

1.00—OBJECTIVES OF THE GAME

1.01-Dixie Boys Baseball is a game between two teams of nine players each, (ages thirteen through nineteen), under the direction of a manager, played on a regulation Dixie Boys playing field in accordance with these rules, under jurisdiction of one or more umpires.

1.02-The objective of each team is to win by scoring more runs than the opponent.

1.03-The winner of the game shall be that team which shall have scored, in accordance with rules, the greater number of runs at the conclusion of a regulation game.

NOTE: The official playing rules, with the exceptions and variations contained in this book, shall be the Official Playing Rules, completely revised as released through the office of the Commissioner of Baseball.

THE PLAYING FIELD

1.04-Only regulation Dixie Boys and Dixie Majors playing fields as described in the "Official Playing Rules" for Dixie Boys and Dixie Majors Baseball will be considered as sites for tournament competition. The only exception to this rule is in tournament competition where leagues, by mutual agreement, decide upon a playing field in order to reduce travel problems. In any such case approval must be given by Tournament Director or his representative.

1.04DB-The playing field shall be laid out according to the instructions below, supplemented by Diagrams and legends available from the Commissioner's Office.

LOCAL LEAGUE OPTION: THE PLAYING FIELD. The field shall be laid out according the official playing rules of Major League Baseball.

(a) Baselines shall be eighty feet (80').

(b) The distance from the front side of the pitching slab to the point of home plate shall be fifty-four feet (54').

(c) The batter's box shall be rectangular, four by six feet (4'x6'), centered to the home plate, the inside line being 6 inches from the side of home plate. Coaches' boxes shall be ten feet by twenty feet (10' x 20') and located ten feet from the foul lines.

(d) Home plate, the pitchers' rubber and the bases shall be the official size used in regulation baseball. The use of safety bases with safety features such as those with tapered sides and those that release upon sufficient impact of the double bag at first base are allowed.

(e) The pitchers' mound shall be raised gradually to an elevation of 6 inches (6") above the level of home plate and the base paths. Portable pitching mounds meeting the correct size requirements are also approved.

(f) The recommended distance for a fence shall be 300 feet from home plate. A minimum home run distance of 275 feet is recommended to a four-foot barrier when possible. However, when field conditions make this impossible, shorter distances to the fence may be permitted. If it is necessary to set the home run barrier closer than 300 feet from home plate it is recommended that the barrier be made as high as necessary to compensate for the lost distance. The State Director can grant exceptions.

(g) There shall be a restraining line located along the first base line beginning 37-1/2 feet from home plate and extending three feet beyond the first and second base line.

(h) The official distance from home plate to the backstop shall be forty feet (40'), with a maximum distance of sixty feet (60') and a minimum distance of twenty feet (20') permitted for tournament site fields.

(i) All lines on the playing field shall be marked with a material which is not injurious to the eyes or skin. Lime or caustic material of any kind is prohibited.

1.04DM-THE PLAYING FIELD. The field shall be laid out according to the official playing rules of Major League Baseball.

EQUIPMENT

1:09-The ball must meet the full manufacturing specifications of Dixie Boys Baseball, Inc. The ball shall weigh not less than five ounces (5 oz.) nor more than five and one-fourth ounces (5 1/4 oz.) avoirdupois. It shall measure not less than nine inches (9") nor more than nine and one-fourth inches (9 1/4") in circumference. Leather covered balls will be approved for all levels of play. Balls with other covers will be restricted to LOCAL LEAGUE PLAY ONLY and be so marked. Ball meeting Dixie Boys Baseball Inc., manufacturing specifications must bear the signature of the Commissioner.

1:10-Bats must be manufactured meeting specifications as determined by Dixie Boys Baseball, Inc. **NOTE: Should changes be made to the current bat standards an addendum to the rules will be issued by the Commissioner of Dixie Boys Baseball, Inc.**

(A) No laminated bat or experimental bats shall be used in a Dixie Boys/Majors game (either championship season or exhibition games) until the manufacturer has secured approval from the Rules Committee of his design and methods of manufacture.

(B) Cupped Bats. An indentation in the end of the bat up to one inch in depth is permitted and may be no wider than two inches and no less than one inch in diameter. The indentation must be curved with no foreign substance added.

(C) The bat handle, for not more than 18 inches from its end, may be covered or treated with any material or substance to improve the grip. Any such material or substance, which extends past the 18 inch limitation, shall cause the bat to be removed from the game.

(D) Wooden, metal, or graphite bats manufactured specifically for 13 and above Boys and Majors play which have a minimum 2 1/2 inch barrel to 2 3/4 inch barrel diameter are approved. Bats manufactured for use by 12 and under baseball programs shall not be used.

DB. There are no weight to length limitations.

DM. A bat shall not weigh more than three ounces less than the length of the bat

NOTE: If the umpire discovers that the bat does not conform to 1.10 above until a time during or after which the bat has been used in play, it shall not be grounds for declaring the batter out, or ejected from the game.

1.11-It is mandatory that all players and managers be attired in matching uniforms composed of shirt, pants, caps, socks and baseball shoes. All teams participating in local league play are required to wear the "Dixie Boys/Majors shoulder emblem on their left uniform sleeve. Note: For local league play only: a "screened or heat press" emblem is permissible.

1:11(b)—Shoes with metal cleats are approved for all divisions.

1.12-The catcher may wear a catcher's mitt of any shape, size or weight consistent with protecting the hand.

1.16(DB)—It is mandatory that batters and base runners wear pressure type helmets or helmets with chin straps and an approved facial protective device. Batters helmet must carry the NOCSAE Stamp of Approval. Face guards may be installed by the manufacturer, or dealer, on the batter's helmet. Any player who does not comply with this rule shall be warned by the umpire. For second and subsequent offenses, in the same game, he shall be called "out." An approved face protection device must provide full face coverage which will include, but not be limited to, protection for the eyes, nose, mouth and teeth, jaws and cheekbones, and forehead and temple area. The unit should be able to stand up to an impact of up to 100 mph.

1.16(DM)—It is mandatory that batters and base runners wear pressure type helmets or helmets with chin straps providing the utmost protection and batter's helmets must carry the NOCSAE Stamp of Approval.

1.17-All other equipment that is used in the Dixie Boys Baseball, Inc., program such as gloves, hats, uniforms, shoes and umpire's equipment shall be the choice of the local league.

1.90-It is mandatory that the catcher wear a protective cup, and a protective helmet with a throat protector providing the utmost in protection. (Throat protector may be the one manufactured on the mask or the hard plastic protector securely fastened to the mask). Any player warming up a pitcher on the mound, bullpen or elsewhere, shall wear a catcher's mask with a throat protector. It is strongly recommended that only players warm up pitchers during practice or game activities. No other person should warm up a pitcher without a catcher's mask with a throat protector due to the risk of substantial facial injury from deflected balls.

1.91-A player shall not be allowed to play with any type of cast on any part of his body.

1.92-Jewelry shall not be worn except for religious or medical medals. A religious medal must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical alert must be taped and may be visible.

1.93-It is recommended that adult base coaches wear a protective helmet, with or without ear flaps.

Note: Should language in the Major League Rule Book require a protective helmet, Dixie Boys Baseball, Inc. would adhere by making this a rule requirement.

NOTE: Full manufacturing specifications may be had by contacting the Commissioner. Space limitations prevent complete details of equipment specifications for manufacturing certain pieces of equipment being printed in this rule book.