

## **Brad-Mar-Pine Shetland 4-Year-Old Program**

Several years ago Brad-Mar-Pine decided, in alignment with the national PONY organization, to allow four-year-old players in our Shetland (T-Ball) program. The addition of four-year-old players was very successful. We now offer our four-year Shetland players a separate program. This enables us to tailor a program to better meet the needs of our four-year-old players, as well as the five- and six-year-old players playing in our regular Shetland league.

To better align our program to the needs of a typical four-year-old player, we have modified the rules to speed up the games, focus on basic baseball skills and infield play, and hopefully provide a more enjoyable experience for everyone involved. The four-year-old league plays with the same basic rules and on the same fields as our regular T-Ball program, but with the following modifications:

- Each team has a slightly smaller roster than the regular Shetland league to allow more time at the infield positions and less time in the outfield
- The games last three innings (rather than four) in duration and do not exceed 60 minutes
- All players bat each inning. With fewer players per team, each inning is a little shorter
- Each player/runner advances one base at a time (no extra bases for balls hit to the outfield)
- The Tee is used for all batters for the entire season
- Once the last player in an inning has batted, all runners advance to home plate
- Fielding includes five infielders (no rover): remaining players are in the outfield
- Scheduling includes practices during the regular game schedule starting in May to allow more time for teaching basic baseball skills and provide additional variety making T-Ball more fun for our younger players