



Babe Ruth Baseball

Pacific Northwest Region



PRE-TOURNAMENT MANAGERS MEETING

The Tournament Commissioner, in conjunction with the Tournament Director will conduct the Pre-Tournament Meeting.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Managers and/or coaches of all participating teams is mandatory.
- Umpire-in-Chief (It is also recommended that the entire umpiring crew be present, if possible.)
- Other involved tournament Officials

BUSINESS MEETING

1. **INTRODUCTIONS** -- Official welcome and opening remarks by Tournament Director and introduction of Host League President, local Tournament Officials and Dignitaries. Meeting will then be turned over to the Tournament Commissioner for his remarks and for introduction of all participating team managers and coaches. Tournament Commissioner will provide contact numbers for himself and the Tournament Director and obtain contact numbers from each team manager.
2. **TOURNAMENT FORMAT** -- Advise that all games will be conducted under the Official Rules of Baseball and Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules, and Regulations
3. **SPORTSMANSHIP** -- Remind all present that Babe Ruth Baseball is NOT only a baseball program but is an educational program, that uses the game of baseball to teach sportsmanship and fair play, and to assist in the mental and physical development of the players. All players, team officials, umpires and fans shall conduct themselves appropriately.
4. **DISQUALIFICATIONS** -- The use of profane language or abuse of field or game equipment by any player, manager or coach will not be tolerated and may be grounds for disqualification from a tournament game or from further participation in the tournament itself.

Occupants of a team's dugout will not be permitted to express aggressive disapproval of an umpire's decision or harass either the opposing team and/or the Tournament Officials. Such action may result in players, managers or coaches being disqualified from a tournament game or from further participation in the tournament itself. At no time shall any player, manager or coach make intentional contact with an umpire in any manner. Such action will result in an immediate disqualification from the tournament game or from further participation in the tournament itself. Between games, all players, managers, and coaches remain under the jurisdiction of the Tournament Commissioner and any prohibited conduct during those periods will not be tolerated.

All tournament game disqualifications or prohibited conduct between games shall be reviewed by the Tournament Commissioner, and if a further penalty is deemed necessary or appropriate it may include suspension or disqualification of the offender(s) and/or the offender(s) team from one or more additional games or from further participation in the tournament.

Note: The decision of the Tournament Commissioner will be final.

5. **GAME DURATION** – All Cal Ripken tournament games shall be six (6) completed innings unless the home team leads at the end of 5 ½ innings of play. All 13-15 and 16-18 tournament games shall be seven (7) completed innings unless the home team leads at the end of 6½ innings of play. In the event a game is called before completion, it shall be completed from the point of discontinuance. If a game is suspended due to darkness or weather conditions and the ten-run or fifteen-run rule does not apply, that game will be completed before any subsequent tournament game is played. **Note:** All Cal Ripken 9U pool play tournament competition shall have a one hour and 45 minute time limit. No new inning shall begin after the completion of regulation time, with the exception of games that are tied or Championship games. Once an inning has started it must be completed unless weather or darkness determines otherwise. The game clock begins at the conclusion of the pre-game Umpires Meeting.
6. **FIFTEEN-RUN RULE** – Any Cal Ripken tournament game must be terminated immediately if one team is ahead by fifteen (15) or more runs after two and one half (2 ½) or three (3) innings, and each team has had equal times at bat, or the home team is leading. Any Babe Ruth 13-15, 16-18 Division tournament game must be terminated immediately if one team is ahead by fifteen (15) or more runs after three and one half (3 ½) or four (4) innings, and each team has had equal times at bat, or the home team is leading.
7. **TEN-RUN RULE** – Any Cal Ripken tournament game must be terminated immediately once becoming regulation (3 ½ or 4 innings) if one team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs and has had equal times at bat, or the home team is leading. Any 13-15, 16-18 tournament game must be terminated immediately once becoming regulation (4 ½ or 5 innings) if one team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs and each team has had equal times at bat, or the home team is leading.
8. **RE-ENTRY RULE (ALL DIVISIONS)** -- Any of the starting players may withdraw and re-enter once provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the line-up. A substitute who is withdrawn may not re-enter. All pitchers are governed by the provisions of Official Baseball Rule 3.05 if withdrawn while on the mound pitching. The pitcher withdrawn while a batter or base runner may re-enter the game immediately. If a pitcher is removed from the game because of a second trip to the mound in the same inning he may re-enter the game in any position except for pitcher.

NOTE: Any pitcher (starter or reliever) may leave the pitcher's position and return as a pitcher provided he was not removed from the mound as a result of a second trip. This is true even if the player is removed from the game and later re-enters.
9. **RE-ENTRY OF USED PLAYERS** -- Babe Ruth League, Inc. will allow re-entry of already used players if all substitutes have been used ***and injury occurs, or a player is ejected.*** Selection of this substitute must be made by the opposing manager. This type of re-entry

can only take place when an injury prevents a player from continuing in the game or a player is ejected. The injured or ejected player, once removed from the game, cannot re-enter.

