

LOUISIANA DIXIE YOUTH BASEBALL

CONSTITUTION

REVISED: FEBRUARY 15 2015

ARTICLE I

NAME AND PURPOSE:

- SECTION 1 The name of this organization shall be LOUISIANA DIXIE YOUTH.
- SECTION 2 The purpose of this organization shall be to aid the State Director and the District Directors in the provision and supervision of Dixie Youth Baseball in the State of Louisiana.
- SECTION 3 These by-laws shall be in conjunction with the National Organization of Dixie Youth Baseball and shall in no way conflict with the aims, purposes, and rules of the National Organization.

ARTICLE II

SECTIONS AND DISTRICTS

- SECTION 1 The state shall be divided into seven districts.
- SECTION 2 Districts shall consist of not less than six leagues and all leagues shall be grouped as close geographically as possible. The State Director will divide the state into seven Districts each year. Any leagues approved after the state meeting will be assigned to a district by the State Director.
- SECTION 3 Each district shall be under the supervision of a District Director.

ARTICLE III

STATE DIRECTOR ELECTION

- SECTION 1 The State Director shall be elected for a four-year term by mail ballot from the President of Dixie Youth Baseball.
- (a) All leagues franchised the previous year shall be eligible to vote, according to Dixie Youth Baseball policy.
 - (b) To hold office of State Director, one must have been associated with Dixie Youth Baseball for two or more years.
- SECTION 2 Regional & State Umpire In Chiefs will be appointed by the State Director

on an annual basis.

- (a) State & Regional Umpire In Chiefs will not be allowed to coach a tournament team.

ASSISTANT STATE DIRECTORS

- SECTION 1 The State Director shall nominate candidates at the annual State Meeting. This candidate must receive seven (7) votes from the Board of Directors.
- SECTION 2 The Assistant State Directors shall be appointed for a four year term.
- SECTION 3 He will serve at the discretion of the State Director. He will be a voting member of the Board.

ARTICLE IV

DISTRICT DIRECTOR ELECTION

- SECTION 1 District Directors shall be elected for a four year term. This election will be a mailed ballot handled by the State Director. Beginning in 1999 after the Dixie Youth World Series, all District Directors will run for a four year term.
 - (a) District Directors shall serve without compensation.
 - (b) All vacancies or unexpired terms will be filled by the State Director.
- SECTION 2 District Umpire In Chiefs will be appointed by the District Director on an annual basis.
 - (a) District Umpire In Chiefs will not be allowed to coach a tournament team
- SECTION 3 All initial District Meetings should be scheduled with the State Director; however, the District Director has the final decision.
- SECTION 4 The District Director shall maintain a current map showing district boundaries and maintain a current roster of league contacts.
- SECTION 5 The bi-district Directors shall be elected or appointed at the initial district meeting.
- SECTION 6 The District Director will be responsible for umpire's caps, patches, and registrations. District Directors will receive these from the State Director and will make sure all monies are forwarded to the state treasury. All caps and patches must be returned to the State Director no later than the beginning of the regional tournaments.

ARTICLE V

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- SECTION 1 The function of this board shall be to assist the State Director and to assure equitable representation for each District according to its affiliated leagues.
- SECTION 2 This board shall consist of the District and National Directors from Louisiana.
- SECTION 3 The State Director shall serve as chairman and preside over all meetings.
- SECTION 4 For the purpose of transacting business at any meeting in which notices have been mailed seven (7) days in advance, a quorum shall consist of members present.
- (a) A majority of those members present shall have the power to adjourn the meeting.
 - (b) The State Director shall call a meeting of the Board at such time and place he may designate.
 - (c) A majority of the board members may call for a meeting.
- SECTION 5 All members shall serve without compensation.
- SECTION 6 Immediate past State Director shall serve one year as ex-officio member.
- SECTION 7 Committees may be established as deemed necessary by the board. The board may appoint members to serve on these committees.
- SECTION 8 The State Director shall supply copies of the constitution to Board and Franchised Leagues.
- SECTION 9 Scholarship Chairman will be responsible for raising funds and donating these funds to the National Scholarship Fund.
- SECTION 10 Treasurer will be appointed to a term to run concurrent with the term of the State Director. The Treasurer will be elected from one of the National Directors. He will handle all Louisiana Dixie Youth funds. All monies owed Louisiana Dixie Youth Baseball & Louisiana Umpires Association will be mailed to the Treasurer. The Treasurer will be the only officer allowed to deposit these funds.
- SECTION 11 Finance Committee will consist of State Director, Treasurer, and two Louisiana Dixie Youth Board Members elected at the annual Board of Directors meeting on a rotating basis. The Finance Committee will be empowered to make financial decisions when the Board of Directors is not in session.

