

# RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL: Stallion Program Guidelines



## PURPOSE

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The Stallion Program was created to give players of advanced skill an opportunity to play baseball at a more competitive level than what is offered by recreational baseball. Twice a year, (Fall & Spring Seasons) teams may be created at the various ages to represent RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL at local tournaments and tournaments throughout Southern California.

The Stallion Program is **NOT** travel baseball in the traditional sense. While the teams may compete in tournaments populated by established travel baseball programs (USSSA, Triple Crown, Xtreme Diamond, AAU, etc.), **the Stallion Program is designed to be a competitive supplement to recreational baseball.** While most travel baseball programs have paid coaches, elite players selected from a broad geographical region, and an intense schedule, the Stallion teams are managed by volunteers and open only to qualified players who are registered to play in RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL. All Rules and Guidelines will be re-evaluated by RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL board of Directors on an annual basis and addendums will be made accordingly.

## Player Eligibility

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All Players deemed eligible to play in RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL are eligible to try out for and if selected, play on a Stallion Team.

- Players must meet age and eligibility requirements outlined by PONY™ rules.
- Players must register through RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL and cannot be registered under any other PONY™ organization.
- Players must be in good standing with the league.
- Players in all divisions must participate in the current Spring season of rec baseball. Participation requirements, to maintain eligibility for a stallion team, is a minimum of 50% participation of the scheduled games for the season, this meets current minimum eligibility requirements for play in Ramona Pony Baseball.

## Team Allocation

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Prior to the start of every season, the RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL Board of Directors will estimate the number of Stallion teams for each division based on the available talent pool at that age group and the number of players per team.

- Open to 6U and Up (if there are qualified managers)
- One team per age group (6U, 7U, 8U, etc.)
- Team Roster Size: (12 player min, 15 player max ) The Board may approve additional teams contingent upon having sufficient players attending the tryout or if tryouts draw more eligible players beyond the original estimated attendance and qualified managers to coach.

## Manager & Coach Eligibility

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Stallion manager is a volunteer position chosen by the RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL Stallion Committee. All perspective managers must attend a Board interview and must submit a seasonal outline at that time. The seasonal outline should include a budget plan and possible costs, game and tournament schedule, fundraising plans, size and members of coaching staff, etc. This outline also needs to be presented to the perspective players' parents at or before the tryouts to be considered as part of their decision to join the team.

All perspective managers must also...

- Meet eligibility rules as outlined by PONY™ rules and RAMONA PONY™ Bylaws
- Managed a team in a previous Spring Season
- Be in good standing with the league
- Submit to a background check
- CPR certified
- Concussion protocol certified for youth sports as required by California law A.B. 2007

Once approved and awarded a team, the Stallion manager must submit a list of all coaches that will participate in practices and games. A manager should have a staff of at least three coaches of record (Manager included) to properly run practices and coach games. All on field personnel are required to complete an application, agree to submit to a background check, and follow the Managers/Coaches code of conduct as required per the RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL By-Laws. It is recommended that coaches also be volunteer. However, a team may choose to hire a coach and or individual instructor if said coach/instructor has had a submitted background check as per the RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL By-Laws and receives approval from the Board of Directors. RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL is not responsible for paying said coach/instructor. Any contract agreed upon is between the team Manager and said coach/instructor and must include language that exempts RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL from any fiscal or other liability.

## Tryouts

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*Tryouts will be held at the Ramona Pony Baseball fields on date(s) and time(s) selected by the Stallion Director and the Board of Directors for Ramona Pony Baseball.* Stallion team(s) are required to host at least two tryouts to afford all perspective players the ability to attend. It is the responsibility of all managers to promote and encourage all age eligible players to attend tryouts and to conduct a fair evaluation of each player trying out. Fair is defined as evaluation of player as it relates to the tryout not previous experience with that player. New players must be given the same evaluation and fair assessment as players with previous stallion or all-star experience. All players must be registered with Ramona Pony Baseball to be eligible for tryouts.

### **TRYOUT ATTENDANCE IS MANADATORY**

No player will be eligible for placement on a Stallion team without attending at least one tryout and may be asked to attend more than one tryout. When an age group has potential for more than one team, it is required that, a single tryout be conducted so all players can be evaluated together. Stallion managers are required to compile a detailed sign-in sheet with contact information for all participants which must be submitted to the Board upon request as proof of attendance.

