

South Sound Baseball Policies and Procedures

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South Sound Baseball is an affiliate of PONY Baseball Inc. and agrees to abide by the Rules and Regulations of PONY Baseball Inc. South Sound Baseball cannot change its national affiliation without a 60% vote of sitting District Directors.

1.0 The Manager

1.01 The Manager is responsible for the conduct of everyone associated with the team to include assistant coaches, players, bat boys, bat girls, scorekeepers, parents, and fans.

COMMENT: Unruly spectators and spectators exhibiting unsporting conduct, obscene, indecent, and/or abusive language is unacceptable. An official will address such behavior as follows; inform The Manager that if the specified spectator doesn't refrain from continuing the offensive behavior, the Manager will be ejected from the contest.

1.02 The Manager is the designated representative for the team to the officials, scorebooks, and the opposing team's Manager.

1.03 The Manager will:

- a. place the emotional and physical well-being of the players ahead of any personal desire to win.
- b. review and practice the basic first aid principles needed to treat player injuries.
- c. provide an environment for the team that is 100 percent free of drugs, tobacco (including vaping), and alcohol.
- d. be knowledgeable in the rules of baseball and teach these rules to the players.
- e. use coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills taught, and the age group being taught.
- f. treat the players, other coaches, officials, and fans with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or abilities.
- g. ensure minors wear a protective helmet with double ear flaps and a NOCSAE stamp while coaching a base.
- h. refrain from throwing objects (to include but not limited to bats, baseballs, helmets, coffee cups) in frustration, anger or passion.
- i. refrain from conversing with the opposing teams' players.
- j. refrain from the use of profanity, obscene or indecent language or gestures.
- k. refrain from the use of drugs, tobacco (including vaping), or alcohol.
- l. ensure that pregame conference/responsibilities (10.00) and post-game conference/responsibilities (11.00) are completed and adhered to.

PENALTY 1.03 (f-l) The Manager may be ejected from the contest, no warning is required, and/or the Manager may be placed on suspension and probation.

- m. ensure that at least one (1) registered coach is on the game site.
- n. ensure that at least one (1) registered adult is present in the dugout at all times.

NOTE 1.03 (m and n) The adult in the dugout does not need to be the manager or the designated coach on site, may be a registered adult volunteer. However, if no other registered adult volunteer is available, then the Acting Manager (registered coach on site) needs to remain in the dugout and not coach a base while on offense. A player may be used as a base coach in this situation.

PENALTY 1.03 (m and n) The contest will be forfeited to the opponent

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- o. refrain from playing non-rostered players.
- p. ensure that SSB resources are secured prior to exiting a SSB venue.

PENALTY 1.03 (o and p) Contest will be forfeited to the opponent, and the responsible Manager may be placed on suspension and probation.

- q. participate in concussion prevention education as provided by SSB in response to the Lystedt Law and provide a completed concussion form to SSB.
- r. be subject to a background check and will provide required information to SSB when registering as a Manager.
- s. ensure that a minimum one (1) Assistant Coach in addition to The Manager is registered with SSB as a coach.
- t. Use Smart Pitch Guidelines for all games

PENALTY 1.03 (r-t) Each and every contest which occurred in which one of the criteria is not complete will be forfeited to the opponent.

2.00 The Assistant Coach

2.01 An Assistant Coach is responsible for conduct of personnel associated with the team.

2.02 An Assistant Coach is the designated representative for the team to the officials, scorebooks, and the other team's Manager when acting in the capacity of The Manager because of The Manager being ejected or absent for any other reason.

2.03 An Assistant Coach will:

- a. place the emotional and physical well-being of the players ahead of any personal desire to win.
- b. review and practice the basic first aid principles needed to treat player injuries.
- c. provide an environment for the team that is 100 percent free of drugs, tobacco (including vaping), and alcohol.
- d. be knowledgeable in the rules of baseball and teach these rules to the players.
- e. use coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills taught, and the age group being taught.
- f. treat the players, other coaches, officials, and fans with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or abilities.
- g. remain in the dugout at all times while the ball is live unless coaching a base while the team is on offense.
- h. ensure minors wear a protective helmet with double ear flaps and a NOCSAE stamp while coaching a base.
- i. refrain from throwing objects (to include but not limited to bats, baseballs, helmets, coffee cups) in frustration, anger or passion.
- j. refrain from conversing with the opposing teams' players.
- k. refrain from the use of profanity, obscene or indecent language or gestures.
- l. refrain from the use of drugs, tobacco (including vaping), or alcohol.
- m. ensure that pregame conference/responsibilities (10.00) and post game conference/responsibilities (11.00) are completed and adhered to.

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PENALTY 2.03 (f-m) An Assistant Coach may be ejected from the contest, no warning is required, and/or the Manager may be placed on suspension and probation.

- n. refrain from playing non-rostered players.
- o. ensure that SSB resources are secured prior to exiting a SSB venue.

PENALTY 2.03 (n and o) Contest will be forfeited to the opponent, and the Manager may be placed on suspension and probation.

- p. participate in concussion prevention education as provided by SSB in response to the Lystedt Law and provide a completed concussion form to SSB.
- q. be subject to a background check and will provide required information to SSB when registering as a Manager.
- r. ensure that a minimum one (1) Assistant Coach in addition to The Manager is registered with SSB as a coach.
- s. Use Smart Pitch Guidelines for all games

PENALTY 1.03 (p-r) Each and every contest which occurred in which one of these criteria is not complete will be forfeited to the opponent.

3.00 The Scorekeeper

3.01 The Scorekeeper is responsible for documenting the events in a contest. The scorekeeper cannot be the Head Coach. The team's scorebook is the chronological document of the events for the team during SSB sanctioned contests.

3.02 The Scorekeeper will;

- a. refrain from throwing objects (to include but not limited to bats, baseballs, helmets, coffee cups) in frustration, anger or passion.
- b. refrain from conversing with the opposing teams' players.
- c. refrain from the use of profanity, obscene or indecent language or gestures.
- d. refrain from the use of drugs, tobacco, or alcohol.
- e. remain in or next to the dugout, or adjacent to the home plate, unless comparing scorebooks with the opposing scorekeeper.

PENALTY 3.02 (a-e) The Scorekeeper may be ejected from the contest. No warning is required.

