

Spring 2020 ABSA Parent Handbook

Philosophy

The primary objective of the Auburn Baseball-Softball Association is to provide organized recreational baseball and softball programs for the youth of our community which are fun, teach basic skills, promote physical fitness, and provide opportunities to practice sportsmanship, teamwork, and leadership.

Leagues

The Auburn Baseball-Softball Association operates programs through affiliations with Dixie Youth Baseball, Dixie Softball, and Dixie Boys and Majors Baseball. **T-ball and baseball players are assigned to leagues based upon their ages as of May 1, 2020. Softball players are assigned to leagues based upon their age as of August 31, 2020.**

Leagues playing at Felton Little Park:

Girls 7 & 8 Darlings

Girls 9 & 10 Angels

Girls 11 & 12 Ponytails

Girls 13-15 Belles

Leagues playing at the Auburn Softball Complex

Boys and Girls 5 & 6 T-Ball

Leagues playing at Duck Samford Park:

Boys 7 & 8 Dixie Youth Sally Southern

Boys 9 & 10 Dixie Youth Minors

Boys 11 & 12 Dixie Youth Majors

Boys 13 & 14 Dixie Boys

Parent Responsibilities

The support of parents is absolutely essential to the success of the baseball and softball programs. This support is reflected in certain parent responsibilities:

- Children must arrive to practices and games on time.
- Encourage your child and his/her teammates without criticizing.
- Attend games and support you child and his/her team.
- Show good sportsmanship toward umpires and coaches.
- Respond positively to requests for volunteers.
- Direct your concerns to the appropriate persons in an appropriate manner.

Coaches

All head coaches must have a background check and are provided with the Statement of Conduct.

Violations of these agreements subject coaches to disciplinary action or removal by the ABSA. All head coaches must complete the CoachSafely Course.

Skills Tests and Selection Procedures

The purpose of skills tests is to rate the ability of players for equitable distribution among teams. All players who register by the deadline will be placed on a team. Player distribution is based on coaches' ratings. No car pools or pairing of coaches is allowed.

Practice Information

Teams are assigned to a regular practice day and field for the season. The coach sets the practice time; however, a maximum practice time is established for each league. Dixie Boys practice on their game fields at time assigned weekly around scheduled games.

- Players are required to attend practices. Coaches should be notified in case of an illness or an emergency. Coaches are not required to play those who miss practice or those who are discipline problems.
- The coach cancels practices. Coaches should make the team aware of his/her policy for rained-out practices.
- Coaches are not responsible for transporting players to and from practices.

Parents should make every effort to have players at practice on time and pick them up when practice is over.

Insurance

Insurance to supplement your family's regular medical coverage is provided to all players. You must first file any accident claim in your personal insurance. Upon filing such a claim, immediately contact Kevin Kelly with the Parks and Recreation Department at 501-2932.

Pictures

Individual and team pictures will be made during the first few weeks of the season before a scheduled game. The company awarded the picture contract will be responsible for the collection of money and the distribution of pictures.

Practice Fields

Duck Samford Stadium Parking Lot

- | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| Field 1 | Top level next to Glenn Avenue |
| Field 2 | Top level next to woods |
| Field 3 | Lower level next to woods |
| Field 4 | Lower level next to Glenn Avenue |

Wrights Mill Road School

(To the left behind Wrights Mill Road School)

Martin Luther King Park

(Corner of West Magnolia and Byrd Street)

Ogletree

(Adjacent to Ogletree School)

Margie Piper Bailey

- | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| Field 1 | Wrights Mill next to WMR School |
| Field 2 | Wrights Mill next to Janet Drive |

Softball Complex

SC1 – SC5

Richland Field 1 & 2

Basic Park Rules

- No alcoholic beverages are allowed anywhere in the park.
- No tobacco products allowed anywhere in the park.
- Trash receptacles are provided at various locations and should be used by players and fans.
- Only registered coaches and players are allowed in dugouts.
- No one should climb or sit on any fence or batting cage at any time.
- Vehicles should be parked only in marked spaces. Those double-parked or parked in handicapped spaces are subject to being towed.

Concessions

Profits from the operation of concession stands at Felton Little Park and Duck Samford Park provide a primary source of revenue to support the baseball and softball programs.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

The Auburn Baseball-Softball Association Board of Directors, in conjunction with the Auburn Parks and Recreation Department, directs the operation of the baseball and softball programs in the City of Auburn. The board meets on the second Thursday of each month throughout the year. All meetings are open to the public, and interested persons are invited to attend.

