



ORANGEVALE PONY BASEBALL CODE OF CONDUCT & DISCIPLINARY POLICY

This Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy has been adopted by the Orangevale Ponyball, Inc. (OVPB or League) in order to provide each individual a better understanding of their responsibility and required conduct.

One measure of a successful non-profit organization is the ability to police itself. It is for this reason that Orangevale Ponyball, Inc. has established the following *Code of Conduct* and *Disciplinary Policy* in which all violations will be reviewed and/or enforced by the Conduct/Disciplinary Committee (CDC).

This Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy applies to all members of OVPB, including, but not limited to, managers, coaches, assistant coaches, team moms, players, parents, OVPB Board Members, CDC Committee members, umpires and spectators.

CODE OF CONDUCT

It is the responsibility of OVPB officials, managers, coaches, assistant coaches, team moms, parents and players to:

1. I will enjoy myself because baseball is a game and games are meant to be fun.
2. I will not criticize players, coaches or officials. Criticism is easy and it is destructive because it only points out faults and shortcomings. Constructive criticism is important if it is done in the context of a learning situation.
3. I will not refuse to abide by the league's official(s) or umpire's decisions.
4. I will not use disrespectful language or gestures towards any player, coach or umpire.
5. I will demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.
6. I will be respectful of the coach's space in the game. Whether it is a win or a loss, coaches need time to digest what has happened on the field. Immediately after the game is not the time to discuss playing time or personal disagreements. Make an appointment to see the coach.
7. I understand that due to State Law, there is no smoking, tobacco, vaping or alcohol use of any kind on school grounds. I understand that the league has a ZERO TOLERANCE policy on this issue. This includes all playing fields and parking lots. I will also follow the parking rules set forth by the schools where we practice and/or play.
8. I will attempt to have my child at every practice and game when possible, and I will

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notify the coach if I cannot.

9. I understand that if there are any problems, the proper chain of command is: Manager/Coach Division Vice President League Player Agent
10. I understand that the Board of Directors has the right to review the conduct of any parent and take any action deemed necessary.
11. Managers must review the Orangevale Pony Baseball *Code of Conduct* and *Disciplinary Policy* with their coaches, assistant coaches, team moms, players, player's parents and all spectators. The CDC *may* hold managers accountable for the conduct of their coaches, assistant coaches, team moms, players, player's parents and all spectators.

DISCIPLINARY POLICY – GENERAL

I understand it is my obligation to inform family & friends of these rules when they come to watch my child play.

Recognizing the difficulty of establishing specific penalties for all violations of acceptable conduct, the following penalties or disciplinary action may be taken:

- A. **WARNING** - The offending person is to be advised, in writing, of the offense, and further advised that repetition of the offense shall result in a more severe penalty.
- B. **SUSPENSIONS** - The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been suspended from all league activity for a specific number of games. Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3 disciplinary actions may be applied (see below).
- C. **DISMISSAL OR EXPELLED** - The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been dismissed or expelled from the league for the remainder of that current year.
- D. **BARRED OR EXPELLED FROM OVPB** - The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been dismissed or expelled from present and future participation in the league, permanently, or for a specific number of years.

DISCIPLINARY POLICY - SPECIFIC

The following list of violations is ***not all-inclusive*** and the Conduct/Disciplinary Committee (CDC) reserves the right to amend the violations and disciplinary actions as necessary. The CDC reserves the right to enforce the appropriate disciplinary action as deemed necessary and may include any of the above listed general actions. The CDC also reserves the right to enforce the following disciplinary actions on

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individuals/members for specific violations listed below:

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LEVEL 1 DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Level 1 action, which may lead to the suspension of the manager, coach, assistant coach, team mom, player, parent, spectator or any member of OVPB from participation in OVPB activities, are listed below including length of suspension. The *Specific Division Vice President* may enforce these suspensions without approval from the Conduct/Disciplinary Committee; however, may consult the CDC if necessary. However, the CDC must notify the violator in writing of disciplinary action. There is no appeal of Level 1 Suspensions.

VIOLATION		DISCIPLINARY ACTION
1.	Use of swearing or profanity of any nature or disparaging comments including but not limited to electronic communication	Next one league games
2.	Use of abusive or vilifying language toward anyone on the ball field	Next one league games
3.	Verbal abuse/heckle any players, coaches, fans or umpires directly or indirectly	Next one league games
4.	Continuing any dispute after three minutes	Next one league games
5.	Willful disregard for San Juan Unified School District and/or Orangevale Recreation and Park District rules by parent, player, coaches, managers, assistant coaches, team mom, spectator or any member of OVPB	Next one league games

LEVEL 2 DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Level 2 actions, which may lead to the suspension of manager, coach, assistant coach, team mom, player, parent, spectator or any member of OVPB from participation in OVPB activities, are **listed** below including length of suspension. **These complaints must be received in written form to the Conduct/Disciplinary Committee. Level 2 Suspensions are reviewed by the CDC and can be appealed to the Executive Board.** The CDC must notify the violator in writing of disciplinary action and the violator should be afforded a review hearing with the CDC if the CDC or violator requests such hearing.

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VIOLATION		DISCIPLINARY ACTION
6.	Persistent misconduct after a caution	Next four league games
7.	Dangerous play/intent to harm another player	Next four league games
8.	<i>Second Offense</i> – Any level 1 action	Next four league game

LEVEL 3 DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

“Major” Actions which may lead to the **suspension** of manager, coach, assistant coach, team mom, player, parent, spectator or any member of OVPB from participation in OVPB activities for the **remainder of the season** or expulsion from OVPB are listed below. The CDC reviews Level 3 suspensions and approval from the Executive Board is needed for any expulsion. A review hearing is mandatory for this level of disciplinary action and should be conducted within a reasonable amount of time after the offense has occurred.

