



Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc. 2010 Adopted Policy & Rule Changes August 10, 2009

The following policy and rules changes were adopted by the Board of Directors of Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc. at its annual meeting on August 10, 2009, in Laurel, Mississippi. These changes are effective beginning with the 2010 season. Please distribute adopted changes to all league officials.

As a democratic organization, Dixie Youth Baseball provides officials from each franchised league the opportunity to express their views and opinions through elected representatives. State Directors and National Directors, who serve on the National Board, actively seek each league's input and advice to help them vote the convictions of the leagues they represent.

No one has the right to complain about how their elected representatives vote who do not express their views directly to those representatives. All leagues who wish to offer comments concerning these suggested policy and rules changes should contact their national board members.

ADOPTED POLICY CHANGES

Bylaws

Election and Term of Office, Section 2 Article A Page 3 – Changed to read:

State organizations may choose a process to ensure that leagues are equally represented geographically throughout their state by their National Directors. *Note: This may involve the nomination process of the election procedure of the National Director whereby no more than two (2) are elected from one (1) geographical area of a state. Any process chosen by a state organization must meet the approval of the President and Commissioner of Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc.

ADOPTED RULE CHANGES

Regulations

REGULATIONS

I. The League - Change the following paragraphs to read:

(G)—With the approval of the State Director, Dixie Youth Baseball will accept a new league or leagues—having only AAA, AA and/or A division teams.

(H) Delete paragraph (H) in its entirety .

(L)— Majors, "O"Zone, AAA, AA and A divisions are operated under the direction of a franchised ~~major~~ league. Divisions are hereby construed to mean all activity in the following age divisions:

Majors/"O"Zone	--	League age twelve and under
AAA	—	League age ten and under
AA	—	League age eight and under
A	—	League age six and under

Exceptions to these age divisions may be made by league officials as they see fit during regular season play.

II. League Boundaries

(E)—Small nearby towns or communities unable to field a league within their own area shall be permitted to form four (4), five (5) six (6) or seven (7) team leagues provided the combined population of the boundary does not exceed 20,000. EXCEPTION: If the baseball program in one of the communities grows to support at least three (3) major teams, it may be awarded its own franchise and boundary. This exception must be approved by the State Director and the Commissioner.

(K)—Any league that accepts a player who resides within the boundary of another league shall immediately return the player to the league in whose boundary he resides upon the discovery of the error in registration. Exceptions: Rule II (B, H, I) and Rule IV (E and F). **PENALTY** for violation of this rule shall be the immediate disqualification of the player from tournament play. NOTE: The National Board of Directors has directed the State Directors to rigidly enforce the rules regarding boundaries, population, number of teams per league, etc.

V. Player/Coach Eligibility and Registration

(D)—An eligible player shall become subject to Dixie Youth Rules and Regulations when he/she registers with the league for the current year.

VI. Player Age Limit and Birth Certificate

(A)—Anyone whose thirteenth birthday falls on or after May 1 of the current calendar year shall be eligible to compete in regular season and tournament play during the current Dixie Youth Baseball season. ~~No player under league age eight (8) may participate in a major league.~~

X. Admission to Games

(A)—Admission shall not be charged for regular season games.

(B)—Admission shall be charged at all levels of tournament play through the Dixie Youth World Series. Proceeds shall be used to defray expenses of the tournament.

Official Playing Rules

1.04 Playing Field (b) - Page 27 Changed to read:

(b) AA – Forty-three feet (43’);

Also add 43 feet to AA under Local League option portion of this rule

1.09 (b) The ball shall weigh not less than five ounces (5 oz.) nor more than 5 and one-fourth ounces (5¼ oz.) avoirdupois. The ball shall measure not less than nine inches (9") nor more than nine and one-fourth inches (9¼") in circumference. (LOCAL LEAGUE OPTION) ... Other balls of different design, size and weight may be approved from time to time for practice or for minor league or T ball play. These balls must be marked for Local Minor League Play or Practice Only. Specifications may be obtained from the Commissioner ~~or Deputy Commissioner.~~

(d) An official DYB baseball meeting the specifications in paragraphs (a) and (b) above and bearing the signature of the Commissioner shall be used in all tournament games. Full manufacturing specifications are available from the Commissioner ~~or Deputy Commissioner.~~

1.18 ~~Delete 1.18 (c) in its entirety (c) Shoes with metal posts, spikes or cleats are not permitted to be worn by any player, coach, or manager.~~
(Duplicate Provision)

2.00—DEFINITION OF TERMS - LOCAL LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS are tournaments played at the local level between regular season teams. These local tournaments may be played using either regular season or tournament rules.