- f. affix his/her name in ink and sign the scorebook for each contest which is played.
- g. affix the final score in ink in the scorebook for each contest that is played.
- h. affix each pitcher's name and jersey number in ink in the scorebook for each contest that is played.
- i. affix the number of pitches pitched during the contest in ink next to the pitcher's full name and jersey number in the scorebook for each game that is played.
- j. secure the signature in ink of The Umpire-In-Chief in the scorebook for each contest which is played after 3.02 (f-i) have been completed. This is to be done at the conclusion of the contest behind Home Plate.
- k. will identify him/herself to The Umpire-In-Chief.

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- l. be subject to a background check.

4.00 The Player

4.01 The Player will:

- a. treat teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, and fans with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities.
- b. remain in the dugout at all times while the ball is live unless coaching a base, at bat, running the bases, or on deck while the team is on offense, or playing a position while the team is on defense, or warming up in the bullpen. Minors must wear a protective helmet with double ear flaps, and a NOCSAE stamp while coaching a base.
- c. wear a protective mask whenever warming up a pitcher while assuming the catcher's position, whether in the bullpen, game mound, or any other location.
- d. wear a protective helmet with double ear flaps and a NOCSAE stamp while at bat, running the bases, and on deck.
- e. refrain from throwing objects (to include but not limited to bats, baseballs, helmets, coffee cups) in frustration, anger or passion
- f. refrain from speaking with the opposing teams' players, coaches, or any other personnel with the opposing team, and spectators.
- g. refrain from the use of profanity, obscene or indecent language or gestures.
- h. refrain from the use of drugs, tobacco (including vaping), or alcohol.

PENALTY 4.01 (a-h) The Player may be ejected from the contest. No warning is required.

5.00 The Parent/Guardian

5.01 The Parent/Guardian will:

- a. treat players, coaches, officials, opponents, and all fans with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities.
- b. remain out of the dugout and off of the playing surface at all times.
- c. refrain from throwing objects (to include but not limited to bats, baseballs, helmets, coffee cups) in frustration, anger or passion.
- d. refrain from conversing with the players, coaches, or officials.
- e. refrain from the use of profanity, obscene or indecent language or gestures.
- f. refrain from the use of drugs, tobacco (including vaping), or alcohol.

PENALTY 5.01 (a-f) The Parent/Guardian may be ejected from the contest. No warning is required.

PENALTY 5.01 (a-f) The Manager will be issued one (1) warning to control his/her parents, spectators, and/or fans. Any subsequent incident during the contest may result in the Manager being ejected. In the event that the associated team cannot be identified, then the Manager for both teams will be held accountable equally and together. In this case, it is permissible for the Manager for each team to converse for the purpose of resolving the incident.

NOTE 5.01 (a-f) The primary philosophy for SSB to address inappropriate behavior of any kind is through the Manager of the team. The Manager is considered the primary representative for the team, and is therefore the individual responsible. The possibility for a Parent/Guardian to be ejected from a contest is another tool for the officials to use if needed.

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6.00 The Spectator

6.01 The Spectator will;

- a. treat players, coaches, officials, opponents, and all fans with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities.
- b. remain out of the dugout and off of the playing surface at all times.
- c. refrain from throwing objects (to include but not limited to bats, baseballs, helmets, coffee cups) in frustration, anger or passion.
- d. refrain from conversing with the players, coaches, or officials.
- e. refrain from the use of profanity, obscene or indecent language or gestures.
- f. refrain from the use of drugs, tobacco (including vaping), or alcohol.

PENALTY 6.01 (b) The Spectator may be ejected from the contest. No warning is required.

PENALTY 6.01 (a-f) The Manager will be issued one (1) warning to control his/her parents, spectators, and/or fans. Any subsequent incident during the contest may result in the Manager being ejected. In the event that the associated team cannot be identified, then the home team Manager will be held accountable. In this case, it is permissible for the Manager for each team to converse for the purpose of resolving the incident.

NOTE 6.01 (a-f) The primary philosophy for SSB to address inappropriate behavior of any kind is through the Manager of the team. The Manager is considered the primary representative for the team, and is therefore the individual responsible. The possibility for a Spectator to be ejected from a contest is another tool for the officials to use if needed.

7.00 The Umpire

7.01 All Umpires will enforce Rules, Policies, and Procedures as follows;

- a. First, SSB Rules, Policies and Procedures as published by SSB.
- b. Second, if SSB Rules, Policies and Procedures do not address the issue, situation, then enforce PONY Rules as published by PONY Baseball Inc.
- c. Lastly, if SSB Rules, Policies and Procedures do not address the issue, situation, and then enforce MLB Rules as published by the commissioner of MLB.

7.02 Ejection/Incident of Note Reports

- a. Ejection/Incident of Note reports are required to be submitted within 36 hours of the ejection or incident to the Umpire president, SSB president, and the SSB Umpires and Rules Committee.

8.00 Playing Time

8.01 Playing time for each player is addressed in the Rules of SSB Bronco and younger. Each player is to play half the number of innings on defense per game, rounded down.

8.02 Playing time for each player at LEAGUE levels where utilizing substitutions is an option, then each player is to play half the innings on defense the player has attended for the season.

NOTE 8.02 The Primary philosophy is for each and all players, regardless of the individual's skill level, to enjoy the experience of playing baseball, and learning the tangible and intangible skills associated with the game of baseball.

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PENALTY 8.01 and 8.02 The enforcement of 8.01 and 8.02 will be by the Director with collaboration with the SSB Umpires and Rules Committee. The penalties can be wide ranging at the discretion of the Director with collaboration with the SSB Umpires and Rules Committee to include but not limited to rescinding the team's option to bat nine (9) or ten (10), probation of The Manager, suspension of The Manager, forfeiture of games in which playing time was not distributed equally, and/or dismissal of The Manager.

9.00 Called Contests

9.01 Contests called due to lack of light are dealt with in the following ways:

- a. If at the time the contest is called an official game has not been completed, then the contest is suspended and will be completed the next time the two teams are scheduled to contest. If the two teams are not scheduled to contest again, then all attempts will be made to schedule a continuation of the suspended contest. If this is not possible, then the score reverts to the last completed inning and is then counted as an official game. If the home team is leading and the home team is at bat, then this is considered a completed inning.
- b. If at the time the contest is called an official game has been completed, then the score reverts to the last completed inning. If upon reverting to the last completed inning results in an official game not being completed, then the contest is suspended at the time the contest is called without any reversion to the last completed inning. If the home team is leading and the home team is at bat, then this is considered a completed inning.

