

THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

"YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES - RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LEAGUES"



J. Sandy Jones, Commissioner/CEO
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A very important individual in the Dixie Boys/Majors Baseball program is the District Director. The position of District Director was created to be the primary liaison with the franchised leagues. Each district serves as a sub-division of a state program.

As the closest official to the leagues, the District Director is responsible for acquainting the leagues with information disseminated from district, state and national headquarters. The District Director also assists leagues by providing guidance in local league conflict, reviewing proposed changes to rules or regulations and keeping leagues informed of all aspects of the program. The District Director is expected to conduct the business affairs of the district, to call and conduct meetings whenever necessary, to assist in the organization and counseling of new leagues, to review and investigate problems within the district and basically be well informed on policies, rules, regulations and other pertinent information. Since he holds a position of trust and responsibility, the Dixie official should be experienced and familiar with the area and leagues.

Like all other elected officials in the Dixie Boys/Majors program, the District Director is a volunteer and receives no compensation except for some out-of-pocket expenses as approved by the leagues themselves within the district. A District Director is elected by the leagues in the district to serve and should be chosen on the basis of know-how, experience, availability and willingness. The Director is vested with authority to make decisions within the confines of Dixie Boys/Majors regulations and the state constitution. Also, a District Director can be called upon by Dixie Boys/Majors officials or by league personnel when services are needed.

The District Director is the first step in the chain-of-authority between the leagues and state DBB officials. Because of the close connection and relationship with the leagues, a District Director should always be alert to the needs of any individual league. In case of the need for assistance beyond the local level, he/she is the first individual that should be contacted. In the event he/she is unable to resolve a conflict or to give sufficient assistance, the next step is the State Director, but this contact should not be made without the knowledge of the District Director.



In fulfilling the responsibilities of conducting the district's business, there are many duties that must be performed. He/she must schedule and preside over meetings within the district to make certain that all leagues remain in compliance with certain DBB regulations. He/she should organize and conduct a spring workshop at which leagues are given all information for the operation of their local program throughout the year. At this workshop, the Director should make certain that all subjects of benefit to the local leagues are covered and that the leagues are thoroughly familiar with all deadlines and understand the procedures for completing forms. At the first district meeting, often held in conjunction with the workshop, early in the spring, leagues are informed of plans for the coming season and future meetings are scheduled. Either at this meeting or one held later in the year, tournament plans are completed and include the awarding of rights to host tournaments scheduled to be played within the district.

The District Director should make certain that proper rotation or bid systems are arranged to assure every league of their opportunity to host a tournament if they so desire. Near the end of the season, the Director is responsible for advising the leagues of tournament requirements and for conducting a credentials meeting. At this meeting tournament plans are finalized and the credentials of each tournament team are closely inspected. The Director is totally responsible for seeing that each league's tournament team is in full compliance with all requirements.

The District Director has complete responsibility for the administration of all tournaments played at the district level; including the discipline of players, coaches and managers for unsportsmanlike conduct. Tournament Directors may be appointed by the District Directors; however they remain under the jurisdiction of the District Director. The first individual contacted with matters of district interest should be the District Director. In the event he/she is unable to resolve a problem or to give sufficient assistance, the next step is the State Director; however again this contact should be made with the knowledge of the District Director. In fact, all decisions should be made at the level of authority as granted to Dixie Officials as found in the National Constitution and Bylaws of Dixie Boys Baseball, Inc.



Probably the greatest amount of time of a District Director will be spent in maintaining district records. He/She will be responsible for having a file for each league boundary maps with properly defined and approved boundaries, a roster of principle contacts, current franchise forms, player registration forms, tournament affidavits, copies of all outgoing and incoming correspondence, minutes of meetings and financial records for the district. By maintaining a current and orderly file, the Director should be alert to all deadlines and requirements that leagues must meet. Leagues should be properly reminded and advised of all deadlines.

Beyond these many duties within the district, the Director has the additional responsibility of acting as his district's representative to the State Board of Directors. He/She is to provide assistance to the State Director in order to provide for the proper functioning of the state organization. He should attend all scheduled and called meetings in the state and should give assistance to the State Director in conducting workshops and holding meetings whenever this assistance is needed. He/She should always be available to teams or individuals from his district that may need assistance at higher levels. When his district championship team is determined, he should consider them his team and should give any necessary assistance and support they may need until they are eventually eliminated. Most of the time, these teams come from leagues with no prior tournament experience and they need assistance from someone who has knowledge of what is going on and what is required of them.

One of the Director's responsibilities that may be considered insignificant but that is among the most important is league visitation. Many small, rural leagues operate for years without seeing or hearing from a Dixie Boys official. It means a great deal, more than often expressed, when a Dixie Official shows enough interest to personally visit a league contact or community activity. Director's should make every effort to visit each league at least once each season to let them know that someone is interested in them and that their league is important to our program. The active District Director will never be surprised by a league's failure to renew a franchise. Of equal importance a District Director doing his job will have a good relationship with his current leagues and will already be aware of potential conflicts before they ever materialize.



The final responsibility to be discussed is another very important one. The Dixie Boys program has experienced much success as part of a rich tradition. Thousands of youngsters are participating on teams throughout our region. But for every youth that is participating, many more have not been given the opportunity or have looked elsewhere for alternatives. It is extremely important that District Director's are always alert to any possibilities that we have of franchising new leagues. This program hasn't reached its' potential and opportunities are now available for new leagues to realize the benefits that current leagues have found. This is one of the many areas that the leagues themselves can help the Director and make his job easier. Every league should be anxious to spread the success story of Dixie Boys Baseball to others. Leagues should notify their District Director or other officials as to the possibility that a new league desires to franchise. The Director should then be willing to meet with prospects, distribute literature and do whatever he/she can to continue the growth of the Dixie program in his district. Leagues can provide great assistance to a District Director in fulfilling these many responsibilities. As part of the overall communication process, leagues should provide the program with principle contact and mailing address for their league. Prompt response should be given to any communication. Representatives should be sent to every meeting where valuable information which aids in the operation of a local program is given. Deadlines should be strictly adhered to and it will make the District Director's job much easier if immediate attention is given instead of waiting until the last day or minute before responding. When a league does wait until the last possible moment the additional resources of time and money are required to remind them of certain deadlines. With the guidance of a District Director, a league should set a goal of never having to receive a reminder about any deadline that may be near.

The District Director's position is among the most important in the entire Dixie program. He/she must be a talented individual with ability to make decisions, organize and direct, keep well-organized records, handle finances properly, know how to handle authority, delegate responsibility and command the total confidence and respect of the leagues he serves. First and foremost, he must be a dedicated individual, willing to give of these abilities and his time in the interest of building this program by franchising more leagues and providing the best service possible to existing leagues.