Note: If a player re-enters illegally as a pitcher, fielder, or runner, there is no penalty except he must be removed from the game immediately when discovered. If he re-enters illegally as a batter, such illegal re-entry is penalized according to Official Baseball Rule 6.07, Batting Out of Order.

10. CAL RIPKEN 60 FT. BASEBALL – SPECIAL BASE RUNNING RULE

When a pitcher is in contact with pitcher's plate and in possession of the ball and the catcher is in the catcher's box ready to receive delivery of the ball, base runners shall not leave their bases until the ball has been delivered and has reached home plate. Once the catcher has secured the ball and the runner has stopped his forward progress, all runners must immediately return to their bases. (Page 12 Official Rule Book 2023).

11. CAL RIPKEN MAJOR/60 DIVISION

Balk Penalty – 8.05 – The ball is dead, the umpire shall warn the pitcher of the infraction and if the infraction is repeatedly violated, has the authority to remove the pitcher from the game as a pitcher only.

12. CAL RIPKEN MAJOR/70 DIVISION – The Cal Ripken Major/70 Division will play by the Official Playing Rules including, leading off, stealing, dropped third strike and balk rules. Metal cleats are not allowed.

13. SLASH BUNT/FAKE BUNT (CAL RIPKEN MAJOR AND MINOR DIVISIONS) -

Batter is out for illegal action when the player fakes a bunt and then takes a full swing.

PENALTY: The batter is out, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

14. PITCHING RULES - In Regional Tournament competition the pool-play and championship games are one level of competition.

- Tournament Pitching Rules are found under **Babe Ruth Tournament Playing Rule 11.05 (4)**. All Cal Ripken, Babe Ruth 13-15, & 16-18 Baseball uses pitch count limitations, which will apply to all Tournament games played in District, Area, State, Regional and World Series competition.
- An intentional base on balls may be given by the defensive team by having its catcher or coach request the umpire to award the batter first base. This may be done before pitching to the batter or on any ball and strike count. Time is called and the ball shall be declared dead before making the award.
- There is no limit to the number of pitchers a team may use in a game.
- There are no limitations on the number of innings a pitcher may pitch in a tournament (bracket or pool play) game, but subject to the pitch count limitations.
- The Tournament Commissioner will go over how pitch counts will be handled.

Games in which an ineligible pitcher has been used shall be declared forfeited. The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after being announced or after a warm-up pitch is delivered but before that pitcher has pitched a ball to a batter shall not be considered a violation.

Note: Tournament Officials, managers, coaches, umpires, and scorekeepers should be made aware of this obligation and be urged to prevent such an occurrence.

15. **GROUND RULES** -- Have the tournament Umpire-in-Chief review all local ground rules as well as any other situation or rule that may need clarification.
16. **PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR (ALL DIVISIONS)** -- shall be worn on deck, at bat, while a base runner, and by players in the coach's box, during practice and all games. Such headgear must cover the top of the head and have extended earflaps, which covers both ears, and properly fit the players wearing it. Chrome batting helmets are not permitted in Cal Ripken or Babe Ruth Baseball. The batting helmet shall not have a chrome or mirror-like surface. **PENALTY** – If a player refuses to wear proper headgear, he shall be removed from the game.
17. **CATCHER'S MASK, HELMET AND THROAT PROTECTOR (ALL DIVISIONS)** -- Any player, manager or coach warming up a pitcher at any location shall wear a mask. An extended "dangling" throat protector is considered a required part of the catcher's mask. **PENALTY** – If the catcher refuses to wear this equipment, he shall be removed from the game.

Note: In the Cal Ripken Division, the catcher's helmet must cover the ears. Hockey style catcher's masks are approved as meeting this requirement.
18. **BAT BOYS/GIRLS** – If allowed by the Tournament Host, they must wear helmets with extended earflaps while out of the dugout and any time while performing their duties.
19. **CONTACT RULE** -- If a runner attempting to reach home plate or a base runs into a defensive player intentionally and maliciously, he will be called out on the play and ejected from the game. The objective of this is to penalize the offensive team for deliberate, unwarranted, unsportsmanlike action by the runner for the obvious purpose of crashing into the defensive player. This is an umpire's judgement call.
20. **EXTRA PLAYER** -- Prior to the beginning of each tournament game, the manager may elect to add a tenth hitter to the batting order. The player will be indicated in the line-up as the "EP". The "EP" **cannot be added or eliminated** to the line-up once the game begins. The "EP" will be treated as any other starter and may appear in any spot in the line-up. The "EP" will now be considered a defensive position and eligible to be switched between any defensive position provided he stays in the same spot he started in the batting order. Since the "EP" is a starting player, the re-entry rule would apply to the "EP".

