

2021 Hampton Athletic Association Shetland League Rules



SPORTSMANSHIP

ALL PLAYERS, COACHES AND PARENTS WILL BE EXPECTED TO BEHAVE IN A SPORTSMANLIKE MANNER AT ALL TIMES. PARENTS AND COACHES ARE REMINDED THAT THIS IS A YOUTH LEAGUE GAME AND ALL INVOLVED SHOULD ACT IN A RESPONSIBLE AND SPORTSMANLIKE MANNER. THE INTENTIONS OF THIS LEAGUE IS TO BE INSTRUCTIONAL AND FUN FOR EVERYONE.

ANY PLAYER, COACH, PARENT OR FAN WHOSE CONDUCT IS UNBECOMING OR ABUSIVE WILL, AT A MINIMUM, BE WARNED AND MAY BE REMOVED FROM THE PLAYING FIELD AND/OR STANDS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE UMPIRES, COMMISSIONER, AND/OR HAA'S BOARD. SUCH CONDUCT AND ANY RULE INFRACTIONS WILL BE SUBJECT TO HAA'S PROGRESSIVE ACTION CONDUCT VIOLATION POLICY.

The following rules shall be followed for the entire season.

Shetland League Objective: The goal and primary focus of this league is to continue teaching and developing ALL players for a successful transition into Pinto (coach pitch). Just like Foal tee ball, it is not meant to be competitive in the form of wins/losses, playoffs, and championships. However, it will introduce some of the competitive aspects of Pinto such as hitting pitches, outs, runner advancement, and defensive positioning.

Age group commissioners may adjust these rules on a season to season basis as long as all Shetland coaches, the VP of Lower Age Baseball, and VP of Rules and Umpires are in agreement to any changes.

MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the team manager's responsibility to control his/her team, coaches and fans. Conduct violations will be subject to HAA's Progressive Action Conduct Violation Policy.

Home Team Manager

1. Responsible for calling off the game due to inclement weather. The visiting team manager should be notified immediately so that his/her players can be contacted.
2. Responsible for field preparation prior to the game. This includes attaching the bases and lining the field and batter's boxes (if necessary).
3. Responsible for cleaning dugout used by his/her team following the game.

Visiting Team Manager

1. Responsible for field maintenance following the game.
2. Responsible for cleaning dugout used by his/her team following the game.

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Notwithstanding the rules above, there is a common courtesy that should be extended whereas the away team should help out the home team if enough bodies/coaches are available in order to facilitate an on time start and to ensure each team gets adequate warm up time. For example, if the home team is short staffed with 1 or 2 coaches, the away team should step up and help out with field setup and lend as many helping hands as they can in that situation.

BOTH teams should help postgame to rake fields etc.

GENERAL GROUND RULES

1. Lightning and/or the approach of a dangerous storm will immediately suspend play. This is at the discretion of the umpire or either manager and should be in accordance with the current HAA Thunder and Lightning Policy. Any offending parties of the above approved rule shall be subject to a hearing by the HAA Officers and respective League Commissioner to determine any disciplinary action to be taken. This rule has been adopted to protect you and your children from a very unpredictable, lethal weather condition. Please help the league to enforce this rule.
2. Commissioners will determine game play rule adjustments season to season based on the overall capability of the players in the league. All decisions of the commissioner shall be final.
3. The coaches will be the umpires and should make fair calls regarding outs, player advancement, etc.
4. Baseballs, not tee balls, will be used.
5. The distance between all bases will be 60 feet.

GAME PLAY RULES

1. All games will be at least three (3) innings but will not exceed 1 hour and 15 minutes, unless a team has not had the opportunity to have all players in their lineup hit. The game will continue with another inning until all players in the lineup of both teams have had one (1) at-bat.
2. Outs will be enforced and three (3) outs will end an inning. The inning will continue until three (3) outs are made or each player in the batting order has an at-bat that inning.
3. There is no home run hitter.
4. Runs scored and final score will not be tracked.
5. There will not be wins and losses.
6. There will not be any playoffs at the end of the season.

