



## Florida Babe Ruth Softball Tournament Rules and Regulations Pre-Tournament Agenda (Revised 2026)

This tournament will be played by the official Babe Ruth Softball Rules and Regulations. The following is a reminder of **some** of these rules and any procedural issues pertaining to tournament play.

- 1. Slide Rule** - There is no "must slide rule" in effect for tournament play (See 7.13 – Contact Rule) If a runner attempting to reach home plate or a base, runs into a defensive player intentionally or maliciously, they will be called out on the play and ejected from the game. This is an umpire's or tournament official's judgement call. Players ejected for this will be prohibited from playing in the remainder of the tournament.
- 2. Protest** - A judgment call cannot be protested. All protests must be filed with the chief umpire immediately. Play will be stopped until a ruling is given by the protest committee. Only the manager may make a protest. The decision of the protest committee is final. (See 4.17 Protesting Games). Protest fee will be 100.00 and will be refunded if the protest is verified/valid.
- 3. Re-Entry Rule** – See 3.04 Any of the starting players may withdraw and re-enter once, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he/she is in the line-up. A substitute who is withdrawn may not re-enter.
- 4. Re-Entry of a Used Player** – See 11.05 (5). Re-entry of a used player is allowed if all substitutes have been used and injury occurs, or a player is ejected. Selection of this substitute must be made by the opposing manager. The injured or ejected player cannot re-enter.
- 5. 10 Run Rule** – See 11.05 (6) Any tournament game for 8u,10u,12U must be terminated immediately if one team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs after three and one half (3 ½) or Four (4) innings and each team has had equal times at bat.
- 6. 15 Run Rule** - See 11.05 (6) . Any tournament game for 6u,8u,10u,12U must be terminated immediately if one team is ahead by fifteen (15) or more runs after two and one half (2 ½) or three (3) innings and each team has had equal times at bat. **In Florida District and state tournaments this will apply to all age divisions 8U through 18U.**

7. **Pitch Count/Innings** – Florida Babe Ruth Rule will be in effect for District and State Tournament. No pitcher in 10U/12U tournament play shall be allowed to pitch in more than **six (6)** innings in any two (2) successive tournament games within the same tournament level.

8. **Appeal** - The appeal of a missed base is not automatic. The umpire will not rule on a missed base unless the appeal is properly made by the team on the field.

9. **Suspended Games** - Rescheduled by the Tournament Director. All suspended games will begin from the exact point at which play was stopped. There are no rainouts!

10. **Trips to the mound** - Trips to the mound shall be limited to one per inning per pitcher. The second trip in the same inning will result in the removal of that player as a pitcher. Any effort to circumvent this rule will result in a trip to the mound being charged by the umpire. A trip by rule is anything that causes a delay in the game, so it is possible for you to not leave the dugout and get charged with a trip.

11. **Bats** - Bat Specs see rule 1.10

Umpires will not check bats prior to your game. Manager will be asked at the plate meeting “Are all your players properly equipped per Babe Ruth Rules”

a) If your answer is yes and there is an illegal bat or piece of equipment, Penalty is out on the batter and coach is ejected.

12. **Warming up a pitcher** - Anyone warming up a pitcher must wear protective headgear. NO Exceptions. This includes anywhere in the park while you’re standing, sitting on a bucket, or squatting down in a catcher’s position. Penalty: Ejection from the game.

13. **DH Allowed in 18U Only, No DP/Flex, No must play.** Time limits WILL be in effect for this tournament.

14. **Coaches** – Uniforms for team managers and coaches –

The team manager and coaches will be **required** to wear identical uniforms consisting of the following:

(1) a shirt in the same colors as the team’s uniform,

(2) **dress shorts or pants of the same style and in the same colors as the team’s uniform**

(3) athletic footwear including running shoes, sneakers, Rubber cleats and excluding open toed footwear. Crocs or Hey Dudes are not considered Athletic Footwear .

