YOUNGSVILLE RECREATIONAL SPORTS PROGRAMS

The Sweetest Sports Program in Louisiana!

Shetland Boys League Rules (5-6 Year Olds)

1. RULES AND REGULATIONS

Official Pony Baseball Rules and Regulations and Official Baseball Rules published by Sporting News shall govern league play except were amended by the Youngsville Recreational Sports Programs.

2. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The Youngsville Recreational Sports Programs shall reserve the right to withdraw privileges from any player, umpire, fan or adult volunteer whose conduct, on or off the playing field, reflects in a manner that is detrimental to the best interest of the Youngsville Recreational Sports Programs and the youth of the City of Youngsville. The reputation of PONY in your community can be drastically injured by the actions of one or more of a small group of people, on or off the playing field. A player, parent, manager, fan, coach, umpire and league official all bear the responsibility of upholding the good name of the program. Public quarreling and bickering, whether over playing field situations or league administrative problems, only serve to weaken the entire organization in the community. This is a youth program designed to benefit young people. Much of the benefit they derive from stems from the example set by adult leaders. Be sure it is a good example.

It is mandatory if an employee, parent, manager, fan, head coach, assistant coach, umpire, league official or volunteer are thrown out of the game you must serve a one game suspension. The coach must serve his/her one game suspension away from the ballpark. During his/her suspension game the coach cannot be at the ballpark which includes field, dugout, parking lot, stands, etc. Any suspended coach violating this rule will be dismissed from the league for the remainder of the current year with a possibility of being barred from future participation in the league, permanently, or for a specific number of years. If a suspended coach is a coach in another league, he/she will not be allowed to coach or be at the Youngsville Sports Complex for their other game until the one game suspension has been served. If you are thrown out of two games in the same calendar year, you will be dismissed from the league for the remainder of the current year, with possibility of being barred from future participation in the league, permanently, or for a specific number of years. All head coaches are responsible for the conduct of their assistant coaches and fans. The actions of an assistant coach or fans are a gross reflection of a head coach's inability

to control his team and the head coach will be held responsible. All coaches will be issued an Official Pony League rulebook.

The following will be adopted by the league as a guide for the handling of player or adult discipline problems during league or all-star play:

A. The Director shall have the authority to suspend, discharge or otherwise discipline any player, manager, coach, umpire, league officer or other person whose conduct is in violation of the Rules and Regulations of PONY Baseball and the league and/or is considered detrimental to the best interests for the league.
   (1) Persons subject to such discipline shall have the right to a hearing before the Director before such discipline is imposed.
   (2) In the event of discipline procedures involving a player, or other person under the age of 18, that person's parents shall be invited to attend the hearing with the person concerned.

B. Persons, youth or adult, who refuse to comply with the rules during league or all-star of Baseball, PONY baseball, or the League, may be considered for disciplinary action.

C. Recognizing the difficulty of establishing specific penalties for a variety of violations of acceptable conduct, the following penalties are suggested. The Director may impose the one which, in their opinion, appears to match the severity of the offense.

   (1) Warning. The offending person is to be advised, in writing, of the offense, and further advised that repetition of the offense will result in a more severe penalty.
   (2) Suspension. The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been suspended from all league activity for a specific number of games, or days.
   (3) Dismissal. The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been dismissed from the league for the remainder of the current year.
   (4) Barred. The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been barred from present and future participation in the league, permanently, or for a specific number of years.

Any player, coach, or fan having to be ejected from a game for any reason must leave the premises within one minute after being ejected. Failure to leave the premises will result in the dismissal of that player, coach, or fan for the remainder of the current year, with a possibility of being barred from future participation in the league permanently, or for a specific number of years.

Cursing and undue or continuous baiting of any official is unsportsmanlike conduct and is caused to eject any player, coach, or fan from a game.

3. TEAMS (AGE)

Age, for the league purposes, means "league age," which is that age attained by a player on or before April 30th of the league year.

