







NEWBERRY COUNTY DYS HANDBOOK



INTRODUCTION

WELCOME AND THANK YOU! Whether you are returning or new this year, we truly appreciate your willingness to support our county and community through this program. We hope that this is a fun and educational season.

The Newberry County Parks and Recreation programs are designed to provide a safe, FUN, educational experience for the players and their families as well as to provide instruction and to inspire teamwork, sportsmanship and community awareness. One of our goals is to provide coaches with the resources needed to effectively lead their team through a successful season. Success is not just defined through winning though; at the end of the season, players should have learned the following:

-  Sports programs are instructional and FUN
-  The importance of teamwork and sportsmanship
-  The value of hard work and dedication
-  New skills or improved skills

The players’ development and ability to work together should be the focus rather than on winning or losing.

Newberry County Parks & Recreation

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OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF POLICY FOR DIAMOND YOUTH SOFTBALL (DYS)

It is the policy of Diamond Youth Softball (DYS) to promote the development of strong character, a right attitude and a sense of responsibility and citizenship in girls, using the game of softball as a vehicle. It is the purpose of DHS to achieve this goal through fair play, good sportsmanship, and congenial fellowship, with adult leaders providing the example. It is strictly against the policy of DHS for any person, either as a participant or a spectator, to engage in arguments, to use abusive language, to harass umpires, or to exhibit any behavior not in concert with the general intention of this policy statement. Team coaches are required to abide by this policy statement, and all parents and other adults are strongly encouraged to do so.

OBJECTIVES OF THE NEWBERRY COUNTY DHS PROGRAM

-  Instruct players in the skills, rules, and fundamentals of the game.
-  Instill a sense of fun and sportsmanship in each player.
-  Practice positive coaching to increase player’s self-esteem and self-confidence.
-  Ensure players enjoy participating so they are more likely to continue playing.
-  Teach players about determination, commitment, hard work, and empathy.
-  Promote teamwork and good sportsmanship at all levels.



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 the League Administrator/Representative to be declared an official Diamond Youth Softball (DYS) 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.
- 🚫 DYS only recognizes three (3) coaches per team. You are allowed a manager (head coach) and two assistant coaches. On offense, a coach may be at first base, one at third base, and the other must be in the dugout (unless retrieving a bat). On defense, ONLY the team manager (head coach) is permitted out of the dugout. The team manager (head coach) should be alert and prepared to exit an active play area or risk an interference call. If a team manager (head coach) is determined by an umpire and/or league official to be a distraction or hindrance to the game, coaches, or players, they will be asked to remain in the dugout during their team's defensive participation.

RULES

10U RULES OVERVIEW

Playing Field:

- 8' pitching circle radius, 60' baselines, 35' pitching distance, 7' x 3' batter's box

Equipment:

- 11-inch Softball
- All Official Softball Bats authorized by NHFS or any other softball national governing body unless decertified by those organizations are LEGAL.
- All bats must be unaltered official softball bats, round, no more than thirty-four inches (34") in length and not more than two and one-quarter inches (2 1/4") in diameter.
- A face shield is RQUIRED for pitchers and infielders
- A face guard attached to the batting helmet is REQUIRED for play in all divisions.

Regulation Game:

- Time Limit = 1.25 hours (one hour and 15 minutes)
- A regulation game is six (6) innings or the end of the time limit.
- Six (6) complete innings and visiting team scored more runs
- Home team has more runs after the first half of the sixth inning
- The home team scores the winning run in the last half of the sixth inning before the third out

Run Rules

- A game shall be called when a team is ahead by twelve (12) runs after three (3) innings, ten (10) runs after four (4) innings or eight (8) runs after five (5) innings. *12 run rule - does not apply if all batters have not batted

Offense:

- The catcher is not required to catch the third strike, except for a foul tip. Batter is called out and base runners do NOT advance. In other words, the dropped third strike rule is NOT in effect.
- Ten (10) players on defense – six (6) in the infield and four (4) in the outfield
NOTE: Players listed in the lineup as infielders shall remain identified as infielders regardless of where they are placed on the playing field. Players listed in the lineup as outfielders (including the shortfielder) shall remain identified as outfielders and shall not be allowed to play in the infield at any time. EXCEPTION: If a player is changed from an outfield position to an infield position or vice versa, the change has to be noted to the umpire and scorekeeper. NOTE: An outfielder brought in from the outfield must play in the normal playing position of the infielder she is replacing
- The offensive team will be made up of the entire team roster.
NOTE: If a team has fifteen (15) players registered on its team roster, and all fifteen (15) players show up for a game, then all fifteen (15) players shall be listed on the batting order, and will bat their turn whether they are playing defense or not.



