



## Paris Optimist Baseball

Paris Optimist Baseball (POB) is a recreational league intended to promote and facilitate a community based league play. POB accepts any child regardless of race, color, religion, sex or athletic ability. The program focus is on open participation and player development while allowing for a variety of skill levels among its players.

The rules and regulations in this book are presented to you to help all of us make the baseball program successful, fun and rewarding for everyone associated, especially this community's future, the children. The Paris Optimist Club has a goal to "Bring Out the Best In Youth."

## Paris Optimist Baseball Rules and Regulations

### 1.00 Parking Lot

The City of Paris will issue citations for parking in the red marked fire lanes. Parents and visitors are requested to park in the designated parking areas only. The property along Hyw 271 is owned by the Paris Optimist and should be used for overflow parking. **Vehicles pulling trailers must use this parking area instead of parking lots by the ball fields.**

### 2.00 Charles Taylor Complex Rules

**2.01** No metal cleats shall be worn by any players at Charles Taylor Youth Complex.

**2.02** Smoking / E-cigarettes is not allowed in any of the buildings, pavilions, posted areas, or inside Charles Taylor **2.03** Complex and within 40 ft. of each entrance into the complex.

**2.03** Coaches, players and spectators are expected to be respectful of the facilities to prevent damage and to place trash in the proper containers. Parents shall be responsible for damage to facilities caused by their children.

**2.04** Coaches and players are required to clean trash from their dugouts after each game.

**2.05** Children are not allowed in the batting cages without a coach and without wearing a batting helmet. Parents are asked to instruct their children to not go into the batting cages. Children found in the batting cages will be taken to sit with their parents.

**2.06** If anyone including children is observed playing in the restrooms or damaging property, it should be reported to an Optimist member.

**2.07** The NO TOLERANCE policy is in effect at the ballpark. Coaches and players must sit out the next scheduled game for any ejection from the game. Fans who yell at the players, umpires, coach or fans and who cause any type of trouble will be removed from the ballpark for the remainder of the season. This is the **first and only warning**. Make sure that all players and fans understand the policy.

### 3.00 Fundraising

**3.01** The fields at Charles Taylor Youth Complex are privately owned and funded by the Paris Optimist Club. The City of Paris and Lamar County do not have any control over the complex. All teams are required to participate in the fundraising activities.

**3.02** Coaches who do not support and work with their teams to raise funds shall not be approved to coach Optimist Baseball or All-star teams in the future.

**3.03** Teams are required to have their team pictures made by the photographer contracted by the Paris Optimist Club. If a team does not have their team picture made, the team manager will not be allowed to participate in the first game of the post season championship tournament ***and the team shall be required to pay a \$200 fee to replace the Optimist fundraising losses.***

#### **4.00 Concession**

The concession is one of the many fundraising activities. The concession is owned and operated by the Optimist Club. All proceeds go to help with the operating expense of the baseball program.

#### **5.00 Rain Out Procedure**

**5.01** A decision on field conditions and cancellation of games due to weather **will not be made until 4:30 PM**. This is to allow every opportunity for the fields to be made playable.

**5.02** When games are cancelled, the League Agents will be notified. Each League Agent will set up his/her procedure for the notification of coaches.

**5.03** Cancellations will also be posted on Facebook, the web site, and sent out through our registration/baseball management platform. Coaches will also be notified by their League Agent.

#### **6.00 Player Registration**

**6.01** Player registration fees shall be as follows:

- Instructional League - \$50.00
- A League (T-Ball) - \$95.00
- AA League (Coach Pitch) - \$95.00
- AAA League (Kid Pitch) - \$100.00
- Ozone League - \$100.00
- Ranger League - \$110.00
- Upon completing an application financial assistance may be provided based on need.

**6.02** These rates apply to the first two players in a household. Each additional member of a household shall receive a \$20.00 discount.

**6.03** Registration fees must be paid prior to players first team practice. A player SHALL NOT participate in practices or games until fees are paid.

**6.04** There will be no player registration fees refunded after one day prior to the league draft. A statement to this effect will be included on the player registration form.

**6.05** Once leagues have conducted their draft, a \$20.00 fee will be added to the registration fee for late registration. In cases when a league needs additional players, there will not be a late fee.

#### **7.00 Player Uniforms**

**7.01** The player sign-up fee includes the uniform shirt and free drinks or snow cones after each game.

**7.02** The players are responsible for the batting helmet, pants, cap, sox, shoes, bat and glove.

**7.03** A batting helmet will be provided if the player does not have a personal helmet.

**7.04** Cap cost should not exceed \$18.00. Coaches should not require a more expensive cap or pant from what is the least expensive in the local sporting goods stores. Example: fitted wool caps, special pants, etc.

**7.05** Teams may wear **ONLY** black, white or gray pants and shirts shall be numbered 1 thru 12 only. Pants and leggings (sox) **MUST** cover the entire leg.

**7.06** Team colors are determined by the Optimist Club. A team cannot get someone to sponsor or buy their team something different than has been specified in these requirements.

**7.07** Coaches must communicate to the parents that the most economical caps and pants shall be purchased for the team.

**7.08** Coaches who are confirmed to have required something different than specified in these requirements shall be suspended from the first regular season game and the first post season tournament game.

#### **8.00 Sportsmanship**

**8.01** Ejection of a coach or player from a game will carry a minimum one game suspension starting with the next scheduled game for that player or coach. This may be appealed to the League Agent and then to the Baseball Committee. Additional discipline may be applied.

**8.02** A flagrant disregard of rules, profanity, verbal or physical abuse to an umpire or league official may also include a meeting with the Board of Directors.

**8.03** An ejected coach must leave and go outside of the complex into the parking lot. An ejected player must stay in the dugout unless a parent takes him/her with them.

