

## **OSAA Shetland (Kindergarten & 1st Grade) League Rules**

***\*These are IN ADDITION to the OSAA Softball General Rules\****

**2026**

The Shetland League is for girls in Kindergarten (at least 5 years old by Sept 1 of the current school year) and 1st grade of the current school year. This league plays on a smaller field with a base distance at 45 feet, and a distance from pitching rubber to home plate of 25 feet. An 11-inch reduced injury factor ball is used, and no umpires are provided in this league. This is a developmental league and no scores are kept. ***Outs will not be called in this League.***

### **1. TEAM:**

A team may play all players in the field on defense. Coaches should place one player at each infield position, and evenly space the remainder of the players behind the base path. A team needs six players to field a team; they may borrow players from the opposing team to complete the field. The borrowed players will still bat on their own team.

### **2. GAME:**

A game will consist of 6 innings or 1 hour. Game scores and league standings are not kept in this league. INSTRUCTION and FUN are the goals. An inning will consist of all batters for each team - the last batter will run all 4 bases to end the inning.

### **3. PITCHING/CATCHING:**

A player will be placed at the pitching position on the field for defensive purposes. No catcher will be provided from the team roster. An assistant coach, parent, or sibling will act as the catcher/shagger to retrieve the ball after the coach throws the pitch. Coaches will be provided with a bucket for balls – to save time, it is recommended that coaches use multiple balls while pitching, and collect the balls between batters.

#### **4. BATTING:**

The batting team's coach will pitch to their own players. If a player does not hit the ball after a reasonable number of pitches (4-6 swings), a tee is placed on home plate. The batter's coach should assist in placing the ball on the tee and helping the batter get positioned correctly. Once the ball is placed on the tee by the coach, the batter will swing until they put the ball into play off the tee.

#### **5. BASE RUNNING:**

No base stealing is allowed. The runner must hold the base until the ball is hit. The runner may advance one base on a hit.

#### **6. MISCELLANEOUS:**

When on defense, a team may have up to four coaches (two in outfield; two in infield) to help their players with alignment and instruction. The coach must not be within the base paths and cannot touch the ball.

#### **7. UNIFORMS:**

Cleats are encouraged but not required. Shorts are allowed. Jerseys and visors will be provided to all players.