- SECTION 12 Any matter not fully and specifically covered by this constitution shall be determined by the State Director who is empowered to make such decisions subject to ratification at the next State Board Meeting.
- SECTION 13 The Louisiana Board of Directors will elect the State Secretary at the first board meeting following the election of the State Director and the State Secretary will serve a four year term concurrent with the State Director. The duties of the State Secretary shall include the following: Keeper of official minutes of all meetings, state tournament records, and assisting with the Louisiana State Web page.
- SECTION 14 Each Louisiana Dixie Youth Director is required to make one-half of all State Board meetings. Should a director not attend half of all state meetings, the director will be in noncompliance which would not allow him/her to collect any per diem funds from Louisiana Dixie Youth or Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc.
- SECTION 15 Directors "Not in Good Standing" policy insures that directors have district meetings, credential meetings, handle district finances and distribute all monies owed to Louisiana Dixie Youth to the State Treasurer. A Director which is Not In Good Standing shall not be allowed to collect per diem monies from Louisiana Dixie Youth or Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc.

ARTICLE VI

STATE TOURNAMENT

- SECTION 1 Louisiana Dixie Youth will conclude the year with a Major and Super 10 State two-out-of-three Tournament for regional winners, with both Champions advancing to the World Series and the State O-Zone Tournament with the Champion advancing to the World Series. A Pitching Machine State Tournament will be held each year with the date being set by the State Director. The Champion and Runner-up will advance to the World Series with the Champion having the choice to play either Machine Pitch or Coach Pitch. The Runner-up will advance in the other.
- SECTION 2 Tournament Director: The State Director of his designate shall conduct the regional tournaments and the two-out-of-three state championships. District and National Directors in attendance will assist.
- SECTION 3 Requirements for hosting the Major and Super 10 regional Tournaments and the State O-Zone Tournament are on file with the State Director.
- SECTION 4 The two (2) Regional Tournaments may be bid by any league in the state. Once the two hosts have been awarded, the State Director shall

choose by geographic location which will be the North and which will be the South Host. A league shall not host either Regional Tournament in consecutive years. The State Board may lift this restriction if no other leagues bid.

SECTION 5 The two-out-of-three state championship series will be negotiated by the State Director with approval from the Louisiana Dixie Youth Board.

Regional Tournament will bid out at the annual state meeting.

(a) Runner-up in the voting shall be designated alternate in the event the selected site does not meet all requirements.

(b) Ten and Major Regional Tournament may be at different sites.

SECTION 6 State & Regional Tournament Umpires will be provided by the Louisiana Umpires Association and approved by the State Director.

SECTION 7 Artificial noise makers are banned from all District and State Tournaments.

SECTION 8 District, State, and National Officials from the other Dixie programs will be admitted free of charge to any Louisiana Dixie Youth Tournament. Proper ID is required.

SECTION 9 The Nine and Eleven State Tournaments will be held at the same location and be bid at the Annual State Meeting.

ARTICLE VII

STATE MINOR LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS

SECTION 1 Louisiana Dixie Youth will hold an eight year old and under pitching machine tournament. Tournament bid forms and rules are on file with the State Director. The state director will decide the format and size of the tournament. Bids for this tournament will be taken at the annual state meeting. A franchise or city may not host in consecutive years. The Board of Directors may waive this, if necessary. The State Director will declare the format of teams advancing from the State Tournament to the World Series.

SECTION 2 Louisiana Dixie Youth will hold an all nine year old State Tournament, an all eleven year old State Tournament and an eleven year old O-Zone State Tournament each year. These tournaments will be bid out at the State Meeting and the leagues shall meet all minimum requirements as set by the Louisiana Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII

DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

- SECTION 1 Each district shall conduct a tournament to determine a District Champion & Runner-up to represent the district in the regional tournaments. Dates and sites will be determined by the franchised leagues in that district at the initial district meeting. Criteria to determine the district champion and runner-up will be decided at the initial district meeting. The criteria will be forwarded to the State Director for his approval. Five team brackets will not be used in tournament play. The district will play a five (5) team round robin in the place of the five team bracket. All brackets must be Dixie Youth approved and these brackets shall be drawn at the credential meeting, which will include sub or bi-district tournament and the district tournament.
- SECTION 2 District and Bi-District Tournaments shall be conducted in accordance with the official Dixie Youth Rule Book.
- SECTION 3 Tournament Guidelines must be established in each district and filed with the State Director. Approval or rejection of district facilities shall be made by the District Director.
- SECTION 4 Artificial noise makers and pets are banned from all tournaments.
- SECTION 5 District Tournament Umpires will be provided by the Louisiana Umpires Association and approved by the District Director.
- SECTION 6 District, State, and National Directors from the other Dixie programs will be admitted free of charge to all Louisiana Dixie Youth Tournaments. Proper ID is required.

