



**BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION**

**2010**

**YOUTH HANDBOOK**

**Dear Youth Coaches, Players and Parents,**

**The following pages of guidance on behaviour for players, youth coaches and parents are a code by which we expect all athletes and those who aid them to follow.**

**Whilst the instructions that follow this letter are guidelines, we feel it is important they are used properly and followed as if they are rules. The principles of fair play, courtesy and good manners are essential to the youth game and provide a template for good conduct by all who enjoy this sport.**

**The BBF is working closely with BaseballSoftballUK to ensure that our sport is run safely, in line with nationally accepted good practice and legislation. As a result of this, please take the time to familiarise yourself with the Baseball and Softball [Welfare Policy](#), published on the BSUK website. The notable recent change is that, since 2009, each club, regardless of having a youth section, must appoint a club welfare officer (CWO). There are guidance documents in the download section of the BBF website. The appointed CWO must be made known to BSUK, including their contact details. It is preferable that the CWO has undergone a basic awareness course, although BSUK will be providing three regional training courses called *Time to Listen*. This course is mandatory for CWO's to attend.**

**The main purpose of the youth game, at all levels is the participation of children in the sport and their enjoyment; let's keep that in mind in even the most competitive of situations.**

**Have fun!**

Paul Vernon  
Southern Youth (Affiliated Clubs) Commissioner

Earl Dix  
Southern Youth (Affiliated Clubs) Assistant Commissioner

John O'Boyle  
Northern Youth (Affiliated Clubs) Co-Commissioner

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## **BILL OF RIGHTS FOR YOUNG ATHLETES**

- ✓ Right to participate in sports
- ✓ Right to participate at a level commensurate with each child's maturity and ability
- ✓ Right to have qualified adult leadership
- ✓ Right to play as a child not as an adult
- ✓ Right of children to share in the leadership and decision making of their sport
- ✓ Right to participate in safe and healthy environments
- ✓ Right to proper preparation for participation in sport
- ✓ Right to an equal opportunity to strive for success
- ✓ Right to be treated with dignity
- ✓ Right to have fun in sport

## **PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT**

- ✓ Never argue with an umpire, or protest an umpire's call.
- ✓ Never throw equipment.
- ✓ Always show respect for team mates, coaches, opponents, parents and spectators.
- ✓ Do not use bad language.
- ✓ Do not insult because of colour, sex, race, religion, sexual orientation or anything that makes them different.
- ✓ Do not shout at, abuse or try to make opponents lose concentration.
- ✓ Do cheer for and encourage your own players.
- ✓ Play fairly and honestly at all times.
- ✓ Be modest in victory and dignified in defeat.
- ✓ After the game always have a cheer for the opposition.
- ✓ After the game shake hands with the opposition.
- ✓ Always thank the umpires.
- ✓ Remember to thank your coach.
- ✓ Play to the best of your ability.
- ✓ Enjoy your baseball.

## **CODE OF ETHICS FOR YOUTH COACHES**

- ✓ To place the emotional and physical well being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.
- ✓ To treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development within the same age group.
- ✓ To provide a safe playing environment for my players.
- ✓ To organise practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.
- ✓ To lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.
- ✓ To provide an environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco and alcohol.
- ✓ To be knowledgeable in the rules of baseball, and to teach these rules to my players.
- ✓ To use the appropriate coaching techniques for the skills that I teach.
- ✓ To remember that I am a youth baseball coach, and that the game is for children, not adults.

## **CODE OF ETHICS FOR PARENTS**

- ✓ To provide positive support, care and encouragement for my child participating in baseball.
- ✓ To be supportive of other adults, including officials, opposition coaches, and parents of the opposition players involved in the game.
- ✓ To encourage and recognise good sportsmanship from all players.
- ✓ To place the emotional and physical well being of my child and other children ahead of a personal desire to win.
- ✓ To insist that my child plays in as safe and healthy an environment as possible.
- ✓ To support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive experience for all.
- ✓ To demand an environment for baseball which is free of drugs, tobacco and alcohol?
- ✓ To remember that the game is for youth, not adults.
- ✓ To do my best to make baseball fun for my child.
- ✓ To ask my child to treat other players, coaches and officials with respect.
- ✓ To promise to help my child enjoy their baseball experience by doing whatever I can to help the baseball programme.
- ✓ To require that my child's coach be trained in the responsibilities of a youth baseball coach, and that the coach upholds the code of ethics for coaches.

