

Addendum 6

NOTTOWAY DIXIE YOUTH Softball LEAGUE RULES OF OPERATION

Adopted January 2021

Ratified [DATE] by the NYRA board

Revised 3/2/2025

(Note: They or them indicates both male and female gender)

- I. The league shall be known as the Nottoway Dixie Youth Softball League.
- II. There shall be no local league rules or bylaws in conflict with the intent, aims, purposes and rules of the national Dixie Youth Softball Organization or the Nottoway Youth Recreation Association. All bylaws shall be reviewed by the Softball committee annually and approved by the NYRA Board of Directors.
- III. Property and business of the league shall be managed by the Nottoway Youth Recreation Association Board of Directors. The Softball Committee shall be responsible for the day-to-day and seasonal aspects, also known as operations of the Softball Program. The Committee shall be comprised of the Commissioner(s), who are elected by the membership of the Board of Directors, and other members appointed by the Commissioner(s) if participation makes it feasible, not more than two (2) members shall be active coaches in the program that the Committee Directs. However, coaches from other programs shall be eligible if they have a child playing in one of these programs. Additionally, the Softball Commissioner(s) maintains all authority over decisions related to the Softball program with oversight authority (appeal) reserved for the Board of Directors.
 - *NOTE: If the Commissioner(s) is coaching-a designee will be selected to handle the duties in lieu of the commissioner until game is over.
- IV. League Officers shall consist of the Commissioner(s) appointed by the membership of the Board of Directors, and Player Agent. The Commissioner(s) shall be given authority by the Board of Directors to conduct all business necessary to the operation of the Softball Program. The Commissioner(s) shall appoint all other League Officers. Their respective duties shall be as follows:
 - A. The Softball Committee:
 1. Primary responsibility is to oversee the Dixie Youth League Softball Program.
 2. Responsible for Budget decisions relating to the softball program. All decisions relating to expenditures for the softball program are reserved for the Committee in accordance with any NYRA purchasing policy and/or vendor agreements. The Treasure of the Board of Directors will handle the accounting for the Softball Program.
 3. Approve the list of proposed team managers provided by the Commissioner(s) at the beginning of each season.

4. Approve the Bylaws and any local league rules brought forth for discussion by the Commissioner(s).

B. Commissioner(s):

1. Primary responsibility is to direct the Dixie Youth League Program. The Commissioner(s) shall encourage all officials, managers, coaches, players and fans to exhibit good sportsmanship and to help build a program that will result in obedient, patriotic and God-fearing children.
2. Shall preside over all meetings of the Softball Committee.
3. Shall ensure that all Dixie Youth League and NYRA rules and regulations are followed.
4. Acts as ultimate arbitrator in any dispute or protest concerning rules and regulations.
5. Shall conduct one or more meetings prior to the start of league play to review bylaws, coaching techniques, rules and regulations with managers and coaches.
6. Shall represent the local league at District and State meetings as well as other functions relating to Dixie Youth Softball®, Inc.
7. Shall prepare the yearly Softball game schedule in coordination with the softball program.
8. Shall appoint all other personnel to assure proper operation of a successful league such as umpires, scorekeepers, etc.
9. Shall submit a list of team managers to the Softball Committee for approval prior to the start of league play.
10. Shall approve all coaches selected by team managers.
11. Shall submit the names of all managers, coaches and regular season umpires to the Board of Directors for a background check and approval.
12. The Commissioner(s), or his/her designated representative, shall be present at all regular season league games.
13. Shall be present at all NYRA stated or called meetings.

C. Vice-Commissioner:

1. Shall assist the Commissioner(s) in the discharge of his/her duties and in the absence of the Commissioner shall assume the duties of the Commissioner.
2. In the absence of the Commissioner, shall be present at all NYRA stated or called meetings.

3. Responsible for assisting the Commissioner in upholding the rules established by Dixie Youth Softball®, Inc. and all local league rules established for the respective season.
4. Responsible for assisting the Commissioner in investigating the reasons for dropping a player by a team manager or the resignation of a player from a team roster.

D. Player Agent:

1. Shall see that all teams have equal opportunity in the selection of players.
2. Shall ensure that parity exists between teams in each age group.
3. Shall oversee and manage the All-Star selection process.

V. Player Selections:

A. The term “option player” shall be applied to any candidate whose sister is already a player in the league, whose parent is already a team manager, or whose parent is officially designated assistant manager for not fewer than two (2) years. Anyone becoming a manager shall automatically have his or her child as an option even though that child may be on another team within the same league. Sisters may or may not be placed on the same team at the request of the parents or guardian.

B. All age divisions will have all players placed in a player pool and teams will be repicked each season. All players will be rated by managers and the Commissioner(s) based on their skill levels. This rating process will be overseen by the player agent.

