

PROSPERITY



Prosperity Youth Baseball

Dixie Youth Handbook



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OBJECTIVES OF PROGRAM

While baseball may be inherently competitive, part of the mission of Dixie Youth Baseball is to instruct children in the skills of the game and instill a sense of fun and sportsmanship in each player. Research has shown that positive coaching can increase an athlete's self esteem and self-confidence, which result in more enjoyment from participating, which causes a child to be more likely to continue playing. Youth sports helps children learn about determination, commitment, hard work, teamwork, and empathy while increasing self-confidence and positive character traits. ***Unfortunately, these opportunities are often squandered because of the win-at-all costs mentality of some youth coaches and parents.***

GENERAL RULES

**These General Rules apply to Prosperity Dixie Youth League Teams.
All rules in this section are in addition to the Standard Dixie Youth Inc. rules.**

- If a team function is held which involves the team and parents as a group, all players & parents must be invited to participate.
- Each batter, runner and on deck batter will be required to wear an approved helmet while on the playing field.
- A facemask must be attached to all helmets worn by participants.
- No one under the age of sixteen (16) years of age will be allowed in the press box without supervision.
- When a player becomes sick, is injured, or must leave the game for any reason and cannot take their turn in the batting order, his position in the batting order will be eliminated until such time as he is able to continue in the game.
- **Any Player** arriving after the beginning of the game shall be added to the bottom of the batting order.
- Minimum number of players required to start or finish a game in any age group is eight (8) with consent of both coaches. When the time for ninth batter to step up, it will be automatic out per local league rules.
- Game participants **must** remain in the dugout except when at bat, on deck, or participating in the ballgame. No participants may leave the playing field area (outside the fences) until the completion of the game. The only exceptions to this rule will be for a child or coach to visit the restroom, or due to sickness
- **Only the Head Coach** will be allowed on the field to discuss a play situation with the umpire.
- No fundraising or collection of **any** additional money from or for the team is allowed *without prior approval* from the League Administrator.
- Only official league uniforms can be worn for regular season play.

It is the policy of Prosperity Dixie Youth Baseball, that anyone (on or off the field) at any Prosperity Dixie Youth event, does not have the right to conduct him or herself (physically or verbally) in a manner that negatively reflects on the children of our Prosperity Dixie Youth program and the Town of Prosperity. If any person is in violation of this policy at any Prosperity Dixie Youth event, the violator will be escorted away from, and banned from the event or playing facilities, for the remainder of the day. In extreme cases, the League Representative (s) may choose to ban a violator for longer durations, such as one week, one year, or for life.

Insurance Information

Accidental insurance is covered in the registration fee. This is a secondary accidental policy only. If your child should get hurt, please let the League Administrator know immediately and he/she will provide you with the forms to submit. Please keep all medical receipts for reimbursement. Due to the insurance liability limitations of this policy the following **must be followed**.

- **ALL practices must be approved** by League Representative to be declared an official Dixie Youth practice.
- NO bat boy/girl is allowed in the dugout or on the field other than as a team member,
- NO parents or spectators are allowed in the dugout, unless they are a coach on that team.
- Dixie Youth **only recognizes** 3 coaches per team. You are allowed a first base, third base coach and the third coach can stand by or in front of the dugout. If you choose to have a 4th coach, (per local league rule) they are not allowed anywhere on the field, they must remain in the dugout.



COACHES CODE OF ETHICS

As a volunteer coach in the Prosperity Dixie Youth program, I will do my best to behave in a sportsmanlike manner. The following list represents a limited set of guidelines for conduct:

- I will not use abusive or vulgar language, disruptive or inappropriate behavior
- I will not taunt, ridicule or argue with any umpire, coach, player, parent or fan
- I will be respectful and courteous to umpires, coaches, players, parents and fans
- I understand that the PDY has told its umpires that they are not to reverse any judgment call (e.g., ball or strike, safe or out, fair or foul) based on arguments made by coaches or fans.
- I will look out for the physical and mental welfare of all players and encourage discipline & teamwork. I will support the elected officials and League Representative (s) of the **Prosperity Dixie Youth** program and abide by the policies and decisions made by them. I will be engaged in no unscrupulous activity, which tends to undermine the authority of those charged with the responsibility of directing this program.
- I understand that NO alcohol or tobacco products are allowed on the Prosperity Dixie Youth premises at any time.
- I will cooperate in observance of the rules and regulations on a national, state and local level, which is the strength of the Dixie Youth Organization.
- I will attend regularly all official meetings and functions of the local program unless hindered by unforeseen circumstances. I will always be present for team practices and games.
- I will help endow the Dixie Youth Baseball program with highest personal standards & regard the Dixie Youth Baseball program as an asset to my community

