

2026

MIDDLE ATLANTIC



REGION

**TOURNAMENT RULES &
REGULATIONS**

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Introduction

This booklet is designed to give the reader a brief but concise insight into the requirements for a Babe Ruth Baseball Middle Atlantic Regional Tournament and a general knowledge of the responsibilities and duties of each and every person who participates in said regional tournament.

Babe Ruth Baseball Rules and Regulations 11.06-8 requires that all regional officials shall establish tournament rules in writing, and every state shall be advised in writing of the establishment of said rules. This booklet, distributed to each State Tournament Champion, each State Commissioner, and each Regional Official and to Babe Ruth League, Inc. Headquarters, serves as that written notice.

It is the intent of the author of this document to make it as comprehensive as possible. If any question should arise about an item that is not covered within these pages, the reader should contact the Regional Commissioner or one of the Assistant Regional Commissioners for clarification.

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Babe Ruth Baseball

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
1670 White Horse-Mercerville Road
Hamilton, New Jersey 08619
(609) 695-1434

Ralph Errico
Middle Atlantic Regional Commissioner
29 Plafsky Drive
Edison, NJ 08817-2238
732-754-0118

A Letter to All Middle Atlantic Region State Champions:

CONGRATULATIONS! On behalf of Babe Ruth Baseball and especially the Middle Atlantic Region I would like to congratulate you on your recent victory at the State level. You have trained hard to reach this level and must now meet a new challenge. I would like to wish each and every team good luck as they compete on the Regional level.

As you train for the Regional Tournament there are quite a few things that you must take care of prior to heading for the tournament. The following information is intended to help you to be better prepared for this tournament. Please take time now to read everything to make sure you are totally prepared and properly registered for the Regional Tournament.

Please refer to the general rules and instruction sections for a more detailed listing of what is required of you as a Regional competitor. Some items of importance would be your birth documents, tournament eligibility form, insurance credentials, roster/information sheet, and team photo. Please make sure all of these are taken care of before you go any further. If you have any questions, please consult your State Commissioner immediately.

Congratulations again for reaching this level. Good luck as you prepare for this next step. I look forward to seeing many of you compete as I visit each tournament.

Sincerely,

Ralph Errico, Commissioner
MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGION BABE RUTH BASEBALL

A Non-Profit Tax-Exempt Organization for 5 through 18 Year Old Players

MANAGER'S IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUIRED

As soon as you receive the Regional Tournament information you must take the following actions to ensure that all your credentials are in order and in the proper place.

1. Register for Tournament

The team MANAGER for each State Champion (or any advancing team) is required to register for the regional tournament via the on-line registration form. If there are computer processing issues, call Assistant Regional Commissioner Evelyn Skiendziel, 973-464-5530. **Check-in is required within 24 hours of completion of the State tournament.** When the online check-in is completed, call the Host Tournament Director (name and number in host info package) for more information.

Team Check-in Form: <http://www.marbaberuth.org>

2. Team Credentials Book:

All credentials must be in a loose-leaf binder notebook in the order of the *Tournament Team Credentials Checklist*. The LETTER OF ELIGIBILITY must be signed by the State Tournament Director, State Commissioner, or State Commissioner's representative for Regional Tournament participation.

NO TEAM OR PLAYER WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REGIONAL TOURNAMENT WITHOUT THE PROPER AND COMPLETE CREDENTIALS.

Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: 11.04 – 1

3. Mandatory Pre-Tournament Credentials Meeting:

There will be a mandatory credentials and rules meeting prior to the start of the first game of the tournament. The date and time will be scheduled by the Regional Tournament Director. **If a manager cannot attend a coach or representative of the team must attend in his place** Note: No player is authorized to attend this meeting.

Penalty: If no one attends the meeting, the manager will be suspended for the first two games in that team's schedule. For the 16-18 regional tournament, the manager will be suspended for the first bracket game.

4. Make sure you read, are familiar with and follow all instructions in this document.

TEAM COMPOSITION RULES

- **Number of Coaches Allowed:**

Each tournament team may have a maximum of fifteen (15) players, one (1) manager and three (3) coaches.

Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: 11.02 – 1

- **Tournament Eligibility:**

To be eligible to participate in tournament play, a player, manager or coach must be listed on the local league regular season roster and on tournament rosters before competing in the first level of tournament play.

Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: 0.04, Number 3 Note

- **Multiple Rosters:**

At no time is it permissible for a player, manager, or coach to appear on more than one “active/participating” tournament team roster in the same year.

Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: 11.02 – 1(b), (Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth Baseball)

- **Scorekeeper:**

The official scoring record for each game will be maintained by the official scorekeeper designated by tournament officials. This book will serve as the official record of the tournament. Teams may designate their own scorekeeper but in doing so must understand that their book will not be taken into account if issues arise.

