



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PROGRAM (all are co-ed except for softball)	AGES (on or before (April 30 <sup>th</sup> ))	REGISTRATION FEE	INCLUDED IN REGISTRATION FEE
Dixie Softball–Angels (girls only)	8-10	<b>\$50 each</b>	Team Jersey, Socks, Belt, Headband, and Insurance
Dixie Softball–Ponytails (girls only)	11-12		
Dixie Youth Baseball–Minors	8-10		Team Jersey, Socks, Hat, Belt, and Insurance
Dixie Youth Baseball– “O”Zone	11-13		
Junior Baseball	13-17		
Youth Baseball–Coaches Pitch	6-8	<b>\$40 each</b>	Team Jersey, Socks, and Hat
Youth Baseball–T-Ball	5-6		
Youth Baseball–Wee T-Ball	3-4		

PROGRAM (all are co-ed except for softball)	DESCRIPTION	# of Games
Dixie Softball–Angels	Girls fast-pitch competitive softball with a focus on instruction and FUN. Played under Dixie Softball Inc. – player pitches	12 to 15
Dixie Softball–Ponytails		12 to 15
Dixie Youth Baseball–Minors	Competitive baseball with an emphasis on FUN and improving players’ skills. Played under Dixie Youth Baseball. – player pitches	12 to 15
Dixie Youth Baseball– “O”Zone		12 to 15
Junior Baseball	Competitive baseball; begins in late May for those who want to continue building their skills (season begins once school seasons end).	8 to 10
Youth Baseball–Coaches Pitch	Fundamental baseball with a focus on FUN and skill building. – Coach pitches to player	10 to 12
Youth Baseball–T-Ball	Beginner level with a focus on FUN with an introduction to basic fundamentals. – Coach pitches to player or player hits from a Tee	8 to 10
Youth Baseball–Wee T-Ball	Introduces players to the very basics of baseball. Provides FUN social interaction. – player hits from a Tee	6 to 8



**Q.** What is the objective of the baseball/softball program?

**A.** To provide a FUN program focused on improving each players skills and to inspire teamwork and sportsmanship.



**Q.** Where and when are practices and games held?

**A.** Every effort will be made to ensure each team has as close to a 50-50 split between the Prosperity fields and the Newberry fields for practices and games. There may be a few occasions where a practice or two may be held in Little Mountain. Field space/availability is always subject to change. Practices and games are typically either Monday, Wednesday, and/or Saturday OR Tuesday, Thursday, and/or Saturday (two to three events per week; i.e., two practice or one practice and two games). Saturday games are typically completed by 2:00 PM and every effort is made to ensure weekday events do not interfere with schedules in relation to school. There will be practices and/or games at 6:30 or later depending on the age division. We make every effort to limit the number of later practices/games per team to one or two per week.



**Q.** When will practice and game schedules be available?

**A.** An initial practice schedule for the first week of practices is provided to the head coach approximately five days prior to the first practice. Once we have more information about any potential scheduling issues, a practice schedule is developed that outlines all scheduled practices up to games beginning. Approximately one week prior to games beginning a practice schedule is provided to the head coach that outlines at least four weeks of practices. Additional practice schedules are provided in the same manner as needed to complete the season. Game schedules are made available to head coaches to share with parents typically within two weeks of practices beginning. The games schedules are also posted on the website for easy access. Website: [www.NewberryCountyBaseballSoftball.com](http://www.NewberryCountyBaseballSoftball.com).



**Q.** How will information be communicated to parents/guardians?

**A.** Staff and coaches primarily communicate via text messages (or phone call) to expedite getting information to all involved. It is important that you provide a working number and are responsive. Some coaches use apps such as Remind or GroupMe to communicate information. It is your responsibility to communicate any issues with using these platforms to the coach as soon as possible.



**Q.** How are teams selected?

**A.** Younger division teams are randomly selected. An effort is made to ensure each team has an even number within each age bracket. Older division teams (Minors/Angels and Ozone/Ponytails) are selected using a draft format (player evaluation and selection by coaches). A returning player will be placed on the same team as the year prior unless they are moving to a new division or the number of teams changes.



