (7) If a manager or coach leaves the tournament team after signing the commitment letter they may not join any other SCAA Tournament or Select team for two spring seasons. The board of directors must approve deviations from this section. The reason for failure to honor the commitment must be submitted to the VP of Baseball and rules committee chairman in writing and prior to withdrawing from the team.