NOTE: Team assigned scorekeepers may not be in the dugout or on the playing field for any reason. They are to refrain from interrupting the flow of a game for any reason. Team scorekeepers may not be in uniform.

Note: Arrangements will not be made for any assigned scorekeeper to travel with the winning team to the World Series.

- **Bat Boys/Girls:**

Each team may bring a bat boy/girl (unless the host is providing them). The bat boy/girl must be in a baseball uniform. Bat boys/girls must wear a helmet at all times when on the playing field during the game or infield practice.

Note: Bat Boys/Girls will not be allowed to travel with the winning team to the World Series.

GAME SCHEDULING & RESULTS

- **Game Schedules:**

The game schedule is found on the regional website (www.marbaberuth.org).

Changes to the game schedule due to inclement weather will be made as soon as possible.

Managers will be notified by tournament officials via the cell phone numbers provided when they filled out the **Tournament Team Check-In Form** (found on the regional website).

Changes will be posted as soon as possible at the field and on the web site.

- **Game Results:**

Game results will be posted at the field after each game. The results will also be posted on the Regional Website (www.marbaberuth.org) within twenty-four (24) hours of the day's events.

- **Game Reporting Time:**

Players and managers must be in uniform and at the field one (1) hour before their scheduled game time.

Tournament Jurisdiction and Delegation of Authority

All Regional Tournaments will be under the jurisdiction of the Regional Commissioner or his designated representative who will serve as Regional Tournament Director. This designated representative will be a Commissioner in Babe Ruth Baseball.

The Regional Tournament Director will work closely with the Host Tournament Chairperson who will oversee the local volunteers and committees.

- **Operation & Administration:**

The Regional Tournament Director will have full authority in making decisions pertinent to the operation and administration of the tournament. All decisions made will be in accordance with Babe Ruth Baseball Rules & Regulations.

Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: 11.06 – 3

- **Disqualification of participants:**

The Regional Tournament Director shall have the authority to remove any player(s), coach or manager for actions detrimental to Babe Ruth Baseball. Any misbehavior on or off the field could cause disqualification of a manager, coach, player or the entire team from the tournament.

Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: Powers of Commissioners [all levels]

- **Rescheduling of games:**

The Regional Tournament Director shall have the authority to reschedule games that have been suspended or canceled due to weather.

NOTE: This rescheduling will be done with, and based on recommendations from, the Host Tournament Chairperson.

- **Team Credentials:**

The Regional Tournament Director shall have jurisdiction over the credentials of the teams participating in the tournament. The Regional Tournament Director will check the credentials. These documents will remain in his/her possession until such time as the team is eliminated or the tournament has ended.

Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: 11.04 - Note

- **Player Participation:**

Only the Regional Commissioner or the Regional Tournament Director has the authority to prevent a player from participating in the tournament.

- **Acting Tournament Director:**

In the event, it becomes necessary, the Regional Tournament Director shall have the authority to appoint an acting tournament director to assist the Regional Tournament Director with the operation of the tournament.

Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: 11.06 – 3

- **Host Committees:**

The Host Tournament Chairperson shall have jurisdiction over the committees of the tournament such as host families, concessions, etc.

- **Field Readiness:**

The Host Tournament Chairperson shall have jurisdiction over the ground crew to ensure that the field is ready for play before each scheduled game.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

As a representative of your state at the Regional Tournament you are required to dress appropriately. The Official Baseball Rules allow a league to provide that each team wears a distinctive uniform at all times [Rule 1.11b-1]. In accordance with that the following regulations have been adapted for the Regional Tournament.



- All players on a team shall wear uniforms identical in color, trim and style. [Official Baseball Rule 1.11a-1].
 - All players' uniforms shall include minimal 6" numbers on their backs. [Official Baseball Rule 1.11a-1]
 - Sleeve lengths may vary for individual players, but the sleeves of each individual player shall be approximately the same lengths. [Official Baseball Rule 1.11c-1].
 - No player shall wear ragged, frayed, or slit sleeves [Official Baseball Rule 1.11c-2]. **No cutoff or sleeveless shirts will be permitted unless a t-shirt with sleeves is worn under it.**
 - All players will be required to wear solid baseball over the calf socks, OR white over the calf socks with stirrups, OR all-in-one stirrup socks. Ankle length socks are not permitted.
 - Managers can wear jerseys or cage jackets as long as they are all the same. They do not have to have numbers on their jerseys.
- Shorts are permitted for managers **in the Cal Ripken age group tournaments only** as long as they are all uniform and the same team colors. [Baseball pants are still required in the World Series.]
 - Caps must be worn by every player while playing the game but may be omitted during infield practice. Caps must also be worn by each coach in the first and third base coach's box.
 - Players taking infield practice must be in uniform. Warm-up t-shirts may be substituted for the baseball jersey but must conform to *Official Baseball Rules 1.11-1 and 1.11c-1 & 1.11c-2*.
 - No player whose uniform does not conform to that of his teammates shall be permitted to participate in a game. [Official Baseball Rule 1.11a-3]. This rule is extended to apply to managers and coaches.
 - **The Official Babe Ruth Baseball emblem must be worn by each team member.** All teams participating in Babe Ruth local league and tournament competition are required to wear the Official Cal Ripken Baseball (4-12 year olds) or Babe Ruth Baseball (13-18 year olds) shoulder emblem on their left outer uniform sleeve, or if vest type, sleeveless jersey, on the upper left chest of the jersey. Players' and coaches' uniform jerseys shall not display emblems of other youth organizations other than Cal Ripken Baseball or Babe Ruth Baseball. [*Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: Tournament Rules*].