# GOOD PRACTICE IN THE CARE OF CHILDREN

## PRINCIPLES

The guidance is based on the following principles:

1. The child's welfare is paramount
2. All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
3. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

## GOOD PRACTICE

☺ Always be publicly open when working with children, avoid situations where a coach and individual child are completely unobserved.

☺ Where possible parents should take on the responsibility for their children in the changing rooms, if groups have to be supervised in the changing rooms, always ensure coaches work in pairs.

☺ Where there are mixed teams away from home, they should always be accompanied by a male and female member of staff.

## IT DOES NOT MAKE SENSE TO:

☹ Spend excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others.

☹ Take children alone on car journeys, however short.

☹ Take children to your home where they will be alone with you.

If cases arise where these situations are unavoidable, they should occur with the full knowledge and consent of someone in charge of the organisation, or the child's parents.

## YOU SHOULD NEVER

☹ Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay.

☹ Share a room with a child.

☹ Allow or engage any form of inappropriate touching.

☹ Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged.

☹ Allow allegations made by a child go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.

- ⊖ Do things of a personal nature for a child they can do for themselves.
- ⊖ Invite or allow children to stay with you at your home unsupervised.

It may sometimes be necessary for coaches to do things of a personal nature for children, particularly if they are young or have disabilities.

These tasks should only be carried out with the full understanding and consent of the parents and children involved.

There is a need to be responsive to children's reactions, if a child is fully dependent upon you, talk with him/her about what you are doing and give choices where possible.

This is particularly so if you are involved in any dressing or undressing of outer clothing or where there is physical contact or lifting or assisting a child to carry out certain activities.

If you accidentally hurt a child, he/she seems distressed in any manner, appears to be sexually aroused by your actions, or misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done, report any such incident as soon as possible to another colleague and make a brief written note of it. Parents or carers should be informed of the incident.

Further information on BBF Child Protection Procedures can be obtained from Jenny Fromer.

[jenny.fromer@bsukmail.com](mailto:jenny.fromer@bsukmail.com)

The BBF adopts the BSUK Welfare Policy which details, amongst other things, the recommended guidelines for responding to disclosure, suspicions and allegations. The Welfare Policy can be found on the BSUK web-site downloads, specifically (as at 19/3/10) at:

[http://www.baseballsoftballuk.com/downloads/Welfare\\_Policy\\_231009.pdf](http://www.baseballsoftballuk.com/downloads/Welfare_Policy_231009.pdf)

### **Jenny Fromer is the BSUK Welfare Officer.**

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## **Baseball Rules 2010**

It is the intention of the British Baseball Federation (BBF) to encourage clubs offering youth programmes to play a number of different formats of the game, including baseball and softball, single sex and mixed.

### **Rules & Regulations**

All the rules and regulations pertaining to BBF youth baseball competition are governed by the Official Baseball Rules, "The Sporting News" edition, unless superseded by the BBF Byelaws, or the specific rules for BBF Youth baseball contained herein.

All clubs, players and officials participating in this programme must be affiliated and registered as directed by British Baseball Federation, and in accordance with BBF byelaws.

All clubs, coaches and administrators must ensure that players are provided with an environment free of alcohol and drugs.

No sponsorship shall be allowed for any youth team or group under the care of BBF that involves the promotion of alcohol, tobacco products, drugs or other materials which can be considered injurious to health.

