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Whitfield County Parks & Recreation  
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2010

**Whitfield County Recreation Department  
 Dixie Youth “AA” Coach Pitch 8/U & T-Ball (4, 5&6) Baseball League  
 Rules & Regulations**

**I. PURPOSE**

The Whitfield County Youth Farm and T-Ball Baseball Program is organized to provide a recreational activity for boys and girls ages 5-8. The program is designed for the following purposes:

- A. To aid in the physical development through fun and exercise.
- B. To teach the basic fundamental skills of the game of baseball.
- C. To aid in the social development through good sportsmanship and moral character with adult guidance.
- D. To teach good attitudes and discipline to the youth participants.

**II. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

**A. Governing Authority**

1. The governing body of this league will be composed of one representative from each community forming an Executive Committee with the Athletic Coordinator as chairman.
2. The program shall be carried out under the guidance and direction of the Whitfield County Recreation Department and the Executive Committee.

**B. Governing Rules**

1. The Whitfield County Recreation Department Youth Farm League will be governed by the rules of the Dixie Youth Official Rules & Organization with the exception of the local league rules contained in this document which supersede any rules in the current Dixie Youth Rules
2. The League Rules will be developed by the Executive Committee and the Whitfield County Recreation Department.

### C. Coaching Requirements

1. Coaches must have a Background Check
2. A person of high moral character who is a respected member of the community.
3. A coach should have a basic knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals and rules of baseball.
4. A coach should never be critical of an official..
5. A coach should never use profanity, drink alcoholic beverages, or use tobacco in any form during any activities.
6. A coach should not be overly concerned with winning but stress that each participant have fun and learn the fundamentals and rules of the game while participating.
7. A coach is required to be present at all practice sessions, games and meetings; or have an approved assistant coach present.
8. It is the responsibility of each coach to be knowledgeable of all rules governing the Whitfield County Youth Farm and T-Ball Baseball.
9. Each coach is responsible for having a scorekeeper and an umpire at each game.
10. Each coach must be certified National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA) Go to [www.nays.org/nyscaonlineclinic](http://www.nays.org/nyscaonlineclinic) to become certified.

### III. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. A player must be eight years of age or younger prior to May 1st of the current year to participate in the Dixie Youth “AA 8/U Baseball Division. To participate in **T-BALL** boys must be age four, five or six prior to May 1st and girls must be age four, five or six prior to January 1st of the current year.
- B. Participants must attend school in the Whitfield County School System or be a resident of Whitfield County.
- C. Participants must play in the Whitfield County Elementary School district in which they live or attend school. If a community does not have a team, the participant may go to the next nearest elementary school community within the same middle school district.
- D. Any Whitfield County resident living and attending school outside the Whitfield County Elementary School boundaries may choose any community to participate in the Whitfield County Recreation Program. Once this community is selected, the participant must stay in that community for all sports in the youth program. If the participant moves to a Whitfield County Elementary School District he/she must participate in that community.
- E. If a participant changes residence to a new Whitfield County Elementary School district and does not change schools, the participant may participate in either community, but can only

change communities once. The same rule will apply if the participant changes Whitfield County Elementary Schools but does not change residence.

F. A completed Whitfield County Recreation Department Roster accompanied by birth certificate and registration form (Green Card) must be on file before any team is eligible to compete in regular season games.

G. Each participant must have insurance, whether private or through the Recreation Department.

H. Playing ineligible players shall result in the forfeiture of all games in which illegal players participated. Any coach that allows an illegal player to participate will be suspended from coaching for the remainder of the season and for a one year time period.

#### **IV. GENERAL RULES**

A. Team rosters shall consist of no more than 15 players per team. Community Leaders should encourage fewer players per team to speed up the game and give each child more of an opportunity for one on one coaching. **T-BALL** teams will be responsible for scheduling their own games. Players shall not be added to a roster unless permission is granted by Whitfield County Recreation Dept. and that team's community leader.

B. Three adults will be allowed on the playing field at one time (two base coaches and one Pitching coach) A fourth adult must remain in the dugout at all times to watch the players. **T-BALL** - A coach may assist the batter and remove the bat from the hitting area. An offensive coach may be placed around the second base area but must not interfere with any action of the defensive team. A defensive coach may be placed in the outfield area to help instruct the fielders.

