



## **PLAYER and PARENT CONTRACT**

### **Introduction**

In the interest of the players and their success, we have developed the player/parent contract. We understand that clear and concise communication between the association, teams, coaches, players and most importantly parents, leads to success not just for the association, but most importantly aids with individual player development and team success.

The following contract defines what the association expects from its members and the disciplinary action that will be taken should these expectations not be met.

*Please take time to read the following carefully.*

### **Association Objectives**

The Ponoka Minor Ball Association strives to provide a positive, fun, challenging and health conscious environment for talented youth athletes of all ages so they can work towards developing themselves both as individuals and as ball players. Our goal is to provide an environment where the game of baseball and softball can be taught and coached at the highest level, emphasizing individual development and team success.

### **The Association, Teams and Players**

The well-being of the team comes before the individual player should a conflict arise between the team and a player or players parents. The Ponoka Minor Ball Association and the coaches under their direction will always make decisions with the good of the association, team and individual in mind. The Ponoka Minor Ball Association decisions are final.



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### The Player

The player understands that by joining a Ponoka Minor Ball Association team that they must abide by the association's policies. Your commitment to your team and the association and ours to you is for one season. The association expects honesty and personal integrity from all our players and parents and that they honor their commitments to the association.

As a member of the Ponoka Minor Ball Association you are expected to take responsibility for your own conduct at all times. You are expected to retain honesty, integrity and offer clear communication. You should take care of yourself and demonstrate care about your team and the sport.

***You have agreed to become a player of the Ponoka Minor Ball Association. By signing this contract you agree to and agree that you understand the following rules and regulations.***

### Player Expectations

1. **You will always hustle.** You will hustle on and off the field, on every ball you hit, on the bases and in the field. This includes games and practices.
2. **You will respect your coaches and do as they ask.** You understand that your coaches come from a place of experience and want to help you become the best you can be, on and off the field.
3. **You will not use profanity, drugs, alcohol or tobacco.** You will set a good example and represent your team with class.
4. **You will practice good sportsmanship before, during and after games.** You will appreciate the good play of your opponents and remain humble during your shining moments. You will encourage your teammates and not ridicule them for errors made.
5. **You will treat all opposing players, coaches and fans with respect.** The only difference between us is that they are pulling for the other side.
6. **You will respect decisions made by the umpires.** You can not change their decisions and you recognize your reaction could reflect poorly on both yourself and your team.
7. **You will handle winning with class and losing with grace.** A player's true character is shown in handling both winning and losing with similar reflection and appreciation.
8. **You will never quit. No matter the score, inning or number of outs, you will always give your best.** My teammates deserve nothing less.
9. **You will work hard even when no one is watching.** Your work ethic is based on the hard work you put in during games and practices as well as at home.
10. **You will NEVER throw a bat or other equipment in anger.** Not only is this unsafe, but it is a selfish display of poor self-control and bad sportsmanship. This will not be tolerated!
11. **You will always prioritize the safety of yourself and others around you.** You will be properly equipped and aware of your surroundings when throwing a ball or swinging a bat.



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12. **You will treat practices seriously so you can become the best player you can be.** Practice is your time to polish your tools while the game is your time to shine.
13. **You will practice self-control, setting a positive example for others.** Getting down on yourself for something that does not go your way can bring the rest of your teammates down as well.
14. **You will always respect, support and encourage your teammates.** You will be helpful and courteous, treating your teammates the way you would want to be treated. Verbal, and especially physical, abuse towards teammates *WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!*
15. **You will respect the facilities we are provided for practices and games.** You will not damage equipment, you will help clean up when a practice or game is done and you will treat it as if it was your home.
16. **You will represent your team with class.** You understand that how you behave and present yourself will reflect either positively or negatively on yourself, your team and your coaches.
17. **You will remain in the dugout during games at all times, unless approved by a coach.** Your focus needs to be between the lines.
18. **You understand your grades in school, behavior at home and anywhere else outside of ball may impact your position on the team.** There is more to life than sports.
19. **You will embrace your role, position on the field and in the lineup, and you will not complain or feel sorry for yourself.** This is a team and you will always do what is necessary for the team to be successful, whether that means fielding balls at 2nd base or cheering and encouraging your teammates from the dugout.
20. **You will learn from your mistakes.** You will make mistakes, but you will use them as opportunities to learn and grow as both a player and person.

You will always do your best to follow these rules. Your coaches, parents and you understand that you are not perfect, but repeated violations can and will impact your standing on this team. Depending on the severity and frequency of your infractions, you may see less playing time, a diminished role, a suspension from the team or even complete removal from the team.

These rules aren't meant to scare you. These are rules you must embrace to help yourself become a better player, teammate and person.



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### The Parent(s)

Support from the parents is vital to the well-being of the club, team and individual. Once you have accepted to make a commitment to a Ponoka Minor Ball Association team with your youth athlete, you must accept responsibility to ensure yourself and your child follow the rules and regulations set forth in this contract.

The following is an agreement that we require all parents to sign upon joining the team. Please understand that this is simply so there are clear expectations for all - players will also have their own contracts. The main objective here is for the success of the entire team - players, parents and coaches - to be on the same page. We're all in this together! Please make sure you read through these rules carefully and understand that you must always do your best to represent this association, team and your child.