**8.04** A ZERO tolerance policy is in place for coaches and fans. The definition of ZERO tolerance is as follows:

- a. Use of obscene or vulgar language and / or gestures in a loud boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- b. Openly dispute any decision by an umpire or league official in a loud boisterous manner.
- c. Visual display or any sign of dissatisfaction with an umpire or league official's decision (display any loud boisterous sign of dissatisfaction with an umpire, league official or coach).
- d. Visually or verbally incites the umpires, players, or spectators.
- e. Any loud boisterous arguments or incidents with another fan or family members (ex-spouses, etc.).
- f. Any physical contact with anyone.

**8.05** The Paris Police will be immediately summoned should anyone involved in a fight or disturbance that cannot be resolved. The Paris Police will also be summoned if anyone requested to leave the complex refuses.

**8.06** Paris Optimist members have a duty and authority to maintain order at the ballpark and may eject anyone that is exhibiting disruptive behavior. An ejected person must leave the park immediately.

### **9.00 Accident Insurance Coverage**

**9.01** Paris Optimist Baseball carries an accident insurance policy that covers each registered child for injuries incurred while participating in scheduled games, practices and other scheduled League activities. This policy is an excess coverage policy.

**9.02** If a child incurs an injury, parents need to first file the claim with their primary medical insurance carrier. When no other insurance is available or whenever any medical expenses are not paid by the primary policy or when deductible results in an unpaid charge, these unpaid bills should be submitted to Sadler Insurance Company. This is done by obtaining an on-line claim form. Contact the Paris Optimist E. D. or a Player Agent for more information.

### **10.00 Liability Coverage**

**10.01** Paris Optimist Baseball carries general liability insurance. However, damage to parked cars by errant baseballs or parking lot accidents is expressly excluded.

### **11.00 League Agent Definition**

**11.01** An Optimist Club member who is in charge of a league division. He/ she is a volunteer responsible for assigning coaches, coaches' meetings, registration of players, submitting all required paperwork, ensuring that there is someone to be in attendance at the fields each day of games. This person cannot be a coach of the same league that he or she coaches in.

### **12.00 Field Commissioner Definition**

**12.01** This person is not required to be an Optimist member. He /She can be a coach or a volunteer. Their responsibility is to monitor the playing fields for disturbances, take care of scorekeepers, check to see if umpires get to the fields, and be available for questions from coaches, umpires, and fans.

### **12.00B Team Parent / Representative**

**12.01B** This person will be the team representative assist the coach with the communications of league fundraising participation request, league rules / policies and upcoming events

### **13.00 Coaches**

**13.01** The head coach and first assistant coach of every Optimist team must have passed a background check prior to first game of the season. Background checks are required on Fall League coaches who did not have one in the spring. A new background check will be required every two years.

**13.02** Paris Optimist Club members shall be given first consideration for coaching positions. A written notice for a coaching position must be submitted to the League Agent. If there are more coaches' applications than there are teams available needing coaches, the following criteria will be used to select coach and assign them to a team.

1. Desire to coach kids.
2. Optimist member in good standing.
3. Has demonstrated support for the Optimist Club and baseball program.
4. Has demonstrated good sportsmanship leadership and motivation with kids.

5. Returning assistant coach to be head coach of same team.
6. Head coaches moving up from other age divisions by seniority (number of years coached in the Optimist Baseball league).

Based on this criteria and qualifications, the League Agent will assign coaches to teams and submit names to the board of directors for approval.

**13.03** A head coach and only one assistant will be allowed on a team for the purpose of protecting (free) players.

**13.04** The first assistant coach must be named the day prior to player draft.

**13.05** The head coach and first assistant coach will get one protected player each (free pick if he/she has no player). This free pick must be named prior to the day of the player draft. The first assistant coach must also be presented to the board by the League Agent and confirmed that he/she will be an active coach with the team at workouts and at games.

**13.06** A first assistant coach cannot be named for the purpose of a team getting a protected player and the coach not be an active coach with the team. Protected (free) players are those players who are eligible for the draft only (not pool players and brother / sister).

**13.07** The League Agent will investigate each case where a head coach or first assistant coach with a protected player does not participate with the team (such as sitting in the stands during games, watching a game on another field, helping coach in another league, not helping with workouts, or any other activities that indicate non-participation). The first assistant and head coach must be in regular attendance at the team practices and games. If the reason for non-participation by a coach is not justifiable, the coach in violation will be removed from the team. The team will be required to have one less coach on the field at team games for the remainder of the season.

**13.08** A head coach and/or a first assistant coach shall not be the head coach or first assistant coach for another Optimist Baseball team in another age division. If they serve as a third or fourth coach on another team, they must give priority for workouts and games to the team that they are named head coach or first assistant.

**13.09** A head coach or first assistant coach shall not move to another team in the same age division. Exception: In the case where the League Agent cannot find enough head coaches, he/she may assign a first assistant coach or a parent with a player from a team to fill the needed vacancy of another team. In this case (and the player was a free pick) the team losing the player of the first assistant coach or parent shall be given an additional first round draft choice which shall be the last pick of the first round. There may be other circumstances such as the COVID-19 season that an exception would be made.

**13.10** If there is a Head Coach or First Assistant Coach on a team that **is** to be eliminated, the League Agent may place a coach from the eliminated team and their "protected player" on a team to be retained provided the player stays in the same league.

#### **14.00 Background Checks**

**14.01** Background checks shall be conducted on the head coach, first assistant coach and volunteers working with the team players and in the Optimist program. Background checks will be conducted every two years or when a coach moves to the next age division.

