

**North Austin Optimist**  
**2008 Baseball House Rules**

**Approved by the**  
**2008 NAO Baseball Board**  
**On**  
**January 10, 2008**

**Beverley Brown**  
**NAO - President**

**Gray Richardson**  
**NAO - V.P. of Youth**

**Olga Henson**  
**Baseball President**

## **2008 Baseball Board of Directors**

**N.A.O. President ..... Beverley Brown ..... 581-0052**

**V.P. of Youth ..... Gray Richardson ..... 848-7138**

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**Baseball President ..... Olga Henson ..... 736-9462**

**Secretary ..... Sandra Escobar ..... 832-1561**

**Registration ..... Diana Melcer ..... 517-4933**

**Head Team Representative ..... Theresa Hilscher ..... 585-7216**

**Sponsors/Fundraising ..... Kristina Corpus.....775-1293**

**Equipment Manager ..... Kelly Price.....773-2410**

**Chief Umpire .....Open .....**

**Shetland Commissioner .....Robert Gonzales.....797-9141**

**Pinto Commissioner .....David Reed .....450-0236**

**Mustang/Bronco Commissioner ..... Jim Duke .....797-2495**

**Pony-Colt-Palomino Commissioner.... Wayne Gonzales.....791-3768**

**Softball Commissioner ..... Dorman McGinty ..... 394-7900**

**NAO Clubhouse and Rainout Number .....451-8355**

**Website: [www.naopt.com](http://www.naopt.com)**

**1. General Information:**

The NAO Baseball Board is made up of all volunteers who were appointed to the Baseball Board by the VP of Youth and approved by the NAO Board of Directors.

The duties of the NAO Baseball Board are as follows:

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|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>NAO Club President</b>               | An ex-officio member of all Optimist Boards and/or committees. Does not have voting authority on the Baseball Board.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>VP of Youth</b>                      | An ex-officio member of all Youth Boards and/or committees. Carries out such duties and assignments as maybe delegated to him/her by the Baseball Board President. Does not have voting authority on the Baseball Board. Over sees the operations of the Baseball Board.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| *****                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Baseball President</b>               | Presides at all baseball board meetings. Supervises the functions of the various committees, and sees that the rules, policies, and principles of North Austin Optimist and PONY Baseball are carried out. Only has voting authority in case of a tie.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Secretary</b>                        | Records the minutes of board meetings and handles league correspondence.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Division Commissioners</b>           | Over sees their assigned division. Will act as the Player Agent for their specific division by maintaining a balance of strength among the teams in their division. Assists in all tryout sessions. He/She shall supervise the distribution of players among teams and shall maintain the player pool during the regular and the All-Star season for their Division. Works closely with the Registration Chairperson to make sure that all players are registered and assigned to teams. Works with coaches and parents of their division to resolve any disputes that may occur. Consults with Baseball President in case disputes need to be escalated. Responsible for the general preparation, maintenance, development and improvement of all baseball/softball fields. Makes recommendations to the Baseball Board for suggested or needed expenditures for field improvements. Also responsible for assigning practice time on fields for each team in their respective division. |
| <b>Equipment Manager</b>                | Responsible for the inventory, purchasing, maintaining and issuing of baseball equipment. Also responsible for the collection of equipment at the end of the season and storage during the off-season.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Head Team Rep.</b>                   | Relays all league information from the Baseball Board to the individual team representatives. With the help of the Board, organizes opening day carnival, opening ceremonies, picture day, and closing ceremonies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Head Umpire</b>                      | Responsible for obtaining suitable umpires for the league. Receives all complaints relative to umpires and makes suitable recommendations to the Baseball Board. Shall make every effort to register all umpires with PONY Baseball. Will submit to the Treasurer weekly a summary for umpire's payroll.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Fund Raising Chair/<br/>Sponsors</b> | Responsible for supervising all fundraising activity for the league and assist securing the sponsors on behalf of each team. Collects all funds related to fundraising and sponsorship.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Registration Chair</b>               | Conducts all registration with the help of the board members. Helps maintain that all team counts match up with the Commissioners. Keep track of all players to ensure that all are registered and money is collected                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

All problems or issues concerning your team or division must be addressed to your division's commissioner. A coach may petition the Baseball President and V.P. of Youth Activities and then the NAO Baseball Board, of the concerns or complaints only if attention still warrants. Complaints and concerns should be in writing and must be given to your division's commissioner. Any petition that has not gone through the appropriate commissioner will be rejected.

