

2017 Utah Babe Ruth / Cal Ripken Leagues National League Bylaws

The following is to provide guidelines / rules that would allow teams the opportunity to participate within the Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken National League program.

National League team participation in the Cal Ripken League Organization for all Cal Ripken Age Players 7-12 year olds and Babe Ruth Age Players 13-15 years old.

ARTICLE 1. Objective:

The objective of this program is to involve teams that consist of 9 to 15 players at registration. Through this activity we can offer more players the opportunity to play within the Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken organization and encourage their consistent participation. This opportunity will provide for players living within the established boundaries of a local Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken league to compete with each other and become familiar with each other's skills and abilities. The State Commissioner reserves the right to withdraw the National League Program in order to protect the competitive balance within the program and, the withdrawal may include one or more leagues or teams.

This program should provide for the following benefits:

1. Improve the use of baseball fields by using more of the unscheduled time for team play and practice.
2. Encourage players in the same geographical area to play in their community and participate in the Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken experience.
3. Increase the number of teams participating in the local league in hopes of improving competition within the league.

ARTICLE 2. Definitions:

National League Team – Any team made up of 9 to 15 players from within the established boundaries for the purpose of playing games of baseball against other “National League Teams” that play a National League travel schedule formulated by the State Commissioner or his assistant.

American League Team - Shall consist of any players that register with the local league and are drafted on a local league team other than a “National League Team”.

ARTICLE 3. Administrative Rules:

A. Boundaries –

All players on a National League team that participates in the local Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken League must live within the boundaries of the local league that the team wishes to participate in. The State Commissioner reserves the right to establish boundaries for an individual league. The State Commissioner also has the right to include an individual address in a specified league that is in the best interest of the player. All players that lived outside the established league boundaries but were moved into the established boundaries by the 2016 State Commissioner will continue to be within the established boundaries as outlined in Babe Ruth Rule 0.01 5. (a)

B. Registration –

Any team consisting of 9 to 15 players that wishes to participate with the local Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken League must register with the local league during their annual signups. All participating players must fill out the appropriate registration document as determined by the local league. The documents must include the player's name, residence address, birthdate, phone number, parent's names(s) and school the individual player attends. Such teams should submit all registration forms together clearly identifying the members of the team. Prior to local league tryouts beginning, the roster for the National League team must be finalized and submitted to the Local League President.

C. Participation Fees –

Any fees required by the Local League to charter a National League team will be assessed by the Local League. Such fees could include but are not limited to:

1. Player / Team registration fees.

2. Tournament Fees
3. State registration fees
4. Umpire/Arbiter Fees
5. Field rental charges (if required by the local authority having jurisdiction)
6. Accident and Liability Insurance to meet the Cal Ripken League requirements.
7. Any other fees assessed to assist with operation of the local league which are also assessed to members of the local league.

D. Coaching and Qualifications –

All coaches associated with the National League Team must be certified by completing the on-line coaching certification offered through Babe Ruth League Inc. and receive their certificate of completion. All coaches must adhere to all other rules and regulations as outlined by Babe Ruth League Inc. The Official Rules of Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Baseball will be the official Rules for all sanctioned games and activities and will be adhered to by all participants. All equipment must be legal, For the Cal Ripken Division plastic cleats and small barrel bats are the only approved equipment for Post Season qualifying games. Any game where improper equipment is used will not be an ALL STAR qualifying game.

E. Competition –

National League teams will play against other National League teams that are also registered as members of a local Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken League.

F. Local League Regulations –

All National League Teams are required to follow the Constitution and By-laws of the Chartered League where they are registered. They are under the jurisdiction of the Local League President and shall follow his/her direction regarding play within the league.

1. Rules regarding defensive substitutions, batting order, pitching limits, etc... will be defined by the State Commissioner or his/her assistant. All teams participating in the National League will be required to adhere to those rules.
2. No National league game will be played using pitching machines or coach pitch. All games should be played utilizing pitchers from each team. Pitching limitations will be enforced in accordance with Rule 0.06 of the Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken rule book. The distance for pitching mound for 8 year old teams will be 43 feet.
3. All National League games for 11 and 12 year olds must be played on 70' bases and adhere to game play rules described in the Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Rule book.

G. Game Scheduling –

It will be the responsibility of the Local League President to schedule the games of the "American League" (local non-travel league) teams. American League teams wishing to participate in cross league play will have the option of being scheduled by local league Presidents. All National League games will be scheduled by the State Commissioner or his/her appointed assistant.

H. Player Participation –

A player may only be listed on one National League roster.

I. Illegal Players –

Any player on a National League team found to be ineligible for any reason will not be allowed to participate on a post season team. All games where an illegal player has played shall be governed by Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Rule 0.07.

J. Eligibility for Post Season play –

Eligibility for post season play requires that teams must play a minimum of a ten (10) game State run schedule and that players must play in at least ½ of the scheduled games. Only games against other State Run National League teams will count toward this minimum requirement as outlined in Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Rule 11.03 (d).

K. Post Season Play –

1. Any National League team that desires to play in post season play will be assigned to play in a District (State Qualifier) Tournament with other National League teams provided there are four (4) or more teams, otherwise they may advance directly to the State Tournament in their age division. The State Commissioner reserves the right to place a team(s) into the District/State Tournaments as needed. All teams that qualify for the State Tournament in their specific age group will compete against teams from the American League District (State Qualifier) tournaments for the State Title and opportunity to compete at the Pacific Southwest Regional Tournament and possible Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken World Series. Should there be a total of eight (8) teams or less in the combined National and American division per age group all teams will be placed into State Competition where the State Champion of the combined State Tournament will represent Utah North at the Pacific Southwest Regional Tournament. Should Utah State Babe Ruth Leagues Inc. for the Northern Utah Section be allowed to enter two teams, one (1) will be from the National League and one (1) will be from the American League.

Per Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken rule 11.03 any National League Team that needs to replace a player prior to the start of any level of competition may select any American League player that has played in accordance with Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken rules, and that is not on any American League Tournament Roster

2. The Post Season Tournament fees are payable by June 15 of each year. Tournament fees are refundable under the following conditions:

- a. Withdrawal from post season play prior to distribution of tournament brackets will result in a refund of 100% of any Post Season Tournament fees paid.
- b. Withdrawal from post season play one (1) week prior to the start of tournament play will result in a 50% refund of all Post Season Tournament fees paid.
- c. Withdrawal from post season play within the week prior to the start of any tournament game will result in ZERO % refund of Post Season Tournament Fees Paid.
- d. If a team withdraws as described in paragraph c above, and thereby forfeiting 100% of their Tournament Fees paid, Utah State Babe Ruth Leagues Inc. will distribute to any adversely affected league hosting a post season tournament 50% of the forfeited fees to compensate for lost concession stand revenue.

L. Option to participate by Local League –

It is the option of each Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Local League President to determine if his/her league will participate by allowing National League teams to participate in his/her league's program as described herein. This program is not mandatory.

M. Umpires & Baseballs

Umpires will be paid for and baseball's provided by the host league for each game. High quality leather baseballs are required for these games.