

2019-2020 OFFICIAL RULES & REGULATIONS



youth.dixie.org

2019 League Insurance

Endorsed By Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc

Accident (\$250,000) – No Deductible

DIVISION	RATE PER TEAM
Majors (12 & under)	\$19.30
O-Zone (12 & under)	\$19.30
Minor (10 & Under)	\$16.70
T-Ball/Coach Pitch (8 & Under)	\$12.90
Buddy Ball (16&Under) (Player Assisted)	\$17.90

General Liability (\$2,000,000) **\$33.72**

Directors & Officers Liability

\$300 flat charge per league - \$1,000,000 Limit of Coverage

\$450 flat charge per league - \$2,000,000 Limit of Coverage

Crime Insurance (\$25,000)

\$200 flat charge per league

Equipment Insurance

\$2.00 per \$100 of coverage (\$200 minimum premium)

**Fall Ball coverage is automatically included in the Accident
& General Liability for no additional charge.
(Applies to same age groups insured in the spring)**

**Apply For Coverage Online And Print Your Proof Of
Coverage Documents, Certificates Of Insurance For
Property Owners, And Claim Forms Within Seconds!**



John Sadler

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IMPORTANT!! USE YOUR RULE BOOK

The following 2019 rule changes were adopted by the National Board of Directors at its annual meeting on August 6-7 2018 in Lumberton, North Carolina. This rule book will be used for the 2019-2020 seasons. Any 2020 rule changes will be distributed to all leagues and officials in early 2020 and posted on the DYB website.

2019 SIGNIFICANT RULE CHANGES

Rule 1.10– Page 28 – Change Rule 1.10(b) to read:

1.10–(b) Approved Bats

- (1) All non-wood bats and multi-piece wood bats must be stamped with the USA Baseball mark signifying that the bat meets the bat performance standard established by USA Baseball. USA Baseball is the national governing body of amateur baseball in the United States.
- (2) Solid wood bats made from a single piece of wood do not require the USA Baseball mark but must meet the specifications in Rule 1.10(a).
- (3) 2 5/8” bats that are -3 BBCOR certified bats meeting the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) standard which do not weigh, numerically, more than three ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g., a 33-inch-long bat cannot be less than 30 ounces may be used in regular season or tournament play).
- (4) All bats stamped “BPF 1.15” are not legal for play in all age divisions.

Rule 1.16– Page 30-31– Insert new paragraph 1.16(f) and move paragraph 1.12 to 1.16(f):

- (f) The catcher must wear a catcher’s mitt (not a first-baseman’s mitt or fielder’s glove) with shape, size or weight consistent with protecting the hand. PENALTY: For violation of rule 1.17(f), the illegal equipment must be removed from the game.

Rule 1.17– Page 31– Move paragraph 1.16(g) to 1.17(b) and change to read:

- 1.17–(b) Softball equipment will not be used at any time in Dixie Youth Baseball® play, including the softball catcher’s mask, softball catcher’s mitt, softball bats, and any other equipment designed for softball play. EXCEPTION: The softball fielder’s mask may be used in all age divisions at all defensive positions except the player pitching position in AA Division play.

Rule 3.04 – Page 42 – Change Rule 3.04 to read:

- 3.04–After all players have batted, a player whose name is not listed in the top nine batting positions on the team’s batting order may be used as a courtesy runner for a pitcher or catcher. “Courtesy runners” are not permitted for other playing positions. The same player cannot be used to run for both the pitcher and catcher positions. **(Does not apply to “Batting the Line-Up”).**

Rule 8.07(1),(2),(3)&(4) – Page 67 - Change paragraphs (1), (2), (3) and (4) to read:

8.07(3) PITCHING Limitations (Regular Season Only)

- (1) A League Age 10 and under pitcher shall not throw more than 75 pitches in a game or in a calendar day. Exception: If the pitcher reaches the daily pitch count limit while facing a batter, he may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely, is put out or, a third out is made on a base-runner to end the half-inning.

- (2) A League Age 11 or 12 pitcher shall not throw more than 85 pitches in a game or in a calendar day. Exception: If the pitcher reaches the daily pitch count limit while facing a batter, he may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely, is put out or, a third out is made on a base-runner to end the half-inning.

- (3) A pitcher shall be allowed to pitch in two or more games on the same calendar day provided he/she does not throw more than 30 cumulative pitches in the previous game or games on the same calendar day. (4) All pitchers in local league play must adhere to the following daily pitch count rest requirements:

League Ages	No Rest	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days
09-12	1-30	31-45	46-65	66+

There are no exceptions to the rest period pitch count thresholds.

NOTE: These pitching rest requirements are based on the number of pitches a player throws in a calendar day. If for any reason, a game ends after midnight, the pitches thrown in the game will be charged to the previous day. The pitcher begins his rest requirement at midnight when his total pitch count for the calendar day exceeds 30 pitches in one or more games.

Regulation II (D) & (E) League Boundaries – Page 76 – Delete 25,000 population requirements in paragraph (D) and change paragraph (E) to read:

(E) Small Towns or Communities - Small nearby towns or communities unable to field a league within their own area shall be permitted to form three (3), four (4), five (5), six (6) or seven (7) teams with each town or community forming teams without a common draft with the other small towns or communities in the league.

Regulation IV (D) Player Releases – Page 79 – Change paragraph (D) to read:

(D) **Player Releases**—The League President where a player legally resides may request a release by submitting an application for the player's release. The deadline for submitting an application shall be by April 1st or before the first league game of the releasing league, whichever date is earlier. The application will be submitted to the State Director and State Board of Directors and acted upon by the State Board of Directors within 10 days of State Director's receipt of the application.

Regulation IV(G) Selection of Players – Page 79 – Change paragraph (G) to read:

(G) Any player may play local league and be eligible for tournament play for a league in either the boundary where he resides or the boundary of the league where he attends public or private school (excluding home schools) with the exception that he/she can only transfer from school to school one (1) time and cannot go back and forth.

Tournament Rule I(C)(5) – Page 84 – Divide paragraph (5) to read as follows:

(a) **Two Runners-Up** - If three teams remain with one loss and all have played the same number of games in double elimination brackets approved by the Commissioner, there will be two runners-up in the tournament.

(b) **Advancing More Than One Team from Tournament Bracket** – Any two tied teams with the same won-loss record after completion of a double elimination bracket must play a one game playoff to determine which team advances where more than one team advances to the next level of tournament play. **EXCEPTION:** The head-to-head tie-breaker may be used in lieu of a playoff game if the teams have played each other during the tournament. No other tie-breakers may be used.

Tournament Rule VIII – Tournament Games – Page 93 – Add the following State Option after the first sentence in paragraph (A) to read:

State Option: A state may use a 2-hour time limit for all games in tournament pool play and bracket play except for the championship game(s).

Tournament Rule XI(D) - Conduct and Sportsmanship Page – 99-100 – Change last sentence in paragraph (D) to read: “A second occurrence will result in the player being called out.”

Tournament Rule XV. AA Tournament Rules – Page 106 - Paragraph I - Change paragraph I(2) to add penalty to read:

(2) Bunting is NOT allowed. **Penalty:** If a player bunts a ball in fair territory, it is a violation of this rule and the umpire shall immediately call time; no players may advance and the batter will be charged with a pitch and a strike.

Add the following Note to all tournament brackets:

NOTE: **Advancing More Than One Team from Tournament Bracket** – Any two tied teams with the same won-loss record after completion of this double elimination bracket must play a one game playoff to determine which team advances where more than one team advances to the next level of tournament play. **EXCEPTION: The head-to-head tie-breaker may be used in lieu of a playoff game if the teams have played each other during the tournament. No other tie-breakers may be used.**

2019 DYB Age Chart

Match player's birth month (top row) with year of birth to determine League Age.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	LEAGUE AGE
2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	3
2015	2015	2015	2015	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	4
2014	2014	2014	2014	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	5
2013	2013	2013	2013	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	6
2012	2012	2012	2012	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	7
2011	2011	2011	2011	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	8
2010	2010	2010	2010	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	9
2009	2009	2009	2009	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	10
2008	2008	2008	2008	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	11
2007	2007	2007	2007	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	12

2020 DYB Age Chart

Match player's birth month (top row) with year of birth to determine League Age.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	LEAGUE AGE
2017	2017	2017	2017	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	3
2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	4
2015	2015	2015	2015	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	5
2014	2014	2014	2014	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	6
2013	2013	2013	2013	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	7
2012	2012	2012	2012	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	8
2011	2011	2011	2011	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	9
2010	2010	2010	2010	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	10
2009	2009	2009	2009	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	11
2008	2008	2008	2008	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	12



2018 MAJORS WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS - North Charleston, SC

Back Row: (L to R) Coach Chad Salisbury, Coach John Hayes, Coach Perry Morlando.

Second Row (players): Ryder Manale, Mason Salisbury, Thayer Tavormina, Cameron Scott, P.J. Morlando, Charlie Meade.

Front Row: Landon Gomes, Micah Anderson, Banks Wickersham, Donovan Johnson, Drew Hayes, Hunter Gomes.



2018 AAA WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS - Midland, South Carolina

Back Row: (L to R) Head Coach Matthew Hornsby, First Assistant Shawn Bennett, Lester Sharpe.

Middle Row: Jackson Barineau, Brice Gillette, Logan Gadberry, Keaton Bennett, Isaiah Oree, Will Yancey.

Front Row: Greyson Lawson, Jacob Kelly, MJ Hornsby, Chance Culley, Jacob Buol, Andy Salvato.



2018 "O" ZONE WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS - Ruston, Louisiana

Back Row (L-R): Coach Bryan Beck and Coach Daryl Altic

Middle Row: Coach David Szymanski, Justin Szymanski, Peyton Beck, Kyran McConnell, Dyson Fields, Luke Harrington, Wes Altic.

Front Row: Gabe Gaudet, Cole Maestrini, Nick Robinson, JR., Jacorylan Crowe, Cal Conroy, Ashton Wick.



2018 AA MACHINE PITCH WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS - Spring Hill, Florida

Top Row: (L to R) Manager, Scott Emmerman, Coach Chad Barton, Coach TJ Hedick, Coach Matt Allen.

Second Row: Jaydon Allen, Jaxson Barton, Aidan O'Nolan, Noah Sanchez, Brandon Saverese, Jacob Gianni, Jackson Patterson.

Bottom Row: Lucas Sutton, Frankie Sekelsky, Brody Hedick, Mario De'Angelis Jr., Austin Emmerman.



2018 AA COACH PITCH WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS Ruston, LA

Back row: (L to R) Coaches Eric Wilkerson, Hunter Smith, Anthony Nassar, Dwayne Adams.

Middle row: Casen Willis, Aidan Adams, Jack Smith, Tyler Osborne, Hudson Wilkerson, Dalen Powell.

Front Row: Keegan Compton, Tristan Nassar, Clarence Menyweather, Jacob Brantley, Nate Smith, Austin Lee.

DEMOCRATIC ACTION

The Constitution provides for the election of each member of the National Board of Directors to four-year terms of office.

The nominations for the National Board of Directors and State Directors are mailed to the President on or before May 15 each year and the President or a National Board Member designated by him shall conduct national board and state director elections. Nominations may be made by any league holding a current franchise. The list of nominees is mailed by June 1 to each league, and a mail vote will elect the board members and state director. June 30 is the deadline for leagues to return their ballots to the President.

Each state shall elect a member of the board each year for a four-year term.

Newly elected members of the National Board and State Directors terms of office shall commence on October 1 of the year following their election and terminate on September 30 of the year in which their successors are duly elected and qualified. Officers will be elected by the Board of Directors and shall serve three-year terms.

With the exception of school leagues or the Dixie Boys Baseball program, no National Officer, National Director, or State Director shall be permitted to participate in an official capacity in any other organized youth baseball program. Complete qualifications for any person to be eligible for nomination, election, or appointment to any official position within Dixie Youth Baseball®. Inc., above the local level are included in the By-Laws which govern its operation.

Only a duly authorized representative of a franchised league is allowed to vote in any matter before district or state meetings. No one person can represent more than one league. **NOTE:** A duly authorized representative of a league is the league president or a person designated by him in writing who is active currently in the voting league.

Leagues are assigned to districts within a state and are under the direction of a district director. There may be up to eleven (11) districts within a state under the direction of a state director. The district and state directors are under the direction of the national commissioner.

There shall be no State Constitution or By-Laws in conflict with the intent, aims, purposes, and rules of the National Dixie Youth Baseball® organization.

All tournament sites are determined by each state organization with all leagues having equal opportunity in hosting the event provided the league can comply with the requirements established by the state organization. The state requirements are to be determined in advance by each state and announced accordingly.

When the Board of Directors is not in session and a proposed change is of the utmost importance and urgency, the Rules Committee may authorize a mail ballot to be sent to each committee member and/or a conference call will be conducted by a quorum of the committee for discussion and approval to submit recommendation to the Executive Committee for approval. Any adopted rule changes will become effective for the season following adoption by the National Board of Directors/Executive Committee.

The National Board of Directors has granted the states the right to charge a fee for operating state programs. The states have the right to charge these fees and to penalize any league that does not pay their fees provided that the State Constitution, authorizing such charges, is on file with the Commissioner.

INTENT OF DIXIE YOUTH BASEBALL[®] ORGANIZERS

The fundamental intent of the organizers of Little Boys Baseball, Inc., was to develop a program which would emphasize local autonomy. It was their philosophy and belief that the parents and volunteer workers in each local league know what is best for them and their children. Since the mores (customs) of our people vary from community to community, even within the same districts, it was necessary to leave such things as night baseball, team selections, and league operation up to the local leagues. Certain fundamental rules were imposed upon the leagues that were deemed necessary for good organization and to keep one league from gaining an unfair advantage over another such as boundary and population limitations, the number of teams in a league, and the age brackets.

