**LCYO Shetland (T-Ball & Pitching Arm) Division Facts Sheet**

# GENERAL

Philosophy: The Shetland division is one of the largest and most important divisions in Pony Baseball. The focus in Shetland is on developing basic baseball skills, introducing sportsmanship, cooperation, and most of all, HAVING FUN!! No score is kept;. The emphasis is on learning, not winning.

Ages: The league is for 5-6 years olds. Please see [www.PONY.org](http://www.PONY.org/) 5-year-old players will hit off the tee and may receive coach-pitch. 6-year-old players will hit off the tee and receive pitches from the spring- loaded pitching arm (e.g., Blue Flame).

Team Managers: Our league is chronically short of head coaches, so please volunteer. Coaching is a great way to enjoy time with your child. We make every attempt to provide practice times that accommodate a coach’s schedule. In January, we conduct a managers’ meeting to review logistics, practice techniques and drills to make your practices more productive.

Equipment: In the Spring, LCYO provides all players with a uniform, including cap, jersey, socks, belt and baseball pants. In the Fall, LCYO provides all players with a jersey and cap. A baseball glove (preferably leather), bat, batting helmet and cleats are required. Kids’ batting helmets are no more than 16 oz. in weight and bats are typically 25” or 26” in size.

# PRESEASON

Tryouts: Unlike all older baseball divisions, there are NO tryouts for Shetland.

Team Formation: Teams are formed by age first, then friend-request and school. You can request a specific coach or a teammate, or a specific school. Please note such requests during the registration process. We do our best to accommodate such requests, but we cannot make any guarantees. Requests made by volunteer coaches will be honored.

Player Notification: Coaches generally receive their Spring roster by the end of January. Coaches should notify their players directly by the end of the first week of February. Coaches generally receive their Fall roster in late August, with coaches notifying players in early September.

# REGULAR SEASON

Rules: Batters hit a soft baseball off a tee or pitching-arm (based on age), with coaches free to assist the players with hitting instruction during the at-bat. Games consist of three innings and typically last one hour. Batting rules vary (see Rules) and every player is required to play a minimum of one inning in the infield and one inning in the outfield every game.

Season: LCYO’s Spring Shetland Season begins in early February and ends in the middle of May. LCYO attempts not to schedule games during Spring Break, but due to the multiple school districts our players attend, that is not always possible. LCYO’s Fall Season generally runs from early September to mid- November.

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Practices & Games: Practices and games generally last between 1 and 1 ½ hours. Preseason begins in early February and consists of two practices per week (one weekday and one Saturday). Games (one weekday game and one Saturday game) will begin in late February/early March.

On Saturdays, Shetland games and practices will generally be scheduled between 8 a.m. to noon. On weekdays, events will be in late afternoon/early evening. The day of week cannot be determined until the season is underway. Schedule is determined by field and manager availability. For LCYO’s Fall Season, practices/games are only on Sundays between 8 a.m. to noon. Teams no longer practice once games commence.

Shetland games and practices are held at Alga Norte Park in Carlsbad: baseball #2 turf field.

Please check the LCYO web site (www.lcyo.org) for up to date information or feel free to contact us by email.

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