9.02 Contest called due to weather are dealt with in the following ways:

- a. If at the time the contest is called an official game has not been completed, then the contest is suspended and will be completed the next time the two teams are scheduled to contest. If the two teams are not scheduled to contest again, then all attempts will be made to schedule a continuation of the suspended contest. If this is not possible, then the score reverts back to the last completed inning and is then counted as an official game. If the home team is leading and the home team is at bat, then this is considered a completed inning.
- b. If at the time the contest is called an official game has been completed, and then the score reverts back to the last completed inning. If upon reverting back to the last completed inning results in an official game not being completed, then the contest is suspended at the time the contest is called without any reversion to the last completed inning. If the home team is leading and the home team is at bat, then this is considered a completed inning.

10.00 Pre-Game Responsibilities

10.01 A registered Coach will arrive to all scheduled contests 30 minutes prior.

10.02 Pre-game conference is to be conducted 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start of a contest.

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- 10.03 Each Team Manager will provide the opposing Manager with a copy of their current line-up. Upon request will provide a copy of the same line-up to the umpire.
 - 10.04 The Home Team, Visiting Team and the Umpire-In-Chief shall review any ground rules specific or pertinent to the field.
 - 10.05 Prior to the conclusion of the Pre-Game Conference, The Umpire-In-Chief shall announce to both Manager, or acting Managers, and the Official Scorekeeper the Official Start Time.
- 11.00 Post-Game Conference/Responsibilities
- 11.01 Both Scorekeepers shall meet at home plate with The Umpire-In-Chief to review the scorebooks and affix pertinent signatures.
 - 11.02 Immediately upon the conclusion of the contest, unless the team is playing a double header at the same venue, each team will vacate the dugout, to include removal of all equipment and garbage, prior to any team related meeting.
 - 11.03 Team Managers (acting Managers) are held responsible for all personnel for the team to include spectators and fans, parents and players, as well as all adults and coaches associated with the team.
- 12.00 Coach and Adult Volunteer Participation
- 12.01 The Compliance and Rules Committee
 - a. Formation and Structure
 - 1) The Compliance and Rules Committee is a designated representative of the President of SSB.
 - 2) The Committee consists of a minimum of three members and a maximum of five members, appointed by the President of SSB.
 - 3) Members of the Committee may be drawn from the Board or Executive Committee of SSB but may otherwise be persons of sufficient knowledge and interest as to serve the best interests of the program.
 - 4) The Committee may at its discretion appoint its own Chairperson or may defer to the designation of a chair by the President, the Executive Committee, or the Board of Directors.
 - 5) In the event of an absence or conflict of interest, the Committee may request the president to sit or appoint a temporary member of his or her choosing, or the Compliance and Education Committee Chair may appoint a person in order to render a decision. As long as an absence or conflict of interest exists, a temporary appointee may continue to act until his or her appointment is withdrawn by the Chair. All temporary appointments end when the absence or conflict of interest is resolved.
 - b. Powers and Duties
 - 1) The Compliance and Rules Committee may rule on all matters relating to compliance of participants with the policies and procedures of SSB. This includes but is not limited to participant conduct and compliance with administrative requirements such as registration, rostering, and

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background checks. Compliance with SSB, PONY, and MLB rules is determined by the SSB Compliance and Rules Committee.

- 2) The Committee will develop and implement a program of coach education and development, to include an annual all-coaches meeting to be held each spring, prior to the onset of the spring program. The committee may schedule other educational events as appropriate.
 - 3) The Committee is responsible for implementing background checks of SSB coaches and adult volunteers.
 - 4) The Committee may establish standards of education, participation, and performance for all participants. The premise of the Committee, however, is not to be a crucible. Rather, the goal of the Committee is to help motivated coaches, players, and parents develop in a way that optimizes their participation in the program, and thereby help to assure a rewarding experience for participants. The Committee may set higher expectations for coaches, players, and parents who aspire to participation at highly competitive levels in SSB.
 - 5) The Committee will act in the best interest of the program and players as regards matters of discipline, always with the safety and wellbeing of players at the forefront of considerations.
 - 6) Until disapproved by the Executive Committee, a draft policy or procedure adopted by the Committee is in place and in effect.
 - 7) Official business of the Committee shall not be conducted unless at least two members can participate. Members may participate by internet, teleconference, or any method which in the view of the committee serves to accomplish the work at hand. A vote may be taken with only two members casting ballots. The president or his designee' may cast a tie breaking ballot at the request of the committee.
- c. Communications and Addressing Complaints
- 1) The Compliance and Rules Committee may act on complaints regarding participant conduct which are referred from a Board member or member of the Executive Committee. All complaints must be copied to the President. The Committee will not consider complaints from other sources. When complaints are received from other sources, the Committee will refer the complainant back through proper channels.
 - 2) Following any incident of note report, ejection, or other properly submitted complaint, the Compliance and Rules Committee may act upon its own motion when ruling on such matter issuing disciplinary sanctions.
 - 3) All notices of complaint, sanction, or appeal shall be in writing. The standard of notification will be electronic mail. It is the responsibility of all participants to make known to SSB a valid e-mail address. The Committee may use regular U.S. mail or such other means as it deems appropriate to communicate with participants. Notifications of expulsion or ban will be served by U.S. mail, return receipt requested, in addition to or in lieu of electronic mail.
 - 4) When U.S. mail is used, the time for submittal and response shall be based on the time and date of posting, or time and date of receipt if

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verifiable and as appropriate. IF a time and date of receipt of correspondence sent by U.S. mail cannot be determined, it shall be presumed that the mail was delivered in three days if it was not returned to the sender.