- MANAGERS & COACHES UNIFORMS – Tournament Competition – If coaches wear pullover jackets, they must have the Babe Ruth Baseball emblem, or Cal Ripken Baseball approved shoulder emblem on the sleeve or chest. [*Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: Tournament Rules*].
- It is noted that some leagues cannot afford to have an “all-star uniform” and that players will wear their distinctive team uniforms on the all-star team. This is permissible as long as they conform to the definition of a complete baseball uniform as stated in the above rules and regulations, have distinct numbers for each player, and have the Babe Ruth shoulder patch on them.

GENERAL TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

All Regional Tournaments will be played according to the Official Baseball Rules and Babe Ruth Baseball Rules and Regulations. The following is provided as a quick reference of common rule questions to avoid any problems at the Regional Tournaments.

- **Umpires:**

Two certified Babe Ruth Baseball (or other recognized organization) umpires will be scheduled to officiate each game except for the semifinal and final games, where three umpires will be scheduled. During all games, the umpires are in control of the playing field.

Coaches and players are to refrain from arguing or showing disrespect to the officials under any circumstances. If a manager 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.

- **Ten (10) Run Rule:**

Any game must be terminated once becoming regulation (3½ or 4 innings for Cal Ripken Division; 4½ or 5 innings for 13-16 & 16-18) if one team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs and each team have had equal times at bat or the home team is leading.

Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: 11.05 - 7

- **Fifteen (15) Run Rule:**

A tournament game must be terminated immediately if one team is ahead by fifteen (15) or more runs after 2½ or 3 innings (Cal Ripken Division) or 3½ or 4 innings (13-16 and 16-18) and each team has had equal times at bat,

Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: 11.05 -7

- **No Tobacco:**

The use of tobacco will not be allowed by anyone within the confines of the playing field during the Regional Tournament. This includes smokeless tobacco.

Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: Tournament Rules

- **Alcoholic Beverages or Drugs:**

Any illegal activities, including illegal use of alcoholic beverages or drugs of any nature, will be immediate cause for disqualification. This does not apply to the use of doctor-prescribed medication by the individual for whom it has been prescribed.

- **Electronic Devices:**

Cell phones, laptops, head sets, E-cigarettes, vapors, etc. will not be allowed in the dugouts or on the playing field by tournament participants.

Electronic scoring devices are permitted. **No device on the field or in the dugout may be used as a means of communication.**

- **Only Authorized Personnel on the field:**

Per the Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations the team consists of 1 manager and only 3 coaches. Only tournament officials as well as managers, coaches, players and batboys/girls (all in uniform) are allowed in the dugout and in the fenced playing area. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES will anyone else be allowed inside the playing field during games except when called for by the umpire when time is called (e.g., emergency medical personnel and grounds crew).

This includes parents, team scorekeepers, and fans.

- **Conduct:**

Each manager and coach is responsible for his personal conduct on and off the diamond as well as each team member's. All are officially placed on notice that we want everyone to enjoy themselves at the Regional Tournament, but that no conduct which could be interpreted as detrimental to the basic aim of Babe Ruth Baseball, which is "building better citizenship", will be tolerated. Any team or individual whose conduct is not above reproach will be disqualified and sent home without delay.

Individual leagues shall be held responsible for the action of their parents and fans. The leagues are liable for any damage done and any unauthorized expenses incurred by their tournament team players, coaches, manager, or fans.

- **Chrome Catcher's Mask/Helmet:**

Chrome batting helmets; Chrome Catcher's Mask/Helmet are not permitted in Cal Ripken Baseball and Babe Ruth Baseball for local league and tournament play. The batting helmet; catcher's mask/helmet shall not have a chrome or mirror-like surface. The chrome or mirror-like surface is illegal due to its distracting nature which may be dangerous to other players.

