



City of Salem Parks and Recreation
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Updated: June 2018

City of Salem Dixie Youth Baseball

The purpose of Youth Recreational Athletic Leagues is to provide an enjoyable experience for each youth participant, while developing character, skills, sportsmanship, and promoting good will among all teams and individuals. Although sports are competitive by nature, the City of Salem Parks and Recreation Department's intentions are to place less emphasis on winning, while promoting the building of lifetime physical activity and health for each participant.

By Laws:

The City of Salem’s Dixie Minors and Ozone baseball leagues are governed by **Dixie Youth Baseball**. **Dixie Boys and Majors Baseball** governs the City of Salem’s Dixie Boys and Majors leagues.

Leagues	Ages	Game Length	Playing Field	Ball Used
Dixie Minors	9 & 10	6 innings or 1 hour 45 minutes	Bases 60 ft. Plate 46 ft.	Dixie Youth Baseball
Dixie Ozone	11 & 12	6 innings or 1 hour 45 minutes	Bases 70fts Plate 50 ft.	Dixie Youth Baseball
Dixie Boys	13 & 14	7 innings or 2 hours	Bases 80 ft. Plate 54 ft.	Dixie Boys/Majors Baseball
Dixie Majors	15 - 18	7 innings or 2 hours	Bases 90ft. Plate 60'6"	Dixie Boys/Majors Baseball

Age Classification

- Age determined on or before April 30th of the current season.

Playing Up

- Every player must play one (1) year in each age division before they are eligible to move up to the next age division unless denied by sanctioning league (Dixie).
- Once a player chooses to move up in age divisions, they must remain in that division and will **not** be allowed to “play down” for the remainder of that season or any season thereafter.
- No participant will be allowed to “play down” in any age division unless otherwise approved by the recreation department (i.e. medical condition, etc.).

All-Play Rule

- Every player in attendance must play a minimum of six (6) consecutive defensive outs and bat at least once. If a player has not batted, he is **not** eligible for substitution.
- Once the all-play requirement has been met, free substitutions on defense are allowed.
- If any player is benched for disciplinary reasons, the opposing coach and the official scorer must

- be notified prior to the start of the game.
- **Mandatory Substitution Rule:** All substitutions must be made in the third (3rd) inning.
Note: If a player has not batted, he is **not** eligible for substitution.
- No game shall end until all players have fulfilled the All-Play Rule.
Consequences for non-compliance: 1st offense - warnings, 2nd offense - 1 game suspension and discussion with P&R, 3rd offense - season suspension

Home/Visitor Benches

- The home team will occupy the third base bench.
- The visiting team will occupy the first base bench.

Coaches Background Screenings / ID Badges

- Every coach (head and assistant) must be approved through the background screening policy.
- Every coach (head and assistant) must wear their Coaches ID Badges during all games and practices.

Rained-Out Games Policy

- Any weekday that school is cancelled, due to bad weather, practices and games will be called off for that night.
- Weather Cancellation Hotline: 966-6900
Note: Changes to game schedules, due to weather conditions, will be announced after 3:30pm Monday – Friday and after 7:30am on Saturdays.

Game Schedules, League Standings and Rescheduled Games

- Game schedules are available on the City of Salem Website: www.salemva.gov
- Coaches will be notified via email or phone call of reschedules

Coach/Spectator/Player Ejection

- Any coach, spectator or player ejected from a game will be automatically suspended for the team's next two (2) games and practices during that time.
- Any player or coach ejected from two (2) games in one season will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
Note: During the suspension, which starts immediately after the altercation, the coach, player or spectator must leave the City of Salem property immediately. The suspended party is **not** allowed to be present at games and/or practices until the suspension has expired. If there is a refusal to leave or attempt to come back, before the suspension is over, the ejected/suspended person will be suspended for the remainder of the season. This includes any altercation before or after a game.
- Additional penalties may be added at the discretion of the City of Salem Department of Parks and Recreation.
- All decisions made by the Parks and Recreation Department are final.

Regulation Game

- **MINORS, OZONE:** A regulation game will be six (6) innings or one (1) hour and forty-five (45) minutes. **No new inning will start after 1 hour and 45 minutes from the start of the game.**

Note: Any Minors or Ozone game that is called, due to inclement weather, will be considered a complete game if four (4) complete innings have been played or 3.5 with home team ahead.

- **DIXIE BOYS, MAJORS:** A regulation games will be 7 innings or 2 hours. No new inning will start after 2 hours from the start of the game.

Note: Any game that is called, due to inclement weather, will be considered a complete game if four (4) complete innings have been played or 3.5 with home team ahead.

Tie Games

- A tie game will end as a tie; extra innings will **not** be played.

