9-12yr Boys & Girls Dixie Youth Baseball

Spring 2020

The Isle of Palms Recreation Department's Youth Baseball League is designed to give the Isle of Palms youth an opportunity to play in an adult supervised youth baseball program. **The league is set up as a recreational activity, and the primary goals of the program are FUN, PARTICIPATION, SPORTSMANSHIP, and to provide each participant with POSITIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE.** We ask each coach, parent, and participant to keep this in mind on the playing field, practice field, at home, etc. Being a good loser is just as important as being a good winner.

A player or parent is requested to notify the coach when practices and games are to be missed. Consistently missing practices and games could lessen a player's playing time. Coaches can sit children out for missing consecutive practices or games during the season. Coaches must notify the Athletic Supervisor of this decision. Practices and games will be limited to no more than 3 days per week before and during the season.

The purpose of this league is to teach baseball fundamentals within a fun and safe environment. This should be the main focus of practices and games.
The playing and organizational rules of this league shall be set forth in the Dixie Youth League Rule Guide, with the following exceptions:

PREGAME RULES:

1. The home team sits on the first base bench and bats last.
2. **Coaches should exchange lineups 10 minutes prior to the game.**
3. Infield practices begins 10 minutes prior to game time. The visiting team will take infield for a maximum of 5 minutes. The home team will then have 5 minutes and remain on the field for the game.
   If infield begins later than 10 minutes prior to game time, each team will split the available time. Either both teams will take infield or neither team will take infield, unless one coach voluntarily refuses to take it.

GAME RULES:

1. A team must have a minimum of 7 players to begin a game; max 9. If an 8th or 9th player arrives during the game, that player may be added to the end of the lineup. ***Game time is forfeit time.***
2. **All players must be in the batting order for every game. Your batting order may have more than 9 players listed on it.**
3. All players must play at least 3 outs on defense during a regulation game. *Exceptions to this rule are withholding a player for disciplinary reasons, injury, or illness. The coach must notify the opposing coach prior to the game of the situation.
5. Coaches are allowed to freely substitute defensive players, other than the pitcher, throughout the game.
6. **A player that does not start a game must start in the next game.**
7. A scorekeeper will be provided by the Recreation Department. This is the official scorebook and all game changes must be given to the scorekeeper before they happen. If the participation rule is violated, that team will forfeit the game.
8. **Each game will last 5 innings or maximum of one hour and 30 minutes.** A new inning will not start 1hour and 20 minutes into the game (this is at discretion of the Rec Staff and umpires). **If the game is tied at the end of the time limit, the visiting and home team will bat one more full inning…….**So this would mean that if a new inning started 1hour and 15 minutes into the game, we would at that point make sure each team bats for 3 outs and not stop the game at the one hour and 30 minute mark.

   The championship game in the postseason tournament will last a maximum of 6 innings or one hour and 45 minutes. **The final inning of the championship game an unlimited amount of runs can be scored.**

A game does not have to be a regulation game for it to be a complete game. If both teams have completed one time at bat (all players have batted), the game is official after the time limit expires, even though only one inning has been played.

It is the umpire's responsibility to keep the game moving along. Coaches should ensure that catchers are ready to take the field as quickly as possible and that someone is available to warm up the pitcher between innings.

If, in the umpire's judgment, a coach intentionally delays the game, the umpire will warn the coach. A second offense during the same game will result in a forfeit by that team.

10. Two coaches may remain in front of their dugout when their team is on the field and in the base coaching boxes when their team is batting, and one person may remain at the dugout. **Only** the designated coaches wearing the IOP Coach uniform are allowed in the dugout during the game.
11. Rain-outs will be re-scheduled by league officials. Games that are terminated due to inclement weather will be rescheduled and resumed at the point of termination with the field set as near as possible to previous conditions when the game was stopped, i.e. batting lineup should remain the same, unless a player is absent and he or she will be skipped in the order without penalty. To be an official game 3 and 2/3rds of an inning must be completed. The rainout hotline: www.rainedout.com
12. If rain stops a game in the middle of an inning, the score reverts back to the last completed inning, unless the home team is ahead and batting.
13. If the first scheduled game is rained out, the second game is also rained out.
14. Ten Run Rule - A team ahead by 10 or more runs after the opposing team has batted at least 4 times is declared the winner, regardless of the time left.
15. On deck batters must stand behind the batter (i.e. third base side for right-handed batters).
16. A team can score a maximum of 5 runs for innings 1-4; A team can score an unlimited amount of runs for inning 5. This rule applies to the regular season and tournament games, ONLY EXCEPTION IS THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME *(unlimited amount of runs can be scored in the final inning*).

PLAYER RULES:

1. Bunting and base stealing are allowed.
2. Runners may not leave the base until the ball has crossed home plate.
3. Runners may not head first slide while advancing to a base. This is an automatic out.
4. Runners attempting to score MUST slide at home plate if a play is being made at home plate. Failure to do so constitutes an automatic out.
5. **ONLY IOP REC DEPT. *(USA Baseball Stamped of approval)* Issued bats may be used in game play. All personal bats not bearing the Property of IOP REC DEPT. will not be permitted for use.**
6. **A batter who uses an illegal bat shall be called out and all runners shall return to their previous base**
7. **NO METAL CLEATS (rubber cleats only)**
8. **Pitching Limitations:**

   The pitcher may not pitch more than six (6) innings in the calendar week between from 12:01a.m. Monday to 12:00 midnight the following Sunday.

   If a pitcher delivers one (1) pitch in an inning, that is considered 1 inning pitched.

   If an ineligible pitcher is used for a game, that game will be declared as a forfeit.

   A pitcher in the same game may start out as a pitcher, play another position, and return to the mound.
9. **Batters must have a face mask on their batting helmet.** *Player and coach will, first be warned and then a second offense called out, if repeated by same player (all players). The coach could be ejected and eventually the game discontinued in favor of the team that complies, with local policy, 1-0.*

COACHES CONDUCT:

1. Spectators are not allowed on the field during a game. Coaches are responsible for their parent's behavior during the game. Any unsportsmanlike behavior should be reported to the League Rep or to the Isle of Palms Recreation Staff.
2. Smoking, tobacco, alcohol, drugs and profanity are not allowed during games or practices. Violations will result in the coach being asked to leave the field and may result in the coach being removed as coach.
3. Any coach ejected from a game must leave the field, and will be suspended for the next game. Two ejections will result in suspension for the year.
4. Games cannot be protested, except the player participation rule. Any conflicts will be resolved by the umpire and the two head coaches at that time.

- Only designated coaches are allowed in the dugout during the game.

The following guidelines are encouraged to ensure your players have a positive baseball experience.

- Rotate your batting order to allow players to bat in a variety of slots.
- Encourage good sportsmanship before, during, and after the game. Have your players shake hands with the opposing team and give positive comments. Please contact the Recreation department with any problems or concerns. Our goal is a positive baseball experience for all of the participants.

***The Recreation Director and Athletics Supervisor has the right to change or alter any rules during the course of the year.*