PRE-GAME RULES AND REGULATIONS

- **Infield Practice:**

Each team will be allowed ten (10) minutes fielding practice. The home team will start thirty (30) minutes prior to game time. The visiting team shall practice next for ten (10) minutes. The last ten (10) minutes prior to the start of the game shall be used for the introduction of players and for the ground crew to prepare the field for play.

- **Use of Batting Cages:**

If batting cages are available at the tournament site, teams will be assigned a time when they can use them by the Host Tournament Chairperson. At no time will batting cages which are located adjacent to the field(s) be used while a game is in progress.

- **Determining Home Team:**

There will be no flip of the coin to determine “home team” during the pool play phase of a tournament. The schedule will always read “visitor vs. home”. Every effort was made to ensure that each team is given the same number of opportunities to be the “home team”.

In the single elimination bracket games, the higher seeded team (as determined from their respective pools) will be the home team. In the event both teams to reach the final game are the same seed, a coin will be flipped to determine the home team.

DURING GAME RULES & REGULATIONS

- **Re-Entry Rule:**

There are two types of re-entry rules in effect.

- Re-entry of nine starting players**

Any of the nine starting players, including the pitcher, may withdraw and re-enter once, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the lineup. A substitute who is withdrawn may not re-enter. For a more detailed explanation of this rule refer to the [RE-ENTRY RULE EXPLANATION](#) page in this book.

Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: Re-Entry Explanation

- Re-entry of an already used player**

Will be permitted if all substitutes have been used and an injury occurs which prohibits the injured player from continuing in the game **OR** if all substitutes have been used and there is an ejection of a player from the game. The opposing manager must make selection of this substitute.

Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: 11.05 – 9

- **Players Substitutions:**

A player, or players, may be substituted during a game at any time the ball is dead. A pitcher may change to another position only once during the same inning; e.g. the pitcher will not be allowed to assume a position other than a pitcher more than once in the same inning.

Official Baseball Rule 3.03

- **Trips to the Mound:**

Trips to the mound shall be limited to one (1) per inning per pitcher. The second trip in the same inning will result in 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.

Official Baseball Rule 8.06

Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: Tournament Rules

- **Must Slide Rule:**

There is no “must slide rule” in effect for tournament play at any level of Babe Ruth Baseball. The “must slide rule” is a Federation rule, not an Official Baseball Rule or a Babe Ruth Rule & Regulation.

- **Intentional Walk:**

An intentional base on balls may be given by the defensive team by having its catcher or coach request the umpire to award the batter first base. This may be done before pitching to the batter or on any ball and strike count. The ball shall be declared dead before making the award.

- **Contact Rule:**

If a runner attempting to reach home plate or another base intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player in the area of home plate or another base, he will be called out on the play and ejected from the game. This is an umpire's judgment call.

Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: Tournament Rules

- **Warming Up A pitcher:**

Anyone warming up a pitcher at any location shall wear a mask. A throat protector is considered part of the catcher's make.

[In addition, it is recommended that any player should wear protective headgear.]

Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: Tournament Rules

- **Players Must Remain In Dugout:**

Players in uniform shall not address or mingle with spectators, nor sit in the stands during the game.

Players and substitutes of both teams shall confine themselves to their team's benches unless actually participating in the play or preparing to enter the game, or coaching at first or third bases.

Official Baseball Rules: 3.09 and 3.17

- **Illegal Bat:**

If any bat in Babe Ruth Baseball cannot be clearly identified for its make and model to determine the barrel composition, then the bat should be removed from the game. Refer to the [APPROVED and NON-COMPLIANT BATS](#) page in this book for penalties to be enforced.

- **Tie-Breaker (Extra Innings Procedure):**

At the start of each extra inning, a runner is placed on second base- the runner will be the last recorded batter of the previous inning. Any eligible player may be substituted for this runner and is subject to the substitution rule (3.04). This format play shall continue until (1) the visiting team has scored more total runs than the home team at the end of a completed inning, or (2) the home team scores the winning run in an uncompleted inning.

Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: 11.05 and 4.10b

Pitching Limitations Rules

Cal Ripken Baseball, Babe Ruth 13-16 Baseball, and Babe Ruth 16-18 Baseball - Tournament Pitching Rules These pitch count limitations will apply to all tournament games played in District, Area, State, Regional and World Series competition.

There are no limitations on the number of innings a pitcher may pitch in a tournament (bracket or pool play) game subject to the following pitch count limitations:

TOURNAMENT PITCHING REST REQUIREMENTS				
AGE	DAILY MAX (PITCHES IN A DAY)	REST PERIOD		
		0 Days	1 Day	2 Days
8-10	75	1-40	41-65	66+
11-12	85	1-40	41-65	66+
13-16	95	1-45	46-75	76+
16-18	105	1-45	46-75	76+

If the pitcher reaches the maximum pitch count limit while facing a batter, he may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely or is put out.