COACHES CONDUCT POLICY

Generally, we have very few problems with coaches misbehaving. However, occasionally a situation does arise where the behavior of a coach becomes unacceptable. The policy is intended to describe the procedure that the **Prosperity Dixie Youth** will follow to address such instances.

Any occurrence of misbehavior will be documented before the misbehavior is addressed. Documentation consists of one of two forms: 1) the League Representative(s) personally witnesses the misbehavior and brings the matter to the Administrator of the League, or 2) an eyewitness has observed the misbehavior and submits a signed complaint to the League Representative(s) within 1 week of the misbehavior. ***Within 3 days*** of having received the documentation of the incident, the League Representative(s) with the Administrator will review the complaint, seek to interview others present who witnessed the behavior, and interview the coach and or coaches whose actions are in question. The League Representative(s) or Administrator will determine if the event was a serious violation of the behavior ethics code. If the circumstance doesn't dictate that the event is a violation, then the matter will be dropped and all participating parties will be notified.

If a complaint is determined to have violated the coach's ethic code policy and calls for disciplinary action the following procedure will be followed. The League Representative(s) and/or Administrator will issue a letter of warning to the coach listing the complaint of the indicated behavior, and to advise the coach that he or she is being placed on probation for the remainder of the season. The warning letter will also advise the coach that subsequent occurrences will result in further disciplinary action including but not limited to the suspension of the coach from a part of or all of the remaining season. The letter will be signed by the League Representative(s) and/or Administrator and delivered to the offending coach. Those filing the complaint will also be notified of the actions taken by the League Representative(s) and/or Administrator.

In the event that the League Representative(s) and/or Administrator finds the first offense to be serious enough to warrant a punitive action greater than a warning, the coach shall be reprimanded as recommended and suspended immediately. If it is necessary that the coach be suspended for the remainder of the season the League Representative(s) and/or Administrator will appoint a replacement coach and the League Representative(s) and/or Administrator will meet with the parents and players of the team to advise them of such actions.

Any coach that is suspended for the year will not be allowed to take a head coaching position the following year.

Any coach, who conspires or attempts to fix the All Star selection, will be banned from the Prosperity Dixie Youth Baseball Program and not allowed to represent PDY on the all-star team if he/she wins the league. The League Representative(s) and/or Administrator will take over the all-star team.

It is our hope that these procedures will never have to be used, but as our league grows so does the possibility that someone will abuse the privilege of being a coach. Because our main concern is for the enjoyment and recreation of the community of parents, coaches, and children who are out to enjoy team and family time together, we will not be tolerant of continued violations of the Coaches' Code of Ethics.



PLAYER CONDUCT POLICY

Prosperity Dixie Youth seeks to encourage good sportsmanship, fair play, and team spirit among all of its players. Because we are working with 8-12 year old children, occasional lapses in the behavior of the players will happen. However, repeated misbehavior, which violates the basic spirit that players are striving for, will not be tolerated. Examples of such misbehavior include, but are not limited to:

- Repeated verbal abuse of teammates, coaches, spectators, or opponents,
- Repeated use of profanity, aggression toward any other players, particularly physical aggression,
- Repeated refusal to cooperate with coaches or league officials, including umpires.

Any such behavior when observed by any field representative, umpire or reported in writing by a **PDY** coach, parent, or spectator, will result in a review of the incident by the League Representative(s) and/or Administrator. For a valid first infraction, a warning will be issued to the player (and sent to his/her parents). Further actions may be taken as deemed appropriate. If the player is involved in further incidents, automatic suspension for a set number of games is a likely disciplinary action. After any suspension, a player & parent conference is required before the player can resume play. If the player is allowed to continue to participate after suspension, and misbehavior continues beyond this, action will be to suspend the player for the remainder of the year with no refund of registration fee. Any suspension will result in disqualifying the player for All-Star nomination. It is the intent of **PDY** to create an atmosphere where all player participants can have fun, learn baseball, and most of all develop the attitudes and good behavior associated with sportsmanship, fair play, and team camaraderie.

