

SAFETY EMPHASIS BULLETIN

1. The Safety Committee advises that a number of excellent safety/training programs are now available. USA Baseball/MLB Course through "Play Ball" is the endorsed program for coach education, players and parents, and sports safety. Visit the Play Ball resource site at: <http://web.usabaseball.com/playball/>.
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 as well as an innings per week limit (league play) are used to determine pitcher eligibility. **Dixie Boys Baseball is recognized as being "Full Compliant" with the MLB/USA Baseball program "PitchSmart."**
3. The National Federation of High School rulebook contains various rules that will serve to help protect participants in our program from injury. Please review their book and website for details.
4. Jewelry shall not be worn except for religious or medical medals. A religious medal must be taped and worn under a uniform. A medical medal must be taped and may be visible.
5. Rule 1.90: It is strongly recommended that only players warm up pitchers. No other person is allowed to warm up a pitcher without an approved catcher's mask (full ear protection) and throat protector.
6. The Board of Directors implemented a policy that host, 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 \$50,000. 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.
7. 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 under the Risk Management Section.
8. 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.
9. Dixie Boys Baseball emphasizes that all franchised leagues adopt and implement a child abuse risk management program. Visit: www.dixie.org/boys under the Risk Management Section for information. Endorsed General Liability policy contains the following provision: "Coverage for sexual abuse or molestation will not apply unless there is a system in place to perform at least the three items: (1) system in place to perform criminal background checks on paid & volunteer staff (2) have written procedures that include sexual abuse and molestation prevention (3) have written procedures that include response plans for sexual abuse molestation including a requirement that law enforcement must be contacted in the event of an allegation.
10. Local programs should conduct a comprehensive background check that would complement their local league child abuse risk management program. The Dixie Boys Baseball organization is committed to doing everything within our power to prevent child abuse/molestation situations from ever occurring. Furthermore, if an offense does occur; any response we have will be one of zero tolerance, while recognizing that the matter must be reported and investigated by law enforcement personnel. Dixie Boys Baseball has an approved supplier agreement with Protect Youth Sports.
11. It is important for athletes, coaches, and parents to be aware of the signs and symptoms of a concussion, as well as how to prevent concussions. Visit: www.CDC.gov/Concussion for information.