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2011

Whitfield County Parks & Recreation Department

## **DIXIE YOUTH BASEBALL**

### **AAA Division (Age 10/U) & "O" Zone Division (Age 12/U)**

#### **I. PURPOSE**

The Whitfield County youth Dixie Youth Baseball Program is organized to provide recreational activity for the youth in each community in the 9-12 age group. 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 baseball
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 participants.

#### **II. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

##### **A. Governing Authority**

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

##### **B. Governing Rules**

1. The Whitfield County Youth Dixie Youth Baseball Program will be governed by the current rules and regulations of the Dixie Youth Baseball Official Rules & Regulation, with the exception of the local league rules.
2. The Local League Rules will be developed by the governing body of the Whitfield County Dixie Youth Baseball League.

### 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 use profanity, drink alcoholic beverages, or use tobacco in any form during any activity with the players.
5. A coach must never incite the players or parents by criticizing an umpire.
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. A coach should try to the best of his ability 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 Dixie Youth Baseball Program
9. Each coach is responsible for having a scorekeeper at each game.
10. Each coach must be National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA) Certified. Go online to [www.nays.org/nyscaonlinecoaches](http://www.nays.org/nyscaonlinecoaches).

### III. ELIGIBILITY

- A. The age divisions are AAA Division, 10/U and "O" Zone Division, 12/U. The cut off date is prior to May 1st.
- 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 a participant moves to a Whitfield County Elementary School District he 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 and 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. LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- A. A team roster shall consist of no more than 17 players. Once a roster is submitted to the Recreation Department it becomes official. No participants may be added after March 5 of the current year.
- B. Playing Field and Equipment
  - 1. The playing field for "AAA" 10/U
    - a. Base lines shall be sixty feet (60') in length.
    - b. The distance from the front side of the pitching rubber to the point of home plate shall be forty six feet (46').
  - 2. The playing field for "O" Zone 12/U
    - a. Base lines shall be seventy feet (70') in length
    - b. The distance from the front side of the pitching rubber to the point of home plate shall be 50 feet (50').
    - c. The batters box shall be six feet long and three feet wide.
  - 2. The ball shall weigh not less than five ounces or more than five  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounces, and shall measure not less than nine inches nor more than nine  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches circumference.
  - 3. The bat shall not be less than twenty-five inches or more than thirty-three inches in length. The handle of wood bats shall be no less than seven-eighths of an inch (plus/minus one-thirty seconds of an inch) in diameter and the barrel shall be no more than two and one-quarter inches (plus/minus one-thirty seconds of an inch) in diameter. The handle of metal bats shall be no less than three quarters of an inch (plus/minus one-thirty seconds of

an inch) in diameter and the barrel shall be no more than two and one-quarter inches (plus/minus one-thirty seconds of an inch) in diameter.

4. **“O” ZONE; Big Barrel bats with a length not to exceed 33” and a barrel diameter no more than 25/8” plus or minus 1/32” in diameter are allowed ONLY in the “O” Zone Division.**
5. The batters helmet must be made of Ultra High Impact Plastic or High Impact Shell with a heavy rubber padding or similar product. **A chin strap and face mask are required on all batting helmets.** No other hat or cap may be worn underneath the helmet. Any player sliding headfirst will be called out. “Dive Back” to a base is not considered a slide.
  6. Catcher’s must wear a catcher’s mask attached to a helmet. 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.
  6. Catcher’s are required to wear athletic supports with protective cup and it is recommended that all players wear athletic supporters.
7. Any player warming up a pitcher shall wear a facemask.
8. No metal cleats or shoes with removable female cleats are allowed.
9. Pitchers gloves must be one color, but cannot be white or gray.
10. The recommended uniform shall include baseball cap, jersey numbered on back with six-inch numbers, and shoes.

