

Tournament Guidelines

Conduct and Dress Code

Every Dixie Youth Baseball tournament should be conducted in a responsible and creditable manner. All participants deserve uniform enforcement of the rules and fair and equitable treatment by all Dixie Youth officials and umpire crews. All rules as outlined in the 2004 Dixie Youth Baseball Rule Book shall be enforced without exception. In addition, certain levels of conduct and sportsmanship are expected by all participants in tournament play. Dixie Youth Baseball desires to maintain a proper example of appropriate behavior among teams competing for a tournament championship. Conduct, which is not conducive to fair play and sportsmanship, shall not be tolerated.

Appearance and dress of all participants will be just as important as conduct. All players shall be required to be fully uniformed. Managers and coaches are to either be uniformed as the players or at a minimum wear a game jersey with matching pants. During tournament play, coaches should not be allowed to wear shorts, cutoffs or jeans.

Protests

Protests shall be made only on a misinterpretation of a rule, ineligibility of a player or players, an illegal pitcher or failure to comply with the participation requirement. An illegal substitution cannot be protested but shall be handled according to rule 3.03(b).

The umpire-in-chief shall grant a time out to any manager who wishes to protest any decision of the umpires which does not involve judgment. The manager's protest must be made immediately after the occurrence and before the next ball is thrown to a batter. The umpire-in-chief shall advise the Protest Committee Chairman that a protest has been filed by a team manager. The Protest Committee Chairman shall take the following action upon accepting a protest:

- a) The Chairman and other members of the committee shall review the protested decision with each umpire and each team manager, one at a time. If necessary, the Committee should review the official scorebook, interview the scorekeeper or obtain information from any other source, which they believe may be helpful in making a decision.
- b) After reviewing the situation in detail, the Protest Committee Chairman should advise the managers and players to remain in the dugout. The Committee members should go to an area behind second base with no one else present and reach a decision.
- c) Once a decision is reached, the Protest Committee Chairman should inform the umpire-in-chief, each team manager and the tournament director.
- d) The Protest Committee Chairman should ONLY inform the Committee's decision and should not discuss the decision any further with the managers or umpires.
- e) All participants shall return to their positions at the time the game was halted and play shall continue.

Protest and Appeal Procedure

If either of the team managers does not agree with the Committee's decision, an appeal may be made to the Tournament Director before the next pitch is thrown to a batter.

- 1) The Tournament Director may interview the Protest Committee members, the umpires or the team managers before making a decision. After the Tournament Director renders his decision, either manager can request an appeal to the District Director (if the District Director is not the Tournament Director).
- 2) The District Director may interview the Protest Committee, the umpires or the team managers before making a decision. After the District Director renders his decision, either manager can request the District Director to appeal to the State Director.

3) The District Director ONLY shall be permitted to call the State Director. However, after the State Director renders his decision, either manager may request the State Director to appeal to the Commissioner of Dixie Youth Baseball.

4) The Commissioner of Dixie Youth Baseball shall be called ONLY by the State Director for a FINAL DECISION on any appeal of a State Director's decision. The Commissioner may reserve the right to speak with any member of the Protest Committee, any umpire in the game or any team manager before making his decision. The Commissioner's decision will be communicated only to the State Director who will inform the District Director.

5) After a ruling by the Commissioner of Dixie Youth Baseball, no further appeals can be made and play must continue immediately.

Note: Appeals will be allowed only if presented exactly according to the above procedures. Team managers may only request an appeal. Managers cannot present appeals directly to these officials. All officials will be available to receive protest appeals during the tournament season.

Pre-Game and Practice Warm-up

- 1) No practice of any kind by any team, including the host, shall be allowed on the tournament playing field(s) on game days. Other nearby fields should be utilized for practice fields during tournament play. The Tournament Director is responsible for arranging practice fields to be made available to tournament teams who require overnight stays at tournament sites.
- 2) Each team may have up to five minutes of infield prior to each game. *Once the PA announcer says you have 5 minutes, your time starts then!*

Player Introduction

1) Provide the PA announcer a list of the player's names that they prefer to use on the official line-up (i.e. Jimmy, instead of James). This is not always the name shown on the Tournament Team Affidavit.

2) Introductions shall be handled in the following manner:

- Introduction of the visiting team, starting players, batting order and defensive position. As the starting players are announced they should run to their defensive position on the field. Outfielders should only go to the edge of the outfield grass in front of their normal position.
- After introducing the starting defensive players, the remaining players on the roster shall be introduced. As their name is called they should take a position on the foul line between first or third base facing their dugout and the stands. The manager and two coaches are then introduced and should take their position facing the dugout and stands alongside the remaining roster players.
- Introduction of the home team, all players, the team manager and coaches in the same manner as above. As the home team players take their defensive positions, they should acknowledge their counterpart on the visiting team in some manner (i.e. handshake, pat on back, etc.).
- When introductions have been completed, both teams shall remain in position for introduction of the umpires and the Protest Committee, and the invocation and the national anthem. *Invocation and National Anthem shall only be used at the 1st game of each day.*
- Following the National Anthem both team Managers are to meet the umpires behind home plate.

5) For the convenience of out-of-town fans and radio broadcasts, no game should start earlier than its regularly scheduled starting time even if any earlier game is completed early.