C. Player selections

A. All managers will draw numbers from a hat to determine selection order. Once the order is established based on these criteria, then the order shall remain consistent until all the players have been selected. **Option players must be taken at their corresponding level.**

1. All Players shall be rated “A” to “D” using the following criteria:
 - a. A-Level player – Made All-Stars previous year in the same age group.
 - b. B-Level player – Played last year in this age group and above average player or made All-Stars previous year in lower age group.
 - c. C-Level player – Played last year, average to less-than-average player.
 - d. D-Level player – Did not play in previous year, so unknown talent level for new player.

2. The Player Agent will oversee the player selection process

- V. Sportsmanship and Discipline:
- A. Coaches shall conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner with emphasis on fairness, sportsmanship, and teaching Softball fundamentals. Unsportsmanlike behavior is any behavior that distracts from the game and/or draws negative attention to the coach and/or NYRA. Coaches, at all times, shall refrain from being overly negative toward any player, spectator, another coach or official.
 - B. Any coach ejected from a game shall be suspended for two (2) additional games and shall not take part in any team functions during the suspension. Any coach ejected from two (2) games during a season shall be suspended for the remainder of the season, with the strong possibility of removal from coaching permanently pending review by the NYRA Board of Directors.
 - C. Any player ejected from a game shall be suspended for one (1) additional game. Players shall be required to attend practice and scheduled games; however, said player may not participate in drills before, during or after a game. Failure to abide by this rule will result in continued suspension from league participation. Any player who is ejected from two (2) games during a season shall be suspended for the remainder of the season.
 - D. Reports of unsportsmanlike conduct or bad conduct by anyone associated with the Softball league (coach, official, player, parent, etc.) at any time in the immediate vicinity of the ballpark, to include parking lot and practice fields, shall be investigated by the Commissioner and/or Softball Committee by talking to all concerned. If it is deemed the incident occurred, the commissioner will document the incident, to include the date, time and a description of the issue, and notify the Softball Committee. The Softball Committee can consider anything from a warning to disciplinary action, and if serious enough, may notify the Board of Directors for further disciplinary actions.
- VI. If a player resigns from a team without a valid reason as determined by the League, he / she shall be ineligible for participation in Dixie Youth League for the remainder of the season. The following season, the resigning player will play for the same team or must move to the next league if selected. The parents of the resigning player shall be made aware of this bylaw by the Commissioner.
- VII. The maximum number of players/people allowed in a dugout during the playing of a regularly scheduled game shall be fifteen (15) players and three (3) coaches (4 coaches in the darlings).
- VIII. The playing season shall consist of at least 15 but no more than 25 scheduled games for the Sweeties, Darlings, Angels, and Ponytails leagues. Each team must play a total of fifteen (15) games (Sweeties, Darlings, Angels, Ponytails). For the Belles and Debs leagues, the playing season will consist of 12 but not more than 25 scheduled games. Each team must play a total of twelve (12) games (Belles and Debs). The team that concludes the season with the best record shall be champion. In the event of a tie at season's end, a single game playoff shall determine the champion. The Commissioner(s) shall determine the game date as not to place any team at a disadvantage. If three (3) teams are tied, a bye will be drawn.

- IX. Only league issued uniforms (team hats, socks, and team shirts) shall be worn by players. Players shall wear white, black or gray Softball pants (purchased by parents).
- X. At the start of all League games, all available players on each Team's Rosters will be listed in the starting offensive batting lineup and bat in this order. If a player is injured, he may return to the lineup. If a player is removed no out is recorded – the next batter bats.
- XI. Player Substitution Pool – Rules and Regulations:
- A. A team may play with 9 players (no less). Players may be borrowed from league teams in the age group or the age group directly below the league age playing. Any player borrowed from the same league must be approved by both coaches. Borrowed players are allowed to play in the pitcher or catcher positions upon Commissioner(s) approval if deemed necessary (unless there is a safety concern) regardless of age division the player is borrowed from.
 - B. All regular players of the team must start the game. The only time a player pool substitute shall start a game is if the team has less than nine (9) regular players present at game time.
 - C. All players present for the game (regular or borrowed), shall be listed in the batting lineup and play 6 outs in the field.
 - D. The use of borrowed players does not affect a player's eligibility for Dixie Youth Softball tournament competition. (Refer to Official Rules & Regulations, Tournament Rules, Section IV).
- XII. A team failing to field at least nine (9) players within fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled game time shall forfeit the game. If a player is injured and removed from the game, a team can play with (7) players (no less).
- XIII. Local League Rules
- 1. Practice times and dates will be determined by the Commissioner(s).
 - 2. Teams may start and end with 9 players.
 - 3. Teams may use players from another team if they do not have 9 players.
 - 4. When games are canceled or called off due to weather the Commissioner(s) will try to make the games up by the end of the season. If there have been enough games played in the schedule these games may not be made up.
 - 5. Coaches are responsible to keep up with innings pitched per pitcher per game per week.
 - 6. Managers should get scorebooks signed by umpires after each game.
- Darlings:
- 1. Regulation Games will be completed when both teams have completed 5 innings of play or the time has reached 1 hour and 15 minute time frame has been reached unless there is a double header in which each game will consist of 4 innings of play or 1 hour time frame.
 - 2. The tenth consecutive batter shall be the last batter. If the game reaches this point the batter shall run until an out is received or the catcher of the opposing team tags home plate.

