



# **2009 SAFETY EMPHASIS BULLETIN**

**The Commissioner of Dixie Boys Baseball issues the following safety guidelines.**

1. The Commissioner and Safety Committee advised that a number of excellent safety/training programs are now available for coaches and league officials. DIXIE & ASEP have partnered to provide coaches online training courses.
2. The Board of Directors extensively discussed concerns about the overuse of pitchers in youth baseball. Every effort must be made to insure that coaches exercise good judgment and that extreme care is taken to protect the arms of all youth participants. **Pitch counts are now used to determine pitcher eligibility. Forms are available on our website!!**
3. The Safety Committee reviewed injury loss data and recommended the continuation of the facial protection device for Dixie Boys Baseball (ages 13-14).
4. Leagues are requested to disseminate information to participants, coaches and parents in regard to the dangers of steroid use, other drugs and tobacco use.
5. The Board of Directors has implemented guidelines on handling contests during lightning disturbances. The 30/30 lightning policy is highly recommended and it is also suggested that early detection lightning devices be available in press boxes.
6. Rule 1.90 It is strongly recommended that only players warm up pitchers. No other person is allowed to warm up a pitcher without a protective facemask.
7. The Board of Directors implemented a policy that host teams as well as all teams traveling to a tournament have the following level of insurance:
  - a. Excess accident insurance with a medical limit of at least \$100,000. Coverage must include all participants, volunteers, and employees.
  - b. General liability insurance on an occurrence form (not claims made) that has a per occurrence limit of at least \$1,000,000 combined single limits and does not exclude "athletic participants" (see your insurance carrier for further details). In addition, Dixie Boys Baseball, Inc. must be named as "additional insured" if the policy is not purchased through the endorsed insurance program. (see rule book ad) Proof of insurance is required of all teams involved in tournament play.

**Leagues should secure adequate liability/accident coverage beginning with the local league season.**

8. It is strongly recommended that leagues require waiver/release forms for all participants. A sample waiver/release recommended by the endorsed insurance carrier can be downloaded at [www.sadlersports.com/dixieboys](http://www.sadlersports.com/dixieboys) under the Risk Management Section.
9. Dixie Baseball issues a warning in regard to the danger of the use of 15 passenger vans. It is recommended that leagues seek the most acceptable mode of transportation for travel.
10. Dixie Boys Baseball, Inc. emphasizes that all franchised leagues adopt and implement a child abuse risk management program. Information is available at: [www.dixie.org/boys](http://www.dixie.org/boys) under the Risk Management Section. The endorsed General Liability policy will contain the following provision:

"Coverage for sexual abuse or molestation will not apply unless there is a system in place to perform at least one of the following background checks: 1) Internet sexual offender registry checks on all persons with repeated access to youth. This check must be done on at least an annual basis. 2) Criminal background checks through a third party vendor. This check must be done once upon initial employment, subcontracting or volunteering of a person with repeated access to youth and at least once every third year thereafter."