4. SELECTION OF COACHES

All head coaches will be selected yearly by the director. An assistant coach or head coach will not automatically become the head coach the following year. All coaching selections, whether head or assistant, must be re-appointed and approved each year.

5. PLAYING FIELDS

Distance between bases: 50 feet
Pitching rubber distance: 38 feet

6. EQUIPMENT

- Players are responsible for a batting helmet, glove and pants/socks/belt or matching shorts. Coaches will determine whether the team is to wear shorts or baseball pants. YSC will provide team jerseys and hats.
- Rubber soled or rubber cleated shoes or tennis shoes are permitted.
- All bats require a USA Baseball stamp and must be on the USA Baseball approved bat list. Bats marked as official tee-ball bats are also legal for use.
- The regular season league will be played with a Diamond Level 1 Soft Touch baseball. All-Stars will be played with a Diamond Level 5 Safety baseball.
- Protective helmets are to be always worn when batting, running the bases, or on-deck hitters. Headgear shall be NOCSAE approved. A runner who intentionally discards his/her helmet while running the bases shall be removed from the game at the completion of the play. No out will be called.

- All coaches will sign out equipment at the beginning of the season. All equipment shall be returned immediately after the end of the season, clean and ready for storage.

7. PLAYING RULES

- All players are to be used defensively; no players are on the bench on defense. There must be 6-8 infielders and the rest of the players will be outfielders. Infielders and outfielders should switch each inning. The outfielders must play on the green turf behind the infield or on the outfield grass.

- The batting order shall be changed every game to ensure each player gets an equal number of at bats. The entire roster of players present for the game shall bat in rotation.

- The half inning will be complete at either 5 runs or 3 outs, whichever comes first. There is no open inning.

- If the ball is overthrown by an infielder to 1st base when the initial play is being made on the ball, the runner may advance only to second base at his own risk. If a play is made on the runner advancing to 2nd base, the runner is free to advance to 3rd base and to home at his own risk.

- The pitcher will make a throwing motion before the batter swings at the ball. The pitcher shall remain in contact with the pitching rubber until the ball is put into play. PENALTY: A balk is called.

- There is no infield fly rule. Batters are not permitted to bunt or swing easily at the ball. PENALTY: Ball is dead and swing counts.

- There will be a 10' arc drawn in front of home plate. Any ball not batted on or beyond this arc will be called foul.

- The batter will be declared out after failing to hit a fair ball after five swings. If the fifth swing is a foul ball, the batter will continue the at bat.

- Base runners shall remain in contact with the base until the ball is hit. PENALTY: Runner is out, and ball is in play if the ball is hit. Runner must return to the base and the ball is dead if ball is not hit.

- In the umpire's judgement, when the ball is in possession of an infielder in the infield, the umpire will call time and runners will be awarded the base that they have occupied or the next base if the runner was advancing.

- Two coaches per team can be used on the field on offense and defense. Each team will be allowed one offensive and one defensive timeout per inning.

- The catcher will be required to wear a catcher's mask provided by YSC.

8. PITCHING RULES

Not Applicable

9. LENGTH OF GAMES

The duration of the games will be 1 hour. No new inning may be started with under 5 minutes of the time limit remaining. Any inning that starts before the time limit must be completed. (A new inning begins as soon as the 3rd out is recorded in the previous inning.)

10. SCHEDULE

Scheduling and rescheduling of games shall be the responsibility of the director. All scheduled games will be attempted to be made up.

11. UMPIRES

One umpire will be used and be positioned behind home plate for all scheduled games.

12. SCOREKEEPERS

No scores or standings will be kept. The umpire is responsible for keeping the number of runs per inning.

13. MANAGERS AND COACHES

- All coaches on the field or in the dugout must complete an online background check annually through the YSC platform.

- Coaches may not switch coaching boxes during an inning.

- Each team will pick up trash on their side of the field after each game. Teams are **required** to congratulate each other on the field after each game.

