

## Middle Atlantic Region 8 year old Tournament Rules

1. **Player ages 8**, registered and participating in a duly chartered Babe Ruth League are eligible. Players may not reach age 9 by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. **Rosters** may consist of 12 – 15 league eligible players.
3. **Field dimensions** used shall be the standard 46/60 configuration.
4. **6 innings** will constitute a complete game.
5. **Kids pitch** – there is no coach pitch or pitching machines used. 4 balls constitute a walk and 3 strikes and the batter is out. Pitchers will pitch from the standard 46 foot rubber. There will be NO BALKS.
6. **10 defensive players** will take the field where 4 players are positioned as regular outfielders. Short fielders are **not** permitted.
  - a. All outfielders shall be positioned at reasonable outfield depths and may not be positioned immediately behind the infield. Should a disagreement arise, the umpire will have the authority to rule.
7. **Continuous batting orders will be used**
  - a. Maximum of 5 runs per ½ inning or 3 outs, whichever comes first. The maximum run rule is waived in last inning.
  - b. Should a player become sick, injured or otherwise leave the game, an automatic out shall **not** be recorded when that batting order position is due up.
  - c. Once a player leaves the game, *defined as not taking his place at bat in the order*, he may **not** re-enter that game.
8. **A 15 run rule** after 4 innings and 10 run rule after 5 innings will be in affect.
9. **Free defensive substitutions are allowed** – Note: all players will always remain in the same batting order position due to continuous batting order rule.
10. **Stealing**: Stealing of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base is allowed but stealing of home is **not** permitted.
11. **Passed Balls & Wild Pitches**: Runners may advance from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> and from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> base on wild pitches or passed balls. Runners may not advance from 3<sup>rd</sup> base.

## Babe Ruth League – Middle Atlantic Region 8 year old Tournament Rules

### 12. Play is declared dead when:

- a. The defense stops the lead runner.
- b. The runner voluntarily abandons the effort to advance; i.e. stops running towards the next base.
- c. Once the runner stops, he can not advance and must return to the base. If the runner has stopped his advance, he remains subject to being put out by the defense while returning to the base. The runner is not allowed to advance to the next base during any attempt to get him out. In other words, once stopped he can go back to the previous base, but can not advance to the next due to a defensive attempt on him.
  - i. Once the lead runner stops, all following base runners are also considered stopped. Once stopped no runners may advance on any defensive attempt.
  - ii. If a following runner stops, lead runners are not automatically considered stopped. It is the obligation of the defense to stop the lead runner.

**Note:** The intention of this rule is to eliminate runners jumping back and forth attempting to draw the defense into making a play. Should they do so, they assume risk but gain no reward of advancing.

- d. Lead runners may continue on to the base they are headed for when the defensive play is made. Example: Runner on first and a base hit to right field. The defense fields the ball and makes the throw to second base. The runner is allowed to go to third base if he had rounded second prior to the ball arriving in the vicinity of 2<sup>nd</sup> base but can not continue past third and score.

**Note:** The intention of this rule is to eliminate situations where runners unreasonably advance only due to the player's age and limited abilities.

13. **Pitchers** may pitch 2 innings in any one game but not more than a total of 6 innings in the Pool Play portion of the tournament.

14. **Infield Fly** rule shall **NOT** be in affect.

15. **Bunting is allowed**, however, fake bunting is prohibited. Should a player offer to bunt, then pull the bat back and swing at the pitch, **the batter will be called out by the umpire.**

16. **Official regulation Cal Ripken baseballs will be used.**