



VBA 12U/11U Spring Fireball Tournament Rules 2022

Game Rules:

- For any and all rules not addressed in the VBA rules and regulations, the Official Babe Ruth League Rules and Regulations will regulate play.
- Teams must begin a game with a minimum of 8 players. Failure to field 8 players to begin a game will result in that team forfeiting. There is no 'match' rule on defense (a team can field a full defense of up to 9 players regardless if the opposing team fields only 8).
- There will be a 10-minute grace period to begin a game if no other game is scheduled on the same field immediately after that game. If another game is scheduled on the same field immediately following any game, there is no grace period. Such games must start at their scheduled start time.
- If lightning is detected, all players shall be removed from the field to a sheltered area and a 20 minute waiting period must be observed before a game can be resumed. This 20 minute period will be observed after every instance lightning is detected, i.e. the clock resets with every lightning sighting.
- **Pool play games may end in a tie. Elimination games may not end a tie and additional full innings shall be played until the tie is broken.**
- USSSA Stamped bats will be permitted as well as USA stamped bats

Conduct and Sportsmanship

- Each head coach is also responsible for the conduct of their players and assistant coaches. Unsportsmanlike conduct should result in the removal from that game of any player, coach, fan or any other person connected with that team.
- The use of profanity in and around the playing field is cause for immediate ejection.
- The use of intoxicating beverages or illicit drugs on or around the playing fields by anyone is prohibited. A report of such incident shall be made immediately to a park official, which may contact local authorities.
- The use of tobacco in any form is prohibited within any fenced area of a playing field and/or dugout/ bullpen area.
- Badgering or verbal harassment by anyone associated with a team towards any umpire, league official, or any team personnel will not be tolerated. The umpire may warn the offending person once or not at all, and if the behavior continues will be ejected from the game at their discretion
- Sportsmanship starts in the stands. Head coaches are responsible for their fans' behavior. Only positive comments are appropriate from fans during games. Be courteous to opposing team's players, coaches, the umpires and fans. Fans that are unable to abide by this rule will be asked to leave the ball field area.

- An ejected person must leave the entire park grounds and not return while the game they were ejected from is in progress and all game participants, including game officials, have vacated the playing field and surrounding areas.

Playing Field

- Distance between bases is 70 feet.
- Pitcher's rubber is 50 feet from home plate.

Game play

- Coin Flip to Determine Home and Away during Pool Play.
- No new inning will be started after one hour and forty(1:40) minutes.
- **Speed up Rules-Pitcher and Catcher of record with 2 outs**
 - Exception: Championship game shall not have a time limit.
- A regulation game will be whichever comes first:
 - 6 innings, or 5 ½ if home team is ahead
 - In the event of play suspended due to weather, a game is considered 'official' after four innings of play if the visiting team is ahead; 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead.
 - **10 Run Rule- Game is terminated immediately if one team is ahead by 10 or more runs after 3.5 or 4 innings and each team has had equal times at bats. Page 28**
 - **15 Run Rule- Game is terminated immediately if one team is ahead by 15 or more runs after 2.5 or 3 innings and each team has had equal times at bats. Page 28**

Playing Offense

- The offensive team may have a 1st base coach, a 3rd base coach on the field only, other coaches in their team's dugout.
- If an offensive coach intentionally touches a ball in play or egregiously obstructs the play, the batter will be called out and all base runners return to the base previously occupied. This is at the umpire's discretion.
- Throwing the bat will result in the batter being given a warning. A batter who throws the bat after having already received a warning will be called out and all base runners return to the base previously occupied.
- Bunting is allowed. Once a batter squares to bunt, the batter may not take a full swing on the same pitch (no slashing).
- The entire roster of a team may be entered into the batting order (continuous batting order).
- If a player batting out of order is discovered in the middle of an at bat, the proper batter shall take his place and assume the existing count. If batting out of order is discovered after an improper at bat, Official Babe Ruth Rules will apply.
- If a player is unable to take his at-bat due to injury during a game or warm-ups, that player's spot in the batting order will be skipped without penalty. If an injured player is able to resume play later in the game, he or she may re-enter the game provided he occupies the same batting position as he occupied when starting the game. Abuses by managers of this rule will not be tolerated and may result in forfeiture of the game.

Pitching

- Pitchers may not wear jewelry. Medical alerts are not considered jewelry. Arm sleeves or similar accessories not part of an undershirt are considered jewelry.
- Trips to the mound – Babe Ruth baseball rules apply. A trip to the mound is granted once a coach steps past the foul line at the umpire's discretion.
- A second trip in the same inning to the same pitcher shall automatically result in the removal of that pitcher from the game as the pitcher only.
- As per Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken rules, there is no limit on the number of innings pitched for the duration of the tournament.
- Pitcher eligibility will be based on the number of pitches thrown. Pitches will be tracked for each game and will be included on the final scorecard, which must be signed by each coach after the game is completed.

| Age | 0 Days Required Rest | 1 Day Required Rest | 2 Days Required Rest |
|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 7/8 | 1-20 | 21-35 | 36-50 |
| 9/10 | 1-40 | 41-65 | 66-75 |
| 11/12 | 1-40 | 41-65 | 66-85 |

- 7 & 8 year old pitchers can pitch a maximum of 50 pitches. 9 & 10 year olds can pitch a maximum of 75 pitches. 11 & 12 year olds can pitch a maximum of 85 pitches in a given game. If the pitcher reaches this number of pitches while pitching to a batter, he will be allowed to finish pitching to the batter & must be immediately removed after the at bat is completed.
- No pitcher may pitch 3 days in a row

Time Outs

- Before a time out will be granted to a defensive team by an umpire, the defense must stop play, as defined above.
- At any coach's discretion, play may be stopped if in their judgment there is an injury to a player or any other unsafe condition. The umpire would then award runners/batters bases accordingly and to the best of their judgment.

Equipment

- Approved Babe Ruth Diamond DBR/equivalent baseballs will be used.
- All players are required to wear approved batting helmets while batting and when occupying a base.
- Only Cal Ripken approved bats may be used.
 - Bats may not exceed 33" in length and the barrel may not exceed 2 5/8" in diameter and USA approved. Non-wood bats must be marked BPF 1.15. Wood barrel bats are allowed.
 - Softball bats are not allowed.
- No metal cleats.
- Catcher must wear a catcher's mask, chest protector and shin guards. Catcher's masks must cover ears and include throat protection (hockey style mask or dangling protector).
- Players must wear cups.