## Team Selection

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The Stallion managers for each age group are collectively responsible for submitting to the Stallion Director team rosters within 48 hours of the conclusion of tryouts. All rosters will be posted on the website and at the RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL FIELDS Concession Stand within 48 hours after submission of rosters.

## Length of Season and Scheduling

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Stallion spring season starts in February after teams are selected and runs through July. Stallion Fall season runs from August to December. A mandatory break is required during December until the start of the spring season. Spring Stallion Teams are automatically eligible to participate in the annual RBI tournament hosted by RAMONA PONY BASEBALL™. Stallion teams must also participate in host team responsibilities for the RBI tournament which may include field cleanup, parking duties, etc.

It is required that stallion players participate in enough PONY™ scheduled games as to qualify for the PONY™ End of Year (EOY) tournaments. Team Managers & Coaches that fail to qualify enough players for EOY or fail to participate in EOY will not be granted the opportunity to manage future Stallion teams.

## Fees

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Players participating on Stallion teams will be required to pay an additional fee (Stallion fee). Part of the additional fee goes to cover costs such as insurance, lights, and field maintenance. Most of the money goes back to the team to cover other expenses such as uniforms, baseballs, etc.

Players who tryout and are invited to join a Stallion team will be invoiced the Stallion fee upon their acceptance of the invitation and must be paid in full to RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL within two weeks of accepting the invitation. The Board will determine the appropriate fee which will be communicated to Stallion managers. All parents of potential players must be notified of the fee before try outs. A fee schedule will be established by the board prior to tryouts each season. RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL does not offer scholarships to participate in the Stallion program.

**NOTE:** The Stallion fee **DOES NOT** include additional expenses acquired by the team throughout the season, i.e. tournament fees, umpire fees, equipment fees, cage rentals...etc. It is expected that additional expenses are the responsibility of the team and funds will need to be raised by the team to cover those expenses.

**No refunds will be given for early termination from the team for any reason.**

## Budgets and Fundraising

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**FUNDRAISING/SOLICITING OF SPONSORSHIP FOR A STALLION TEAM MAY NOT BEGIN UNTIL AFTER CAKE AND CAP**

Team budgets and finances, including both purchases and current balances, shall be maintained by the Stallion manager or designated Business manager. All financial information should be made available to the Board or any parent at any time if requested. Complete transparency to all financial transactions is required and must be documented.

Some fundraising may be required depending on the number of tournaments a team participates. Any potential sponsors may not detract from RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL League sponsorships. *All sponsors and fundraising must be submitted to the Stallion Director for approval and may be subject to Ramona Pony Baseball Board approval.*

If any outside coaching fees are expected, they should be addressed prior to the season and presented to the player/family prior to offering the player an invitation to join the team. These additional costs cannot be mandatory to the players nor can a player be excluded from this additional instruction based on monetary participation.

## Rules of Play/Expectations

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Stallion is not rec ball and as such, some of the local rec playing rules as established by RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL will be different than playing rules established for Stallion. For EOY qualification games, Stallion teams will adhere to PONY™ tournament rules. For non-PONY™ sponsored or qualifying events, rotations, minimum playing time, etc. will follow individual tournament rules.

All Stallion teams must include the RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL league logo on their uniforms and are to identify themselves as RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL teams when registering for tournament play or scheduling games versus any outside opponents.

## Conduct & Discipline

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Stallion teams are ambassadors of RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL and the town of Ramona when outside of our local area and as such, it is important that the league is represented in an exemplary fashion. All managers, coaches, players, and families represent RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL in this regard. Appropriate conduct is expected, and bad conduct or sportsmanship will not be tolerated.

Behavior of the players, staff, and parents is the sole responsibility of the team manager.

Failure to adhere to RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL 's Code of Conduct, any behavior unbecoming of a manager or coach, a Stallion guideline or League rule being broken could result in disciplinary action by the Board. Good judgment and common sense should prevail throughout the season. Disciplinary action can occur for any areas not listed within these guidelines.

Disciplinary actions taken by the Board may include warnings, suspension, and termination and can affect eligibility for any future positions within RAMONA PONY™ BASEBALL.