

What is Diamond Youth?

HISTORY

In the late summer of 1955, a group of men in South Carolina for the expressed purpose of forming an organization which would provide a completed program of supervised baseball for pre-teen players. These men continued to meet and work throughout the winter of 1955-56, bringing in additional youth leaders to lay plans for the first summer of play. Little Boys Baseball, Inc. was adopted as the name for the new organization, but this was changed in 1962 to DIXIE YOUTH BASEBALL, Inc. Starting in South Carolina in the spring of 1956 with 122 leagues and 537 teams, the organization has now spread throughout the south and its membership now includes thousands of teams throughout Dixie. A public relations and extension program that began in 1966 was expected to accelerate the growth of DIXIE YOUTH BASEBALL for several years. In the formative years the leaders of DIXIE YOUTH BASEBALL made not concerted effort to expand the program, but today because of many requests for a fully organized "YOUTH" baseball program the DIXIE YOUTH emblem is appearing in eleven states ranging from Virginia to Texas. The reason for this growth is because DIXIE YOUTH BASEBALL puts the player's welfare first and foremost in planning. Our name was changed from Dixie Youth Baseball to Diamond Youth Baseball in 2023.

PURPOSE

DIAMOND YOUTH BASEBALL is a "FUN" program of baseball for pre-teen players with emphasis on FAIR PLAY, HONESTY, SPORTSMANSHIP, and PATRIOTISM. An organized rule provides that every player plays a minimum of one inning per game regardless of the playing ability of the player. DIAMOND YOUTH BASEBALL is a training ground for youth. A player is introduced to competition through a properly supervised baseball program is better prepared to face a life of competition. In terms of purpose, DIAMOND YOUTH BASEBALL is dedicated to instilling in young players a proper sense of values that will in time have a favorable effect on their lives. Baseball simply becomes the vehicle to carry out this purpose.

ADMINISTRATION

Probably no other organization of its kind is governed more democratically than DIAMOND YOUTH BASEBALL. It is governed by a National Board of Directors elected by the leagues in each state. The Board of Directors meets annually to consider rule and policy changes as submitted by franchised leagues. Differing from many similar organizations, DIAMOND YOUTH BASEBALL does not have a single paid official, from the local level to the top. The program is operated by highly qualified volunteers, many of whom are coaches, teachers, recreation directors and others familiar with the needs of youngsters.

LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

The local league elects its own officers, makes its own schedule and in general tends to its own business. Its only responsibility to DIAMOND YOUTH BASEBALL, INC. is to abide by the general playing and eligibility rules as stated in the official rule book. One of the big factors in the success of DIAMOND YOUTH BASEBALL is the fact that new leagues have the same privileges as older leagues. New leagues are actively encouraged to have a voice in all affairs of the organization both locally and nationally.

BASIC RULES

Affiliated leagues shall play a regular schedule of games set by the local league. Teams shall consist of a maximum of 15 players. **Players whose 13th birthday falls on or after May 1st are eligible to participate. Leagues are made up of three to nine teams. Regulation games are six innings and leagues play on fields complying with Diamond Youth Baseball's "Scaled Down" field dimensions. Night play is allowed and pitching rules safeguard a player's arm and safety equipment is a requirement. Note: The State Director can approve less than three teams in a league or a division.**

COST

Cost of membership to DIAMOND YOUTH BASEBALL is \$14.00 per team (\$8 for T-ball teams) annually plus a \$55 state fee for the entire league. Each affiliated league is responsible for the operational expenses of its own league.

SCHOLARSHIPS

DIAMOND YOUTH BASEBALL pioneered the idea of providing educational scholarships to former players. Donations from leagues and royalty fees make this possible. DIAMOND YOUTH BASEBALL will provide \$200,000 to 100 former players in 2024. To qualify an applicant must have been a former DIAMOND YOUTH PLAYER, must be a senior in high school and must furnish evidence of need.

TOURNAMENTS

Double elimination or round-robin tournament play is offered to all franchised leagues, if they want to participate. DIAMOND YOUTH BASEBALL officials ask leagues to put emphasis on regular season play instead of tournament play. Tournament play begins in the District. Some District teams advance to the State Tournament. State Champions compete in a DIAMOND YOUTH WORLD SERIES held each year at a different site during the months of July and August where a DIAMOND YOUTH CHAMPION is crowned amid much color and fanfare.

SUMMARY

DIAMOND YOUTH BASEBALL encourages officials of all leagues new and old to dedicate themselves to building God Fearing, Patriotic, Obedient Youth who one day can take their places as leaders in this wonderful land of America. If we successfully carry out this challenge the efforts of DIAMOND YOUTH BASEBALL have been worthwhile.