**The BBF Youth baseball leagues are managed by the BBF. The main contact for any issues or problems is the Southern Youth Commissioner.**

### **Age Groups & Field Dimensions**

<b>School Year</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Pitching</b>	<b>Diamond</b>	<b>Home Run</b>
<b>2-5</b>	<b>Rookie</b>	<b>Tee</b>	<b>60ft</b>	<b>200ft</b>
<b>5-8</b>	<b>Bronco</b>	<b>46ft</b>	<b>70ft</b>	<b>200FL, 250CF</b>
<b>8-11</b>	<b>Pony</b>	<b>60ft 6in</b>	<b>90ft</b>	<b>250FL, 300CF</b>

*\*FL = Foul Line distance, CF = Centre Field distance*

Year 8 players can play either Pony or Bronco level.

Year 5 players can play Rookie or Bronco level.

Year 8 players are covered by Bronco pitching restrictions whether they pitch in a Pony or Bronco game.

Players may play in an older age group at the discretion of the Youth Commissioner.

Teams can apply for a player to play up by submitting a completed “Application for a Player to Play Up an Age Group” form to the Youth Commissioner. A copy of this form is included in this handbook.

In extra-ordinary circumstances a player may request to play down an age group.

Such circumstances may involve a child with physical disabilities or learning difficulties, or any other such situation that the Youth Commissioner deems suitable.

All requests must be made in writing and any dispensations will be made at the discretion of the Youth Commissioner.

### Eligibility for 2010

#### Shown by an Individual’s Month of Birth

<i>Month of Birth</i>												
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2003	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie				
2002	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie
2001	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie
2000	<i>Rookie</i>	<i>Rookie</i>	<i>Rookie</i>	<i>Rookie</i>	<i>Rookie</i>	<i>Rookie</i>	<i>Rookie</i>	<i>Rookie</i>	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie	Rookie
1999	Bronco	Bronco	Bronco	Bronco	Bronco	Bronco	Bronco	Bronco	<i>Rookie</i>	<i>Rookie</i>	<i>Rookie</i>	<i>Rookie</i>
1998	Bronco	Bronco	Bronco	Bronco	Bronco	Bronco	Bronco	Bronco	Bronco	Bronco	Bronco	Bronco
1997	<i>Bronco</i>	<i>Bronco</i>	<i>Bronco</i>	<i>Bronco</i>	<i>Bronco</i>	<i>Bronco</i>	<i>Bronco</i>	<i>Bronco</i>	Bronco	Bronco	Bronco	Bronco
1996	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony	<i>Bronco</i>	<i>Bronco</i>	<i>Bronco</i>	<i>Bronco</i>
1995	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony
1994	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony
1993									Pony	Pony	Pony	Pony

*Italics indicate that a player may play in the age group specified or in the age group above*

## **EQUIPMENT**

Catchers are required to wear a mask with a throat protector, chest protector, gender-appropriate protection for the genital area, leg guards and a catcher's helmet.

The batter, players in the on deck circle, base runners and players coaching in the coaching boxes must wear double ear batting helmets.

Managers and/or coaches should make every effort to enforce the wearing of gender-appropriate protection for the genital area by all players. It should be noted that no-one should inspect any player to prove or disprove the wearing of such protection.

Footwear with metal cleats or metal studs is **not** allowed in BBF Youth competitions. Footwear should be of a moulded type.

No jewellery shall be worn by any player, except for medical identification.

## **START TIMES**

All BBF Youth League baseball games are scheduled to be played on Saturdays. The following start times are for guidance:

Single games will start at 2.00pm.

Double Headers will start at 12.00pm.

Rookie games can be scheduled at coaches' discretion; they can run alongside either of the above.

Team managers can liaise to alter the start times where convenient. However, if there is a dispute, then the start times listed shall prevail.

Any changes to the schedule must be agreed by the Youth Commissioner.

## **REGISTRATION & TRANSFERS**

All players must be registered on a team's official roster on the BBF website. Year 8 players can be registered to both Pony and Bronco teams and, for development purposes can play at either age group.

Clubs may register new players (i.e. previously unregistered that season) throughout the year.

Players must be registered within five days of playing.

If there is more than one team in the same age group in a club, players can move between teams during the season without restriction.