Batting and Defense

DIXIE MINORS, OZONE, BOYS AND MAJORS

- MINORS/OZONE: Standard batting lineup with nine (9) players.

Reminder: All substitutions must be made in the 3rd inning (All-Play Rule). **If a player has not batted, he is not eligible for substitution.**

5 Run Rule

- **DIXIE MINORS, OZONE:** The batting team's half inning is over when the fifth (5) run in that inning scores.
- **DIXIE BOYS, MAJORS:** There is **no** five (5) run rule.

10 Run Rules

- A game shall be considered a regulation game when a team is ahead by ten (10) runs after both teams have batted four times, or in the case of the home team when it is leading, three times and all batters have batted at least once.

Bats (Per Dixie Baseball Rules & Regulations)

A. MINORS/OZONE

- 1.10–(a) The barrel of all aluminum, metal alloy, composite, multi-piece wood bats or single-piece wood bats shall not exceed 2 5/8" inches in diameter nor exceed 33" inches in length.
- 1.10–(b) Approved Bats - All non-wood bats and multi-piece wood bats must be stamped with the USA Baseball mark signifying that the bat meets the bat performance standard established by USA Baseball. USA Baseball is the national governing body of amateur baseball in the United States. Solid wood bats made from a single piece of wood do not require the USA Baseball mark but must meet the specifications in Rule 1.10(a). All bats stamped "BPF 1.15" will be **not** be legal for play in all age divisions beginning January 1, 2018.

B. DIXIE BOYS/MAJORS

- Bats used in Dixie Boys regular season or tournament play must be 2 5/8" and shall be certified USA Bat with the designation legible on the bat. A list of approved bats can be obtained at www.usabat.com

Note: **BOYS** - BBCOR .50 certified bats are also allowed. **MAJORS** - BBCOR is the approved bat standard for Pre-Majors & Dixie Majors

Post Season Tournament Seeding

1. Best Record.
2. Winner of final head-to-head regular season meeting.
3. Coin toss

Note: In the event weather causes an uneven number of regular season games to be played by teams, within a league, the following seeding factors will be used to determine tournament seeding.

- Winning %
- Winner of last head-to-head
- Coin toss

Slide Rule

- All players must make an attempt to slide when a play is being made at home plate. If an attempt to slide is not made, the runner is out and all players must return to the last base touched.

Kiwanis Field: Batting Cage Rules and Regulations

- Batting Cages are available Monday – Friday after 6:30p and all day on Saturday and Sunday. Please note that on days when Roanoke College and Salem High School has a game scheduled, the cages will not be available for use until after that game has begun.
- Do not allow anyone to stand any closer than six (6) feet from the outside edge of the net. Allow only one (1) batter and one (1) machine operator in the cage at a time.
- Operator must use a protective screen and batter must wear a helmet at all times.
- Park vehicles in designated areas only. Do not park in the Florida Street Center parking lot.
- No alcoholic beverages or weapons of any kind allowed.
- No skates, skateboards, bikes or pets are allowed on City property.
- Anyone under eighteen (18) years old must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- The City of Salem is not responsible for any accidents or injuries while using the batting cages or other facilities.
- No food, beverages or coolers will be allowed in the batting cages.
- Warm-up in designated areas only. (Players warming up must do so outside the cage.)
- Only shoes with rubber or molded soles can be worn inside the cages. No spikes allowed.
- **Batting Cage Combination: 1-1-1-9**

Player Substitution Pool Rules and Regulations

- When a coach determines in advance that he/she cannot field a minimum of nine (9) players for a specific game, a player from a lower division will be allowed to play "up" for that game in order to field nine (9) players.
- Players will **not** be allowed to play "up" two divisions (i.e. tee ball can't play Dixie Minors). Details of the Player Substitution Pool are as follows:
 1. All regular players of the team must start the game. The only time a player pool substitute shall start a game is if that team has less than nine (9) players present at game time.
 2. All players present for the game (regular or player pool substitute), if listed on the official game roster must abide by the player participation requirements as stated in the local league rules.
 3. Regular players on the team must play more innings than the player substitute pool players.

4. Player substitution pool players must be outfitted in an Official Dixie League uniform. They are allowed to wear their current team uniform if the team in the need of a substitute pool player does not have an extra uniform.
5. Players brought up from the player substitution pool must abide by all Dixie pitching requirements. No extra pitching innings will be allotted for substitution pool players.
6. The use of the player substitution pool does not affect a player's eligibility for Dixie Youth Baseball tournament competition. (Refer to Official Rules & Regulations, Tournament Rules, Section IV).

