



Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc. 2017 Adopted Policy & Rule Changes August 9, 2016

The following policy and rules changes were adopted by the Board of Directors of Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc. at its annual meeting held August 6-9, 2016 in Laurel, Mississippi. Please distribute these adopted changes to all league officials. As a democratic organization, Dixie Youth Baseball provides officials from each franchised league the opportunity to express their views and opinions through elected representatives. State Directors and National Directors, who serve on the National Board, actively seek each league's input and advice to help them vote the convictions of the leagues they represent.

ADOPTED RULE CHANGES

1.10 – 2 1/4” Barrel Bats - Page 29 - Bold the following preamble to 1.10 and add note to 1.10(a)(1) as follows:

1.10–APPROVED BATS

Effective January 1, 2018, all 2 5/8” bats and 2 1/4” bats must meet new performance standards established by USA Baseball, the national governing body of amateur baseball in the United States. The new bats will be available for purchase in September 2017. All BPF 1.15 bats will not be approved for DYB tournament play beginning in 2018.

2 1/4” Barrel Bats

1.10(a) All 2 1/4” bats will meet the following specifications:

- (1) 2 1/4” wood bats are approved for play in all age divisions.
- (2) **2 1/4” barrel non-wood bats which are manufactured to achieve a Bat Performance Factor (BPF) of 1.15 or less through the life of the bat are approved for play in “Dixie Youth Baseball®”.** Non-wood bats include aluminum/metal alloy bats and bats made with composite materials.
- (3) All 2 1/4” composite and alloy/aluminum barrel bats manufactured by a licensed bat company which are clearly marked **“Approved for Play in Dixie Youth Baseball®”** and stamped **“BPF1.15”** will be legal for league and tournament play if it has manufacture date stamp of 2011 or later and is listed on an approved bat listing on the DYB website at www.dixie.org/dyb.

NOTE: Effective January 1, 2018, all 2 1/4” bats must meet new performance standards established by USA Baseball, the national governing body of amateur baseball in the United States. The new bats will be available for purchase in September 2017. All BPF 1.15 bats will not be approved for DYB tournament play beginning in 2018.

1.10(b)– 2 5/8” Barrel Bats - Page 30 - Bold the Note at the end of paragraph (b).

Subject to restrictions by local league or state organizations, 2 5/8” barrel bats are legal in all divisions of Dixie Youth Baseball if they have a BPF 1.15 stamp on the bat. Note: If a 2 5/8” barrel bat is a -3, the BBCOR certification must be stamped on the bat. Local League Option: Local leagues may restrict the use of 2 5/8” bats in any age division in local league play. State Organization Option: State organizations may restrict the use of 2 5/8” bats in any age division in district and state tournament play.

NOTE: Effective January 1, 2018, all 2 5/8” bats must meet new performance standards established by USA Baseball, the national governing body of amateur baseball in the United States. The new bats will be available for purchase in September 2017. All BPF 1.15 bats will not be approved for DYB tournament play beginning in 2018.

Rule 1.17(a) - Page 32 - Change paragraph 1.17(a) to read:

1.17–(a) Each catcher must wear a catcher's helmet which meets the following requirements: The catcher's helmet shall be made of Ultra High Impact Plastic or High Impact Plastic shell with a heavy rubber padding or similar material. The helmet must be of such construction so as to either be a part of the catcher's mask or to firmly attach to the mask. **The catcher's mask and helmet must cover the top of the head, temple and ears. (Catchers may not wear skull caps.)** The hockey- style catcher's mask, if manufactured to meet the above requirements, is approved. All catcher's masks (excluding the hockey-style masks) must have a hard plastic throat protector as specified in paragraph 1 .17(d) attached to the mask at all times.

Intentional Base on Ball Rule Provisions

Rule 2.00 Definitions – Page 37 - Add new definition for Intentional Base on Balls to read:

2.00 An **Intentional Base on Balls** may be given by the defensive team by having its catcher or coach request the umpire to award the batter first base. The request may be made before pitching to the batter or on any ball and strike count. The ball shall be declared dead before making the award.

Rule 4.03(a) Intentional Base on Balls – Page 46 - Change paragraph 4.03(a) to read:

4.03 When the ball is put in play at the start of a game or during a game, all fielders other than the catcher shall be in fair territory.

- (a) The catcher shall be stationed directly back of the plate in the catcher's box. The catcher may leave that position at any time to catch a pitch or make a play except when the batter is being given an intentional base on balls, the catcher must stand with both feet within the lines of the catcher's box until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
PENALTY: "O"Zone Penalty: Balk (No Pitch).

Rule 4.10 (a)(8) - Page 48 – Add the following to paragraph 4.10(8) to read:

No new inning may begin once the time limit has been reached. An inning ends the moment the third out is made. Therefore, the next inning begins at the same time. If the time limit expires with an inning in progress when time expires, the inning should be completed or the half inning if the home team is ahead.