**14.02** All coaches of league teams must have provided Child Protection, or any other training as required by Paris Optimist. Coaches will be penalized if they refuse to attend the training that **is** provided. Exception: In A and AA if there are not enough trained coaches for assistants, only the head coach must be **trained**.

#### **15.00 Player Placement (Draft) System**

**15.01** The Optimist goal is to not turn any child away who wants to play baseball. Application can be made for financial assistance.

**15.02** The objective is to put no more than 11 players on a team. The Player agent may make exceptions if needed.

**15.03** Extra players will be placed on a team during the draft by first asking coaches to volunteer to take an extra player. If there are not enough volunteers, there will be a drawing to place them on a team.

**15.04** In emergency situations for a team short of players, the League Agent has the authority to place late sign-ups on a team or teams in a way to ensure that there will be enough players to prevent forfeits. (**See 15.25, Adding Players After Season Starts**).

**15.05** Due to the need or number of players registered or other circumstances it may be necessary to redraft a league some years. The decision to redraft will be made by the League Agent.

**15.06** The draft order will be determined by random draw.

**15.07** A “Snake Draft” where the first team drafts first in the first round and the last team drafts first in the next round will be used. This order will be followed though out the draft.

**15.08** When teams reach eight (8) or more players in the draft, they will not draft again until all teams have 8 players. A team that begins the draft with eight (8) or more players shall not be allowed a first-round pick or a “Pool Player”.

**15.09** Depending on the number of teams in an age division, the draft may be oriented to allow specific ages to play together.

**15.10** The son / daughters of the Head Coach and First Assistant Coach of a teams shall be placed on a team as “protected payers”.

**15.11** If the Head Coach and or the First Assistant Coach does not have a child, they will be allowed a “free” draft pick up to the day prior to the draft.

**15.12** Players requesting to play on a specific team **shall not** be honored. Exception: In "hardship" cases the League Agent may ask for 100% approval of the coaches in that age division to honor a player’s request to play on a specific team.

**15.13** When someone is given a Head Coach position (team A) and he / she has a player on another team (team B), that player shall be assigned to that team (team A). The team (team B) who gives up this player will be given the third-round pick of (team A). Team B player must be a player who was drafted and not a player added to the team during the season.

**15.14** Brothers and or sisters shall be put on the same team unless requested by the parents to be separated. This shall include stepbrothers and sisters and children of “Common Law” marriages where there is proof of children living in same residence.

**15.15** A brother/sister may be put into the draft if they chose. However, they will be bound to the team that drafts them along with all other rules that apply to protected (free) players on a team.

**15.16** A team shall not have more than two undrafted players on a team. Exception: Teams may have more than two undrafted players when brothers and sisters are involved.

**15.17** In some cases, the League Agent may find it necessary to identify “pitchers”, “catchers”, “skilled” and “unskilled” players to be drafted separately . This may be allowed to bring parity among the teams in the league.

**15.18** The Head Coach and two named assistant coaches will be the only team representatives at the draft. No players or children shall be in attendance.

**15.19** If tryouts are conducted players who participate in the tryouts will be drafted and placed on teams first. Parents of players who do not participate in the tryouts will become pool players. All teams will be eligible for the drawing of Pool Players.

**15.20** Once a player is picked up as a “protected player” by a coach or first assistant coach, another player cannot be picked up free until the “protected player” has graduated or quits the team. If the assistant or head coach does not return the next year to his/her team, his/her free pick becomes a pool player. **Exception: See 16.01 (d).**

**15.21** A player who desires to not play on the same team that he/she played on the previous year may make a request to not play on that team again. The request must be made at the time of registration and that player must become a “pool player”.

**15.22** When an age division is required to have two leagues (DYB required) a player cannot change leagues and be eligible for All-Star play (DYB Rules). Exception: When a redraft occurs.

**15.23** Any player who refuses to be picked up as a “free” protected player by a coach that has a “free” pick will be placed in the pool that year. Any player who refuses to play for a team after being drafted will not be eligible to play in the Paris Optimist League for that year.

**15.24** There shall be no **trading of players** during or after the draft.

**15.25** Adding Players After Season Starts

- a. Players will be allowed to sign up after the draft provided there are any teams with less than 11 players.
- b. Players who sign up late will be placed on a team according to (1) the team with the least number of players (2) the current year draft order (3) coach volunteers to take extra player.
- c. The League Agent will assist a team who has 9 or less players find players to add to the team.
- d. The League Agent will investigate each team’s situation to prevent recruiting of players by a team.
- e. A player must play a minimum of 7 league games to be eligible to play in the post season tournament.  
**Exception:** Agreement of 100% of coaches to allow a team to play a player with less than 7 games to prevent forfeits.
- f. High school varsity players shall not be eligible to sign up after the second week of season play.



## **16.00 Pool Players**

**16.01** Pool Player are defined as:

- a. Protected players of head coaches and first assistant coaches who resign from the team during the regular season or after the season for any reason. Exception: If the League Agent does not allow a coach to return to the team or due reasons that prevents the coach to return the next season, the League Agent may allow the free “protected player” to stay on the team.
- b. Players request to be removed from a team for any reason.
- c. Players that are displaced from their team due to team reduction or the inability to find sufficient coaches.
- d. “Protected players” from teams where there were “free picks” and their coach was not approved, removed by the Paris Optimist Board, or did not return. **Exception:** If the League Agent investigates and determines that there is no indication of “stacking” a team, the League Agent may choose to leave the player on the team.

**16.02** Pool players will not be eligible to return to their original team.

**16.03** Pool players who want to remain eligible for All-stars must stay in the same league where they were franchised with Dixie Baseball.

**16.04** Pool players’ names will be written on a slip of paper and placed in a “hat” along with enough blank slips to allow all eligible teams an opportunity to draw the players.