- ALL PLAYERS MUST COMPLETE THREE (3) CONSECUTIVE OUTS ON DEFENSE IN TWO (2) DIFFERENT INNINGS IN EACH GAME.
- A maximum of only seven (7) runs can be scored in each half inning, except the fifth inning in District and/or State Tournament play. After the fifth inning, the seven (7) run maximum is in force for the remainder of the game. Bunting and/or slapping is allowed.
- A batter will be called out when she bunts foul after the second (2nd) strike.
- The fake bunt/swing away tactic will not be allowed. Once a batter squares to bunt, she may (1) Pull the bat back and take the pitch or (2) Attempt to bunt the ball. PENALTY: The umpire shall call the batter out.
- The Infield Fly rule is in effect.
The Infield Fly Rule: An Infield Fly is a fair fly ball (not a line drive or bunt) that, in the judgment of the umpire, can be caught by an infielder, pitcher, or catcher with ordinary effort and when there are runners on first and second or first, second, and third and less than two outs. When the umpire calls "infield fly" the batter is out, regardless of whether the ball is subsequently caught or dropped. The ball is live, and runners already on base may advance (at their own risk) if the ball is not caught or tag up and advance if it is caught.

Base Running:

- A "Courtesy Runner" may only be used for the pitcher AND catcher. The "Courtesy Runner" will be the last out made or, if no out has been recorded, the batter in the lineup farthest away from the batter who the "Courtesy Runner" is being used for. NOTE: If the player to be used as the "courtesy runner" is the pitcher or catcher, then the last out made prior to the last out will be used as the "courtesy runner"
- A baserunner may attempt to steal once the ball has left the pitcher's hand, on release. PENALTY: If a runner leaves the base before the pitcher releases the pitch, the defensive team shall have the option of nullifying any portion of the play that occurred after the violation occurred. Exceptions: The batter hits a ground rule double, all runners advance two bases without the liability to be put out. The batter hits a fly ball over the fence, all runners will be allowed to score. The batter is hit by a pitch, the ball is dead. All runners will not advance unless forced to do so by another runner legally entitled to that base.
- A runner may not attempt a headfirst slide when attempting to reach the next base.
- The "Look Back Rule" shall apply in 10U DYS play after a team warning is given upon the first occurrence.
The Look Back Rule: The look-back rule is triggered when the pitcher has control of the ball in the pitcher's circle and is not attempting to make a play on a runner (including a fake or threatened throw); any runner stopped on a base must stay on the base, and any runner not on a base must immediately either advance toward the next base or return to the previous base. Any subsequent change in direction or stop by the runner while off the base will result in the runner being called out, so long as the pitcher does not attempt to make a play.

Pitching Rules:

- Any pitcher can return to the pitching circle one (1) time at any point during a game.

12U RULES OVERVIEW

Playing Field:

- 8' pitching circle radius, 60' baselines, 40' pitching distance, 7' x 3' batter's box

Equipment:

- 12-inch Softball
- All Official Softball Bats authorized by NHFS or any other softball national governing body unless decertified by those organizations are LEGAL.
- All bats must be unaltered official softball bats, round, no more than thirty-four inches (34") in length and not more than two and one-quarter inches (2 1/4") in diameter.
- A face shield is REQUIRED for PITCHERS and HIGHLY RECOMMENDED for INFELDERS.
- A face guard attached to the batting helmet is REQUIRED for play in all divisions.

Regulation Game:

- Time Limit = 1.5 hours (one hour and 30 minutes)
- Both teams have completed six (6) innings or the time limit has expired, and the visiting team scored more runs.
- The home team has more runs after the first half of the sixth inning.



- The home team scores the winning run in the last half of the sixth inning before the third out.

