

This Is Our Story

Dixie Youth Baseball was organized in the State of South Carolina in 1955. The name of the program in those days was Little Boys Baseball. In 1958 the name was changed to Dixie Youth Baseball.

There were four men who met to form a new baseball program. They began with only a dream of something that would be different from other youth baseball organizations. They had no financial backing from any organizations, just their beliefs that their goals were attainable and would meet the recreational needs of the youngsters and families within their communities. Danny Jones and Matt Goyak were Recreation Directors in North Charleston and Georgetown . Bill Hearsh, Recreation Director for the City of Columbia joined in this effort, and Tom Linton, an attorney and a coach in one of the Columbia Leagues became the fourth member of this organizational team for the new program. The recreation professionals began the process of developing a set of playing rules, policy & by-laws for the program, while the attorney devoted his attention preparing the necessary paperwork, completing all the forms to incorporate the program in the State of South Carolina . They were successful in this effort. Little Boys Baseball Inc. became an official baseball program with the four incorporators, Matt Goyak, President, Bill Hearsh, Vice President, Danny Jones Commissioner-Treasurer, Tom Linton, Secretary. Bill Hearsh served in this position for a short period of time and left the program in 1956 and J. Newton Jones was elected Vice President.

While the program was established in South Carolina the founders anticipated it would be a program that would serve the needs of that State, but interest from adjoining states in this new program grew quickly. The 1956 season began and leagues were franchised in the states of Alabama , Virginia , Mississippi, Louisiana, and Florida . The first Little Boys Baseball World Series was played in Alexandria, Louisiana . The Greenville South Carolina team won this first World Series.

The most fundamental intent of Little Boys Baseball, Inc. was to develop a program which would emphasize local autonomy. They believed that the workers and parents in the local programs and would know what was best for them and their children. Customs will vary from community to community and leagues may establish policies for the operation of their local program. There are basic fundamental rules each league must follow, but the local autonomy for each league is still very much a part of the program today.

The program began with the belief that the leagues who are affiliated should have a voice in the running of the program. There is an established procedure for the election of the national board members from the leagues within each state. Each State has an equal number of members on the national board, and each board member serves for a term of three years. All leagues within the program has one vote, and a league official may only vote for one league.

Any individual who serves in an official capacity with Dixie Youth Baseball may submit a suggested rule or policy change. This proposed change must be submitted by June 1st to the Office of the Deputy Commissioner. The National Board of Directors will consider the proposed rule or policy change at their annual meeting.

Tournament play is always considered to be an exciting part of any baseball season. Dixie Youth Baseball offers tournaments from Sub-District to World Series play. All tournaments are double elimination tournaments. Any league that joins Dixie Youth Baseball is immediately eligible for tournament participation. Dixie Youth Tournaments are awarded on an invitational basis. Any Dixie Youth league is eligible to host a tournament. For information concerning tournament requirements the league should contact their nearest Dixie Youth official.

Dixie Youth Baseball has an excellent scholarship program. The program began in 1961 when two scholarships were awarded in the amount of \$750.00. One scholarship of \$500.00 and one of \$250.00. In May of 2007 we will award 70- \$2,000.00 scholarships.

This total of \$140,000.00 given in scholarships for the 2007 season will bring the totals given in scholarships to \$ 1,306,950.00 since those early days of 1961. To be eligible for a scholarship the applicant must be:

- a: A high school senior
- b : Have played Dixie Youth Baseball while he or she was 12 years of age or younger
- c - Get an official Dixie Youth Baseball scholarship application.
These are available on line, or from a Dixie Youth official. They are very simple to complete & fill out
- d - Mail the completed application to the correct address by. March 1st.

Little Boys Baseball began with a very different and unique plan when compared with other youth athletic program. While the name was changed, this has not changed with Dixie Youth Baseball, everyone in the program is a volunteer. From the National President, National Board Members, National Commissioner, coaches, workers in the leagues, they all are volunteers. There are a couple of ladies in the National office who are paid secretaries, but everyone else gives of their time to make this program serve the families in eleven states. Because of what they do, it continues to be a success.

Dixie Youth Baseball now has three World Series. There is the AAA World Series. This Series is for players. 10 years of age and under. There is also the Majors Division Series. This Series is for the 11 & 12 year old players. It has been in past years that the AAA Series and the Majors Series have been played together, same date & location. In 2006 the Board of Directors approved the addition of the O Zone World Series. This is for the 11 & 12 year old players. The difference is the base distance is 70 feet, and the pitching distance is 50 feet. The game is "open bases" with the runner leading off the base, balks called on the pitcher and regular baseball rules.

The year was 1955. Four men sat & discussed and planned for a youth, baseball program. Today you and I live in a new century and we enjoy the efforts of their planning. The name of the program has changed, thankfully the purpose & goals have remained the same..