



BLOSSOM VALLEY PONY BASEBALL NEWSLETTER

Providing great baseball, family fun and sportsmanship to the south Bay Area for **31** years

2010 baseball season
is coming soon!!!

January
2010

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!! FROM BLOSSOM VALLEY PONY BASEBALL

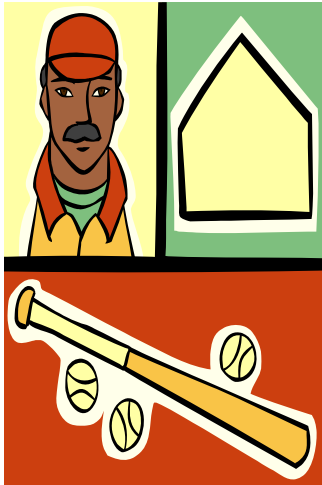
IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY 2010:

- January 14: LAST WALK IN REGISTRATION, Mountain Mikes at Snell and Blossom Hill, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- January 16: Pre-Try Out Conditioning Clinic at Herman for Pinto, Mustang, Bronco and Pony Divisions
 - January 17: On line registration closes.
- January 23: Pre-Try Out Conditioning Clinic at Herman for Pinto, Mustang, Bronco and Pony Divisions
- January 30: Try-Outs!!! Pinto and Mustang at Calero 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Bronco and Pony at Herman, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.
(See League Calendar on page 5 for more important information)

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Pre-Try Out Conditioning Clinic in January: Mustang, Bronco and Pony players can get ahead of the curve...



Like Major League Baseball players young players tend to be less active in the winter. Tryouts in January usually happen in cold weather after a long period of inactivity by the child. This does not allow the child to be at their best during try outs.

Blossom Valley PONY Baseball is sponsoring a second-annual 2010 Pre-Try Out Conditioning Clinic on January 16 and 23, 2010 at the Herman Pony Field located at 5955 Blossom Ave. San Jose.

This free, voluntary clinic is offered to Pinto (7-8 years old), Mustang (9-10 years old); Bronco (11-12 years old) and Pony (13-14 years old) players who have registered and paid for the 2010 season.

This program gives the players a good head start on their skills prior to try outs and it will allow the coaches to get an advanced look at the players.

Activities include:

- Catcher station: Signals,

back doors, caught stealing, dropped 3rd strikes, positioning, etc.

- Infield: Ground balls, double plays, pop ups, cuts offs, etc.
- Outfield: Fly balls, back-ups, cut-offs.
- Pitchers: Wind up, stretch, pick-off moves, grip on ball, etc.
- Hitting: Bunts, stance, soft toss, live pitching.

(See page 5 for contact info.)

REGISTRATION: IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR THE 2010 SEASON!!!

"Baseball is a habit. The slowly rising crescendo of each game, the rhythm of the long season--these are the essentials and they are remarkably unchanged over nearly a century and a half. Of how many American institutions can that be said?" — George Will

There are three remaining opportunities to register:

- January 14: Register at Mountain Mikes Pizza, 6191 Santa Teresa Blvd., San Jose. 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

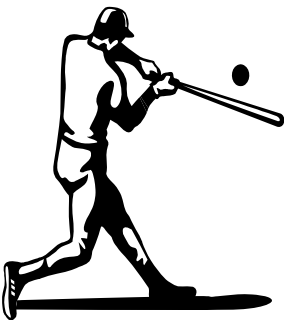
- Online at www.bvponybaseball.com. Online registration ends January 17, 2010.
- You can register on the day of try-outs, which is January 30. (AVAILABILITY MAY BE LIMITED)

For further information, including fees, payment schedules and updates please visit our website at www.bvponybaseball.com.

To guarantee your child's spot register early on line:

www.bvponybaseball.com/registration

LET'S PLAY SOME BASEBALL!!!





The Infield Fly Rule Explained

By James Purvis, Newsletter Editor

I decided to write a monthly piece explaining, based on my research and experience, some of the more baffling rules of baseball. The Infield Fly Rule is, in my experience, one of those rules that leaves young (or even experienced) umpires scratching their heads, managers ranting in the dugout and irate parents fuming in the stands.

The rule is mentioned in sections 2.00, 6.05 (e, l) and 7.08 (f) Exception in the 2009 Official Rules of Major League Baseball (Triumph Books, Chicago, IL).

