

HATTIESBURG AREA DIXIE YOUTH BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1-Name

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be the Hattiesburg Area Dixie Youth Baseball, sponsored by the Hattiesburg Exchange Club and governed by the Official Rules of Dixie Youth Baseball and the By-Laws of this organization.

ARTICLE 2-Purpose

Section 1. The sole purpose of the organization is to provide a supervised baseball program for children between the league ages of 4-12.

ARTICLE 3-Membership

Section 1. Membership shall consist of the necessary number of leagues as determined by the Baseball Committee.

Section 2. Each league shall consist of 3 to 6 teams.

ARTICLE-Governance

Section 1. The HDYB Committee will select an Overall Commissioner for the program. The Overall Commissioner's term of office shall be 3 years.

Subsection 1. The Overall Commissioner will chair the HDYB Committee, and will be allowed a tie-breaking vote at a HDYB Committee meeting where a quorum is present. The HDYB Committee will consist of no more than 15 members plus the Overall Commissioner. There will be 2 exchange members on the Baseball Committee at all times. (The President of the Exchange Club will also serve as a voting committee member) A quorum shall consist of at least 2/3's of the members of the Baseball Committee.

Subsection 2. The Overall Commissioner will recommend to the HDYB Committee potential members to serve on the HDYB Committee and as League Commissioners. HDYB Committee members will serve 3 year staggered terms.

Section 2. The By-laws can be amended by a 2/3 vote of the HDYB Committee. All changes must be done by February 15 to be in effect for that upcoming baseball season. The season ends when all tournament play is over for that year.

Section 3. The Baseball Committee will meet a minimum of once per quarter. There will also be an Annual Meeting open to the parents and/or guardians of participating players with open forum discussion to be held in the month of June.

ARTICLE 5-Selection of Manager and Coaches

Section 1. Managers and coaches will be approved by the Baseball Committee annually.

Section 2. When assistant coaches are being selected with sons/daughters as option player, this approval must be obtained prior to the 1st draft for the upcoming season for ages 4-8. A coach's option will not be allowed for ages 9-12.

Section 3. The Manager shall be held responsible for the conduct of the manager, assistant coaches, and the players.

Subsection 1. Ejection from the game by a manager or a coach shall be punishable by the following standard: 1st offense-minimum of a formal letter of warning; 2nd offense-minimum of a 2 game suspension; 3rd offense-minimum of suspension for the remainder of the season.

Subsection 2. Behavioral offenses shall not be cumulative from year to year.

Section 4. A manager or coach who does not conduct himself in the true spirit of Dixie Youth Baseball could be relieved of his/her coaching responsibilities by the Baseball Committee.

ARTICLE 6-Practice Policies

Section 1. The official opening of the practice season shall be March 1. No practice or games can be held prior to this date. Managers violating this rule shall be relieved of their duties.

Section 2. There will be no private tryouts held by any team personnel. Violators will be subject to disciplinary action by the Baseball Committee.

Section 3. Teams are required to practice a minimum of 3 hours per week prior to season, weather permitting. Coaches shall adhere to league scheduled practice times and field assignments.

Section 4. Prior to the beginning of regular season games, no team shall exceed 10 hours of practice in a 1 week period. This period shall be defined as beginning on Monday and ending the following

Sunday. After the regular season begins, practice shall be limited to 6 hours per week not including games.

Subsection 1. No one practice shall exceed 3 hours. This will include any team meeting, but not include team parties. There will be a minimum of 3 hours between practices in the same day. Practice games will be considered practice.

Subsection 2. The penalty to the manager for violation of this section is as follows: 1st offense-1 game suspension; 2nd offense-suspension for the remainder of the season.

Subsection 3. These practice rules apply to the regular season only, and will be administered by the Baseball Committee.

ARTICLE 7-Fan Conduct

Section 1. Parents, relatives, and fans are expected to conduct themselves in the true spirit of Dixie Youth Baseball. Violators will be brought before the Baseball Committee, and if such conduct continues, the Baseball Committee will do whatever is necessary to prevent future occurrences, including removal of players from the program.

Section 2. Fans are expected to return all foul balls that leave the field of play to the concession stand. A reward of a soft drink will be given to the fan.

ARTICLE 8-Selection of Players

Section 1. Players will be selected by a lottery draft. Before the 1st round begins, the teams will draw for the 1st and 3rd rounds. Drafting in the 2nd and 4th rounds will be in reverse order of the 1st and 3rd rounds respectively. And so on until all rounds are complete.