- The use of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs in any form by players or adult leaders in the dugout, on the benches or on the playing field shall not be permitted.

- A coach wishing to consult with an umpire shall request time out and approach the umpire in a gentlemanly manner. In doing so, the umpire will answer questions and rule interpretations.

14. PENALTIES

Players who intentionally, in the judgement of the umpire, throw any equipment during a game are subject to disciplinary action from the umpire and/or league director.

15. PROTESTS

Not Applicable

16. GENERAL CONDUCT

YSC staff and umpires will grade the coaches' conduct during a game and submit findings to the league director and will be kept on file by the director. See #2 Disciplinary Action.

17. ALL-STAR CONDUCT

PONY Baseball, Inc., through its headquarters staff and its designated field directors, shall reserve the right to withdraw membership from any league, team, player, or adult volunteer whose conduct, on or off the playing field, reflects in a manner that is detrimental to the best interests of PONY Baseball, Inc.

Players, adult volunteers, parents, or fans who engage in unsportsmanlike conduct, such as fighting, abusive language, or similarly derogatory activity, may be suspended for one or more games by the league director.

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18. ALL-STARS

The all-star team(s) shall be composed of a head coach, an assistant coach, and a business manager with a minimum of 12 players.

Independent baseball raters will evaluate players during an all-star evaluation to be scheduled by the league and provide YSC with their recommendations as to who should be named to the all-star team(s). League coaches will complete a ballot that will include their recommended all-star team(s) in their league and provide recommendations from their team. Umpires will provide player recommendations throughout the season to YSC concerning who should be named to the all-star team(s).

The recommendations of the independent raters, coaches and umpires will be compiled, and all-star teams will be selected by YSC based on all of the information gathered.

All league coaches will submit votes on the all-star coach(es) for their league. Coaches will not be allowed to vote for themselves. The umpires will provide YSC with recommendations on who should be named the all-star coach(es). The coaches' votes and umpire recommendations will be compiled, and all-star coach(es) will be selected by YSC based on the information gathered.

19. COACHES, JUST LET THE KIDS PLAY:

When you organize a youth sports program, when you sign up your child, or when you watch him or her at practices or at games, continually ask yourself a question: Is this program, practice or game primarily serving the needs of the children in this age group-all the children-or is it primarily serving the needs of the adults? Your answer to that question will guide you toward making good choices in the best interest of your children.

If winning is not the children's top priority-and they have told us time and again that it is not-then making choices about which children play and which children do not play based on how best to win the most games does not serve primarily the children's wants. It serves primarily the adults' wants.

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Kids want to have fun; that is their top priority. If all the drills, all the yelling and screaming from the sidelines and the pressure-packed schedules ruin the fun, the adults have missed the mark.

Kids want to play. They don't want to sit and watch other kids play or watch adults' coaches. If you are making choices that keep kids on the bench, you are making choices that do not serve the wants, the needs and the rights of all the children, rather than just a select few.

Kids deserve the chance to succeed. If you are intent on identifying "talent" at an early age, selecting elite teams and discouraging those who are cut, you are damaging what is every child's right to have a chance to succeed. You are doing it for no good reason because until children are more fully developed, their "talent" should not be and cannot be accurately evaluated.

Kids learn best by doing, not just by listening, and they learn by being spontaneous, creative and by taking chances. Thus, practices and games do not serve children's needs if they discourage those natural instincts and create fears about making mistakes.

Kids need time to relax, time for their bodies to recharge, time for their minds to wander. Kids need to daydream now and then. They need a day off. If their youth sports schedules overexert their bodies, overtax their energies and rob them of their free time, those schedules are not meeting children's needs. You see the point. You see the pattern. So much of what adults create in the name of youth sports violates the very nature of being a child, the natural wants and need of children.

So please adhere to the Youngsville Recreational Sports Programs philosophy:

JUST LET THE KIDS PLAY!