The next important philosophical belief was that the leagues affiliated with the program should have a voice in the running of the program. Thus, the provision for electing national board members from among the leagues to serve with the organizers was made. It should be borne in mind that at the outset there were no provisions for state organizations, nor state or district directors. The original concept of governmental structure was the Board of Directors and the leagues. The necessity for state directors was realized shortly after organizing and soon after the need for district directors became apparent. There is nothing specific in our constitution concerning state organizations, state directors, or district directors. Any governmental structure between the local leagues and the national board exists for one reason—to serve the local leagues as administrative adjuncts of the board. The idea of local leagues being dominated by a district or state organization is in direct conflict with the original philosophy. The imposition of any rule on a local league should be done with utmost reluctance and absolute necessity.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of Dixie Youth Baseball[®] to promote the development of strong character, a right attitude, a sense of responsibility, and citizenship in youngsters, using the game of baseball as a vehicle. It is the purpose of Dixie Youth Baseball[®] to achieve this goal through fair play, good sportsmanship, and congenial fellowship, with adult leaders providing the example while attempting to limit injury caused by overexertion. It is strictly against the policy of Dixie Youth Baseball[®] for any person, either as a participant or a spectator, to engage in arguments, to use abusive language, to harass umpires, or to exhibit any behavior not in concert with the general intention of this policy statement. Team coaches are required to abide by this policy statement, and all parents and other adults are strongly encouraged to do so.

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***“Train up a child in the way he should go and, when he is old,
he will not depart from it.” - Proverbs 22:6***

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Education Courses

Visit our website for access to free online education and training courses emphasizing a culture of development, safety and fun focused on youth baseball players, coaches, and umpires.

youth.dixie.org

SafeSport Act (Senate Bill 534)

Visit our website for important information about the SAFESPORT ACT and new education and training requirements for leagues, coaches and umpires at:

youth.dixie.org

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YOUR DISTRICT DIRECTOR—YOUR SERVICE MANAGER

Every person who serves as an elected official of Dixie Youth Baseball® is elected to SERVE the leagues. This is the one and only reason he holds office. Each league, therefore, is encouraged to take advantage of the services offered by each official. The District Director is generally the nearest official and certainly the most informed on matters dealing with a league and its need. We strongly suggest that league officials use the services offered by their District Director as their first move in obtaining help. Naturally, the State and National Directors from their state also stand ready to help, if needed. The Commissioner is also available to help.

Operational and Non-Operational Control by Dixie Youth Baseball® for the Purpose of Liability

1. As concerns all pre-season activities; regular season; intra-league tournaments; and all other league activities; Dixie Youth Baseball®, Inc., shall have no operational control responsibility over the following:

(a) **Premises**—including, but not limited to, playing fields, practice fields, player dugouts, spectator areas, concession areas, parking lots, adjoining areas, and player or spectator entertainment areas whether on site or off site.

(b) **Activities**—including, but not limited to, preseason and off season meetings and preparation, "implementation of a child abuse/molestation risk management program, player registration tryouts, practices, games, intra-league tournaments, fundraising activities, banquets, team or league outings and all other activities that are team or league approved and travel to and from the above.

(c) **Actions**—including all actions (including inactions) and decisions on a league or team level that are initiated by league or team officials, directors, administrators or volunteers, including the selection of volunteers and league security.

2. As concerns sanctioned all-star tournaments including subdistrict, district, area, regional, state, and world series, Dixie Youth Baseball®, Inc., shall have no operational control or responsibility over the following:

(a) **Premises**—including, but not limited to, practice areas, spectator areas, concession areas, player accommodations, and player or spectator entertainment areas whether on site or off site.

(b) **Activities**—including, but not limited to, activities within housing, player or spectator entertainment on site or off site, outings, and travel to and from the above.

(c) **Actions**—including all actions (including inactions) or decisions initiated by the tournament host or by team volunteers or employees, including the selection of volunteers and tournament security.

3. (a) Dixie Youth Baseball®, Inc., has operational control and responsibility only to the extent of requiring that any violation of official rules and regulations be corrected in accordance with the official rules and regulations.

(b) Dixie Youth Baseball®, Inc., has joint operational control and responsibility with the tournament host over all game playing fields and dugout areas for all star tournaments including subdistrict, district, area, regional, state and world series.

4. Since Dixie Youth Baseball®, Inc., is primarily an "all-volunteer" organization with limited resources, it is not responsible for taking affirmative action to police all premises, activities, and actions for compliance with the official rules and regulations, except as outlined under 3. (b) above. However, Dixie Youth Baseball® will make best efforts to enforce all such official rules and regulations once a violation has been brought to its attention.

DATES TO REMEMBER

JANUARY – FEBRUARY -State Meetings Scheduled – See schedule on DYB website at youth.dixie.org.

FEBRUARY

1–Deadline for DYB scholarship applications.

APRIL

1–Latest date for mailing Annual Billing for Franchise Fees form and applicable fees to the Commissioner to renew franchise privileges. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WILL RESULT IN A LATE FEE OF \$50.00.** Late fees will be donated to the Dixie Youth Scholarship Fund

1–Deadline for letter of intent to bid on a Dixie Youth World Series

MAY

1–Scholarship winners announced no later than this date

1–Registration of all local Major, “O” Zone, AAA, AA and A division players and managers with District and State Director on official team rosters.

15–Deadline for nominating National Board of Directors and State Directors.

JUNE

1–Deadline for submission of proposed rule & policy changes to Deputy Commissioner

1–Deadline for selection of sub-district, district, & State Tournament sites 1–Deadline for mailing out ballots for election of National Board Members and State Directors

30–Deadline for returning ballots in National Board and State Directors elections

JULY 2019

16–All AA State Tournaments completed by this date.

23–All Majors, “O”Zone, and AAA State Tournaments completed by this date.

26-30 DYB Coach and Machine Pitch World Series-Ruston, Louisiana

26-Aug 1 DYB Division II World Series - To Be Announced

AUGUST 2019

3-6–Board of Directors’ Annual Meeting

3-8–Dixie Youth Majors World Series-Ruston, Louisiana

3-8–Dixie Youth “O Zone” World Series-Ruston, Louisiana

3-8–Dixie Youth AAA World Series-Ruston, Louisiana

JULY 2020

21–All AA State Tournaments completed by this date.

28–All Majors, “O”Zone, and AAA State Tournaments completed by this date.

AUGUST 2020

1-4–DYB Division I & Division II Coach Pitch World Series-Laurel, Mississippi

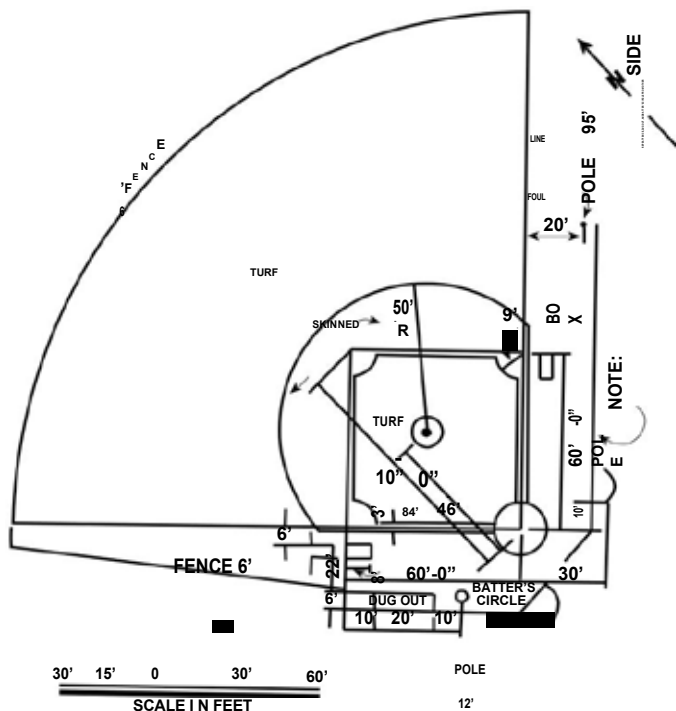
1-6–DYB Division II "O"Zone, Majors, AAA World Series - To Be Announced

7-10–Board of Directors’ Annual Meeting

7-13–Dixie Youth Majors World Series-Laurel, Mississippi

7-13–Dixie Youth “O Zone” World Series- Laurel, Mississippi 7-13–Dixie Youth AAA World Series- Laurel, Mississippi

Suggested Guide for Construction of Dixie Youth Baseball 60' Baseline
Playing Field. See Official Rules for Exact Dimensions for Each
Section of Playing Field in Current Rule Book.



NOTE—The base runner's path on the first base line shall be three (3) feet outside of the foul line and shall begin thirty (30) feet from home plate and extend to the direction of first base (parallel to foul line).

For any new field constructed, it is recommended that foul lines be a minimum of 160 feet and a maximum of 200 feet for the A and AA Divisions; a minimum of 200 feet and a maximum of 225 feet for the Majors and AAA Divisions; and, a minimum of 225 feet and maximum of 250 feet for the "O"Zone Division.

LEGEND

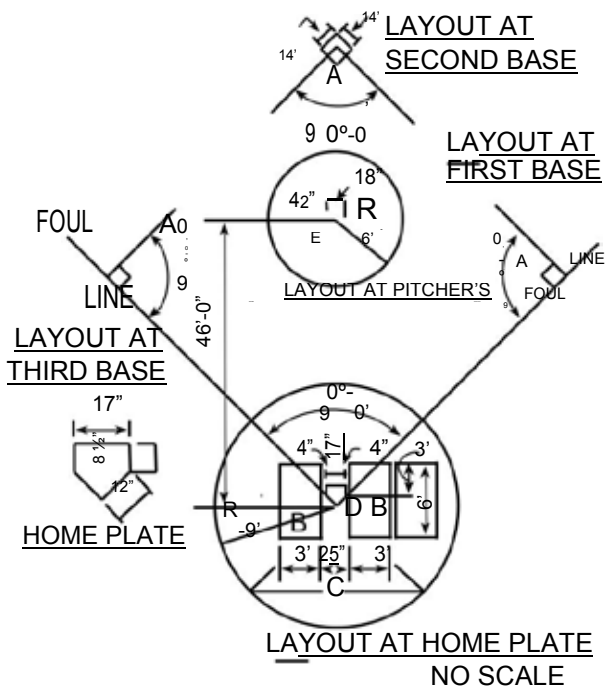
A—1st, 2nd, 3rd Bases

B—Batter's Box

Catcher's Box

D—Home Plate

E—Pitcher's Mound



DETAILS OF BATTER'S BOX

DIXIE YOUTH BASEBALL®, INC.
OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES
1.00—OBJECTIVES OF THE GAME

1.01—Dixie Youth Baseball® is a game between two teams of nine players each, ages twelve and under, under direction of a manager, played on a regulation Dixie Youth playing field in accordance with these rules, under jurisdiction of one or more umpires.

1.02—The objective of each team is to win by scoring more runs than the opponent.

1.03—The winner of the game shall be that team which shall have scored, in accordance with these rules, the greater number of runs at the conclusion of a regulation game.

1.04—**THE PLAYING FIELD.** The playing field shall be laid out as follows:

(a) The length of the baselines shall be:

A Division - (T-Ball) fifty feet (50') in distance forming a 50-foot square;

AA, AAA, and Majors Divisions - sixty feet (60') in distance forming a 60-foot square; and

“O” Zone Division - seventy feet (70') in distance forming a 70-foot square.

(b) The distance from the front side of the pitching slab to the point of home plate shall be:

AA, AAA, and Majors Divisions - forty-six feet (46') in distance; “O” Zone Division - fifty feet (50') in distance.

(LOCAL LEAGUE OPTION) Local leagues may use a 46', 48', or 50' pitching distance in local league play only.

(LOCAL LEAGUE OPTION) Local leagues may use a 43' for AA pitching distance for player pitchers in local league play only.

(c) The distance from the point of home plate to the center of second base and from first base to third base shall be:

AA, AAA, and Majors Divisions - eighty-four feet ten inches (84' 10" and “O” Zone Division - ninety-nine feet (99' 0").

The distance from the point of home plate to the backstop is recommended to be (25') twenty-five feet. (Minimum of (20') twenty feet.)

(d) The minimum distance from home plate to the nearest outfield fence shall be: AA & A Divisions - 160 feet

Majors & AAA Divisions - 200 feet with a maximum of 225 feet and a minimum outfield fence height of six (6) feet.

“O” Zone Division – 225 feet with a maximum of 250 feet and a minimum outfield fence height of six (6) feet.

NOTE: Fields used for World Series play must meet the minimum requirements.

(e) The batter's box shall be six feet (6') long and three feet (3') wide.

(f) The catcher's box shall be the foul lines extended nine feet (9'), with the points then joined.

(g) The base runner's path on the first base line shall be three feet (3') outside of the foul line and shall begin thirty feet (30') from home plate and extend parallel to the foul line to first base.

(h) Lighted fields shall have adequate lighting approved by the district or state director.

1.05—Home plate shall be 17 inches long on the edge nearest the pitcher's mound and shall be 17 inches from this side to the back point. The two sides shall be 8½ inches long before they angle to the back. Construction shall be of white rubber, with black beveled apron, and spikes may be permanent or removable. Construction shall provide maximum protection in design.

1.06—Bases shall be of material of the league's own choice (cloth or rubber) but shall be of official size 14 inches by 14 inches by 2¼ inches maximum. Bases may be anchored by straps to spikes or by Hollywood type anchors.

1.07—The pitcher's plate shall be a rectangular slab of white rubber, 18 inches by 4 inches, and shall be placed at an elevation of 6" above the level of home plate. It shall be set in the ground as specified below, so that the distance between the front edge of the pitcher's plate and home base (the back point of home plate) shall be 46 feet (50 feet for "O" Zone Division). NOTE: Portable mounds which meet Dixie Youth specifications may be used in tournament play.

Pitching Mound Specifications:

(a) Pitching Mound—A twelve-foot (12') diameter circle, the center of which is 45 feet (49 feet for "O" Zone Division) from the back point of home plate.

