**SECTION I - GOVERNING AUTHORITY**

 The governing authority of the Youth Sports Program is the CCPRE Department. Any rules not covered by the CCPRE Department will be covered by Dixie Youth Baseball O-Zone Rules.

**SECTION II – FIELD SPECIFICATIONS**

O-Zone Boys – **BASES** 70 FT **PITCHING MOUND** 50 FT

**SECTION III – PLAYER EQUIPMENT & UNIFORMS**

1. Shoes are mandatory. **Steel spikes are not allowed.**
2. All bats must meet the specifications stated below in Section 5. A batter who uses an illegal bat will be called out and all runners shall return to the bases occupied by them at the time such batter took their 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 their at bat. They do 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 for using an illegal bat in the same game by same team the team manager shall be ejected from the game.
3. Catchers must wear full protective equipment including catcher’s helmet, chest protector, shin guards and a protective cup. All players must be in proper uniform to participate.
4. Helmets**:** Batting helmets with a mask are optional

**SECTION IV – RULES**

1. A regulation game shall consist of **six innings or one hour and ten minutes.** Games will be played using the **three outs or six runs per inning rule**. Once the sixth runner scores, teams will change offensively and defensively. Games will be played until time runs out on the game timers, at which time games will continue until a full inning has been completed. If an inning completes with five minutes or less on the timer then the game will be called at that time. No new inning will start. Games that end in a tie after the time limit will remain a tie during the regular season. **In playoffs only**: In the event of a tie at the end of regulation, teams will play **International Tie Breaker** rules. This consists of each team starting their offensive turn with a runner at second base. The team’s last out in their lineup will be designated as the runner at second base.
2. If there is a lead of 10 runs after 2½ innings with the home team leading or 3 innings with the visiting team leading, the game will end.
3. **Continuous batting order is in effect.**
4. **Defensive changes must be made every inning.** Example: If a team has 12 players and nine start the first defensive inning, the three substitutions must enter the game at the top of the second inning defensively.
5. **Game start time** must be recorded in the official scorebook**.**
6. Pitching rules: **No more than three consecutive innings per game.** No more than six innings per week.
7. Pitchers will be allowed a maximum of **five warm-up pitches** between innings. Coaches should make sure players hustle on and off the playing field to allow their team maximum playing time.
8. **Balks** **will** be enforced in the **Spring season**.
9. A **pitcher removed from the mound** may not re-enter the game as the pitcher. The player may stay in the game at another position.
10. The **infield fly** rule **is in effect.**
11. **Dropped 3rd strike** rule is in effect during the **Spring season** only.
12. Any batteradvancing to first base on a dropped third strike or batted ball put in play should proceed directly down the base path. **Leaving the batter’s box or the base path not in the direction of first base will result in the batter being called out.**
13. **Base Runners are required to slide** for **any possible play at home plate.** This rule is a safety issue helping protect the catcher/runner from injury. (Penalty- Automatic Out)
14. A team must have eight players to start and finish a game. If a team does not have enough players to participate in a game, the game will be a forfeit. **Game time is forfeit time.**
15. **While on offense**, each team is **limited to one charged conference per inning** to permit the coach or any of that team’s personnel to confer with the base runners, the batter, the on-deck batter or other offensive team personnel. The **umpire shall deny any subsequent offensive team requests for charged conferences.** The intent of this rule is to help eliminate unnecessary delays or intentional “stalling tactics.”
16. **While on defense**, a manager shall be entitled to **request time, on defense, to talk to his players once during the same inning while the same pitcher is on the mound** without penalty. On the **second request for time with the same pitcher on the mound**, the manager shall be required to **remove the pitcher from the mound** but not the game. The intent of this rule is to help eliminate unnecessary delays or intentional “stalling tactics.”

**SECTION V – APPROVED BATS**

1. All bats **shall not exceed 2 5/8”** inches in diameter nor exceed **33” inches** in length
2. All **non-wood bats and multi-piece wood bats** must be stamped with the **USA Baseball mark**.
3. **Solid wood bats** made from a single piece of wood do not require the USA stamp but must meet the specifications in Section 5, A
4. 2 5/8” bats that are **-3 BBCOR certified bats** which do not weigh more than three ounces less than the length of the bat (ex: a 33” long bat cannot weigh less than 30 ounces) **may be used**.

**SECTION VI - SPECIAL RULES & PROVISIONS**

1. The **home team** is listed first through quickscores (on the left or on the top) and will sit on the first base side. The team at bat is responsible for chasing foul balls. The home team will be responsible for supplying the **official scorebook.** All game results will be based on the scores from the official book.
2. **The CCPRE Department will not reschedule any games due to school functions;** the only exception will be a State or National Holiday falling or being declared on that date.

**In case of rain**, the decision to play or suspend play will be made by the umpires and the recreation staff. If the first game is canceled, all games for the night are canceled. Games will be rescheduled for play at the earliest opportunity. **Regular season games played short of time due to weather-related conditions or conditions affecting the field will be considered completed if at least half of the time allotted for the game has been played.**

1. **Only one coach and two assistants** will be within the confines of the dugout during the game. Coaches will not leave the confines of the dugout except to coach the bases or confer with his players. Only the Head coach will confer with the umpire, then only for one minute during a charged conference granted by the umpire. Adult coaches or players may be used in the coach’s boxes. Lineups will be given to the official scorekeeper five minutes prior to game time.
2. Coaches must notify the CCPRE Department in case of injury to any player whether the accident occurred at practice or at a game. Injured players must be cleared by the CCPRE Department before they can play or practice.

**SECTION VII - PLAYERS & SPECTATORS CONDUCT**

1. Any **player, coach, or spectator** acting in an **unsportsmanlike** manner or in any way that could prove detrimental to the league will be **subject to disciplinary action** by the CCPRE Department.
2. There will be **no hollering or harassing of officials, staff or players by spectators, players, or coaches.** If a coach cannot control this situation, the game will be awarded to the opposing team. The person or persons violating this rule shall be **suspended for the following game**. (Judgment of the umpires or the Recreation Staff present)
3. It is the parent’s responsibility to make sure their child attends all practices and games. Any child who misses three consecutive practices or games can be benched by the coach for one game with the approval of the league coordinator. Any child who continuously misses practices or games will be dismissed from the team. It is the coach’s responsibility to notify the CCPRE Department of any players missing two consecutive games or practices.
4. No alcoholic or tobacco or vaping products will be allowed at any Columbia County facilities.

**\*\* Any adult who feels he or she cannot enjoy coaching under these rules and regulations should in all fairness to himself and the players withdraw from the program.**

 ***The CCPRE Department wishes to thank all of our volunteer coaches***

***for their time and effort this season.***

**For schedules, rules and any other updates please visit**

[**www.quickscores.com/columbiacountyga**](http://www.quickscores.com/columbiacountyga)