

*OHYSA Shetland League FAQ*  
*Fall 2007*

***What is "Shetland"?***

Shetland is the PONY Baseball name for t-ball.

***How old are Shetland players?***

Players are 5 and 6 years old as defined by their "playing age". Playing Age is defined as the player's age as of April 30<sup>th</sup> of the league year.

Note: the next Spring's age key defines the Playing Age year for the Fall League. For Fall 2007, a player's age will be defined as their age as of May 1, 2008.

***How are teams selected?***

The Shetland Commissioner assigns players for Shetland teams. There is no draft for Shetland. Players new to OHYSA will be assigned to a team. Players who have played the previous Spring on an OHYSA Shetland team will return to the same team.

The Shetland Commissioner assigns all Fall League players, regardless of previous play in OHYSA, to teams. There is no "returning" to the same Fall team.

***When will the coach contact us and when will practices start?***

Teams will be formed during the week of August 19<sup>th</sup> (immediately following our second registration). The coach will contact parents by August 25<sup>th</sup>. Practices will start the weekend of August 25<sup>th</sup> pending field availability.

***Can I request a coach?***

Yes, please make a note on your player's registration form that you would like to play for a particular coach, and the Shetland Commissioner will consider your request. Typically, requests are honored if the coaches' team has space available.

***Can I request my player be placed on the same team as a friend?***

Yes, please make a note on your player's registration form that you would like your player to be on the same team as a friend, and the Shetland Commissioner will consider your request. Typically, requests are honored if the team in question has space available.

***How many times a week will our team meet?***

Shetland teams meet up to 2 times per week in the Fall season. "Meetings" include practices and games.

Fall season games will be played on Sunday afternoons in September and October. Each team will likely have 1 Saturday afternoon game. A short tournament will be held that will run into early November.

Once Fall games start, practices are held on weekday evenings (5:30pm typical start time) at the OHYSA fields. Before games start, OHSYA will make the fields available for weekend practices in addition to weekday practices.

***What equipment does the league provide?***

OHYSA provides each player with a jersey and hat. The league provides each team with batting helmets and a batting tee.

***What equipment do I need to purchase?***

Each player will need to provide their own pants, belt, socks, and cleats to complete their uniform. Your coach will tell you what colors to get these items in. Each player will need a glove and possibly a bat.

<i>Equipment Summary</i>		
<i>Equipment</i>	<i>By</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Jersey	OHYSA	
Hat	OHYSA	
Pants	player	Ask coach for color
Socks	player	Ask coach for color
Cleats	player	Ask coach for color
Glove	player	9" – 10 ½" youth glove; see below
Bat	player	Optional; see below
Batting Helmet	OHYSA	OHYSA provides 4 helmets to each team

### *Equipment Recommendations*

#### ***Glove***

Baseball gloves come in a variety of styles and sizes. This is to accommodate the specific requirements of various positions. Infield gloves are smaller with shallower pockets to allow glove control and so make the glove to throwing hand exchange easier. Outfield gloves are larger with deeper pockets to allow the player to reach more balls, and to secure fly balls easily. ***However, there is no need to purchase a specialty glove for your t-ball player.*** Young players will play many positions during the season, so their glove should be a general-purpose glove. ***Most importantly, the glove needs to be the right size!***

Resist the urge to purchase a large glove for your player to grow into. Too large a glove will actually make catching balls more difficult, and will impede your player from learning proper catching technique. In fact, there is no need to purchase an expensive glove for a young player. A good youth glove can be purchased for \$20 - \$30. Look for the following characteristics:

- 9" to 10 ½" in YOUTH size.
- Leather (avoid vinyl or plastic materials).
- Easy for your player to open and close from day one.

#### ***Bat***

There are many factors when considering a bat purchase for a youth baseball player. The age of the player; their height, weight, strength; and their mastery of the proper swing technique all must be considered.

A simple suggestion for determining the proper length is to stand the bat up with the head down, and the handle should be about waist high. To determine the proper weight for a young or inexperienced player, the player should be able to grasp the bat from the handle and hold it straight out at arms length for 20 seconds, or as close to this time as possible. A lightweight bat is best for a new player, so they can focus on mastering a quick, compact rotational swing technique - a key component of batting success – rather than on trying to control a heavy bat. Bat speed plays a bigger role in hitting the ball with power than the weight of the bat. Once a player has developed proper technique and bat control, a heavier bat (that a player can hold out for approximately 10 seconds) can be introduced.

The following are suggested guidelines on proper t-ball bat selection for a new player:

- Length: 24 inches to 26 inches
- Weight: 14 ounces to 16 ounces
- Drop (drop is defined as the length – the weight): a "drop" of -10 to -11 is common.
  - Example a 24-inch long bat that weighs 14 ounces has a "drop" of -10.
- Cost: t-ball bats can be purchased for \$40 or less.
  - Note: If your player is brand new to the game, consider holding off on a bat purchase; let them borrow a bat at practice and they can try out a few of the styles/sizes that others are using to see what they like.

If your player is fairly experienced, above average in size, and has good hitting mechanics, it may be advisable to purchase a "youth" bat. These are much better quality and much more expensive than t-ball bats. Talk to your coach for some ideas on how to select a "youth" bat that is right for your player.