Babe Ruth (13U-15U) Division Rules – 2026 Interleague Play

1. Age eligibility determined on or before April 30th of the year of the season being played.

2. All rules not specifically spelled out on this sheet will follow the Michigan High School Athletic Association Official Rules for eligibility and the National Federation of State High School Associations Official Rules of Play.

3. Anyone not showing proper sportsmanship will be asked to leave and possibly forfeit his game or games. Coaches are responsible for the fans of their teams.

4. Games will start on time with no grace period. A team must have at least 8 players from the original roster submitted at the beginning of each season to start a game and finish with no less than 7. A game will be considered a forfeit if there are not enough players to start the game. If a team drops below the minimum players (7) after the game has started, the game will be reverted back to the last completed inning that both teams had above the minimum amount of players. If the minimum amount of innings has not been reached, it will be considered a forfeit. *** *Only players registered in the recreational league from the younger 12u age divisions can be used to temporarily fill a roster to avoid forfeiture.*

5. There will be no “borrowing” of players; you must play with the official roster that was provided at the beginning of the season. If a team advances to the playoff, if scheduled, they must play with the team on the official roster, players from the other teams in their division or league may not be “borrowed” for the purpose of bettering their chances.

6. Late players may only be added prior to his team having 6 outs (2 innings). The player will not be added to the game lineup prior to the first pitch, but the coach must make the other team aware of a possible late player.

7.There will be 6 innings per game with a **90 minute** time limit for all games. If the 90 min mark hits and play is at the top of the current inning, that is the final inning. If at 90 min the play is at the bottom of the inning, that inning is played out and a new one will begin. If 4 complete innings have been played, this constitutes a full game.

8. There shall be a maximum of seven (7) runs scored per inning or 3 outs required to end an inning (except called last inning).

9. Mercy Rule in effect when a team is leading by fifteen (15) runs after three innings or ten runs after five (5) completed innings, and said team is declared the winner and the game ends.

10. There will be a 30 minute break for any weather delays, including thunder and/or lightning. The time will restart at each instance of thunder and/or lightning. The Home Plate Umpire will be in charge of determining any weather delays and restart of the game.

11. Pitchers will be limited to pitching three (3) innings per game, and a maximum of seven (7) innings within a seven (7) day period. During double headers, a maximum of four (4) innings will be allowed. During double headers pitchers may only pitch four (4) innings total for that day, not per game. A pitcher may be removed and re-entered as a pitcher one time during the game. One pitch constitutes one inning

pitched.

12. Each team will field 9 players and bat all players listed on the game lineup. If a player is removed from the game, there will be an out called every time he is supposed to bat. In the case of a physical injury caused during the game being played, the player may be removed with no out being issued, but will not be allowed to re-enter once his turn to bat has been passed. All substitution rules will follow NFHS Official Rules of Play. All players listed on the game lineup must play 6 defensive outs, consecutive or nonconsecutive.

13. Free substitution is allowed only at the beginning of an inning, except for an emergency. Pitchers may be switched in the middle of an inning.

14. All batters and base runners must wear their helmets at all times while hitting, running and while in the on deck circle. Deliberately removing the helmet during live play or a dead ball shall result in an immediate out. A live ball remains live.

15. The infield fly rule is in effect. An infield fly rule is a fair ball (not including a line drive or an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort when first and second bases are occupied with less than two outs.

16. In those cases where a base runner is touched by a base coach while the ball is in play, the runner will be called out. All base runners will be sent back to their previous base. Play will resume.

17. If a batter throws the bat, they will be called out. NO WARNING! Play will continue.

18. Dropped 3rd strike rule is in effect, only when 1st base is unoccupied or there are 2 outs.

19. Bases will be at **90'**. Pitcher's mound will be set at **60' 6"**.

20. In those instances of a thrown ball passing into dead territory (out of the field of play), and the ball crosses the fence line, the umpire will award all runners the base they were heading to plus one. The ball cannot be re-entered into play until the next legal pitch. It is the UMPIRE'S DECISION to determine if a player is truly advancing toward a base and thus entitled to that base plus one.

21. No jewelry is allowed.

22. Umpires may call an out if they think a team is deliberately stalling.

23. The umpire's decisions are final. No protest will be recognized.

24. **Efforts should be made to use at least one certified umpire.** If certified umpires are unavailable, senior level, experienced umpires must be used at these age groups. A responsible, knowledgeable volunteer may be used for the field umpire position if needed. There must be 2 umpires per game.

25. **Real, corked, leather balls must be used. NO SYNTHETIC BASEBALLS!** All baseballs should be Rawlings marked BRO or RBRO, or equivalent. The home team must provide two (2) new baseballs per game and have balls in good condition available for backup.

26. **13u:** Bats must carry the USSSA 1.15 BPF rating. Bats must not exceed **2 3⁄4" diameter and a minus 8 (-8) length to weight ratio rating.**

14u: Bats must carry the USSSA 1.15 BPF rating. Bats must not exceed **2 3⁄4" diameter and a minus 8 (-5) length to weight ratio rating.**

15u: There will be a **bat restriction of BBCOR certification with 2 ⅝" or 2 3⁄4" diameter and a minus 3 (-3) length to weight ratio rating**. Wood bats are allowed. No 2 1⁄4" bats of any size are allowed.

27. Fields must be chalked to NFHS Official Rules of Play and include foul lines, batter's box, coaches box and on deck circle. All fields must be chalked prior to first game and every 2 games after that.

28. Every player that comes dressed for the game must be placed in the lineup and play 6 defensive outs and included in the batting lineup. The only exceptions to this rule will be if a player is either injured prior to the game or during the game and the coach must report this to the home plate umpire and opposing Manager.

29. Each pitcher may only be visited by a coach once (1) during an inning. If a second visit is made, the pitcher must be removed from the mound.

30. A runner must slide into a base if a play can be made. CONTACT MUST BE AVOIDED if there is no play at the base. All defensive players must yield to the offensive runner if there is no possibility of a play. Any player "TAKING OUT" a player will be called out and, at the discretion of the home plate umpire, removed from the game.

31. Steel cleats are NOT allowed.