(b) The front edge of the pitcher's plate shall be located twelve inches (12") behind the center of the pitching mound.

(c) The distance between the front edge of the pitcher's plate and the back point of home plate shall be 46 feet (50 feet for "O" Zone Division).

(d) A level area surrounding the pitcher's plate shall be six inches (6") in front of the rubber, eighteen inches (18") to each side of the rubber and twenty-four inches (24") behind the rubber. The total level area shall be four and one-half feet (4½') by thirty-four inches (34").

(e) The degree of slope from a point six inches (6") in front of the pitcher's plate to a point six feet toward home plate shall be one inch (1") to one foot (1'). The slope shall be uniform.

EXCEPTION: Portable mounds with a minimum level area surrounding the pitcher's plate of four and one-half feet (4½') by thirty-four inches (34") and a slope of 1.6" to 1' are acceptable.

(LOCAL LEAGUE OPTION) The local league may elect to use a pitcher's plate of white rubber six inches (6") by twenty-four inches (24") which is placed at an elevation of six inches (6") above the level of home plate. The front edge of the pitcher's plate shall be located twelve inches (12") behind the center of the pitching mound. The total level area shall be five feet (5') by thirty-six inches (36").

1.08—The league shall furnish players' benches, one each for the home and visiting teams. Each bench should not be less than twenty-two feet (22') from the base lines. Each bench should be roofed and should be enclosed at the back and ends.

1.09—(a) The ball shall be a sphere formed by yarn wound under consistent tension around a small core center of cork or rubber weighing 7/8 ounces avoirdupois and covered with two elongated figure-eight-shaped strips of white horsehide or cowhide, tightly stitched together in seams with 108 double stitches into each baseball, with the first and last stitches completely hidden.

(b) The ball shall weigh between 5 and 5 1/4 ounces, avoirdupois (141.75 to 148.83 g) The ball shall measure between 9 - 9 1/4 inches (228.60–234.95 mm) in circumference and 2.86–2.94 inches (72.64–74.68 mm) in diameter.

(LOCAL LEAGUE OPTION) A synthetic or leather covered stitched baseball meeting the specifications in 1.09(b) is allowed in local league play only.

(c) Only baseballs bearing the mark or other certification which indicates that the ball meets Dixie Youth specifications shall be used in any regular season game. Leagues may use blemished baseballs provided they meet DYB specifications in (a) and (b) above and are stamped as officially approved for “Local League Play Only.” Any games played using baseballs that do not bear the above approvals will not be official games and will not count in league standings.

(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. Manufacturing specifications are available from the Commissioner.

Approved Bats

1.10–(a) The barrel of all aluminum, metal alloy, composite, multi-piece wood bats or single-piece wood bats shall not exceed 2 5/8” inches in diameter nor exceed 33” inches in length.

1.10–(b)(1) All non-wood bats and multi-piece wood bats must be stamped with the USA Baseball mark signifying that the bat meets the bat performance standard established by USA Baseball. USA Baseball is the national governing body of amateur baseball in the United States.

(2) Solid wood bats made from a single piece of wood do not require the USA Baseball mark but must meet the specifications in Rule 1.10(a).

(3) 2 5/8” bats that are -3 BBCOR certified bats meeting the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) standard which do not weigh, numerically, more than three ounces less than the length of the bat **(e.g., a 33-inch-long bat cannot be less than 30 ounces)** may be used in regular season or tournament play.

(4) All bats stamped “BPF 1.15” are not legal for play in all age divisions.

1.10–(c) Tee Ball Bats – Tee Ball bats will be stamped with the USA Baseball Mark and the language “*Only for use with approved tee balls*”.

Note: Any bat stamped for T-Ball cannot be used in games played in the AA, AAA, Majors or “O”Zone divisions due to the manufacturing standards for such bats.

1.10(d) Illegal Bat Penalty: A bat which does not meet the specifications in Rule 1.10(a) and Rule 1.10(b) shall be deemed an illegal bat. A batter who uses an illegal bat shall be called out and all runners shall return to the bases occupied by them at the time such batter took his position in the batter’s box if protested by the opposing team manager prior to the first pitch to the next batter. A batter uses a bat when he takes the first pitch from a pitcher during any time at bat. The bat becomes illegal when the batter receives the first pitch during his turn at bat. He does not have to hit the ball. The batter will be called out and any runners must return to the base they occupied prior to the first pitch to the batter.

1.11(a)–Players may wear any type clothing in local league play approved by the league. (NOTE: Clothing shall include shoes and a pitcher shall not wear a shirt with long white sleeves.) Socks with the colored stripe sewn or dyed into the material are recommended rather than stirrups which can come loose.

(b) Players regular season uniforms shall include an “official” insignia of Dixie Youth Baseball®, Inc. on the left shoulder. The “official” insignia shall be any “official” embroidered emblem(s) issued by Dixie Youth Baseball®, Inc.

Local League Option: A local league may screen print on regular season uniforms only. The “official” embroidered emblem(s) must be used on tournament uniforms.

(c) Players or other personnel on the field, including managers, coaches, umpires, bat boys, etc., shall not wear shoes with cleats (molded or screw-on) that contain any metal materials.

(d) (1) Defensive players may wear sunglasses.

(2) Players on the field or in the dugout area shall not wear jewelry of any kind, for safety reasons. This includes bracelets, necklaces and piercings of any kind. **EXCEPTION:** Players may wear breakaway sports necklaces. Medical or religious tags or medallions may be worn and secured by tape if deemed necessary by the umpire-in-chief. **PENALTY:** When a first-time occurrence is noted, a warning shall be given to both teams, which applies to all players. Upon the second occurrence, the manager and player(s) will be ejected from the game.

1.12–The first baseman may wear a glove or mitt not more than 12 1/2 inches long from top to bottom and not more than eight inches wide across the palm, measured from the base of the thumb crotch to the outer edge of the mitt. The glove may be of any weight. **PENALTY:** For violation of rule 1.12, the illegal equipment must be removed from the game.

1.13–Each fielder, other than the first baseman and the catcher may wear a glove not more than 12 1/2 inches long nor more than 7 3/4 inches wide, measured from the base of the thumb crotch to the outer edge of the glove. The glove may be of any weight. **PENALTY:** For violation of rule 1.13, the illegal equipment must be removed from the game.

1.14–(a) The pitcher’s glove may be of a contrasting color, including all stitching, lacing and webbing. The pitcher’s glove may not, exclusive of piping, be white or gray, nor, in the judgment of an umpire, distracting in any manner.

(b) No pitcher shall attach to the glove any foreign material of a color different from the glove. **PENALTY:** For violation of rule 1.14, the illegal equipment must be removed from the game.

Batters Helmets

1.15–(a) The batter’s helmet shall be made of Ultra High Impact Plastic or High Impact Plastic Shell. The shell shall be made of one-piece construction or two pieces if they snap into a single unit similar to the one-piece construction type. The helmet shall have pieces for ears and full protection for the head and temple. The padding shall be of heavy rubber or similar material. **State Option:** State organizations may require chin straps for batter’s helmets.

(b) A player shall not remove his helmet while at bat or on the bases.

(c) The batter’s helmet shall be worn by any offensive player while on the playing field, such as a bat boy, on-deck batter, batter, base runner or player base coach. **PENALTY:** For a first offense the player shall be warned by the umpire; for second and subsequent offenses in the same game, the player shall be called out. If the violation is by a bat boy, on-deck batter, or player base coach the penalty for their second offense is removal from game and from the field.

WARNING!!

Manufacturers have warned that altering helmets in any way can be dangerous. Alterations of a helmet in any form, including painting, by anyone other than the manufacturer or an authorized dealer may void the warranty!

(d) A face guard may be used on a batter's helmet but must be properly installed according to manufacturer's specifications. The face guard becomes a permanent part of the helmet. **State Option:** DYB state organizations may mandate all leagues within the state to use face guards on batter's helmets for local league and tournament play. **Local League Option:** In absence of state requirements, leagues may require all players in specified age divisions to use face guards on batter's helmets.

(e) Each league shall provide protective helmets which must meet Dixie Youth specifications and standards. Use of helmet by the batter, on-deck batter, all base runners and coaches is mandatory. Use of helmet by an adult base coach is optional.

NOTE: The helmets provided by each league must meet NOCSAE specifications and bear the NOCSAE stamp as well as an exterior warning label as noted below.

Catcher's Equipment

1.16-(a) Each catcher must wear a catcher's helmet which meets the following requirements: The catcher's helmet shall be made of Ultra High Impact Plastic or High Impact Plastic shell with a heavy rubber padding or similar material. The helmet must be of such construction so as to either be a part of the catcher's mask or to firmly attach to the mask. The catcher's mask and helmet must cover the top of the head, temple and ears. (Catchers may not wear skull caps.) The hockey-style catcher's mask, if manufactured to meet the above requirements, is approved. All catcher's masks (excluding the hockey-style masks) must have a hard-plastic throat protector as specified in paragraph 1.16(d) attached to the mask at all times.

(b) Catcher's helmets are required to bear the NOCSAE seal of approval.

(c) The helmet must fit with a snug fit of the head and must be worn as intended by the manufacturer.

(d) CATCHERS MUST WEAR A CATCHER'S MASK ATTACHED TO A HELMET AS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPHS (a)–(c) ABOVE. A HARD, PLASTIC PROTECTOR MANUFACTURED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING THE THROAT SHALL BE SECURELY ATTACHED TO THE MASK EVEN IF THE MASK HAS AN EXTENSION AT THE BOTTOM EXCLUDING THE HOCKEY-STYLE MASK. (Homemade devices made from other pieces of equipment may not be used for this purpose.)

(e) MALE CATCHERS MUST WEAR A PROTECTIVE CUP WITH SUPPORTER IN ALL GAMES. FEMALE CATCHERS MUST WEAR SUFFICIENT PROTECTIVE PADDING TO PREVENT INJURY.

(f) The catcher must wear a catcher's mitt (not a first-baseman's mitt or fielder's glove) with shape, size or weight consistent with protecting the hand. **PENALTY:** For violation of rule 1.16(f), the illegal equipment must be removed from the game. The catcher's equipment, other than the items note above, may be the choice of the local league but needs to be of high quality and afford adequate protection.

(g) Any player warming up a pitcher on the mound, in a bullpen or elsewhere shall wear a catcher's mask with helmet and throat protector even if the mask has a manufactured extension at the bottom of the mask. A batting helmet cannot be used to warm up a pitcher. It is strongly recommended that only players warm up pitchers at any time during practice or regular season games. No other person should warm up a pitcher without a protective catcher's face mask due to the risk of substantial facial or head injury from deflected balls.

1.17—(a) The local league shall select all other equipment used in the Dixie Youth Baseball program such as gloves, hats, uniforms, shoes and umpires' equipment.

(b) Softball equipment will not be used at any time in Dixie Youth Baseball® play, including the softball catcher's mask, softball catcher's mitt, softball bats, and any other equipment designed for softball play. EXCEPTION: The softball fielder's mask may be used in all age divisions at all defensive positions except the player pitching position in AA Division play.

(c) It is recommended that all male players wear athletic supporters.

(d) The on-deck batter will use the on-deck batter's circle behind the batter that is at bat during a practice or regular game unless the on-deck circle is behind a protective screen.

1.18—No player wearing a hard substance in its final form such as leather, rubber, plastic, plaster or fiberglass when worn on the hand, wrist, forearm or elbow shall be allowed to participate unless the substance is covered by a minimum ½ inch thick, high-density closed-cell polyurethane or a similar material of the same thickness to protect injury. Written permission must be obtained from both a licensed medical physician and the player's parent or guardian and submitted to league president during local league play and the tournament director during tournament play for approval.

2.00—DEFINITION OF TERMS

(All definitions in Rule 2.00 are listed alphabetically)

ADJUDGED is a judgment decision by an umpire.

An **APPEAL** is an act of a fielder in claiming violation of the rules by the offensive team. An appeal must be made verbally. See rule 7.10 for appeal procedure on runner.

A **BACKSTOP** is the barrier erected behind the catcher in order to allow the catcher to retrieve passed balls easily.

BALK: "O"ZONE BALK is an illegal act by the pitcher or the catcher with a runner or runners on base, entitling all runners to advance one base. **TRADITIONAL BALK** is an illegal act by the pitcher which shall be declared a no pitch, the ball is dead and no runners advance.

A **BALL** is a pitch which does not enter the strike zone in flight and is not struck at by the batter. [If the pitch touches the ground and bounces through the strike zone, it is a "ball". If such pitch touches the batter, he shall be awarded first base. If the batter hits such a pitch, the ensuing action shall be the same as if the batter hit the ball in flight.]

A **BASE** is one of four points which must be touched by a runner in order to score a run; more usually applied to the canvas bags and the rubber plate which mark the base points.

A **BASE COACH** is a team member or an adult manager or coach, who is stationed in the coach's box at first or third base to direct the batter and the runners.

A **BASE ON BALLS** is an award of first base granted to a batter, who during his or her time at bat receives four pitches outside the strike zone.

A **BATTER** is an offensive player who takes a position in the batter's box.

BATTER-RUNNER is a term that identifies the offensive player who has just finished a time at bat until that player is put out or until the play on which that player becomes a runner ends.

The **BATTER'S BOX** is the area within which the batter must stand during a time at bat.

The **BATTERY** is the pitcher and catcher.

BENCH OR DUGOUT is the seating facilities reserved for players, substitutes, and the manager and coaches when they are not actively engaged on the playing field.

A **BUNT** is a batted ball not swung at, but intentionally met with the bat and tapped slowly within the infield.

A **CALLED GAME** is one in which, for any reason, the umpire-in-chief terminates play.

