

# HARRISON COUNTY PONY BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

## SHETLAND DIVISION (T-BALL)

### RULES AND REGULATIONS

(revised 4-10-2015)

#### GOALS

1. Teach basic catching, throwing and batting skills
2. Teach base running basics.

#### EQUIPMENT

1. Jerseys and hats will be given to the players to wear at the games.
2. All batters, base runners and players on deck, **MUST** wear protective headgear.
3. Players supply their own gloves, baseball pants and soft spikes. Tennis shoes are allowed at this age.
4. If the player would like to use their own bat, it **MUST** be t-ball approved and remain the responsibility of the player, not YBAHC.
5. PONY recommends that players, in the pitching position, at the Shetland division wear a protective product to protect the heart. PONY also recommends the use of protective mouth guards while either in a defensive position or an offensive position.

#### COACHES/MANAGERS

1. You **MUST** always set a good example of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP for all players and spectators.
2. Coaches will meet before the beginning of each game and go over ground rules and cover any questions.
3. Coaches are responsible for forwarding all practices, games and events to the players' parents in a timely manner.
4. Remember to keep it simple. Every coach should be more concerned with the players learning how to play the game rather than who wins or loses. There are **NO** losers, we are all winners! Always use **ENCOURAGEMENT AND ENTHUSIASM!**

#### FIELD

1. The base paths will be 50 feet in length and pitcher's mound will be 38 feet from the home plate.

2. A semi circle (foul line) of 10 feet in radius will be laid out in front of home plate.
3. A circle (same as PINTO Division) will be drawn around the pitcher's mound. The pitcher position must stand at the back of the circle for safety reasons and the catcher must stay back and away from the batter until the ball is hit.

#### LENGTH OF GAME

1. Regulation games will be 4 innings or 1 hour in length. All innings started must be completed in full. If time limit is almost up, DO NOT start another inning.
2. Rainouts will be cancelled and rescheduled by the head coaches at their discretion.

#### OFFENSIVE RULES

1. Three coaches may be used on offense. One to assist the batter and two coaches for coaching the bases.
2. Each player is placed in a batting order for the batting line-up. Every player bats each inning. If a player cannot bat his/her turn, the batting order continues.
3. Outs still count, although unlimited, until the whole line-up has batted for that inning. If a player makes an out, they are counted as an out and must go back to their bench. This continues until the team goes through their line-up one time. The last batter can run the bases until he/she touches home plate or is tagged out.
4. After the coach adjusts and places the ball on the tee, the player cannot hit the ball until the defensive team is ready.
5. The ball must travel past the semi-circle for it to be a fair ball. No balls or strikes will be called and the game can be stopped at anytime for instructional purposes.
6. When the ball is hit in the field of play, the batter may only advance 1 base at a time. Runners on base may also only advance 1 base at a time.
7. If the batter throws the bat, he/she will be given two warnings. After that, he/she will be called out.
8. The following is NOT ALLOWED: lead offs, stealing, sliding, pinch hitting, infield fly rule or protesting.

#### DEFENSIVE RULES

1. Three coaches may be used to assist the defense. They are to be located behind the infield and in front of the outfield. One coach is permitted to stand behind or next to the pitcher for safety reasons.
2. All players (up to 13) on the team will be permitted to play defensive positions each inning. If a team has more than 13 players, the player that has to sit out one inning must play the subsequent inning and still gets to bat in the batting order. Only

regulation baseball infield positions are allowed. No extra players are permitted to play in the infield.

3. Each inning players must be rotated from the infield positions to the outfield positions. Players, who play in the infield one inning, will rotate to the outfield the next inning. Players in the outfield will rotate to the infield. By doing this, we are encouraging all players to learn all defensive positions.
4. The pitcher must remain in the circle that is drawn around the pitcher's mound until the ball is hit.
5. If bases are loaded, there will be no play at home plate. An out cannot be made at home plate.
6. Runners on base may be forced out or tagged out per regulation baseball rules.
7. The defensive team may get a batter out by catching a fly ball or by tagging 1<sup>st</sup> base before the batter gets there.
8. The following is NOT ALLOWED: baseline interference, running on any overthrows, double plays or protests.

#### **SCORING**

1. Coaches will not keep score of the games. Do not get carried away with winning and losing as no records or standings will be kept. Shetland Division is about emphasis on players learning basic fundamentals of baseball and having fun.

**THANKS FOR HELPING ALL OUR CHILDREN GROW AND LEARN THE  
GAME OF BASEBALL.**

**HAVE FUN!!**

**If you have any questions please contact one of the Board members.**