

LUMBERTON YOUTH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION, INC. (LYBA)
POLICIES & LOCAL LEAGUE RULES
Revised February 5, 2024

The Local Rules, the Individual League Ground Rules, and the Rules of Diamond Youth Baseball (collectively referred to “the Rules”) have been developed by the Lumberton Youth Baseball Association (LYBA) and approved by LYBA the Board of Directors. The following list of regulations and criteria has been extracted from LYBA policies established in 1994 and beyond. The official *Diamond Youth Baseball* (DYB) or Dixie Boys Baseball (DBB) rulebook will be followed except when superseded by **LOCAL LYBA** rules and regulations and/or The City of Lumberton Recreation Department. It is the intent of LYBA to help teach the game of baseball to area youths by providing excellent teaching of fundamentals, sportsmanship & competition. LYBA also wishes to provide a wholesome family atmosphere, a sense of community pride and a spirit of cooperation between players, coaches, parents, volunteers, spectators, and the City of Lumberton.

COACHES

1. Each team will have one (1) Manager/Head Coach and two (2) assistant coaches, (3) assistant coaches will be used for Coach Pitch. All will be listed on the official roster with DYB or DBB.
2. All coaches shall pass a background check.
3. All coaches shall be certified by the NYSCA (National Youth Sports Coaches Association) prior to their official involvement with a LYBA team.
4. Coaches at all times shall conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner with emphasis on fairness and teaching baseball fundamentals. Unsportsmanlike behavior is any behavior that distracts from the game and/or draws negative attention to the coach and/or LYBA.
5. Coaches should refrain at all times from the use of alcoholic beverages, profane language and being overly negative toward any player, spectator or official.
6. All coaches are expected to fully support LYBA and to encourage parents, players and others associated with their team to participate in, fundraisers, workdays and any other LYBA activities for the benefit and betterment of the association.
7. Coaches will work as liaisons with parents to provide up to date information and answers to baseball-related questions concerning rules and policies. Coaches are the team representatives and shall make every effort to ensure DYB/DBB and LYBA rules are understood and followed.

DISCIPLINE

1. Umpires, Field Supervisors, League Commissioners and any other LYBA or City Recreation Official will immediately WARN a coach or player for using profanity, tobacco products or any other unsportsmanlike act or behavior noticed.
2. The use of alcoholic beverages, threats of physical harm to umpires, players, coaches, league officials or spectators will be considered flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct and shall result in immediate removal from the game, dugout and facility. Such behavior will be considered intentional and willful violations of DYB/DBB and LYBA rules which *will* result in termination as a LYBA coach.
3. The violation and subsequent violations *of rule 1* will be documented in the scorebook and the offending coach notified. The notation should include the date, time and a brief reason for the warning (using profanity toward a player, etc.).
4. A second offense during the same season will result in a two (2) game suspension.
5. A third offense will result in *removal as coach for the remainder of the season*, with the strong possibility of removal of coaching permanently pending review by the LYBA Board of Directors.
6. The Field Supervisor and/or League Commissioner will notify the LYBA President of each incident. Subsequently, the LYBA Board will review each incident for further action.
7. Intentional and willful disregard of DYB/DBB or LYBA rules, regulations and policies will constitute serious unsportsmanlike conduct.
8. Any coach ejected from a game shall be suspended for two (2) additional games. Said coach will not be allowed to take part in any team function during the suspension. Any coach who is ejected from two (2) games during a season will be suspended for the remainder of that season, with the strong possibility of removal of coaching permanently pending review by the LYBA Board of Directors.