3.02—No player shall intentionally discolor or damage the ball by rubbing it with soil, rosin, paraffin, licorice, sandpaper, emery-paper, or other foreign substance. **PENALTY** : The umpire shall demand the ball and ~~remove~~ eject the offender from the game. In case the umpire cannot locate the offender, and if the pitcher delivers such discolored or damaged ball to the batter, the umpire shall warn the pitcher that repeated violations of this rule will cause the pitcher to be removed from the mound.

4.06—(b) No fielder shall take a position in the batter’s line of vision, and with deliberate unsportsmanlike intent, act in a manner to distract the batter. **PENALTY**: The offender shall be ejected from the game.

4.10(a)(3) The home team scores the winning run in the last half of the sixth inning before the third out.

(b) Intentionally delay the game by throwing the ball to players other than the catcher, when the batter is in position, except in an attempt to retire a runner. **PENALTY**: If, after warning by the umpire, such delaying action is repeated, the pitcher shall be ejected from the game.

8.05—If there is a runner, or runners, it is a balk when -

(m) The pitcher delivers the pitch from Set Position without coming to a stop.

* **PENALTY:"O"Zone Division**— The ball is dead immediately. All runners on base shall be entitled to advance one base without liability to be put out.

DYB APPROVED RULING: In cases where a pitcher balks and throws wild, the ball is dead. The runner(s) are advanced in accordance with the “O” Zone balk rule.

DYB Tournament Rules

TOURNAMENT RULES —2010

I. Tournament Play

(A) A SANCTIONED TOURNAMENT is any level of tournament play approved by Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc., (including a two-out-of-three series) which allows each franchised league to enter ONE team in the Majors, AAA, AA, and A divisions at the first level of tournament play to compete for the right to advance to subsequent levels of sanctioned play. *Note: Any non-sanctioned tournaments supervised by DYB officials must be approved by the respective DYB state organization.*

(C)—Only double elimination tournament brackets and round-robin tournament formats approved by the Commissioner shall be used in DYB tournament play. State organizations may use the authorized round-robin formats for use in three, four or five team tournaments only. “Double elimination” is defined as when a team loses two games in a single tournament at any level, area, sub-district, district, state or World Series, and does not further participate in that tournament.

Exception: The Commissioner’s tie-breaker rules will be used in both round-robin and double elimination bracket formats in tournaments where the state organization has the authorized advancing more than one team from any level of play to the state tournament. The round-robin tournament formats may be used to advance more than one team to the next level of play only in three, four and five team tournaments. Round-robin tournaments will be played to completion.

(G)—The Dixie Youth World Series for the Majors, “O”Zone and AAA divisions shall begin on the dates recommended by the Calendar Committee of the Board of Directors and adopted by the National Board of Directors, annually. These dates will be set three to five years in advance.

(M)—It is recommended that no tournament game(s) be scheduled to be played on Sunday.

(O)—All tournament hosts shall be determined on a bid basis using guidelines established by the state organization, with all leagues being notified in advance with full information as to the requirements. The decision awarding the tournament shall be made by a representative committee or delegates of the leagues involved.

II. Financial Responsibility

(A)—All teams entering tournament play, with the exception of the Dixie Youth World Series, must be financially able to defray all expenses of the tournament. Dixie Youth Baseball recommends, however, that all communities sponsoring tournaments make every effort to promote the event so as to make a contribution or guarantee to the winning team to assist that team with its expenses to the next tournament.

(C)—All teams participating in the Dixie Youth World Series, including the host team, must accept the approved housing furnished by the host city or find housing at their own expense.

(H)—Dixie Youth Baseball recommends to all tournament sponsors that an admission be charged to assist in financing the event.

VI. Replacing Players

(A)—A team may replace tournament players after their selection to the team following investigation and approval by the District Director at District level, State Director at State level or Commissioner at the World Series. The new player must present proper proof of age and be otherwise eligible according to rules and regulations of this program. The player who is replaced shall not be entitled to return to the team unless he was a replaced injured player and he replaces another injured player. Team managers may request a tournament player replacement affidavit from the District or State Director or Commissioner. The affidavit shall be presented to the District Director at district tournaments, State Director at the state tournament or Commissioner at the World Series for approval.

VII. Tournament Pitching Rules

(E)—**INNING RESTRICTIONS ON PITCHERS**—Pitchers shall be governed by Rule 3.03(c), Rule 3.05(a) & (b) and Rule 3.08(1) during tournament play and shall adhere to the following restrictions:

- (1) A pitcher shall pitch only thirteen (13) innings in the same tournament. For the purpose of this rule, any combination of innings adding to 13 shall be permitted. **Exception: In 12-Team and 16-Team double elimination tournaments ONLY, a pitcher may pitch 15 innings during the tournament.**
- (2) A pitcher shall not pitch more than six innings in any one game except that in a tie game at the end of six innings or more, a pitcher who has pitched in six consecutive innings in the same game may pitch in a seventh consecutive inning. In the event he pitches seven (7) consecutive innings, this inning is charged against the total innings ~~thirteen (13)~~ allotted him for the tournament.