A **CATCH** is the act of a fielder in getting secure possession in the hand or glove of a ball in flight and firmly holding it before it touches the ground providing such fielder does not use cap, protector, pocket or any other part of the uniform in getting possession. It is not a catch, however, if simultaneously or immediately following contact with the ball, the fielder collides with a player, or with a wall, or if that fielder falls down, and as a result of such collision or falling, drops the ball. It is not a catch if a fielder touches a fly ball which then hits a member of the offensive team or an umpire and then is caught by another defensive player. If the fielder has made the catch and drops the ball while in the act of making a throw following the catch, the ball shall be adjudged to have been caught. In establishing the validity of the catch, the fielder shall hold the ball long enough to prove complete control of the ball and that release of the ball is voluntary and intentional. **COMMENT:** A catch is legal if the ball is finally held by any fielder, even though juggled, or held by another fielder before it touches the ground. Runners may leave their bases the instant the first fielder touches the ball. A fielder may reach over a fence, railing, rope or other line of demarcation to make a catch. He may jump on top of a railing, or canvas that may be in foul ground. No interference should be allowed when a fielder reaches over a fence, railing, and rope or into a stand to catch a ball. He does so at his own risk. If a fielder, attempting a catch at the edge of the dugout, is "held up" and kept from an apparent fall by a player or players of either team and the catch is made, it shall be allowed.

The **CATCHER** is the fielder who takes the position behind the home base.

The **CATCHER'S BOX** is that area within which the catcher shall stand until the pitcher delivers the ball.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES are playoff games played by two or more teams tied at the end of regular season play with identical won/loss records to determine a league champion; or, when applicable, first or second half winners to determine a league champion or playoff games between tied teams to determine first or second half winner. These are not scheduled regular season games but additional games required to determine a league champion or first or second half winner. They are not to be considered as tournament games and are to be played according to regular season rules with the exceptions provided in Rule 8.07 (f), (g), (h).

A **COACH** is one who assists the manager and whose name also appears on the Player Registration Form.

A **COMPLETE TIME AT BAT** begins when a player takes a position in the batter's box as a batter with a count of no balls and no strikes and ends when that player reaches base safely or is declared out.

A **DEAD BALL** is a ball out of play because of a legally created temporary suspension of play.

The **DEFENSE (or DEFENSIVE)** is the team, or any player of the team, in the field.

DOUBLE ELIMINATION is the loss of two games by the same team in a single tournament at any level, i.e. area, sub-district, district, state, World Series.

A **DOUBLE PLAY** is a play by the defense in which two offensive players are put out as a result of continuous action, providing there is no error between putouts.

(a) A force double play is one in which both putouts are force plays.

(b) A reverse force double play is one in which the first out is made at any base and the second out is made on a runner for whom the force is removed by reason of the first out.

DUGOUT (see definition of "**BENCH**").

A **FAIR BALL** is a batted ball that settles on fair ground between home and first base, or between home and third base, or that is on or over fair territory when bounding to the outfield past first or third base, or that touches first, second or third base, or that first falls on fair territory on or beyond first base or third base, or that, while on or over fair territory touches the person of an umpire or player, or that, while over fair territory, passes out of the playing field in flight. **COMMENT:** If a fly ball lands in the infield between home and first base, or home and third base, and then bounces to foul territory without touching a player or umpire and before passing first or third base, it is a foul ball; or if the ball settles on foul territory or is touched by a player on foul territory, it is a foul ball. If a fly ball lands on or beyond first or third base and then bounces to foul territory, it is a fair hit.

NOTE: A fair fly shall be adjudged according to the relative position of the ball and the foul line, including the foul pole, and not as to whether the fielder is on fair or foul territory at the time such fielder touches the ball.

FAIR TERRITORY is that part of the playing field within, and including the first base and third base lines, from home base to the bottom of the playing field fence and perpendicularly upwards. Home plate, first base and third base and all foul lines are in fair territory.

A **FIELDER** is any defensive player.

FIELDER'S CHOICE is the act of a fielder who handles a fair grounder and, instead of throwing it to first base to put out the batter-runner, throws to another base in an attempt to put out a preceding runner. The term is also used by scorers (a) to account for the advance of the batter-runner who takes one or more extra bases when the fielder who handles the safe hit attempts to put out a preceding runner; (b) to account for the advance of a runner (other than by stolen base or error) while a fielder is attempting to put out another runner; and (c) to account for the advance of a runner made solely because of the defensive team's indifference (undefended steal).

A **FLY BALL** is a batted ball that goes high in the air in flight.

A **FORCE PLAY** is a play in which a runner legally loses the right to occupy a base by reason of the batter becoming a runner. **COMMENT:** Confusion regarding this play is removed by remembering that frequently the "force" situation is removed during the play. Example: Man, on first, one out, ball hit sharply to first baseman who touches the bag and batter-runner is out. The force is removed at that moment

and runner advancing to second must be tagged. If there had been a runner on third or second, and either of these runners scored before the tag-out at second, the run counts. Had the first baseman thrown to second and the ball then had been returned to first, the play at second was a force out, making two outs, and the return throw to first ahead of the runner would have made three outs. In that case, no run would score. Example: Not a force out. One out. Runner on first and third. Batter flies out. Two out. Runner on third tags up and scores. Runner on first tries to retouch before throw from fielder reaches first baseman, but does not get back in time and is out. Three outs. If, in umpire's judgment, the runner from third touched home before the ball was held at first base, the run counts.

A **FORFEITED GAME** is a game declared ended by the umpire-in-chief in favor of the offended team by the score of 6 to 0, for violation of the DYB official playing rules/regulations.

A **FOUL BALL** is a batted ball that settles on foul territory between home and first base, or between home and third base, or that bounds past first or third base on or over foul territory, or that first falls on foul territory beyond first or third base, or that while on or over foul territory, touches the person of an umpire or player, or any object foreign to the natural ground. **NOTE:** A foul fly shall be judged according to the relative position of the ball and the foul line, including the foul pole, and not as to whether the fielder is on foul or fair territory at the time that fielder touches the ball. **COMMENT:** A batted ball not touched by a fielder, which hits the pitcher's rubber and rebounds into foul territory, between home and first, or between home and third base is a foul ball.

FOUL TERRITORY is that part of the playing field outside the first and third base lines extended to the fence and perpendicularly upwards.

A **FOUL TIP** is a batted ball that goes sharp and direct from the bat to the catcher's hands and is legally caught. It is not a foul tip unless caught and any foul tip that is caught is a strike, and the ball is in play. It is not a catch if it is a rebound, unless the ball has first touched the catcher's glove or hand.

A **GROUND BALL** is a batted ball that rolls or bounces close to the ground.

The **HOME TEAM** is the team which takes the field first at the start of the game.

ILLEGAL (or ILLEGALLY) is contrary to these rules.

An **ILLEGAL PITCH** is (1) a pitch delivered to the batter when the pitcher does not have the pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate; (2) a quick return pitch; (3) when the pitcher delivers the pitch with a foreign substance applied to the ball. Rosin can be applied to the hand. Penalty for (1) is a no pitch. For (2) and (3) refer to Rule 8.02 (a).

An **ILLEGALLY BATTED BALL** is one hit by the batter with one or both feet on the ground entirely outside the batter's box. [Rule 6.06(a).]

An **INELIGIBLE PLAYER** is a player who is ineligible to be a member of a tournament team for a league because he/she does not live within the approved boundary of the league, a player who did not meet the participation requirements in his/her league, a player who violates Tournament Rule IV(C) or a player who is older than the maximum league age allowed for the respective age division of play. Example: A league age 12 player shall not play on a league age 10 and under division tournament team.

An **INFIELDER** is a fielder who occupies a position in the infield.

An **INFIELD FLY** is a fair fly ball (not including a line drive nor an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second and third bases are occupied, before two are out. The pitcher, catcher and any outfielder stationed in the infield on the play shall be considered infielders for the purpose of this rule. When it seems apparent that a batted ball will be an Infield Fly, the umpire shall immediately declare "Infield Fly" for the benefit of the runners. If the ball is near the baseline, the umpire shall declare "Infield Fly, if Fair." The ball is alive and runners may advance at the risk of the ball being caught, or retouch and advance after the ball is touched, the same as on any fly ball. If the hit becomes a foul ball, it is treated the same as any foul. **COMMENT:** On the infield fly rule the umpire is to rule whether the ball could ordinarily have been handled by an infielder—not by some arbitrary limitation such as the grass, or the base lines. The umpire must rule also that a ball is an infield fly, even if handled by an outfielder, if, in the umpire's judgment, the ball could have been as easily handled by an infielder. The infield fly is in no sense to be considered an appeal play. The umpire's judgment must govern, and the decision should be made immediately. When an infield fly rule is called, runners may advance at their own risk. If on an infield fly rule, the infielder intentionally drops a fair ball, the ball remains in play despite the provisions of Rule 6.05(l). The infield fly rule takes precedence. If interference is called during an Infield Fly, the ball remains alive until it is determined whether the ball is fair or foul. If fair, both the runner who interfered with the fielder and the batter are out. If foul, even if caught, the runner is out and the batter returns to bat.

NOTE: If a declared Infield Fly is allowed to fall untouched to the ground, and bounces foul and remains foul before passing first or third base, it is a foul ball. If a declared Infield Fly falls untouched to the ground, outside the baseline, and bounces fair before passing first or third base, it is an Infield Fly.

IN FLIGHT describes a batted, thrown, or pitched ball which has not yet touched the ground or some object other than a fielder.

IN JEOPARDY is a term indicating that the ball is in play and an offensive player may be put out.

An **INNING** is that portion of a game within which the teams alternate on offense and defense and in which there are three putouts for each team. Each team's time at bat is a half-inning. An inning starts the moment the third out is made completing the preceding inning.

An **INTENTIONAL BASE ON BALLS** may be given by the defensive team by having its catcher request the umpire to award the batter first base. The request may be made before pitching to the batter or on any ball and strike count. The ball shall be declared dead before making the award.

INTERFERENCE

(a) Offensive interference is an act by the team at bat which interferes with, obstructs, impedes, hinders or confuses any fielder attempting to make a play. If the umpire declares the batter, batter-runner or a runner out for interference, all other runners shall return to the last base that was, in the judgment of the umpire, legally touched at the time of the interference, unless otherwise provided by these rules. **COMMENT:** In the event the batter-runner has not reached first base, all runners shall return to the base last occupied at the time of the pitch; provided, however, if during an intervening play at the plate with less than two outs a runner scores, and then the batter-runner is called out for interference outside the three-foot lane, the runner is safe and the run shall count.

(b) Defensive interference is an act by a fielder which hinders or prevents a batter from hitting a pitch.

(c) Umpire's interference occurs (1) when an umpire hinders, impedes or prevents a catcher's throw attempting to prevent a stolen base, or (2) when a fair ball touches an umpire on fair territory before passing a fielder

(d) Spectator interference occurs when a spectator reaches out of the stands or goes on the playing field, and touches a live ball.

(e) On any interference, the ball is dead.

A **LEAGUE** is a group of teams organized into age divisions of three to seven teams per age division, franchised within a common boundary, who play teams within their division in a pre-arranged schedule under these rules for local league play to determine a league champion in each division.

LEGAL (or LEGALLY) is in accordance with these rules.

A **LINE DRIVE** is a batted ball that goes sharp and direct from the bat to a fielder without touching the ground.

A **LIVE BALL** is a ball which is in play.

A **LOCAL LEAGUE OPTION** gives a league the right to adopt any rule listed for "Local League Option". If the league's governing body fails to adopt the rule it does not apply. This option does not give a league the right to redesign the rule to its satisfaction but only the right to accept the option of using it or not.

LOCAL LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS are tournaments played at the local level between regular season teams. These local tournaments may be played using either regular season rules or tournament rules

The **MANAGER** is the one who supervises a team and whose name appears on the Team Player Registration Form.

(a) The manager shall always be responsible for the team's conduct, observance of the official rules, and deference to the umpires.

(b) If a manager leaves the field, that manager shall designate the coach as a substitute and such substitute manager shall have the duties, rights, and responsibilities of the manager.

OBSTRUCTION is the act of a fielder, who, while not in possession of the ball, or not in the act of fielding the ball, impedes the progress of any runner. **COMMENT:** If a fielder is about to receive a thrown ball and if the ball is in flight directly toward and near enough to the fielder so he must occupy his position to receive the ball he may be considered "in the act of fielding a ball." It is entirely up to the judgment of the umpire as to whether a fielder is in the act of fielding a ball. After a fielder has made an attempt to field a ball and missed, he can no longer be in the "act of fielding" the ball. For example: an infielder dives at a ground ball and the ball passes him and he continues to lie on the ground and delays the progress of the runner, he very likely has obstructed the runner.

OFFENSE is the team, or any player of the team, at bat. **OFFICIAL RULES.** The playing rules contained in this book.

OFFICIAL SCORER. See Rule 10.00.

An **OUT** is one of the three required retirements of an offensive team during its time at bat.

An **OUTFIELDER** is a fielder who occupies a position in the outfield, which is the area of the playing field most distant from home base.

OVERSLIDE (or OVERSLIDING) is the act of an offensive player when the slide

to a base, other than when advancing from home to first base, is with such momentum that the player loses contact with the base.

A **PENALTY** is the application of these rules following an illegal act.

The **PERSON** of a player or an umpire is any part of the body, clothing or equipment.

A **PITCH** is a ball delivered to the batter by the pitcher.

A **PITCHER** is the fielder designated to deliver the pitch to the batter.

The pitcher's **PIVOT FOOT** is that foot which is in contact with the pitcher's plate as the pitch is delivered.

"**PLAY**" is the umpire's order to start the game or to resume action following any dead ball.

A **PLAY SITUATION** is anything covered under the Dixie Youth Baseball® playing rules, regulations, and, where applicable, tournament rules.

A **QUICK RETURN** is a pitch made with obvious intent to catch a batter off balance. Refer to Rule 8.02 (a) (7). It is an illegal pitch.

REGULATION GAME. See Rules 4.10 and 4.11.

A **RETOUCH** is the act of a runner returning to a base as legally required.