#### C. The Game

1. Prior to the start of each game, a meeting will take place at home plate between coaches and umpires for explanation of special ground rules, pertaining to that particular field.
2. A team may start and finish a game with only eight players with no penalty. The game is a forfeit if a team has less than eight players to start or finish a game.
3. A regulation game shall consist of six innings or 1 hr and twenty minute time limit or if a team is mathematically eliminated because of the league 5 run per inning rule. A new inning starts when the home tem makes the last out.
4. Any player who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game once provided:
  - a. He occupies the same position in the batting order he originally occupied.
  - b. The substitute has played a minimum of three outs on defense.

5. If all substitutes have played and a player is injured or ill, then the opposing coach may choose a player to replace the injured or ill player.
6. There shall be one adult and one player coach, two player coaches, or two adult coaches allowed to occupy coach's box. Player coaches must wear batting helmets.
7. All players must play three outs in field and bat once.
8. A coach may hold a player out of a game for disciplinary reasons if announced to the opposing coach before the game.
9. Any player sliding headfirst will be declared out. A dive back to a base on a pick-off attempt is not considered a slide.
10. **10/U "AAA":**The catcher shall not be required to catch the third strike except for a foul tip. When a foul tip is caught, the batter shall be out and the ball shall remain in play, and the base runners may advance at their own risk. **"O" ZONE: Dropped Third Strike Rule Applies.**

#### D. Charged Conference

1. Each team, when on defense, may be granted not more than three charged conferences during a six-inning game, without penalty, to permit a coach to confer with a defensive player or players. A second conference with a pitcher in the same inning will result in the pitcher being removed from the pitching position, **he may remain in the game to play another position but cannot return to pitch during that game.** In any extra inning game, each team shall be permitted one charged conference each inning while on defense without penalty. The number of charged conferences permitted is not cumulative. A coach, player, substitute or an attendant, may make a request for time-out for this purpose. Time granted for an obviously incapacitated player shall not constitute a charged conference nor shall a conference be charged whenever the pitcher is removed as pitcher.
  2. Each team, when on offense, may be granted not more than one charged conference per inning to permit the coach or any of that teams personnel to confer with base runners and/or the batter. The umpire shall deny any subsequent offensive team requests for a conference.

#### E. Game Postponement

##### 1. Inclement Weather

- a. The Recreation Department will make the determination if fields are too wet to play.
- b. If coaches and umpires are not notified of a postponement, they must report to their designated field prepared to play.

c. If rain occurs before game time and both coaches are at the field, then both coaches must agree to play or postpone. When the umpire arrives and game time is reached, then the decision shall be the responsibility of the umpire to play or postpone the game.

d. Rained out games will be rescheduled by the Recreation Department.

e. Any game suspended and not played the required innings to become official (four, or three and a half if home team is ahead) will be played from the point of suspension until the game is finished.

f. If the Recreation Department cancels games because of inclement weather it will be announced on the rainout hotline 706-281-2588 and WYYU 104.5 FM.

## 2. Postponement for Other Purposes

a. Any schedule conflict should be brought to the attention of the Athletic Coordinator before season schedules are complete. **Only School and Church functions will be considered as a conflict.**

b. Games will not be rescheduled after the official schedule has been published.

## F. Activities

1. 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 10:00 p.m.

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

## V. PITCHING RULES

The following rules apply to regular season play only. These pitching restrictions are replaced by a complete new set of tournament pitching rules:

1. The pitching of one pitch shall be counted as pitching one complete inning.

2. A pitcher shall not pitch more than six innings between Monday through the following Saturday except in a tie game at the end of six innings or more, a pitcher who has pitched in six consecutive innings in the same game may pitch in a seventh consecutive inning. (Rule 8:07A)

3. A pitcher must have 36 hours rest before pitching in another game after pitching in four or more innings of a previous game.

4. **10/U "AAA"**: Any pitch or any action by the pitcher construed as a balk by the umpire shall be declared a no pitch. The ball is dead and no runner may advance.