If the NAO Baseball Board rules on a matter, the VP of Youth, Baseball President, and Division Commissioner must all agree in order for the matter to be brought back before the board.

The Official playing rules shall be "Official Baseball Rules", except for exceptions and variations contained in the "PONY Baseball Rules and Regulations Handbook", NAO House Rules, Centex Rules and the GAACPL Rules.

Definitions of penalties:

- a. Coach's Ejection Penalty: Any coach who is ejected from a game at either our fields or while visiting another field, will be suspended for two games, the initial game from which ejected and the following game. The ejected coach will not have contact with their team of any kind during the games from which suspended. Also the coach will go before the NAO Baseball Board for a review of the violation.
- b. Player's Ejection Penalty: Any player who is ejected from a game at either our fields or while visiting another field, will be suspended for two games, the initial game from which ejected and the following game.
- c. Suspended Coach/Player: Will not have contact with their team of any kind during games. Any coach doing so will be dismissed for the remaining season.
- d. Dismissed Coach: Will have no coaching responsibilities whatsoever.

In the case of removing a volunteer from the staff, all parties must be present and an impasse must be reached before a volunteer can be dismissed.

## **2. Coach's Application Process:**

- A. All potential head and/or assistant coaches must complete an N.A.O. coach's applications. Incomplete applications will not be considered. All coach's \$10.00 application fee must be paid by opening day.
- B. The current baseball board will review and either approve or deny the applications. Applicants can be denied for any reason that is in the best interest of the organization.
- C. Once the application has been approved, the Optimist Club of North Austin, to ensure that potential coaches meet basic established guidelines, will perform a criminal history background check. Anyone not meeting the basic guidelines will not be approved. The baseball President will relay the ineligibility to the applicant.
- D. The determination of NAO head coaches will be done first by NAO Board secret-ballot vote. The discussion by the Board regarding each coaching applicant will center on the following traits:  
1) Dedication 2) Communication 3) Experience/Knowledge
- E. If there is a tie upon counting the ballots, the Board will revote on tied coaches only to determine the head coach.
- F. In the event that there are more teams than coach's applications, parents and/or relatives may be asked to volunteer and coach a team but must go through the same process as all coaches do as laid out above.

**3. Coach/Player Conduct:**

- A. Swearing and abusive language is strictly prohibited.
- B. Use of tobacco, illegal drugs or alcohol during games or practices, on or off the field is strictly forbidden. .
- C. No enticements will be given to a player by any coach to play for their team!
- D. Heated discussions or arguments by the coaches on the playing or practice field will not be tolerated.
- E. No soft toss against fences. Whiffle balls are ok.

**4. Coach Responsibilities:**

- A. It is the head coach's responsibility to establish whom their assistant coaches will be prior to the day of tryouts in order to protect that coach's child as a protected player. If an assistant coach has not been named prior to the day of tryouts that child must go through the tryouts and draft as any other player would.
- B. The Shetland's, Pinto's and Softball's staff will consist of four coaches, one team representative and one scorekeeper. The Mustang's through Colt's staff will consist of three coaches, one team representative and one scorekeeper.
- C. Once the assistant coaches have been established no coaching personnel changes can be made without prior NAO Baseball Board approval.
- E. Only the head and assistant coaches may be in the dugouts or on the playing field during scheduled games. In the event that a coach is absent only the scorekeeper or team representative may substitute for the absent coach.
- F. Only the head coach or an appointed assistant coach may act on behalf of the team during games.
- G. No rulebooks will be allowed to be carried onto the playing field during a game. The rulebook will only be allowed in the dugout.
- H. It is encouraged that all coaches attend the NAO coaches meeting, where they will be given information on the 2008 Baseball Season. All the house rules will be covered word for word. All Head coaches must sign and date the back sheet which verifies that they have read, understand and agree to comply with said rules. Any Head Coach refusing to sign the agreement will have to appear before the Baseball Board. This will prevent the "I didn't know" excuse for violating a rule.
- I. Head coaches must attend all meetings called by their Division's Commissioner and/or Baseball President. Because of their importance, if the head coach is unable to attend then an assistant coach from that team must attend in place of the head coach. Failure to have a coach at the meeting(s) will result in a one game suspension of the violating team's head coach.
- J. The head coach must notify their Commissioner and/or a NAO Baseball Board member of any injuries to players, which requires medical attention, while playing or practicing baseball for N.A.O., within one (1) day / (24 hours) of said injury. Any coach failing to do so will have to appear before the Baseball Board. This rule is for insurance purposes which could possibly lead to lawsuits.
- K. The NAO Baseball Board does not allow coaches or team representatives to accept contributions of any kind (monetary, uniforms or equipment) for any regular season team or organization