- 5) Minors (under 18 years of age at the time they are asked to respond to a complaint) must be represented. All notices of complaint, sanction, or appeal regarding conduct of minor participants shall be served on a parent or legal guardian, and a parent or legal guardian must be present or represent the minor participant in any ensuing action(s). In the event a parent or legal guardian cannot be located, or declines to respond, the Committee may elect to suspend participation or hold further review in abeyance.
 - i. *A manager or coach may offer a statement regarding the disciplinary matter in question and may participate in the appeals process with the consent of the parent or legal guardian. Managers and coaches are not permitted to participate in the active investigation of any complaint and are not part of the deliberation process.*
- 6) Except when overturned on appeal, or by request of the president by a majority vote of the Executive Committee in accordance with 12.01 (d)(8), the Compliance and ~~Education~~ Rules Committee is the final arbiter in all matters of discipline which are brought to its attention. The Committee is not the only means of effecting corrective actions, and all disciplinary actions must recognize the organizational structure of SSB, including the role of District Directors, the role of the Umpire and Rules Committee, Tournament Directors, and the role of our partner umpire organization(s) and/or game officials. The Committee may take note of any findings or disciplinary actions taken by other bodies and consider such in future deliberations regarding a participant's conduct.
- 7) The Committee recognizes the authority of the District Director to impose district level sanctions as allowed under the by-laws and policies and procedures of SSB. A participant who is sanctioned at the district level by loss of participatory privilege may appeal to the Compliance and Rules Committee. The appeal will then follow the course otherwise described for the sanction imposed. In considering appeals of District level sanctions, the operating assumption of the Committee will be that the judgment of a District Director is presumed correct. The Committee will therefore give great weight to the position of the Director, and the burden of proof to the contrary will be placed on the appellant.
 - i. *In the event the C&RC disagrees with the District Director's decisions, the Director may appeal that decision to the Executive Committee or Board of Directors.*
- 8) Some matters of discipline may necessarily transcend district level adjudication. The Compliance and Rules Committee must be notified of any complaint or incident involving drugs or alcohol, or any threat of

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violence or actual violence directed at any participant, and any matter of criminal conduct outside of SSB which might call into question an individual's fitness for participation in SSB. Failure of a District Director to notify the Committee in the foregoing circumstances constitutes official misconduct which shall be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee of SSB. In all such cases the Committee will work with the District Director and other officials of SSB for the most appropriate resolution.

d. Timeframe for Decision Making

- 1) It is in the best interest of SSB and participants to have a speedy resolution of complaints, sanctions and appeals. If notification is delivered/received before 6:00 PM, the clock for response begins at midnight on the date of the complaint, date of notification of sanction, or date of notification of appeal as appropriate. If notification is delivered/ received after 6:00 PM, the clock begins at midnight on the following day. U.S. mail is considered to have been delivered by 6:00 PM on the date it is received.
- 2) Any complaint initially received more than 48 hours after the incident may be noted or acted upon by the committee, but the Committee is not obligated to respond. Any appeal received after 24 hours may be considered at the discretion of the governing body, without obligation to respond.
- 3) Upon receipt of a timely appeal, a suspension, expulsion, or ban is placed in abeyance until appeal has been resolved. An exception to this provision shall be granted at the discretion of the President, on request by the Compliance and Rules Committee, if the Committee believes extraordinary circumstances demand an immediate response. An appellant's benefit of abeyance should not be denied for cases which are simply offensive (rude behavior, cheating), and should be denied only where the safety and wellbeing of participants is of immediate concern.
- 4) In any case of appeal, the governing body should render a decision within 48 hours. If a substantially longer time may be required, the governing body will notify the appellant of the timeframe required. If an appeal will take an excessive amount of time to resolve, the governing body may elect to place the entire complaint in abeyance pending further action and may at its discretion dissolve the complaint at a later date. Failure to render a decision within 48 hours does not invalidate a complaint or appeal, except the President's appeal under 12.01(d)(8) below.
- 5) Upon rendering an initial decision, the Committee shall first notify the President. If the President fails to act within 12 hours of notice by the Committee, it is presumed that the President does not object.
- 6) The President may ask the Committee to reconsider any aspect of a decision within 12 hours of being notified of the decision. The Committee is not obligated to such reconsideration.
- 7) Following the President's request for reconsideration, the Committee shall inform the President of its final decision and any amendments. The President may direct the Committee to hold its decision in abeyance and if so, must immediately (within 12-hour period following the Committee's

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final decision) refer the matter to the Executive Committee of SSB by e-mail with a copy to the Compliance and Rules Committee. The President must clearly state the basis for his/her objection, whether any potential conflict of interest exists, and preferred resolution in such a way that the Executive Committee can render a prompt decision. If the President does not act within 12 hours, the decision of the Committee is final.

- 8) A majority of the current Executive Committee must affirm or deny the President's position by e-mail with copies to the Compliance and Rules Committee within 24 hours of the President's sending his or her e-mail notice. If the President fails to direct his request within 12 hours, or if the Executive Committee fails to act within 24 hours, the decision of the Compliance and Education Committee is final.
- 9) Absent an appeal by the participant, any aspect of the President's request for reconsideration which is not upheld by the Executive Committee stands as the final decision of the Compliance and Rules Committee.
- 10) The failure of the President to ask for consideration or the failure of the Executive Committee to affirm or deny a request for reconsideration does not abrogate rights of appeal otherwise available under these policies.
- 11) For the purposes of this process, the Executive Committee is not required to convene in person and electronic balloting by simple e-mail is automatically approved.

e. Sanctions

- 1) A reprimand may be issued to any participant in answer to behavior considered unacceptable by SSB. Upon notification of a reprimand, the participant may appeal the decision to the SSB Compliance and Rules Committee. Upon receipt of request for appeal, the Committee will decide on the appeal. In all matters of reprimand without further sanction, the decisions of the SSB Compliance and Education Rules Committee are final except in the case of the President's request for reconsideration under 12.01(d)(8). The appeal process for a reprimand is in written form only, and no hearing is required.
- 2) A suspension may be issued to any participant in answer to behavior considered unacceptable by SSB. Upon notification of a suspension, the participant may appeal the decision to the SSB Compliance and Rules Committee. Upon receipt of request for appeal, the Committee will decide on the appeal. In all matters of suspension up to and including three games, the decisions of the SSB Compliance and Education Committee are final. Decisions of suspension in excess of three games may be appealed to the Executive Committee.
- 3) An expulsion may be issued to any participant in answer to behavior considered unacceptable by SSB. Upon notification of an expulsion, the participant may appeal the decision of expulsion to the SSB Compliance and Rules Committee. Upon receipt of request for appeal, the Committee will decide on the appeal. In matters of expulsion, the decisions of the Committee may be appealed to the SSB Executive Committee.
- 4) A ban may be issued in answer to behavior considered unacceptable by SSB. Upon notification of a ban, the participant may appeal the decision of ban to the SSB Compliance and Rules Committee. Upon receipt of request for

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appeal, the Committee will decide on the appeal. In matters of ban, the decisions of the Committee may be appealed to the SSB Executive Committee.

