

INVITATION TO THE 2017 PONY BASEBALL 8U COACH PITCH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The tournament will be a 20 Team Pool Play Seeding Tournament followed by a Single Elimination Tournament to crown the 8U PONY NATIONAL CHAMPION.

There will be 4 Pools of 5 TEAMS EACH

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>
A 1	B 1	C1	D1
A 2	B 2	C2	D2
A 3	B 3	C3	D3
A 4	B 4	C4	D4
A5	B5	C5	D5

The Pool Play Pairings will be as follows.

A1 - A2	B1 - B2	C1 - C2	D1 - D2
A3 - A4	B3 - B4	C3 - C4	D3 - D4
A1 - A5	B1 - B5	C1 - C5	D1 - D5
A2 - A4	B2 - B4	C2 - C4	D2 - D4
A3 - A5	B3 - B5	C3 - C5	D3 - D5
A2 - A3	B2 - B3	C2 - C3	D2 - D3
A1 - A4	B1 - B4	C1 - C4	D1 - D4
A2 - A5	B2 - B5	C2 - C5	D2 - D5
A1 - A3	B1 - B3	C1 - C3	D1 - D3
A4 - A5	B4 - B5	C4 - C5	D4 - D5

THIS FORMAT WILL GIVE EACH TEAMS 4 GAMES DURING THIS ROUND OF POOL PLAY. A MINIMUM OF TWO GAMES IN THE NEXT 2 ROUNDS OF PLAY WILL GIVE EVERY TEAM A TOTAL OF AT LEAST 6 GAMES.

Once Pool Play is finished we will seed the teams in each pool to give them a NEW Ranking within their pool. A1, A2, A3, ETC.

The teams are seeded by:

Best Record

Head to Head

Runs Allowed

Runs Scored

If still tied, that tie will be broken with a coin toss.

Once all the teams have been seeded they will play a Single Elimination Tournament

Based upon the pool seeding the teams are placed in a single elimination tournament bracket as follows:

Game 1 A1 VS D5

Game 2 B5 VS C1

Game 3 B1 VS C5

Game 4 A5 VS D1

Game 5 A2 VS D4

Game 6 B4 VS C2

Game 7 B2 VS C4

Game 8 A4 VS D2

Game 9 A3 VS D3

Game 10 B3 VS C3

This gives you the pairings for the 10 Team Single Elimination Bracket to Crown the 8U PONY NATIONAL CHAMPION and the 8U CONSOLATION CHAMPION.

The winners will advance to play on for the NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

The losers of this round will play in a single elimination tournament to crown the Consolation Champion.

The tournament will be held in **Mt. Vernon, IL July 20-22, 2017. July 19 will be the report date for all teams. July 23 (Sunday) will be used as a rain day.** There will be a dinner for all players, coaches, parents, and fans on Wednesday July 19, 2017 at 5:00 PM. We are planning on having teams from across the country to play in this tournament. We will take the first 16 teams and then will have a waiting list if needed. **The cost of the tournament is \$200.00 plus a \$100.00 gate fee for all teams.** The size of the tournament may change depending on the number of teams that request to play. **The tournament rules may be found on the PONY website www.pony.org North Zone, Publications, 2017 PONY Baseball 8U Coach Pitch National Championship Rules.**

We will award 1st and 2nd place Banners for both the National Championship round as well as the consolation tournament. All 4 teams players will also receive an award.

If you are interested in playing in this annual event please contact Steve Miller at s.miller@pony.org or Randy Crompton at r.crompton@pony.org

Mt. Vernon is in the southern part of the state of Illinois and is easy driving distance from St. Louis, Missouri and Evansville, Indiana. Chicago, IL is approximately four hours north of Mt. Vernon. Mt. Vernon, IL has two major Interstates that intersect the city, I 57 and I 64. Interstate I 24 is only 50 miles south of Mt. Vernon on Interstate I 57. Mt. Vernon has 1227 hotel rooms, over 60 restaurants, and a Water Park near the ball fields.

Mt. Vernon is just minutes from some of the finest outdoor recreation in the Midwest, the Rend Lake Recreation area, that offers a fishing, boating, golfing, and hunting paradise for the outdoor enthusiast.

Cultural offerings in Mt. Vernon include the magnificent Cedarhurst Center for the Arts complex that features the art museum, sculpture park, programs and events including the nationally acclaimed Cedarhurst Craft Fair held each fall on the weekend after Labor Day. The Jefferson County Historical Village offers a look back into the history of the settlers of the area and their lifestyle with authentic log cabins and a museum interpretive center.

Other attractions include the Appellate Courthouse where Abraham Lincoln represented clients, the C. E. Brehm Library with its impressive genealogy collection, plus acres of public parks, golf courses, raceway, winery, and much more.

Marion, Illinois is approximately 40 mile south of Mt. Vernon on Interstate I 57. The city of Marion has many things to offer as well. There are many hotels located in Marion. Marion is also home to the Southern Illinois Miners Baseball Team. The team is part of the Frontier League, and plays at Rent One Park, at the intersection of Interstate I 57 and Rout 13.

St. Louis offers many exciting attractions as well. Come see the St. Louis Arch, the Gateway to the West, Six Flags theme park, Ballpark Village. The St. Louis Zoo, Grant's Farm, and many other attractions. Please visit Mt. Vernon, IL, Marion, IL, and St. Louis, MO web sites for more information about these areas.

Nashville, TN is approximately 4 hours away, Memphis, TN is approximately 4 hours away, and Louisville, KY, home to the Louisville bat factory is approximately 3.5 hours away. All of these can be great vacation spots.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

*Revised 6/16/2017