



**SPRING 2023  
MORGAN HILL PONY BASEBALL  
SHETLAND MINORS DIVISION  
OUTLINE OF PLAY**

*In addition to the rules stated herein, all games are subject to the PONY Baseball Rules & Regulations and/or Official Rules of Major League Baseball*

**1) PLAYING FIELDS:**

- A. Pitching Distance: Center of pitching circle. **(if playing machine pitch)**
- B. Distance between bases: 50 Feet

**2) EQUIPMENT:**

- A. The ball should weigh not less than 5 or more than 5 1/4 ounces & measure not less than 9 or more than 9 1/4 inches in circumference. **PONY** Officials shall have final approval on all game balls.
- B. Safety baseballs, both leather and vinyl covered bearing the emblem of **PONY BASEBALL** which are manufactured to the specifications above are the baseballs required. **RECOMMENDED:** Diamond Flexi Ball-Level 5.

**3) PITCHING:**

- A. Tee (1<sup>st</sup> Half of Season)
  - (a) Introduce coach pitch to players that will be successful during 1<sup>st</sup> half of season
- B. Coach Pitch (2<sup>nd</sup> Half of Season)
  - (a) Coach will pitch 5 balls, if the batter is not successful in putting a ball in-play then the tee will be used
- C. If a batted ball hits the coach pitcher and remains in fair territory, the ball is in play.

**4) PLAYING RULES:**

- (a) Game length shall be three (3) innings or 1 hour and **15** minutes.
- (b) All players present will bat each inning
- (c) A batted ball becomes dead when the batter reaches first
- (d) Minimum of nine players shall be used defensively with a maximum of twelve. There will be free defensive substitutions.
- (e) Offensive coaches will be stationed in the coach's boxes and as a coach pitching (2<sup>nd</sup> half of season). The fourth coach will be in the dugout or designated area. Defensive coaches may be on the field. Defensive coaches must not come in contact with any ball that is in play.

(f) The defensive team should try to make a baseball play on every batted ball. Runners do not advance on overthrows or thrown balls from one player to another.

(i) Ex. A batter hits the ball to an infielder. That infielder should try to make a play at first base. There is no penalty for overthrows.

(ii) Outfielders should learn to throw the balls to the bases. A runner may not advance on any type of throw by the defense.

(g) No "outs" are recorded, all batters are safe, regardless of result of play

(h) The last hitter in the line-up each inning is the "Homerun Hitter", once the ball is batted in play they and all other runners run around the bases

(i) The defense should wait to leave their positions until all the runners have finished running the bases

#### 5) **BATTERS:**

(a) Are not permitted to bunt.

(b) Must have a helmet on that fits properly

#### 6) **RUNNERS:**

(a) Runners are not permitted to steal or lead-off, and shall remain in contact with the base until the ball ***crosses the plate or has been made contact with if off the tee***

#### 7) **Game length**

(a) Teams shall change sides after the entire team has batted

(b) Games will have a time limit of 1 hour **and 15 minutes** maximum

(c) 3 innings