Penalty for coaches out of uniform:

1<sup>st</sup> offense Coach or Coaches removed from the dugout until issues are corrected.

2<sup>nd</sup> offense, Offending Coach and Manager will be removed from the game and will serve an additional 1 game suspension.

15. **Waiver Requests** - Players at your first game become your eligible players for the tournament. If a player is not going to be at the first game, but will be there later in the tournament, you must have a waiver from the State Commissioner or his designee, in order for them to be eligible. Any player not at the first game is ineligible for the tournament, unless they have obtained a waiver from the District Commissioner (If a District Tournament or State Commissioner if a State Tournament.

Commissioners will consider the reason for his absence as a basis for granting the waiver. This waiver must be initiated by the league president and must be initiated prior to the teams first game. Players must play in a game prior to the championship game to be eligible.

16. **Dugout** – Coaching staff only (Min 1 Max 4), bat person (5-18yrs old) along with rostered players in the dugout only.

17. **Manager** is the only person to communicate with umpires.

18. **Home team** – Pre-Determined at the bracket draw. Home team dugout be 3<sup>rd</sup> base. No infield time will be given to either team. First game – Teams stay off the clay until official game time start. The winner's bracket champion is home team in the championship game, opposite team is home in the "if" game.

19. **Line up sheets** - Managers must sign. Turn in half an hour prior to game time. Not official until meeting at home plate. Use official line up sheets provided. Changes during the game give to home-plate umpire who will give to press box. (Use numbers not names when reporting changes). Players cannot have the same number.

A) MUST contain

- a) Player Last Name
- b) Player first initial
- c) Player position
- d) Jersey number

20. **Ejections** are for the current game only unless further action is required by the Tournament Director. Note if you are ejected in the last 2 innings of any game, your suspension is at least the next complete game.

21. **Extra Player** option can be used during tournament play. Rule Book 11.05 (10)

22. **Slash Bunt/Fake Bunt** – Illegal in 8U Machine Pitch Division only. (No bunting in 8u Coach pitch) A batter is out for illegal action when the batter fakes a bunt and then takes a full swing. Penalty: The batter is out, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

23. Electronic devices(cell phones, head sets,Coach to player communication, etc) will not be allowed in the dugouts or on the playing field by tournament participants. I-Pads for scoring are permitted.

24. **Video recording** of games from outside of the field of play is allowed as long as there is no disruption of or interference with the game. There will be NO attaching cameras to the fence, use of tripods, or standing and recording behind home plate up to and including dugouts. In Babe Ruth League, Inc., video recordings are not an authorized tool for use in determining the validity of a call. **Penalty:** The offending videographer will be removed from the game and shall leave the playing field and can be removed from the complex.

25. **Tobacco and e-cigarettes** of any kind are prohibited on or near the field.

26. **Conduct and Disciplinary Code** Any misbehavior or misconduct not only could cause the disqualification of an individual team member from the tournament but could also lead to the disqualification of your team. There will be ZERO tolerance for any unsportsmanlike conduct from Coaches, Parents or Players. **There will be Off Duty Officers present during the tournament.**

Types of bad conduct that could lead to disqualification: (These are only some examples)

- 1) The use of profane or indecent language.
- 2) Fighting or other aggressive behavior toward teammates, coaches, members of other teams, umpires, tournament officials, or other tournament participants on or off the field.
- 3) Throwing or unnecessary abuse of any equipment or property.

Managers, coaches, fans and players are to refrain from arguing or showing disrespect to the officials under any circumstances. If a manager, coach, fan or player is asked to leave the game by an umpire, Babe Ruth or tournament official, they must leave the tournament complex immediately. Failure to do so can result in actions against the entire team, including removal from the tournament.

**AIR HORNS, any type of noisemakers, Bluetooth speakers, Boom Boxes and music of any kind are PROHIBITED IN THE BALL PARK! You will be asked to leave the park and not return.**