Rule 6.08(b) Intentional Base on Balls – Page 56 - Add new paragraph 6.08(b) to read: (Renumber remaining paragraphs) –

6.08(b) An Intentional Base on Balls is requested by the defensive team (Dead Ball);

Rule 8.07 – Page 69-70 - Replace paragraph 8.07 in its entirety to read:

8.07–**PITCHING Limitations (Regular Season Only)**—These pitching restrictions apply only to regular season play.

Pitch Counts

Rule 8.07 is replaced in its entirety for tournament play only by a completely new set of tournament pitching requirements (See Tournament Rules Section VII). Protecting youth pitchers arms is extremely important and the following pitching restrictions are designed to minimize or prevent serious arm injuries to youth players.

All players on a regular season team may pitch in any game during the regular season subject to the following limitations:

Pitch Count Limitations

- (1) A **League Age 9 or 10** 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.
- (2) A **League Age 11 or 12** 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.
- (3) All pitchers in local league play must adhere to the following pitch count rest requirements:

| <u>League Age</u> | <u>No Rest</u> | <u>1 Day</u> | <u>2 Days</u> | <u>3 Days</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 09 -12 | 1-30 | 31-45 | 46-65 | 66+ |

Innings Limitations

- (4) A pitcher shall not pitch more than **six innings in the calendar week** between from 12:01 a.m. Monday to 12:00 midnight the following Sunday. For the purposes of satisfying any portion of Rule 8.07(a), the pitching of one (1) pitch shall be counted as the pitching of one inning.
- (5) The pitcher shall be charged only for the innings pitched. If a pitcher does not have to pitch the bottom half of an inning he is NOT charged for that inning. No innings pitched shall be charged to the pitchers that are listed in the batting order of both teams handed to the official scorer in games forfeited before actual play begins.
- (6) A pitcher removed from the mound for any reason shall not return to the mound to pitch during the same game.
Exception: A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of the game. Any player who has played the position of catcher in four or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch in that game.

- (7) Local leagues that play regular season teams in a double elimination tournament bracket to decide a league championship or for a regular season local league tournament must use Tournament Pitching Rules in Tournament Rule VII.

Official Pitch Count Record

- (8) The local league must designate the scorekeeper or another game official as the official pitch count statistician for each game. The pitch count statistician shall record all pitches including strikes, balls, foul tips and any pitches delivered to the catcher ruled a "no pitch" by the umpire. **The official pitch count statistician's pitch count is the official pitch count and cannot be protested.**
- (9) The pitch count statistician must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire. However, the manager has the ultimate responsibility for knowing his pitcher's pitch count at all times and when his/her pitcher must be removed to meet the rest requirements above.
- (10) The official pitch count statistician shall inform the umpire-in-chief when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted above. The umpire-in-chief will inform the pitcher's manager that the pitcher must be removed after the current batter reaches base safely or is put out. However, the failure by the pitch count statistician to notify the umpire-in-chief, and/or the failure of the umpire-in-chief to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.
- (11) **Protests of an Illegal Pitcher and Penalty shall be handled pursuant to Rule 3.03(c).** **Note:** If the pitcher reached his pitch count daily maximum on a previous batter, the pitcher must be removed immediately upon discovery.

Regulation III. Teams - Page 80 - Change Regulation III(B) in its entirety to read:

(B) League age is that age attained by a player prior to:

- **May 1 of the current baseball season for all players league age 6 through league age 12.**
- **September 1 of the current baseball season for all players league age 5 and under.**

League Age Transition At the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of Dixie Youth Baseball (the "DYB Board") voted to move the player age determination date from May 1 to September 1 and to implement the change so as to not affect 2017 players of league age 6-12 through the 2023 season. Therefore, the current May 1 cutoff date will not change for league age 6 through 12 players born between May 1, 2004 and May 1, 2010 for the 2017 season through the 2023 season. In 2017, League Age 5 and Under players will use the September 1 age determination date and each year thereafter.

Why the change? Dixie Youth has received a large number of requests from parents who indicated their players wanted to play with their classmates. Dixie Youth also received complaints about 13 year olds playing in a 12 and under program. The new September 1 cutoff date when fully transitioned will allow the great majority of players to play with their classmates and all players will be chronologically age 12 and under throughout the regular season and tournament play. A complete listing of all Age Charts for the 2017 through 2023 seasons are available to view on the Dixie Youth website at youth.dixie.org.

Tournament Rule IV(D)(2) – Page 90 – Change paragraph to read:

(D) (2) No player shall participate on more than one of a League's Dixie Youth sanctioned tournament teams at the same time. Under no circumstances can a player be listed on the original tournament roster affidavit of more than one of a League's Dixie Youth tournament teams during the same year. Exception: Players who are rostered under a specific league franchise number who participate on non-sanctioned rosters or the rosters of second sanctioned teams within a playing division may be used as replacement players with the approval of the state director if their original tournament team has been eliminated from competition.