- A. **Intentional Walk Rule** – An intentional base on balls may be given by the defensive team by having its catcher or coach request the umpire to award the batter first base. This may be done before pitching to the batter or on any ball and strike count. The ball shall be declared dead before making the award.
- B. All pitchers must adhere to the pitch count rest requirements.
- C. All players have full pitching eligibility beginning at each level of tournament competition. (District, State, Area, Regional, and World Series)
- D. In a game suspended by darkness, weather, or other causes and resumed the following calendar day, the pitcher at the time the game was halted may continue to the extent of his/her eligibility, provided said pitcher has observed the required days of rest.
- E. Games in which an ineligible pitcher has been used, as specified above, shall be declared forfeited. The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after that pitcher is announced, or after a preparatory (warm-up) pitch is delivered, but before that player has pitched a ball to a batter, shall not be considered a violation. Tournament Officials are urged to take precautions to prevent protests.
- F. Swing Player Options - If a 15-year-old player swings up and participates on the 16-18 tournament team and pitches, they will abide by the 16-18 tournament pitching rules. Same would apply if a 12-year-old player swings up and participates on a 13-year-old tournament team, they will abide by the 13-16-year-old tournament pitching rule. Whatever the age of the tournament will determine the pitch count regardless of the player's league age.

Official Pitch Count Record

- A. The Tournament Director must designate the scorekeeper or another game official as the official pitch count statistician. The pitch count statistician shall record all pitches as defined in the rule book (Rule 2.00 – A pitch is a ball delivered to the batter by the pitcher.), in addition to any pitches delivered to the batter ruled a “no pitch” by the umpire.
- B. The pitch count statistician must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire. However, **the manager has the ultimate responsibility for knowing when his/her pitcher must be removed to meet the mandated rest requirements.**
- C. The official pitch count statistician should inform the umpire-in-chief when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted above. The umpire-in-chief will inform the pitcher’s manager that the pitcher must be removed. **However, the failure by the pitch count statistician to notify the umpire-in-chief, and/or the failure of the umpire-in- chief to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.**

Special Cal Ripken Division rules

- **Dropped Third Strike:**

For the Major/60 Division tournament - The batter becomes a runner when the third strike called by an umpire is not caught, providing (1) first base is unoccupied or (2) first base is occupied with two outs.

Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: 6.09(b)

- **Fake Bunt / Slash Bunt:**

A batter is out for illegal action when the player fakes a bunt and then takes a full swing, thus eliminating a player from fake bunting (slap-hitting) the ball.

Penalty: Batter is out, the ball is dead, no runners may advance.

Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations

APPEALS and PROTESTS

- **Appeal Plays:**

The appeal of a missed base is not automatic. The umpire will not rule on a missed base unless the team properly makes the appeal on the field.

Official Baseball Rule 7.10

- **Protest of a Rule:**

A judgment call cannot be protested. Only a manager may file a protest. All protests must be made with the umpire-in-chief immediately. Play will be stopped until the Protest Committee gives a ruling. The decision of the Protest Committee is final

Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: 11.05 –10

No protest, except on player eligibility, will be honored after a game has been completed.

Official Baseball Rules: 4.19

- **Illegal Player Protest:**

All protests concerning player eligibility must be presented **in writing** from the protesting League President with clear indication of proof for the protest.

Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: 11.05 –10

POST-GAME RULES & REGULATIONS

- **Suspended Games:**

Suspended games due to weather or curfew will be rescheduled and played prior to continuing with the regular schedule of play.

- (a) Rescheduling will be done by the Regional Tournament Director and the Host Tournament Chairperson.
- (b) A suspended game will begin from the exact point at which play was stopped.

Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations: 11.05 - 7

- **Team post-game meetings:**

Teams are to immediately depart the field and dugouts upon the conclusion of games. Game schedules are tight. NO team is to conduct a post meeting with their players within the fenced playing field.

- **Clean Up The Dugout:**

The team departing the dugout is required to remove all of their equipment and trash.

Extra Player

Babe Ruth Baseball all Divisions – Local League and Tournament Play Special Rules and Regulations – **Extra Player (formally the “EH” extra Hitter).**

- Prior to the beginning of each tournament game, a team may elect to add a tenth hitter to the batting order for District, State and Regional tournament competition, as well as the Babe Ruth World Series.
- The player will be indicated in the line-up as the “EP.” The “EP” cannot be added to the line-up once the game begins.
- The “EP” will be treated as any other starter and cannot be eliminated during the course of the game.
- If a team starts with 10 players, the team must finish with 10 players. Penalty shall be a forfeit.