**16.05** Slips of paper with names of Pool Players will be selected from the “hat” in the draft order for that league.

**16.06** Eligible teams will be allowed to skip one time their turn to draw for a Pool Player. (**Exception:** If the Player Agent has set an allowable number of players for that age group and the draw could put that team over the maximum number the team will not be eligible to draw.)

## **17.00 Reserved**

## **18.00 Outside Teams – Regular Season**

**18.01** Blossom, Detroit and Bogata are considered a part of the Paris Optimist Ranger League and are eligible to play for the league championship.

**18.02** A, AA, AAA and Ozone divisions from these same small area leagues may be scheduled with Paris Optimist to give them or the Paris Optimist required spring season games. The non-Optimist teams shall not play for the league championship.

## **19.00 Reserved**

## **20.00 Reserved**

## **21.00 Select /Travel Ball Players**

**21.01** Select team players may participate in other sports programs’ weekend games and tournaments. Play in weekend games and tournaments **must not** in any way interfere with a players’ responsibility to the Paris Optimist Dixie League practices or games.

## **22.00 Player Ages and Divisions**

**22.01** All players will play within their age division as outlined under Dixie Youth and Ranger Youth Baseball rules.

**Exception:** A player may play up one “league age year”. Four year olds (4) SHALL not play up.

**22.02** **League age** is the age of a player prior to May 1.

- a. Instructional Division - Ages 3 & 4
- b. A – Division (T-Ball) – Ages 5 & 6
- c. AA-Division (Coach Pitch) – Ages 7 & 8
- d. AAA-Division -- Ages 9 & 10
- e. Ozone Division – Ages 11 & 12
- f. Ranger Division – Ages 13 & 14 (age 15 may play if not playing high school baseball)

## **23.00 Local League Playing Rules**

**23.01** Courtesy runner **MUST** be used for the catcher when there are two outs. There are no courtesy runners in T-Ball.

**23.02** A batter must keep one foot in the batters' box during batting.

**23.03** If a team does not have 8 players to start a game and expects that players are on the way to the game, upon request the game may be delayed 15 minutes to give players time to arrive. The time taken for the players to arrive shall be deducted from the game time limit.

**23.04** A team may play with 8 players without forfeiting the game

**23.05** Players shall not wear cleats of any type while pitching from the portable mounds on all fields.

#### **24.00 T-Ball, Coach Pitch and AAA Rules:**

**24.01** A seven-run rule for every inning with **NO** open inning

**24.02** T-Ball and Coach Pitch will not keep score during regular season. The scoreboards shall not be used.

**24.03 Tournaments** - If either team is more than 7 runs ahead at the end of the time limit, the game will be called. This could happen in the middle of an inning.

**24.04** All teams will play 10 players on defense. Four players **must** play in the outfield. They may not play closer than 20 ft. from the base line.

**24.05** Players wearing batting helmets with face guards shall be called out on a headfirst slide into a base (DYB Rule). The half mask face shields on batting helmets are not considered face guards. Wearing of a batting helmet face guard is optional.

#### **25.00 Run Rule for AAA, Ozone, Ranger**

**25.01** A game shall be considered a regulation game in regular season and post season tournament play when a team is ahead by:

- a. 20 runs after 1 inning
- b. 15 runs after 2 innings
- c. 12 runs after 3 innings
- d. 10 runs after 4 innings
- e. 8 runs after 5 innings

**Note:** AAA will use the 12-run rule after 3 innings when games are played using the 7 runs per inning rule.

**25.02** In cases where a game is shortened by weather or other unplanned events, three (3) innings will be considered an official game.

**25.03** Scoreboards on the Tee Ball and AA fields shall NOT be used during regular season.

#### **26.00 Tee Ball Division (5-6)**

**26.01** Games shall be played by the Dixie Youth Baseball Rulebook (DYB) with the following exceptions:

- a. There shall be NO coach pitching.
- b. There shall be NO coaches on the playing field during the game.

**Note:** The objective of league play will be to have no more than 11 players on a team.

**Note:** In place of batting the line up each inning, the game will continue until the 55-minute time limit expires

**27.00 Ranger Division (13-14)** shall use the Dixie Youth Rulebook Ozone Rules and the Ranger Supplement.

- a. Metal cleats shall NOT be used. Cleats of any type shall not be worn on the pitching mound.
- b. 15-year-old players who do not play high school baseball shall be eligible to play in the Ranger League.
- c. 15-year-old players shall not play the catcher and pitcher positions.

#### **28.00 Local League regular season game time limits will be as follows:**

- a. Ranger League = 1hr. 35 min. and no new inning after time has expired or 9:50 P.M.
- b. Ozone = 1hr. 35 min. and no new inning after time has expired or 9:45 P.M.
- c. "AAA" = 1hr. 35 min. and no new inning after time has expired or 9:45 P.M.
- d. "AA" = 1hr. 10 min. for 2 games on same field
- e. "AA" = 1hr. for 3 games on same field
- f. Tee Ball = 55 minutes
- g. There will be no new inning to start with less than 5 minutes left in the game time limit. Exception: this rule will not apply to end of season tournament games.

**28.01** Suspended games due to weather will not be made up. Both coaches may request that a game be continued at a later date if fields are available.

**28.02** There shall be no infield warm-up (practice) prior to games.

### **29.00 Player Participation**

**29.01** The continuous batting order shall be used in all age divisions. If a player becomes sick or must leave the game, the player position in the batting line up will be skipped. An OUT SHALL NOT be charged.

**29.02** There will be FREE substitution on defense. Except for the pitcher, any player may enter the game on defense in any defensive position as many times as deemed necessary by the team manager.

