



Shetland League Rules

The following rules apply to all Shetland League games. This is an entry level baseball league designed to help teach kids about the game of baseball, its rules, basic fundamentals, as well as encourage teamwork. This league is meant to be FUN as well as help prepare the players for the next level of play. All other rules governing Frankfort Boys Baseball are contained in the Official Pony League Rule Book.

1. A game shall consist of four full innings played with no extra innings. The "Home" team shall take their at-bats in the bottom half of the 4th inning because no score is to be kept. There is a 90-minute time limit on games.
2. Continuous Batting Order. That is, each player will bat their respective turn, whether playing a field position or as a reserve during any given inning.
3. Each Team will use up to a maximum of four Outfielders who must be positioned at least on the fringe of the outfield grass. A catcher will not be used. One player should stand next to the coach pitching and play defensive role of the pitcher. A maximum of 10 defensive players will be allowed on the field.
4. The game is to be umpired by the Coaches.
5. Bases will be 50 feet apart. The pitching distance shall be 35 feet from pitching rubber to home plate.
6. No score is to be kept and/or announced to the Players.
7. For the first 3 games of the season, an adjustable batting "Tee" will be used for every at-bat. No coach pitching allowed. This is to help give the players an idea of how the game works, make better swings, and keep play moving along. The batting order will be continuous until each player has batted. Each player will bat before the side is retired, regardless of the number of outs made.
8. On the 4th game and thereafter, a coach will pitch the ball to the batter. 5 pitches will be thrown to the batter (no more than 5 to help keep the game moving along). After 5 pitches, if the batter has not hit the ball, a hitting tee will be brought in and used for the batter.
9. The "Pitching" Coach shall throw overhand, hittable pitches preferably from their knee. The "Catching" Coach shall be responsible for obtaining errant and/or missed pitches and throwing them back to the pitcher in order to speed up play. The "Pitching" and "Catching" Coaches are



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from the team that is hitting. The hitting team may also have first and third base coaches and shall position themselves outside of the foul lines. It is OK for base coaches to help stop overthrown balls.

10. The fielding team is also allowed coaches on the field to assist in instructing and positioning players.
11. The ball must be hit 15 feet beyond home plate to be playable when pitched by a Coach.
12. Runners will not advance once the ball is within the dirt portion of the infield after a hit into the outfield and is under control by a Fielder during innings where Coaches are used as Pitchers. (Note: Fielder can be either an Infielder or Outfielder). Stranded Runners are at their own risk of being tagged or thrown out by any player.
13. "Outs" are enforced, but not recorded. So, if a fielder gets a batter or runner out, that batter or runner is called "out" and then removed from the bases. The "out" is not recorded and play will continue. The reason outs are enforced is to help teach players the game and encourage good aggressive play from the fielders.
14. Runners do not advance on an overthrow.
15. There will be no stealing and no leadoffs. A runner may not advance during a passed ball, wild pitch or dropped pitch.
16. Runners on third base may only "score" from a batted ball. Runners are not allowed to steal home.
17. Each player shall play a field position a minimum of three innings per game. It is the managers' responsibility to create batting orders and manage positions for each inning of play.
18. There will be Free Substitution of Players.
19. The Manager must announce his final Batter to the opposing Team. The final batter will advance on a hit and go around all the bases as a "homerun".



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20. Wooden, metal, graphite or ceramic bats manufactured for baseball play, which are round and not more than 2 5/8 inches in diameter at the thickest part, not more than 32 inches in length, are acceptable. No bat shall be used if dented, cracked, modified, or misshaped.
 - a. 2-1/4" BARREL bats are legal in all divisions of PONY Baseball. All bats must
 - b. have the USA Bat Stamp per Pony
 - c. 2-5/8" BARREL bats are legal (New in 2021). If a 2-5/8" is -3, it must be BBCOR
 - d. certified (stamped on the bat). Currently all 2-5/8" bats -5, -7, -9, etc. are legal. (-
 - e. X refers to the different between the length in inches and weight in ounces) All
 - f. bats must have the USA Bat Stamp per Pony Rules

21. No metal cleated shoes are permitted in practice, games, or tournaments. Some removable cleats are made with a rubber coating over the metal cleat. These are also prohibited. Only rubber/plastic soled and cleated shoes are permitted.

22. WEATHER-Both managers and coaches need to be aware of lightning, whether lightning devices detect it or not. If lightning (flash or streak) is seen in the area, play will be suspended until there has been no presence of lightning for 30 minutes. IF IN DOUBT, SUSPEND PLAY.