3. Each batter will be allowed 5 pitches to be thrown to her. If she swings at 3 and misses it will be considered a "strike out".
4. If a team scores 10 runs after 3 innings ahead of the opposing team the game may be called.
5. A pitcher shall not pitch more than 9 innings between Monday and the following Sunday night except in a tie game at the end of 5 innings. (See Dixie rule book for further explanation).

Angels:

1. Regulation Games will be completed when both teams have completed 5 innings of play or the time has reached 1 hour and 30 minute time frame has been reached unless there is a doubleheader in which each game will consist of 4 innings of play or 1 hour 15 minute time limit for each game.
2. The tenth consecutive batter shall be the last batter.
3. If a team scores 10 runs after 3 innings ahead of the opposing team the game may be called.
4. A pitcher shall not pitch more than 9 innings between Monday and the following Sunday night except in a tie game at the end of 5 innings. (See Dixie rule book for further explanation).
5. Beginning with the 2023 season, the ten (10) batter rule will apply in Dixie Softball tournament play

Ponytails:

1. Regulation Games will be completed when both teams have completed 6 innings of play or the time has reached 1 hour and 45 minute time frame has been reached unless there is a double header in which each game will consist of 4 innings of play or 1 hour and 30 minutes per game.
2. If a team scores 10 runs after 3 innings ahead of the opposing team the game may be called.
3. A pitcher shall not pitch more than 9 innings between Monday and the following Sunday night except in a time game at the end of 6 innings the starting pitcher may pitch the 7th inning. (See Dixie rule book for further explanation).

Belles/Debs:

1. Regulation Games will be completed when both teams have completed 6 innings of play or the time has reached 1 hour and 45 minute time frame has been reached unless there is a double header in which each game will consist of 5 innings of play or 1 hour and 30 minutes per game.
2. If a team scores 10 runs after 3 innings ahead of the opposing team the game may be called.
3. A pitcher shall not pitch more than 10 innings between Monday and the following Sunday night except in a time game at the end of 6 innings the starting pitcher may pitch the 7th inning. (See Dixie rule book for further explanation).

****NOTE:** In the case of double headers time limits have been set with a minimum inning level set in each league as worded in the sections for each league above.

XIV. If due to inclement weather the game is called after three (3) innings, or two and one-half (2 ½) innings provided the home team is ahead, it shall be a complete game. If the game is called before the preceding requirements it shall be continued from the exact point from which it is suspended

XV. All league players must play six (6) outs on defense provided the game goes six (6) complete innings. The Dixie Youth Softball Participation Rule applies in all other games. The penalty for not complying with the stated rule will be forfeiture of the game.

XVI. In case of a player's sickness, injury or disciplinary action, the press box and opposing manager shall be notified prior to the beginning of the games. Extenuating circumstances during the game will be handled by the Commissioner.

XVII. LOCAL LEAGUE OPTION:

A. The Dixie Softball Inc. Rulebook allows for the local league options to include a Coach-pitch rule for the Angels age division. For 2025, the Softball Committee has approved the following option as written in the Dixie Softball Official Rule Guide:

1. Option 1: After four (4) batters have walked in an inning, the offensive team's manager or coach comes in to pitch for the rest of the inning. Present coach-pitch rules that appear in the DIXIE DARLINGS SPECIFIC PLAYING RULES will apply to satisfy this rule.

NOTE: A hit batter does count as a walk

NOTE:A pitcher removed from the mound under this rule may return to the mound in the next inning and may continue to pitch until such time her coach removes her for circumstances other than what is covered in this rule.

2. If the Local League Option is in effect, it will only be used for the 1st half of the regular season games.

OR

3. NOTE 3: (LOCAL LEAGUE OPTION) A team completes its offensive half of an inning when all members of the team have batted. If one (1) team has more players than the other, the extra players are permitted to bat although any runs scored because of the extra players batting shall NOT count in the score of the game. The number of players counting for score is the minimum number of players present or ten (10), whichever is more at game time. All rules applying to the tenth (10th) batter shall apply to the tenth (10th) batter or to the minimum number of batters. Each team shall be required to play ten (10) players or the minimum number, whichever is greater, two (2) complete consecutive innings (six [6] outs on defense).

