

Shetland Division Specific Rules

Length of Game:

- The shorter of 4 innings or one (1) hour. The game will end immediately after one (1) hour.
- The umpire shall keep the game time and alert the two coaches prior to the start of the official start time. Jr. Umpires will be used for the season.

Pitching:

- There shall be "coach pitch" for the entire season. Coaches may pitch from whatever distance they chose, but should avoid a "soft toss" practice distance.
- Use of a Pitching Machine: The League Commissioner may require the use of the Louisville Blue Flame mechanical pitching machine in lieu of a coach pitcher at any time before or during the season.***

Hitting:

- Each batter shall get five (5) pitches from the coach. Exception: If the last coach pitched ball is a foul tip by the batter, then the batter gets another coach pitched ball before using the batting tee.
- If the batter has not put a ball in play, the batter gets three (3) swings at the ball placed on the batting tee. If the batter has not put a ball in play, the batter is awarded a walk.**
- An inning is defined as a bat-a-round (all batters bat every inning).** The batting order shall be reversed every inning. **
- Every player will bat in the batting order.

Field Positioning:

- No player shall be positioned at catcher.
- There shall be a maximum of ten (10) defensive players on the field (5 infielders & 5 outfielders). The fourth (4th) & fifth (5th) outfielder must be positioned on the outfield grass between the other outfielders.
- No player may play the same infield position for more than one (1) inning per game.

Playing Time:

- No player shall sit out more than one (1) consecutive inning per game.
- No player shall sit out a second inning in a game until each player has sat out at least one (1) inning in that game.

Sliding:

- Sliding is allowed at any base.
- NO head first sliding is allowed. Runners will be warned if they slide head first but not out.

Overthrows/Balls in Play:

- In order to encourage players to make throws to the correct base, there will be no advance on an overthrow to any base. Runners will be allowed to advance to the base and no further and the ball will be declared "dead". **

- If a batted ball strikes the coach-pitcher (or pitching machine), the ball is dead and the batter is awarded a single. All runners may advance one (1) base.
- The ball is dead when in controlled possession of an infielder who is in the infield area within the baselines. The player in controlled possession of the ball has to request time. If the pitcher possesses the ball around the pitching area/mound, the play is over.

Base Running:

- No leading off any base. The runner may leave the bag once the ball crosses the plate. If the runner leaves early he/she will be given a warning by the umpire.

Coaches on the Field:

- Two (2) defensive coaches may be in foul territory beyond first and third base.
- One (1) offensive coach shall serve as a pitcher or the operator of the pitching machine, whichever the case may be. One (1) offensive coach may assist in helping with the batting tee and moving kids up to bat quickly.

Field Set Up:

- Bases shall be 50' apart measured from the back of home plate.
- The player playing Pitcher shall stand at a distance of 35' measured from the back of home plate.

Scoring and Standings:

- No scores or standings shall be kept during the regular season.

Additional Rules:

- Rules may be adopted or modified throughout the season at the discretion of the Commissioner after consulting with the CHPBA Board and the Park league liason. Any rule changes will be communicated to all the team head coaches. Rule interpretations during a game will be left to the umpires with a goal towards fairness and in the spirit that there is no score being kept or standing maintained.

**Second Half of the Season Rule Changes

Outs: The inning will end when the batting team scores five (5) runs or the defensive team makes three outs. No batting around.

Batting Order Reversing: The order will not will not reverse during the second half.

Hitting: If after three pitches and three swings on the tee, the batter is unable to put the ball in play, the batter is out.

Overthrows/Balls in Play: Players will be awarded a single base during the second half of the season.