



2025 Sampson County Parks and Recreation

Competitive Baseball Local Guidelines and Rules

Dixie Youth Baseball and Dixie Softball Rule Books will be used with the exceptions listed below.

1:00 Age DIVISIONS:

- Minors: 9-10
- Majors: 11-12

2:00 AGE REQUIREMENTS:

2:01 Minors

Minimum Age: Nine (9) years old – players must be Ten (10) years old prior to April 1st of the current year.

Maximum Age: Ten (10) years old – players cannot reach their twelfth (12th) birthday prior to April 1st of the current year.

First year players who are league age eleven will be eligible to participate in Minors after an assessment by P&R Staff.

2:02 Majors

Minimum Age: Eleven (11) years old – players must be Eleven (11) years old prior to April 1st of the current year.

Maximum Age: Twelve (12) years old – players cannot reach their thirteenth (13th) birthday prior to April 1st of the current year.

- Max roster size of 12 Players.

3:00 FIELD SIZE:

Mound:	46'
Base:	60'
Defensive Players:	Minors 10, Majors 9
Stealing:	Ball crosses the plate

4:00 **PARTICIPATION RULES**

4:01 All players shall be required to play at least **(6) defensive outs**.

4:02 **All Bat Policy** – Coaches may freely substitute on defense, but the batting order will not change in any league. Every Participant must bat each time through the order.

***Note:** Batting Line Up: **Only players present at the start of the game may be recorded on a team's batting line up sheet.** 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. Before the player can be added, the arrival of the player must be announced to the Plate Umpire, the Official Scorer, and the Opposing Teams Manager.

4:03 **ALL PLAYERS PRESENT FOR THE GAME MUST PLAY** - All players in good standing will play for the minimum time required for their league. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WILL RESULT IN A SUSPENSION FOR THE HEAD COACH. A SECOND OFFENSE WILL RESULT IN THE REMOVAL OF THE COACH FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEASON.**

Coaches are not obligated to play an individual for the minimum time under the following conditions.

1. Player late for start of game or a no-show.
2. Player with an unexcused absence from practice in the week before the game. (Disciplinary meeting required).
3. Player who has been a discipline problem. (Disciplinary meeting required).

A coach who suspends a player according to rule must notify the opposing coach, field supervisor, prior to the start of the game (exception - player injured or ejected during the game).

***Coaches who use the exceptions to all play rule to gain an advantage over another team will be removed from the coaching staff.**

4:04 Only 4 coaches will be allowed in the dugout. At least one adult coach must be in the dugout always possibly limiting the number of adult coaches allowed to coach on the baselines.

4:05 No person should be allowed on the playing field/dugout during the game except uniformed players, managers, coaches, and umpires.



5:00 **GAME PLAY**

5:01 Minors teams will be required to field a maximum of ten (10) players on defense including catcher, pitcher, four (4) infielders and three (3) outfielders. If a team does not have ten (10) players, a minimum of 8 players will be required to begin play or continue play.

5:02 Majors teams will be required to field a maximum of nine (9) players on defense including catcher, pitcher, four (4) infielders and three (3) outfielders. If a team does not have nine (9) players, a minimum of 8 players will be required to begin play or continue play.

- a) Teams will be given a 10-minute grace period for the first game of an evening **ONLY**. (If they are unable to place required number of players on the field at the official game time)
- b) If a team is unable to place eight players on the field before the game begins or after the allotted 10-minute grace period, for the first game of the day **ONLY**, the game will be ruled an automatic forfeit by the field supervisor.

5:02 Time Limit: 1 Hour 15 Minutes. (Finish the batter, a new batter must be in the batter's box before time expires.)

5:04 The official time will be kept at the scorer's table by SCPR staff.

5:05 The start time will start at the first pitch of the game not the first warmup pitch.

5:06 Prior to the established time to begin the game, managers shall give batting order to the official scorer.

5:07 Once umpire enters playing field, the umpires oversee the playing field. No judgement calls can be appealed. The umpires' decision is final.

5:09 A player who is bleeding, or has an open wound, or has an excessive amount of blood on his or her uniform, must leave the game and may not return prior to the first opportunity for such player to re-enter. If there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before the player can re-enter.