XVIII. **Player Expectations**

1. Players are only allowed to miss 50 percent of the scheduled practices throughout the season (a doctor's note, family issues, etc. will be excused). Missing more practices may result in less playing time.
2. Players will be responsible for all of their personal and issued equipment needed for games and practices.
3. Players will take all instruction from the coaches at practice and during games. If attitudes or behaviors result in negative actions-the coaches may ask the players to set out a game or leave practice.
4. Players will respect the opposing team, coaches, umpires and fans.

XIX. **Parent Expectations**

1. I will be a role model for my child regarding good sportsmanship, team and self-worth.
2. I will provide encouragement and support for my child and all players on the team.
3. I will respect the opposing team, coaches, umpires and fans.
4. I understand that winning is important to the team but the primary objective is promoting an environment of growth and learning.
5. I will support the coach's message.
6. I will help my child embrace her role, no matter what it is.
7. I will help nurture a positive environment on and off of the field.
8. I will refrain from public complaints about coaching and other players with parents. If I have a concern, I will schedule a time with the coach to calmly and constructively discuss lineup and playing time concerns rather than immediately before or after a practice game.

XX. **All-Star Selection Process**

- A. All-Star teams shall be formed on the basis of selecting the 12 best players in each age division without regard to the amount of players from each team. Attitudes may be taken into consideration in the selection process. For example, if a kid is one of the 12 best players in the age division, but rarely comes to practice, shows unsportsmanlike conduct, and/or is not a good team player, another skilled player who has a better attitude may be chosen over him / her. For a player to qualify for All-Stars they must have played a minimum of 9 games in their age division.
- B. Each manager of a team shall submit a list of ten (10) ball players of their choice at an All-Star selection meeting.
- C. The ten (10) players receiving the most votes shall be automatic to the All-Star team.
- D. The two (2) remaining players shall be selected by the All-Star manager and his / her two (2) assistant coaches.

- XXI. All Star Manager Nominations: Any regular season Manager and Head Coach who meets eligibility requirements may apply for All Star Manager and will be subject to approval by the Softball Committee. All interested candidates must submit a written request to the Commissioner(s) prior to 12:00 pm on May 24 to

be placed on the ballot. Prior to voting, each Manager will be given the opportunity to explain his/her qualifications and to field questions if needed.

All Star Coaches Nominations: Any regular season Coach who meets eligibility requirements may apply for All Star Coach and will be subject to approval by the Softball Committee. All interested candidates must submit a written request to the Commissioner(s) prior to 12:00 pm on May 24 to be placed on the ballot. Prior to voting, each Coach will be given the opportunity to explain his/her qualifications and to field questions if needed.

All Star Manager/Coaches Selection: The Commissioner(s) will distribute ballots to the Softball Committee. Any voting member not able to attend may request from the Commissioner(s) a ballot form. The completed ballot must be clearly marked with his/her name in a sealed envelope or via email and submitted to the Commissioner(s) prior to the All Star Manager/Coaches Selection meeting. Player Agent and Commissioner(s) will tally ballots, announce results and direct tie breakers, as necessary. In the event of a tie, the voting member in attendance will re-vote on the tied applicants.

- XXII. World Series -coaches and players will be given Virginia uniforms for play. The uniforms will consist of two shirts, pants, socks, and a belt. There will be fundraising efforts to support gatorade/water for the dugouts, gate fees for parents, motel rooms (if out of state), and travel expense allotment will be given to parents (if out of state). Additional funds raised will be used for the purchase of a gift for the players and coaches for participating in this event.
- XXIII. All previous year's managers desiring to continue managing shall have their names submitted to the Nottoway Youth Recreation Association Board of Directors for approval. The Commissioner(s) shall express his / her views regarding each manager. In the event that a manager does not wish to assume his / her position, then his assistant shall be given a "courtesy call" to see if he / she is interested in the manager's position if the Commissioner(s) feels that the assistant is qualified.
- XXIV. Any problems rising with the Dixie Softball Youth League Program shall be handled as follows:
 - A. Player or parent with a problem shall notify the team manager; if not resolved, then the matter shall be brought before the Commissioner(s) and the Softball Committee; if not resolved satisfactorily by the Commissioner(s) and the Softball Committee, then the Nottoway Youth Recreation Association Board of Directors shall act on the matter in the best interest of the party or parties involved.
- XXV. Sunday games and practices, if necessary, may not begin before 2:00 P. M.
- XXVI. No exception to these Bylaws shall be made without the approval of the Nottoway Youth League Softball Committee.