Courtesy Runner

Babe Ruth Baseball 13-16 and 16-18 Divisions– Local League and Tournament Play Rules and Regulations – **Rule 11.05; Number 12 – Courtesy Runners.**

- At any time, the team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher. In the event the offensive team bats around, the pitcher and/or catcher who had a courtesy runner inserted on their behalf may bat in their normal position in the batting order.
- The same individual runner may not be used for both positions (pitcher and catcher) during the game.
- Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
- Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.
- A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then be used as a substitute for another player in the half inning. If an injury, illness, or ejection occurs and no other runners are available, the courtesy runner may be used as a substitute.
- The Umpire-in-Chief shall record courtesy runner participation and announce it to the scorer.
- A player who violates the courtesy runner rule is considered an illegal substitute. Should an injury, illness or ejection occur to the courtesy runner, another courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher may run.

Designated Hitter

Rule 6.10 Babe Ruth Baseball 13-16 and 16-18 – Any Babe Ruth 13-16 and 16-8 League may elect to use the Designated Hitter Rule. The rule provides as follows.

A hitter may be designated for any one starting player and all substitutes for that player. The Designated Hitter must be named before the game; with both the DH and the player being hit for listed on the lineup card. It is not mandatory that a team use a DH, but failure to do so prior to the game precludes the use of a DH for that game.

If a pinch hitter or runner replaces the DH, that substitute becomes the new DH. The original DH may re-enter under the re-entry rule. The DH and the player being hit for are locked into the batting order. No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting rotation of the DH.

A DH may be used in one of two ways:

- a. Tenth Starter: The DH bats for one defensive player. The DH role ends when:
 1. The defensive player (or any substitute) bats, pinch-hits, or pinch-runs for the DH; or
 2. The DH (or any substitute) plays defense.

- b. Player/DH: A starting defensive player also serves as the DH. The DH role ends when:
 1. A substitute enters that defensive position and later bats, pinch-hits, or pinch-runs; or
 2. The starting defensive player/DH is substituted for as a hitter or runner.

Note: The type of DH must be declared before the game. Coaches cannot change the DH option once the game has started.

Example 1: If you list a DH to bat for your left fielder, the left fielder cannot bat, pinch-hit, or pinch-run later in the game. If he does, the DH is lost for the remainder of the game.

Example 2: If your lineup lists a LF/DH, that player both plays left field and bats for himself. If you later replace him on defense and that new left fielder comes to bat, the DH is lost for the remainder of the game.

Approved and Non-Compliant Bats

"It is the policy of Babe Ruth League, Inc. to assure the safety of all participants. Accordingly, Babe Ruth League, Inc. reserves the right to ban any equipment, including bats, at any time, including during the season, based upon a change of existing policy and/or upon new information made available to Babe Ruth League, Inc."

Cal Ripken Division –

- All non-wood bats must have the **USABat** marking.
- Bat barrel maximum is 2 5/8 inches.
- No BBCOR bats are permitted in the Cal Ripken Division
- For the T-Ball division bats must be marked with the **USABat T-Ball** stamp.

13-16 Division –

- All non-wood bats must have the **USABat** marking or marked **BBCOR .50**
- Bat barrel maximum is 2 5/8 inches.

16-18 Division –

- All non-wood bats **MUST** be a **BBCOR .50** and no greater than **-3**.
- Bat barrel maximum is 2 5/8 inches.

ALL Divisions – If any bat in Cal Ripken Baseball or Babe Ruth Baseball cannot be clearly identified for its make and model to determine the bat composition, then the bat must be removed from the game. Any cracked or flat bats must be removed before the game.

Penalties –

- If the illegal bat is discovered prior to a batter completing his "at bat", the bat is simply removed from play and the "at bat" continues.
- A player who uses an illegal bat or non-conforming barrel dimension and hits a fair ball will be ruled out. No advancement on the bases will be allowed and any outs made during the play shall stand. This is an appeal play. The "at bat" will be considered legal once a pitch is thrown to the next batter.
- Any bat discovered prior to the game that does not conform to the above rule shall be directed to be removed immediately and not allowed for use during the game.

NOTE: The new USA bat standard (USABat) applies to bats classified below the NCAA and NFHS level of play as of January 1, 2018.

Rule 8.05 balk rule

Cal Ripken Baseball Major/70 Division; Babe Ruth 13-16 Division; Babe Ruth 16-18 Division – Rule 8.05

- (c) Comment: Requires the pitcher, while touching his plate, to step directly toward a base before throwing to that base. If a pitcher turns or spins off of his free foot without actually stepping or if he turns his body and throws before stepping, it is a balk.
- A pitcher is to step directly toward a base before throwing to that base, and is required to throw (except to second base) because he steps. It is a balk if, with runners on first and third, the pitcher steps toward third and does not throw, merely to bluff the runner back to third; then seeing the runner on first start for second, turn and step toward and throw to first base. It is legal for a pitcher to feint a throw to second base.
- (d) The pitcher, while touching his plate, throws, or feints a throw to an unoccupied base, except for the purpose of making a play;
- (e) The pitcher makes an illegal pitch.

