

3:00—GAME PRELIMINARIES

3.01-Before the game begins the umpires shall:

(a) Receive from the league a supply of baseballs which meet Dixie specifications and standards; The umpire shall be the sole judge of the fitness of the balls to be used in the game;

(b) Be assured by the league that additional balls are immediately available for use if required;

3:03-Any player that is not in the line-up can be used as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher at any time. Note: Rule applies for all levels of play Boys and Majors.

3:03(b)-Free substitutions shall be allowed as defined herein: Any of the nine starting players may be withdrawn from the game by being replaced by legal substitutes and then reenter the game one time only. However, he must be inserted in the same place in the batting order that he occupied at the start of the game. Once a substitute has been removed from the game, he cannot return to the game. In the event a manager has used all of his eligible players and a player is injured, becomes ill and cannot continue or is ejected or removed from the game by an umpire, the opposing manager shall select a player from the bench to replace the injured, ill or ejected player. The intent of the free substitution rule is to enable a manager to play all of his players. It shall be the responsibility of all Dixie Officials (coaches, umpires, official scorer, etc.) to enforce the provisions of this rule and to prevent illegal substitutions from occurring. In the event that an illegal substitution is made, the offending player shall be replaced with a legal substitute upon the discovery of the infraction by the umpire, Dixie official, official scorer or either opposing manager. All plays occurring prior to the discovery of the illegal substitution shall be official. An illegal substitution is not to be confused with an ineligible player, an ineligible pitcher or batting out of turn.

COURTESY RUNNER- RULE CLARIFICATION

1. At any time, the team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher.
2. The same individual may not be used for both positions (pitcher and catcher) during the game.
3. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances. The use of the courtesy runner does not constitute player participation/substitution; therefore, the current free substitution rule remains intact in its entirety.
4. Players listed in the official starting lineup are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.
5. Any substitute that is replaced by a starter (free substitution rule) can either assume or resume the opportunity to serve as a courtesy runner.
6. The umpire-in-chief and the official scorer are to be notified of courtesy runner participation.
7. A player who violates the courtesy-runner rule is considered to be an ineligible player. The player and the manager are penalized by rule as found in section 8.96 (2006-07 Official Playing Rules) of local league and tournament rules.

EXCEPTION: Should an injury, illness or ejection occur to the courtesy runner, another **eligible** courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher may run.

3:03 (c)-A relief pitcher who claims injury or illness prior to pitching to his first batter or recording an out, and is removed from the mound, shall not be allowed to return to the game later via free substitution.

3.04-LOCAL LEAGUE ONLY: PARTICIPATION: Every boy present shall play six (6) outs and complete a turn at bat. Penalty for violation shall be determined by local leagues.

3.10-(a) The local league officials shall determine the fitness of the playing field before the game starts. EXCEPTION: During tournament play, the tournament director shall determine the fitness of the playing field.

3.13-The local league will establish ground rules to be followed by all teams in the league for each playing field. The tournament director will establish ground rules to be followed by all teams in tournament play.