

PASADENA PEE WEE LEAGUE

GROUND RULES

(To be used in conjunction with the PONY Rule Book and MLB Rules)

OFFENSE

Batting:

All divisions: Teams will bat in rotation.

Shetland Jr Tball (4U) and Shetland Tball (6U): Prior to the ball being placed on the tee, the batter may “check swing” without penalty. Once the ball is placed on the tee, “check swings” will not be permitted; Penalty: Each “check swing” will be called a strike.

All bat rules will be enforced according to the PONY rule book.

Refusal to bat –

Shetland Jr Tball (4U): A batter MUST come to the plate before it is determined the batter refuses to bat.

Upon the batter’s first appearance at the plate he/she refuses to bat, they will be skipped without penalty (no out will be called) and the batting order will continue as per the line-up.

If upon the batters next at bat they continue to refuse to bat they MUST be removed from the line-up completely (without penalty) and cannot be added back to the line-up for that game.

Shetland Tball (6U), Pinto, Mustang, and Bronco: All batters MUST bat. Refusal to bat will result in an automatic out of the batter.

Batting out of order –

Batters who did not come to the plate during their at bat can be called out if the opposing teams Manager brings the issue to the attention of the umpire AFTER the incorrect batter has batted and BEFORE the next batter has begun his/her at bat. If the opposing teams Manager fails to bring the issue to the attention of the umpire at the correct time there will be no penalty imposed.

Official Scorekeepers record the batters as they appear at the plate. Announcers should announce the batting order as per the line-up!

Only the Umpire can ask the official scorekeeper about the batting order. If the official scorekeeper or announcer notifies the Manager or Coach(s) of the team about an incorrect batting order it will result in an automatic out of the batter.

Line-up changes –

Late players: Those not present upon the start of the game and whose at bat is approaching in the batting order shall be moved to the bottom of the line-up.

Mandatory: Managers must inform the official score keeper, umpires, and opposing manager of any late players and have them moved to the bottom of their line up prior to the players at bat. **Penalty:** If the manager fails to notify the proper people of a lineup change, it will result in an automatic out of the batter. The batter will remain in their current position in the batting order.

Late Players who have been moved to the bottom of the lineup who have not shown up for the game by the time they are called up for their first at bat shall be removed from the batting order completely.

Removed players: Once a player has been removed from the batting order the player cannot be added back to the game roster or enter the game.

Once a team has batted through their entire batting order no changes to the batting order are permitted.

Sick or injured players: Manager must call time and notify Head Umpire and Opposing Manager of a sick or injured player. The sick or injured player may be removed from the lineup without penalty (will not result in outs). Once removed from the lineup the player may NOT re-enter the game.

Assisting batters at the plate –

Shetland Jr Tball (4U): A coach may position the batter. Once the batter has been positioned the assisting coach must step completely out of the batter’s box and move out of the area of play. The coach assisting batters cannot assist in coaching any other players on the field (I.e. base runners). They will be permitted on the field strictly to position the batters.

Penalty: One warning will be issued before interference and an out of the batter is called.

Shetland Tball (6U), Pinto, Mustang, and Bronco: Coaches are not permitted to physically position batters at the plate or stand near the batter’s box during games.

Stealing bases –

Shetland Jr Tball (4U), Shetland Tball (6U) and Pinto: Stealing is not permitted. Base runners must remain in contact with the base until the ball is hit.

Mustang and Bronco: See PONY rule 9N(1). Runners may lead-off and steal bases, as in Official Baseball Rules.

Pitching –

Pinto: The league recommends all Coach Pitchers make an attempt to move out of the field of play to avoid interference during the game.

Mustang and Bronco: Pitching rules will be enforced strictly according to the PONY rule book.

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DEFENSE

Throwing –

Fielders must use an overhand throw. No underhand throws will be permitted unless the fielders are in close proximity of each other in which case a soft toss may be used to make a baseball play.

Throwing intentional grounders in attempt to make a play is not permitted.

Fielding -

Shetland Jr Tball (4U) and Shetland Tball (6U): Fielders will be allowed to play their position no further in than the pitchers position. Pitchers, or players in the pitching position, will be permitted to make a play dependent upon which way the ball is leading him/her. This is a judgement call by the umpire(s), no appeals allowed. Pitchers shall remain in contact with the pitcher's plate until the ball is hit by the batter. **PENALTY:** A balk shall be called. (See PONY rule book). It is recommended that players in the pitching position make a pitching motion from the pitcher's plate prior to each batters swing.

All divisions: Each field position must be filled. Exceptions will only be made for an outfield position if a team is short players.

Overthrown balls –

Shetland Jr Tball (4U): Overthrown balls will be considered an automatic dead ball and base runners will advance one base.

Shetland Tball (6U), Pinto, Mustang, and Bronco: Overthrown balls will be considered live balls unless the ball goes into the dugout or under the fence out of the field of play. Base runners will advance one base.

Coaches on the field –

Shetland Jr Tball (4U): Allowed 3 coaches on the field for Offense and Defense positioned at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base in the grass areas. Coaches will not be permitted to stand in the base paths or on/over the bases. **Penalty:** First offense, Interference is called, base runners advance one base. Second offense, Coach in violation will be removed from the field of play.

Shetland Tball (6U), Pinto, Mustang, and Bronco: Allowed only 2 coaches on Offense; One at 1st base and one at 3rd base. While on Defense 4 coaches will be allowed on the field and must remain in the coaches area designated in front of the dugout. **Penalty:** One warning will be issued to the Coach(s) to remain in front of their dugout before the Coach(s) is removed.