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7. Games consist of ten (10) players or more in the field per team. No player should sit on the bench. The infield will be restricted to a pitcher and a maximum of four (4) infielders. The outfield will consist of all remaining players evenly spaced across the outfield.
8. Teams must be ready to play at the scheduled game time. If a team is significantly short players at the start of the game then sharing players from the other team to make the teams even should be the approach to take.
9. A player can arrive at any time and should be allowed to play in the game. The player that shows up late will be added to the bottom of the batting order.
10. FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR PLAYERS, COACHES ARE ENCOURAGED TO MOVE PLAYERS AROUND. No kid should play the same position the entire season. No player may play the same position the entire game. Equal time spent at every position throughout the season should be the goal for all of the players.
11. No metal spikes or street shoes are permitted to be worn during a game. Molded rubber cleats or sneakers are the only allowable shoes.

FIELDING

1. All games will be played as "infield control". We will start the season with "infield control" as having the ball just being in the infield. Later in the season we will move to "infield control" as defined as one of the (6) infielders having the ball firmly in his/her hand or glove with both feet on the infield dirt and in fair territory. Should an infielder dive for a ball, he must have both feet on the infield dirt and in fair territory with the ball firmly in his hand or glove to be considered infield control.
2. In the event a ball is thrown or kicked out of the field of play, the play is dead immediately and no extra bases will be awarded.
3. The infield fly rule does not apply.
4. Defensive coaches will be positioned in the infield and outfield to assist with players.

BATTING/RUNNING

1. Only one on deck batter is permitted in the on deck circle. Only the on-deck batter may be in the warm up area. Helmets are not to be removed until the player has completely left the playing field. All other players must remain in the dugout.
2. Only USA Baseball USABat certified bats for little league / pony league are allowed. If the batter is caught at the plate with any unapproved bat, the batter must remove the unapproved bat from play and find and use an approved bat.
3. Throwing a bat will result in a player warning. Eventually (at the coach's discretion) if the same player throws the bat a second time he will be called out and the play is dead. This is to ensure the safety of those

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in and around the batting box area.

4. Bunting is not permitted.
5. Lines will be drawn on the infield playing surface half way between 1st/2nd, 2nd/3rd and 3rd/home. These lines will be referred to as "the line to advance". The runner must have both feet firmly planted beyond "the line to advance" to be considered past the line. The runner must continue to the next base and reach that base safely. If the runner is tagged out, the out will be recorded and the runner must return to the bench. If the runner reaches the base safely, a determination made by both teams with regard to "the line to advance" will then be made. If it is determined that the runner did not cross "the line to advance" before infield control was established, then the runner will be required to return to the previous base.
6. Infield hits will be defined as a batted ball that does not leave the dirt infield playing surface in fair and foul territory. Runners may advance **ONLY** one base on an infield hit without regard to the "line to advance". For example:
 - a. There is a runner on second base, the ball is batted to the shortstop who then makes an attempt to put out the batter at first base. The runner at second base holds until the ball is thrown by the shortstop and then proceeds to third base. The runner will be permitted to stay at third as long as he/she reaches the base without being put out.
7. No tagging up on an infield fly ball.
8. Outfield hits will be defined as a batted ball that leaves the dirt infield playing surface. If an infielder touches a batted ball and the ball continues to the outfield, it will still be considered an outfield hit. Runners may advance as many bases as possible. Once infield control is established, the runners may advance to the next base at their own risk. If the runner is tagged out, the out will be recorded and the runner must return to the bench. If the runner reaches the base safely, a determination by both teams with regard to "the line to advance" will then be made. If it is determined that the runner did not cross "the line to advance" before an infielder had control, the runner will be required to return to the previous base.
9. No runner advancing to a base shall slide headfirst.
10. There will be no leads at any base and no stealing is permitted. Runners cannot leave a base until the ball is hit.
11. Base runners will not be permitted to advance on an infield overthrow to any base. We want to encourage teams to attempt put outs. Overthrows from the outfield will be considered live and play will continue until infield control is established or the ball continues out of play as defined in the ground rules.

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PITCHING

1. Only one (1) defensive pitcher is permitted in the infield. The pitcher **is required to** wear a helmet with a faceguard. Wearing a heart-guard is encouraged but not required. The coaches should position the pitcher with safety as the first priority.
2. The pitching coach can pick how to pitch (standing up or kneeling). Overhand throws are suggested to be made to future baseball players and underhand throws are suggested to be made to future softball players.
 - a. Batters will be given eight (8) pitches or soft toss opportunities. If they do not put a ball into fair play after the 8th try, a tee must be used to hit.