

APPENDIX A-2 – Shetland Division

The Shetland division is designed for kids to get a better understanding of the real game of baseball. This division is more advanced than our Foal division, and the players will learn the more traditional rules of baseball.

The Shetland Division will be governed by the current season's edition of the *PONY Official Regulations and Playing Rules*, unless otherwise specified in the EYB Policies & Procedures or in the Pinto Division Rules.

1. Equipment:

- A. The Louisville Slugger UPM 45 and the UPM 50 Pitching Machines are the Official **PONY** Baseball Pitching Machine for Shetland and will be positioned 38 feet from home plate.
- B. The ball should weigh not less than 5 or more than 5 1/4 ounces & measure not less than 9 or more than 9 1/4 inches in circumference. PONY Officials shall have final approval on all game balls.

2. Pitching:

- A. Pitching Machine ONLY. See Equipment A above. (Recommended settings for the machine: Power Lever = 2: Micro Adjust = 3: Release Block = 4). *Settings may be adjusted by the Managers before the game to achieve a good strike pitch.*
- B. The player fielding the pitcher's position shall take a position five (5) feet to the rear of the pitching machine and 3 feet to the left or right. A two (2) foot line will be drawn at this position. The player must keep at least one foot on this line until the start of the pitch. If the other foot is free it will be on the side of the line extending away from the pitching machine.
- C. If a batted ball strikes the coach pitcher, the batter takes first base and all runners advance one base.
- D. If a batted ball strikes the pitching machine and remains in fair territory, the ball is in play.
- E. If a batted ball strikes the pitching machine and goes into foul territory, the ball is dead, the batter is awarded first base and all runners advance one base.
- F. The coach operating the pitching machine may not in any way interfere with the defensive players. The coach pitcher must operate the machine in accordance with the operation manual.

3. Playing Rules:

- A. Game length shall be a max of five (5) innings or one hour, whichever comes first.
- B. WHEN A DEFENSIVE OUT IS MADE, THE BASE RUNNER IS OUT AND GOES TO THEIR DUGOUT. BASES ARE CLEARED AFTER 3 OUTS, BUT THE INNING CONTINUES UNTIL THE WHOLE OFFENSIVE LINE UP HAS BATTED THROUGH. Once the season has reached the ½ way point, (i.e. after spring break) the teams will switch after 3 outs are made or 5 runs have crossed the plate.
- C. A batted ball becomes dead when an infielder has possession and control of the ball in the infield or at a base and holds the ball over their head AND CALLS TIME OUT.
- D. The teams will play with 10 fielders in the field (6 infielders and 4 outfielders). No player shall sit twice before all players have sat once. Violations of this rule shall be brought to the Rules Committee, and the Manager can face suspension of the next game.

E. Offensive coaches will be stationed in the coach's boxes and as a coach feeding the pitching machine. The fourth coach will be in the dugout or designated area. One defensive coach will be behind the catcher. DEFENSIVE COACHES ARE ALLOWED ON THE FIELD.

4. Batters:

A Are not permitted to bunt. (Penalty: The batter shall be called back to the plate, the swing is a foul-strike, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance).

B If a batter fails to hit a fair ball after a maximum of 3 hittable PITCHES, the player will hit off a tee. No batter will be out on "strikes".

C Batters are not permitted in the "on deck circle". There will be no on deck circle for the Shetland division. Next batter should be sitting in the dugout, first on the bench, with helmet on ready to bat.

5. Runners:

A. Runners are not permitted to steal or lead-off and shall remain in contact with the base until the ball *crosses the plate*.

B. On a batted ball, the runner may advance until an infielder has control of the ball *in the infield* or at a base and holds the ball up and CALLS TIME OUT. At this point, the ball becomes dead and the runner has not gone entirely beyond the halfway point between the bases, the runner will be required to return to the base in which they are coming from

6. Mercy Rules:

A. There shall be no Mercy rule.

B. Runs will be counted only to determine if 5 runs have crossed the plate. EYB will not keep official score and there are no standings for Shetland.

7. Shetland Tournament Play - There will be a playoff tournament for the Shetland Division. Teams will continue to play a regular season straight through to closing ceremonies.