



**DOVER BASEBALL**  
**CAL RIPKEN MAJOR**  
**DIVISION GUIDELINES**  
Revised: March 2019

The Dover Baseball Association is affiliated with Babe Ruth League, Inc., which includes the Cal Ripken Baseball League. These organizations have adopted the Official Baseball Rules, published by the Commissioner of Baseball, as their primary playing rules. These rules allow for local league modifications to best suit the needs of its players.

The following modifications to the existing national rules have been generated, and Board approved, with the intent of helping every player reach their full potential in a safe and competitive environment.

**I. Player Eligibility**

Players participating in the Major Division must be 11 or 12 years of age by Babe Ruth designated cut-off date of April 30th.

**II. Game Day Rules and Expectations**

**a) Defining Inning and Game Length**

- i) A game is considered complete if any of the following occurs:
  - (1) The completion of six innings or two hours of play, whichever comes first; or
    - (a) if the home team is in the lead after the top of the sixth inning.
  - (2) A game will be declared completed if at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning either team is ahead by 10 or more runs; or
    - (a) 4 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead by 10 runs or more.
- ii) No full inning will start later than two hours past the scheduled start of the game.
- iii) A half-inning is complete once 3 outs have been made.

**b) Batting**

- i) USA Bat Standard: Babe Ruth Rules are to be followed regarding bats. Repeated violation(s) of this rule may subject the team manager to a violation of the Dover Baseball Code of Conduct.
- ii) A continuous batting order is established for each game for those players who are playing in that particular game.
- iii) Each game will begin with the batter in the #1 batting order slot. The player who was up in the previous game, does not necessarily bat first in the following game. The Manager will determine the batting line up for each game.
- iv) A player who is late to a game will automatically be added to the end of the batting line up.
- v) (Rule may be waived by agreement of both team Managers) If a player is removed from a game due to injury or simply needs to leave, their place in the batting order will count as an automatic out.



**c) Fielding**

- i) Teams will field the traditional 9 defensive players.
- ii) Defensive players, with the exception of pitcher, may not be moved during an inning except for an injury or other emergency. The pitcher's defensive switch will be a one-for-one switch.
- iii) Barring injury, player decision, or player conduct issue, each eligible player must not sit out for more than 2 defensive innings in a given game.
- iv) Barring a supportable safety concern, each eligible player shall play an infield position for at least 2 defensive innings per game.

**d) Pitching**

- i) The BABE RUTH PITCH SMART GUIDELINES shall be followed and shall apply to pitches thrown outside Dover Baseball. All pitchers shall be subject to the following pitch count/rest schedule:

**Maximum Pitches**

<u>Per Game</u>	<u>0 Day Rest</u>	<u>1 Day Rest</u>	<u>2 Days Rest</u>	<u>3 Days Rest</u>	<u>4 Days Rest</u>
85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-60	66+

- (1) Regardless of what league or division the pitches were thrown in, pitchers MUST receive the complete full day(s) of rest required in order to be eligible to pitch in Dover Baseball. For example, if a pitcher throws 50 pitches in either an AAU game or a Dover Baseball game on a Sunday, then he or she must receive two (2) full days rest and is NOT eligible to pitch in Dover Baseball until Wednesday.
- (2) Managers shall reach a consensus on the number of pitches thrown by each pitcher at the end of each inning and at an individual pitcher's removal from the game. Any disputes shall be resolved with the umpire before leaving the field.
- (3) Pitch Counts shall be recorded and verified by both Managers after each game and then forwarded to the Director.

- ii) The CAL RIPKEN TOURNAMENT PITCH COUNT RULE shall be in effect for the 2018 playoffs and shall apply to pitches thrown outside Dover Baseball. All pitchers shall be subject to the following pitch count/rest schedule:

**Maximum Pitches**

<u>Per Game</u>	<u>0 Day Rest</u>	<u>1 Day Rest</u>	<u>2 Days Rest</u>
85	1-40	41-65	66+



- (1) Regardless of what league or division the pitches were thrown in, pitchers MUST receive the complete full day(s) of rest required in order to be eligible to pitch in Dover Baseball. For example, if a pitcher throws 70 pitches in either an AAU game or a Dover Baseball game on a Sunday, then he or she must receive two (2) full days rest and is NOT eligible to pitch in Dover Baseball until Wednesday.
- (2) Managers shall reach a consensus on the number of pitches thrown by each pitcher at the end of each inning and at an individual pitcher's removal from the game. Any disputes shall be resolved with the umpire before leaving the field.
- (3) Pitch Counts shall be recorded and verified by both Managers after each game and then forwarded to the Director.
- iii) Pitcher Re-entry: Once a pitcher has been removed from the mound, they may not re-enter the mound within the same game.
- iv) Intentional Walks: At any point during a pitch count, a Manager may allow an opposing batter to take first base via intentional walk simply by signaling the umpire. Upon receiving the intentional walk instructions, the umpire shall rule the ball dead and instruct the batter to take first base. No further pitches will be required to be thrown to that batter.
- v) No pitcher shall appear as a pitcher in three consecutive games, regardless of their pitch counts.
- vi) Violation(s): Any violation of the pitching rules may result in game forfeiture and/or other sanctions.

#### e) Player Safety

- i) Only the player at bat and the player on deck will have a bat in their hands.
- ii) All batters and base runners will wear a safety helmet.
- iii) Batters will keep their helmets on from the time they enter the designated on-deck area until the time they return to the dugout after the play is over.
- iv) All male players will wear a protective cup during all games and practices.

