

TO REGISTER: www.kpb.org

Or Call

497-8838.

www.kpb.org

LEAGUE AGES

(Must be this age by April 30th)

Pinto League (Coach Pitch): ages 7 & 8
Mustang League (60 ft bases): ages 9 & 10
Bronco League (70 ft bases): ages 11 & 12
Pony League (80 ft bases): ages 13 & 14
Colt League (90 ft bases): ages 15 & 16
Palomino League(90 ft bases):ages 17&18

AFFORDABLE FEES

Kempsville PONY Baseball's registration fees are a great value for the quality of coaching offered and the number of games played each season. We offer family discounts when brothers and sisters register to play. To help keep our fees low, we conduct one fundraiser each season that involves every family in the league. Our concession stand operation makes food and drinks available on game days while also supporting the league's operating costs. The league is run entirely by volunteers, so every dollar raised goes toward providing a quality youth baseball experience for our players and their families. We welcome the participation of local businesses and civic organizations interested in sponsoring our program.



PROTECT OUR NATION'S YOUTH

Kempsville PONY Baseball
P. O. Box 65243
Virginia Beach, VA 23467
Phone (757) 497-8838
www.kpb.org

Why Should My Child Play Kempsville PONY Baseball?

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

*Fifty Years of Quality Youth
Baseball in Virginia Beach*



“ATHLETES FIRST, WINNING SECOND”

You have a number of choices when it comes to selecting a youth baseball league in the City of Virginia Beach. Each league has its own approach to teaching the rules and skills of the game while also teaching the importance of teamwork and good sportsmanship. This brochure is designed to explain **Kempsville PONY Baseball’s** approach.

Formal Training for Coaches

We take great pride in our effort to provide **Kempsville PONY Baseball** coaches with basic training in how to be a coach and with specific baseball skills training. Our coaches complete a course developed by the American Sport Education Program (ASEP) that focuses on coaching responsibilities, basic first aid, and effective communication with players, parents, umpires, and other coaches. ASEP’s motto, “Athletes First, Winning Second” emphasizes the importance of learning and enjoying the game over winning at any cost. So far, more than 60 of our coaches have completed the course.

Two-Year Age Span

Studies conducted by PONY Baseball, Inc. have found that a two-year age bracket is the most appropriate for

developing players. In leagues that include more than a two-year age span, the younger players (due to size and ability) don’t feel comfortable around the older players and often find themselves spending the season on the bench. In PONY Baseball, with its two-year age span, the players actually play because the difference in skills between the age groups is not that great.

PONY Baseball’s Motto:

“If you teach them to play by the rules, they’ll learn to live by the rules.”

Distribution of Playing Abilities

Some leagues allow coaches to assemble their own teams and to keep those teams together over several seasons. Often, a team like this starts as the best team in the league and stays that way for several seasons as long as the coach keeps the team together. At **Kempsville PONY Baseball**, we believe that it is more important to evenly distribute player and coaching talent so that competition among each season’s teams is as even as possible. Each spring, all players moving up to the next league go through a skills evaluation. The coaches use these evaluations when the player draft is conducted. In our player draft, the

previous year’s last place team picks first and the first place team picks last.

Scaled Down Diamonds

The game of baseball can not be played as intended if the physical abilities of the players do not match the physical demands of the field of play.

The PONY Baseball base dimensions of the 50-foot Pinto diamond, the 60-foot Mustang diamond, the 70-foot Bronco diamond and the 80-foot Pony diamond, are the result of years of experience identifying the size diamond on which players of these ages can properly play the game.

Pitching distances are also scaled to the ability of the player in proportion to the size of the diamond.

The scaled down diamond allows players to make all the plays made by the major leaguers they watch. Outfielders can play in positions proportionately equal to those played by major leaguers. Infielders gain experience with a variety of baseball strategies such as the double play, squeeze play, and bunt defenses.

In the Colt and Palomino leagues, games are played on the regulation diamond with bases set at 90 feet and a 60-foot, 6-inch pitching distance.

Kempsville PONY Baseball players are well-prepared for middle school and high school baseball if that is where their interests take them.