LOCAL LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

1. All **DYB** games during school nights (Monday – Thursday) in the **SPRING** season will have a 90-minute time limit. All **DBB** games during school nights in the **SPRING** season will have a 120-minute time limit. A new inning begins immediately upon the completion of the 3rd out of the preceding inning. An inning can begin as long as there is at least one (1) minute remaining in the time limit. Once a new inning has begun, it will be completed. Coaches are encouraged to speed players on and off the field as wasting time between innings can result in the time limit expiring before the full 6/7 innings can be completed. Coaches should also use good judgment in decisions to continue games that are very close to the time limit expiring (Example – The 5th inning of a game that started at 6:00 ends with 1 minute left in the game. The visitors are up by 9 runs. The 6th inning legally can be started. The home team coach may choose to allow the game to end instead of playing the 6th inning because it would probably take at least 30 minutes to complete the 6th inning for the home team to have a chance to win the game and that would impose upon the start time of the 7:30 game, the players, parents, umpires & concession stand workers).
2. All **DYB** games on non-school nights will have a 120-minute time limit, unless otherwise directed by a LYBA League Official. **DBB** games on non-school nights will have NO time limit, unless otherwise directed by a LYBA League Official.
3. In the **FALL** season, all **DYB** games will have an absolute 90-minute time limit and **DBB** games will have a 120-minute time limit. This means that regardless of the score or ½ inning in play or number of outs a team has, the game is over at the time limit mark. (A player at bat when the time limit expires will be allowed to complete the at bat).
4. Game time is forfeit time.
5. Teams can begin play with eight (8) players. If a team has less than eight (8) players at the beginning of the scheduled game time or if during the game a team has less than eight (8) players available, the game will be forfeited and the team with less than eight (8) players will receive a loss. The opposing team will receive a win. Even though the game is forfeited, and in the spirit of allowing those kids who did attend the opportunity to play, the forfeited game will still be played for no longer than 75 min. The team that forfeited due to lack of players can borrow players from the opposing team for defense. Both teams can play with their own players on offense.
6. Players that arrive late to a game will be placed at the bottom of the batting order.

7. A player that becomes sick or injured during the game will be skipped over in the batting order at no penalty to that player's team. If a player leaves for any other reason (school function, soccer game, gets mad, etc.) the player will be considered out for any subsequent at bats.
8. Any player ejected from a game shall be suspended for one (1) additional game. Players will be required to attend practice and scheduled games; however, said player may not participate in drills before, during, or after a game. Failure to abide by this rule will result in continued suspension from league participation. Any player who is ejected from two (2) games during a season will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
9. LYBA recognizes the need for school age students to be on their best behavior while attending school or involved in any school activity. To help encourage good behavior and good citizenship, LYBA will not allow any student suspended from school to participate in any activity until such time as the suspension has been lifted and the student has returned to class. This disciplinary action shall be taken by LYBA as the student's suspension becomes known to us. The participation of a suspended student in a game before the department staff becomes aware shall not be just cause for forfeiture of a game.
10. All players are required to play a minimum of six (6) defensive outs and one (1) complete at bat each game. It is highly recommended that players be allowed to play more than the minimum (For instance, it is suggested that non-starters be allowed to play every other inning on defense, although not required by the rule). Failure to comply with the minimum requirements shall result in a forfeit of the game by the offending team. The only exception is if a game is shortened by the ten (fifteen for Coach Pitch) run mercy rule. Players with disciplinary concerns may not be allowed to play. Coaches are required to inform the game supervisor prior to the start time if any player will not be playing for disciplinary reasons.
11. ***Coach Pitch, Minors & Majors*** will use the continuous batting order every game in both the **SPRING & FALL** seasons. There will be no adjusting for uneven number of players (if Team A has 10 players and Team B has 13 players, all 10 & 13 respectively will be in the batting lineup. Team B cannot choose to bat only 10 players).