Note: If a team's line-up starts with ten players, the team must finish with ten players. Penalty shall be a forfeit.
21. **DESIGNED HITTER:** The designed hitter is allowed only in the 16-18 Division.
22. **COURTESY RUNNER AND SLIDE AND AVOID** – In Cal Ripken & Babe Ruth 13-15 Baseball tournament competition both the courtesy runner and slide and avoid provisions are not used. They are allowed in the 16-18 Division.
23. **JEWELRY RULE** Jewelry is permitted in all divisions of Babe Ruth League, Inc. Umpires have the authority to remove anything believed to distract or increase risk to player safety.

24. Wireless communication devices are not allowed; however, electronic scoring devices are permitted. No device on the field or in the dugout may be used as a means of communications.

25. **PROTEST PROCEDURE** – A manager must immediately claim a violation of a rule, at which time play will be suspended until the Protest Committee has made its decision. The Protest Committee's decision will be final. No protest, except on player eligibility, will be honored after a game has been completed. **No protest shall ever be permitted on judgment decisions by the umpire.**

Point out that for each game there will be a three (3) person Protest Committee whose function is to rule on alleged misapplication of any rule. The Tournament Commissioner is responsible for convening the Protest Committee, should one be required. Managers will be asked to submit name(s) of supporters of his team that will be willing to serve on a Protest Committee, should one be necessary.

Tournament eligibility of team members is the responsibility of the Tournament Commissioner, not a Protest Committee. **All protests concerning player eligibility must be presented in writing from the protesting League President, with clear indication of proof for the protest.**

26. **HOME TEAM DETERMINATION** – The Assistant Regional Commissioner will assign the home team in pool play in a fair and equitable manner or conduct the coin flip at the manager's meeting.

Teams will be seeded at the beginning of single-elimination competition according to the position they finished in pool-play. (Tournament Regs 11.05(3).) If the seedings of both teams are equal, a coin flip will be held by the Tournament Commissioner or Tournament Director no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of each tournament game.

27. **DUGOUTS** – Home team dugout shall be consistent throughout the tournament. Only players, managers and coaches listed on the Official Tournament Roster and a bat boy or bat girl may occupy the dugout throughout tournament play. Players are to remain in their dugout throughout the game. Equipment will not be allowed on top of or outside the dugout.

28. **LINE-UP CARD PROCEDURE** -- Manager to deliver their line-up card to the Official Scorekeeper at least 30 minutes prior to start of game. Changes may be made until the official line-up card is handed to the Umpire. All changes should be given to the Official Scorekeeper. All substitutions are to be given to the plate umpire at the time of any change. The official scorebook in the scorekeeper's booth will be the official results that will be used.

29. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES and TOBACCO** -- Remind all present that Babe Ruth League prohibits the use of all alcohol and tobacco products on all field and dugouts. These products include smokeless tobacco, e-cigarettes, vapors, and all alcohol related products. **This rule applies to all field personnel, which includes managers, coaches, and umpires.**

30. **PROHIBITED DRUGS** -- No team member, tournament official or umpire shall possess or use any prohibited drug or substance under any circumstances at any time during the

duration of the tournament. Any such possession or use of either shall be cause for immediate disqualification of the offender(s) from the tournament. For purpose of this checklist or any tournament rule or regulation, the following definitions apply: (1) "Team Member" is defined to include any rostered individual(s), including any player, manager, coach, bat boy or bat girl; (2) "Prohibited Drug" includes any drug not specifically prescribed for that person or any drug that cannot be obtained "over the counter", or any "legal" drug (or other substance) that is utilized in an excessive, detrimental or abusive manner or dosage.

31. CONCUSSION CRITERIA

If an umpire, manager or coach, Babe Ruth Tournament Official has a valid reason to suspect that there may be a concussion situation to a player or team official, the tournament medical staff will examine the individual and if, in their opinion, there may be any concern of a possible concussion, that player or team official will immediately be removed from further tournament competition and will not be reinstated until **WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION** is provided to the Tournament Commissioner by a qualified licensed health care provider indicating that the player or team official is cleared to continue. This is not a grey area. This process will be strictly enforced.

32. TIE-BREAKER CRITERIA -- Review the Babe Ruth League's Pool Play tie-breaker criteria.

33. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS / CLOSING REMARKS -- (Tournament Commissioner/Director)

34. TOURNAMENT BOOKS -- Please collect your Tournament Book from the Tournament Commissioner upon the conclusion of your last scheduled game.