C. The recommended uniform shall include baseball cap, jersey numbered on back, and rubber spiked shoes. No Metal or plastic cleats allowed.

D. A team failing to field at least eight players within fifteen minutes after scheduled game time shall forfeit the game.

E. If a manager has used all of his eligible players and a player is injured, or becomes too sick to continue; the opposing team manager must select as a replacement one of the players on the bench who has already been in the game.

F. If any spectator, player, manager or coach conducts themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner they will be removed from the game area. If an argument persists it is recommended that, for the purpose of not exposing the participants to unsportsmanlike activity, the game be stopped and everyone involved (parents and participants) vacate the premises. If a team has to vacate a facility as per this rule, more than once in a season, the coach must be replaced.

#### **V. EQUIPMENT**

A. Any unaltered baseball bat, wood or aluminum not to exceed 2 ¼ inches in diameter, may be used.

B. All batters and runners must wear batting helmets with a facemask and chin strap. Any

player running the base and deliberately removes his headgear is out.

C. Catchers must wear face mask and helmet, shin guards and chest protector. The catcher must be in the squat position when the ball is pitched.

D. The ball for Coach Pitch ages 7&8 must play with an official baseball. (Not R.I.F.) Each team will furnish and hit their own ball. **T-BALL** - R.I.F. level five balls or any other safety 5 ball, this ball will reduce injury and also build confidence in the young athlete.

E. A first baseman mitt may be used by the first baseman and the catcher only.

F. All equipment must be kept in the dugout when not in use.

## VI. PLAYING FIELD

A. There will be a 15 ft. chalked arc from the first base line to the third base line drawn from the back point of home plate. The ball must travel past this line or lay on the line to be fair, if not it will be a foul ball.

B. Thirty foot lines will be drawn on the foul lines between home and first and between home and third. Infielders must stay behind these lines until the ball is hit. (Penalty): Offensive team gets choice of play or re-pitch. **T-BALL** - Thirty foot lines will also be drawn between 1st and second base, and second and third base. These lines are for the purpose of determining the position of the runner at the moment a defensive player in control of the ball, inside the infield perimeter, calls time-out. The umpire must determine if the runner was less or more than halfway between the bases at the moment time-out was called. If the runner was less than halfway to the next base the runner must return. If the runner was more than halfway to the next base the runner will advance.

C. The batters box shall be drawn 3 ft. wide and 6 ft. long and positioned 4 inches from the center of the plate. There should be 3 ft. in front and 3 ft. in back of the middle of home plate.

D. The pitching circle will be 12 ft. in diameter and the center will be 46 ft. from the back of home plate.

E. The base paths shall be 60 ft.

## VII. OFFENSE

A. At the start of the game, all available players on each team's 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 coach may revert to the first ten players listed for his/her lineup for the remainder of the game. The players not listed in the first ten batting positions then will become official substitutes and will be eligible to return to the official lineup later in the game. Or the coach has the option of staying with the original lineup, batting all players. **All players must play three outs on defense.** **T-BALL** – *Every player present must bat every inning, in order as listed on line-up card. Starting at the top and ending with the last batter in the line-up. The next half inning the other team will bat everyone in their line-up. Each half inning will be started with the lead off hitter and continue until the last batter in the line-up has batted. There will be no three (3) out innings; the half inning will end when play is dead after the last batter in the line-up has batted. Teams may count runs if they wish to do so.*

B. An offensive batter will receive five (5) pitches before being declared out. The batter may be called out on three swinging strikes. If the fifth pitch is fouled and caught it is an out. There is no limit on fouls and there is no walking. An offensive coach will pitch to the players on his/her team, and must pitch from within the 46 ft. circle; inline with the pitching rubber and home plate. **T-BALL** - Each batter will receive three pitches, if the ball is not hit it will be placed on the Tee for two swings. If the ball still has not been hit the batter is out. There will be no practice swings.

C. A batter cannot be out of the batters box when the ball is hit. The defensive manager has choice of accepting the play or a re-pitch.

D. After one warning per game per player for slinging his bat, the batter will be out, a dead ball called, no runners can advance.