12. DBB teams in the **SPRING** season will play under one of three options: (A) Standard DBB rules (9-man batting order, substitution, re-entry, etc.) or (B) modified LYBA local rules allowing for unlimited defensive substitutions. Offensively, teams will use a 9-man batting order, with offensive substitutions (pinch hitters) and re-entry rules applying or (C) continuous batting order & unlimited defensive substitutions. The **SPRING** season playing option will be determined prior to the beginning of each season based upon input of the DBB coaches, Board of Directors & League Commissioner. The intent of having three playing options is to give flexibility to the league based upon the number of players on each team and the number of teams in the league in any given season. **DBB** teams in the **FALL** season will use the continuous batting order and have unlimited substitution on defense.
13. Pitching Limitations: LYBA will follow the DYB pitching limitation rules as defined in section 8.07 of the DYB Rule Book.
14. **THIS RULE IS FOR THE MINOR LEAGUE ONLY.** If during an inning the defensive team has issued 2 walks, 2 hit batters or 1 walk and 1 hit batter, the next issued walk will result in the **COACH PITCH RULE**. After the 4th ball is called by the umpire and once the umpire has stopped play, a coach from the offensive team will go to the pitcher's mound and pitch to the batter until the batter either puts the ball in play or strikes out. All runners must remain on base during a coach pitch situation and cannot steal. The player pitcher must remain in the immediate vicinity of the pitcher's mound while the coach pitcher (who must be in contact with the pitcher rubber) pitches to the batter. Pitches must be overhand. Even though a hit batter counts toward the 2 walk minimum, that batter will always be awarded first base once they have been hit by a pitch. The purpose of the **COACH PITCH RULE** is to help speed up play (we do not want excessive walks being issued).

OPERATIONAL ISSUES

1. Player evaluation – All players that register to play LYBA are to be evaluated to determine their position in the draft. Evaluations consist of scoring players' hitting, fielding & pitching abilities on a scale of 1 to 10 by a group of 5 or 6 evaluators. The total scores are averaged, and players are listed in the draft order from highest to lowest. Players that do not evaluate **WILL NOT BE DRAFTED AND WILL BE PLACED ON TEAMS** at the discretion of the League Commissioner or Board of Directors. **COACHES CHILDREN WILL BE EVALUATED, AND THE COACH WILL DRAFT HIS CHILD IN THE ROUND THAT HE EVALUATES IN. IF A COACH'S CHILD DOES NOT EVALUATE, THE COACH WILL USE HIS FIRST ROUND PICK ON HIS CHILD.** (EXCEPTION – There are no evaluations conducted in the **FALL** season).

2. Draft – Each season LYBA will conduct a new draft to form teams. Once team names have been assigned, the draft order of each team will again be determined by a blind draw. The draft will then begin with the #1 team picking a player, then #2, #3 and so on. The order of the draft will REVERSE FOR EACH ROUND OF THE DRAFT for the entire time until all players have been selected. THIS IS COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS A SNAKE DRAFT. (modified 1/27/14)
Rounds are determined by the number of teams in the league (Example - MINORS have 7 teams, therefore every 7 players constitute a round). A coach can select any player in the league in any given round (Example – player number 28 can be chosen in Round 2 except where there are siblings in the league, once the first sibling has been selected, the remaining sibling(s) must be selected in the round that they fall in or the next available round if their round has already passed. (Example #1 – Sibling A is picked in Round 2, Sibling B has evaluated in Round 4. Sibling B must be selected in Round 4. Example #2 – Sibling A is picked in Round 5. Sibling B must be selected in Round 6 because they evaluated in Round 4 and it has already passed). After the draft has been completed, practice times will be selected in the reverse order of the draft. Teams will practice at their assigned times and locations prior to the beginning of the season. LYBA recommends that teams practice and/or play 2 to 3 times per week. In the **FALL** season, the entire draft will be an open draft. There will not be any evaluation conducted. Coaches’ children will be placed on their team at the top of the draft order and the remaining players will be drafted based upon the randomly selected draft order as discussed above.
3. Uniforms/Equipment – LYBA will provide hats and shirts for each player. Pants and socks are the responsibility of the player. Each player on a team should wear the same color pants (white or grey) and same color socks. Hats and shirts may be kept by the players and coaches. LYBA will also provide each team with the appropriate equipment (helmets, catcher’s gear, practice balls, equipment bag). LYBA equipment must be returned to the association at the end of each season. Coaches should make every effort to protect and return LYBA property so that LYBA does not have to unnecessarily spend money on replacement equipment.
4. Concession Stand – The LYBA concession is an important part of our association. Profits made from the concession stand are invested back into LYBA to help pay for uniforms, equipment, insurance, and other operational needs. Team drinks and team snacks (and individual coolers for spectators) are prohibited from being brought into the park. Snacks and other food items should be purchased at the concession stand.
5. League standings – Standings will be determined by a point system. Each team receives 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss. The team with the most points at the end of the regular season in each Division will be determined to be the first-place team. Ties will be broken first by head-to-head play, second by Division play and third by a one game playoff if time permits. If not, then by a coin flip.