It is strongly suggested that a club registering more than one team should roster at least 13 players per team registered.

To qualify to play in the post-season a player must play in a minimum of 20% of the games scheduled for his team. That will include games officially scheduled by the BBF Youth Commissioner, Local League games and both if that applies to the specific club or team. Friendly games organised by the club itself and tournament games do not count. Special dispensation can be requested in extenuating circumstances (i.e. injury or game cancellations) in writing to the Youth Commissioner.

1. If a team uses an ineligible player then the game in which that player played will be forfeited on completion of a successful appeal. An ineligible player is one who:
  2. Is not registered on that team's roster
  3. Does not fall within the specified age group without a completed and accepted "Playing Up" form
  4. Does not meet the eligibility requirements for the post-season.

Should a regular season game be protested under "Rule 4.19 of the Rules of Baseball", then the Conference Commissioner must be notified in writing within 48 hours. An investigation will be conducted and a decision will be made within 14 days. The fee which must accompany a protest is £20.

The playing of an ineligible player is considered to be a game-ending play.

The league will request evidence from the player's team proving the eligibility of the player, if it cannot or does not then the protest will be upheld.

The league reserves the right to take further action against the coach and club concerned.

It is entirely incumbent on coaches to ensure they follow the rules and identify and report rule infractions to the league following the procedures for protesting games contained in the rules of baseball and the BBF by-laws.

## **Playing Rules**

### **Rookie League**

The Rookie league focuses on the instruction of beginners, and the teaching of the fundamentals of baseball and softball.

Teeball will form the main part of this programme.

However different options have been included to allow coach pitch and player pitch (e.g. modified pitch) to be included.

This programme is to be run on a local basis, with no formalised league structure. Practice, friendly matches and tournaments will form the core of this programme.

### **Bronco League**

This stage begins the players' training in the complete game of baseball.

The programme is designed for the purposes of instruction.

The rules are intended to be as simplistic as possible, therefore enabling both children and coaches/parents etc, to understand, play and enjoy the game.

The emphasis is on safety, fun and instruction.

This programme will be run in regional and local leagues, leading to participation in the national playoffs.

### **Pony League**

At this level, the players are essentially playing the full game of baseball. This programme will be run in regional and local leagues, leading to participation in the national playoffs.

## **Rookie League Rules**

- a) Games will consist of 3 innings.
- b) The whole team bats each inning.
- c) Base runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit.
- d) Stealing is not allowed, runners can only advance on a ball hit into fair territory.
- e) The pitcher must be the nearest fielder in front of the batter. (nb: the player fields the pitcher position; they do not pitch, unless you play the pitcher option).
- f) The ball must travel at least 10 feet from the tee into fair territory. If it does not a foul ball is called.
- g) Batters and runners must wear batting helmets.
- h) When the last batter is at bat, the fielding team must return the ball to home plate. As soon as the ball reaches home plate in the possession of a fielder the inning is over.
  - Any runners that cross home plate before the ball arrives the run scores
  - Any runners left on base are out.
- i) One coach is allowed on the field during the game.
- j) There is no striking out in teeball.
- k) In coach pitch and player pitch options, normal balls and strikes apply.
- l) Incrediballs are to be used at this level.

Options are available to allow both coach pitch, and player pitch. In coach pitch the coach pitches to their **own** team. In player pitch, the third inning of the game players can pitch. In these instances full catching equipment, **MUST** be worn

## General Rules for Pony and Bronco

### Re-Entry Rule

Any player in the starting line up who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game.

Players shall return to the line up in their original place in the batting order. No substitutions shall be made that alters the original batting order of any of the starting or substitute players. i.e., when a starter re-enters the game, they must re-enter in the same spot in the batting order.

Once removed from the line up, a pitcher may return to the line up, but shall not pitch again in the same game.

### Must Slide Rule

If there is a play at any base (except first base) a base-runner must slide into the base.

If the runner does not slide and contact occurs the runner will be called out.

This rule is designed to avoid injury and to encourage good technique.

### 5 Runs per Inning Rule

In all half-innings except the last the batting team can score a maximum of 5 runs.