**29.03** All players must play a minimum of every other inning on defense. A player must not sit out two consecutive innings on defense. They must play a minimum of one complete inning (three outs) each time they enter the game on defense. Coaches must report defensive substitutions to the scorekeeper.

**29.04** A team that cannot field 8 players may pick up players from the opposing team. If the opposing team does not have extra players, the two coaches may alternate players between the teams on defense. Players from other Optimist teams may also be picked up. The players picked up shall not pitch. The games shall be counted as forfeits.

### **30.00 Practices and Season Play**

**30.01** The head coach (exception Instructional League coaches) must conduct a minimum of one team practice each week starting the week after the league draft. Exception: Spring break week, weeks when a team plays 3 games and bad weather weeks. After verification of the first complaint to the Player Agent, the coach will be given a warning. Second complaint the coach shall be removed from coaching in the next scheduled game. Third complaint the coach shall be removed as a coach.

**30.02** In cases of a player failing to attend practice or arriving late to games, the player may be disciplined by the coach.

**30.03** Normally teams will play two games per week. A season will have a 15-game schedule plus an end-of-season tournament for the league championship. This will be followed by All-Star tournament play. The league season play shall end by the second week in June. All-Star tournament play could continue through July.

### **31.00 Post Season Championship Games**

**31.01** Time Limits – post season tournament games will be played with the regular season time limit for that division. Exception: single championship game played on a single field will be played with no time limit. Exception: Both team managers may agree to play with the game time limit. This must be confirmed prior to teams taking the field for pregame practice.

**31.02** Number of Players – All (including Ranger Division) post season tournaments will be played with the DYB local league option that a game must start and finish with 8 (eight) players (a ninth player **cannot** be picked up).

**31.03** Post Season tournaments using seeding from the regular season shall use the following season tie breakers:

- a. Head-to-Head Play
- b. Most Runs Scored Head-to-Head
- c. Coin toss

**31.04** Game Tie Breaker Rule –Starting with the first inning after a time limit expires or the 6<sup>th</sup> inning in T-Ball, Coach Pitch, AAA and Ozone and the 7<sup>th</sup> inning in Ranger, the last three batters from the previous inning shall be placed on base in reverse order from their batting order. The batter shall be the next player up in the batting order from the previous inning. The inning will start with one (1) out. Two (2) innings will be played with this format. If the game is still tied after the two extra innings, the winning team will be determined by the following:

- a. 1<sup>st</sup> – team with the most runners to reach third base in the game.
- b. 2<sup>nd</sup> – team with the most runners to reach second base in the game.
- c. 3<sup>rd</sup>-- team with the most runners to reach first base in the game.
- d. 4<sup>th</sup> – team that left the most runners on base.
- e. 5<sup>th</sup>- team that allowed the least number runs per game in the tournament.
- f. 6<sup>th</sup> - if the game is tied after all tie breakers have been considered and if there is a second game on the same field to follow or if it is the second game and time curfew has expired, the game shall be resumed the next day at a time scheduled by the Player Agent.

**31.05** The League Championship Games Tie Breaker. The two of three championship games (one game on single field) or championship game of single play-off bracket to determine the league champion will be played with extra innings



until the winner is determined. The games must be played as a single game on one field. (In case of weather delays forcing two games to be played on a single field, the tie breakers shall be used).

### **32.00 Awards and Recognition**

**32.01** Individual awards will be given to members of first and second place teams only in each league at the end of the spring and fall season play tournaments. In addition to individual awards, a special team trophy for Sportsmanship may also be given in each league. Participation awards will be given only to the Instructional League players.

**32.02** All-Star coaches and players will be announced and presented with a recognition award. Any player who will not be available to participate with the team until the team is eliminated from tournament play shall not be announced.

### **33.00 All-Star Policies**

**33.01** The League Agent will select and approve coaches on the All-star teams. The following qualities shall be considered in selecting All-star coaches:

- a) Motivates and encourages his / her teams' players, and works to develop the weaker players,
- b) Conducts at least one team practice per week,
- c) While coaching his / her Optimist team, he / she gives the team priority over other sports,
- d) Is a role model and displays sportsmanship on and off the field,
- e) Carries out instructions given by the Optimist baseball program and League Agent,
- f) Is an active working member of the Paris Optimist Club. Examples of being an active member are: 1) being in regular attendance at club meetings, 2) working tournaments, 3) participation on a club committee, 4) working on the annual Baseball Bash, 5) involving team in fundraising, 6) volunteering to assist the club with special needs and special request,
- g) Courteous and respectful to umpires
- h) Best regular season team win and loss record or best winning percentage.
- i) Assisted with tournaments,

**33.02** All-Star teams for all divisions shall be selected by a voting process with a paper or email ballot. All players from every team are eligible for selection to an All-Star Team.

**33.04** The process will be as follows:

- a. All players on all teams must be considered in the voting for All-Stars. All players from every team should be listed on a ballot. Parents will be required to sign their player up for All-star consideration. A sign-up sheet will be given to each team coach two weeks prior to the end of the season. The parents shall declare that their son / daughter is available to play All-Stars and that they are committed to the All-star dates.
- b. The age 7, 9 and 11 All-stars must be selected after the age 8, 10 and 12.
- c. Only two coaches (manager and first assistant) from each team will vote with the top 8 players receiving the most votes being placed on the team. The voting process must be by paper ballot. The manager of the team shall have four free picks. It is recommended to allow the players on a team to vote, also.
- d. Coaches may recommend players from their team for All-Stars. These recommendations should be players who have demonstrated good baseball skills, have performed well at their position, have displayed good sportsmanship and whose parents have confirmed that the players will be available for All Star practices and games until their team is eliminated from tournament play.
- e. Any eligible coach who fails to turn in an All-star ballot shall not be allowed to coach the first game of the post-season league tournament. Any player unable to participate in All-Star team practice will not be eligible for All-Star tournament play.
- f. A player cannot be announced and recognized as an All-star who is not going to practice and play the required time period required for the team. This includes such cases as vacation, baseball camps, or other reasons for being absent. Original recognition shall not be given, and that player will be replaced immediately. Two weeks prior to the end of regular season play, *team coaches* will petition their players to get commitment from players / parents desiring to play All Stars.
- g. A player aged 6, 8, 10 or 12 who plays up to the next age division **shall not** be eligible to play on an age 6, 8, 10, or 12 All-star team that he / she moved up to. The player playing up in an age division may play on the 7, 9 or 11 age All-star teams.
- h. All-Star coaches and players must commit to participating with their team until the team is eliminated from tournament play.

