

Dixie Youth Baseball Inc.
Office of the Commissioner
Official Ruling 13-02

Background: Conduct and Sportsmanship

In baseball, the **squeeze play** is a sacrifice bunt with a runner on third base. The batter bunts the ball, expecting to be thrown out at first base, but providing the runner on third base an opportunity to score. Such a bunt is uncommon with two outs because there the score. Likewise, such an attempt is unlikely with two strikes because a bunt attempt is a significant chance that the batter would be thrown out at first base, ending the inning and thus negating that is fouled off is an automatic third strike.

In Majors and AAA division play, only a **safety squeeze** play is allowed, where the runner at third does not leave the base until the batter makes contact bunting, waiting for more certainty that the ball will be hit to a location on the field from which it will be difficult for the defensive team to make an out at home plate.

However, in **“O”Zone division play**, a **suicide squeeze**, where the runner leaves third base as soon as the pitcher begins to throw the pitch, before releasing the ball. If properly executed, a play at home plate is extremely unlikely. However, if the batter fails to make contact with the pitch, the runner is likely to be put out at home plate (hence, the term *"suicide"*). The suicide squeeze requires a skilled bunter who can make contact with the ball consistently. These plays are often used in the late innings of a close game in order to score an insurance run, a winning run, or tying run.

Official Ruling:

Squeeze Play Violation - A squeeze play occurs in baseball when a runner leaves third base before the pitch reaches the batter and batter attempts to bunt the ball to allow the runner to score before a play can be made on the runner. Suicide squeeze plays are legal in DYB "O"Zone play. However, an attempted squeeze play where the batter hits away rather than bunting the ball is *extremely dangerous* and shall be deemed an unsportsmanlike act. **Penalty:** The umpire shall signal a dead ball, call the batter out and eject **both the batter and manager** from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct. **No warning shall be given for a violation of this rule.**

Effective Date: May 1, 2013



Wes Skelton, Commissioner
Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc.

SUMMARY OF DYB UNSPORTSMANLIKE RULE PROVISIONS

RULE 4.05 NOTE 1 - Any conduct by any base coach considered in the umpire's judgment to be unsportsmanlike or a deliberate attempt to delay the game shall result in: (a) if an adult, the immediate removal of the offender from the game and the playing field and its confines; (b) if a player, the immediate removal of the offender from the coaching box(es) for the remainder of the game. **NO WARNING SHALL BE NECESSARY.**

RULE 4.06(a) No manager, coach or player, shall at any time, whether from the bench or the playing field or elsewhere:

- (1) Incite, or try to incite, by word or sign, a demonstration by spectators;
- (2) Use language which will in any manner refer to or reflect upon opposing players, manager, coach, an umpire, or spectators.

(3) Reserved

(4) Reserved

(b) No fielder shall take a position in the batter's line of vision, and with deliberate unsportsmanlike intent, act in a manner to distract the batter. **PENALTY:** The offender shall be ejected from the game.

Rule 8.02 (b) Intentionally delay the game by throwing the ball to players other than the catcher, when the batter is in position, except in an attempt to retire a runner. **PENALTY:** If, after warning by the umpire, such delaying action is repeated, the pitcher shall be ejected from the game.

(c) Intentionally Pitch at the Batter. If, in the umpire's judgment, such a violation occurs, the umpire may elect either to: (i) Expel the pitcher, or the manager and the pitcher, from the game, or (ii) may warn the pitcher and the manager of both teams that another such pitch will result in the immediate expulsion of that pitcher (or a replacement) and the manager. If, in the umpire's judgment, circumstances warrant, both teams may be officially "warned" prior to the game or at any time during the game. To pitch at a batter's head is unsportsmanlike and highly dangerous. It should be and is condemned by everybody. Umpires should act without hesitation in enforcement of this rule.

Rule 9.01(d) Each umpire has authority to disqualify any player, coach, manager or substitute for objecting to decisions or for unsportsmanlike conduct or language and to eject such disqualified person from the playing field. If an umpire disqualifies a player while a play is in progress, the disqualification shall not take effect until no further action is possible in that play. The umpire shall be empowered to call a base runner out or safe for an act either by him or by a fielder that in the opinion of the umpire is unsportsmanlike conduct.

REGULATION V (E) Each league shall determine its own method for selection of managers and coaches. Local leagues have the authority to establish league rules to suspend managers and coaches for unsportsmanlike acts or willful violation of local rules and regulations as well as rules and regulations established by Dixie Youth Baseball®, Inc.

REGULATION XII. Conduct and Sportsmanship

* (A) Members of a team shall not ride, kid, heckle, poke fun at or in any other manner do anything that in the opinion of the umpire distracts the opposing team. A player shall not throw a bat, helmet or other equipment in anger or disgust. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be the removal of the guilty player from the game for the remainder of the game. The penalty for violation of this rule by a manager or coach shall be his removal from the game and the dugout for the remainder of the game.