Once a team has scored five runs, their half-inning ends. The play on which the fifth run is scored will be allowed to finish which may mean more than five runs are statistically "scored" but only five runs will be entered into the score for that inning.

Each team's last half-inning is completed only when three outs are made.

### Slaughter Rule

The following slaughter rule will be applied in both single games and double headers:

Run difference	After this inning (or middle of inning, if home team winning)	
	<b>Pony</b>	<b>Bronco</b>
10 or more	6	-
15 or more	5	5
20 or more	4	4

*Note: This will mean that all but the most one-sided of games (ie 20-0 after four innings) will go to at least five (or possibly 4 ½) innings.*

***Suggestions for extending games:***

*The losing team is given the option to continue*

*Coaches perhaps field a developing pitcher against weaker teams*

*Coaches make adjustments if they take a big lead and it become obvious they would win easily*

Pitching Restrictions

Any pitcher who is withdrawn from the mound shall not be permitted to pitch again in the same game.

A pitcher may pitch as many innings as he or she is capable in any one game.

It is a coach's responsibility to be mindful of their players' individual capacities and to make sure a pitcher is not at risk by being over-used; the pitch count is a maximum allowance.

Pitch Counts

The maximum number of pitches a pitcher is allowed to throw depends on their age on the day of the game:

<b>Age</b>	<b>Maximum Pitch Count</b>
14-16	95 pitches per day
11-13	85 pitches per day
9-10	75 pitches per day

A player may pitch in a subsequent game on the same day or the second game of a double header if they throw LESS THAN 21 pitches in the first or earlier game.

Each pitcher's pitch count is computed by adding the number of balls and strikes, the number of foul balls hit with two strikes, and the number of fair batted balls.

Warm-up pitches do not count towards this total.

Both teams must designate the scorekeeper or another game official, parent or volunteer as the official pitch count recorder before the start of a game.

The pitch count recorder must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire.

The official pitch count recorder should inform the umpire when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches.

The umpire will inform the pitcher's manager that the pitcher must be removed.

The manager remains responsible for knowing when his/her pitcher must be removed. The failure by the pitch count recorder to notify the umpire, and/or the failure of the umpire to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.

If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed in while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until that batter reaches base or is put out.

#### Intentional Walk

Before a pitch is delivered to the batter, the catcher must inform the umpire that the defensive team wishes to give the batter an intentional base-on-balls. The umpire-in-chief waves the batter to first base. The ball is dead.

Pitchers must adhere to the following rest requirements:

- If a player pitches 61 or more pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 41 - 60 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 21 - 40 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest must be observed.

## **Pony (Baseball)**

### Game Length

A scheduled Single Game will consist of seven innings.

A scheduled Double Header shall consist of two six inning games.

### The Balk Rule

The balk rule should be used to educate, not penalise. Balks generally will fall into two categories.

The first is an obvious and deliberate attempt to deceive by a more experienced pitcher.

The umpire should first warn the pitcher and coach that the pitcher is balking and only take further action if the balking is continued.

The second category is a natural movement by an inexperienced pitcher.

In this situation the umpire should advise the pitcher of his errors and work with the player's coach to correct them.

Under no circumstances should a hitting team be penalised if a pitcher balks, whether it is deliberate or unintentional. No outs shall be allowed to result from a balk but bases gained by runners should stand.

If a balk results in a play where the runner would, ordinarily, be called "Out" the runner will be safe and return to the last base he or she legally occupied. If a balk results in a play where the runner is called "Safe" at the next base the runner shall be entitled to stay at that base. If the runner overruns the base which they are attempting to reach (ie the next base) he or she will be at peril of being put out. The umpire must wait until the play is completed and then make a decision.

### Visits to the Mound

Baseball rule 8.06, "Visits to the Mound", shall be implemented but if the umpire wishes to speak to the pitcher at the mound the coach is entitled to accompany the umpire, without being charged a visit, to ensure his pitcher understands any advice that the umpire might wish to give.