Section 2. Prior to the draft the league Commissioner will appoint 3-4 people to rank the players as to suggested round of selection for the first through third rounds. At the conclusion of this draft all teams will have a roster size at least as large as that determined by the Baseball Committee. Example: Committee decides on a roster size of 13-all teams must have at least 13 players at the end of the draft. Any manager who knowingly violates this rule will be subject to disciplinary action from the Baseball Committee.

Section 3. Coaching options will only be allowed as follows:

7-8 League- 3 free picks (inclusive of son or daughter if applicable).

5-6 League- 4 free picks (inclusive of son or daughter if applicable).

9-10 League- No Options

11-12 League- No Options

- Section 4.** Players with only one year of eligibility cannot be selected until the 3rd round of the draft. (9-12 year old age groups only.)
- Section 5.** A sponsor's option will be available for the principal owner(s) of a sponsoring organization. This sponsor option will be exercised in the fourth round if not designated as an earlier round pick. Principal owner is at least 50% ownership.
- Section 6.** A sibling option will be available. When the sibling of a player already on a team tries out, the new sibling option will be exercised in the fourth round if not designated as an earlier round pick. When the siblings are in the same draft pool, the sibling drafted will be followed in the next round by the other sibling.
- Section 7.** Only certified coaches will be allowed in the room during the draft. Barring an emergency, no one will be allowed to leave the room until the draft is concluded.
- Section 8.** During the draft, a head coach with a son in the draft, can select an undrafted player of a higher rank and select his son in the following round. (9-12 year old age group only.)

ARTICLE 9-Player Trades

- Section 1.** There will be no player trades.
- Section 2.** Players will stay on the team they are on until they complete their qualified period for that team.

ARTICLE 10-Manager's Moves

- Section 1.** Managers will not be allowed to move to another team as manager within the same age group without sitting out 1 full season.
- Section 2.** Managers and coaches will be allowed to move up or down between age groups at the discretion of the Baseball Committee.
- Section 3.** Managers will not be allowed to step down to assistant coach in order to take advantage of Article 8, Section 4.

ARTICLE 11-Dropping a Player from Roster

- Section 1.** Any player that stops attending practice, or expresses a desire to quit must be immediately reported to the Overall Commissioner. If it is verified that the player has quit he will be removed from the roster. A replacement player will be provided from a pool of players that attended tryouts but were not drafted, if available. Players that failed to tryout are not eligible to be added to the roster. Managers failing to report dropouts promptly are subject to disciplinary action by the Baseball Committee.

ARTICLE 12-General Play Policies

- Section 1.** Lineup slips must be complete with batting order, player numbers and defensive positions and presented to the scorekeeper 10 minutes prior to game time. All players on the team roster must be listed on the lineup sheet. Absent or injured players are to be noted. Consecutive batting orders must be utilized in all games.

- Section 2.** Any game that ends with less than 6 innings, or 5 and 1/2 innings if the home team is leading, all players shall be required to be listed on the line up for a minimum of 3 defensive outs and must complete at least 1 time at bat. Penalty for violation to the manager is as follows:

1st offense-forfeiture of the game, and a written reprimand;
2nd offense-forfeiture of the game and a 2 game suspension;
3rd offense-forfeiture of the game and suspension for the remainder of the season. No protest by the opposing coach is necessary, and the violation shall be reported to the League Commissioner.

- Section 3.** A game shall be considered a regulation game when a team is ahead by 10 runs after 4 innings, or 3 and 1/2 innings if the home team is leading. If the game is shortened by reason of curfew, rain, or other act of God, it shall be a regulation game if 4 innings are completed, or 3 and 1/2 if the home team is leading. The Participation rule is waived when a game is shortened by curfew, rain, or other act of God.

- Section 4.** Managers and coaches may be in the dugout, on the coaches bench, in the bullpen, or behind the dugout. They cannot be in front of the dugout fence, or behind the backstop.

- Section 5.** Players must be in the dugout or bullpen. They are not allowed to be in the coaches bench area.

- Section 6.** No more than 3 certified coaches may be inside the fences at any

one time in the 9-12 age groups.