Delete Paragraph (K) in its entirety.—Tournament teams shall be allowed to play under tournament rules during pre-tournament practice games provided the league has completed its regular season. In the event the league has not completed its regular season, regular season pitching rules shall apply. The PENALTY for violation of this rule shall be disqualification of the team from tournament play.

VIII. Tournament Games

(B)—No team shall be required to play more than two (2) games on the same day during the same tournament. A team playing two (2) games on the same day shall have at least two (2) hours rest between games. In the case of an “if necessary” game to determine a tournament champion there shall be at least one (1) hour rest between games. Teams shall be entitled to waive this rule, but shall not be required to do so.

EXCEPTION: The Commissioner, with the consent and approval of the President, shall be empowered to waive any tournament rule deemed necessary to ensure the completion of a tournament where there have been delays caused by inclement weather or other reason.

(H)—It is recommended that no tournament game(s) be scheduled to be played on Sunday.

X. Tournament Uniforms

~~**Delete Paragraph (D) in its entirety.**—(D)—Tournament players shall be permitted to use the uniform of the sponsor of a team in local league play. NOTE: If uniforms bear the name of a sponsor, all uniforms shall bear the same sponsor's name. (Exception: In tournament play at the state level or below, the state or district director may approve the use of different sponsor's names on uniforms.)~~

Replace Tournament Rule XI in its entirety to read:

XI. Protests & Protest Appeals (THESE RULES COMPLETELY REPLACE THE REGULAR SEASON PROTEST RULES.)

(A) Only the team manager or the acting team manager shall be entitled to file a protest relating to any rule or regulation which applies to the 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12 age divisions during any tournament game or between games if permitted by rule.

(B) Protests shall be made only on a misinterpretation of any rule published in the current edition of the "Official Rules & Regulations of Dixie Youth Baseball Inc.", including but not limited to, provisions for the ineligibility of a player or players, an illegal substitution, an illegal pitcher or failure to comply with the participation requirement. — A protest which clearly requires an umpire's judgment shall not be accepted by the tournament director.

(C) All protests of rule violations, except protests of an ineligible player, an illegal pitcher or failure to comply with the participation requirement must be made to the umpire-in-chief immediately after the occurrence of the violation and before another pitched ball is thrown to a batter. The umpire-in-chief shall discuss any disputed ruling with any umpire involved in the play and/or may consult with umpires not involved in the play to determine if the ruling, in their opinion, was in accordance with Dixie Youth Baseball Inc. Rules and Regulations.

(D) The umpire-in-chief shall explain the disputed rule to each team manager and specify whether the ruling decision will stand or be reversed. If either team manager does not agree with the umpire's explanation of the ruling, the umpire-in-chief shall refer the protest to the tournament director. Note: Either manager has the right to put his team in the dugout and refuse to continue play if the umpire-in-chief does not refer any protest to the tournament director.

(E) AFTER THE COMPLETION OF A GAME THERE SHALL BE NO PROTEST REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES INVOLVED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A PROTEST ON ELIGIBILITY AS PRESCRIBED BY TOURNAMENT RULE XI (H) OR THE FAILURE OF A TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL TO FOLLOW PROPER PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING PROTEST APPEALS. NOTE: A game shall not be considered as complete until opposing managers have an opportunity to make a protest on a game ending play or failure to comply with the participation requirement. Fifteen minutes shall be considered sufficient time for the fulfillment of this rule.

(F) When the official scorer or other officials have knowledge of a potential illegal substitution of a player or use of an illegal pitcher, they should advise the manager of the violating team. However, after the violation occurs, no one shall call attention to the violation except the opposing manager.

(G) **ILLEGAL PITCHER**—If an illegal pitcher enters the game, or becomes illegal after entering the game, this is a continuing violation and may be protested at any time during its continuation prior to the completion of the game. PENALTY: If protested during the game, the illegal pitcher shall be removed from the mound and the offended team shall have the choice of replaying the game from the point where the illegal pitcher entered the game to pitch or became illegal after entering the game or continue from the point where the illegal pitcher is removed from the game. If, in the opinion of the tournament director, the violation was intentional, the tournament team manager shall be disqualified from further tournament play.