Re-entry Rule Explanation

RULE: Re-entry - any of the **nine starting** players may withdraw and re-enter once, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the line-up. A substitute who is withdrawn may not re-enter.

Note: If a player re-enters illegally as a pitcher, fielder, or runner, there is no penalty except that he must be removed from the game immediately when discovered. If he re-enters illegally as a batter, such illegal re-entry is penalized according to *Official Baseball Rule 6.07, Batting Out Of Order*.

Listed below are interpretations of the above rule:

1. When re-entered, the player must occupy the same batting position as he occupied when starting the game, i.e., a starting player and his substitute cannot be in the game at the same time.
2. A pitcher withdrawn from the game may re-enter immediately if withdrawn while a batter or base runner, if he was one of the nine starting players. If withdrawn while he is on the mound pitching, his substitute must fulfill *Official Baseball Rule 3.05b* before he is permitted to re-enter the game.
3. All other starting players may be withdrawn and re-entered immediately or anytime at the discretion of the manager.
4. A substitute may replace a substitute and the starting player may still re-enter for the substitute, i.e., starting player Jones is replaced by substitute Smith; substitute Smith is replaced by substitute Clark. Starter Jones is eligible to replace Clark.
5. A starting player withdrawn from the game more than once cannot re-enter.
6. Withdrawal and re-entry takes place only when a player has been removed from the game.
7. If the pitcher is removed from the game because of a second trip in the same inning, he **may** re-enter the game in any position with the exception of pitcher, if he was one of the nine starting players.
8. The provisions of Official Baseball Rule 3.05 govern the starting pitcher. He must be in compliance with the *Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations 11.05 - 4 and 11.05 - 6* in order to re-enter as a pitcher.

Player Instructions

Officials of the Middle Atlantic Region of Babe Ruth Baseball and the hard-working people in the Host city have made extensive efforts to make certain your tournament experience will be pleasant and rewarding. Therefore, we shall expect that you absolutely cooperate with the following regulations pertaining to your actions during the Regional Tournament.

- **Assistance:**

We want every participant to thoroughly enjoy themselves during the Regional Tournament. If you need any information or have a problem that can't be resolved by your coaches, please contact the Regional Tournament Director.

- **Conduct and Disciplinary Code:**

Any misbehavior or misconduct, on or off the field, not only could cause your disqualification from the Regional Tournament, but also could disqualify your team. Types of bad conduct that could lead to disqualification:

- The use of profane or indecent language.
- Fighting or other aggressive behavior toward your teammates, coaches, members of other teams, umpires, tournament officials, or other tournament participants on or off the field.
- Any illegal acts.

- **Appearance:**

As a team representing your league and your state you are expected to maintain a neat appearance at all times, on and off the field. When not involved in a tournament game, you may dress informally and comfortably. At no time are players permitted to go barefoot at the tournament complex.

Determination of Pool Play Standings

When competition begins with pool play format, each division will play a pool play schedule as determined by the commissioner under whose jurisdiction the tournament falls.

At the end of the pool play schedule, a pre-determined number of teams from each division will advance to the single-elimination competition. Participating teams will be advised, in writing, prior to the start of tournament competition how many teams will advance to the single-elimination round. (Remember, under the new tournament pitching rule as stated in number 3, the pitching does **NOT** reset for the single elimination round).

Pool play standings will be determined as follows:

1. **WIN – LOSS RECORD**

The tie breakers are used in order to advance or seed ONE team at a time. Each time a tie is broken to advance one team, leaving a tie between two or more teams, the situation reverts to criterion #2. (Head-to-Head results).

If still tied:

2. **RESULTS OF HEAD-TO-HEAD COMPETITION**

Example: Three teams are tied with identical records for the first place at the end of pool play. Teams A, B and C played against each other once in pool play. Team A won all of its games Team B and Team C during pool play. Result – Team A advances, which creates a two-way tie between Team B and Team C. That tie then is broken by reverting to criterion #2.

If still tied:

3. **FEWEST RUNS GIVEN UP**

If the results of the head to-head matchup(s) of the teams that are involved in the tie cannot break the tie (because no team defeated each of the other teams in the tie each time they played, or because no team has defeated all of the other teams involved in the tie, or because the teams involved in the tie did not play one another during pool play, then the tie is broken using criterion #3. The remaining teams tie is broken by reverting back to criterion #2.

If still tied:

4. **RUN DIFFERENTIAL WITH A MAXIMUM OF 10 PER GAME**

In the event a tie is created by virtue of a forfeited game, and the tie cannot be broken by criterion #2, the order of Criteria #3 and #4 will be reversed and applied to the tie. Since the number of runs which might have been scored during the game may have affected the fewest runs allowed standing (and the awarding of the forfeit gives the “winning team” no additional runs given up), this order will better adjust for that event.