- Section 7.** No infield or outfield warm-ups will be taken before any games.
- Section 8.** There will be no batting practice on the fields prior to scheduled games. Each batting cage corresponds with the numbered field.
- Section 9.** No practice allowed on fields after they have been lined off.
- Section 10.** Teams are to leave the field promptly at the end of their scheduled practice time or game.
- Section 11.** Managers and coaches are prohibited from coaching in any other League or organization, other than a church league, unless reviewed and approved by the HBYB baseball committee, as long as their Dixie Youth League is still in regular or post season play. Penalty for violation is removal from Dixie Youth team roster.
- Section 12.** The HDYB committee shall determine maximum allowable regular uniform cost. Regular uniforms will be defined as game jersey, game pants, and socks. The HDYB committee shall sponsor colors and logo's as well as team hats.

ARTICLE 13-Tie Breaker

- Section 1.** Should the regular season end in a tie for a league title with 2 or more teams with identical records, the following procedure will be used: 1) head to head won-lost record between tied teams; 2) winning percentage inside league; 3) flip of coin
- Section 2.** Should the regular season end in a tie for the playoff spots with 2 or more teams with identical records, the following procedure will be used: 1) head to head winning percentage between the tied teams. (Note that a 3-1 record is better than a 2-1 record.); 2) won-lost record against league(s) not involved in the tie; 3) won-lost record against league champions; 4) flip of coin.

ARTICLE 14-Time Limit of Games

- Section 1.** All games will be 1 hour 30 minutes or 6 innings, whichever comes 1st.
- Section 2.** The scorekeeper will keep the official time and will notify the umpire when time has expired.
- Section 3.** Time will begin when the leadoff batter takes his position in the batter's box.

ARTICLE 15-Protests

- Section 1.** All protests shall be ruled upon immediately by the Overall Commissioner, or in his absence, his designee.
- Section 2.** An appeal of the ruling by the Overall Commissioner, or his applicable designee, can be filed in writing within the time period specified in the official rule guide of Dixie Youth Baseball with the Baseball Commissioner.

ARTICLE 16-Sportsmanship

- Section 1.** No manager, coach, player, or spectator may engage in arguments, abusive language, or harassment of umpires, or exhibit any behavior not consistent with the purpose of Dixie Youth Baseball. The Baseball Committee may discipline anyone violating this policy. Spectators violating this rule may be removed from the premises. Coaches and players will be disciplined as stated in Articles 5 and 7.

ARTICLE 17-All Stars/ Tournament Teams

- Section 1.** All Stars/Tournament teams will be selected by the following procedure:
- 1) The manager of each team will be given a ballot with 14 blank lines;
 - 2) Each manager will write the names of the 12 players that he feels are most deserving of all-star consideration;
 - 3) The ballots are then turned in to the Overall Commissioner, or his designee;
 - 4) The Commissioner, or his designee, being a disinterested 3rd party, will tabulate the ballots;
 - 5) The head coach of the all star team will be asked to break any ties that exist for a place on the team;
 - 6) The alternate will be the player from the oldest eligible age group with the most votes not making the team;
 - 7) Each team in the league must be represented on the 12 man roster (exceptions by approval of the Overall Commissioner and the League Commissioner);
 - 8) Players cannot be removed from the all star roster without the approval of the Overall Commissioner;
 - 9) Only the 12 man roster, not the alternate, will be announced.
- Section 2.** The manager of the league championship team shall manage the all star or tournament team, as he so chooses. If he is not able to manage the team, the manager of the 2nd place team

will become the manager, and so on until an all star/tournament manager is found.

Section 3. The manager and all coaches must be on the regular season roster of a team in the league.

Section 4. Host teams will be determined by a single elimination playoff. The teams will draw to establish pairings.

ARTICLE 18-City Tournament

Section 1. The City Tournament will be a double elimination tournament.

Section 2. The teams will be seeded according to their records with the top seeded team playing the last seeded team and so on.

Section 3. Tournament rules will apply.

ARTICLE 19-Major League Rules

Section 1. Whenever any rule or situation is not covered by the Official Dixie Youth Rulebook or these bylaws, the Official Major League Rulebook will apply. Anything not covered by the above will be handled by the Baseball Committee.

These bylaws include all amendments and changes to the Hattiesburg Area Dixie Youth constitution and bylaws as of **February 12, 2009**, and approved by the Overall Commissioner and the Hattiesburg Dixie Youth Baseball Committee.

Overall Commissioner: Larry Doleac
Exchange Club President Rod Little
Baseball Committee: