



DIXIE BOYS BASEBALL 15U PROGRAM: QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. What was the reasoning behind the proposal to add a 15U program?

The purpose was to address a recognized need. 15 year olds now have an opportunity (better fit in some local communities) to participate in program, while also seeking a solution for the 14 & under that desire to play on full sized field (60'6 ft. mound/90 ft. bases).

2. What impact did the creation of 15U have on our traditional programs?

The added age grouping complements our existing program and in no way has it taken away from current organizational structure. No doubt many smaller communities are unable to have both 15U & Dixie Boys/Majors. Sadly, some smaller communities no longer have enough players to field a Dixie Boys team. With 15 year olds allowed to participate by rule with 13-14 year olds, flexibility exists for leagues to form a 15U community player pool.

3. In an effort to coexist with our traditional Boys & Majors programs, will it allow for a player & a local league to participate in both programs during the 2016 season?

It was decided in the initial stage of development that a participant in appropriate 15 & under age group could participate in multiple programs including 15U and either/or traditional Boys (age.13-14) or Majors (age 15-19) as determined by age. Dual participation allowed.

4. How is it be possible to do both in the same season and what are the stipulations?

A league is given an additional opportunity to franchise as a 15U program and then also franchise within our existing structure. The league would submit a 15U franchise application form with the understanding that the fee includes a \$30.00 per team national fee as well as a \$30.00 per franchised team state fee. The policy (same as Dixie Boys/Majors) requires a two team minimum fee for each program. As an example, Community A desires to play Dixie Boys & Dixie Majors and also decides to play 15U using players age 13-14-15. The minimum total fee would be as follows: 3 DIVISIONS (\$60.00 National/\$60.00 State) = \$360.00 franchise fees. Note: The 15U roster can be comprised of any player within the expanded boundary that is 15 years of age or younger.

5. Multiple rosters are confusing, what is gained by allowing players on two teams?

As mentioned above it is unlikely most communities will be able to franchise as Boys/Majors and 15U. The opportunity should be available for both dual participation/dual franchises until program becomes independent of the traditional program. The real thrust would be to attract communities that are no longer in our program due to influence of: JV baseball, other youth organizations with age grouping of 13-15, travel/tournament baseball or the sheer small numbers that currently register to participate by age in a local community. The advantages of offering this program outweigh any minor negatives that we encountered. Dixie Boys is fully committed to attracting new leagues and retaining existing leagues.

6. What level of tournament play is being offered in 2016 for the 15U division of Dixie?

A World Series will be held for 15U division on the dates of July 21-24, 2016. Ozark, Alabama will serve as the host. It will be entry fee based. Invitations will be extended to franchised leagues that desire to participate. Likely, not all state programs will participate in year one.

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Same method was used to create Junior Boys division and the organization is very pleased with its success and overall value. We recognize that the 15U program division will require more evaluation. *We are pleased that we will be able to offer World Series play for this division!*

7. How do we avoid a conflict with our traditional tournament program?

It is obvious that the 15U state tournaments will need to be conducted in contrasting months. The 15U state tournaments will be held in June 2015. The World Series date occurs after the completion of state tournament play and one week prior to traditional World Series events.

8. What set of rules will govern play in 15U and what will be used to determine boundaries? The 2016 Rulebook, using our Tournament Rules section for Dixie Majors play will govern play. Each participating state will determine its boundaries for 15U legal players. Consideration is being given to incorporating the current districts or even expanding some districts within a given state as the possible 15U boundaries. By enlarging a potential player selection area, to include an entire district it is likely that more players would be available for team selection. It should also be noted that it is permissible for a school based team to be formed using our rules as currently found. It is unlikely that local league play will occur in 15U baseball. We encourage communities to schedule home & away play with surrounding towns.

9. What potential sources of revenue and what would the organization need to commit?

A 15U program will require the organization to look at various revenue opportunities to offset cost. An entry fee will be charged. The host will be expected to pay all umpires cost, provide pre-determined awards package and supply tournament baseballs. Tournament host would also be required to provide Dixie Boys Baseball with a yet to be determined bid amount (based on team participation) and one complimentary room for use by the Dixie Tournament Director. The yet to be determined bid amount would be used to offset the cost of a Dixie Tournament Director. It is anticipated that the Deputy Commissioner's would be responsible for overseeing the Regional Tournaments. It is understand that the cost to the Dixie organization and the host must be kept at a minimum for the process to work. The host would not be responsible for housing of the teams, the two assigned umpires per game or any Dixie Officials with the exception of Tournament Director.

10. What are the next steps now that the 15U was World Series was approved?

Dixie Boys Baseball has been in existence since 1957 and has remained true to the mission of providing a recreation based program with emphasis on local participation. The one factor that has changed significantly is the local community approach to providing youth baseball. An abundance of outstanding facilities exist; however, the real challenge is finding approaches that will keep youth participating at the local level. An alarming number of 15 and under youth are no longer registered or participating in community sponsored youth baseball programs. The communities that have held it together and continue to offer a local recreation based youth baseball program are to be commended and should never be overlooked. 15U provides another opportunity for youth to participate in Dixie Boys Baseball. The website at www.dixie.org/boys along with promotional materials are being made available for the purpose of reaching as many people as possible. If you have any questions regarding the 15U program contact a Dixie official!