- 5) In addition to the sanctions above, the C&RC may impose other sanctions which include but are not limited to forfeiture of games, loss of managing privilege, and declaration of ineligibility for post season play. These sanctions may be appealed to the Committee first, and subsequently to the Executive Committee. These sanctions may only be appealed to the Board with the approval of the Executive Committee.

12.02 Registration

a. Coaches

- 1) A coach may not participate in SSB unless he or she is properly registered. Proper registration means that all required forms are completed, factually correct, and on file with the league.
- 2) Coaches must provide a valid e-mail address for communication. A coach who cannot provide a valid e-mail must contact the Compliance and Rules Committee with an explanation and await further instructions.
- 3) The Compliance and Rules Committee will maintain a registry of coaches approved for participation in SSB.
- 4) A coach who is not properly registered by 15 days prior to start of the season will be given a ten working day window to correct deficiencies. If at the end of the ten-day window the coach has not completed registration, he/she is automatically suspended until registration is completed. Until registration is completed a suspended coach may not participate in any SSB activity including practices.
 - i. The District Director will be notified of the deficiencies and suspension.
 - ii. There is not appeal as regards any matter pertaining to meeting registration requirements. The remedy is to complete registration.

b. Players

- 1) Players must be fully registered in order to participate in SSB.
- 2) It is a major violation of SSB policy to place unregistered players on the field of play. Coaches who fail to comply are subject to sanctions up to and including expulsion for the season or banning.

12.03 Background Checks

- a. SSB expects to implement criminal background checks on all coaches and adult volunteers at least once every five years.
- b. Coaches who have not previously participated in SSB may be subject to a background check during their first year of participation.
- c. SSB is primarily concerned with crimes which are violent, or which may include an individual toward violence, and particularly crimes against children. Crimes

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including fraud and embezzlement are also of concern, however, because coaches can at times be entrusted with significant amounts of money.

- d. In evaluating criminal history, SSB will take into consideration the length of time since any conviction, the circumstances as we are able to understand them, and the steps taken by an individual to right any wrongdoing. In cases regarding criminal history, SSB is the sole judge as to eligibility of participation in SSB activities.
- e. Because background checks acquire sensitive personal information, only Compliance and Education Rules Committee members will be authorized to participate in background checks.
- f. Failure of a coach to cooperate in obtaining a background check is considered an extraordinary circumstance per policy 12.01(d)(3), and is grounds for immediate suspension, expulsion, or banning.
- g. Convictions for the following offenses are cause for disqualification from participation in SSB for any period of time up to a lifetime ban, or for limits on participation in SSB, after further review by the league;
 - 1) Any crime involving children, any violent crime, or any major drug related conviction is cause for disqualification.
 - 2) Any drug or alcohol related offenses less than five years old may be cause for disqualification.
 - 3) Two or more convictions for alcohol or minor drug related offenses may be cause for disqualification.
 - i. For the purposes of these rules single alcohol convictions and minor drug convictions more than five years old are not of themselves cause for disqualification unless they are elements of a larger criminal history.
 - 4) Any other offense or combination of offenses which in the view of SSB give question to the fitness of a coach to participate in the league.
- h. Upon determination that a coach may be unfit for participation in SSB based on past criminal history, the Compliance and Rules Committee will notify the President of the league and the affected Director as to the Committee decision and the basis for the decision.
- i. If the Compliance and Rules Committee recommends that a coach be barred from participation, the President and Director will be given an opportunity to review. If they concur, the coach will be informed that he/she is not eligible to participate. If the President or Director do not concur, then the Committee may reverse its decision or refer the Coach through the appeals process to the Executive Committee.

12.04 Education and Development-Mandatory Participation

- a) All managers and coaches, including returning coaches, are required to participate in an orientation meeting designated by the league for their level of play and season of participation.
- b) All teams must have at least one representative at the appropriate meeting. Any manager or coach not in attendance may face sanctions from the league.

South Sound Baseball Policies and Procedures

- c) Sanctions for coaching staff who fail to attend required training can include but are not limited to loss of managing privilege, loss of coaching privilege, and loss of eligibility for post season participation.
- d) As a goal, SSB eventually expects all of its coaches to participate in age appropriate educational clinics each year in order to create the best learning environment for all participants.

13.00 Financial Policy

13.01 The President of South Sound Baseball shall appoint a Finance Committee, chaired by the SSB Treasurer, consisting of at least 2 members in addition to the Treasurer.

- a) The Finance Committee shall bring recommendations to the Executive Committee for its approval for league and player registration fees, allocation and disbursement of discretionary and league funds to the districts and other recommendations to carry out SSB financial policy.
- b) Prior to January 1 of each calendar year the Board of Directors of South Sound Baseball, Inc. (SSB or League) shall adopt a budget for the following year.

13.02 Authorities

Within the Board approved budget, funds shall be received and disbursed by the Treasurer as approved by the Executive Committee. The Finance Committee, Treasurer, or Executive Committee on its own motion may make recommendations to the Executive Committee for amendments to this policy. The Executive Committee may delegate authority to the Treasurer or other Officer for carrying out the day-to-day business of SSB with reports to the Executive Committee, provided such delegated authority is within the Board approved budget.

13.03 Collection and Distribution of Revenues

- a) South Sound Baseball League will collect player registration fees.

13.04 Operating Expenses

- a) SSB is responsible for player uniform via a SSB approved vendor; player and board insurance; umpire fees; practice field fees for the month of March or leading up to first schedule League games; game field fees; field maintenance expenses such as chalk; game supplies such as 1 copy of PONY rules per team and 1 game ball per scheduled game per team; consolidated League storage; all Fall Baseball expenses; and League administration costs including League web domain or league web page expenses; League banking fees; League postal fees, etc.

13.05 Records and Administration

- a) A player is not rostered, and thus is not allowed to play in any SSB sanctioned game unless they are in good financial standing. No player may participate in any SSB game that is not in good standing.
- b) The league will not pay uniform costs for un-rostered players or for players who are not in good financial standing.