A **RUN (or SCORE)** is the score made by an offensive player who advances from batter to runner and touches first, second, third, and home bases in that order.

A **RUN-DOWN** is the act of the defense in an attempt to put out a runner between bases. A **RUNNER** is an offensive player who is advancing toward, or touching, or returning to any base.

A **SANCTIONED TOURNAMENT** is any level of tournament play approved by Dixie Youth Baseball®, Inc., (including a two-out-of-three series) which allowed each franchised league to enter ONE team in "O"Zone or 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 organizations.

"**SAFE**" is a declaration by the umpire that a runner is entitled to the base for which that runner was trying.

A **SERIES** is more than one game played between teams. **SET POSITION** is one of the two legal pitching positions.

A **SQUEEZE PLAY** is a term to designate a play when a team, with a runner on third base, attempts to score that runner by means of a bunt.

A **STRIKE** is a legal pitch which meets any of these conditions (a) Is struck at by the batter and is missed; (b) Is not struck at, if any part of the ball passes through any part of the strike zone; (c) Is fouled by the batter when there is less than two strikes; (d) Is bunted foul (batter is out and ball is dead, if batter bunts foul on third strike); (e) Touches the batter's person as the batter strikes at it (dead ball); (f) Touches the batter in flight in the strike zone; or (g) Becomes a foul tip.

The **STRIKE ZONE** is that area over home plate which is between the batter's armpits and the top of the knees when the batter assumes a natural stance. The umpire shall determine the strike zone according to the batter's natural stance as the batter is prepared to swing at a pitched ball.

A **SUSPENDED GAME** is a called game which is to be completed at a later date.

A **TAG** is the action of a fielder in touching a base with his body while holding the ball securely and firmly in his hand or glove; or touching a runner with the ball, or with his hand or glove holding the ball, while holding the ball securely and firmly in his hand

or glove. **COMMENT:** It is not a tag, however, if simultaneously or immediately following his touching a base or touching a runner, the fielder drops the ball. In establishing the validity of the tag, the fielder shall hold the ball long enough to prove that he has complete control of the ball. If the fielder has made a tag and drops the ball while in the act of making a throw following the tag, the tag shall be adjudged to have been made.

A **THROW** is the act of propelling the ball with the hand and arm to a given objective and is to be distinguished, always, from the pitch.

A **TIE GAME** is a regulation game which is called when each team has the same number of runs.

“TIME” is the announcement by the umpire of a legal interruption of play, during which the ball is dead.

To **TOUCH** a player or umpire is to touch any part of the player or umpire’s body, clothing or equipment.

A **TRIPLE PLAY** is a play by the defense in which three offensive players are put out as a result of continuous action, providing there is no error between putouts.

A **WILD PITCH** is one so high, or low, or wide of the plate that it cannot be handled with ordinary effort by the catcher.

WIND-UP POSITION is one of the two legal pitching positions.

3:00—GAME PRELIMINARIES

3.01—Before the game begins the umpires shall:

(a) Require strict observance of all rules governing team personnel, implements of play and equipment of players;

(b) No personal cell phones or other personal electronic communication equipment, excluding those carried by on-duty medical or security personnel or required to be “on call” by their profession, are allowed on the playing field or in the dugouts during all local league and tournament games.

(c) Be sure that all playing lines (heavy lines on Diagram No. 1 and No. 2) are marked with non-caustic lime, chalk, or other white material easily distinguishable from the ground or grass;

(d) Receive from the league a supply of baseballs which meet Dixie Youth specifications and standards. The umpire shall be the sole judge of the fitness of the balls to be used in the game;

(e) Be assured by the league that additional balls are immediately available for use if required;

(f) Have possession of at least two alternate balls and shall require replenishment of such supply of alternate balls as needed throughout the game. Such alternate balls shall be put in play when—

(1) A ball has been batted out of the playing field or into the spectator area;

(2) A ball has become discolored or unfit for further use;

(3) The pitcher requests such alternate ball.

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 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.

3.03(a)—A player or players may be substituted during a game at any time the ball is dead, except as covered herein. A substitute shall bat in the replaced player's position in the team's batting order but may be used in any fielding position.

Managers or coaches shall see that substitutions are properly called to the attention of the official scorekeeper. Any player, whether a starter or substitute, who has been removed from the game may reenter the game one time provided.

1. He occupies the same position in the batting order he originally occupied.

2. A pitcher does not return to the mound as a pitcher.

NOTE: A pitcher removed from the mound for a substitute pitcher in the defensive line-up may return to the game in another defensive position but may not return to the mound as a pitcher.

3. When two or more substitute players of the defensive team enter the game at the same time, the manager shall, immediately before they take their position as fielder, designate to the scorekeeper such player's positions in the batting order. If this information is not immediately given to the scorer, he shall have the authority to designate the substitutes' places in the batting order.

NOTE 1: It will be held that an inning starts the moment the third out is made, completing the previous inning.

NOTE 2: "Exception": In the event a manager has used all of his eligible players and a player is injured, becomes ill and cannot continue, is ejected or removed from the game by an umpire or official, or is not present when a suspended game is resumed, the game shall not be forfeited. The opposing manager shall select a player from the bench who is capable of playing the position of the injured or ill player, but who has already been in the game, and this player shall replace the injured or ill player.

3.03(b)—Illegal substitutions must be noticed by the opposing manager and called to the attention of an umpire immediately upon the illegal substitute entering the game and before another pitch is thrown or before another play. If no complaint of an illegal substitution is made before the first pitch or play, the substitution then becomes legal.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION: (when noticed and protested as outlined above): Immediate removal of the illegal substitute from the game.

NOTE: For the purpose of this rule, a player enters the game when:

(a) a batter steps into the batter's box;

(b) a fielder takes a fielding position;

(c) a runner takes a position on the base path as a runner.

3.03(c)—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 FOR VIOLATION: The illegal pitcher shall be removed from the mound and the offended team shall have the choice of replaying the game from the point the illegal pitcher entered the game to pitch, or continue from the point when the violation is discovered. Umpires will enforce a valid protest prior to the completion of the game. League or tournament officials will enforce the penalty after the completion of the game only if the umpire fails to enforce the penalty when properly protested during the game. If otherwise eligible, a pitcher who is removed from the mound may stay in the game in another defensive position.

NOTE 1: Innings pitched by an illegal pitcher shall count as innings pitched for that pitcher.

NOTE 2: For the purpose of this rule, a player enters the game as a pitcher when he has delivered the first pitch.

EXAMPLE: John Martin pitches 4 innings on Tuesday, then starts as pitcher on Wednesday. He is an illegal pitcher for the entire game on Wednesday, however if he is not noticed and protested before the game ends, it is a legal game and no protest can be made of that game on the basis of John Martin being an illegal pitcher. At any time during the Wednesday game, upon proper protest, John Martin could have been removed from the mound. If John Martin pitches on Thursday, he is continuing the violation and again subject to removal upon proper protest (the innings pitched Wednesday still count).

NOTE 3: Pitches thrown by an illegal pitcher shall count as pitches thrown toward the pitch count thresholds and daily pitch count limits.

3.03(d)–OFFENSIVE PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT. For local league play, each league must comply with the participation requirements in one of three local league options described below in 3.03(d)(1), 3.03(d)(2) or 3.03(d)(3).

NOTE: Players who are injured may not participate in any game if they are unable to meet both the offensive and defensive participation requirements.

3.03(d)(1)–Local League Option #1 – All players on every team must play at least three consecutive outs on defense and complete one time at bat in each game played by his/her team. **PENALTY:** If the winning team violates this rule, it shall forfeit the game provided that the opposing manager files a protest within the fifteen-minute time limit allowed for such protest (Refer to Rule 4.19, Paragraph (E), Note 2). (In addition, the umpire-in-chief shall declare a forfeit for any team, which attempts to intentionally allow the opposing team to score in order to extend the game so that it may comply with the player participation requirement.) If both teams violate the rule, both teams shall forfeit the game.

EXAMPLE: Team A, at the start of the game, has only 10 players and Team B has 12 players. **RULING:** Team A must play 10 players and Team B must play 12 players. (A complete time at bat begins when a player takes a position in the batter's box as a batter with a count of no balls and no strikes and ends when that player reaches base safely or is declared out.)

SPECIAL NOTE: Local leagues shall have the authority to adopt local rules requiring more than one defensive inning of participation and one complete time at bat.

3.03(d)(2)–Local League Option #2 – Managers shall be required to list all players in the batting order for each game.

(i) The batting order shall remain the same throughout the game. **EXCEPTION:** If removed from offense while at bat for an injury, medical reason, or ejection the next batter will begin his at bat and will assume the count of the removed player. If removed from offense while on base for an injury, medical reason, or ejection the last preceding player not on base will run for removed player.

EXAMPLE: If the Number 5 batter is replaced on base under this rule, the Number 4 batter would replace the removed player. If the Number 4 batter is already on base, then continue to Number 3 or Number 2 batter and so on until the selection of the replacement involves someone who is not currently on base.

This rule is intended to prevent a player from coming to bat for a player who is on

base running for another player and to eliminate manipulation of runners.

(ii) All players shall be required to enter the game on defense and each player shall complete a minimum of three defensive outs during the game.

(iii) If a player arrives after the continuous batting order has been submitted to the scorer, the player must be added to the end of the continuous batting order.

Players who arrive late shall be substituted for the next batter in the lineup when they enter a game late and have them bat immediately only if the late player cannot mathematically have a plate appearance. If this is the case, then the substituted player will skip his at-bat once and the substitute player will go to the last position in the batting order for the remainder of the game. If a player arrives after the fifth inning has begun, he SHALL NOT participate in the game.

NOTE 1: For the purposes of satisfying Rules 3.03(d)(1) and 3.03(d)(2), a substitute is considered in the game when his name has been added to the batting order by the official scorer and until he is replaced by the official scorer. His name must appear in the batting order for three defensive outs and he must complete one time at bat, except for the extra players as referenced in ruling under 3.03 above.

NOTE 2: This requirement shall apply to both teams even if the last half of the sixth inning is not required. The only exceptions shall be when the game is considered a regulation game but is not completed in six innings (five and one-half innings with the Home Team leading) because of the 10 or 15 run rule or is shortened because of a game time limit or curfew, or acts of God, or when a team concedes before all available players have participated.

NOTE 3: League officials, other than managers or coaches, shall be empowered to make exceptions to 3.03(d)(1) and 3.03(d)(2) in the event of injury or sickness of a player who is unable to complete an inning or a time at bat.

3.03(d)(3)–Local League Option #3

(i) At the start of the game, all available players on each team roster will be listed in the starting offensive batting lineup and bat in this order until all have completed one turn at bat. After all players in the initial batting lineup have batted once, the official offensive lineup will revert to the first nine players listed in the original batting lineup for the remainder of the game. The players not listed in first nine batting positions will become official substitutes and will be eligible to return to the official batting lineup in one of the first nine offensive batting lineup positions at any time.

(ii) If a player arrives after the batting order has been submitted but before the initial time through the batting order has been completed, the player must be added to the end of the batting order. If the batting order has reverted back to the original nine-man order, a player arriving before the fourth inning has been completed must fulfill his batting requirement, and must play defense. If a player arrives after the fifth inning has begun, he SHALL NOT participate in the game.

(iii) If a player not listed in the first nine batting positions leaves the game because of an injury, illness or disqualification, before he takes his initial turn at bat, this position in the batting lineup will be skipped and the next batter in order takes his place. If this offensive position is one of the top nine, the removed player's position will be filled by one of the official substitutes.

(iv) A player removed because of injury or illness may return to the game.

(v) If a manager has used all his eligible players and a player is injured or becomes ill and cannot continue, the game shall not be forfeited. The opposing manager shall

select a player from the bench who has already been in the game to replace the injured or ill player in the injured or ill player's batting position.

3.03(e) **FREE SUBSTITUTION ON DEFENSE**

(1) With the exception of the pitcher, any player may enter the game in any defensive position as many times as deemed necessary by the team manager.

(2) Players shall enter the game on defense only at the beginning of each team's defensive inning unless the defensive player enters the game to replace an injured, ill or ejected player or enters the game during a pitching change. Entering the game on defense with the exception of the pitcher does not count as entering/reentering

on offense for the purposes of Rule 3.03(a).

3.04—After all players have batted, a player whose name is not listed in the top nine batting positions on the team's batting order may be used as a courtesy runner for a pitcher or catcher. "Courtesy runners" are not permitted for other playing positions. The same player cannot be used to run for both the pitcher and catcher positions. **NOTE: This rule does not apply to games using the "Continuous Batting Order" lineup.**

3.05—(a) The pitcher named in the batting order handed to the official scorer, as provided in Rules 4.01(a) and 4.01(b) shall pitch to the first batter or any substitute batter until such batter or any substitute batter is put out or reaches first base, unless the pitcher sustains injury or illness which, in the judgment of the umpire-in-chief, incapacitates the pitcher from pitching.

(b) If the pitcher is replaced, the substitute pitcher shall pitch to the batter then at bat, or any substitute batter, until such batter is put out or reaches first base, or until the offensive team is put out, unless the substitute pitcher sustains injury or illness, which in the umpire-in-chief's judgment, incapacitates the pitcher from further play as a pitcher.

3.06—The manager shall immediately notify the umpire-in-chief of any substitution and shall state to the scorer the substitute's place in the batting order.

3.07—The scorer, after having been notified, shall immediately announce, or cause to be announced, each substitution.

3.08—(a) If no announcement of a substitution is made, the substitute shall be considered to have entered the game when:

(1) If a pitcher, the substitute takes position on the pitcher's plate and commences making warm up pitches during an inning or commences making preliminary pitches at the beginning of his/her team's defensive half of the inning;

(2) If a batter, the substitute takes position in the batter's box;

(3) If a fielder, the substitute reaches the position usually occupied by the fielder being replaced and play commences;

(4) If a runner, the substitute takes the place of the runner being replaced;

(b) Any play made by, or on, an unannounced substitute shall be legal.