**Q.** What equipment/items do I need to make sure my child has to participate?

**A.** The registration fee covers the player's uniform other than pants. Players will be instructed by their coach regarding information about pants. Players must supply their own helmet and glove. Helmet must have a face guard for softball, optional for baseball (recommended). A faceguard (see below) is required for any softball player who will play infield (Angels) or pitch (Angels and Ponytails). Players are welcome to supply their own bat, but rules do apply in each age division and must be followed. Cleats are strongly encouraged (especially in the Minors/Angels and Ozone/Ponytails divisions), but not required. Cleats must be plastic; no metal spikes allowed.



*Softball Faceguards*



**Q.** Can my child play at an older age level?

**A.** Typically this is discouraged as it affects player development; however, if you would like your player to move up, a request must be made directly to the Director of Parks and Recreation for Newberry County (Phone: 803-924-8328 or E-mail: [recreation@newberrycounty.net](mailto:recreation@newberrycounty.net)). For Angels, Ponytails, Minors, and Ozone: A player who elects to play in an older age division (with parent and League Administrator approval and if space allows) during the regular season will only be eligible for All-Star selection in that age division (the age division they participated in during the regular season). A decision to play in an older age division MUST be made prior to player evaluations.



**Q.** What if my child needs to miss a practice/game?

**A.** Advanced communication when possible is always encouraged. Typically, there is no impact or penalty to missing a practice or game; however, if it becomes habitual it may impact playing time during games. Again, communication is important. Attendance at practices becomes more important to earning playing time in the older divisions. This is a commitment for the player AND the parents/guardians.



**Q.** How are parents/guardians notified of practice/game cancellations?

**A.** Newberry County Parks & Recreation staff make the determination as to whether practices/games will be cancelled due to weather, field conditions, safety or health related circumstances and will communicate this information to coaches. Cancellations are made as far in advance as possible, but there may be times in which cancellations are not made until a practice/game begins. The goal is to make a determination at least one hour prior to practice/game start time. Once rosters have been set, coaches will communicate the information regarding cancellations to parents/guardians.



**Q.** The purchase of a bat is not required, but how do I know what bat to purchase if I so choose?

**A.** A bat can be an expensive purchase. We strongly suggest attending a practice or two and doing some research prior to purchasing a bat. See page 21 of the 2023 DYB Rulebook (<http://youth.dixie.org/>) for information about legal baseball bats.

### Approved Bats

**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) (1) USA Baseball 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.

(2) **Wood Bats** - 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).

(3) **BBCOR Bats** - 2 5/8" BBCOR (-3) certified bats (*which do not bear the USA Baseball mark*) that meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) standard and which do not weigh, numerically, more than three ounces less than the length of the bat (**e.g., a 33-inch-long bat cannot be less than 30 ounces**) may be used in regular season or tournament play.

(4) All bats stamped "BPF 1.15" are not legal for play in all age divisions.

**1.10-(c) Tee Ball Bats** - Tee Ball bats will be stamped with the USA Baseball Mark and the language "Only for use with approved tee balls". Bats stamped for Tee Ball (T-Ball) play can only be used with low compression balls due to the manufacturing standards for these bats. Any bat stamped for Tee Ball (T-ball) play **cannot** be used in games played using a regular baseball that is pitched to the batter in any division of DYB.

**1.10(d) Illegal Bat Penalty:** A bat which does not meet the specifications in Rule 1.10 (a) and Rule 1.10 (b) shall be deemed an illegal bat. A batter who uses an illegal bat shall be called out and all runners shall return to the bases occupied by them at the time such batter took his Position in the batter's box if protested by the opposing team manager prior to the first pitch to the next batter. The bat becomes illegal when the batter receives the first pitch during his turn at bat. He does not have to hit the ball. The batter shall be called out and any runners must return to the base they occupied prior to the first pitch to the batter. **2nd Penalty:** After the first occurrence that a batter is called out for using an illegal bat, if a second batter is called out for using an illegal bat in the same game by the same team the team manager shall be ejected from the game.

**1.10(e) Pine Tar** - The use of pine tar or any other similar adhesive substances on a bat is prohibited in all levels of DYB play. Use of these substances will result in the bat being declared illegal and the bat will be removed from play pursuant to 1.10(d).