Run Rules

- A game shall be called when a team is ahead by twelve (12) runs after three (3) innings, ten (10) runs after four (4) innings or eight (8) runs after five (5) innings. **12 run rule - does not apply if all batters have not batted*

Offense:

- Nine (9) defensive players in the field.
- The dropped third strike rule is in effect: the catcher shall not be required to catch the third (3rd) strike, except for a foul tip, if first base is occupied with less than two (2) outs. The batter is called out and all base runners advance at their own risk.
- The catcher shall be required to catch the third (3rd) strike when there are two (2) outs or when first base is unoccupied. The batter may advance to first base with liability to being put out, either by the catcher touching the batter with the ball or throwing the ball to first base for the put out, if the catcher missed the third (3rd) strike. All other base runners advance at their own risk with liability to being put out.

- The offensive team will be made up of the entire team roster.

NOTE: If a team has fifteen (15) players registered on its team roster, and all fifteen (15) players show up for a game, then all fifteen (15) players shall be listed on the batting order and will bat their turn whether they are playing defense or not.

- ALL PLAYERS MUST COMPLETE THREE (3) CONSECUTIVE OUTS ON DEFENSE IN TWO (2) DIFFERENT INNINGS IN EACH GAME.

- A maximum of only seven (7) runs can be scored in each half inning, except the fifth inning in District and/or State Tournament play. After the fifth inning, the seven (7) run maximum is in force for the remainder of the game. Bunting and/or slapping is allowed.

- The fake bunt/swing away tactic will not be allowed. Once a batter squares to bunt, she may (1) Pull the bat back and take the pitch or (2) Attempt to bunt the ball. PENALTY: The umpire shall call the batter out.

- The Infield Fly rule is in effect.

The Infield Fly Rule: An Infield Fly is a fair fly ball (not a line drive or bunt) that, in the judgment of the umpire, can be caught by an infielder, pitcher, or catcher with ordinary effort and when there are runners on first and second or first, second, and third and less than two outs. When the umpire calls "infield fly" the batter is out, regardless of whether the ball is subsequently caught or dropped. The ball is live, and runners already on base may advance (at their own risk) if the ball is not caught or tag up and advance if it is caught.

Base Running:

- A "Courtesy Runner" may only be used for the pitcher AND catcher. The "Courtesy Runner" will be the last out made or, if no out has been recorded, the batter in the lineup farthest away from the batter who the "Courtesy Runner" is being used for. NOTE: If the player to be used as the "courtesy runner" is the pitcher or catcher, then the last out made prior to the last out will be used as the "courtesy runner"

- A baserunner may attempt to steal once the ball has left the pitcher's hand, on release. PENALTY: If a runner leaves the base before the pitcher releases the pitch, The runner shall be called out.

- A runner may not attempt a headfirst slide when attempting to reach the next base.

- The "Look Back Rule" shall apply in 12U DYS play after a team warning is given upon the first occurrence.

The Look Back Rule: The look-back rule is triggered when the pitcher has control of the ball in the pitcher's circle and is not attempting to make a play on a runner (including a fake or threatened throw); any runner stopped on a base must stay on the base, and any runner not on a base must immediately either advance toward the next base or return to the previous base. Any subsequent change in direction or stop by the runner while off the base will result in the runner being called out, so long as the pitcher does not attempt to make a play.

Pitching Rules:

- Any pitcher can return to the pitching circle one (1) time at any point during a game.

NOTE: To satisfy this rule it will be ruled if a pitcher returns to the mound in the same inning of a game in which she was removed she shall be credited with pitching in ONLY one (1) inning for the inning in which she was removed.



GENERAL RULES and/or LOCAL LEAGUE RULES HIGHLIGHTED

Age Limits

- Candidates must play in their respective age group as governed by DYS. No player may move up unless there is room on a team. The League Administrator will not place a younger player wanting to move up if it displaces an appropriate age player. A player who elects to play in an older age division (with parent and League Administrator approval and if space allows) during the regular season will only be eligible for All-Star selection in that age division (the age division they participated in during the regular season). A decision to play in an older age division MUST be made prior to player evaluations.

Offensive Participation

- The Continuous Batting Order will be used during all levels of tournament play and the regular season.
- A player who arrives after the start of the game must be added to the bottom of the batting order.

Defensive Participation

- All players must complete three (3) consecutive outs on defense in two (2) different innings in each game.
- The head coach must notify the official scorekeeper of defensive changes at the start of each inning until all players have met the defensive participation requirement.

Start of Game

- Minimum number of players required to start or finish a 10U game in local league is nine (9) with consent of both coaches and for a 12U game in local league is eight (8) with consent of both coaches. When the time for the eighth (12U) or ninth (10U) player to bat, it will be an automatic out.