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14.00 Registration Refunds/Late Fees

14.01 Spring Program Refunds

- a) 100% Refunds may be issued up until March 1st.
- b) After March 1st, 50% Refunds may be issued up until game schedules are released.
- c) After game schedules are published, prorated Refunds may be issued at the Board of Director's discretion.

14.02 Spring Program Late Fees

A \$20.00 late registration fee may be charged by ~~each district~~ SSB for any registration accepted after February 22nd. This covers the extra work entailed to find roster openings in order to accommodate the participant. This also goes to covering potential fees that may be associated with late uniform orders as there is no bulk discount rate for single uniform orders.

14.03 Fall Program Refunds

- a) 100% Refunds may be issued up until uniforms are ordered
- b) After game schedules are published, 50% Refunds may be issued up until games begin.
- c) Once games begin, no refunds will be issued.

14.04 Fall Program Late Fees

A \$20.00 late registration fee may be charged for registrations accepted within 14 calendar days of the first scheduled game.

15.00 Playing up/ Playing Down

15.01 SSB encourages participants to play age correct as it is believed that player development is maximized by playing in the proper age grouping. However, SSB recognizes that on occasion, there are circumstances where playing up is more desirable. The criteria for a participant to play up is;

- a) a participant may play up one (1) year (i.e. a 10 year old league age may participate as a Mustang or a Bronco).
- b) a participant may not play up two (2) years (i.e. a 9 year old league age may participate as a Mustang but not participate as a Bronco).
- c) Currently, SSB doesn't offer a Colt program. Colt eligible participants enter SSB play as Colt-Palomino combined participants. As such, Pony Participants are not allowed to play up as Colt-Palomino combined includes players up to 19 years of age league age.

15.02 Players with disabilities qualifying under federal or state Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines may receive a reasonable accommodation to enable participation in South Sound Baseball (SSB). An accommodation will be considered reasonable if in the opinion of South Sound Baseball, it does not alter or substantially compromise the fundamental nature of the game. In making a determination of reasonableness, SSB must also consider the well being of other players, and whether an accommodation would compromise the safety of younger players or would alter the fundamental nature of the game. Accommodations are likely to be age and context specific and an accommodation in one circumstance may not be appropriate for the same disability in different circumstances.

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- a) A parent may request an accommodation by filing a written notice to the league president, or the league president's designated representative for ADA accommodations, and Director. All requests must be in writing, and must be made not later than ten days after the date of registration. South Sound Baseball will consider requests after the ten day period but is not obligated to grant such requests. The purpose of this timeframe is to allow SSB to fairly evaluate a request and work with coaches and others toward the best placement of the player and the appropriate accommodation. The parent or guardian must provide a statement from a medical doctor that an ADA qualifying condition exists, explain how it compromises the player's ability to participate, and explain the accommodation being sought.
- b) If an accommodation is granted SSB will provide a note to the parents and coach, and provide direction to when and how to make the need for an accommodation known. As part of an accommodation SSB may require a parent or guardian to provide additional supervision or assistance if necessary to ensure the quality of the experience for all involved. If a request for accommodation is denied, SSB will explain why.
- c) All accommodations are granted for the current season of play only and may be renewed on request. If a request for renewal is made, SSB may request that updated information on the disability and accommodation be provided before reauthorizing the accommodation. An accommodation may be withdrawn if the safety of other players is jeopardized, if implementations of the accommodation does not meet the test of reasonableness, or if the basic premise of the accommodation is determined to be incorrect.
- d) Accommodations are granted for participation in the local league regular season play only. SSB cannot address or ensure the accommodation practices of other leagues with which we may interact. In the event of participation in a national level PONY tournament, parents may need to request a separate accommodation through PONY Baseball, Inc.
- e) Accommodations which South Sound Baseball potentially recognizes as reasonable include;
 - 1) Playing in a lower age group when participation of the older player does not jeopardize the safety of younger players (by strength, skill, or behavior). Players with behavioral issues related to a disability are not excused from the conduct expected of players not granted an accommodation and are subject to all applicable league rules pertaining to discipline.
 - 2) A waiver of the minimum playing time requirement for players who through loss of focus or physical limitations may not be able to participate in the required number of innings. A player thus removed is deemed removed from play for medical reasons the same as injured or ill players without an accommodation and may not return to play in the same game.
 - 3) Allowance for a sign language interpreter in or near the dugout during play, but not on the field of play unless acting as a coach.

16.00 Team Uniforms/Uniform Upgrade Policy

16.01 SSB Buying power enables SSB to negotiate a bulk rate uniform discount. Therefore, all teams will utilize the SSB Vendor for all basic uniform orders.

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16.02 A SSB Team may upgrade the team uniform. The process for doing this with a SSB approved vendor is as follows:

- a) SSB will pay for the Basic Uniform Allowance (set each year by the SSB Executive Committee) to the vendor per player per team.
- b) The team will order the upgrade through the SSB vendor and is responsible for any and all additional costs involved with the upgrade and will pay the vendor directly the entire cost of the upgrade prior to the order being processed.
- c) Any uniform upgrade is required to have "SSB" and/or "South Sound Baseball" somewhere on the uniform.

16.03 Using a NON-SSB Vendor

- a) A SSB team upgrading team uniforms with a non-SSB Vendor must negotiate through the team's Director to the league president or the league president's designated representative on a case by case basis to receive any uniform allowance.
- b) This allowance will not necessarily be the same as the SSB Basic Uniform Allowance.
- c) If the team proceeds with upgrading the team uniform prior to negotiating an allowance, the team will receive no uniform allowance.

17.00 Club Team

17.01 A Club Team is defined as a team's roster being 100 percent controlled by the Manager.

17.02 The Club Team is subject to all applicable SSB and PONY Rules and Policies and Procedures to include but not limited to age criteria, pitching limitations, and provisions for Manager, Coach, and Player suspension.

17.03 Club Team Registration

- a) All players, managers and coaches rostered on a club team must be individually registered through the SSB registration website.
- b) The Club Team must pay a refundable deposit of \$500 prior to play. Any monetary fines will be taken from this deposit.
- c) The Club Team Manager, Coaches, and Players are subject to all standard registration and rostering requirements in addition to this policy to include but not limited to coach background checks.
- d) The Club Team registers directly with SSB and is not associated with any district.

