



2025 Sampson County Parks and Recreation Competitive Baseball/Softball Local Guidelines and Rules

NFHS Rules will be used with the exceptions listed below.

1:00 **DIVISIONS:**

Competitive Baseball: 13-15
Competitive Softball: 13-15

2:00 **FIELD SIZE:**

	Bases	Pitching Distance
Softball	60'	43'
Baseball	80'	54'

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 the entire game.

***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.

5:00 **GAME PLAY**

5:01 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 and then declared by the umpire.

5:02 Time Limit: 1 Hour 30 Minutes. (Finish the batter, a new batter must be in the batter's box before time expires.) or 6 Innings of play.

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

5:05 The start time should be announced after the coaches meeting.

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. 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.

5:12 **Baseball Pitching Rules**

A pitcher shall not throw more than 90 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.**

Baseball Pitch Count Rest Requirements:

League Age	No Rest	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days
13-15	1-30	31-50	51-75	76+

Note: There are no exceptions to the rest period pitch count thresholds



6:00 EQUIPMENT

- 6:01 The Recreation Department will provide game/practice balls, catcher equipment if necessary and game uniforms for each team.
- 6:02 Bats Rule
- Participants entering 6th, 7th, and 8th grade will be allowed to use middle school bat rules.
 - Participants entering 9th or 10th grade are REQUIRED to follow high school bat regulations.
 - Baseball High School 2"5/8 or less in diameter drop -3" bats.
 - No "Big Barrel" Bats will be allowed in play.
 - Penalty: The Illegal bat will be confiscated by the staff (released to the parent only) and the batter will be called out and face a possible suspension from the league. (Any bat in question should be approved by the staff prior to the start of the game)
- 6:03 All batters are required to wear batting helmets; faceguards are highly recommending but not mandatory (Baseball Only). Batting helmets with mask are required for softball.
- 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 4:00pm for a decision as to whether or not the game will be played:

Sampson County Parks and Recreation 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 should have a set of team rules that he/she expects the players and parents to follow. These rules should cover items such as practice schedule, attendance policy, disciplinary actions, providing refreshments, whom to call in case of rain, etc. Coaches must use discretion and good judgment if they feel it is necessary to suspend a player for violation of team policy.
- 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.