

Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Distinguished Service Award



SANDY JONES **2019 Recipient**

*"In Recognition of a Lifetime of Outstanding Achievement in the game of Baseball.
The State of Alabama will forever be in your debt."*

Sandy Jones has served as CEO/National Commissioner of Dixie Boys Baseball, Inc. since 1995. Dixie Boys Baseball, Inc. was founded in 1957 in Alexandria, Louisiana. The Dixie Boys/Majors program, with the national office located in Dothan, Alabama provides opportunities for youth age 13-19 to play baseball in eleven southeastern states. Dixie Baseball is recognized as a national member organization of USA Baseball. Since 1978, USA Baseball has been the national governing body for amateur baseball. It represents the sport in the United States as a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) and internationally as a member federation of the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC). USA won the World Baseball Classic held in 2017.

Sandy Jones is involved with USA Baseball serving on various boards & committees. Since 2003, Jones has served on the USA Baseball Medical/Safety Advisory Committee. The advisory committee is made up of leading experts in the fields of: medicine, research, insurance, sports law, strength/conditioning and baseball governance. Two of the most significant contributions of the committee were the creation of PitchSmart and the USABat standard. In 2005, he was elected as a member of the Executive Committee of USA Baseball and later served as a Board member of the USA Baseball Board of Directors. Jones, for twenty-three consecutive years is an active member of the American Baseball Coaches Association. The American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA), founded in 1945, is the primary professional organization for baseball coaches at the amateur level. Its more than 9,000 members represent all 50 states and 23 countries.

Jones returned to Dothan in 2005 after retiring as the Parks & Recreation Director for the City of Enfauila, Alabama. Jones served as Director for 26 years and was instrumental in the development of many recreation facilities & programs. The opportunities for participation in baseball and softball were expanded during the tenure of Jones. In 1983, a four-field baseball/softball complex was constructed. A second baseball/softball complex was developed in 1993, as World Series events and tournaments were added to enhance tourism opportunities for the community. In partnership with Major League Baseball and the Baseball Tomorrow Fund; a grant was obtained that expanded the total number of practice/playing facilities. The Enfauila department was recognized as the department of the year in 2000 by the Alabama Recreation & Parks Association.

Jones was recognized as the "Citizen of the Year" in 1994 for his efforts in promoting tourism and recreation opportunities in the region. The City of Enfauila served as host community for five major baseball/softball events during the tenure of Jones. Sandy Jones for 26 years was recognized as a certified professional with the National Recreation and Parks Association. He served as President of ARPA and on numerous ARPA committees. Sandy Jones was recognized as the "1998 Recreation Professional of the Year." Jones is a member of the ARPA Foundation Board.

Sandy Jones attended Wallace College on a baseball scholarship. While obtaining an associate degree in Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Wallace; he received awards in baseball and also for academic achievement. After attending Wallace, Jones furthered his studies at Auburn University in pursuit of a degree in Recreation Administration. Later, Jones attended the University of Alabama and obtained an undergraduate degree in Public Administration.

Jones was selected to All-American teams in several national softball tournaments. In 1999, he was a team member of the ASA National Champions and received further recognition with his selection as a member of the "1999 All American" teams. He played competitive softball for 25 years, prior to relocating back to Dothan. In 2013, Jones was inducted into the Alabama Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame as a slow pitch softball player. He currently serves as a member of the Alabama Amateur Softball Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

Of great importance to Jones is his involvement with the Dothan Miracle League. The league has celebrated its tenth season and Jones has coached since the league was formed. In 2017, Jones was elected as a board member of the Dothan Miracle League. The Dothan Miracle League is an organization that provides children and adults with mental and/or physical challenges an opportunity to play baseball as a team member in an organized league. Jones recently received the 2018 "Book of Golden Deeds" Award from the Dothan Exchange Club!

Honored January 18, 2019