



Orangecrest Pony Baseball Shetland American "Mite Ball" Rules

League Age 3-4

Overview:

This level is instructional and is used to teach the children the beginning basics of baseball. All children play in the field and bat every inning. Games typically last 2 innings or 45 minutes. No score is kept in these games. Bases are 50 feet apart. The emphasis of this division is to stress good sportsmanship, player safety, and getting used to organized sports.

Teams:

Each team receives 11 to 15 players. The Shetland Director assembles each Shetland Team. Managers can bring your entire team, meaning you can lock all your players. Special requests from parents regarding transportation issues or other issues can be communicated to the Shetland Director. Such requests cannot be guaranteed, but we will do our very best to accommodate requests in this division only.

Defense:

All players are to play on defense. The infield shall consist of the following; One (1) catcher, one (1) first baseman, one (1) second baseman, one (1) shortstop, one (1) third baseman, and Two (2) pitchers. Pitchers are to left and right of where pitcher plate is located. No additional infielders.

No player to play the same position in consecutive innings.

The rest of the players will be placed / spread out in the outfield.

The outfielders shall be 5 feet from the baseline or at the start of the outfield grass. Coaches shall be placed in the field to assist their players. **Only board approved coaches and assistant coaches can be on the field. Coaches, Assistant Coaches, or Fill-In Parents are NOT TO STOP THE BALL in play at any time with their feet. If possible, a coach should be placed with the catcher to help assist with ball retrieval. This will help to speed up the game. As soon as the defense is in their positions, you must start your batting rotation.

Offense:

All players shall bat every inning. Each player shall begin to hit off the tee.

Teams switch sides after every player has batted, not after three outs.

If a hitter or base runner is out at any base, then the player can be out or safe at the discretion of the coaches.

The coach shall announce to the opposing team when the last hitter is coming up to bat.

The last batter will be afforded the opportunity to run all away around the bases with a potential play at home or home run.

Each player shall receive up to 5 swings off the tee.

If a hitter fails to hit the ball after 5 swings, then the coach can roll the ball into play. There shall be no strikeouts and no bases-on-balls.

Beginning at the half-way point in the season, the coach can elect to “coach pitch” the balls from his knees to his batters. If after 3 swings at the coach-pitch ball, then a tee will be placed on the plate and a ball placed on the tee so that a ball can be hit and is put into play.

Conclusion:

At the end of the game, all players will line up on the baseline and shake hands with the other team. It is important that the team gathers their things and leaves the field in a timely manner so that the next game can start on time. This division will typically play 2 games a week, with one game on Saturday. One practice a week for 45 minutes is the maximum suggested for this division.