

## **Moore County Parks and Recreation 2021 Baseball O-Zone League**

### **Covid-19**

1. Line-up cards can be obtained from the field supervisor. Once you have filled out your lineup card – deliver it to the field supervisor - they will deliver it to the official scorekeeper.
2. MCPR encourages teams that play on fields #1 & #2 to enter and exit through the Front Gate near the playground area – teams that play on fields #3 & #4 are encouraged to use the Back Gate to enter and exit. This will hopefully cut down on crowding.
3. Coaches will need to use the disinfectant wipes on helmets, bats and catching equipment that is used by more than one player after each use.
4. Coaches will be required to wear a face covering.
5. Players are required to wear a face covering while in the dugout area. They are not mandatory while playing in the field or batting.

### **Local League Rules and Regulations**

#### **General Policies:**

1. A regulation game will be one (1) hour fifteen (15) minute time limit. After the one (1) hour fifteen (15) minute time limit is over, the batter at bat will finish his/her at bat and the game is over. The clock will begin on the first pitch of the game.
2. By using the drop-dead time limit for the 2021 season - no standings will be kept
3. The on-deck batter must be in the on-deck circle to the back of the batter.
4. Teams will play with three (3) outfielders.
5. A continuous batting order will be used for the entire game. Local League Rule.
6. Bats: All non-wood bats and multi-piece bats must be stamped with the USA Baseball mark signifying that the bat meets the bat performance standard established by USA Baseball. The barrel of the bat shall not exceed 2 5/8” inches in diameter nor exceed 33” inches in length.
7. Speed up rules for the catcher will be used. A courtesy runner is optional for the catcher until there are two (2) outs. It is mandatory with two (2) outs. The courtesy runner must be a substitute (someone not currently in the batting order), if a team does not have any substitutes available; the player making the last out who batted prior to the catcher must be used as the courtesy runner.
8. All coaches must be in their respective dugouts when their team is on defense.
9. Absolutely no tobacco products of any kind are permitted on the field during games or practices. No smoking on Moore County Property.
10. If a game is suspended due to weather, four (4) complete innings constitute a regulation game. On rainy days, coaches and parents may call the recreation department at 910-947-4495 for cancellations or go to our website [www.moorecountync.gov/parks-and-recreation](http://www.moorecountync.gov/parks-and-recreation) to check the status of the games for that day.

### **Player Participation Requirement:**

1. Every player must play three (3) consecutive outs in the field. **Penalty:** The penalty for the violation of this rule shall be forfeiture of any game in which all available players do not participate if the opposing team files a protest before the game ends.
2. At the start of the game, all available players on each team will be listed in the starting offensive batting lineup and **bat in a continuous batting order.**
3. **Free Substitution on Defense:** With the exception of the pitcher, any player may enter the game on defense in any defensive position as many times as deemed necessary by the team manager. Players may enter the game on defense only at the beginning of each team's defensive inning unless the defensive player enters the game to replace an injured, ill, or ejected player or enters the game during a pitching change.

### **Pitching & Bases Distance:**

- O-Zone pitching distance is 50 feet. Bases will be 70 feet.

### **Pitching Rules for O-Zone League:**

1. During the regular season, pitchers are limited to six (6) innings per week. A week is defined as Monday thru Sunday.
2. If a pitcher pitches four (4) or more innings during a game, the pitcher must have a minimum rest period of thirty-six (36) hours before the pitcher is eligible to pitch again. The rest period begins when the pitcher leaves the mound. One (1) pitch in an inning constitutes an inning pitched.
3. A pitcher removed from the mound for any reason shall not return to the mound to pitch in the same game.
4. **After the game is finished, the head coach from each team participating team will call the official scorekeeper to confirm the number of innings his players has pitched.** If the coach does not confirm innings pitched with the scorekeeper – we will use the innings the official scorekeeper has on the Pitching Record Chart.
5. Innings pitched in games declared “no contest” shall count if the umpire calls the game.
6. See Dixie Youth Baseball rule book for all other pitching instructions and rules. See pages 55-59. We are not using the new pitch count rules; we are playing by our local league rules in #1 & #2 above.

## Helmet Rule:

- A player shall not remove their helmet while outside the dugout on offense.  
**Penalty:** First offense the team shall receive a team warning by the umpire. Second and subsequent team offenses; the player shall be called “out”. If the player is already “out” due to a play on the field, then that player will receive a warning by the umpire and the next offense by that player will result in an ejection from the game.
- All youth base coaches and batboys under the age of fifteen (15) shall comply with the helmet rule. **Penalty:** Non team players shall be removed from the playing field and will be returned to the dugout and replaced by an adult or another player.
- No headfirst sliding into a base. A player can slide headfirst when returning to a base.

## Zero Policy for Coaches

1. **Head Coaches** are allowed on the field to argue or appeal calls. **Assistant Coaches do not argue calls period.**
2. An Assistant Coach will be issued a warning (IF not overzealous) if on the field. No more after. An ejection is warranted immediately for an overzealous assistant coach or a second complaint after a warning. If the assistant coach is in the dugout a restriction can be used the first time if desired without warning.
3. If the Head Coach wishes to communicate with the umpire for assistance with a judgement call or a rule; they may come out of the dugout in a professional manner and stay between the dugout and the foul line. The plate umpire will go to the head coach. After the Head Coach tells the plate umpire what he is appealing; the coach must return to the dugout. If the head coach comes back out of the dugout after the umpire’s discussion on the play call or rule, they will be ejected. If the call is changed the opposing coach can come out of their dugout between his dugout and the foul line for and explanation. Once the explanation is given the coach is to return to the dugout. No Arguing.
4. If the Head Coach is acting as a base coach; he may ask to speak with the home plate umpire in a professional manner as above. Coach must remain in coach’s box and home plate umpire will come to the coach. Coach must remain in coach’s box and home plate umpire will come to the coach. Procedures same as above.
5. After the game is complete; there is to be No Communication or Contact between coaches and umpires. If you have a question about a rule; you can ask the field supervisor or call the parks and rec office the next day.

### **Sportsmanship:**

- **A coach** that is ejected from a game must serve a two game suspension for the next two games his/her team plays and must meet with a Parks and Recreation staff person before continuing to coach. The coach that has been ejected may attend the next two games as a *spectator*;  
But will not be allowed inside the fenced area or participate in **any** form with the team. The penalty may be carried over in to the next sport or season.
- **A player** that is ejected from a game is restricted to the dugout for the remainder of that game and must serve a one game suspension for the next game his/her team plays.
- **Any spectator** ejected from the park must leave the premises immediately; the game will be delayed until the offender leaves. If the spectator does not leave the premises in a timely manner the game will be forfeited. The person who was ejected is subject to the two game suspension rule (same as a coach); they may come to games but must stay outside the park area (fenced). The person who was ejected may not attend another game until he/she meets with a Moore County Parks and Recreation staff person.

**All other rules and regulations are governed by the Dixie Youth Baseball Official Rule Book.**

**Moore County Parks and Recreation reserves the right to change, add or delete any rule, rules or regulations at any time.**