PARENTS CONDUCT POLICY

The primary description of acceptable behavior for parents is given in the Code of Conduct that is handed out to all parents at time of 1st team meeting. Generally we have few problems with parents misbehaving in a manner contradictory to that which is described in the Code of Conduct. **However**, occasionally a situation does arise where the behavior of a parent becomes unacceptable. This policy is intended to describe the procedure that **Prosperity Dixie Youth Baseball** will follow to address such instances. It is not the intent of this policy to try and define every instance that might be described as constituting parental misbehavior. We will however make mention of certain types of known behavior that we have experienced in the past and will use these examples to illustrate unacceptable parental behavior. Such examples are, but not limited to, the following:

- Taunting of an umpire, coach, league official, or player in a negative manner
- Use of profanity or vulgar language.
- Embarrassing negative remarks aimed at your own child or other children while he/she is playing a game.
- Use of Alcoholic beverages while at the Prosperity Town Fields.
- Threatening or aggressive remarks towards umpires, coaches, league officials, or fans
- Physical confrontations with umpires, coaches, league officials, or fans
- Failure to remove yourself from the field after you have been ejected from the field

Parents please understand that the League Representative(s) and/or Administrator will deal with such behavior listed above in the following manner. **(1)** You will first be addressed by your coach and asked politely to calm down. **(2)** If you should persist then you will be warned by the umpire officiating the game to control your behavior. **(3)** If you continue to present a problem you will be ejected from the game and the game will not resume until you have left the Town Field. **(4)** If you fail to leave the Town Field a league official will call the Prosperity Police Department to escort you away.

It is our hope that we do not have to initiate any of the above steps necessary to control parental behavior. It is the intent of the **Prosperity Dixie Youth**, to create a family atmosphere for the enjoyment and recreation for the community of parents, coaches, and players who are out to enjoy team and family time together. We hope to provide the basis for all players to have fun, learn the game of baseball, and most of all develop the attitudes and good behavior associated with sportsmanship, fair play, and teamwork. We are asking you as parents to help us reach our goal.

Please lead by example & remember that lots of small eyes & ears are looking and listening to everything you say & do.

COACH SELECTION

All Coaches will be approved annually. To aid in approving coaches, all prospective coaches shall complete the coach's application. A prospective coach will be denied a position if they intentionally provides false information.

All coaches will be required to sign a document stating they understand the policies & goals of the Prosperity Dixie Youth program. Each team will be allowed one (1) manager and (2) coaches, only **the Head Coach** can act in the official capacity for the team. You may have a 4th person that sits in the dugout with the players; he/she is not an official coach and cannot be on the field during a game.



PLAYER DRAFT SELECTION

The draft, which will be under the direction of the League Representative (s) and/or Administrator will fill all player vacancies. Players not attending tryouts will be placed at the end of the draft using a random method of selection determined by the League Representative(s). ***Any coach, who conspires to fix or attempt to fix the draft selection, will be banned from the Prosperity Dixie Youth Baseball Program.***