5:10 **Each** team will be allowed to score a maximum of five (5) runs per inning.

5:11 **Hitting Rules**

Continuous batting order must be used for the entire game. Each child will bat every time through the lineup.

All divisions:

The penalty for a thrown bat will be as follows:

1 - Incidental:

(a) First offense – team warning.

(b) 2nd offense – dead ball, batter out, runners may not advance.

2 - Flagrant (intentional)

(a) Dead ball, batter out, runners may not advance. - No Warning necessary

Note: It will be up to the official to determine if a player intentionally throws a bat.

5:12 **Baseball Pitching Rules**5:12a **Minors**

A pitcher shall not throw more than 75 pitches in the same game or on the same day.

Exception: If the pitcher reaches the pitch count limit while facing a batter, he may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely or is put out) **NOTE: a pitcher that is removed from the mound for any reason may NOT return to the mound during the same game.**

5:12b **Majors**

A pitcher shall not throw more than 85 pitches in the same game or on the same day.

Exception: If the pitcher reaches the pitch count limit while facing a batter, he may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely or is put out) **NOTE: a pitcher that is removed from the mound for any reason may NOT return to the mound during the same game.**

5:13 There are no weekly inning restrictions.

5:14 **Baseball Pitch Count Rest Requirements:**

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

Pitch count rest days start the following day after the player pitched last.

Example A: A pitcher who throws 65 or less pitches on Monday WOULD be eligible to pitch on Thursday. A pitcher who throws 66+ on Monday is NOT eligible until Friday.

Example B: A pitcher who throws 65 or less pitches on Thursday WOULD be eligible to pitch on Sunday. A pitcher who throws 66+ on Thursday WOULD be eligible to pitch on Monday.

The scorekeeper will keep the official pitch count.



5:15 **Base Running**

- a) Runners must wait until the pitch has reached the plate. Base runner leaving a base too early will be - called "OUT "– ball will be dead, No pitch.
- b) **Runners will be out on a dropped third strike.**
- c) No balks will be called it will be deemed a dead ball.

6:00 **EQUIPMENT**

- 6:01 The Recreation Department will provide game/practice balls, catcher equipment and game uniforms for each team.
- 6:02 **Baseball: All bats must have a USA Baseball stamp to be approved for play. Only Exception BB-COR certified bats are also approved for play (drop -3 only). All stamped BPF 1.15 are not eligible for use.**
- 6:03 All batters are required to wear batting helmets; faceguards are highly recommending but not mandatory.
- 6:04 Each player will furnish their own pants, socks, and shoes. Shoes must be **tennis shoes or rubber molded cleats**. **Screw-in, metal, or steel cleats are not allowed.**
- 6:05 The head coach of each team must sign for any equipment that is issued by the Recreation Department and is responsible for maintaining and returning that equipment.
- 6:06 All equipment worn by players must conform to local or official baseball rules.
- 6:07 All equipment will be purchased by the Recreation Department. No coach or parent has the authority to obligate the team, league, or Sampson County Parks and Recreation Department

7:00 **PRACTICE**

- 7:01 Coaches are expected to observe their players closely always to be certain that the players do not become overly fatigued.
- 7:02 Coaches shall refrain from using exercises that may be harmful to the player's physical welfare.
- 7:03 Practices will be limited to maximum 2 hours in length (when and where time permits).
- 7:04 Teams cannot require players to attend more than 2 practices per week.



7:05 If the League is notified that a coach is in violation of a league policy, the coach will be notified, and the violation will be investigated by the league board.

7:06 Penalty for violation: 1 game suspension of the head coach.

8:00 COMPLAINTS / INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

8:01 Complaints concerning officials, supervisors & other aspects of the youth program can be made in writing within 24 hours after a game has been played. Please contact the field supervisor for a comment form

9:00 POSTPONED GAMES/INCLEMENT WEATHER

9:01 In case of inclement weather, coaches and parents should call the following number after 3:00pm for a decision as to whether the game will be played:

Sampson County Parks and Recreation 910-299-0924

If no cancellation is listed, teams must report to the field and wait for the officials or field supervisor's decision.