Tournament Rule VII Pitching Restrictions Page 93-94 – Replace Tournament Rule VII in its entirety with the following to read:

Tournament Rule VII - **PITCHING Restrictions/Limitations (Tournament Only)**—These tournament pitching rules completely replace the pitching restrictions and limitations used in regular season play. Protecting youth pitchers arms is extremely important and the following pitching restrictions and mandatory pitcher rest requirements are designed to minimize or prevent serious arm injuries to youth players.

Pitcher Substitutions/Restrictions

- (A) All players on the tournament team roster may pitch in any tournament (bracket or pool play) game.
- (B) All pitchers shall be eligible at the beginning of each level of tournament play provided they have had the required number of hours of rest as noted below since their last tournament game in the previous tournament.
- (C) Pitchers shall be governed by the substitution provisions of Rule 3.03(c), Rule 3.05(a) & (b) and Rule 3.08(1) during tournament play. A pitcher may not return to the mound as a pitcher during the same game. **EXCEPTION:** A pitcher who is replaced in the batting order by a substitute runner or substitute batter may return to the mound to pitch provided no other pitcher on the same team has thrown a pitch and all other requirements of the substitution rules are enforced.

- (D) A pitcher removed from the game or line-up for a substitute may remain in the game in another defensive position provided all other provisions of the substitution rules.. **Exception:** A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of the game. Any player who has played the position of catcher in four or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch in that game.
- (E) A player who is brought in to pitch from another position without benefit of sideline warmup shall be permitted ten (10) warmup pitches or two (2) minutes.
- (F) Any player warming up a pitcher on the mound, in a bullpen, or elsewhere shall wear a catcher’s mask with helmet and throat protector even if the mask has a manufactured extension at the bottom of the mask. **A batting helmet cannot be used to warm up a pitcher.**

Pitch Count Limitations

- (G) There are no limitations on the number of innings a pitcher may pitch in a tournament (bracket or pool play) game subject to the following pitch count limitations:
 - (1) A **League Age 10 and under** pitcher shall not throw more than 75 pitches in the same game or on the same day. Exception: If the pitcher reaches the maximum pitch count limit while facing a batter, he may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely or is put out.
 - (2) A **League Age 11 or 12** pitcher shall not throw more than 85 pitches in the same game or on the same day. Exception: If the pitcher reaches the maximum pitch count limit while facing a batter, he may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely or is put out.
 - (3) All pitchers must adhere to the following pitch count rest requirements before pitching in another tournament game:

Tournament Pitching Rest Requirements

| <u>No Rest</u> | <u>36 Hours</u> | <u>48 Hours</u> |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1-40 | 41-65 | 66+ |

- (4) In a game suspended by darkness, weather, or other causes and resumed the following calendar day, the pitcher of record at the time the game was halted may continue to the extent of his/her eligibility, provided he/she delivered 40 or less pitches.
- (5) These pitch count limitations will also apply to all games played to determine a district, state or World Series tournament host team or to determine any runner-up teams advancing to the next level of tournament play.
- (6) A pitcher shall be allowed to pitch in two or more games on the same day provided he/she does not throw more than 40 pitches in any one game nor more 75 pitches (League Age 10 and Under) or 85 pitches (League Age 11 or 12).

Official Pitch Count Record

- (H) The Tournament Director must designate the scorekeeper or another game official as the official pitch count statistician for each game. The pitch count statistician shall record all pitches including strikes, balls, foul tips and any pitches delivered to the catcher ruled a “no pitch” by the umpire. **The official pitch count statistician’s pitch count is the official pitch count and cannot be protested.**
- (I) The pitch count statistician must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire. However, the manager has the ultimate responsibility for knowing his pitcher’s pitch count at all times and when his/her pitcher must be removed to meet the rest requirements above.
- (J) The official pitch count statistician shall inform the umpire-in-chief when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted above. The umpire-in-chief will inform the pitcher’s manager that the pitcher must be removed after the current batter reaches base safely or is put out. However, the failure by the pitch count statistician to notify the umpire-in-chief, and/or the failure of the umpire-in- chief to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.
- (K) **Protests of an Illegal Pitcher and Penalty shall be handled pursuant to Tournament Rule XII(G). Note:** If the pitcher reached his pitch count daily maximum on a previous batter, the pitcher must be removed immediately upon discovery.

Tournament Rule I (C)(5) – Page 86 – Change paragraph (C)(5) to read:

- (5) If three teams remain with one loss and all have played the same number of games in double elimination brackets approved by the Commissioner, there will be two runners-up in the tournament. Any tied teams with the same won-loss record after completion of a double elimination bracket must play a one game playoff to determine which team advances where more than one team advances to the next level of tournament play. **Tie-breaker rules cannot be used in double elimination tournaments.**

Tournament Rule XV (H) (1) – Page 106 – Change paragraph (I)(1) to read:

(H) Equipment

- (1) Catchers must wear full catcher protective equipment. The catcher may use a fielder’s glove or catcher’s mitt. The catcher must be in the squatting position behind home plate in a direct line with the pitcher and home plate when the ball is pitched.