- A draft will be conducted each year for new incoming players, moving from Minors to Majors and anytime a new team is added or an existing team dropped.
- Any player from the previous season can **ONLY** be placed back in the draft when there are extenuating reasons due to a hardship with the approval of the Administrator(s). You must provide in writing what you feel your hardship is prior to the draft. If found there is no hardship, you will go back to the previous year's team or you may sit out a year and enter the draft the following year.
- Dixie Youth Baseball rules will apply to players on the waiting list. Players moving into the area (after the sign up period) will be placed on the waiting list. A player may be added to a team roster from the waiting list only after a player has been released from the roster, per item 5 and 6 of these rules and only by the League Representative(s) and/or Administrator.
- Only a head coach & one assistant that ***doesn't have a child participating*** in the draft may be on the field during the process.
- Once a player is drafted and placed on a team roster, **Only** the League Representative(s) and/or Administrator may release the child from the roster. A player may be dropped from the roster for the following reasons:
 - (a) Moving out of area
 - (b) Sickness or injury
 - (c) ©Lack of discipline (derogatory remarks, dissension, lack of respect for coaches or players.)
 - (d) Missing more than 3 practices or games that are unexcused. This is a team sport and everyone is needed. It is unfair to all the other players that are making the practices & games. If there is an extenuating circumstance that prevents the player from showing up then the League Representative(s) must be notified.
 - (e) Suspension from the league may result for infractions covered in these rules. These incidents must be communicated to the League Representative(s), as they occur to provide opportunity to correct the problem. Coaches may be asked to provide written documentation of each incident.
- Parents may request siblings to be placed on the same team. These requests will be honored ***if possible but not guaranteed***. Other hardships or extenuating circumstances will be at the discretion of the League Representative(s) and/or Administrator. These players will be selected in the round determined by the League Representative(s).

At the end of the draft, each coach will be allowed to trade one player with another coach. These trades must be of equal value (ranking) and age. The League Representative(s) must approve all trades.

The Draft Is Confidential Information and any coach releasing any information on the order of player selection will be disciplined.

AGE LIMITS

Any candidate who will attain the age of 8 to 12 on or before April 30 shall be eligible for participation in the Prosperity Dixie Youth program providing he/she meets all other requirements.

Candidates must play in their respective age group as governed by Dixie Youth Inc. No player may move up unless they are needed to fill a roster to make a team of 9.

TROPHIES

The league will purchase trophies for the following:

- Individual participant on a league team in all age groups.
- No more than one coaches' award per team.
- Trophies will be distributed to the Head Coach or team mom at the last tournament game or as soon as possible thereafter.
- Award/certificate/plaque will be given to team mom for the Head Coach



SCHEDULES, TIME LIMITS & MAKE-UP GAMES

- The League Representative(s) and/or Administrator will be responsible for preparing practice schedules.
- All games played (regular, make-up, or scrimmage) must be approved by the League Representative (s) and must fall within all league rules.
- The League Representative(s) will notify coaches if games are called because of rain or other reasons, so they can reschedule the game according to field availability.
- A game consists of 6 innings **unless** the fifteen (15) run rule after 3 innings or the ten (10) run rule is enforced after 4 innings.
- Any game start **delayed** by weather or other reasons past 6:20 P.M. on a school night shall be re-scheduled.
- Time Limit – Minors – 1 ½ hours and Majors – 1 ¾ hours (*If tied after time expires refer to Mid Carolina Dixie Youth By-Laws*)
- All games on the **Prosperity Dixie Youth** field are subject to the discretion of the League Representative(s) and/or plate umpire as to suspend the game due to delays.
- Make-up games are to be made up on the earliest possible date as determined by the League Representative(s).
- The League Representative(s) has to approve any special arrangements. The League Representative(s) will set make-up game start times.

UMPIRES

- The umpires will be paid the following fees: \$28.00 per game for behind the plate & \$17.00 in the field
- Two umpires will be assigned for all games. **No umpires under age 16 behind the plate.**
- **No umpire may call a game behind the plate in which his/her child participates. The only exception is if there is no other person available and the visiting team coach agrees.**
- In the event an umpire does not show up for a game the League Representative(s) or Field Representative may substitute or appoint someone to umpire.

CONTACT INFORMATION

You may reach someone at the Newberry YMCA Monday – Friday - 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Sunday - 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. @ (803) 276-9936. If Mr. Coffey is unavailable the front desk will take your message and have someone get back in touch with you as soon as possible.

YMCA Administrator – Jerry Coffey - E-mail Address: ymcabrock@aol.com
Phone: (803) 276-9936 P.O. Box 662 Newberry, SC 29108

County Recreation Administrator - Gerdi Lake – E-mail Address: recreation@newberrycounty.net
Phone: (803) 924-8324 P. O. Box 156 Newberry, SC 29108
Prosperity Town Administrator- Karen Livingston – E-mail: Karen.Livingston@prosperitysc.com
Phone: (803) 364-2622 - P.O. Box 39 Prosperity, SC 29127