ARTICLE IX

FINANCE

- SECTION 1 The Treasurer shall be responsible for all state funds. He shall be responsible to the Board of Directors for all monies and expenses. All monies will be forwarded to the Treasurer. To include, but not limited to state umpire fees, franchise fees, tournament fees, and scholarship monies.
- SECTION 2 Each franchised league will pay a \$50.00 franchise fee. The fee will be sent to the state treasurer from the national office.
- SECTION 3 The State Director shall be reimbursed for all expenses and travel for the year while performing his duties. The State Director may request more

funds from the Treasurer after his expenses exceed \$1,000.00 or he may elect to wait until the end of the tournament season and file a travel expense report to be paid by the Treasurer. All expenses and travel must be documented.

SECTION 4 National Directors and Assistant State Directors attending the state meeting and the state tournament will be paid a per diem and mileage according to the per diem/mileage of National DYB Board Members. All travel and expenses will be documented (if a director is a tournament director, he is not entitled to mileage and per diem.)

SECTION 5 The Minimum Bid for the State Tournament is as follows:

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| 1. Tee Ball | \$1,000.00 |
| 2. AA | \$4,000.00 |
| 3. AAA (9's) | \$1,000.00 |
| 4. Majors (11's) | \$1,000.00 |
| 5. AAA Regional | \$1,250.00 |
| 6. Major Regional | \$1,250.00 |
| 7. O-Zone State | \$1,000.00 |
| 8. Best Of Three | \$1,500.00 |

SECTION 6 Postage and miscellaneous fund will be established primarily to cover shortfalls of the budget.

SECTION 7 Each League or City hosting a post-season tournament will collect \$1 for each ticket sold on the highest attendance of the tournament to be donated to the Dixie Youth Scholarship fund.

SECTION 8 All tournament hosts, including Dixie Open Tournament, will be charged a \$75 State Host Fee. This fee must be paid to the District Director before or at the credentials meeting and remitted to the State Treasurer.

ARTICLE X

DUAL RESIDENCE

BONA FIDE CHANGE OF ADDRESS

LEGAL RESIDENCE INSIDE FRANCHISE BOUNDARIES

1. A bona fide change of address (move in good faith) shall occur when a player's parent (s) /guardian, or another family he/she has been residing with for at least the past calendar year abandon their former home as a residence and make a permanent move into a home that is their sole residence in another franchise area.

- (a) Two legal residences shall not be allowed for eligibility purposes under the bona fide change of residence rule.
2. Under the legal address rule, when a bona fide change of residence is made, the Dixie Youth Baseball rulebook under section II governs the player, paragraph H.
3. Any franchise league or District Director may request that the State Director conduct an investigation to determine if the change of residence meets the requirements of this rule.
4. Determination of what constitutes a bona fide change of residence shall depend upon the facts of each case, but in order for a change of residence to be considered bona fide, at least the following facts shall exist:
 - (a) The original residence shall be abandoned as a residence. It shall be either sold, in the process of being sold, rented or disposed of as a residence. If the residence is rented, it must not be rented to an immediate member of the family (father, mother, son, daughter, aunt, or uncle.) It shall not be used as a residence by any member of the family except under certain conditions or unless there is parental marital separation.
 - (b) The original residence must be in the process of being openly advertised for sale. The family shall have the utilities disconnected in this residence.
 - (c) The parent (s) or family shall take all personal belongings, household goods, and furniture, appropriate to the circumstances out of the home.
 - (d) The parent (s) or family shall change their mailing address, change their homestead exemption, voting precinct change, and shall have their telephone (s) disconnected from the previous residence.
 - (e) A change of residence shall be made with the intent that is permanent.
5. If the parent (s)/guardian move back to the original residence before the player reaches league age 13, he/she shall become immediately ineligible.
6. A change of residence for the purpose of circumventing Dixie Youth Baseball boundary rules shall not be considered a bona fide change of residence and the player shall be declared ineligible to participate in the new league.
7. For eligibility purposed, under the change of residence rule, the Louisiana Dixie Youth Baseball shall not honor legal custody or guardianship granted to a person who is not the player's parent (s) unless both parents are deceased.
8. Adoption of a player shall not be honored for eligibility purposes under the change of residence rule until one full year after adoption.
9. Under extreme hardships, the State Director may grant exceptions for hardship arising out of death or divorce.