without prior approval. The NAO Baseball Board must approve and record any and all contributions made to the team or organization. The head coach of the violating team will be suspended pending review by the NAO Baseball Board. All-Star teams are allowed to hold fundraisers or accept contributions, to be used specifically for their all-star team of that same year. Any all-star funds or contributions raised in this manner must be submitted to the NAO Baseball Board. The Board will reimburse the team up to the dollar amount raised. All expenses must be team related, equally distributed among all the players, and a receipt must be submitted for reimbursement. Any unused monies will be donated to the Baseball fund.

- L. All teams must get permission from only their respective Commissioner prior to practicing or scrimmaging on the NAO Baseball and football fields. No practices will be allowed on any NAO field until the entire complex is ready for Opening Day.
- M. Head coaches will sign for and be responsible for returning all issued NAO equipment. The head coach or an assistant coach of each team is required to submit a \$50.00 deposit when they pick up their equipment prior to the beginning of practice.
- N. Teams may meet for practices and/or games up to 4 days but not more than 7 hours per week.
- O. Minor Coaches will be allowed by board discretion.
- P. No practice in the complex during tournaments that your team is registered in prior to the Baseball Boards approval.

**5. Player Tryouts/Drafts:**

- A. Total protections will be nine (9) players for each team, including siblings. Under the Sibling Rule, the sibling of the drafted child shall be drafted in the next available round of the draft. If one player is protected, that player must be drafted in the first round. If two (2) players are protected, those players must be drafted in the first and second rounds, respectively. If three (3) players are protected, they must be drafted in the first, second and third rounds, respectively. This process will continue to descend through the ninth round, if applicable.
- B. All players that are not protected must tryout and enter the player draft. Shetland is excluded from this rule. No player can be placed on a team by a coach, only the Division Commissioner may do so.
- C. All players must be registered prior to the day of tryouts. Only the registered player that participated in the tryouts will be eligible for the player draft. ANY player registering on or after the day of the tryouts must go into the player draft rotation.
- E. Tryouts will be held on a day set by the Baseball Board. All eligible players will need to attend the tryouts and each player will be asked to perform the same baseball tasks, which will be determined by the NAO Baseball Board. Registered protected players will be excluded from the tryouts and draft.
- F. The Division Commissioner must be present at all drafts (regular season and all-stars) for their divisions. If the commissioner is unable to attend the draft the Baseball President will attend the draft and act on behalf of the commissioner. If the Baseball President is unable to attend the draft then an appropriate substitute appointed by the Baseball President will act as commissioner for that draft. The appointed commissioner will have no relatives or have an active interest in that division.
- G. Upon the conclusion of tryouts only the head coach from each team in each division will be allowed to attend the player draft for that division. If a head coach is unable to attend the player draft, a representative may be named, by the head coach, and attend the draft to select players for that coach. In the event that a head coach or representative does not show up at the draft, the Division Commissioner for that division will select the players for the absent coach. If this occurs

there will be no arguments from the absent coach about the players selected, if the head coach does not like the selection that coach has the right to resign his position and let one of the assistant coaches take the team.