17.04 Club Team Participation Requirements

- a) The Club Team maintains its roster.
- b) The Club Team will refrain from recruiting SSB Rostered Players.
- c) Club Teams must play the SSB league schedule.
- d) The Club Team is presumed D1. Club Teams which play at the D1 level may get an automatic berth into PONY sectionals, subject to SSB & PONY Northwest (www.PonyBaseballNorthwest.org) approval. Players from outside of SSB boundaries as recognized by Pony need to apply to Pony Northwest (www.PonyBaseballNorthwest.org) for eligibility in Pony Sanctioned Tournament play with a SSB Club Team. Club Team managers should be informed of general PONY tournament process and costs before joining SSB.
- e) Club Teams which enter the Pony Tournament Trail must wear a SSB emblem on each player' and Coaches' uniform.

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- f) Club Teams which enter the Pony Tournament Trail must comply with PONY requirements regarding player eligibility.

17.05 Club Team Penalties

- a) Any and All violations by the Club Team or its participants are subject to monetary fines in addition to any and all standard applicable SSB sanctions. (\$100 per unscheduled forfeit plus \$25 reschedule fee).
- b) Any violations of SSB or Pony Policies and Procedures, to include this policy, or Rules by a Club Team, its coaching staff, Manager or Players to include but not limited to the placement of unregistered players or coaches on the field, or which abandon any regularly scheduled SSB league game lose its eligibility for Pony post season play in addition to any other penalty imposed.

18.00 District Boundaries

SSB Districts are organized and arranged based upon the local school district high school boundaries, and/or geographical circumstances. This provides each district with an identity with the local schools. This is also in keeping with the tradition of Pony Baseball, Inc. Exceptions will be made when it is in the best interest of the participant and SSB. The specifics of rostering in SSB are as follows;

18.01 Participants are rostered with the district in which the participant's

- a) school is located in.
- b) mother or father is residing in.
or
- c) Legal Guardian is residing in.

18.02 Participants who attend private, religious or home schools are given latitude.

Participants who attend private, religious or home school may be rostered in the district in which the participants

- a) school is located in.
- b) school is located if the participant attended a public school.
- c) mother or father is residing in.
or
- d) Legal Guardian is residing in.

18.03 When the Director of the district the participant would normally be rostered per 19.01 and/or 19.02 and the Director of the proposed district are informed and agree, exceptions may be given for;

- a) location of participant's daycare.
- b) continuity with a previous team the participant was rostered with.
- c) to be rostered with teammates from another local sport.
- d) relation to coaching staff members.
or
- e) to be rostered with coaches from another local sport.

18.04 Participants are rostered as a Pony, Colt, or Palomino are not restricted to district affiliations and may be rostered on any team within SSB.

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19.00 Borrowing Players

19.01 If necessary to fill a short roster, SSB managers may borrow players from other teams in limited circumstances. Failure to follow these policies may result in game forfeiture following protest, and disciplinary action for involved coaches.

19.02 All borrowed players must be properly registered in SSB and borrowed from a SSB team. In no case may an unregistered player be placed on the field of play.

19.03 End of Season Tournament Play

- a) Managers may not borrow players for end of season tournament play. Accordingly, managers should emphasize to parents and players the importance of supporting their team through the end of the season tournament, so that they do not jeopardize the team's opportunity for post-season play by their absence.

19.04 Season Play

- a) A team may borrow up to three players from another team(s) for any regular season contest if the following conditions are met:
 - 1) The borrowing team will field at least 8 and no more than 10 players including any borrowed players. In other words, a team with a short roster must bring at least five of its own players to the field (allowing the team to borrow three to start the minimum 8 players required by rules), and must expect to place no more than 9 of its regularly rostered players on the field (in which case only one player may be borrowed).
 - 2) In the event a regularly rostered player(s) not expected to participate shows, and the inclusion of that player(s) in the lineup would cause the team to field more than 10 players, the regularly rostered player will participate and borrowed player participation will be reduced accordingly to not more than one half the innings on defense as long as a regularly rostered player remains on the bench.
 - 3) During the plate meeting, any borrowed players must be identified to the opposing coach, including their regular team affiliation.
 - 4) Players must be borrowed from the same division or a lower division at the same league level, or from any division in the next lower league level (e.g. a Pony D2 team may borrow players from another Pony D2 team or any lower division Pony team, or from a Bronco team in any division; a Bronco D3 team may not borrow players from a Bronco D2 team).
 - 5) In no case may a player play up more than one division (i.e. a Pony team may not borrow a player from the Mustang level). A D1 Bronco could borrow a D3 Mustang player, but coaches and parents should use good judgment and not place players in situations far beyond their skill level.
 - 6) Borrowed players must be properly registered and rostered players in SSB.
 - 7) Each time a player is borrowed, the borrowing coach must report the player name and regular team affiliation to the Compliance and Rules Committee using the link from the web site.

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- 8) The same player may not be borrowed more than 3 times in the same season (this includes the End of Season Tournament)
- 9) Borrowed players may not pitch.
- 10) Borrowed players must be stacked at the bottom of the lineup with no regularly rostered player in a lower batting position.

20.00 Rescheduling

20.01 Only weather related issues are rescheduled.

NOTE 20.01 Although by SSB Rule (24.) only weather related cancellations are rescheduled, SSB does make every effort to reschedule verifiable academic issues as well.

20.02 Any reschedule request other than above may be approved at the opposing manager's pleasure. Failure to complete a regularly scheduled contest other than for the above reasons will result in forfeiture.

20.03 Reschedule Game Request Procedure

- a) Contact the opposing team's manager to indicate the need to reschedule.
- b) Search the current SSB Game Schedule for three (3) available game slots.

NOTE 20.03 (b) Make sure the schedules for the adjacent age groups (ie. for a Bronco team, check both Pony and Mustang schedules in addition to the Bronco schedule) for field availability on the desired date and time as many fields are used for multiple age groups.

- c) Contact the opposing team's manager and agree on the 3 available game slots.
- d) The request must be submitted at least three (3) days in advance of the earliest requested date for Mustang and above.
- e) Follow the Reschedule Procedures on the SSB Website under the "Coaches" Tab.

NOTE 20.03 (e) When rescheduling a suspended contest due to weather, note in the comments section of the reschedule form that this is a suspended contest.

