

Babe Ruth League – Middle Atlantic Region District, State & Regional 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 1st.
2. **Rosters** may consist of 12 – 15 league eligible players
3. **Field dimensions** used shall be the standard 46/60 configuration.

Playing Rules: Normal youth baseball rules are applied with the following exceptions:

4. **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**.
5. **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.
6. **Continuous batting orders will be used**
 - a. Maximum of 5 runs per half inning or 3 outs, whichever comes first. The maximum run rule is waived in the last inning and whenever a batter hits a home run over the fence.
 - 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.
7. A **10 run rule** after 3 ½ or 4 innings will be in effect.
8. **Free defensive substitutions are allowed** – Note: all players will always remain in the same batting order position due to continuous batting order rule.
9. **Pitching Limitation:** Pitchers may not pitch more than 2 innings in any one game.
10. **Infield Fly** rule shall **NOT** be in affect
11. **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.**
12. Official regulation Cal Ripken baseballs will be used.
13. **Stealing:** Stealing of 2nd and 3rd base is allowed but stealing of home is **not** permitted.
14. **Passed Balls & Wild Pitches:**
 - a. Runners **may not score** from 3rd base on wild pitches or passed balls.
 - b. They may advance from 1st to 2nd or 2nd to 3rd.

15. When a pitcher **is not in contact** with the pitcher's plate but does have the ball: **base runners may not jump back and forth while on a base to attempt to draw the defense into making a play.**
16. When a pitcher **is in contact** with the 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.**

The violation by one runner shall affect all other runners.

- a. When a base runner leaves the base before the pitched ball has reached home plate and the batter does not hit the ball, the runner is permitted to continue. If a play is made on the runner and the runner is out, the out stands. If said runner reaches safely the base to which he is advancing, all runners must be returned to the base occupied before the pitch was made, and no out results.
- b. When a base runner leaves the base before the pitched ball has reached home plate and the batter hits the ball, the base runner or runners are permitted to continue. If a play is made and the runner or runners are put out, the out or outs will stand. If not put out, the runner or runners must return to the original base or bases or to the unoccupied base nearest the one left. In no event shall the batter advance beyond first base on a single or error, second base on a double or third base on a triple. The umpire-in-chief shall determine the base value of the hit ball.
- c. When any base runner leaves the base before the pitched ball has reached home plate and the batter bunts or hits a ball within the infield, no run shall be allowed to score. If three runners were on the bases and the batter reaches first base safely, each runner shall advance to the base beyond the one they occupied at the start of the play except the runner who occupied third base, which runner shall be removed from the base without a run being scored. **EXCEPTION:** If at the conclusion of the play there is an open base, paragraphs (a) and (b) will apply.

[NOTE: Number 16 is the standard Cal Ripken Division base running rules & regulations]

**These rules supersede any others for tournament play
as of 1/1/2012.**