If a team does NOT have at least 8 (12U) or 9 (10U) players at the scheduled game start time, there will be two options provided (with option A being the preferred option):

- *The team will be provided a 10-minute grace period. The time limit of the game will be reduced by 10 minutes. If at the end of the 10-minute grace period the home team still does not have at least 8 players, the visiting team shall be declared the winner due to forfeiture. If the visiting team does not have 8 players either by the time the 8th batter in the line-up comes up or once they take the field on defense, the home team shall be declared the winner due to forfeiture.*
- *If the home team does not have at least 8 players at the scheduled game start time, they can elect to allow the visiting team to become the home team. If the now visiting team does not have 8 players either by the time the 8th batter in the line-up comes up or once they take the field on defense, the home team shall be declared the winner due to forfeiture.*

Time Limit

10U Time Limit: 1.25 Hours (1 Hr, 15 Min)

12U Time Limit: 1.5 Hours (1 Hr, 30 Min)

- These are the time limits for games in 10U and 12U to naturally come to an end.
- A new inning will not be allowed to start if there are 7 minutes or less remaining in the total time limit as referenced above.
- If the final out of an inning is recorded and a new inning begins just prior to the 7-minute window, the next inning will conclude that game. However, the maximum time for that inning to conclude naturally is 10 minutes beyond the total time limit as referenced above. If this occurs, the game will be paused where it stands. A regular season game that is paused due to time limit MAY be continued at a later date IF the outcome of the game has a bearing on determining the League Champion team. This will be determined by League Staff.

Examples:

1) 10U game begins at 5:45PM. The final out of an inning is recorded at 6:55PM (1 Hr, 10 Min). This falls within the 7-minute window and the score would be final.

2) 10U game begins at 5:45PM. The final out of an inning is recorded at 6:50PM (1 Hr, 5 Min). The next inning will begin, and the game has until 7:10PM to conclude naturally. At 7:10PM the game will be paused and only resumed at a later date IF the outcome of the game has a bearing on determining the League Champion team.

General Rules



- Team/player chants should be directed to their team/players and should NOT target the opposing team or an opposing player. Umpires/league administrators will issue a warning for the first occurrence. A second and third occurrence will result in an offensive out for the team. If the issue persists, the Team Manager (head coach) will be ejected from the game.
- Game participants MUST remain in the dugout area 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 or injury.
- Only official league uniforms can be worn for regular season play. Player shirts and/or jerseys must be tucked in throughout the game.
- If a team function is held which involves the team and parents as a group, all players and parents must be invited to participate.
- NO fundraising or collection of any additional money from or for the team is allowed without prior approval from the League Administrator.

It is the policy of Newberry County DYS that anyone (on or off the field) at any Newberry County Diamond Youth event does not have the right to conduct him or herself (physically or verbally) in a manner that negatively reflects on the Newberry County DYS players, County of Newberry, City of Newberry, Newberry County Family YMCA or the Town of Prosperity. If any person is in violation of this policy at any Newberry County Diamond 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 Administrator(s) may choose to ban a violator for longer durations, such as one week, one year, or for life.

***LINE-UP PROVIDED TO OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER PRIOR TO THE START OF THE GAME MUST INCLUDE EACH PLAYER'S JERSEY NUMBER, NAME, AND STARTING FIELD POSITION.**

COACH SELECTION

All Coaches will be approved annually. To aid in approving coaches, all prospective coaches shall complete a coach's application and must pass a background screening. A prospective coach will be denied a position if they intentionally provide false information. Each team will be allowed one (1) manager and (2) coaches, only the Manager (Head Coach) can act in the official capacity for the team. ***ALL coaches (manager and assistant coaches) must complete the coach's application and pass a background screening prior to practices/games.*** Managers/coaches must be eighteen (18) years of age or older. Head coaches are NOT guaranteed specific assistant coaches and should NOT make player selections solely based on whom they prefer as an assistant coach.

PLAYER EVALUATION/SELECTION

The player evaluation, which will be under the direction of the League Administrator(s) (Newberry County Recreation Director) and/or Representative(s) (County/City Parks & Recreation staff), will fill all player vacancies. Players not attending the player evaluation will be placed at the end of the selection; the player's name or number will be placed in a hat and randomly drawn following the pre-determined selection order. Any coach who conspires to fix or attempt to fix the draft selection will be banned from the Newberry County DYS Program.