9:02 Prior to the start of the game, the field supervisor or Recreation Department staff on duty will have sole authority to postpone or play the game. After the game begins, the officiating crew chief will have the sole authority to postpone or play the game.

9:03 Make-up and unfinished games with less than 4 completed innings may be rescheduled by the Recreation Department at the earliest convenient opportunity.

10:00 ROSTERS AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

10:01 No player will be allowed to participate in a game or practice without a signed registration form and a birth certificate submitted for review by the Recreation Department.

11:00 COACHES AND CONDUCT

11:01 **ALL COACHES, TRAINERS/MANAGERS MUST ANNUALLY COMPLETE A COACH'S VOLUNTEER APPLICATION TO BE ELIGIBLE TO COACH. VOLUNTEERS ARE SUBJECT TO ANNUAL BACKGROUND CHECKS. THIS FORM IS TO BE TURNED IN BEFORE THE SEASON STARTS. INDIVIDUALS REFUSING TO COMPLETE THIS FORM OR TO BE CHECKED, AUTOMATICALLY FORFEIT THEIR COACHING ELIGIBILITY.**



- 11:02 All coaches must understand and agree to carry out the duties, responsibilities, and policies as established by Dixie Youth Baseball and the Sampson County Parks and Recreation Department.
- 11:03 Coaches must set good examples of sportsmanship. We will not tolerate poor conduct in practice or in a game.
- 11:04 Each coach will hand out the team rules (attached on the last page) and have a parent meeting prior to the start of the first practice.
- 11:05 No alcoholic beverages are allowed on school or recreation property. This includes athletic fields. This is a **STATE LAW**. If necessary, proper legal action will be taken to enforce this rule. **NO TOBACCO PRODUCTS (SMOKING, CHEWING, DIPPING, ETC) ARE ALLOWED ON THE PRACTICE OR PLAYING FIELD.**
- 11:06 A coach, player, or spectator with the presence of alcohol on their breath will be asked to leave the recreation facility.
- 11:07 Any coach or player or spectator who is ejected from a game will be suspended **for the remainder of that game and the next scheduled game**. The suspension could be longer depending upon the severity of the infraction. Persons guilty of a second offense causing their ejection during the same calendar year shall be suspended for minimum of 365 days or longer depending on the infraction.
- 11:08 When a manager, coach, player, or spectator is ejected from a game, they shall leave the facility immediately and take no further part in the game.



Sampson County Team Rules and Expectations

1. **Practices/Games:** Players are expected to attend all practices and games. If you cannot attend, please let the coaching staff know as soon as possible. (Playing time may vary by attendance)
2. **Respect your opponent:** Good sportsmanship starts with respecting your opponents. Remember: without opponents, there would be no game at all! Players should always shake hands after each game and always be respectful of their opponents.
3. **Respect your coach:** Parents and players should respect coaches. Please refrain from yelling questions or comments to your coaches and instead please speak to them calmly and at the appropriate times.
4. **Respect your teammates:** Regardless of their skill level, you cannot play the game without them.
5. **Respect the officials:** Remember they are human, and they are doing their best to make youth sports fair and fun. Coaches, parents, and players should refrain from yelling at officials, please teach our children how to overcome miscalls that do not include yelling or arguing with the officials.
6. **Be a team player:** The game is not about how good you look or how much you score. A true team player knows how to put the team first and make sacrifices for their teammates.
7. **Safety, Sportsmanship, and Skill Building:** The priority for our team will be safety, sportsmanship, and skill-building. All coaches, parents, and players will prioritize this over winning.
8. **Have Fun:** Even with the hard work of practice, having fun and loving the game is a key to long term success.
9. **Parents/Spectators:** Should allow the coaches to coach the kids and refrain from "sideline coaching" it can be very confusing for children if multiple people are yelling instructions. Spectators are encouraged to cheer for both teams and ensure all the kids are having fun. No derogatory comments or foul language will be tolerated. Parents will be responsible for informing any guest of the team rules.
10. **Background Checks:** No one without a background check shall help in any capacity, enter a practice, or game area. If there are no boundaries spectators shall stay twenty yards away from all team activities. Please get the coaches or staff members' attention if you need to speak to your child or a coach.

Any Violation of the Team Rules/Expectations will result in removal from the facility and a suspension.