3.09—Players, managers, and coaches of the participating teams shall not address or mingle with spectators, nor sit in the stands during a game in which they are engaged.

3.10—(a) The local league officials shall determine the fitness of the playing field before the game starts. **EXCEPTION:** During tournament play, the tournament director shall determine the fitness of the playing field.

(b) The umpire-in-chief shall be the sole judge as to whether and when play shall

be suspended during a game because of unsuitable weather conditions or the unfit condition of the playing field; as to whether and when play shall be resumed after such suspension; and as to whether and when a game shall be terminated after such suspension. Said umpire shall not call the game until at least thirty minutes after play has been suspended. The umpire may continue suspension as long as there is any chance to resume play.

3.11—Whenever a game is suspended because of the unfitness of the playing field, the local league president, or his designated representative, and the tournament director, during tournament play, shall have control of grounds-keepers for the purpose of making the playing field fit for play.

3.12—When the umpire suspends play, “Time” shall be called. At the umpire’s call of “Play” the suspension is lifted and play resumes. Between the call of “Time” and the call of “Play” the ball is dead.

3.13—The local league will establish ground rules to be followed by all teams in the league for each playing field. The tournament director will establish ground rules to be followed by all teams in tournament play.

3.14—Members of the offensive team shall carry all gloves and other equipment off the field and to the dugout while their team is at bat. No equipment shall be left lying on the field, either in fair or foul territory.

3.15—No person shall be allowed on the playing field during a game except uniformed players, managers, coaches, umpires, and news photographers authorized by the league. In case of unintentional interference with play by any person herein authorized to be on the playing field (except members of the offensive team participating in the game, or a coach in the coach’s box, or an umpire) the ball is alive and in play. If the interference is intentional, the ball is dead at the moment of the interference and the umpire shall impose such penalties as in his opinion will nullify the act of interference. Note: See Rule 7.11 for individuals excepted above, also see Rule 7.08(b). 3.16—When there is spectator interference with any thrown or batted ball, the ball shall be dead at the moment of interference and the umpire shall impose such penalties as in the umpire’s opinion will nullify the act of interference.

APPROVED RULING: If spectator interference clearly prevents a fielder from catching a fly ball, the umpire shall declare the batter out.

3.17—Players and substitutes shall sit on their team’s bench or in the dugout unless participating in the game or preparing to enter the game. No one except eligible players in uniform and the manager and coaches shall occupy the bench or dugout. When batters or base runners are retired, they must return to the bench or dugout at once.

3.18—The local league shall provide proper protection sufficient to preserve order and to prevent spectators from entering the field.

4.00—STARTING AND ENDING THE GAME

4.01—Prior to the established time to begin the game, the managers of the opposing teams shall follow the following routine in sequence:

(a) The home team manager shall give the batting order in duplicate to the official scorer;

(b) Next, the visiting team manager shall give the batting order in duplicate to the official scorer;

(c) The official scorer shall make certain that the original and duplicate copies are the same, then provide a copy of each batting order to the opposing manager. The origi-

nal copy retained by the official scorer shall be the official batting order.

(d) As soon as the umpire-in-chief enters the playing field, the umpires are in charge of the playing field and from that moment have sole authority to determine when a game shall be called, halted, or resumed on account of weather or the conditions of the playing field.

4.02—The players of the home team shall take their defensive positions, the first batter of the visiting team shall take position in the batter's box, the umpire shall call "Play," and the game shall start.

4.03—When the ball is put in play at the start of, or during a game, all fielders other than the catcher shall be in fair territory.

(a) The catcher shall be stationed directly back of the plate in the catcher's box. PENALTY: "O"Zone Penalty: Balk (No Pitch).

(b) The pitcher, while in the act of delivering the ball to the batter, shall take the legal position.

(c) Except the pitcher and the catcher, any fielder may be stationed anywhere in fair territory.

(d) Except the batter, or runner attempting to score, no offensive player shall cross the catcher's lines when the ball is in play.

4.04—The batting order shall be followed throughout the game unless a player is substituted for another. Substitutes must take the place of the replaced player's position in the batting order.

4.05—(a) The offensive team shall station two base coaches on the field during its time at bat, one near first base and one near third base. Base coaches shall remain within the base coaches' boxes at all times and talk to members of their own team only. An offending base coach shall be removed from base coach's box.

(b) Base coaches on the baselines shall be:

(1) Two (2) eligible players in uniform wearing protective helmets, or

(2) One (1) eligible player in uniform wearing a protective helmet and one (1) adult team manager or team coach presenting a neat appearance including shirt, pants and shoes. (No metal or removable cleats are allowed), or

(3) Two (2) adult team manager or coaches presenting a neat appearance, including shirt, pants and shoes. (No metal or removable cleats are allowed.)

NOTE 1: If (2) above is chosen, the adult team manager or team coach shall choose either the first or third base coaches' box at the beginning of the game and shall not change baselines during the game. Any conduct by any base coach considered in the umpire's judgment to be unsportsmanlike or a deliberate attempt to delay the game shall result in: (a) if an adult, the immediate removal of the offender from the game and the playing field and its confines; (b) if a player, the immediate removal of the offender from the coaching box(es) for the remainder of the game. NO WARNING SHALL BE NECESSARY.

NOTE 2: At least one adult coach must be in the dugout at all times possibly limiting the number of adult coaches allowed to coach on the baselines. In this event, at least one, or possibly two, eligible players in uniform, wearing a protective helmet, must be used as a coach on the baseline. Both base coaching boxes must be filled at all times when a team is on offense.

(c) A player who is removed from the game by his manager shall be eligible to be used as a coach.

4.06–(a) No manager, coach or player, shall at any time, whether from the bench or the playing field or elsewhere:

(1) Incite, or try to incite, by word or sign, a demonstration by spectators;

(2) Use language which will in any manner refer to or reflect upon opposing players, manager, coach, an umpire, or spectators.

(3) (“O”Zone Play Only) Call “Time,” or employ any other word or phrase or commit any act while the ball is alive and in play for the obvious purpose of trying to make the pitcher commit a balk.

(4) Make intentional contact with the umpire in any manner.

(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.

4.07–When a manager, coach or player is ejected from a game, they shall leave the field immediately and take no further part in the game. Managers and coaches may not sit in the stands or remain in the dugout. Managers, coaches and players may not be recalled. Players only may remain in the dugout.

4.08–When the occupants of a player’s bench show violent disapproval of an umpire’s decision, the umpire shall first give warning that such disapproval shall cease. If such action continues: **PENALTY:** The umpire shall order the offender out of the game and away from the spectator’s area.

4.09–HOW A TEAM SCORES

(a) One run shall be scored each time a runner legally advances to and touches first, second, third and home base before three players are put out to end the inning.

EXCEPTION: A run is not scored if the runner advances to home base during a play in which the third out is made: (1) by the batter-runner before touching first base; (2) by any runner being forced out; or (3) by a preceding runner who is declared out because that runner failed to touch one of the bases (appeal play).

(b) When the winning run is scored in the last half inning of a regulation game, or in the last half of an extra inning, as the result of a base on balls, hit batter, or any other play with the bases full which forces the runner on third to advance, the umpire shall not declare the game ended until the runner forced to advance from third has touched home base and the batter-runner has touched first base.

4.10(a)–It shall be a regulation game when:

(1) Both teams have completed six innings, and the visiting team has scored more runs than the home team.

(2) The home team has scored more runs after five innings than the visiting team has scored in six innings.

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

(4) After the end of six innings with the score tied, play is continued until one team has scored more runs than the other in an equal number of innings. If the home team scores the winning run before the third out in any extra inning, the game shall be ended.

(5) **EXCEPTION:** When a team is ten (10) runs ahead after three (3) complete innings of play and the game is called because of darkness, rain or any other cause, it shall be a legal game and the team ahead shall be the winner.

(6) Games shortened by reason of curfew, rain, or other acts of God shall be regulation games provided both teams have batted four times, or in the case of the home team when it is leading, three times.

(7) [Local League Option] Games shortened by reason of curfew, rain, or other acts of God before they have become regulation games shall be resumed from the point of termination.

(8) A local league may use a time limit for regular season games to determine a regulation game so long as both teams have had an equal number of times at bat. EXCEPTION: In the event a game is called because of a time limit, with the home team leading, it will not be necessary for the last half of the inning in progress to be played when the time limit expires. NOTE: No new inning may begin once the time limit has been reached. An inning ends the moment the third out is made. Therefore, the next inning begins at the same time. If the time limit expires with an inning in progress when time expires, the inning should be completed or the half inning if the home team is ahead.

(9) 15 RUN RULE - A game shall be considered a regulation game when a team is ahead by fifteen (15) runs after both teams have batted three times, or in the case of the home team when it is leading, two times and all batters have batted at least once. Pitchers shall only be charged for innings actually pitched.

NOTE: THE VISITING TEAM WILL BE DECLARED THE WINNER OF A GAME UNDER THE 15 RUN RULE PROVISION ONLY IF THE HOME TEAM HAS HAD AN EQUAL NUMBER OF TIMES AT BAT.

(10) 10 RUN RULE - A game shall be considered a regulation game when a team is ahead by ten (10) runs after both teams have batted four times, or in the case of the home team when it is leading, three times and all batters have batted at least once. Pitchers shall only be charged for innings actually pitched.

NOTE: THE VISITING TEAM WILL BE DECLARED THE WINNER OF A GAME UNDER THE TEN-RUN RULE PROVISION ONLY IF THE HOME TEAM HAS HAD AN EQUAL NUMBER OF TIMES AT BAT.

(11) **AA Local League Option** - A league may adopt a rule to allow a maximum of seven (7) runs per inning in local league AA regular seasonplay. A team may score more than seven (7) runs on a ground rule double or an over the fence home run.

4.10(b)—It is a regulation tie game when:

(1) The score is even after four or more complete innings.

(2) After three and one-half or more innings, the home team is at bat and has scored enough runs to make the score even and the game is called.

(3) Tie games shall be replayed from the beginning or from the exact point of termination at the discretion of the local league. Pitchers shall be subject to regular eligibility rules, and under no condition shall they pitch in more innings than allowed by Rule 8.07. NOTE: This rule does not give a pitcher extra eligibility of innings because he did not possibly use up his eligible innings in the week in which the original tie game was stopped.

(4) Any game which does not meet any of the conditions noted above shall be declared no contest and shall be replayed from the beginning. NOTE: Refer to Rule 4.10(c) below for exception.

4.10(c)—League championships decided by one game shall be played to a conclu-

sion, regardless of the score or inning, unless the game is shortened because one team is ahead by 15 runs or 10 runs pursuant to Rules 4.10(a)(9) or 4.10(a)(10) or the team behind wishes to concede. If the game is suspended for any other reason, it shall be completed at the earliest possible date and shall be played from the point of termination.

4.11—The score of a regulation game is the total number of runs scored by each team at the moment the game ends.

(a) The game ends when the visiting team completes its half of the sixth inning if the home team is ahead.

(b) The game ends when the sixth inning is completed, if the visiting team is ahead.

(c) If the home team scores the winning run in its half of the sixth inning (or its half of an extra inning after a tie), the game ends immediately when the winning run is scored.

EXCEPTION: If the last batter in a game hits a home run out of the playing field, the batter-runners on base are permitted to score, in accordance with the base-running rules, and the game ends when the batter-runner touches home plate.

APPROVED RULING: The batter hits a home run out of the playing field to win the game in the last half of the sixth or an extra inning, but is called out for passing a preceding runner. The game ends immediately when the winning run is scored.

(d) A called game ends at the moment the umpire terminates play. **EXCEPTION:** If the game is called during an incomplete inning, the local league shall determine whether to complete the game at a later time; or end the game at the end of the last previous completed inning in each of the following situations:

(1) The visiting team scores one or more runs to tie the score in the incomplete inning, and the home team does not score in the incomplete inning.

(2) The visiting team scores one or more runs to take the lead in the incomplete inning, and the home team does not tie the score or retake the lead in the incomplete inning.

4.12—Reserved

4.13—Reserved

4.14—The umpire-in-chief shall order the playing field lights turned on whenever in such umpire's opinion darkness makes further play in daylight hazardous.

4.15—A game may be forfeited to the opposing team by the umpire-in-chief of the game in progress when a team—

(a) Being upon the field, refuses to start play within 10 minutes after the appointed hour for beginning the game, unless such delay, in the umpire's judgment, is unavoidable;

(b) Refuses to continue play unless game was terminated by the umpire;

(c) Fails to resume play, after game was halted by the umpire, within one minute after the umpire has called "Play";

(d) Fails to obey within a reasonable time the umpire's order to remove a player from the game;

(e) After warning by the umpire, willfully and persistently violates any rules of the game.

(f) Employs tactics designed to delay, shorten or extend the game.

NOTE: Any team which attempts to intentionally allow the opposing team to score in order to extend the game so that it may comply with the player participation requirement in 3.03(d)(1) or (d)(2) (or Tournament Rule IX(A)) shall forfeit the game.

4.16–Reserved

4.17–(a) A team failing to field at least nine (9) players within fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled game time shall forfeit the game. (SEE EXCEPTION)

(b) A game in progress shall be forfeited to the opposing team when either team is unable or refuses to place nine players on the field. (SEE EXCEPTION)

EXCEPTION #1: (Local League Option) – A league may adopt a local league provision to permit a team to start or end a game with a minimum of eight players.

EXCEPTION #2: (Local League Option) – A league may adopt a local league provision to permit a team to use players from another team's roster in the league to prevent a forfeit. However, the league may only allow the number of players added for any one game to be the number necessary to provide a team with a minimum of nine players to start a game. **Any player added to a regular season roster to pre-vent the forfeit of a game shall not be eligible to pitch during the game. No team may bench a player on the team's regular roster while a player added to the roster for one game is in the game, unless the rostered player is sick or injured and cannot continue in the game.**

(c) When a suspended game is played on a future day, players who were present during the start of the game but are absent when the suspended game is rescheduled shall be skipped where the players are in a continuous batting order without penalty.

