

# BATESVILLE YOUTH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

## 2024 Babe Ruth LEAGUE RULES

The official rules of Babe Ruth Baseball shall apply except as noted herein. The following text replaces the entire rule unless a specific paragraph is noted. These exceptions take precedence over any rules that conflict with them.

### **Babe Ruth Pitch count/days of rest are used.**

1-45 pitches = 0 days of rest

46-75 pitches = 1 day of rest

76-95 pitches = 2 days of rest

(There is no reason a pitcher should pitch 95 pitches in an outing)

### **Cleats must be plastic, no metal cleats are allowed.**

### **Babe Ruth Bat rules are used**

All bats must be BBCOR or USA Baseball Stamped

No Barrel over 2  $\frac{5}{8}$ "

The regular season games and playoffs will be played between two teams of 9 players (three outfielders). A team must field at least eight players to play the game. If a team is unable to field the required minimum, it will be required to forfeit the game **UNLESS** the opposing team agrees, and then the forfeiting team may add players from the **MAJOR LEAGUE** to its line-up. The game would then be played with no forfeit. If a coach knows at least one week in advance that he will not be able to field at least eight players for a game, he may request the game be rescheduled to another time but that does not mean it will be granted.

The batting order shall be followed throughout the game. **12 batters** can and should be used at all times barring injury. If a player arrives late, he shall be added to the bottom of the order and hit when his turn next appears. If a player must leave early because of an injury or illness, his turn shall be skipped with no consequence to his team. An automatic out will be assessed for each turn a player misses for any other

reason unless the opposite coach is notified prior to the start of the game. **Free substitutions at the beginning of each defensive inning.**

**PLUS:**

**Game Starting Time** –Games will start according to the scheduled times. The first game will start at 5:30 pm (5:30 is the official start time of game one) and if scheduled, the second game will start at 7:00 pm.

**Re-Entry Rule** - All players on the team roster may be freely substituted into any of the nine defensive positions at any time in the game. The only exception(s) will be with the pitcher, as laid out in rule 0.06.

**Run Rule** –A game will be terminated if one team is ahead by thirteen runs after four innings, or seven runs after five innings, and both teams have had equal times at bat, or the home team is leading. There is 6 run limit per inning.

**Time Limit** – The time limit for games is six full innings or the completion of the inning that they have started at the 75-minute mark. **No new inning may start after one hour and fifteen minutes.** Games called because of the time limit will be considered a regulation game regardless of the number of innings played. Note: The time limit will be in effect for the league tourney games.

**Weather** - The decision to postpone or cancel games after they have begun will come down to the Board Member on Duty. This person will have to decide on a game by game basis. The following are the decisions they can make:

1. Wait and see if the game can resume. If the board member thinks the fields will still be playable, they can decide to wait until the weather passes and resume the games where they left off.
  - Lightning Delays: If we pull players from the field due to lightning (but NOT wet/sloppy/unsafe fields), we should always plan to resume those games immediately, once we have the all-clear based upon the lightning policy (restart on the same night). We should stop the timers at the moment the play is stopped and restart them as soon as the field and both teams are ready to play.
  - In the case that an early game incurs a lightning delay, a judgement call may have to be made about the late game. Most likely that late game will either need to be cancelled/rescheduled or moved to another field. The moving to another field may not be a legitimate option, depending upon umpire availability, etc.

- We should communicate to all families that as long as the on-site board member believes it is safe to continue playing, we will continue to play in the rain. We should not pull players just because it is raining. Players should only be pulled from the field in the case that it is unsafe to continue play. This can be because of lightning (as mentioned above) or because of degradation of the playing surface (slick/smeary surface that does not afford good footing).
  - If pulled for lightning alone, then we cover that by the lightning policy with regards to resuming a game, unless it appears the lightning will not be stopping with sufficient daylight to allow the game to be resumed. In that case, the board member will need to make a call.
  - If pulled because the playing surface has deteriorated, the probability of being able to resume is probably small since it is unlikely that we will have time to allow the field to dry after the rain has stopped. In that case, I would suggest jumping directly to options 2, 3, 4.
2. Declare the game as final. This means that the game will be over, and no makeup is needed. A game can be declared final if one of the following criteria is met:
- Lopsided games
    - 2nd inning or later - one of the teams is ahead by more than the run-rule
    - The coaches can agree that the score is too much and declares the game over
  - "Completed" games
    - If 3 full innings have been played and > 60 minutes of game play have elapsed, the game is complete. Winner is team ahead at the end of the last completed inning.
3. Declare the game as Suspended. This means the game will pick up exactly where it left off on another day. This should only be used in special cases where the game has meaning to standings or playoffs.
- Suspended games will be continued at the discretion of the League Head and President
  - The pitchers pitch count still counts for the week of the original game and of the makeup game.
  - Any player who cannot make the resumed game will not be counted as an out in the lineup.

- Players who were not at the original game may not be added to the lineup unless the opposing coach agrees to this. If they are added, they must go to the bottom of the lineup.
  - Players who were not at the original game may not pitch in the resumed game no matter what.
4. The game is cancelled and started over. This game will not count and a new one will be rescheduled.
- Games still in the 1st inning should just be cancelled and restarted.
  - T-Ball games where not everyone has gotten to bat at least once, just reschedule it.

**Stealing** – Players can lead off and steal any base for the entire year.

**Balks** – **The first balk per pitcher will be a warning for that pitcher.** Any additional balk by the same pitcher will lead to the runners moving up one base.

**Bunting** - Bunting is allowed throughout the season with no exceptions.

**Infield Fly** – There is an infield fly rule in effect in this league. This is called at the discretion of the umpires.

**Hit Batter** – If a pitch hits the ground and then the batter, the batter **DOES** get to take his base and it is considered a dead ball.

### **FINAL EXPECTATIONS/UNDERSTANDINGS:**

1. Each player must play defense a minimum of two innings per game. No exceptions except for injury.
2. No headfirst slides going into **ANY** base (diving back to a base is okay). All runners must slide feet first.
3. Runners must slide to avoid contact when a play is being made at the base they are advancing to. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!**
4. Any player warming up a pitcher (even off the field of play) must wear a mask with throat guard.
5. Pitching distance is 60'6" feet. Bases are 90 feet.

6. A dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike is a live ball and the runner must be tagged or thrown out at first base unless it is occupied w/ less than 2 outs. With less than 2 outs and 1<sup>st</sup> base occupied, the batter is automatically out on a dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike. With 2 outs the batter is automatically out on a dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike

**Head Coaches** may select 2 official assistant coaches and at least one of these “official” coaches must be present at all games. Head coaches are responsible for the actions of themselves and all assistant coaches who may be assisting during practices and games.

**Home team** – keeps the official book, responsible for raking field after each game, and responsible for putting the bases up if you are the last game of the day.

**Visiting team** – runs the scoreboard