



2011

**Whitfield County Recreation Department
Dixie Darlings 7-8 Softball League
Rules & Regulations**

I. PURPOSE

The Whitfield County Youth Farm 7-8 Girls Program is organized to provide a recreational activity for girl's ages 7-8. The program is designed for the following purposes:

1. To aid in the physical development through fun and exercise.
2. To teach the basic fundamental skills of the game of softball.
3. To aid in the social development through good sportsmanship and moral character with adult guidance.
4. 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 Girls League will be governed by current rules and regulations of the (Dixie Softball Inc.), with the exception of the local league rules contained in this document which supersede any rules in the current Dixie Softball rules.
2. The League Rules will be developed by the Executive Committee and the Whitfield County Recreation Department.

C. Coaching Requirements

1. A person of high moral character who is a respected member of the community.
2. A coach should have a basic knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of

softball.

3. A coach should never incite players or parents by criticizing an official.
4. A coach should never use profanity, drink alcoholic beverages, or use tobacco in any form during any activities.
5. A coach should not be overly concerned with winning but more concerned that each child has fun and learns the fundamentals while participating.
6. A coach is expected to be present at all practice sessions, games and meetings; or have an approved coach present.
7. A coach should try as hard as possible to keep each player interested and participating through out the season.
8. It is the responsibility of each coach to be knowledgeable of all rules governing the Whitfield County Youth Farm Girls Softball.
9. Each coach is responsible for having a scorekeeper and an umpire at each game.
10. Each coach must be National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA) Certified. Go to www.nays.org/nyscaonlineclinic to become certified.

III. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. Age control date prior to January 1st of the current year.
- B. Participants must attend school in the Whitfield County School System or live in 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 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. Community leaders should encourage fewer players per team to speed up the game and give each child more one on one coaching. Players will not be added to a roster unless permission is granted by that teams Community leader.

B. Each team will be allowed four adults in the dug-out, one manager and three coaches. Two adults may coach the bases at the first and third base coach's boxes.

C. The recommended uniform shall include, jersey numbered on back, and rubber spiked shoes.

D. A team failing to field at least eight players within fifteen minutes after scheduled game time shall forfeit the game. A team can start and/or end a game with eight players with no penalty.

E. Bunting is **not allowed**.

F. 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.

G. 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. Tennis shoes or baseball shoes with rubber cleats may be worn. No metal or plastic cleats.

B. Any unaltered Official Softball bat, wood or aluminum, and T-Ball bats may be used.

C. All batters and runners must wear batting helmets with a chin strap and a face mask. Any player running the bases and deliberately removes her headgear is out.

D. Catchers must wear face mask and helmet, shin guards and chest protector.

E. The ball shall be any 11 inch Official Softball.

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

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

VI. THE PLAYING FIELD

A. 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.

B. An outfield line shall be placed 10 ft. behind each base so as to separate infield from outfield positions.

C. The pitching circle will be an eight foot (8'). Radius and the center will be **40ft** from the **point of home plate home plate. The "pitching coach" will pitch from thirty (30) feet in line with 2nd base and home plate.** The **"player-pitcher" shall stand with both feet inside the eight foot (8') Radius circle even with or behind (but not in front) of the pitcher's plate.**

D. The base paths shall be 50 ft.

VII. OFFENSE

A. At the start of the game all available players on each teams roster will be listed in the starting batting lineup and will bat in this order until all have completed one turn at bat. After all players in the initial lineup have batted once, the coach may **revert to the first 10 players** listed in his/her lineup and the additional players become substitutes and are used as if they have never been in the game or the coach has the option of staying with the original lineup, batting all players **"Free Substitution" means only for defense. Any ten (10) players may play defense but the batting order should never be changed.**
(League Rule) Every player must play at least (3) three outs on defense.

B. An offensive batter will receive five pitches before being declared out. The batter shall be called out on three swinging strikes. If fifth (5th) pitch is fouled and caught it is an out. There is no limit on fouls. An offensive coach will pitch to the players on that team.

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 her 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 by the batter, the base umpire shall signal "delayed dead ball" to indicate the violation at the time it occurs. The defensive team shall have the privilege of having nullified any portion of the play that occurred on the violation.

F. Offensive coaches shall be stationed in the coach's box at first and third base. (No offensive coach at second base. 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. Any base runner wearing a helmet with a face mask will be called out for sliding head first A "Dive Back" is not considered a slide.

I. 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 will pitch from a distance of thirty feet (30'). He/she shall pitch "under-handed"**

J. **When on offense, a team can only score 7 (seven) runs per inning. After the seventh run is scored time shall be called and teams switch from offense to defense.**

VIII. DEFENSE

A. There will only be ten players fielded, 6 infielders and 4 outfielders. The defensive player listed or used as the pitcher shall stand with both feet inside the eight foot (8') RADIUS circle even with or behind (but not in front) of the pitcher's plate. The outfielders must remain ten (10) feet behind the baselines. A team may start with 8 players, but must add to the end of the batting order as players arrive.

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

C. There will be no infield fly rule.

D. **The ball is dead and all base runners must stop at the base the umpire rules they are entitled when: the pitcher or player-pitcher has possession of a thrown ball inside the eight-foot (8') RADIUS circle. If the ball is hit directly back to the player-pitcher inside the eight-foot (8') Radius circle and the player-pitcher makes no play, the batter and all base runners will be entitled to advance one (1) base only without liability of being put out. If the player-pitcher chooses to make a play then normal base running rules will apply.**

Umpires shall declare play dead when a base runner cannot advance without being put-out because a fielder is holding the ball between her and the next base the base runner is going to or when a defensive player is touching home plate with the ball in her possession.

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

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

G. Defensive coaches cannot be stationed in the outfield.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

A. A game will be five innings. The game may be called if a team is mathematically eliminated due to the run per inning rule There is a one hour and twenty minute (1 hr 20 min) time limit.

B. All substitutions should be reported to the opposing scorekeeper.

C. There shall be no protests.

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

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

X. RAIN OUTS

A. Games that are rained out will be rescheduled by the two managers involved. On Saturday Games 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. Games played through Monday thru Friday, the recreation department will make the decision of playing or not.

B. If the Recreation Department cancels games because of inclement weather it will be announced on the rain out Hot Line # 706 281-2588 and WYYU 104.5 FM.

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.

XII CONDUCT

A. If a player or coach is ejected from a game, the coach must leave the bench area, the coach and/or player will sit out the remainder of that game and must sit out the next game that their team plays. **If a coach, player or spectator is ejected two times during the course of a season they will be suspended for the remainder of the season or more.**