

# SHETLAND T-BALL RULES – 2017 Season

The 2016 Official Regulations and Playing Rules of PONY Baseball (the “Rulebook”) shall apply for the regular season except as provided herein. T-Ball is 100% instructional. There is no scorekeeping. No protest is allowed. A batting tee is used for batting.

Teams are required to wear identical t-shirts and hats. T-shirts shall be tucked in at all times during the game. Players must wear long pants; **no player will be permitted on the playing field with shorts, short pants, skirts or skorts**. Cleats are not required. Only rubber cleats are allowed. All batters and base runners shall wear protective helmets. Male catchers shall wear a protective cup. Female catchers shall wear a pelvic protector. However, all players are encouraged to wear cup or pelvic protection during games

**Game Preliminaries.** Managers shall arrive not later than 15 minutes prior to the start of scheduled game time. Both home and visitor Managers may be responsible for lining the foul lines and laying down bases that have been provided. Throw down bases shall be put at 50 feet. If playing your game in the outfield, the home team occupies the dugout on the 1st base side. The home team shall provide an umpire for the game. Home team supplies the baseballs and batting tee for the game. If one team does not have enough players, they can play with less players or share players with the other team.

**Managers and coaches are not permitted to change the rules at the start of a game or any time before the end of the game.**

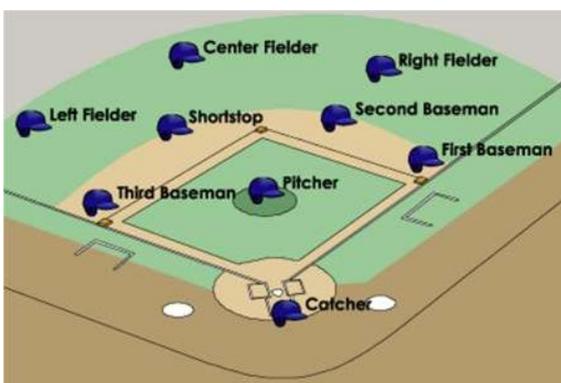
Players shall remain in the dugout or bench area during the game. All equipment shall be stowed in the dugout or bench area throughout the game. No food or drink (except water or sports drinks) shall be allowed on the field or in the dugout or bench area this includes gum and sunflower seeds.

Both Home and Visitor Managers will be responsible for making sure the players clean up the dugout or bench area and remove all trash after each game.

**Game Time and Duration.** Game starts when scheduled regardless of the actual time the game starts. Game shall be cancelled if not started within 15 minutes of the scheduled time. Game shall be 1 hour long from the schedule time, not from when the games actually started.

**Continuous Batting Order.** All players bat in each inning. Batters are allowed 4 swings, if on the 4th swing the ball is not struck; the batter shall be returned to the bench. If on the 4th swing, the batter fouls the ball off, the batter will be allowed to take one more swing. If the batter clearly hits the batting tee on the 4th strike, it will be ruled a foul ball and the batter will be given another swing. A batted ball that does not pass a 15-foot line in front of home plate is a foul ball. (Please use your best judgment on the distance.) If the defensive teams make 3 outs before the 9 batters then the batting team will become the defense.

**Playing Defense.** All players will be in the field when playing defense. **Player’s positions shall be as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> base, 2<sup>nd</sup> base, shortstop, 3<sup>rd</sup> base, catcher, pitcher, left, center and right field.** **The remainder players should fill in the gaps in the outfield first then the infield. Only one player maybe positioned at the pitcher mound at time.**



Coaches should be in the field with the players to teach them how to play the positions. **The only coaches allowed on the field will be approved volunteer applicants that have had a background check and is appointed by the league President.**

**Runner.** If a runner is tagged or a force out play is successful the runner will be out and should return to the dugout.

**Bunting, Stealing, and Sliding.** No bunting, stealing or sliding is allowed. Leading off is prohibited.

**Overthrows.** Once the batted ball has been fielded and thrown to make a play, an overthrown ball or ball not caught results in a dead ball and all runners advance to the base they were running to.

**Catcher Safety.** The catcher shall wear a chest protector, leg guards, helmet and dangling throat guard behind home plate. Male catchers shall wear a protective cup. Female catchers shall wear a pelvic protector. However, all players are encouraged to wear cup or pelvic protection during games

**On-Deck Batter.** **No on-deck batter is permitted** outside the dugout or bench area. Only the leadoff batter is permitted outside the dugout between half-innings. The on-deck batter shall wait in the dugout until their turn. **Bats are not to be picked up or handled by players inside the dugout or bench area.** Coaches will hand a bat to the batter walking up to home plate to.

**Throwing Bat.** A batter who throws the bat will receive 1 warning. If the batter does it again during the game, the batter is out and no runners will advance.

**Infield Fly.** The infield fly rule shall not be enforced.

**Coaches.** When your team is up to bat and playing offense, **the only coaches allowed on the field will be approved volunteer applicants appointed by the league President. No parents or children not on the team are permitted in the dugouts.** Also there should be at least one adult/coach in each dugout to keep the kids under control and keep them in the correct batting order. Managers shall be responsible for the behavior of their coaches during the game.

**Snacks.** Snacks must be distributed outside the dugout and playing area.

**Removal/Ejection.** Umpires may remove/eject any manager/coach or player from the game as well as any spectator from the stands. Should a manager/coach or player or spectator be removed/ejected from a game, that coach or player or spectator shall leave the premises. A manager/coach or player removed/ejected from a game is automatically suspended for his/her next physically played game and is subject to additional suspension time for conduct, which resulted in being removed/ejected from a game. A spectator removed/ejected from a game shall be the umpire for the next game he/she attends.

**After the Game:** Both teams are responsible for all garbage clean up. Please leave the dugouts immediately after your game so the next games can start on time. Teams for the next game may warm up in the outfield.