All Divisions: At no time will coaching from behind the fence (I.e. At the backstop, in the stands) be permitted by anyone, including spectators. Coaching from behind the fence will result in a penalty to the corresponding teams Manager. One warning will be issued to the team Manager. Further violations after the warning has been issued will result in the ejection of the Manager and all persons in violation from the game.

SAFETY

Batters on deck –

Must be positioned behind the batter, in front of the dugout.

Sliding –

Sliding head first into a base will be permitted.

Retrieving bats –

Any player retrieving a bat **MUST** be wearing a helmet.

Equipment –

Any equipment not pertinent to the actual playing of the game (ie. Coaches buckets) that is on the field during play and causes an obstruction will result in all base runners advancing one base.

Throwing bats or protective headgear –

See PONY rule 18E(4). This rule will also apply to unintentional throwing (slips) of bats as this poses a safety issue on the field.

One warning will be issued by the Umpire before the penalty is imposed. Further violation of this rule after the warning has been issued will result in an automatic out and ejection of the batter.

Dugouts –

Only players, coaches and/or one Team Parent will be permitted in the dugouts.

Adults in the dugouts should ensure players remain seated on the bench unless they are up to bat. No players should be permitted to leave the dugout without first notifying the supervising adult in the team dugout.

Authorized personnel –

Only volunteers (Managers/Assistant Coaches/Team Moms) who have undergone a background check are authorized to step on the field or in the dugouts.

Parents, spectators, and any volunteer who has not had a background check performed by the league will not be permitted on the field, with the exception of the umpire(s).

In case of injury to a player, the parent or guardian should allow the Team Manager, Umpire, and/or League Officials to determine if the parent is needed on the field before stepping onto the field.

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OTHER

NO GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENTS WILL BE PERMITTED.
THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.

Length of games –

Shetland Jr Tball (4U):	1 hr 15 min
Shetland Tball (6U), Pinto (8U), Mustang (10U):	1 hr 30 min
Bronco (12U):	1 hr 45 min

Run Rule –

In addition to the 10 run rule found in the PONY Rulebook, the league will enforce a 15 after 3 run rule as follows:

If a team is ahead by at least 15 runs after 3 or more complete innings, the game shall be declared complete.

Runs per inning –

Shetland Jr Tball (4U) and Shetland Tball (6U): Teams shall not score more than five runs per inning except in the sixth or extra inning, where they may score ten runs.

Pinto, Mustang, and Bronco: Teams shall not score more than five runs per inning except in the sixth or extra inning which is open.

Protests & Appeals –

See PONY rule book, Section 19 – Protests.

Appeals of calls can only be requested for a rule violation, not an umpire's judgment call.

Only the team Manager will be permitted to request an appeal by calling time and approaching the Umpire in Chief. The rule which was violated must be pointed out in the rule book to the Umpire in Chief within 2 minutes of the requested appeal.

"Pick-up" Players -

If a team has fewer than 9 players present prior to the start of the game they may use a "pick-up" player from another team, under the following conditions:

1. The player must be registered with PPWL for the current playing season.
2. The player can **ONLY** play in the outfield and **must not** be a pitcher, catcher, or infielder.
3. The player may be from the same division or one division lower.
4. The player must be placed at the bottom of the batting order.

A team will only be allowed to use a maximum of 2 "pick-up" players to fill a roster of 9. Pick-up players will be limited to participating in a maximum of 2 games per day.

Uniformity –

All players must be in their league issued jersey while in the game (I.e. No players with a plain team colored shirt will be permitted to enter a game). Players not in full uniform will not be permitted to play.

Modifications to league issued uniforms are not permitted, with the exception of hat embroidery.

All players must be in the same team jersey unless the player is a pick-up player.

Forfeits –

Teams failing to field a minimum of 8 players fifteen minutes past the scheduled start time of the game will automatically forfeit their game.

Teams will be permitted to use the field during their scheduled game time to scrimmage or practice. No umpires will be provided.

Intentional forfeits will result in the forfeiting team being held responsible for paying the umpire fees for that game. *This does not apply to forfeits due to lack of players.* Teams must show up before "lack of players" is determined. Teams with 6 or fewer players available at game time will not be required to pay umpire fees.

Registration eligibility:

Shetland Jr Tball (4U): To be eligible for registration in the current season, all Shetland Jr Tball players must meet the following requirements:

1. Must be fully potty trained.
2. If the applicant is under the age of 3, he/she must undergo a mandatory tryout in which it will be determined by league officials whether he/she is at the necessary skill level for participation in the current season.

Conduct –

Teams are responsible for cleaning their stands and dugout area at the completion of their game.

Any Manager failing to ensure their teams dugout and stands have been cleaned at the completion of the game will result in the suspension of the team Manager for one game. *Please keep in mind, the league can be fined by the City for extraordinary trash pickup.*

Verbal or visible teasing and/or taunting of players, foul language, obscene gestures, etc. will not be tolerated from anyone. Any violations of this rule will result in the ejection and one game suspension of the team Manager as well as the party(s) in violation.

While games are in play, Managers are not permitted to leave the field.

Cell phone use is not permitted on the field.

The organization league officers shall have the authority to suspend, discharge or otherwise discipline any player, manager, coach, umpire, organization league officer or other person whose conduct is in violation of the rules and regulations of PONY Baseball and/or considered detrimental to the best interest of the organization league.

All complaints must be in letter form (hand written or electronic) and submitted to the Board.

No slander or libel of the League will be tolerated from any member. Those in violation will be subject to automatic suspension from all league activities for two games. Continuous violations of this rule will result in the revocation of league membership for the offending party(s).