**"O"ZONE: A 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.**

5. The penalty for using an ineligible pitcher is forfeiture of the game.
6. Any relief pitcher shall be allowed a minimum of ten warm-up pitches regardless of whether or not he becomes the pitcher during or at the beginning of an inning.
7. A pitcher removed from the mound for any reason shall not return to the mound to pitch during the same game.

## **VI. BATTING RULES**

- A. Each player of the offensive team shall bat in the order that his name appears in his team's batting order.
- B. The League Games will be limited to five runs per inning
- C. The designated hitter rule is not in effect for league play.
- D. Any player reentering the game must reenter in the same position in the batting order, except in the case of replacing an injured or ill player after all substitutes have been used (Rule IV, C, 9).
- E. **All available players 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 may revert to the first nine players listed in the original batting lineup for the remainder of the game. The players not listed in the first nine batting positions will become official substitutes and will be eligible to return to the official lineup in one of the first nine offensive batting lineup positions at any time. This decision must be reported to the umpire and opposing coach before the game starts and can not be changed during the game.**

All players must play at least three outs defensively. If a player becomes ill or injured while this rule is in effect those players will be skipped in the batting order, after announcing to the umpire, with no penalty until the legal number of players requirement is met. All players ejected and skipped in the batting order will be recorded as an out.

## **VII. BASE RUNNING**

### **"AAA" 10/U**

- A. When a pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's plate with the ball in his possession, and the catcher is in the catcher's box in position to receive the pitch, **all runners shall be in contact with their bases and shall not leave their bases until the pitch has reached the plate.**

B. If a runner leaves the base before the pitch reaches the plate the base umpire shall give the signal 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.

**“O” ZONE: RUNNERS MAY PLAY OFF AND LEAVE BASE ANY TIME PLAY IS “LIVE”**

**VIII. PROTEST PROCEDURE**

A. All protests must be submitted by the team manager to the Recreation Department, in writing, before 5:00 p.m. the following workday

B. The only protest acceptable will be concerning player participation or rules misinterpretation. A protest for rules misinterpretation must be announced and noted in both scorebooks before the next pitch.

C. All protests shall include any and all pertinent information and facts leading up to the protest, i.e. involved players, score of the game, name of umpires, date, location and the rule misinterpreted.

D. All protests will be decided by the Athletic Coordinator and /or Executive Committee, if accepted as valid.

E. The Athletic Coordinator shall cast the deciding vote in case of a deadlock by the committee.

F. Protests received will be decided during the week of receipt of the protest letter. A representative from each team involved in the protest should be present with scorebooks and any additional information needed. All parties will be notified in advance of the meeting, and if the protesting team is not represented it will be determined that the team has decided not to pursue the protest and it will be dropped accordingly.

G. Games replayed as a result of a protest will be rescheduled by the Athletic Coordinator.

H. The decision made by the protest committee is final.

**IX. CONDUCT**

A. No profanity or abusive language is allowed. Offenders are subject to ejection from the game or the program.

B. There shall be no smoking, or use of tobacco products, or alcoholic beverages permitted.

C. All coaches or managers will be held responsible for their teams and fans conduct.

D. Any coach or player ejected from a game for abusive language or conduct will not participate in the next game that team plays. Any coach or player ejected a second time will automatically be suspended for the remainder of the season.

#### **X. PUBLICITY**

It is the responsibility of the winning coach to notify the Recreation Department (Phone 706 226-8341 FAX 706-279-1515 or e-mail wcrd@whitfieldcountyga.com) before noon the following day, of the highlights of the game. Players to be listed will include pitchers, innings pitched, players with two or more hits, and players with home runs to include first and last names.

#### **XI. CONDUCT**

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 teams next scheduled game that their team plays. If a spectator is ejected, they must leave the playing area. **If a coach, player or spectator is ejected two times during the course of a season they will be suspended for a period of one (1) year from the time of the last ejection.**

#### **XI. COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - To Be Announced**