

Shetland Majors Rules : ages 5,6 Revised 2025

The Shetland Major league has several goals; to expand on the child's established skills, to introduce rules, to prepare the child for the next level of baseball, and to have fun. This league is designed for children who have fundamental experience and are ready to be challenged, while still encouraging fun and a love for the game.

Player, parent and coach requirements:

- All players are required to pre-register with Garner Baseball, Inc. (GBI) to be eligible to play on a team.
- Any player desiring their child play in this division is required to attend evaluations.
- League director evaluates all participants interested and creates teams as even as possible based on seasons talent.
- All players must be at least four (4) years old by May 1.
- This league does not select an all-star team.
- Good sportsmanship will be required of all parents, coaches, and players.

The mark of a good coach is that the player wants to play the next season. The goal of coaches in this league is to prepare their players for moving up into the next league. (GBI pinto/ coach pitch)

Roster Rules:

- One (1) head coach will be assigned to each team, and may recruit up to four (4) assistant coaches and team parents to help.
- GBI's Board of Directors must approve all coaches.
- All coaches are required to register on garnerbaseball.com
- A team will consist of between seven (7) and twelve (12) players, at the league directors Discretion and size of league.

General Rules:

- No tobacco products are allowed on the field by a player, coach, umpire, or parent at any time including practices. (Official Pony League Rule).
- All teams must pick up trash and cleanup their dugout after each game.
- Each team must be on the field and ready to play at the scheduled time. The game will start as scheduled regardless of the number of players present.
- Players showing up late can be added to the end of the lineup.
- There will be no umpire for this league.
 - o Coaches are expected to make the calls (out/safe) on the field.
 - o Coaches are expected to not disagree or argue about calls.
 - o Any argument will result in suspension of all coaches involved.
- The two (2) head coaches will have complete authority over the game, but league rules still apply.
- There is a 55 minute or 4 inning limit per game. However, the 4th inning shall not begin after 50 minutes.
- No score will be kept on the scoreboard or in the official scorebook.
- Players are required to wear long pants to participate at practices and games.
- Protective cups are suggested for all male players.
- All players present at a game must participate on defense in every inning unless serving a suspension, due to a coach's disciplinary action, or based on the player's choice.
- Rained-out games will be made up as quickly as possible, typically within a one-week time period.

- o The league will reschedule enough rained-out games to guarantee a minimum of 80% of regular season scheduled games. (Local Rule).

- Any player or coach ejected from a game by the league director or GBI President shall also sit out the entire next game.
 - o The ejected player will sit on the bench with their team.
 - o The coach will not be allowed in the dug out or on the playing field. (Official Pony League Rule)

Game Rules:

Offense:

- Outs are given and child is removed from base although not counted as part of the inning until middle of season games. (Game 5 or 6 moving forward)
- An inning ends when either of these conditions are met:
 - o 3 outs are secured (mid season only)
 - o The offensive team has went through their entire line up one time.
- There is no one base rule
 - o Batter runners are free to achieve whichever base they want to attempt. Base runners are free to achieve an equal number of bases to the batter runner.
 - o Coach guidance: The intent of this rule is to prevent runners from continuously running around the bases.
- The coach will create a line up per their discretion
 - o Players will hit in this order continuously.
 - o Coach Guidance: The line up should change every game to ensure all kids get equal opportunity to bat over the season.
- The coach or an assistant shall pitch to his/her own team.
- The batter will receive 6 pitches to hit.
 - o If the batter is unable to put a ball in play after 5 pitches, the batter is allowed to hit next pitch off the tee.
 - o There are no walks.
- No foul outs, batter can foul up to 4 balls before moving to tee.
- No bunting, stealing, leading off or base on balls is allowed.
- Batting helmets are required on all batters and base runners.
- Only USA stamped bats or wooden bats are permitted.
- All batted balls that are between the foul lines are considered in play.

Defense:

- If an out is achieved the runner will be removed from their targeted base but no out will be awarded to the defense until mid season games start. The reason for this rule is to change the game situation for the defensive team introducing force and non forced plays, what that means in higher league rules, and no longer needing to tag any base in any situation; rather situations require a player tag or a base tag.
 - o After first 5 to 6 games of season (both coaches discretion) have been completed, outs will be enforced for the rest of the season play and changeover of innings will be implemented instead of going through entire lineup.

- As many as five (5) coaches will be allowed on the field when their team is playing

Defense

- No coach may touch a live ball.
 - o If a coach touches a live ball, the ball is dead and all base runners, including the batter runner, moves forward one base.
- All players should play defense every inning.

- o Maximum of 7 infielders at one time including a player in front of the 2nd base if there is a large team.
 - o If team is large 2 pitcher positions may be used. One on each side of coach to field balls.
 - o The remaining players should be scattered in the outfield.
- The catcher position will not be fielded.
 - o A coach or a selected player's older sibling is expected to catch.