

McLean County PONY Baseball, Inc.

General Information

McLean County PONY (*Protect Our Nations Youth*) is a non-profit organization (501c3 designation) for youth baseball in McLean County, Illinois. Its goals are for players to enjoy and learn the game of baseball. MCPB is part of the national PONY organization and is staffed by volunteers. Continued success is dependent on volunteer support, and your help in any way is appreciated.

Divisions: PONY baseball is divided into 7 divisions, based on a player's age as of April 30.

Shetland (5 & 6)	Pinto (7 & 8)	Mustang (9 & 10)	Bronco (11 & 12)
Pony (13 & 14)	Colt (15 & 16)	Palomino (17 & 18)	

Location: With the exception of Travel teams at the Mustang division and above, all in-house games are normally played at the PONY Complex at the corner of Ireland Grove and Towanda Barnes roads in Bloomington, Illinois. Occasionally, games may be scheduled off-site to accommodate make-up games and special events. The complex also includes practice facilities such as batting cages available for use by all players. **Outside food and drink, alcohol and pets are not allowed.** Players are allowed to bring water bottles.

Uniforms: Jerseys, hats and socks are provided to all players, except Travel teams in the Mustang, Bronco, Pony and Colt divisions. Uniforms are replica of those worn by Major league teams. Players should furnish their own **white** baseball pants, gloves and optional baseball shoes. Other baseball equipment, including batting helmets and catcher's equipment, is furnished.

Sized to fit: Field sizes and playing rules are customized to each age group. For example, Shetland uses a batting tee and Pinto a pitching machine. In Mustang division and above, score is kept and paid umpires are used.

Teams: Team rosters include 12 to 14 players and every player plays every game. In Mustang and older divisions teams are balanced based on player skills. Coaches evaluate players in Pinto and older divisions at the end of each season. These ratings are used as input as teams are built the following season. New players are not evaluated until the end of their first season.

Coaches: Coaches are volunteers and are assigned to coach their own children. Those interested in coaching are asked to sign up at registration. Coaches are encouraged to attend a pre-season Coaching Clinic, sponsored by MCPB.

Schedule: Games and practices are scheduled May through July. Mustang division and above includes an in-house tournament.

Newsletter: An informal newsletter is published periodically throughout the year.

Photos: A team photo day is scheduled during the season. Professionally taken team and individual photos are available.

Fundraising: In addition to a registration fee, each player is responsible for a fundraising commitment. This is accomplished either by selling \$180 of candy and/or pizza, or making a \$75 donation at the time of registration.

Concession Stand: The Shira Baseball Complex includes a concession stand. The concession stand provides convenient drinks, snacks, and sandwiches while at the complex, and is also an important financial resource for MCPB. Volunteer help is essential for the concession stand's success. Parents are assigned to work a maximum of two sessions per player during the season or may contribute \$80 per player in lieu of working their shifts at the concession stand.

Sponsors: Businesses and organizations are invited to sponsor a team or field sign. Team sponsors will have their names printed on the back of team shirts. Field sign sponsors have their signs displayed on the outfield fences of the various diamonds. Sponsors recognition is also included on our website. Contact MCPB for prices and other information.

Refund Policy: Full refunds are available if written requests are postmarked by December 31st. Between January 1 and March 1 a \$25 fee is deducted from the refund amount. No refund requests are accepted after March 1 unless a legitimate injury occurs that prevents the player from playing a majority of the season (with league president approval). All refund requests should be sent to: McLean County Pony Baseball, Inc., PO Box 1779, Bloomington, IL 61702.

Contact MCPB: Call 309-662-7669 (PONY) and leave a message. During the season, call 309-823-0402 for information about cancellations and updates. Additional information also is available on our web site (www.mcponybaseball.com).