- ① A draft will be conducted each year for all new players and those moving from 10U to 12U AND possibly anytime a new team is added, or an existing team is dropped based on the amount of returning players and their placement across the teams.
- ① Any player from the previous season can ONLY be placed back in the draft when there are extenuating reasons and must be approved by the League Administrator(s). Participant's parent or guardian must provide in writing the extenuating reason prior to the date of the player evaluation. If approval is not granted, the player will go back to the previous year's team or may sit out a year and enter the player evaluation the following year.
- ① Players moving into the area (after the registration 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 (for reasons listed below)



and only by the League Administrator/Representative(s). A player may only be added to a roster who was not on the waiting list by the League Administrator/Representative(s) and only when necessary to prevent a team roster from falling below nine (9) consistent players. Registration must be completed, and the player must attend at least one practice prior to competing in a game. A player in this situation MAY not be eligible for All-Star Selection if they do not compete in enough games.

- ④ Only the manager (head coach) and one assistant coach (as long as the assistant coach does not have a child in the player evaluation) may be on the field during the player evaluation process. The manager's (head coach's) child is placed on their team and does not participate in the player evaluation.
- ④ Once a player is selected and placed on a team roster, only the League Administrator/ Representative(s) may release the child from the roster. A player may be dropped from the roster for the following reasons:
 - Moving out of the area
 - Sickness or injury
 - Lack of discipline (derogatory remarks, dissension, lack of respect for coaches or players)
These incidents must be communicated to the League Administrator/ Representative(s) as they occur to provide opportunity to correct the problem. Coaches may be asked to provide written documentation of each incident.
 - Missing more than three (3) practices or games that are unexcused.
This is a team sport, and everyone is needed. Excessive unexcused absences are unfair to all the other players that are making the practices and games. If there is an extenuating circumstance that prevents the player from showing up, then the League Administrator/ Representative(s) must be notified.
- ④ Parents may request siblings be placed on the same team. These requests will be honored when/if possible but not guaranteed. Other requests for a specific team or coach may be made due to hardships or extenuating circumstances but are NOT guaranteed and will be at the discretion of the League Administrator/Representative(s). These players will be required to attend the player evaluation and selection will be made as with all other players.

At the end of the draft, a coach MAY be allowed to trade a player with another coach with the approval of the League Administrator/Representative(s). A trade will only be permitted when a true need for such has been demonstrated or if there are extenuating circumstances. A trade will NOT be permitted solely because two players wish to be on the same team nor will a trade be permitted solely because two individuals wish to coach together. A trade must be of equal ability level and age and must be approved by the League Administrator/Representative(s).

THIS SELECTION OF PLAYERS IS CONFIDENTIAL AND IS NOT TO BE DISCUSSED WITH ANYONE OUTSIDE OF THOSE ATTENDING THE SELECTION. ANY COACH RELEASING ANY INFORMATION ON THE ORDER OF PLAYER SELECTION WILL BE DISCIPLINED.

COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

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

As a coach, I will...

- ④ Create a fun and positive atmosphere for players and those on opposing teams.
- ④ Focus on the holistic development, welfare, enjoyment, and safety of the players.
- ④ Teach players to strive for success while playing fairly, observing the rules of the game and the highest levels of sportsmanship. This includes winning with humility and losing with dignity and teaching players to do the same. No one likes to lose, but how you handle losing says a lot about your character and the program as a whole.
 - Respect the competition – give them credit
 - Respect the game – focus on the positives and work on the negatives
 - Respect your team and opponents – win or lose – remember people are watching you AND listening to you; if you believe you must win at all cost, then you have ultimately lost...lost the opportunity to show your team what good sportsmanship looks like.
- ④ Refrain from using abusive or vulgar language, disruptive or inappropriate behavior.



- 🧤 Be respectful and courteous to umpires, coaches, players, parents, and spectators and teach players to do the same. I will not taunt, ridicule, or argue with any umpire, coach, player, parent, or spectator.
- 🧤 Follow DYS rules and regulations on a national, state, and local level.
- 🧤 Attend all official meetings, trainings, and/or events of the local program unless hindered by unforeseen circumstances.
- 🧤 Be present for all scheduled team practices and games or ensure an assistant coach is provided ample notification to cover.
- 🧤 Help endow the DYS program with highest personal standards and regard the DYS program as an asset to my community.
- 🧤 Model inclusive behavior, actively supporting cultural diversity while opposing all types of discrimination, including, but not limited to, racism and sexism, at all levels of softball.
- 🧤 Refrain from all manner of personal abuse and harassment of others, whether verbal, physical, emotional or sexual, and shall oppose such abuse and harassment at all levels of softball.