Through the work of its various committees, the board sets policies and procedures, establishes calendars, provides for fund-raising activities, designs and carries out procedures for team selections and all-star selections, contracts with the Umpire's Association, operates the concessions stands, assists in the renovation and development of facilities, and carries out other projects as needed.

The board is self-perpetuating, which means that the current board will elect the new year's board members. This election occurs in August. Persons interested in learning more about the board or becoming a member of the board should contact the board president.

Sponsors

If you or your organization is interested in sponsoring a baseball or softball team, please contact Kevin Kelly at the Auburn Parks and Recreation Department @ 501-2932.

Uniforms

- Team shirts and hats are provided and required for participation.
- Shirts must be tucked into the pants.
- No jewelry (watches, chains, rings, bracelets, earrings) should be worn at practice or games.
- Cleats are optional, but only those made of molded plastic are allowed through Dixie Ozone. Metal cleats are allowed in Dixie Boys and Dixie Majors.
- Pants are not provided; players are responsible for purchasing their own pants.

Equipment

Bats*	Provided by ABSA
<i>(Personal bats must meet league specifications)</i>	
T-Ball	Only bats issued by ABSA
Boys 7-12	USA Baseball (7-12 no larger than 2 5/8)
Boys 13-19	USA Baseball
Girls	Official Softball
Balls*	Provided by ABSA
T-Ball	Safety Ball level 5
Boys 7 & 8	Safety Ball level 10
Boys 9-12	Official Dixie Youth Baseball
Boys 13-19	Official Dixie Boys/Majors Baseball
Girls 7 & 8	11" RIF 5
Girls 9-12	11" RIF 10
Girls 13-15	12" RIF 10
Catcher's Equipment*	Provided by ABSA
<i>(Personal equipment must be approved by league official)</i>	

*SUBJECT TO CHANGE

All-Stars

With the exception of T-Ball, Sally/Southern, and Darlings, all-star teams are selected in all leagues at the end of the season. An all-star fee of \$95.00 is assessed to offset the cost of the uniforms for all leagues. The all-star fee is due at the time uniforms are distributed. This fee must be collected at that time to facilitate the all-star process.

All-Star Coach Selection

The following criteria are followed by the Board when selecting the All-Star Coaches: rapport with players and parents; attitude, coaching experience, league standing, support and commitment to ABSA. The selection shall be by written ballot which shall be sealed until the completion of the All-Star selection meeting. The head coach selects assistant all-star coaches. The board encourages all-star coaches to consider other head coaches as assistants.

All-Star Player Selection

To be eligible, a player must meet regulations (Dixie) for the league in which they participate. League commissioners verify eligibility. Each head coach submits nine nominees from the league. The list is compiled and given to each head coach to review before the selection meeting. Head Coaches cannot nominate their own child. Additional names can be added at the meeting. The selection meeting is made up of head coaches, the league commissioner, the player agent, and one member of the all-star selection committee who does not have a child playing in that league. Criteria for nominees and the discussion phase includes but is not limited to attitude, statistics, attendance, ability, and commitment. All unanimous nominees are added to the team. After the initial discussion of the players, a vote is conducted. All voting is via secret ballot. If the all-star team is made up of 13 players, the coaches vote for 13 players on the first ballot. If there are 10 unanimous selections, the coaches vote for 3 players on the second ballot, and continue in this manner until the team is selected. Each head coach announces to their team the all-stars from his/her team after the last game. The all-star coach will contact the team members concerning practices. All-star players are expected to attend practices, and vacations are not excused.

QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS, EVALUATIONS AND COMPLAINTS

Questions or suggestions can be directed to any board member or player agent. The following procedures should be followed to register a formal complaint:

- Any complaint must be put in writing and presented to the player agent within two working days of the event.
- A committee of at least three board members will meet to determine if any corrective action is needed.
- Any recommended action will be submitted to the Board President for approval.
- All interested parties will be informed in writing of the board's findings and any corrective action.

Bad Weather or Rainouts

Decisions on game cancellations due to weather will be made before 2:00 P.M.

- Go to www.auburnalabama.org/baseball and check game status.
- Make-up games are at the discretion of league officials.

In the event there is lightning in the vicinity of a city playing field, the following are procedures that should be used:

- Send all players/coaches to nearest shelter. If no shelter is available, players / coaches should be advised to go to their cars.

- 15 minutes must elapse without any other visible lightning before players / coaches can return to the field.
- If lightning occurs before 15 minutes elapses, time must be restarted.

In the event lightning continues, it will be in the supervisor's judgment whether the games are continued or postponed.