- i. A coach or player who resigns from an All-Star Team for travel baseball play, vacation or who quits his/her team during All-Star Tournament team shall not be eligible to participate on another Optimist All-Star team for a period of two years. Each player and coach shall be given information on the length of the All-Star tournament season and requested to commit to that time period.
- j. All-Star coaches and players will be announced as determined by the Baseball Committee.

**33.05** A player must have played in the Paris Optimist baseball program for two consecutive years to be eligible for All-Stars.

#### **34.00 All-Star Expense Policy**

**34.01** All-Star teams will pay for all tournament expenses. This includes uniform and travel expenses. A player who cannot fund these expenses may petition the League Agent for assistance. In a case of extreme hardship and/or when a team can demonstrate that they have conducted fundraising and have fallen short they may make a request to PO the board for assistance with their **hotel** expenses.

**34.02** Due to hardship on parents it is recommended that the player All-Star uniform cost be limited to not more than \$100.

**34.03** The individual All-Star teams shall be responsible for selecting and purchasing their uniforms. The team's name on the shirt must have Paris American or Paris National on it. There shall be no "Travek Baseball" team names used. Uniforms must be approved by the Player Agent of the league prior to purchase. American League team colors shall be red / white. The National League team colors shall be blue or navy / white. The single ages (7U, 9U, 11U) shall be red / white or navy or blue / white (white with red or blue is acceptable).

#### **35.00 World Series Team Expense Policy**

**35.01** A team that qualifies for the World Series or a team advancing to another level of tournament play designated as a World Series shall be given \$1,500. This will be above and beyond the money given to them by DYB.

**35.02** World Series teams may request an additional \$1,500 from the Optimist board for additional expenses provided the team submits a financial statement with regional receipts to show a deficit in needed expense funds.

#### **36.00 Fall League**

**36.01** Returning managers and their returning players only may be placed on a fall team without being included in the draft process.

**36.02** Paris Optimist teams who are not a part of the draft process shall not be allowed. There shall not be any "Select" or "Travel" teams to play in the Fall League.

**36.03** Small league area teams may be allowed to play in the Paris Optimist fall league. If one of these leagues has more than one team, they must have a draft for the two teams. If they only have enough players for one team, they may be allowed to play with the approval of the Fall Player Agent.

**36.04** Dixie Youth Baseball rules will apply with the following exceptions:

**36.05** The Fall League is an instructional league (not competitive). Coaches shall give all players equal playing time in the course of two games and allow players to play different positions.

**36.06** Each team must conduct one practice per week. At the request of the coach, teams may practice a maximum of one time per week at Woodall.

**36.07** Games shall be played according to the game times on the schedule. Any change must be made by the league commissioner (not coaches' agreements).

**36.08** Two games per day shall be played as scheduled. Coaches shall not have an agreement to play one game with an extended time limit.

**36.09** Time limits are as follows:

- a. Ranger, Ozone (12-U) and AAA (10-U) - Five innings or 1 hr. 25 minutes "Drop Dead" time limit.
- b. AA (8-U) - Five innings or 60 min. time limit. A new inning starts when the third out of an inning is made.
- c. Tee Ball – 45 min. time limit.

**36.10** There will not be any extra innings played a game ends in a tie.

**36.11** Win and loss records will not be kept T-ball and Coach Pitch Leagues.

**36.12** A drawing will be conducted to place teams in the post season tournament bracket in the T-ball and Coach Pitch Leagues. The Ranger, Ozone and AAA leagues will use the season win and loss records to seed the brackets.

**36.13** AAA, Ozone and Ranger shall use innings pitched requirements,

- A player may pitch a total of 5 innings in a game or in one day.
- Double headers – a player may pitch 2 innings in the first game and 3 innings in the second game. A player who pitches 3 innings in the first game shall not pitch in the second game.
- One pitch in an inning counts as one inning pitched.

**36.14** The home team shall be the official scorekeeper and keep pitch count.

**36.15** The continuous batting order will be used. An out will NOT be accessed if a team is missing a player or has less players than the other team.

**36.16** In Ranger and Ozone Leagues balks will be called. There will be no games where warnings are given.

**36.17** Steel cleats are not allowed for any age group. This also applies to out-of-town teams.

**36.18** Plays have the option to wear a batting helmet with face mask.

**36.19** Each team will furnish their own uniforms and 2 game balls for each game.

**36.20** Players will furnish their own water for games.

**36.21** There may be times when there is a shortage of umpires and one umpire will be used behind the mound. There will be one umpire used for AA (8-U) and AAA (10-U) most of the time.

**36.22** The concession will be open for drinks, hot dogs, nachos, candy and popcorn. *Free snow cones will **not** be given to teams.*

**36.23** Fall player registration fees for 2023 will be determined.

**36.24** Run Rules:

- 20 after 1 inning
- 15 after 2 innings
- 12 after 3 innings
- 10 after 4 innings
- 8 after 5 innings

### **37.00 Use of Fields at Charles Taylor Youth Complex**

**37.01** Playing fields cannot be used for team practice without permission from Baseball Committee Chairman or delegate.