Dixie All-Star Play Guidelines

A. Coaches Responsibilities

- Each head coach in the league will submit player nominations by a Salem Parks & Recreation assigned time. Each head coach will nominate up to 5 players from their team.
- Once a head coach is voted on (see All-Star Coach Selection Criteria, page 6), Salem Parks and Recreation Department will notify head coaches of nominations.
- The All-Star Coach must take at least one player from each team. The head coach will then pick the remaining players from any team in the league **not** to exceed five (5) players from any team.
- The head coach needs to be made aware of any vacations or conflicts with players taken on the All-Star team. Coach should check with other coaches or parents of players taken to find out this information before he makes his/her final selections.
- Coach will name two assistants of his/her choice. Coaches must be on a regular season Dixie roster (Head or Assistant coach).
- Coach shall be responsible for collecting the following information:
 - Copy of Birth Certificate for each player on team
 - Proof of Insurance by Dixie League (obtain through Salem Parks & Recreation)
 - Medical release form (signed by parents)
 - Fully completed roster form (Signed by Salem Sports Office Staff)
 - Coach will need all of this information for credentials meeting (date, time and place to be announced)

B. Equipment

- Each head coach is to use the equipment assigned to them, by Salem Parks & Recreation, during the regular season. The Salem Parks and Recreation Department will provide new baseballs for home All-Star play. **Note:** It is the head All-Star Coach's responsibility to make sure that all equipment is in good working condition and all bats and helmets meet Dixie Youth guidelines.

C. Umpires for Scrimmages

- The City will pay for umpires for no more than 2 scrimmages per team. Every effort will be made to schedule umpires for scrimmages but we may not be able to accommodate every request due to availability of umpires.

All-Stars

A. Coaches Selection Criteria

The All-Star season provides a "post season" experience at a higher level of competition than that of local

Revised 6/18/2018

league play for those qualified and selected through an objective process. This experience is an earned one that encompasses not just advanced skills for the age group, but a well-rounded ability to play the game. Additionally, all participants, whether a coach or player, must embody and exhibit a level of character and sportsmanship during All-Star play that parallels the opportunity of representing the City of Salem in other communities throughout the State.

B. Manager/Coach Selection Process

Each All-Star team manager shall be appointed annually by the Salem Parks and Recreation Department. The Salem Parks and Recreation Department shall select each team's head coach from letters of intent received no later than the specified date provided. Once selected, the All-Star coach must choose two (2) assistant coaches of his or her choice from any team within their league of play. Assistant coaches are subject to approval by the Parks and Recreation Department and will not be authorized to participate in team practices or games until such time. All coaches must be listed on an official Dixie Baseball or RAYSA team roster during the current year to be eligible.

The All-Star team manager may be selected prior to the conclusion of league play; however the City of Salem Department of Parks and Recreation reserves the right to remove a coach, at anytime, who exhibits behavior or decorum not in accordance with league and department guidelines. These guidelines include but are not limited to behavior on and off the field while in the community during his or her role as coach. Outbursts of anger, demeaning comments, or a lack of perspective regarding the most important thing, our children, will be cause for immediate dismissal. This process, should it be warranted, will commence with repeated complaints from parents, opposing coaches, or direct observations from a Coaches Selection Committee member or staff of the City of Salem Department of Parks and Recreation. All grievances will be reviewed and voted on by the board for quick resolve in an expeditious manner. Should a coach be removed, the Salem Dixie Coaches Selection Committee will act quickly to appoint his/her replacement from those coaches who sent in initial letters of intent. If no other candidates are available to fill the head coaching vacancy, one will be appointed by the Salem Dixie Coaches Selection Committee. All decisions made by the Salem Dixie Coaches Selection Committee are final and not subject to appeal.

C. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The All-Star team manager needs to have demonstrated good baseball knowledge in order to put forth a best effort approach on strategy within the expectations of tournament play, i.e. understand substitutions, player strengths, pitching rules and rotations, and basic concepts of the game. This person must be organized and communicate expectations to both parents and players clearly and consistently throughout the All-Star experience. Additionally, this coach should have established a proven ability to work with youth participants, parents, and game officials as well as department and staff personnel in a manner that is in accordance with department guidelines. This coach, most of all, needs to demonstrate leadership, poise and a demeanor worthy to guide young boys and girls during their time participating. Coaches will be approved based on the above criteria and on their commitment to coach the All-Star team until the conclusion of all tournament play, regardless of how long that may last.

In addition to the above, the following criteria will be used when selecting the All-Star team manager:

- Sportsmanship exhibited throughout league play
- Previous coaching and playing experience
- Rapport with players and parents
- History with Department
- "Spirit of the Game" Coaching Philosophy