I understand that...

- 🧤 Newberry County DYS 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 spectators.
- 🧤 NO alcohol or tobacco products are allowed on the Newberry County DYS premises at any time.

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

Newberry County DYS seeks to encourage good sportsmanship, fair play, and team spirit among all players. Players are expected to:

- 🧤 Have FUN!
- 🧤 Be a good sport (win or lose), be honest, fair, and always show good sportsmanship to all coaches, players, umpires, and spectators.
- 🧤 Learn the value of commitment to a team.
- 🧤 Put personal goals aside for the betterment of the team.
- 🧤 Show courtesy and respect to teammates, opponents, coaches, umpires, and spectators regardless of race, creed, color, nationality, or sex.
- 🧤 Realize that athletic contests, including practice sessions are educational experiences and opportunities.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Newberry County recognizes that the lessons learned during youth softball extend far beyond the softball field. To help create a positive, encouraging environment for the players, Newberry County DYS requests each parent read the Parent Code of Conduct.

Parents are to:

- 🧤 Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every practice and game (home or away).
- 🧤 Place the emotional and physical well-being of the players ahead of their personal desire to win.
- 🧤 Expect players will have a safe environment to play - free of drugs and alcohol; therefore, parents will refrain from their use at all Newberry County DYS events.
- 🧤 Remember that the game is for the youth players – not adults. Players should be enjoying the sport.
- 🧤 Refrain from going into the dugout, talking to their child at the dugout during game time (unless there is an emergency), and hanging out directly behind the dugout. This is a distraction to players and coaches.
- 🧤 Refrain from confronting any coach during a practice and/or game. Discussions, differing opinions or other items should be addressed calmly with the coach away from the field and/or players after the practice or game.
- 🧤 Ask their child to treat other players, coaches, spectators, and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.



COACH, PLAYER AND PARENT/SPECTATOR CONDUCT POLICY

Procedure

- ① Any occurrence of misbehavior will be documented before the incident is addressed unless the misbehavior is blatant and must be addressed immediately (examples are listed below). Documentation consists of one of two forms:
 - a League Representative personally witnesses the misbehavior and brings the matter to the League Administrator.
 - an eyewitness has observed the misbehavior and submits a signed complaint to the League Administrator/Representative(s) within one (1) week of the misbehavior.
- ① Within three (3) days of having received the documentation of the incident, the League Administrator/Representative(s) will review the complaint, seek to interview others present who witnessed the behavior, and interview those whose actions are in question.
- ① The League Administrator/Representative(s) will determine if the event was a serious violation of the code of conduct. If the circumstance does not dictate that the event is a violation, then the matter will be dropped and all participating parties will be notified.
- ① If a complaint is determined to have violated the code of conduct and calls for disciplinary action, the following procedure will be followed:
 - Step 1 – Verbal Warning: A Newberry County DYS Administrator/Representative will discuss undesirable conduct with the parent, coach, or player and stress that this behavior will not be tolerated. This will be documented and kept on file.
 - Step 2 – Written Warning: A Newberry County DYS Administrator/Representative will meet with the parent, coach, or player to discuss actions. Furthermore, there will be a formal letter of reprimand given to the parent, coach, or player stating that the next offense could lead to the parent, coach, or player being banned for a period of 1 or more game(s).
 - Step 3 – Game Suspension: A Newberry County DYS Administrator/Representative will ban the parent, coach, or player from attending the next scheduled game. Another letter will be given to the parent, coach, or player stating that the next offense will lead to the parent, coach, or player being banned for the remainder of the season and possibly additional seasons.
 - Step 4 – Season Suspension: The parent, coach, or player will be banned from attending games for the remainder of the season. The parent, coach, or player will then have to make a formal written request to be reinstated into the league.