- H. Each head coach will draw a number to determine the order of draft picks. If a team already has players on the roster, due to protected players, the team with the fewest players will pick first and will keep picking until that team is equal in number of players, and then the draft pick rotation will be enforced.
- I. After the player draft has concluded all players that have registered on or after the day of tryouts or did not participate in the tryouts will go into the draft rotation.
- J. The draft rotation will be done as follows: The 'Commissioner' will shuffle all of the remaining registration forms and then place the players on the next team in the order of rotation
- K. Only the Commissioners of each Division and baseball president will be allowed to know the order of rotation and shall not divulge that information to anyone.
- L. Head Coaches may trade players once the player draft is complete, but will not be official until their Division Commissioner has been notified and assures that the trade has been agreed upon by both coaches involved. No trades will be made after the player has practiced with a team.
- M. Team size will be limited to thirteen players per team maximum for Pinto through Colt and fourteen players per team maximum for Shetland and Softball.
- N. The number of teams will be decided by the number of registered players in each division by ten (10) after the last day of regular registration has been completed but before the day of the drafts. After which, late registrations will be accepted in each division until the teams in each division reach their maximums.
- O. Any team holding practice prior to the player draft will forfeit all protected players and those players will be placed on the draft rotation.
- P. No registered player is permitted to practice with any team until assigned to a team by their Division Commissioner. If so, he/she is automatically not allowed to play on that team.

**6. Schedules/Games:**

- A. NAO field practice schedules will be scheduled by your respective Commissioner.
- B. No practices on NAO fields will be scheduled until the entire complex is ready for Opening Day and until proof of insurance has been acquired.
- C. No team will be allowed to play any team not on their regular season schedule without prior NAO Baseball Board Approval.
- D. No one except for players and coaches will be allowed on the field or in the dugouts during games.
- E. The V.P. of Youth, Baseball President, an appointed Commissioner by the President, or the field's Plate Umpire may declare the playing field unsuitable for play due to weather conditions. Cancellation of games due to weather should be decided by 5:15 p.m. that day.
- F. Head coaches and parents may call the NAO clubhouse at 451-8355 to see if a game has been rained out prior to coming to the field. The answering machine will be updated with rainout status of games as soon as possible.
- G. All rainouts will be played at the earliest date available as provided by the appointed game

schedular. Your division commissioner will notify you of your rescheduled date and time. If it rains again on the rescheduled date/time, the game will be considered a tie.

- H. Coaches CANNOT set their own games schedules. Failure to play a scheduled game will result in a forfeit.
- I. The game time limits are as follows:

Shetland:	60 minutes	Bronco	1 hr & 50minutes
Pinto:	75 minutes	Pony:	1 hr & 50minutes
Mustang:	90 minutes	Colt:	1 hr & 50minutes
Softball	1 hr & 15 minutes		
- J. The plate umpire will be the official timekeeper.
- K. Shetland through Mustang divisions will have a five run or three outs rule for the first five innings. The sixth inning of Shetland through Mustang will have a ten-run inning.
- L. No new inning will start after time expires. A new inning starts after last out is made.
- M. There will be free substitutions for Shetland through Pony. It is the Head Coach's responsibility to ensure that all their players (Shetland-Mustang) must play every other inning during each game (pre-, regular or post-season play "excluding all-stars). Bronco and Pony plays at least two innings. Once an inning starts there will be no substitutions unless a player is hurt. Shetland through Pony divisions must bat the entire roster. You may choose to change your batting lineup for every game. You cannot change your lineup during a game. .
- N. In Shetland through Pony divisions, all players will bat in rotation during the game. The rotation will remain the same throughout the game. Late arrivals will be placed at the end of the batting rotation. Once the entire line up has batted and the first batter in the line up has batted twice, no players can be added to the batting list, unless agreed with other coach.
- O. During regular season play a team may play a game with one player short of a full defense. Shetland teams are required to field a minimum of nine players on defense; the tenth batting position will be an automatic out. Pinto, Mustang and Bronco teams are required to field a minimum of eight players on defense, the ninth batting position will be an automatic out.
- Q. Each team must have a scorekeeper. The home team will be the official scorekeeper. No score or standings are to be kept in Shetland. After the game, both head coaches will sign the official scorecard kept by the head umpire.
- R. Protesting a game: The protesting head coach will announce to the umpire when a game is being played under protest. Scorekeepers must make a note of the protest in the scorebook exactly when it occurs. IMPORTANT: "Rules Protests" must be in writing and include the rule that applies. If the rule in question cannot be found, the protest will not stand. Written protests must be given to the Division Commissioner WITHIN 24 HOURS of the onset of the game in question. There are NO protests on umpire "judgment calls".
- S. If there are multiple leagues involved in division play, only regular season games played against other NAO teams will count toward determining the division champion.
- T. In case of a tie at the end of the season, there will be a one- (1) game play-off to determine the division champion. That game will go extra innings as needed to determine the champion.
- U. In Mustang, no suicide steal to home plate will be allowed.
- V. Curve balls are to be discouraged in Mustang.