### Dropped Third Strike

Rule 6.05 (b) will be implemented in Pony baseball. A third strike will count as a strike out unless dropped by the catcher and the batter will only be out if put-out.

## **Bronco (Baseball)**

### Game Length

A Single Game will consist of 6 innings.

A scheduled Double Header will consist of two six inning games.

### Visits to the Mound

Baseball Rule 8.06, "Visits to the Mound", shall not be implemented. A coach can visit his pitcher more than twice an inning without needing to remove the pitcher.

A coach should bear in mind however; that a pitcher requiring several visits is likely to be suffering from issues which may mean his well-being is better served by allowing him or her to play in another position.

Additionally an umpire should not permit time-wasting through visits to the mound.

A base runner will be out if they fail to stay in contact with their occupied base until the ball crosses the plate.

### The Balk Rule

Pitchers cannot balk in Bronco baseball.

### Dropped Third Strike

In Bronco a third strike will count as a strike out even if dropped by the catcher and the batter will be out.

Any runners advance at their peril.

## **National Youth Baseball Championships**

The National Youth Baseball Championships will be held at the end of the season to decide the National Champions for Bronco and Pony age groups in baseball.

The National Youth Baseball Championships will be held the weekend of 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

All rules included in this handbook shall apply to the National Youth Baseball Championships unless otherwise modified here.

### Seeding

If seeding is required, eg because rankings are not obvious from standings, then the appropriate Conference Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner will decide on an appropriate course of action to determine seeding. In all matters concerning this decision the Commissioners' decision will be final but they will explain their decision.

### Schedule

The National Youth Baseball Championships will be a two day tournament; the playing structure will be as follows for both Pony and Bronco:

<b>Day</b>	<b>Game</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>Away</b>
Saturday; 11am	Game 1 – Semi Final One	North Seed #1	South Seed #2
Saturday, 2pm	Game 2 – Semi Final Two	South Seed # 1	North Seed #2
Sunday, 10am	Game 3 – for 3 <sup>rd</sup> / 4 <sup>th</sup> Place	Loser Game 1 *	Loser Game 2 *
Sunday, 1pm	Game 4 – Championship	Winner Game 1 *	Winner Game 2 *

\* Coin toss to decide home team

Timings are suggested. Exact timings will be confirmed by the hosting team and the respective Commissioner.

### Games Length

All Pony games will be scheduled to be 7 innings

All Bronco games will be scheduled to be 6 innings

### Pitching Restrictions

For pitching purposes, National Championships will be classed as a double header.

### Tournament Schedule Modifications

If inclement weather reduces the amount of time available then the Youth Commissioners, Assistant Youth Commissioners and Technical Commissioner shall decide on a course of action which might include reducing the length of games.

Should it prove impossible to play Game 1 and Game 2 as above then the Final will be played between the North and South #1 seeds.

### Roster Details

Head Coaches will provide their team's roster details prior to the National Youth Baseball Championships at the request of the Conference Commissioner or Technical Commissioner. Any players who play MUST be included on the roster. The roster will include players' names, Dates of Birth and will indicate the number of games each player has played in their local league / conference.

Any adult found to have been responsible or involved in knowingly playing an ineligible player will be subjected to sanctions.

## **Southern Conference Playoffs**

Playoff tournaments will decide which teams will qualify to represent the Southern Conference at the National Youth Baseball Championships. All organisations that are correctly registered with the BBF will be permitted to enter one team in each of the Pony and Bronco Playoffs.

### Playoff Format

The format of the playoffs will be developed and published by the Commissioner by the end of August. The deadline for entering a team into the playoffs will be the end of July.

### Seeding

If it is deemed that seeding will assist the completion of the Playoff Tournaments then the Conference Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner will decide on an appropriate course of action to determine seedings. In all matters concerning this decision the Commissioners' decision will be final but they will fully explain their decision.

The Southern Conference Playoff Tournaments will be held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

NOTE The 12<sup>th</sup> September will be a rain-date for the Playoff Tournaments.

### Pitching Restrictions

For pitching purposes, Playoff Tournaments will be classed as a double header.