ARTICLE XI

DISCIPLINARY ACTION POLICY

Upon the Louisiana Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc., State Directors notification of unsportsmanlike acts of willful violation of Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc. rules and regulations by a manager, coach, or league official, an investigation will be conducted by the Louisiana State Director or his designee. This investigation will result in one of the following three findings: the accused will be permitted to continue his/her functions in Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc., or the accused will be suspended for a certain time period from his/her functions in Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc., or the accused will be suspended for the remainder of the playing season from his/her functions with Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc.

Suspensions for the current tournament season will be governed by the Dixie Youth Rule Book, **page 75, section IV, paragraph G**. The Louisiana Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc., Board of Directors will address any future suspensions from tournament play at the annual board meeting, with the individual present for this hearing. This hearing shall determine if any further disciplinary actions will be considered against the accused.

The disciplinary hearings will be conducted in the following format and will be governed by the current State Director of Louisiana Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc.

- A. All Documents shall be presented to the Louisiana Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc., board members. This includes managers, coaches, or league official's statements.
- B. The accused party shall have a maximum time period of fifteen minutes to present their case to the Louisiana Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc., Board of Directors. This fifteen (15) minute period shall also include any witnesses for the accused in their defense.
- C. The Louisiana Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc., Board of Directors shall ask any questions of the accused party or witnesses and of the person or person conducting the investigation.
- D. The Louisiana Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc., Board of Directors will adjourn into executive session for further discussion and to vote on the matter at hand, with the exception of the current District Director and State Director who shall be required to abstain from voting.
- E. The State Director of Louisiana Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc., shall notify the accused party by certified mail within a time period of ninety-six (96) hours.
- F. An appeal of the decision of the Board of Directors of Louisiana Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc., must be made in writing to the commissioner of Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc., within thirty (30) days of the receipt of official notice from the Louisiana Board of Directors.

- G. Each team that participates in a qualifying tournament must declare prior to the tournament's credential meeting if the team will not advance to the next level of play should they qualify. Failure to make this declaration and the team not advancing to the next level will result in a league penalty and the manager shall be banned from coaching Louisiana Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc., for a period of five (5) years. The District and State Director will declare the team that will advance to the next level of tournament play.

ARTICLE XII

UMPIRE HOUSING POLICY FOR TOURNAMENTS

REGIONAL UMPIRE IN CHIEF

Room provided by state or host.

If the State Umpire's fund pays for room, the umpire in chief will pay for the room and forward the bill to the State Director for approval. The State Director will forward the bill to the Treasurer for payment. The umpire in chief's room will be paid beginning on the day that the regional tournament begins, unless the tournament is 100 or more miles away or a hardship in getting to the tournament on time. The State Director will discuss the situation with the financial committee, and the State Director will make a decision. If the Umpire in Chief umpires in the Regional Tournament, there will be no compensation from the State. If the Chief does not umpire, he will be paid \$150.00 for the Regional Tournament and/or Pitching Machine Tournament.

REGIONAL UMPIRES

Room provided by host – two umpires per room

If an umpire brings his spouse, the umpire will be paid ½ of the room at the host rate. If more than four rooms are needed, the umpire will submit a paid receipt to the State Director for approval, and forwarded to the Treasurer for payment. If the umpire's room is part of the four rooms provided by the host, the umpire will submit a paid receipt to the host for payment. The State Director will work with the Umpire In Chief and the host on housing. The room will be available beginning on the day the tournament begins, unless the tournament is 100 miles or more away from the home of the umpire. The State Director will discuss the situation with the financial committee before making a final decision.

PITCHING MACHINE UMPIRES

Room provided by host – two umpires per room

If an umpire brings his spouse, the regional rule will be used. The umpire's room will be made available on the first night of the tournament.

ARTICLE XIII

STATE MEETINGS

SECTION 1 The State Meeting site will be determined by the State Director after conferring with the Louisiana Board of Directors.

SECTION 2 State Meetings are held at a location designated by the State Director.

ARTICLE XIV

WORLD SERIES

SECTION 1 Louisiana Major, O-Zone, Minor, Pitching Machine, and Coach Pitch Champions will dress in the uniform jersey and cap given to all players and coaches provided by Louisiana Dixie Youth. The team will be responsible for purchasing the remainder of the uniform.

ARTICLE XV

AMENDMENTS

These by-laws are subject to amendment annually. The constitution may be amended by majority vote of all franchised leagues voting; provided that copies of the proposed amendment shall have been mailed to each league, at least thirty (30) days prior to date of voting.