6. Allstars – Since LYBA is franchised with **DYB** and **DBB**, players are eligible to participate in post season allstar play. The LYBA Board of Directors will determine the Head Coach/Manager for all Allstar teams. That Head Coach/Manager may choose two Allstar assistants from a list consisting of their first named assistant on their regular season team and from the other head coaches. If the coaching positions have not been filled by that list, then the Head Coach/Manager will select from the assistant coaches. Head Coach/Managers and assistants of Supplemental teams will be selected from remaining head coaches and assistants. The **DBB** coaches will also be selected by the order of finish of the regular season with the highest-ranking team's head coach having the first choice of which team to manage (13 yr old, 14 yr old, 15 yr old). Assistant coaches will be selected in the same manner as stated above. Players will be selected to Allstar teams in both **DYB** and **DBB** by first being nominated by their head coach and then by a majority vote of the regular season head coaches. Once players are nominated, the coaches will vote on each player ranking them from number 1 (best) through the total number nominated. The players with the most points will be eliminated until the minimum required number of players remain to fill the roster. (EXAMPLE: a total of 17 players are nominated for DYB American Majors with 4 teams. The coaches vote on the players 1 – 17. Player A gets votes of 1, 1, 2, 1 for a total of 5. Player B gets votes of 17, 15, 16, 12 for a total of 60. The other players have scores ranging from 6 to 58. Since DYB requires a roster of 12 players, Player B with 60 points and the 3 other players with the highest points will be eliminated, leaving the 12 players with the lowest point total as the Allstar team). In DBB, it is the intent of the league to field Allstar teams in all three age groups. In that event, each team will be chosen from players in that age group (Example: 15-year-old team chosen from all the 15-year-old players in the league). In the event that the Board of Directors determines that it is in the best interest of the league to field fewer than three Allstar teams, the Board will determine how the teams will be chosen based on the numbers in each age group at that time. In all cases, if an Allstar team cannot be filled with players in that age group, it is permissible for players in a younger age group to participate on that team assuming that player has not been chosen for the Allstar team in his age group. (Modified 2/4/14)
7. Request for releases.
 - A. Dixie Youth Baseball does not allow releases by local leagues. Only the state director can grant a release.

CONCLUSION

1. It is the intent of this document to cover the LYBA local rules and procedures in order to conduct our **SPRING & FALL** seasons. It is recognized that there may be times in which situations occur that are not specifically covered by these rules or by the official **DYB & DBB** rulebook. The final decision on any occurrence as mentioned above will rest with the LYBA Board of Directors and/or the Lumberton Recreation Department.
2. The LYBA Board of Directors reserves the right to change, modify, add to or delete from this set of local rules and procedures as it may deem necessary given the state and condition of the organization.
3. LYBA has adopted these rules, regulations, and procedures for the sole purpose of bringing the great game of baseball to the youth of our area.

These rules and regulations have been approved and adopted by the **LUMBERTON YOUTH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION, INC** Board of Directors this 5th Day of February 2024.