**7. Team Equipment:**

- A. Team or organizational equipment will be purchased by the equipment manager.
- B. Notify the equipment manager immediately of any equipment problems or needs.
- C. Head coaches will be responsible for signing out, the care of and returning any and all team issued equipment to their League Commissioner prior to Closing Ceremonies at NAO.
- D. Foreign objects such as stars, medals, stickers, etc., are not allowed on any N.A.O. uniform or team equipment.
- E. All players and coaches must be in uniform to be on the playing field or in the dugouts. (Uniform entails league shirt and cap.)
- F. All teams must wear league issued uniforms during regular and post-season play.
- G. Only Pony, Colt and Bronco players are allowed to wear metal cleats. Shetland through Mustang players must wear rubber cleats.

**8. Team Duties:**

- A. Each head coach will choose a Team Representative who will be responsible for attending all Team Representative meetings and relaying any messages from the NAO Baseball Board to their team's coaches and parents. Such as Concession Stand and Field Duty dates, picture dates, fund raising information, Opening and Closing Ceremony information, etc. Coaches please choose your team rep. wisely; make sure that they will keep you informed of up coming events. The NAO Baseball Board will not accept "My team rep. didn't tell me." as an excuse for missing a team assigned duty.
- B. Each team will be assigned to 'Concession Stand Duty' throughout the season. All team coaches and parents must sign-in at the concession stand when they report for the assigned team duties in order to be credited for their participation. If a team consisting of a minimum of 4 parents does not work on their assigned concession day for the duration of the shift the head coach for that team will be suspended from the following game. Remind the parents that they agreed to participate in the team's assigned duties when they signed their child's registration form. Parent participation is expected. Your team will be notified at least one week prior to their assigned Concession Stand Duty date.
- C. Each team will be assigned to 'Field Duty' throughout the season. If a team does not work on their assigned field duty the head coach for that team will be suspended from the following game. Remind the parents that they agreed to participate in the team's assigned duties when they signed their child's registration form. Parent participation is expected. Your team will be notified at least one week prior to their assigned Field Duty date. Field Duty includes picking up trash, emptying all trash barrels into the dumpster, cutting and weed eating the grass
- D. On game day, the home team of the first game is responsible for preparing the field at least fifteen minutes prior to the scheduled game time. (Responsibilities include: chalking the field, placing the bases, raking and watering the playing areas as needed, connect scoreboard controls.) Both teams of the last game of the day will return the bases and scoreboard controls to the designated areas. Both teams will also water and rake the infield after the game.
- E. All NAO players must pick up trash in the dugouts and around the bleachers after each game and/or practice before leaving the field, no matter if it is at our fields or any other field

**North Austin Optimist**  
**2008 NAO Baseball House Rules Agreement**

As Head Coach of the \_\_\_\_\_ I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree....  
Team Name / Division Coach's Name

- To comply with the 2008 NAO Baseball House rules.
- I agree that it is my responsibility to enforce these rules and make sure that I, my coaching staff, team rep., parents and players conform to these rules.
- To accept and enforce any penalty issued to me, my staff or players for violating any of these rules.

Head Coach: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Baseball Board  
Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Detach, Sign and Return this copy for NAO's permanent file.

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Head Coach: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Baseball Board  
Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_