### Tournament Schedule Modifications

If inclement weather reduces the amount of time available then the Youth Commissioners, Assistant Youth Commissioners and Technical Commissioner shall decide on a course of action which might include reducing the length of games.

If it proves impossible to hold the Playoff Tournaments the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner will decide the teams who will represent the Southern Conference at the National Youth Baseball Championships. As far as possible this will be decided on the result of games during the season, including friendlies. In all matters concerning this decision the Commissioners' decision will be final but they will fully explain their decision.

### Roster Details

Head Coaches will provide their team's roster details prior to the Playoffs at the request of the Conference Commissioner or Technical Commissioner. Any players who play MUST be included on the roster. The roster will include players' names, Dates of Birth and will indicate the number of games each player has played in their local league and / or conference.

Any adult found to have been responsible or involved in knowingly playing an ineligible player will be subjected to sanctions.

### **Technical Commissioner**

A Technical Commissioner will be appointed by the British Baseball Federation for the National Championships and Playoff Tournaments.

The Technical Commissioner's role is to deal with any protests at the tournament.

To protest an umpire's decision at the National Championships or Playoffs the protest rules of baseball must be followed.

The appropriate protest fee (£20) must be presented to the Technical Commissioner within ten minutes of the umpire's ruling along with a written statement indicating the situation and the rule which has been misinterpreted.

The Technical Commissioner will then take whatever action he deems necessary (including, perhaps, interviewing the umpires) to establish a ruling.

## **Little League**

Discussions with Little League International and domestically chartered Little Leagues have been under way in order to determine a viable and appropriate way forward with regard to Little League competition in the UK. This work, closely supported by BSUK, will progress through the 2010 season. While further definition will emerge, the following bullets cover some of the progress to date:

- ✓ The UK has been divided up into geographic regions, based on the nine government boundaries for England, plus Scotland and Wales. Five of these regions which contain youth teams have been submitted to be chartered with Little League. As such, all under 12yr old youth baseball is falling, simultaneously, under the BBF incumbent structure and the new Little League one. Competition will be provided in both areas for the coming season.
- ✓ Existing structures that charter with Little League will be required to affiliate with the BBF. This means that the independent leagues now, by definition, will only have a route to Little League All-Star competition under the auspices of the Little League charters held for the BBF and BSF by BSUK.
- ✓ For current BBF clubs running Bronco programmes, this will mean that there is the possibility of opting into Little League All-Star competition, in addition to the domestic BBF playing competition.

Meetings will take place throughout this year to establish more clarity for this structure. For more information, please contact John Boyd at BSUK or your local BBF Youth Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner.

## **Play Ball**

From the 2010 season, BaseballSoftballUK has relaunched, with Major League Baseball, the Play Ball programme. This will be a tool for helping to establish local leagues in the 10-12 yr old age bracket, supported closely by resources (human and physical) from BSUK.

If you are interested in setting up a Little League using Play Ball, please contact your BSUK Point Person.



Club Name	
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Player's Name	
Player's Date of Birth	
Player's School Year	

Coach's Name	
Age Group which Coach recommends Player can Play (Rookie, Bronco, Pony, Adult)	

I, the above named coach, recommend that the player named above is capable of participating in the game of baseball at the age-group shown above. I have spoken to the child's parents and have made them aware of the issues around "playing up". I am aware of my responsibilities toward this child's welfare and if I become at all concerned for the welfare of the child because of them "playing up" I will review this issue.

Signature	
Date	

We, the parent / parents / guardian with parental consent for the child named above, have been made aware of the issues around "playing up", including that our child is likely to be playing with and against older, stronger and more experienced players, and do not object to our child playing in the age-group specified above.