***You have agreed to become a member of the Ponoka Minor Ball Association. By signing this contract you agree to and agree that you understand the following rules and regulations.***

### Parent Expectations

1. **There will be NO parent coaching.** Although your intentions may be good, sideline coaching by parents, especially during games, is not in the best interest of the team or individual.
2. **A commitment to ensuring my child arrives at games and practices on time.** This means often arriving early enough that my child has enough time to get situated prior to joining the practice or pre-game preparations.
3. **You will show respect to the umpires.** They may make the wrong call, but the job of the umpire is not an easy one and sometimes they are a child themselves. Voicing your displeasure will not improve the situation.
4. **You will stay out of the dugout during games and allow coaches to coach.** While this may not seem easy, you understand that providing potentially conflicting messages during a game can be confusing to a child and your presence at the dugout may contribute negatively to both their ability and the team's ability to focus.
5. **You will be a role model for your child regarding good sportsmanship, teamwork and self worth.** These things start with the adults, and the players will behave accordingly.
6. **You are responsible for the behavior of all family members or friends at games and practices.** Others that have not signed this contract may attend games to cheer on your child. You need to be sure that they also handle themselves according to these rules.
7. **You will provide encouragement and support for your child.** Your child needs to hear positive encouragement throughout the game and not negative feedback.
8. **You will provide encouragement and support for all players on the team.** As a team, it's important to provide positive encouragement for all your child's teammates. We are in this



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together, you understand that negative comments towards other players and players parents will not be tolerated.

9. **You will respect the opposing team, coaches and fans.** They are the same as us in many ways, but they simply wear different uniforms. Appreciation for their performance and respect for their abilities will contribute to a positive game environment. Negative comments towards these individuals will not be tolerated by your child's team, or by Ponoka Minor Ball Association.
10. **You understand that winning is important to the team, but the primary objective is to promote an environment of growth and learning.** They will win. They will lose. They will make great plays. They will make mistakes. One of the most important things will be what they learn from success and failure.
11. **You will reinforce the team expectations with your child.** You will read through the player expectations with your child and serve reminders when those expectations are not being met.
12. **You will support the coach's message.** While you may not agree with the coach's decisions at all times, you understand that contradicting the coach's message is counterproductive.
13. **You will help your child embrace his role, no matter what it is.** You may not agree with where your child hits or plays in the field, but it is important that you help your child embrace and master that role for the best possible experience.
14. **You will help nurture a positive environment on and off the field.** You will do your best to keep a positive tone as you realize your reactions impact the entire team.
15. **You will refrain from public complaints about coaching, players and other parents.** While you will not always agree with how the team is being coached, you understand that these reactions do not help.
16. **You will schedule a time with the coach to calmly and constructively discuss playing time concerns rather than during, immediately before or after a practice or game.** Instead of complaining publicly, you will be part of the solution by scheduling a private time to discuss any concerns.
17. **I will respect the challenges that the coaches face and the time commitment they make.** You know that coaching isn't easy. It's a significant contribution of time and energy, often with the side effect of stress.
18. **You will make payments for team fees as scheduled.** The team is not a bank, and payments are due for the team for field rentals, practice facilities, umpires and potential tournaments.
19. **You will do everything within your control to make this a positive experience for your child, other players, families and coaches.** This includes those from other teams as we are all together one big extended ball family.

You will always do your best to follow these rules. While you are not expected to be perfect and we all have our weak moments, the main thing is that you will make a consistent effort to help nurture a positive environment for all. However, you will not consistently neglect or ignore these rules. Depending on the severity and frequency of your infractions, you understand that your actions may impact the standing of your child on this team. You understand these rules, and you will do your best to ALWAYS represent this team and your child well.



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### Disciplinary Actions

The Ponoka Minor Ball Association may terminate this contract at any time and for any reason. The player and parent understand and agree that membership on the team is not guaranteed, and that this contract may be terminated at the sole discretion of the Ponoka Minor Ball Association Board of Directors. Depending on the severity and frequency of the player or parents infractions, the Ponoka Minor Ball Association, along with the coach/coaches of the team are at liberty to apply the following disciplinary actions.

1. **Official Warning.** Should the infraction(s) of a player or parents be minor but of a clear and consistent pattern, an official written warning from the teams head coach and/or the association will be issued to the parents with explanation of the infraction, a reminder of this signed contract and mention of the disciplinary measures that will happen if the infractions continue.
2. **Suspension(s).** Should infractions continue, or depending on the severity of the infraction(s) that took place, a player or parent may be suspended from attending practices or games for a length of time deemed suitable by the Ponoka Minor Ball Association.
3. **Removal.** Should the infractions continue, more than one suspension have already occurred, or the infraction be severe enough from the player or the players parent(s), the player will be removed from the team and will not be allowed to return until the following year. If the infraction is severe enough, Ponoka Minor Ball Association holds the power to not allow you or your child to return as members the following year. Removal from the team will not grant or guarantee any kind of refund for registration fees.

***You (player and parent(s)) have agreed to become members of the Ponoka Minor Ball Association. By signing this contract you agree to, and agree that, you understand and will abide by the following rules and regulations. Otherwise the disciplinary actions within this contract will be met. Player and all parents of said player must sign this contract to be accepted on to this Ponoka Minor Ball Association team.***

_____ Player Name	_____ Player Signature	_____ Date
_____ Parent Name	_____ Parent Signature	_____ Date
_____ Parent Name	_____ Parent Signature	_____ Date