**37.02** Optimist All-Star Teams shall be authorized to use the fields for practice when approved and scheduled by the Optimist Director of Grounds.

**37.03** Optimist Fall Baseball League teams shall be authorized to use the fields once per week for practice provided there is time. Use must be scheduled through the Optimist Director of Grounds.

**37.04** In case of wet weather, the contracted groundskeeper shall determine if the conditions of the fields are suitable for use.

**37.05** Teams must clean up all trash outside and inside the fields to retain the privilege of using the fields. In cases when state tournaments are scheduled at the complex, it may be necessary to not allow practice at the complex.

### **38.00 Rental of the facilities**

**38.01** Fields - \$85 per day per field (not raked or marked).

Fields - \$100 per day per field (raked and marked).

Fields - \$20 per hour for lights on a field (in addition to field rental fee).

Fields - \$15 per hour for a minimum of 2 hours.

Fields – shall not be rented for “travel” or “select” baseball tournaments.

Pavilions - \$75 per day.

Pavilion plus a field - \$100 per day.

Meeting rooms and concession will not be rented.

**38.02** Fields shall be scheduled by the Baseball Committee Chairman or delegate.

# **DYB Child Protection Plan**

## **Overview of the DYB Child Protection Plan**

The Dixie Youth Baseball Child Protection Plan was developed to protect our minor participants and assist the leagues in complying with the Safe Sport Act. This overview is a brief summary of the DYB Child Protection Plan that will give you the tools to protect the children in your league and help you become compliant with Federal Law. The complete plan that a league must adopt is located under the “League Risk Management” tab on the DYB website at [youth.dixie.org](http://youth.dixie.org).

The Safe Sport Act requires our league affiliates to report suspected child abuse (including sexual abuse) within 24 hours to law enforcement, to establish procedures to limit one-on-one interactions between an amateur athlete who is a minor and an adult (who is not the minor’s legal guardian) at an event or facility under a jurisdiction of the league, to provide consistent training to all adult members who are in regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors, and subject to parental consent, to provide information for parents to train their children regarding prevention and reporting of child abuse. Dixie Youth Baseball and its affiliated leagues must prohibit retaliation against any individual who makes a report required under the Safe Sport Act.

Taking steps to protect our youth is paramount in the Dixie Youth Baseball® (“DYB”) program. The purpose of this risk management plan is to reduce and/or prevent the occurrences of misconduct in DYB and affiliated leagues baseball programs as well as to reduce the liability potential for DYB and its leagues. Misconduct can negatively impact participants, league official/staff members, family, friends, and the sport.

### **EDUCATION**

The DYB Child Protection Plan serves as awareness education training for all league officials and staff who agree to educate themselves on all forms of misconduct and to refrain from engaging in such misconduct and in violating the policies herein. Leagues may adopt the DYB Child Protection Plan or adopt a similar comprehensive plan which complies with Federal law.

The DYB Child Protection Plan is designed for Dixie Youth Baseball and its affiliated local league organizations. This Plan is also an educational document which meets the educational requirements for all adult volunteers. It should be posted on the national, state, district and local league websites and freely copied and distributed to all adult officials, managers, coaches, volunteers and parents in the program.

Specifically, a league will implement policies in the following areas to address all types of misconduct and to set forth boundaries of appropriate and inappropriate conduct: sexual misconduct, including child abuse; grooming behavior; physical misconduct; emotional misconduct; bullying; harassment; hazing; social media and electronic communications; locker rooms and changing areas; travel; reporting misconduct; screening official/staff; and monitoring for compliance.

### **DUTY TO REPORT**

The Safe Sport Act passed by congress enacted in 2018 which establishes a nationwide standard “duty to report” suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, within 24 hours to law enforcement. The duty to report extends to all youth baseball programs and affiliated leagues. If an individual reasonably suspects a case of abuse within their league, they should report it to the appropriate child services organization and/or local law enforcement, as well as, their League Misconduct Officer(MO), the League President and District Director. The League should separately report such allegations to the appropriate law enforcement authorities as required by state and federal law. Failure to report such abuse may be a violation under state and/or federal law. Those making such reports may have civil and criminal immunity

as long as the report was made in good faith. Participants and parents are also encouraged to report any reasonable suspicions of child sexual and child physical abuse to the League.

After making a report to law enforcement allow law enforcement to conduct its own investigation DO NOT engage in any internal investigations or attempt to investigate the credibility of any such allegation. An independent investigation may interfere with the investigation of law enforcement. Any league official/staff member, participant, or parent who has a reasonable suspicion of emotional abuse, bullying, harassment, hazing, or grooming behavior should report within 24 hours such misconduct to the League. Depending on the severity and nature of the allegations, the League should determine whether to immediately report such allegations within 24 hours to the appropriate law enforcement authorities as required by state or federal law.

Reports of all misconduct made to the League may be made orally or in writing. The information required is the name of complainant(s) making the report, the type of misconduct alleged, the name(s) of the accused league officials or staff members who allegedly engaged in the misconduct, the approximate dates of misconduct, and any other relevant information.

Whistleblowers who report misconduct suspicions in good faith should be protected against any retaliation, punishment, and other harm regardless of the outcome of any investigation. To allow otherwise would defeat the purpose of the child abuse and misconduct risk management plan. Anyone who retaliates is subject to disciplinary action.