21.00 Terms and Definitions

Active- An individual currently rostered on a team according to SSB and eligible to participate.

Appeal- An appeal will be heard via a written process for matters of reprimand (i.e. email), or will be heard for matters of Suspension, Expulsion, and Ban via hearing.

Assistant Coach- An assistant coach is any adult other than the Manager registered with SSB to conduct team activities.

Assistant Director- An Assistant Director assists the Director in managing the assigned district. An Assistant Director can also sit on the SSB Board of Directors in lieu of the Director when the Director is not available.

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Assistant District Director- See Assistant Director

Banned- Any player under ban is not eligible to participate or attend any SSB activity for the period of five (5) calendar years. Any Manager, Assistant Coach, Coach, Scorekeeper, Parent/Guardian, or fan under ban is not eligible to participate or attend any SSB activity for the period of five (5) calendar years. Any Manager, Assistant Coach, Coach, Scorekeeper, Parent/Guardian, or fan assigned or affiliated with more than one team under ban is to be considered under ban for all SSB events for the period of five (5) calendar years.

Board Officer- In addition to each Director, the SSB President, SSB Vice President, SSB Treasurer, and SSB Secretary sit on the SSB Board of Directors. Any member of the SSB Board of Directors is considered a Board Officer.

Board of Directors- The SSB Board of Directors is comprised of each Director, the SSB President, SSB Vice President, SSB Secretary, SSB Treasurer, and in the case of an absent Director, the Assistant Director in that Director's absence. The SSB Board of Directors is the governing authority for all SSB affairs.

Bump- Any contact with an umpire by a player, manager, coach, scorekeeper, parent, or fan during discussion/debate is considered a bump. Any Bump is a mandatory suspension.

Called Contest- A Called Contest is any contest that is terminated/suspended by an official.

Call-Up- Any player called to play for another team.

Club Team- The Club Team's Roster is 100% controlled by the Club Team Manager, subject to SSB Policies and Procedures.

Coach- A coach is any adult other than the Manager registered with SSB to conduct team activities.

Contest- Any event or game played contested on the field of play between two (2) opposing teams.

Director- A Director is the CEO of the District to which assigned. A Director has broad discretionary powers in governing the district, and is autonomous except in matters that affect other districts or SSB as a whole. A Director sits on the SSB Board of Directors.

District Director- See Director

Division- A group of teams within the same LEAGUE of relatively equal skill level.

Disqualification- See Ejection.

Ejection- Any adult (18 years of age or older) when ejected or disqualified from a contest is required to leave the field of play beyond confines of sight and sound for the remainder of the contest and any on field post game activities. Any minor when ejected or disqualified from a contest is to remain seated on the bench within the dugout for the remainder of the contest.

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and is not authorized to participate in any post game activities. Should the minor's parent or guardian be presented to the Umpire-In-Chief, then the minor may be removed from the field of play beyond the confines of sight and sound. In all aspects, the terms of Disqualification and Ejection are interchangeable.

Executive Committee- The SSB Executive Committee is the governing body of SSB, and conducts the daily business of SSB. The SSB Executive Committee member may be a Director or Assistant Director. The positions of SSB President, SSB Vice President, SSB Secretary, and SSB Treasurer are also members of the Executive Committee.

Expulsion- Any player under expulsion is not eligible to participate or attend any SSB activity for the period of one (1) calendar year. Any Manager, Assistant Coach, Coach, Scorekeeper, Parent/Guardian, or fan under expulsion is not eligible to participate or attend any SSB activity for one (1) calendar year. Any Manager, Assistant Coach, Coach, Scorekeeper, Parent/Guardian, or fan affiliated with more than one team under expulsion is to be considered under expulsion for all SSB events or the period of one (1) calendar year.

Fan- See Spectator.

Forfeit- In a forfeit, if the forfeiting team is losing at the time of forfeit, then the final score is the same as the actual score. If the forfeiting team is winning at the time of forfeit, then the final score is 1 run per inning for the winning team and zero for the forfeiting team (i.e. Bronco team forfeits and was losing in the 3rd inning by a score of 3-5, then the final score is 3-5, if the Bronco team was winning by a score of 5-3, then the final score will 0-7).

Game- See Contest.

Inactive- An individual not eligible to participate.

LEAGUE (Capitalized)- A group of teams within the same age group. Sometimes more than one division exists within the same LEAGUE (i.e. MUSTANG).

League (not Capitalized)- A local baseball league (i.e. SSB).

Line-Up- The batting order and defensive positions.

Line-Up Card- The Line-Up Card will list the starting batting order with jersey number, last and first name, starting defensive positions, substitute players with jersey number, last and first name, players ineligible to pitch for the contest noted, and players with limited eligible innings for the contest the number of innings limited noted.

Manager-The individual registered with SSB to be the individual responsible for the team (Head Coach).

Non-Rostered- Any player not currently on a SSB roster.

Officer- See Board Officer.

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Protest- The procedure a Manager or acting Manager follows to appeal a ruling believed to be based upon an incorrect application of a rule by an umpire during a contest. The Protest procedure outlined in the Official Rules of Major League Baseball shall be the procedure used for Protesting a contest in SSB. Any member of the Board may act as the League Office for the purpose of submitting a game protest.

Player- An individual contestant.

Registered (Manager-Coach)- Any manager, coach, and/or assistant coach who has completed all phases to register with SSB to include registering with the SSB website database and returned all completed registration forms.

Reprimand- A formal letter to an individual expressing condemning an act or behavior which will be kept on file for the period of one (1) calendar year. A reprimand will usually contain consequences for repeated offenses to include but not limited to suspension, expulsion, or ban.

Roster- All of the players and coaches officially assigned to a team according to SSB.

Rostered- A player or coach currently assigned to a team according to SSB.

Sanction- A Reprimand, Suspension, Expulsion, and Ban are each a Sanction.

Spectator- Any person viewing a SSB contest.

SSB-South Sound Baseball.

Suspension- A suspended participant is not eligible to participate in or attend scheduled contest(s) for the team on which the participant is rostered or is otherwise affiliated. A suspended participant may also be barred from practices as well as other SSB activities, per terms of the suspension.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Schibel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sean Schibel
President
South Sound Baseball

ORIGINAL SIGNED