(B) Local leagues have the authority to ban noisemakers during local league play.

(C) When a batter wiggles the bat in an EXTREME MANNER in which, in the umpire's opinion, the batter is intentionally attempting to distract the pitcher's delivery of the pitch to the batter, this action shall be deemed unsportsmanlike conduct and not permitted. The umpire shall call a no pitch and meet with the batter and manager to give a warning upon its first occurrence. Upon a second occurrence, the team manager shall be cited for unsportsmanlike conduct and removed for the remainder of the game.

(D) The fake bunt/hit away tactic will not be allowed. Aggressive defensive play brings the players too close to the batter in an attempt to take the bunt away from the batter completely, which becomes a safety concern. Once a batter squares to bunt, he may:

- (1) Pull the bat back and take the pitch or,

(2) Attempt to bunt the ball.

The batter may not swing away after squaring off in the bunt position and drawing a fielder dangerously close to the batter's box. The umpire shall call no pitch and meet with the team and team manager to give a team warning upon the first occurrence. A second occurrence will result in the removal of the team manager for the remainder of the game.

(E) The use of any alcoholic beverage or tobacco product within the confines of the playing field, dugout or bench by any manager, coach, player, umpire or league official is prohibited. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be the removal of the guilty manager, coach, player, umpire or official from the game and from the dugout.

(F) Local leagues have the authority, as permitted by local and state law, to remove or ban from the league's playing facilities any spectator who is flagrantly displaying unsportsmanlike conduct, profanity, or who threatens physical harm to umpires, players, managers, coaches or league officials. This authority extends to all scheduled regular season games or tournament games played at its playing facilities.

TOURNAMENT RULE IV (G) Upon the recommendation of the Tournament Director, the State Director shall have the authority to suspend from tournament play any player, manager or coach for a flagrant display of unsportsmanlike conduct or for a willful violation of Dixie Youth Baseball® Rules and Regulations. A player, manager or coach who is suspended shall not be allowed to participate in further tournament play in any way to include opening or closing ceremonies and trophy presentations. The suspension may be for one or more games or for the remainder of tournament play during the current season. The Commissioner of Dixie Youth Baseball® shall have this authority during the Dixie Youth World Series.

TOURNAMENT RULE XI. Conduct and Sportsmanship

*(A) Members of a team shall not ride, kid, heckle, poke fun at or in any other manner do anything that in the opinion of the umpire distracts the opposing team. A player shall not throw a bat, helmet or other equipment in anger or disgust. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be the removal of the guilty player from the game for the remainder of the game. The penalty for violation of this rule by a manager or coach shall be his removal from the game and the dugout for the remainder of the game.

(B) Tournament directors, at their discretion, may allow the use of noisemakers. However, spectators may not use noisemakers in an attempt to distract the pitcher's delivery of the pitch to the batter. Any such action will be deemed unsportsmanlike conduct and will not be permitted by the umpire. The tournament director may request the tournament host, as permitted by local and state law, to remove from the tournament playing facilities any spectator who fails to discontinue the use of noisemakers after the umpire-in-chief announces their use is banned for the remainder of the game.

(C) When a batter wiggles the bat in an EXTREME MANNER in which, in the umpire's opinion, the batter is intentionally attempting to distract the pitcher's delivery of the pitch to the batter, this action shall be deemed unsportsmanlike conduct and not permitted. The umpire shall call a no pitch and meet with the batter and manager to give a warning upon its first occurrence. Upon a second occurrence, the team manager shall be cited for unsportsmanlike conduct and removed for the remainder of the game.

(D) The fake bunt/hit away tactic will not be allowed. Aggressive defensive play brings the players too close to the batter in an attempt to take the bunt away from the batter completely, which becomes a safety concern. Once a batter squares to bunt, he may:

- (1) Pull the bat back and take the pitch or,
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The batter may not swing away after squaring off in the bunt position and drawing a fielder dangerously close to the batter's box. The umpire shall call no pitch and meet with the team and team manager to give a team warning upon the first occurrence. A second occurrence will result in the removal of the team manager for the remainder of the game.

(E) The use of any alcoholic beverage or tobacco product within the confines of the playing field, dugout or bench by any manager, coach, player, umpire or league official is prohibited. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be the removal of the guilty manager, coach, player, umpire or official from the game and from the dugout.

(F) Tournament hosts have the authority, as permitted by local and state law, to remove or ban from the league's playing facilities any spectator who is flagrantly displaying unsportsmanlike conduct, profanity, or who threatens physical harm to umpires, players, managers, coaches or league officials. This authority extends to all scheduled tournament games played at its playing facilities.