NOTE: If a coach or player is EJECTED from a game by an umpire or the League Administrator/Representative(s), they will face a two-game suspension. If there are not two games remaining in the season, the suspension will carry into the next season. A coach or player who is EJECTED from a game will NOT be permitted to participate in All-Stars. A coach or player may face season suspension and may not be allowed to coach again, depending on the severity of the circumstances surrounding the ejection.

Any player or coach suspension will result in disqualifying the player or coach for All-Star nomination. If it is necessary that the coach be suspended for the remainder of a season, the League Administrator/Representative(s) will appoint a replacement coach and the League Administrator/Representative(s) 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 Newberry County DYS Program and not allowed to represent Newberry County DYS on the All-Star team if he/she wins the league. The League Administrator/Representative(s) will appoint a replacement coach or take over the All-Star team.

Examples of misbehavior that will be addressed immediately:

Note: These may be addressed by game officials (umpires), the League Administrator/Representative(s), or local law enforcement if necessary.

- ① Taunting of an umpire, coach, league official, opposing spectators, or player(s) in a negative manner.
- ① Use of profanity or vulgar language.
- ① Embarrassing negative remarks aimed at a player or player(s) – even if you are that player's parent.
- ① Use of alcoholic beverages while at practice and/or game fields or while present on Town, City, or YMCA facilities.
- ① Threatening or aggressive remarks towards umpires, coaches, league officials, or spectators.



- ① Physical confrontations with umpires, coaches, league officials, spectators, or players.
- ① Failure to remove yourself from the field after you have been ejected.

It is our hope that these procedures will never have to be used. 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; therefore, we will not tolerate continued violations of the Coaches, Players, or Parents Code of Conduct. Please help us to provide the basis for all players to have fun, learn the game of softball, and most of all develop the attitudes and good behavior associated with sportsmanship, fair play, and teamwork.

PRACTICES/GAMES

- ① The League Administrator/Representative(s) is responsible for preparing practice schedules. Schedules will be communicated to coaches and parents/guardians as quickly and effectively as possible. To cut down on the number of papers passed out to individuals, limited hard copies of practice and/or game schedules will be printed. Schedules will be provided to parents/guardians via group messaging (Remind, Group Me, text message, or other electronic method when/if possible).
- ① Parents/guardians are encouraged to wait in the bleachers or in their vehicles for their players during practices when possible and appropriate unless they are assisting with the practice (and have been cleared to assist as a coach).
- ① Coaches should communicate practice end times to parents/guardians.
- ① All games played (regular, make-up, or scrimmage) must be approved by the League Administrator/Representative(s) and must fall within all league rules.
- ① Parents/guardians are asked to have players at the field at least 15 minutes prior to the start time for games.
- ① Any game start delayed by weather or other reasons more than 30 minutes on a school night shall be rescheduled.

PRACTICE/GAME CANCELLATIONS

- ① The League Administrator/Representative(s) will make every effort to communicate cancellations as far in advance as possible. However, decisions may be held until one hour prior to practice/game start time.
- ① Cancellations will be communicated from staff to coaches via text message. A response acknowledging receipt should be made.
- ① Coaches are responsible for communicating cancellations to parents/guardians.
- ① Game cancellations can only be made by the League Administrator/Representative(s).
- ① Cancellations may be made due to field safety, weather conditions, health concerns, etc.

MAKE-UP PRACTICES/GAMES

- ① Newberry County Recreation Department staff will work with coaches to determine alternative practice days/times in the event a practice has to be cancelled.
- ① Every effort will be made to reschedule cancelled games to another date and/or time that works for the teams involved and for staff and umpires. Make-up games are to be made up on the earliest possible date as determined by the League Administrator/Representative(s). There is no guarantee every cancelled game will be rescheduled.

UMPIRES/OFFICIALS

- ① The umpires will be paid the standard fee as approved by the County of Newberry reimbursement rules.
- ① Two umpires will be assigned for all games. No umpires under age 16 behind the plate.
- ① 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.
- ① In the event an umpire does not show up for a game the League Administrator/Representative(s) may substitute or appoint someone to umpire.
- ① Contact the League Administrator/Representative(s) if an issue is noted with an umpire/official.



TEAM/INDIVIDUAL PICTURES

- 🕒 The Newberry County Recreation Department will arrange to have team/individual pictures taken by a professional photographer/company.
- 🕒 A picture day schedule will be provided as soon as possible. Parents/guardians are encouraged to have their player(s) present for the team picture even if they do not plan to order individual pictures.