E. If a base runner leaves their base before the ball is hit, the umpire shall signal delayed dead ball and when the play is over the defensive coach will have the option of the play or re-pitch.

F. Any Offensive coach physically helping a base runner while the ball is in play will result in the runner being called out.

G. The offensive team may have one time out per half inning.

H. The pitching coach must attempt to leave the field of play and pick up the batters bat. If the coach is struck by the ball unintentionally the play shall be ruled dead and a no pitch shall be called. If the Coach interferes with play or the ball strikes him intentionally (umpires judgment) the batter shall be ruled out. No runners advance in any case. **The coach pitcher may coach or position the batter only. He/she cannot coach runners. A warning will be given for the first offense and he/she will be removed on the second offense.**

I Any base runner wearing a batters helmet with a face mask will be called out for sliding head first.

J. No Bunting is allowed.

## VIII. DEFENSE

A. There will only be ten players fielded, 6 infielders and 4 outfielders. The defensive player listed or used as the pitcher must keep one foot inside the pitchers circle. The outfielders must remain ten ft. behind the base path. A team may start with 8 players, but must add to the end of the batting order as players arrive. **T-BALL** - All players listed on the line-up must play in the field every inning. A maximum of seven players, including the catcher, are allowed in the infield until the ball is hit. If seven players are used in the infield, two must have at least one foot inside the pitchers circle. The remainders of the players are to be placed in the outfield. Players arriving late are added to the end of the batting order.

B. Each team must use a catcher. The catcher must wear face mask and helmet, shin guards and chest protector.

C. The defensive player used as a pitcher must have one foot inside the 12 ft. pitchers circle until the ball is hit. They must stand in position on either the left side or the right of the coach pitcher and must not be any closer to the batter than the pitching rubber. The player pitcher may not leave the circle until the ball is hit. **PENALTY-The offensive coach has the option of accepting a hit or taking a no pitch.** A helmet with a facemask may be worn by the player pitcher.

D. There will be no infield fly rule.

E. Play shall not be stopped by the defensive team heading off or stopping the front runner. Any other runner may continue at their own risk. Any play made on a runner other than the front runner will release the front runner. Other runners may continue. **T-BALL** - When the ball is returned inside the infield and is under control of a defensive player and that player requests time, the umpire shall call time-out and check the position of the runners to determine if they have passed the 30 ft. mark. If the runner has passed the 30 ft. mark they will be awarded the next base (if not occupied), if not they must return to previous base.

F. There will be one time out per half inning for the defensive team.

G. Time will be called if an injury occurs with the runners advancing one base.

#### **IX. MISCELLANEOUS**

A. A game will be five innings. The game may be called after three innings if a team has a 15 run lead. There is a one hour and thirty minute (1 hr 30 min) time limit. **T-BALL** - Each game will last two innings or one hour and thirty minutes.

B. All substitutions should be reported to the opposing scorekeeper. **T-BALL** - Managers should report to the opposing manager when defensive changes are made.

C. The pitcher/coach must pitch over hand.

D. There shall be no protests.

E. An appeal play may be made by the manager before the next pitch is thrown to the batter.

F. Any player (starter or substitute) may reenter the game once provided they return to the same position in the batting order.

G. No base stealing is allowed.

H. A runner missing a base with no attempt to return to the base to tag up before the ball becomes dead may be appealed by the coach after calling a time out.

I. If a pitched ball hits a batter, no pitch shall be declared and the batter will continue his/her time at bat.

#### **X. RAIN OUTS**

A. Games that are rained out will be rescheduled by the two managers involved. If there is a question of the game being played because of inclement weather it is the responsibility of the home team manager to notify the visiting team that the game is canceled. If the home manager has not contacted the visiting manager it should be assumed the game will be played.

B. If the Recreation Department cancels games because of inclement weather it will be announced on

the rain-out hotline # 281-2588, and WYYU 104.5 FM radio stations.

#### **XI. ACTIVITIES**

A. There will be three activities allowed per week, including games and practices, plus one activity on the weekend. Practice sessions should be limited to ninety minutes and finished by 9:00 p.m.

B. There will be no practice on Wednesdays after 5:00 p.m. and no games will be scheduled on Wednesdays except during post season tournaments.