

***Hoke County*** Parks and Recreation Department  
423 East Central Avenue  
Raeford, NC 28376

**February 9, 2017**

**Dixie Ponytails**

(Ages 12 yrs and younger)  
(Preferred ages 11 and 12)

**Specific Playing Rules**

**I – The Playing Field**

- (A) – Baselines shall be sixty feet (60') in length
- (B) - The distance from the front side of the pitcher's plate to the point of home plate shall be forty feet (40')
- (C) – The distance from the point of home plate to the center of second base shall be eighty-four feet and ten inches (84' 10")

**II – Minimum Play Requirement**

- (A) **Defense** – Players must play, at the minimum, every other inning in the field in a defensive position in each game. Example: a team begins the game with 14 players, 9 players will start the game defensively, with 5 substitutes. When the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning begins, the 5 substitutes will enter the game defensively, replacing 5 starters. When the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning begins, the 5 players who came out in the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning will return to the field defensively. Teams will continue rotating 5 players in defensively every inning until the game is concluded. The only defensive changes that will be allowed during the inning will be pitching changes or when a player is injured or ejected.

**III – It shall be a regulation game when**

- (A) – Both teams have completed six (6) innings
- (B) – Time Limit 1hr 30 minutes is reached.
- (C) - When a team is ahead by ten (10) runs after both teams have batted 4 innings or when the home team is ahead after 4 innings of play
- (D) - No game will start after 10:00pm
- (E) Teams must have 9 legal players in order to play. There will be a 10 minute grace period for the early game only. The penalty will be a forfeit.

#### **IV – The Game, Offense**

- (A) – The catcher shall NOT be required to catch the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) strike, except for a foul tip. The batter shall be out and base runners advance at their own risk.
- (B) – There will be ten 9 players on defense with only six (6) players in the infield.
- (C) – The offensive team will be made up of the entire team roster continuous batting order- all players shall be listed on the batting order and will bat whether they are playing defense or not.
- (D) - All players must play at least six (6) consecutive outs on defense.
- (E) - An inning shall be ended with the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) out or end of play of the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) batter inning. If the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) batter walks or is hit by a pitch all base runners shall advance 2 bases.

#### **V – Base running**

- (A) – The infield fly rules apply

#### **VI – Pitching Rules**

(A) - A pitcher shall not pitch more than eight (8) innings between Monday thru Sunday except in a tie game at the end of six (6) innings the starting pitcher may pitch the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) inning.

(B)– Under no circumstances shall a pitcher pitch in more than six (6) innings in one (1) game except as noted above.

#### **VII – Trips to the Mound**

- (A) A manager or coach may come out twice in 1 inning to visit with the pitcher, but the 3<sup>rd</sup> time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher.
- (B) A manager or coach may come out 3 times in 1 game to visit with the pitcher, but the 4<sup>th</sup> time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher.