TROPHIES

While the dedication, sportsmanship, and effort players put into the Newberry County DYS program is very much applauded, a participation trophy is not awarded to every player. Only the players of the team(s) who prevails as League Champion are provided a trophy in each division/league.

ALL-STAR SELECTION GUIDELINES

The purpose of the All-Star procedures is to create consistency in the selection of All-Star teams in the Newberry County Diamond Youth program and to provide consistency in teams traveling outside to district level and above tournaments. It is a democratic process in which all head coaches in each division will have an equal voice and all players will have an equal opportunity.

Politics and popularity should not influence the selection.

All-Star selections can have a major effect on the way our league is perceived in the community. It can also have a major effect on a child's attitude toward continuing to participate in the program. Careful consideration should be given to each player to ensure that the players most deserving to participate are the ones selected.

The following will be the process followed for the selection of the All-Star Team Manager (Head Coach):

The All-Star head coach will be determined by a vote at the end of the regular season by each head coach and at least two staff members (a coach cannot vote for themselves) – being the league champion head coach will not automatically result in being the All-Star head coach.

The following will be the process followed for the selection of All-Stars:

1. Each Head Coach will bring a list of twelve (12) players whom he/she believes would make the ideal all-star team, meaning the top twelve (12) players in each division of the league from across ALL teams in that division. All All-Star selection lists will be turned in at the conclusion of the regular season. Head coaches are encouraged to get feedback regarding player nominations from their assistant coaches, although not mandatory. Discussions with assistant coaches should remain confidential and it should be made clear that a discussion about a player does not guarantee that player will be selected. There is NO minimum from any team that must be selected. When selecting All-Star players, coaches should consider a player's ability to play the game in pressure situations. All head coaches are challenged **to select the most qualified and deserving players who can/will commit to All-Stars.**
2. A selection meeting will be held at which the nominees will be disclosed and displayed for review. Only the head coach from each team will attend the All-Star Selection meeting. If they cannot attend, an assistant coach can attend in their place. **ONLY ONE REPRESENTATIVE FOR EACH TEAM WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE MEETING.**
First round: Any player that is on every coach's list will automatically be added to the All-Star roster.
Second round: Any player receiving 75% or more of the votes will be added to the All-Star roster.
NOTE: If all 12 spots are filled after the second round and only alternates need to be selected, it will be based on the number of votes received and if cut and dry, the third round will not be required.
Third round: The remainder of the all-star team and alternates will be selected from the rest of the all-star team nominees through a one-day evaluation process. The All-Star Head Coach and a League Representative will run fielding, hitting, base running and/or pitching drills to evaluate the ability level of the remaining players. Attitude and sportsmanship will also factor into the selection process.
3. All coaches will sign a summary of the player selections prior to leaving the meeting.
4. The League Administrator will contact each player's parents/guardians to explain the next steps and expectations.

PLEASE REMEMBER WE ARE TRYING TO PUT TOGETHER THE BEST ALL-STAR TEAM POSSIBLE TO REPRESENT OUR LEAGUE.



Original: Feb. 8, 2023

Revised: Dec. 6, 2024



THE SELECTION MEETING AND DISCUSSION ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND ARE NOT TO BE DISCUSSED WITH ANYONE OUTSIDE THE MEETING. (There are always going to be many more kids and parents who believe themselves to be deserving than there are spots on the team.)

ALL-STAR EXPECTATIONS

Being selected to participate in the All-Star experience should be considered an absolute honor. It is also a huge commitment for both the player and the parents/guardians. All-Star participants will be expected to attend all practices and cannot miss any games or participate in other leagues during tournament play. The cost to participate in the All-Star season is \$50. Each player will receive socks, belt, pants, and a game jersey. The District All-Star tournament typically begins on the Friday prior to Father's Day.

- Work hard AND have fun!
- All players will get to play, but the amount of playing time is dependent on their ability/effort and sportsmanship/attitude
- Players are expected to be on time for practices and games. On time means they arrive at least 5 minutes before the scheduled practice time or game warm-up time
- Players are expected to work together as a team and treat each other with respect on and off the field
- Players are expected to be 100% committed to the All-Star team and cannot miss any games; only allowed a maximum of three missed practices for legitimate, unavoidable reasons
- Players should not participate with any other softball program once All-Star practices officially start and absolutely shall not participate with any other softball program once the district tournament begins



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