Signature (i)	Date
Signature (ii)	Date

## Useful Contacts

<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.britishbaseball.org">www.britishbaseball.org</a>
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<b>Paul Vernon</b>	<b>BBF Southern Youth Commissioner</b>
<b>Email:</b>	<b>paul.vernon [at] britishbaseball.org</b>
<b>Mob:</b>	<b>07931 525782</b>

<b>Earl Dix</b>	<b>BBF Southern Youth Assistant Commissioner</b>
<b>Email:</b>	<b>earl.dix [at] britishbaseball.org</b>
<b>Mob:</b>	

<b>John O'Boyle</b>	<b>BBF Northern Youth Co Commissioner</b>
<b>Email:</b>	<b>john.oboyle [at] britishbaseball.org</b>
<b>Mob:</b>	<b>07930895107</b>

<b>Larry Hansford</b>	<b>BBF Northern Youth Co Commissioner</b>
<b>Email:</b>	<b>larry.hansford [at] britishbaseball.org</b>
<b>Phone: 01244 400 184</b>	<b>Mob: 07779 222 179</b>



## BBF Southern Youth Conference 2010 Contact Details

### BRONCO

<b>Team / Club</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>phone</b>
Bracknell Broncos	Jean Remillard	<a href="mailto:jean@bracknellbaseballclub.co.uk">jean@bracknellbaseballclub.co.uk</a>	07720 507 192
Broadwater Bobcats	Richard Williams	<a href="mailto:richjamesw@hotmail.com">richjamesw@hotmail.com</a>	07710 069 417
Forest Glade Redbacks	Sean Briscomb	<a href="mailto:sean@essexredbacks.com">sean@essexredbacks.com</a>	07877 580 474
Herts All Stars	Marty Cullen	<a href="mailto:marty@hertsbaseball.com">marty@hertsbaseball.com</a>	07776 255 969
Horsham 1	Phil Edmonds	<a href="mailto:ajkpe@btinternet.com">ajkpe@btinternet.com</a>	07880 768 203
Horsham 2	Phil Edmonds	<a href="mailto:ajkpe@btinternet.com">ajkpe@btinternet.com</a>	07880 768 203
London Mets	Neil Warne	<a href="mailto:Mets@LondonMeteors.co.uk">Mets@LondonMeteors.co.uk</a>	07770 381308
Tonbridge Bobcats	Dave Ratcliff	<a href="mailto:ratcliffmale@hotmail.com">ratcliffmale@hotmail.com</a>	07971 571478
Plymouth Mariners	Tug & Angie Wilson	<a href="mailto:plymouthbaseball@blueyonder.co.uk">plymouthbaseball@blueyonder.co.uk</a>	01752 514579
Windsor Stars	Brian Ford	<a href="mailto:BrayfordFM@aol.com">BrayfordFM@aol.com</a>	01628 676636

### PONY

<b>Team / Club</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>phone</b>
Bracknell Tornados	Paul Vernon	<a href="mailto:paul@bracknellbaseballclub.co.uk">paul@bracknellbaseballclub.co.uk</a>	07931 525782
Broadwater Bobcats	Richard Williams	<a href="mailto:richjamesw@hotmail.com">richjamesw@hotmail.com</a>	07710 069 417
Cobham Cougars	Robert Munger	<a href="mailto:mungerr@bp.com">mungerr@bp.com</a>	07768 936 447
Essex Redbacks	Sean Briscomb	<a href="mailto:sean@essexredbacks.com">sean@essexredbacks.com</a>	07877 580 474
Herts	Marty Cullen	<a href="mailto:marty@hertsbaseball.com">marty@hertsbaseball.com</a>	07776 255 969
Horsham Hornets	Phil Edmonds	<a href="mailto:ajkpe@btinternet.com">ajkpe@btinternet.com</a>	07880 768 203
London Mets	Neil Warne	<a href="mailto:Mets@LondonMeteors.co.uk">Mets@LondonMeteors.co.uk</a>	07770 381308
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Plymouth Mariners	Tug & Angie Wilson	<a href="mailto:plymouthbaseball@blueyonder.co.uk">plymouthbaseball@blueyonder.co.uk</a>	01752 514579
Tonbridge Cougars	Dave Ratcliff	<a href="mailto:ratcliffmale@hotmail.com">ratcliffmale@hotmail.com</a>	07971 571478