VIOLATION		DISCIPLINARY ACTION
9.	Any attempt to physically harm an umpire, coach, manager or player	EXPULSION FROM OVPB
10.	Any manager, coach, assistant coach, parent, guardian, player or other member willfully striking, or fighting with any other manager, coach, assistant coach, team mom, parent, guardian, player or other member at any League game or OVPB function	EXPULSION FROM OVPB
11.	Causing physical harm to an opponent due to any act of violence	EXPULSION FROM OVPB
12.	<i>Second Offense</i> – Persistent misconduct after a caution	EXPULSION FOR REMAINDER OF SEASON

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13.	<i>Second Offense</i> – Dangerous play/intent to harm another player	EXPULSION FOR REMAINDER OF SEASON
14.	<i>Third Offense</i> – Any level 1 action	EXPULSION FOR REMAINDER OF SEASON
15.	Any acts of vandalism to the ball field facilities or equipment	EXPULSION FOR REMAINDER OF SEASON
16.	Any willful disregard for Local ordinances that <i>causes harm</i> to any individual at the ball field	EXPULSION FOR REMAINDER OF SEASON

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SERVING LEVEL 1 OR LEVEL 2 DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

1. Players must serve their suspensions in uniform on the bench. If the player does not come to the next league game in uniform and sit on the bench, then the suspension has not been served.
2. Managers, coaches, assistant coaches, team moms, parents, guardians or any other member must serve their suspension at home. They are not allowed to serve their suspensions at the ballpark.

CONDUCT/DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE (CDC)

The CDC shall have the authority to suspend, discharge, or otherwise discipline any player, manager, coach, assistant coach, team mom, umpire, Division Vice President, CDC member, Board of Directors or other member whose conduct is in violation of the Rule and Regulations of Baseball, PONY Baseball, the OVPB Code of Conduct, or is considered detrimental to the best interests of the League.

Responsibility and Role of the Conduct/Disciplinary Committee (CDC):

1. The Conduct/Disciplinary Committee will consist of three Board members (1 of which is non-executive) and two parents/non-board members. One Board member will serve as the chairperson.
2. The CDC shall hear and judge matters resulting from a written complaint regarding the actions of any member of the OVPB organization.
3. The CDC shall meet as required to hear and discuss incidents that may require disciplinary action.
4. Meetings will be called by the chairperson as needed. The chairperson will conduct the CDC in a manner such that parties are accorded:
 - a. A hearing before a disinterested and impartial body of fact finders.
 - b. Notice of specific charges or alleged violations in writing and the possible consequences if the charges are found to be true.
 - c. Reasonable time, between receipt of the notice of charges and hearing date, to have time to prepare a defense (limited to seven calendar days)
 - d. The right to have the hearing conducted at a time and place so as to make it practical for the person being charged to attend.
 - e. The right to be assisted in the presentation of one's case at the hearing;
 - f. The right to call witnesses and present oral and written evidence and argument;
 - g. A written decision, with reasons for decision, based solely on the evidence of record, issued in a timely manner, but not to exceed seven calendar days after the hearing.

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- h. In the event that such a hearing involves a player, or other person under the age of 18, that person's parent or guardian shall be invited to attend the hearing.
5. As part of the investigation, the CDC as well as Division Directors will assemble evidence from all sides and review the evidence and make a determination as to the charges. If credible evidence is NOT found, then the complaint will be dismissed. The alleged party will be notified in writing of the dismissal.
6. If, during the CDC investigation, compelling information is found that allowing the violator to continue participation in the league could be damaging to the League, then the violator may be suspended pending the completion of the investigation.
7. Once all relevant information regarding the complaint is assembled and reviewed by the CDC, it will make its final decision and notify the violator within 7 calendar days from date of hearing.
8. Decisions of this committee are final and do not require the Executive Board vote with the exception of permanent expulsion. If the offending person is suspended for four games or more, the offending person may appeal to the Executive Board.
9. A database of complaints will be kept and a status report of pending complaints presented at each Board meeting.
10. All records are kept in secure and confidential files.
11. In some cases, CDC, deliberation is not needed. This occurs when a court of law finds a person guilty of a felony or a crime of moral turpitude.
12. The CDC has the authority to recommend removal of a board member from office due to violations of the code of conduct. Any recommendation for removal will need to be voted on by the general board.

DEFINITIONS

1. BALLPARK: Intended to be all encompassing and includes bleacher areas, the parking lot and street immediately adjacent to park or school.
2. VILIFYING LANGUAGE: To speak in an abusively disparaging manner
3. HECKLE: Interrupt with derisive or aggressive comments or abuse
4. TAUNT: A remark made in order to anger, wound, or provoke someone.
5. CAUTION: Any verbal warning given by a league official (board member) or umpire.

REPORTING AN INCIDENT TO THE CDC

1. While people can call in with complaints of alleged violations, those investigated must be received in writing within a reasonable amount of time after the incident occurred.
2. Anyone, including members, the public and League members, may make a written complaint.
3. If the complaint provides credible evidence of a violation, the violator of the complaint is notified in writing and given an opportunity to respond within 7 calendar days or have a hearing before the CDC. In the event the allegation involves a player, or other person under the age of 18, that person's parent or guardian shall be invited to attend any hearing.
4. Once the CDC receives the complaint, it will have 7 calendar days to notify in writing the alleged violator regarding knowledge and receipt of complaint. The CDC shall have a minimum of 14 calendar days to investigate and forward a finding to alleged violator. During that time or within 7 calendar days of reporting findings, alleged violator may request a hearing before the CDC. The CDC must complete their investigation and report to the alleged violator within 7 days of the hearing date.

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Player Signature	Parent Signature
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Coach Signatures
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