(H) **INELIGIBLE PLAYER**—All protests based on ineligibility of a player shall be filed with the tournament director before either of the teams involved in the game in question has played any portion of another game. **Exceptions:**

- (1) A protest of eligibility based on other than age or participation on another baseball tournament team while a player's DYB tournament team remains in tournament competition must be presented to the tournament director prior to the beginning of each level of tournament play.

PENALTY: If, in the opinion of the tournament director, there is no WILLFUL VIOLATION of eligibility rules and, upon actual proof of violation, the tournament director shall disqualify the player from further tournament play. However, if, in the opinion of the tournament director, there is any WILLFUL VIOLATION of eligibility rules and upon actual proof of violation, the tournament director shall forfeit the last game played by the team and the team shall be disqualified from tournament play.

(2) A protest of eligibility based on age or participation on another baseball tournament team while a player's DYB tournament team remains in tournament competition may be made at any time while the player remains in DYB tournament competition.

PENALTY: The penalty shall be the immediate removal of the player from his/her DYB tournament team roster and disqualification from tournament play. (See Tournament Rule IV(C)).

- (I) **INELIGIBLE MANAGER/COACH** – Any tournament team manager or coach who violates Tournament Rule IV(C) will be removed from his DYB tournament team immediately.

(J)—PROTEST APPEAL PROCEDURES

- (1) Appeals of protest decisions in AA, AAA, Majors or “O” Zone tournament games may be carried up to the Commissioner if so desired but play may not resume until a decision is accepted by both managers or the appeal process is exhausted. Failure to get a final decision through proper appeals before the next pitch is thrown to a batter or before a play is made on a runner will forfeit the right for any further appeal by either team manager.
- (2) The Tournament Director may interview the umpires or the team managers before making a decision. After the Tournament Director renders a decision, either manager can request an appeal to the State Director.
- (3) The Tournament Director ONLY shall be permitted to call the State Director. The State Director may interview the Tournament Director, the umpires or the team managers before making a decision. After the State Director renders his decision, either manager can request the State Director to appeal to the Commissioner.
- (4) The Commissioner of Dixie Youth Baseball shall be called ONLY by the State Director for a FINAL DECISION on any appeal of a State Director's decision. The Commissioner may reserve the right to speak with the Tournament Director, any umpire in the game or any team manager before making his decision. The Commissioner's decision will be communicated only to the State Director who will inform the Tournament Director.
- (5) After a ruling by the Commissioner of Dixie Youth Baseball, no further appeals can be made and play must continue immediately.
- (6) No appeal shall be accepted by any District or State Director or by the Commissioner in tournament competition on the grounds of a violation of local league rules during regular season play and this shall include population or boundary violations.
- (7) There shall be no appeal of any protest occurring during an A (T-Ball) Division tournament beyond the District Director unless otherwise provided in an individual state's constitution and bylaws.
- (8) Appeals will be allowed only if presented exactly according to the above procedures. Team managers may only request an appeal. Managers cannot present appeals directly to these officials. All officials will be available to receive protest appeals during the tournament season.

XIII. Awards

(A)—Team awards shall be presented to the championship, runner(s)-up, and/or third place teams at the Dixie Youth World Series. Individual awards shall be presented to each player, manager and coach of the championship and runner(s)-up teams. The team championship award shall be known as the Matt Goyak Championship Trophy. A team sportsmanship award also shall be presented to be known as the Danny Jones Sportsmanship Award.

~~Delete paragraph (B) in its entirety—The National Board of Directors has recommended that individual awards not be given at the sub-district level of tournament play. Team awards only are recommended. The purpose of the tournaments is to qualify winners for the next level of tournament play. This is a recommendation, not a rule.~~

AA Tournament Rules

Tournament Rule C (8) AA General Rules – Page 100 Change to read:

- (8) - Coach Pitch - If a batted ball accidentally hits a coach pitcher the ball is dead and it will be a no pitch.
Machine Pitch – If a batted ball hits the pitching machine the ball is dead, the batter is awarded one base and any runners forced to advance will also advance one base.

Tournament Rule D (1) AA Pitching – Page 100 Changed to read:

- (1) - Machine Pitch – A coach of the offensive team shall feed the pitching machine.

Tournament Rule D (7) AA Pitching – Page 100 Changed to read:

- (7) - Local League Option (Regular Season) A batting helmet with a face mask is required for the player pitcher while playing the pitching position. Note: **State organizations may elect to use this rule in all district and state tournaments.**

Tournament Rule F (6) AA Tournament Play – Page 101 Changed to read:

- (6) - Tournament team affidavits must consist of twelve (12) players, a team manager, and three coaches. Each tournament team must begin each level of tournament play with a full roster of players and coaches.