



(approved 03-15-11)

Dixie Darlings – 7 & 8 yr old

Offense: Each team is allowed three coaches inside the fenced area during offensive play; one coach on first base, one coach on third base, and one coach. The coach will pitch the ball to his players; the coach will stand inside the circle. This coach may not communicate with the base runners. One additional coach must be present in the dugout at all times.

Defense: Two Coaches are allowed in the outfield area only.

1. Teams change sides after 3 outs or 10 batters. Each team will bat the same number of batter. Up to 10 players each inning. The team that batted additional players will start with the batter up next in the batting order, not the player that is first in the batting order.
2. Games will be 4 innings or 1 hour. No new inning will start after 1 hour. 11 inch softball Dixie approved.
3. Games will end in a tie.
4. Batters will be called out after five (5) pitches or (3) strikes. Batters that foul the ball on the fifth pitch will receive ONE additional pitch.
5. If any ball is intentionally touched by the adult pitcher, the batter is called out.
6. If any ball is unintentionally touched by the adult pitcher, the ball is dead and everyone gets one base.
7. **Dead zone:** A 10 ft. circle to be around the pitcher's mound is considered the dead zone. Once the ball enters the dead zone and remains there either by being thrown or carried by a player and the player pitcher has possession, runners will be prohibited from advancing beyond the base they are occupying at the time the ball enters the dead zone. Players between bases will advance to the next base at the umpire's judgment.
8. **Dead Ball:** Based on the Umpire's discretion, a ball thrown toward first base and missed, may allow forced base runners to advance one base. If a thrown ball to any other base and missed, all base runners can run at their own peril. *This is to encourage participants to improve base running skill and defense.*
9. When the defensive team gets the possession of the ball at second, third, or home plate. No runner will be able to advance past that base. Any runner ahead of the ball will be allowed to advance and may continue until they stop forward progress.
10. The catcher shall be required to wear the catchers mask and throat protector for all practices and games.
11. Players must wear **batting helmets with chinstrap and facemask** while batting, base running, and ON DECK.
12. A team must have eight players present to start and continue the game.
13. Sliding the bat- a batter can be called out if she slings the bat in a dangerous manner. At the time of the first occurrence involving the batter slinging a bat. **Both teams will be given a warning by the umpire.** Any further violations by either team will result in the batter being called out.
14. The infield shall consist of a regulation infield. All other members of the defensive team must be in the outfield grass.
15. Ejections:
 - i. 1st Offense - 1 game suspension
 - ii. 2nd Offense - reviewed by the League Board.
16. No intentional bunting or stealing.
17. Pitcher will pitch from 30 feet. This will be just inside the circle.
18. Departments should make very effort to have softball umpires properly trained and looking professional.