#### f) Sportsmanship

- i) (Optional for Playoffs) A team may not steal home once it has achieved a lead of eight (8) runs or more.
- ii) All players, parents, coaches, spectators, and umpires shall adhere to the Dover Baseball Code of Conduct.
- iii) Any abuse or violation of the Division Guidelines may be considered a violation of the Code of Conduct.

### III. Team Responsibilities - Day of Game

#### a) Visiting Team

The Visiting Team is:

- i) listed first on the schedule and will use the 3rd base dugout;
- ii) scheduled to take infield practice fifteen minutes before the scheduled start of a game and will last for ten minutes;
- iii) maintaining the field after play; including raking the infield, putting away bases, locking the equipment shed, and turning off the field lights.
- iv) Responsible for cleaning up the visitor dugout of all trash and emptying trash cans if they are in need of emptying.



#### **b) Home Team**

The Home Team is:

- i) listed second on the schedule and will use the 1st base dugout;
- ii) scheduled to take infield on half hour before the scheduled start of the game and will last for ten minutes;
- iii) responsible for preparing the field for play; including lining/chalking the field before the game. iv) responsible for providing a volunteer to operate the score board.
- v) responsible for furnishing two brand new league approved game balls; (1) Balls will be provided by Dover Baseball;
- vi) responsible for reporting the final score of the game to the Division Director and/or the designated website personnel;
  - (1) It is the responsibility of the two Managers to confer both during the game and at the end of the game to verify the game score and the pitch counts.
  - (2) All disputes will be directed to the umpire and settled before leaving the field.
- vii) Responsible for cleaning up the home dugout of all trash and emptying trash cans if they are in need of emptying.

#### **IV. All Star and Tournament Teams**

##### **a) Player Eligibility**

- i) Player must be eligible for this league based upon players age;
- ii) Player must play at least ½ of the regular season games unless the player has an injury and receives a waiver from the Division Director and League President; and
- iii) Must be on a team roster by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

##### **b) Manager and Coach Eligibility**

- i) All Star and tournament team coaches must be a Manager, Coach or Assistant Coach during the regular season; and
- ii) Must be on a regular season team roster by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **IV. Division Director Responsibilities**

##### **a) Communication**

- i) The Division Director is responsible for maintaining contact with coaches and parents regarding issues pertaining to the Division.

##### **b) League Standings**

- i) The Division Director is responsible for making sure that the website is kept up to date with game results. Scores and standings will be kept solely for the purpose of determining a playoff order. There is no regular season champion in this division.



### **c) Cancellations and Make-ups**

- i) The Division Director and/or the VP of Baseball Operations will be responsible for any and all game cancellations. Coaches may not cancel games.
- ii) An attempt should be made to make up all games cancelled.
- iii) All make-up games must be rescheduled by the Division Director and/or the VP of Baseball Operations.

### **d) Player Call-Ups and Roster Shortages**

- i) The Division Director will maintain a Call-Up list comprised of players from both the Minor Division who are deemed capable of playing up in the Major Division, and players in the Major Division who wish to play additional baseball on other team(s).
- ii) When a coach becomes aware that he/she will not have enough players to field a team for a given game they must contact the Cal Ripken Major Division Director. The Division Director will determine if substitute players will be obtained from other teams within the division or from a lower division.
- iii) Substitute player from within the division can play any position on the field. Note that all of the same rules apply including the pitching rules.
- iv) For substitute players from the lower division, the Cal Ripken Minor Division Director will maintain a Call-Up list of the names of players from the Cal Ripken Minor Division who are deemed capable of playing up in the Cal Ripken Major Division.
  - (a) Players will be placed on the list by the Cal Ripken Minor Division Director.
  - (b) The Cal Ripken Major Division Director will contact the Cal Ripken Minor Division Director for a Call-up player. The Cal Ripken Minor Division Director will contact players from the Call-Up list to fill the vacant roster spots. Coaches may not find their own players.
  - (c) Cal Ripken Minor Division players who have a scheduled game or practice at the same time are not eligible to play up to the Cal Ripken Major Division.
  - (d) The Cal Ripken Minor Division Director will inform the Cal Ripken Major Division Director of who the player is. It will be the responsibility of the Cal Ripken Major Division Director to inform both teams' coaches with the names of the players that will be playing up.
  - (e) If a player is called-up they become eligible for the game and will play under the following conditions:
    - (i) They must not sit out for more than 2 defensive innings in the game;
    - (ii) They will bat last in the order; and
    - (iii) They may field any position except pitcher and catcher.
- v) A player may not be called-up to play in a game which conflicts with a game that is scheduled for their regular season team.



## V. Parent Responsibility

### a) Communication

- i) It is the parent's responsibility to communicate with Managers and Coaches the number of pitches their child has thrown in another league, so as to not put the child or the team at risk of either injury or of violating the pitching rules within Dover Baseball.
- ii) It is the parent's responsibility to make the coach aware of games in which their child will not be able to attend.
- iii) It is the parent's responsibility to communicate with the Managers, Coaches, or Division Director any concerns they may have.

### **\*\*FINAL NOTE\*\***

The game of baseball is just that, A GAME! Mistakes will be made. There will be fielding mistakes; there will be coaching mistakes; and there will be umpiring mistakes. But there should not be mistakes in behavior.

It is the objective of the Dover Baseball Association to teach the game of baseball and to implant firmly in the children of the community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, and respect for authority, so that they may be well adjusted, stronger, and happier children and will grow to be good, decent, healthy, and trustworthy citizens.

This objective can only be reached with the help of all; players, coaches and spectators alike!

Dover Baseball has developed a Code of Conduct Policy that is intended to serve as a means of helping us meet this objective.

The policy can be found on the association website, [dovernhbaseball.org](http://dovernhbaseball.org).