4.18–Forfeited games shall be so recorded in the scorebook and the book signed by the umpire-in-chief. A written report stating the reason for the forfeiture shall be sent to the league president within 24 hours, but failure of the umpire to file this report shall not affect the forfeiture.

4.19–PROTESTS

(a) A protest which involves an umpire's judgment shall not be accepted.

(b) Only the team manager or the acting team manager shall be entitled to file a protest to these rules and regulations which apply to the 9-10 and 11-12 age divisions.

(c) The only legal protest shall be one which involves a violation of playing rules or the use of an ineligible player. Playing ineligible players may result in forfeiture of games in which players participated if protested by any of the league managers. The local league will decide if the game shall be forfeited for playing ineligible players.

Note: Illegal pitchers are not ineligible players as defined in Note 1 below. See rule 3.03(c) for the penalty for illegal pitchers.

(d) The protesting manager on a play situation shall notify the umpire he is protesting before another pitch is thrown. The umpire shall announce that the game is being played under protest, but failure of the umpire to make this announcement shall not affect the validity of the protest. The protest shall be considered only if it is placed in writing by team manager or acting team manager and submitted to the local league president within forty-eight (48) hours from the completion of the game.

(e) A protest on the grounds of ineligibility of a player shall be filed with the local league president within forty-eight (48) hours after the completion of the game. The decision as to whether the game, or games, shall be forfeited or replayed, in the event the protest is upheld, shall be left to the discretion of the local governing body.

NOTE 1: Only the game or games protested shall be considered, and all protests of this nature shall be made within forty-eight (48) hours. An illegal substitution is one in violation of playing rules and includes the improper use of a pitcher. Section

(D) applies to illegal substitutions and Section (E) to ineligibility of a player.

For the purpose of this rule, an ineligible player shall be a player who is not eligible to participate in the league because of age, boundary requirements or other reasons and is not to be confused with illegal substitutions.

NOTE 2: AFTER THE COMPLETION OF A GAME, THERE SHALL BE NO PROTEST REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES INVOLVED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A PROTEST ON ELIGIBILITY OR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ONE INNING PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT. 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 one-inning participation requirement.

Fifteen minutes shall be considered sufficient time for the fulfillment of this rule.

(f) Any protest in local league play shall be ruled upon by the governing body at the local league level and there shall be no appeal of the league's final decision with the following exception:

(1) If the manager of the team ruled against has evidence that the protest decision is in conflict with Dixie Youth Baseball® Inc., official rules and regulations, he may file a written appeal of the protest decision to the district director. Such appeal must be filed within forty-eight (48) hours from the time that a final written decision is issued by the local league's governing body.

(a) A valid appeal of a protest decision by a local league's governing body must include: i) A check in the amount of \$10.00, payable to the district director. If the original protest decision is upheld, the funds will be deposited in the district operating fund. If the appeal is upheld, the check will be returned to the appealing manager; ii) a copy of the league's written decision from the local protest committee chairman or league president which details the protest situation and the league's reasons for its decision; and iii) a complete explanation from the appealing manager as to what specific Dixie Youth rule or regulation was violated and/or misinterpreted.

(b) The district director, with the approval of the state director, shall have the authority to overrule any local league protest decision if it is in conflict with Dixie Youth Baseball® Inc., rules and regulations.

(c) Only the state director shall have the authority to contact the Commissioner for an official interpretation if the state director deems it necessary or advisable to do so.

5.00—PUTTING THE BALL IN PLAY—LIVE BALL

5.01—At the time set for beginning the game the umpire-in-chief shall order the home team to take its defensive positions and the first batter of the visiting team to take position in the batter's box. As soon as all players are in position the umpire-in-chief shall call "Play".

5.02—After the umpire calls "Play" the ball is alive and in play and remains alive and in play until, for legal cause, or at the umpire's call of "Time" suspending play, the ball becomes dead. While the ball is dead, no player may be put out, no bases may be run and no runs may be scored, except that runners may advance one or more bases as the result of acts which occurred while the ball was alive (such as, but not limited to an overthrow, interference, or a home run or other fair hit out of the playing field).

5.03—The pitcher shall deliver the pitch to the batter who may elect to strike the ball, or who may not offer at it, as such batter chooses.

5.04—The offensive team's objective is to have its batter become a runner, and its runners advance.

5.05—The defensive team's objective is to prevent offensive players from becoming runners, and to prevent their advance around the bases.

5.06—When a batter becomes a runner and touches all bases legally, one run shall be scored for the offensive team.

5.07—When three offensive players are legally put out, that team takes the field and the opposing team becomes the offensive team.

5.08—If a thrown ball accidentally touches a base coach, or a pitched or thrown ball touches an umpire, the ball is alive and in play. However, if the coach interferes with a thrown ball, the runner is out.

5.09—The ball becomes dead and runners advance one base, or return to their bases, without liability to be put out, when—

(a) A pitched ball touches a batter, or the batter's clothing, while in a legal batting position; runners, if forced, advance (see 6.08);

(b) The plate umpire interferes with the catcher's throw attempting to prevent a stolen base; runners return. If catcher's throw gets the runner out, the out stands. No umpire interference;

(c) Reserved

(d) A ball is illegally batted either fair or foul; runners return;

(e) A foul ball not caught, runners return. The umpire shall not put the ball in play until all runners have retouched their bases;

(f) A fair ball touches a runner or an umpire on fair territory before it touches an infielder including the pitcher, or touches an umpire before it has passed an infielder other than the pitcher. Runner hit by fair batted ball is out;

NOTE: If a fair ball goes through, or by an infielder and touches a runner immediately back of said infielder, or touches a runner after being deflected by an infielder, the ball is in play and the umpire shall not declare the runner out. In making such decision, the umpire must be convinced that the ball passed through, or by, the infielder and that no other infielder had the chance to make a play on the ball; runners advance, if forced.

(g) A pitched ball lodges in the umpire's or catcher's mask or paraphernalia and remains out of play; runners advance one base.

(h) Reserved

5.10—The ball becomes dead when an umpire calls "Time." The umpire-in chief shall call "Time".

(a) When in said umpire's judgment, weather, darkness or similar conditions make immediate further play impossible;

(b) When light failure makes it difficult or impossible for the umpires to follow the play; **NOTE:** A league may adopt its own regulations governing games interrupted by light failure.

(c) When an accident incapacitates a player or an umpire;

(1) If an accident to a runner is such as to prevent said runner from proceeding to an entitled base, as on a home run hit out of the playing field or an award of one or more bases, a substitute runner, shall be permitted to complete the play.

(d) When a manager requests "Time" for a substitution, or for a conference with

one of the players;

(e) When the umpire wishes to examine the ball, to consult with either manager, or for any similar cause;

(f) When a fielder, after catching a fly ball, falls into a bench or stand, or falls across ropes into a crowd when spectators are on the field. Runners advance one base, ball is dead; NOTE: If a fielder, after making a catch, steps into a bench but does not fall, the ball is in play and runners may advance at their own peril.

(g) When an umpire orders a player or any other person removed from the playing field;

(h) Except in the cases stated in paragraphs (b) and (c) (1) of this rule, no umpire shall call "Time" while a play is in progress.

5.11—After the ball is dead, play shall be resumed when the pitcher takes position on the pitcher's plate with a new ball or the same ball in said pitcher's possession and the plate umpire calls "Play." The plate umpire shall call "Play" as soon as the pitcher takes position on the plate with possession of the ball.

5.12—A manager shall be entitled to request time, on defense, to talk to his players twice during the same inning while the same pitcher is on the mound without penalty. On the third request for time with the same pitcher on the mound, the manager shall be required to remove the pitcher from the mound but not the game.

EXAMPLE: With Bill Smith pitching, the manager requests and is granted his third time out of the inning. Bill Smith consequently is removed from the mound and is replaced with Sam Scott. Bill Smith is eligible to go to another position or he can come out of the game. The manager subsequently is granted a fourth time out in the same inning. There is no violation this time, and Sam Scott may continue to pitch until the third time out is granted with him on the mound.

5.13—One time-out shall be allowed on offense to talk to a batter during the same time at-bat. Requesting a second time-out to talk to the batter during the same at-bat shall result in the coach being removed from the coach's box and placed in the dugout for the remainder of the game.

NOTE: A time-out because of injury or sickness or for the purpose of discussing a play situation with an umpire shall not be considered a charged time out for the purpose of this rule. Also, managers are cautioned that an umpire is the only one who can call time; managers may only request that time be called by the umpire.

6.00—THE BATTER

6.01—(a) Each player of the offensive team shall bat in the order that their name appears in the team's batting order.

(b) The first batter in each inning after the first inning shall be the player whose name follows that of the last player who legally completed a time at bat in the preceding inning.

NOTE: In the event that while a batter is in the batter's box, the third out of an inning is made on a base runner, the batter then at bat shall be the first batter of the next inning and the count of balls and strikes shall start over.

6.02—(a) The batter shall take position in the batter's box promptly when it is said batter's time at bat.

(b) The batter shall not leave that position in the batter's box after the pitcher comes to Set Position, or starts a windup. **PENALTY:** If the pitcher pitches, the umpire shall call "Ball" or "Strike" as the case may be.

(c) If the batter refuses to take position in the batter's box during a time at bat, the umpire shall order the pitcher to pitch, and shall call "Strike" on each such pitch. The batter may take a proper position after any such pitch, and the regular ball and strike count shall continue, but if the batter does not take proper position before three strikes are called, that batter shall be declared out.

6.03—The batter's legal position shall be both feet within the batter's box.

APPROVED RULING: The lines defining the box are within the batter's box.

6.04—A batter has legally completed a time at bat when put out or becomes a runner.

6.05—A batter is out when—

(a) A fair or foul fly ball (other than a foul tip) is legally caught by a fielder;

(b) A third strike is legally caught by the catcher;

(c) (1) A third strike is not caught by the catcher except for a foul tip. The batter shall be out and the ball shall remain in play, and base runners shall advance at their own risk.

(2) "O"Zone - A third strike is not caught by the catcher, when first base is occupied before two are out;

(d) Bunting foul on a third strike;

(e) An Infield Fly is declared;

(f) That batter attempts to hit a third strike and is touched by the ball;

(g) A fair ball touches said batter before touching a fielder;

(h) After hitting or bunting a fair ball, while holding the bat, the bat hits the ball a second time in fair territory. The ball is dead and no runner may advance. If the batter-runner drops the bat and the ball rolls against the bat in fair territory and, in the umpire's judgment there was no intention to interfere with the course of the ball, the ball is alive and in play;

(i) After hitting or bunting a foul ball, that runner intentionally deflects the course of the ball in any manner while running to first base. The ball is dead and no runners may advance;

(j) (1) After hitting a fair ball, the batter-runner or first base is tagged before said batter-runner touches first base;

(2) "O"Zone - After a third strike the batter-runner or first base is tagged before said batter-runner touches first base;

(k) In running the last half of the distance from home base to first base, while the ball is being fielded to first base, the batter-runner runs outside (to the right of) the three-foot line, or inside (to the left of) the foul line, and in the umpire's judgment in so doing interferes with the fielder taking the throw at first base; except that the batter-runner may run outside (to the right of) the three-foot line or inside (to the left of) the foul line to avoid a fielder attempting to field a batted ball;

(l) An infielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball or line drive, with first, first and second, first and third, or first, second and third bases occupied before two are out. The ball is dead and runner or runners shall return to their original base or bases;

APPROVED RULING: In this situation, the batter is not out if the infielder permits the ball to drop untouched to the ground, except when the Infield Fly rule applies.

(m) A preceding runner shall, in the umpire's judgment, intentionally interfere with a fielder who is attempting to catch a thrown ball or to throw a ball in an attempt to complete a play.

(m) Reserved

6.06—A batter is out for illegal action when—

(a) Hitting an illegally batted ball (See Rule 2:00—Definitions);

(b) Stepping from one batter's box to the other while the pitcher is in position ready to pitch;

(c) Interfering with the catcher's fielding or throwing by stepping out of the batter's box or making any other movement that hinders the catcher's play at home base.

EXCEPTION: Batter is not out if any runner attempting to advance is put out, or if runner trying to score is called out for batter's interference.

(d) Reserved

6.07—BATTING OUT OF TURN

(a) A batter shall be called out, on appeal, when failing to bat in proper turn, and another batter completes a time at bat in place of the proper batter. (1) The proper batter may take position in the batter's box at any time before the improper batter becomes a runner or is put out, and any balls and strikes shall be counted in the proper batter's time at bat.

(b) When an improper batter becomes a runner or is put out, and the defensive team appeals to the umpire before the first pitch to the next batter of either team, or before any play or attempted play, the umpire shall (1) declare the proper batter out; and (2) nullify any advance or score made because of a ball batted by the improper batter or because of the improper batter's advance to first base on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batter or otherwise.

NOTE: If a runner advances, while the improper batter is at bat, on a stolen base, balk, wild pitch or passed ball, such advance is legal.

(c) When an improper batter becomes a runner or is put out, and a pitch is made to the next batter of either team before an appeal is made, the improper batter thereby becomes the proper batter, and the results of such time at bat become legal.

(d) (1) When the proper batter is called out for failing to bat in turn, the next batter shall be the batter whose name follows that of the proper batter thus called out; (2)

When an improper batter becomes a proper batter because no appeal is made before the next pitch, the next batter shall be the batter whose name follows that of such legalized improper batter. The instant an improper batter's actions are legalized, the batting order picks up with the name following that of the legalized improper batter.

NOTE 1: The umpire shall not direct the attention of any person to the presence in the batter's box of an improper batter. This rule is designed to require constant vigilance by the players, managers, and coaches of both teams.