Likewise, complainants who act in bad faith in making malicious or frivolous allegations are subject to civil and criminal actions and disciplinary actions by the league. In addition to the reporting requirements above, all DYB Leagues shall report to Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc:

1. The identity of any person (coaches, volunteers, etc.) affiliated with it or any of its members who is convicted of, or pleads guilty to, or who is charged with and pleads guilty to a lesser offense, any crime of child abuse and/or crimes of a sexual nature, and
2. the identity of any person (coaches, volunteers, etc.) who is permanently banned from participation in its activities or the activities of any of its members as a result of a claim of child abuse or as a result of a claim of sexual abuse.
3. Any individual reported by a League to DYB shall be reported to USA Baseball.

## **ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS**

The league should select a criminal background check vendor that will run background checks and will assist in interpreting results and in compliance with state and federal laws.

The league should select a criminal background check vendor that will run background checks and will assist in interpreting results and in compliance with state and federal laws.

All managers, coaches and other authorized adult participants in the league who have repetitive access to and close contact with minor athletes should undergo a background check for acceptability prior to initial assignment of duties. After the initial background check, the league should run a subsequent background check at least every three years or more often as the league deems appropriate

To be eligible to manage or coach on any Dixie Youth Baseball tournament team an individual MUST have passed a third-party criminal background check which searches the National Criminal Database and the National Sex Offender Registry in all 50 states (not limited to just sexual offender records) from state and county databases. The league president must submit the DYB Tournament Certification Form with the Tournament Team Eligibility Affidavit at the District Credentials Meeting before the first tournament game. Documentation of the successful passing of criminal background checks as described above for all managers and coaches must be made available immediately upon request.



## **DISQUALIFICATION CRITERIA:**

To make sure that all individuals are treated fairly and consistently, the following disqualification criteria shall be used:

Individuals in the league who are found to be guilty of the following crimes shall be disqualified as a manager/coach or other position in the league as outlined below.

- All sex offenses including child molestation, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sodomy, prostitution, solicitation, indecent exposure, etc.
- All felony violence including murder, manslaughter, aggravated assault, kidnapping, robbery, aggravated burglary, etc.
- Found guilty within the past 10 years of all felony offenses other than violence or sex including drug offenses, theft, embezzlement, fraud, child endangerment, etc.
- Found to be guilty within the past 7 years of all misdemeanor violence offenses including simple assault, battery, domestic violence, hit & run, etc.
- Found guilty within the past 5 years of misdemeanor drug and alcohol offenses (or multiple offenses in the past 10 years) including driving under the influence, simple drug possession, drunk and disorderly, public intoxication, possession of drug paraphernalia, etc.
- Any other misdemeanor within the past 5 years that would be considered a potential danger to children or is directly related to the functions of the official/staff member, including contributing to the delinquency of a minor, providing alcohol to a minor, theft (if volunteer handles funds), etc.

Guilty means the applicant was found guilty following a trial, entered a guilty plea, entered a no contest plea accompanied by the court's finding of guilty, regardless of whether there was an adjudication of guilt (conviction) or a withholding of guilt. This policy does not apply if criminal charges resulted in acquittal, dismissal or in an entry of *nolle prosequi*.

Shall any of the pending charges described above be discovered or shall any of the above charges be brought against an applicant during the season, the applicant shall be suspended from serving until the charges are cleared or dropped and the League MO approves reinstatement.

*Note: These disqualification criteria are provided courtesy of Southeast Security Consultants, Inc. Each league may customize its own criteria to meet the league's specific policies. Another excellent, local source would be the disqualification criteria used by the local school board.*

**This document is intended to summarize the DYB Child Protection Plan to give the league an idea of what the plan entails. To be compliant with Federal Law the league must adopt the full DYB Child Protection Plan that is located under the "Child Protection Plan" tab on our website at [youth.dixie.org](http://youth.dixie.org) or adopt a similar plan which complies with Federal law.**

DISCLAIMER: THIS CHILD PROTECTION PLAN IS MEANT TO PROVIDE GENERAL AWARENESS AND EDUCATION ON THE TOPIC OF MISCONDUCT IN YOUTH BASEBALL PROGRAMS AND SUGGESTED POLICIES COMPILED FROM VARIOUS RESOURCES AND IS NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS ALL-ENCOMPASSING. THIS PLAN MAY CONTAIN INCORRECT INFORMATION AND MAY OMIT CRITICAL INFORMATION. BASEBALL PROGRAMS SHOULD INDEPENDENTLY RESEARCH VARIOUS AUTHORITY SOURCES SUCH AS U.S. CENTER FOR SAFESPORT AND UPDATE AND CUSTOMIZE THIS PLAN, AS NECESSARY. NO SPECIFIC ADVICE OR LEGAL ADVICE IS BEING PROVIDED. ALL DYB LEAGUES ARE SUBJECT TO FEDERAL LAW (PUBLIC LAW 115-126) - The "Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017" ("Safe Sport Act"). LAWS PERTAINING TO CHILD ABUSE AND OTHER MISCONDUCT VARY FROM STATE TO STATE. ALWAYS CONTACT A LOCAL ATTORNEY FOR LEGAL ADVICE IN YOUR STATE. SADLER & COMPANY, INC.; dba SADLER SPORTS & RECREATION INSURANCE AND DIXIE YOUTH BASEBALL, INC. DISCLAIM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY RESULTING FROM THE PUBLICATION AND USE OF THIS AWARENESS AND EDUCATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN. IN EXCHANGE FOR RECEIPT OF THIS INFORMATION, RECIPIENT AGREES TO HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNIFY SADLER & COMPANY, INC.; dba SADLER SPORTS & RECREATION INSURANCE AND DIXIE YOUTH BASEBALL INC. AND ITS RESPECTIVE DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, AND EMPLOYEES FOR ANY CLAIMS OF BODILY INJURY,

PROPERTY DAMAGE, OR OTHER DAMAGES, INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES, TO THEMSELVES OR THIRD PARTIES.

DYB website

*Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*