

# Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Eligibility and Transfer Rule

Effective 01/01/2009

**Purpose:** To enforce a process that ensures that the participants in Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth baseball in our community are afforded the best opportunity and success in their experience with the Babe Ruth program and are allowed to participate in a manner that supports the philosophies and mission of the Babe Ruth Program.

**Mission Statement of Babe Ruth Baseball/Softball:** The Babe Ruth Baseball/Softball Program, using regulation competitive baseball and softball rules, teaches skills, mental and physical development, a respect for the rules of the game, and basic ideals of sportsmanship and fair play. In all aspects, Babe Ruth League, Inc. is committed to providing our participants the very best educational, sports experience possible. It is our fundamental belief that every child with a desire to play baseball or softball be afforded that opportunity.

**Zip Code Rule:** This rule would remain as is although it may be necessary to review our current zip code structure to reflect an equal opportunity for each league to have access equally with other surrounding leagues.

**\*Player Eligibility for Each League:** Each league should place emphasis with the parent or guardian of a child that he/she should reside within one of the assigned zip codes for that league in order to play at their ballpark and that they are definitely not eligible for any Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth sanctioned all-star post-season tournament team if they decide to knowingly participate outside of this rule. Residence should be determined based on the parent or guardian who takes responsibility for their child's participation in the program. It is the respective league's responsibility to communicate the importance of this rule if it is agreed upon by the majority of leagues that when enrolling new participants in their program that they live within their respective zip codes and are following the proposed transfer rule. Following this rule and communicating properly to new participants will eliminate any issues that may come out later in the year. Each league is responsible for meeting the purpose of this eligibility and transfer rule and communicating properly in order to meet the mission statement of Babe Ruth baseball/softball and the intent of this eligibility proposal.

**Transfer Rule:** In order to make this as simple as possible the following outlines by each age the eligibility requirement to participate. The age represents the eligibility age as outlined in the CalRipken/Babe Ruth rules for the coming season in question. When transferring outside of this rule and assuming they are within one of the league's assigned zip codes, the player must sit out one year from participating in any sanctioned post-season all-star tournament.

- Age 8 – Since this is the first age that a child is eligible to play in a sanctioned all-star game, it is probably the most opportune time for a parent to decide which program is best for their child. They will be eligible for all-stars this year regardless of where they played the previous year as long as they reside in one of the specified zip codes for that league.
- Age 9 – Since this is the age that a child goes from machine pitch to kid pitch the parent(s) should be allowed to decide which program is best for their child. They will be eligible for all-stars this year regardless of where they played the previous year as long as they reside in one of the specified zip codes for that league.
- Age 10 – This is the second year of kid pitch for most kids. If they decide to transfer this year they will not be eligible to participate in post-season Cal Ripken sponsored all-star tournaments unless they physically have moved within one of the eligible zip codes for that league prior to the beginning of the current season and after the season started in the prior league in which they participated.
- Age 11 – This is the first year of what is termed “majors” and the parent(s) should be allowed to decide which program is best for their child at this level. They will be eligible for all-stars this year regardless of where they played the previous year as long as they reside in one of the specified zip codes for that league.
- Age 12 - This is the second year of “majors” for most kids. If they decide to transfer this year they will not be eligible to participate in post-season Cal Ripken sponsored all-star tournaments unless have moved within one of the eligible zip codes for that league prior to the beginning of the current season and after the season started in the prior league in which they participated .
- Age 13 – This is the first year of Babe Ruth Prep/Senior division baseball. The parent(s) should be allowed to decide which program is best for their child at this level. They will be eligible for all-stars this year regardless of where they played the previous year as long as they reside in one of the specified zip codes for that league.
- Age 14 – This is the second year of Prep/Senior division baseball. If they decide to transfer this year they will not be eligible to participate in post-season Babe Ruth sponsored all-star tournaments unless they physically have moved within one of the eligible zip codes for that league prior to the beginning of the current season and after the season started in the prior league in which they participated.
- Age 15 – This is the third year of Prep/Senior division baseball. If they decide to transfer this year they will not be eligible to participate in post-season Babe Ruth sponsored all-star tournaments unless they have moved within one of the eligible zip codes for that league prior to the beginning of the current season and after the season started in the prior league in which they participated.
- Ages 16-18 – Due to participation levels and agreements with high schools to enhance participation, there will be no enforcement of boundaries, or transfer rules for this division until we have more reasonable participation levels and involvement of leagues in this age group.

\* In addition, all participants must meet all of the requirements as spelled out in the rules and regulations of the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth program.