NOTE 2: There are two fundamentals to keep in mind: When a player bats out of turn, the proper batter is the player called out. If an improper batter bats and reaches base or is out and no appeal is made before a pitch to the next batter, or before any play or attempted play, that improper batter is considered to have batted in proper turn and establishes the order that is to follow.

APPROVED RULINGS

To illustrate various situations arising from batting out of turn, assume a first inning batting order as follows:

Abel-Baker-Charles-Daniel-Edward-Frank-George-Henry-Irwin.

PLAY (1). Baker bats. With the count 2 balls and 1 strike, (a) the offensive team discovers the error or (b) the defensive team appeals.

RULING: In either case, Abel replaces Baker, with the count 2 balls and 1 strike.

PLAY (2). Baker bats and doubles. The defensive team appeals (a) immediately or (b) after a pitch to Charles.

RULING: Abel is called out and Baker is the proper batter; (b) Baker stays on second and Charles is the proper batter.

PLAY (3). Abel walks. Baker walks. Charles forces Baker. Edward bats in Daniel's turn. While Edward is at bat, Abel scores and Charles goes to second on a wild pitch. Edward grounds out, sending Charles to third. The defensive team appeals (a) immediately or (b) after a pitch to Daniel.

RULING: (a) Abel's run counts and Charles is entitled to second base since these advances were not made because of the improper batter batting a ball or advancing to first base. Charles must return to second base because the advance to third resulted from the improper batter batting a ball. Daniel is called out and Edward is the proper batter; (b) Abel's run counts and Charles stays on third. The proper batter is Frank.

PLAY (4). With the bases full and two out, Henry bats in Frank's turn, and triples, scoring three runs. The defensive team appeals (a) immediately or (b) after a pitch to George.

RULING: (a) Frank is called out and no runs score. George is the proper batter to lead off the second inning; (b) Henry stays on third and three runs score. Irwin is the proper batter.

PLAY (5). After Play (4) (b) above, George continues to bat. (a) Henry is picked off third base for the third out, or (b) George flies out, and no appeal is made. Who is the proper lead off batter in the second inning?

RULING: (a) Irwin became the proper batter as soon as the first pitch to George legalized Henry's triple; (b) Henry. When no appeal was made, the first pitch to the lead off batter of the opposing team legalized George's time at bat.

PLAY (6). Daniel walks and Abel comes to bat. Daniel was an improper batter and if an appeal is made before the first pitch to Abel, Abel is out, Daniel is removed from base, and Baker is proper batter. There is no appeal and a pitch is made to Abel. Daniel's walk is now legalized, and Edward thereby becomes the proper batter. Edward can replace Abel at any time before Abel is put out, or becomes a runner.

Edward does not do so. Abel flies out, and Baker comes to bat. Abel was an improper batter, and if an appeal is made before the first pitch to Baker, Edward is out, and the proper batter is Frank. There is no appeal, and a pitch is made to Baker. Abel's out is now legalized, and the proper batter is Baker. Baker walks. Charles is the proper batter. Charles flies out. Now Daniel is the proper batter, but Daniel is on second base. Who is the proper batter? RULING: The proper batter is Edward. When the proper batter is on base, that batter is passed over, and the following batter becomes the proper batter.

6.08—The batter becomes a runner and is entitled to first base without liability to be put out (provided said runner advances to and touches first base) when—

- (a) Four “balls” have been called by the umpire;
- (b) An Intentional Base on Balls is requested by the defensive team (Dead Ball)
- (c) The batter is touched by a pitched ball which the batter is not attempting to hit unless (1) The ball is in the strike zone when it touches the batter, or (2) The batter makes no attempt to avoid being touched by the ball;

NOTE: If the ball is in the strike zone when it touches the batter, it shall be called a strike, whether or not the batter tries to avoid the ball. If the ball is outside the strike zone when it touches the batter, it shall be called a ball if that batter makes no attempt to avoid being touched.

APPROVED RULING: When the batter is touched by a pitched ball which does not entitle that batter to first base, the ball is dead and no runner may advance.

(d) The catcher or any fielder interferes with the batter. If a play follows the interference, the manager of the offense may advise the plate umpire of a decision to decline the interference penalty and accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play. However, if the batter reaches first base on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batsman, or otherwise, and all other runners advance at least one base, the play proceeds without reference to the interference.

COMMENT: If catcher’s interference is called with a play in progress the umpire will allow the play to continue because the manager may elect to take the play.

(e) A fair ball touches an umpire or a runner on fair territory before touching a fielder. **NOTE:** If a fair ball touches an umpire after having passed a fielder other than the pitcher, or having touched a fielder, including the pitcher, the ball is in play.

6.09–The batter becomes a runner when–

- (a) A fair ball is hit;
- (b) (“O” Zone Division ONLY) The third strike called by the umpires is not caught, providing (1) first base is unoccupied or (2) when first base is occupied with two outs. When a batter becomes a base runner on a third strike not caught by the catcher and starts for the dugout or his position, and then realizes his situation and attempts then to reach first base, he is not out unless he or first base is tagged before he reaches first base. If, however, he actually reaches the dugout or dugout steps, he may not then attempt to go to first base and shall be called out.

(c) A fair ball, after having passed a fielder other than the pitcher, or after having been touched by a fielder, including the pitcher, shall touch an umpire or runner on fair territory;

(d) A fair fly ball passes over a fence or into the stands at a distance from home base of 180 feet or more. Such hit entitles the batter to a home run when all bases have been legally touched. A fair fly ball that passes out of the playing field at a point less than 180 feet from home base shall entitle the batter to advance to second base only;

(e) A fair ball, after touching the ground, bounds into the stands, or passes through, over or under a fence, or through or under a scoreboard, or through or under shrubbery, or vines on the fence, in which case the batter and runners shall be entitled to advance two bases;

(f) Any fair ball which, either before or after touching the ground, passes through or under a fence, or through or under a scoreboard, or through any opening in the fence or scoreboard, or through or under shrubbery or vines on the fence or which sticks in a fence or scoreboard in which case the batter and the runners shall be entitled to two bases;

(g) Any bounding fair ball is deflected by the fielder into the stands, or over or under a fence on fair or foul territory, in which case the batter and all runners shall be entitled to advance two bases;

(h) Any fair fly ball is deflected by the fielder into the stands, or over the fence into foul territory, in which case the batter shall be entitled to advance to second base; but if deflected into the stands or over the fence in fair territory, the batter shall be entitled to a home run. However, should such a fair fly be deflected at a point less than 180 feet from home plate, the batter shall be entitled to two bases only.

7.00—THE RUNNER

7.01—A runner acquires the right to an unoccupied base when that runner touches it before being put out. The runner is then entitled to it until put out or forced to vacate it for another runner legally entitled to that base.

7.02—In advancing, a runner shall touch first, second, third and home base in order. If forced to return, the runner shall retouch all bases in reverse order, unless the ball is dead under any provision of Rule 5.09. In such cases, the runner may go directly to the original base.

7.03—Two runners may not occupy a base, but if, while the ball is alive, two runners are touching the base, the following runner shall be out when tagged. The preceding runner is entitled to the base.

7.04—Each runner, other than the batter, may, without liability to be put out, advance one base when—

(a) There is a balk (“O”Zone play only);

(b) The batter’s advance without liability to be put out forces the runner to vacate his base, or when the batter hits a fair ball that touches another runner or the umpire before such ball has been touched by, or has passed a fielder, if the runner is forced to advance; COMMENT: A runner forced to advance without liability to be put out may advance past the base to which he is entitled only at his peril. If such a runner, forced to advance, is put out for the third out before a preceding runner, also forced to advance, touches home plate, the run shall score. Play. Two out, bases full, batter walks but runner from second is overzealous and runs past third base toward home and is tagged out on a throw by the catcher. Even though two are out, the run would score on the theory that the run was forced home by the base on balls and that all the runners needed to do was proceed and touch the next base;

(c) A fielder, after catching a fly ball, falls into a bench or stand, or falls across ropes into a crowd when spectators are on the field;

(d) While he is attempting to steal a base, the batter is interfered with by the catcher or any other fielder;

(e) Two bases, if a fielder deliberately throws his glove at and touches a thrown ball. The ball is in play;

NOTE: When a runner is entitled to a base without liability to be put out, while the ball is in play, or under any rule in which the ball is in play after the runner reaches an entitled base, and the runner fails to touch the base to which that runner is entitled before attempting to advance to the next base, the runner shall forfeit the exemption from liability to be put out and may be put out by tagging the base or by tagging the runner before that runner returns to the missed base.

7.05—Each runner including the batter-runner may, without liability to be put out,

advance—

(a)(1) To home base scoring a run if the batter hits a fair fly ball over the fence or into the bleachers 180 feet or more from home plate, provided all runners touch all bases legally; or if a fair ball which in the umpire's judgment would have gone out of the playing field in flight is deflected by an act of the fielder in throwing a glove, cap or any article of apparel. (Application of this rule is subject to Rule 7.13.) The batter hitting the home run shall be required to run the bases and he shall be required to touch all bases.

(a)(2) Two bases if the batter hits a fly ball that passes over a fence less than 180 feet from home plate. The ball is dead.

NOTE: Dixie Youth Baseball® recommends that the home run fence be placed at a minimum distance of 200 feet (Majors/"O" Zone), or 180 feet (AAA & Below) from home plate.

(b) Three bases, if a fielder deliberately touches a fair ball with a cap, mask or any part of that fielder's uniform detached from its proper place on the person of said fielder. The ball is in play and the batter may advance to home plate at the batter's peril;

(c) Three bases, if a fielder deliberately throws a glove and touches a fair ball. The ball is in play and batter may advance to home plate at that batter's own peril;

(d) Two bases, if a fielder deliberately touches a thrown ball with a cap, mask or any part of the uniform detached from its proper place on the person of said fielder. The ball is in play;

(e) Two bases, if a fielder deliberately throws a glove at and touches a thrown ball. The ball is in play;

COMMENT: In applying (b-c-d-e) the umpire must rule that the thrown glove or detached cap or mask has touched the ball. There is no penalty if the ball is not touched. Under (c-e) this penalty shall not be invoked against a fielder whose glove is carried off his hand by the force of a batted or thrown ball, or when his glove flies off his hand as he makes an obvious effort to make a legitimate catch.

(f) Two bases, if a fair ball bounces or is deflected into the stands outside the first or third base foul line; or if it goes through or under a field fence, or through or under a scoreboard, or through or under shrubbery or vines on the fence; or if it sticks in such fence, scoreboard, shrubbery or vines;

(g) Two bases when, with no spectators on the playing field, a thrown ball goes into the stands, or into a bench (whether or not the ball rebounds into the field), or over or under or through a field fence, or on a slanting part of the screen above the backstop, or remains in the meshes of a wire screen protecting the spectators. The ball is dead. When such wild throw is the first play by an infielder, the umpire, in awarding such bases, shall be governed by the position of the runners at the time the ball was pitched; in all other cases, the umpire shall be governed by the position of the runners at the time the wild throw was made;

APPROVED RULING: If all runners, including the batter-runner, have advanced at least one base when the infielder makes a wild throw on the first play after the pitch, the award shall be governed by the position of the runners when the wild throw is made.

(h) One base, if a ball, pitched to the batter, or thrown by the pitcher from the position on the pitcher's plate to a base to catch a runner goes into a stand or a bench, or over or through a field fence or backstop. The ball is dead;

(i) One base, if the batter becomes a runner on a ball four, or strike three in "O"Zone play, when the pitch passes the catcher and lodges in the umpire's mask or paraphernalia. **NOTE:** If the batter becomes a runner on a wild pitch which entitles the runners to advance one base, the batter-runner shall be entitled to first base only.

7.06—When obstruction occurs, the umpire shall call or signal "Obstruction."

(a) If a play is being made on the obstructed runner, or if the batter-runner is obstructed before touching first base, the ball is dead and all runners shall advance without liability to be put out, to the bases they would have reached, in the umpire's judgment, if there had been no obstruction. The obstructed runner shall be awarded at least one base beyond the base last legally touched by such runner, before the obstruction. Any preceding runners forced to advance by the award of bases as the penalty for obstruction shall advance without liability to be put out;

COMMENT: When a play is being made on an obstructed runner, the umpire shall signal obstruction in the same manner that he calls "Time," with both hands overhead. The ball is immediately dead when this signal is given; however, should a thrown ball be in flight before the obstruction is called by the umpire, the runners are to be awarded such bases on wild throws as they would have been awarded had not obstruction occurred. On a play where a runner was trapped between second and third and obstructed by the third baseman going into third base while the throw is in flight from the shortstop, if such throw goes into the dugout the obstructed runner is to be awarded home base. Any other runners on base in this situation would also be awarded two bases from the base they last legally touched before obstruction was called.

(b) If no play is being made on the obstructed runner, the play shall proceed until no further action is possible. The umpire shall then call "Time" and impose such penalties, if any as in that umpire's judgment will nullify the act of obstruction. **COMMENT:** Under 7.06(b) when the ball is not dead on obstruction and an obstructed runner advances beyond the base which, in the umpire's judgment, he would have been awarded because of being obstructed, he does so at his own peril and may be tagged out. This is a judgment call.

NOTE: The catcher, without the ball in his possession, has no right to block the pathway of the runner attempting to score. The base line belongs to the runner and the catcher should be there only when he is fielding a ball or when he already has the ball in his hand.

7.07— ("O"Zone Play Only) - If, with a runner on third base and trying to score by means of a squeeze play or a steal, the catcher or any other fielder steps on, or in front of home base without possession of the ball, or touches the batter or his bat, the pitcher shall be charged with a balk, the batter shall be awarded first base on the interference and the ball is dead.

7.08—Any runner is out when—

(a)(1) the runner runs more than three feet away from a direct line between bases to avoid being tagged, unless such action is to avoid interference with a fielder fielding a batted ball; or (2) after touching first base the runner leaves the baseline, obviously abandoning all effort to touch the next base;

(b) Intentionally interferes with a thrown ball; or hinders a fielder attempting to make a play on a batted ball;