Section 2.00 contains the definition of the term, listed on page 27:

"An INFIELD FLY" is a fair fly ball (not including a line drive nor an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second and third bases are occupied, before two are out. The pitcher, catcher and any outfielder who stations himself in the infield on the play shall be considered infielders for the purpose of this rule.

When it seems apparent that a batted ball will be an Infield Fly, the umpire shall immediately declare "Infield Fly" for the benefit of the runners. If the ball is near the baselines, the umpire shall declare "Infield Fly, if fair."

The ball is alive and runners may advance at the risk of the ball being caught, or retouch and advance after the ball is touched, the same as on any fly ball. If the ball becomes a foul ball, it is treated the same as any foul.

If a declared infield fly is allowed to fall untouched to the ground, and bounces foul before passing first or third base, it is a foul ball. If a declared Infield Fly falls untouched to the ground outside the baseline, and bounces fair before passing first or third base, it is an Infield Fly.

Sections 6.05 (e) and (l) (pp 87 and 90-91) fall under the heading "A batter is out when:" and the Infield Fly Rule is listed as one of the many ways in which a batter can be out.

Section 7.08 (f) on page 120 states: "if a runner is touching his base when touched by an Infield Fly, he is not out, although the batter is out. If runner is touched by an Infield Fly when he is not touching his base, both runner and batter are out."

So that's the rule, but why all the fuss over a shallow fly ball? Why assume an automatic out and take away the potential for the ball to be mishandled and the batter to reach base?

The term "Infield Fly" first appeared in the baseball rule book in 1894, 50 years after Alexander Cartwright devised the first formal set of playing rules. Prior to the creation of the rule a player could deliberately drop a fly ball in the infield with less than two out and runners on base. The runners normally tagged up with their foot on the bag to see if the ball would be caught. The defensive player could drop the ball and create a double play (or even a triple play) opportunity by picking the ball up, tagging one base and throwing out the tardy runner who realized too late what was happening.

On June 22, 1882, in a game between Cincinnati and the Pittsburgh Alleghenys, Pittsburgh had runners on first and second base with none out. The batter lifted an easy pop-up toward the shortstop, who appeared at first to attempt to catch the ball, then let it drop. He fired the ball to second base. The second baseman tagged the lead runner and then the base for two outs. He then threw the ball to the pitcher, who noticed that the batter had given up on the play in disgust and not completed his run to first base. The pitcher threw out the batter at first.

So in summary the Infield Fly Rule was created to prevent mischief by infielders who could deliberately drop a ball to create an opportunity for multiple outs and to prevent runners from being misled.

(Note: In addition to the source cited above The Official Rules of Baseball Illustrated (Nemec, 2006 The Lyons Press) as well as various internet articles, were used in the research for this article)



JANUARY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!	2
3	4	5	6	7 Board Meeting Sports Plex at 7:00 pm	8	9
10	11	12 Division Directors Meeting	13	14 Last Registra- tion at Moun- tain Mikes 6 pm to 8 pm	15	16 Conditioning Clinic at Her- man: Mustang, Bronco and Pony
17 ON LINE REGISTRA- TION CLOSES!!	18	19	20	21 Board Meeting Sports Plex at 7:00 pm	22	23 Conditioning Clinic at Her- man: Mustang, Bronco and Pony
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Try Outs: Pinto/Mustang @ Calero 9 am to 1 pm. Bronco/Pony @ Herman 1:30 to 3:30 pm
31 Make up try- out date (if necessary)						



IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP!!

February:

- **6: Try out make up date/ Arm Strengthening Clinic**
 - **20: Team practices begin.**
 - **21: Field work day**
 - **23: Team Parent meeting**

March:

- **20: First day of games!!**
- **27: Opening Day Ceremonies!!**

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR BLOSSOM VALLEY PONY BASEBALL

Please visit the BV website at <http://bvponybaseball.com> for information on the Blossom Valley PONY Baseball organization, sign ups and contact information for specific board members.

Please visit the PONY baseball website at pony.org for information on the national Pony Baseball organization.

Other contacts:

president@bvponybaseball.com

vicepresident@bvponybaseball.com

playeragent@bvponybaseball.com

coachingdirector@bvponybaseball.com <<<Pre-Tryout Conditioning and Club Team Information!

headumpire@bvponybaseball.com <<<Umpire applications and training information.

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