If still tied:

5. **COIN FLIP**

All coin flips are governed by tournament jurisdiction as determined in Rule 11.06. If the results of the run differential with a maximum of 10 per game of the teams involved cannot break the tie, the tie is broken using a coin flip. In the event of 3 or more teams tied, a coin shall be assigned to each team. The coin landing on the opposite side as the others advances. If all coins land on the same side, teams must re-flip. The remaining teams’ tie is broken by reverting to criterion #2.

NOTE: The official tiebreakers issued by Babe Ruth League, Inc. for pool play must be used.

Pool Play Tiebreaker Example

Example of Scores of a 5-Team Division Showing How to Seed 1st, And 2nd Place

Game 1	DE	5	ENY	1	Game 6	ENY	8	PA	5
Game 2	ENY	4	MD	1	Game 7	NNJ	2	ENY	1
Game 3	MD	6	DE	3	Game 8	MD	4	PA	0
Game 4	DE	5	NNJ	2	Game 9	NNJ	6	MD	0
Game 5	PA	4	DE	1	Game 10	NNJ	4	PA	0

Criteria # 1: Win-Loss Record

Northern NJ (NNJ) finishes in first place with 3 wins and 1 loss.

Pennsylvania (PA) is eliminated with 1 win and 3 losses.

Eastern NY (ENY), Delaware (DE), and Maryland (MD) each have 2 wins and 2 losses, resulting in a three-way tie for 2nd place. These three teams now move to Criteria # 2. (After applying the tie-breakers, one team will move into 2nd place, and the other two teams will be eliminated.)

Criteria # 2: Results of Head-to-Head Competition

DE defeated ENY, ENY defeated MD and MD defeated DE. These three teams are still tied, and the tie-breaking process will move on to Criteria # 3.

Note: If, however DE had defeated both ENY and MD, and ENY defeated MD, the three-way tie is broken at criteria #2 and DE would be awarded 2nd place.

Criteria # 3: Fewest Runs Given Up

ENY allowed 6 runs, while both DE and MD allowed 7 runs. Therefore, the three-way tie is broken at Criteria # 3. Both DE and MD are eliminated and ENY is awarded 2nd place in the Division.

Note: If, for example, in criteria # 3, ENY, DE and MD had all allowed an equal number of runs, the three teams would still be tied, and therefore the tie-breaking process would move on to criteria # 4.

If, however, ENY had allowed a total of 8 runs and DE and MD had each allowed 7 runs, the three-way tie would have been broken. In this case ENY would have been eliminated, and DE and MD would still remain tied. Those two teams would revert then revert back to Criteria # 2 in order to break the two-way tie. Since MD defeated DE 6-3 in Game 3, MD would be awarded 2nd place in the Division.

Criteria # 4: Run Differential (Maximum of +/- 10)

Run Differential = (Score of team being determined) – (Score of opposing team) for each game.

DE (5-1) + (3-6) + (5-2) + (1-4) = (+1)

ENY (1-5) + (4-1) + (8-5) + (1-2) = (+1)

MD (1-4) + (6-3) + (4-0) + (0-6) = (-2)

MD is eliminated because they had the (-2) run differential. Both DE and ENY are still tied; therefore, the process would then revert back to Criteria # 2 to break the two-way tie. Under this scenario, DE by virtue of their win over ENY would be awarded 2nd place in the Division.

2026 Tournament Sites

WORLD SERIES

10-Year-Olds	Stafford, Virginia	Aug 6-15
CR Major/70	Branson, Missouri	Aug 5-15
13 Year Olds	Jamestown, New York	Aug 13-22
14 Year Olds	Eagle Pass, Texas	Aug 6-15
13-16	Branson, Missouri	Aug 5-15
16-18	Branson, Missouri	July 27-Aug 4
8-Year-Old (kid pitch)	Marlton, New Jersey	Aug 17-22
9-Year-Olds	Florence, Alabama	Aug. 2-7
11/70	Crown Point, Indiana	Aug 6-15

2026 MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGIONALS

10 Year Olds	Waynesboro, PA	July 16-19
12 Major/70'	Guilderland, NY	July 15-19
13 Year Olds	Old Bridge, NJ	July 25-Aug 1
14 Year Olds	Old Bridge, NJ	July 16-23
13-16	Williamsport, PA	July 16-19
16-18	Pine Forge, PA	July 9-12
8 Year Olds	Queensbury, NY	July 21-25
9 Year Olds	Langhorne, PA	July 10-14
11 Year Olds/ 70'	Burnt Hills, NY	July 15-19