



Western North Carolina Babe Ruth League

RULES FOR STATE TOURNAMENTS

6-YEAR-OLD T-BALL DIVISION (Baseball)

- **Age:** 6 years old & under (must have been registered with Babe Ruth League, Inc.). Players cannot turn 7 years old before May 1 of the tournament year.
- **Player Roster:** All teams will roster bat a minimum of 10 players up to a maximum of 12 players, whether playing defensively or not. Any remaining rostered players will be considered substitutes & follow the Cal Ripken / Babe Ruth sub rules. All teams must start a game with a minimum of (ten) 10 players but will be allowed to complete a game with nine (9). The missing starter in the batting line up will be called out at his turn at bat. If a batter becomes ill or injured during the game, the spot in the batting order will be skipped without penalty unless you have substitutes available to fill that spot. Failure to be able to field nine (9) players will result in a forfeit as covered in the Babe Ruth / Cal Ripken Rules.
- **Game Length:** Six innings or no new inning can begin after one and a half hours, whichever comes first; however, we will finish the inning and no tie games are allowed, the game must continue until there is a winner. In Championship Games, there is No Time Limit.
- **15-Run Rule:** A regulation 15-run-rule game shall be declared by the plate umpire if one team is ahead by 15 or more runs at the end of three complete innings (two and a half innings if the home team is ahead by 15 or more runs).
- **10-Run Rule:** A regulation 10-run-rule game shall be declared by the plate umpire if one team is ahead by 10 or more runs at the end of four (or five) complete innings (three and a half (or four and a half) innings if the home team is ahead by 10 or more runs).
- **Runs Per Inning:** An inning is over when three outs have been made or eight (8) runs have been scored, whichever occurs first. Runs will be unlimited in the last inning (6th or higher).
- **Field dimensions:** Standard Cal Ripken Division base length of 60 feet.
- **Infield Fly Rule:** There is NO INFIELD FLY RULE.
- **Coaches:** One Manager and three Assistant Coaches per team are allowed. All managers and coaches shall be in team uniform during Babe Ruth League, Inc. tournament competition. Coaches are required to wear the Cal Ripken emblem on their uniform (shirt, cap, or visor) as appropriate to specifications in current rules. Coaches are required to wear baseball long pants. All coaches on the field or in the dugouts must be listed on the official team rosters.
- **Players:** Players must wear matching uniforms and are required to wear the Cal Ripken emblem on their uniform (shirt, cap, or visor) as appropriate to specifications in current rules. Players and/or coaches cannot have duplicate numbers on the same team.

- **Protests:** If you protest a call during the game, this game will stop and not resume until that protest is resolved with the protest committee and NC State Commissioners. Once the ruling is received back from the protest committee and NC State Commissioners, there answer is final. We do not play “under” protest.
- **Balls / Bats:** A regulation tournament baseball will be used. The Rawlings baseballs marked CAL or RCAL are to be used for all Cal Ripken Baseball tournament competition. Bats must conform to the specifications in the Babe Ruth Baseball rule book. (The Bat – Cal Ripken Division). All bats must have the USABat Marking and max of 2-5/8” in diameter.
- **Offense:**
 - All batters will hit the ball from a batting tee. The tee should be adjusted to such a height that the batter will be able to swing level. This adjustment is made by the plate umpire to each players waist, no higher or lower than the waist.
 - No bunting allowed.
 - Protective headgear (batting helmets) must be worn on deck, at bat, while a base runner, and by players in the coach’s box, during practice and at all games.
 - Once the batter has entered the batter’s box, the umpire will adjust the tee, place the ball on the tee, and announce “Play”. The batter, then, will **not** be allowed to take practice swings or to line up the ball. The penalty for either action will be a called strike. Batter’s feet must be square to the plate when the ball is hit.
 - Three complete misses of the ball while batting constitutes a strikeout. A foul ball or practice swing will be counted as a strike. If the batter hits a foul ball on the third strike, he/she will continue to bat. Only a complete miss of the ball and the tee or a practice swing or “line up” on the third strike will be a strikeout.
 - When the ball is hit, it must go at least 25 feet, which is shown by an arc of 25-foot radius from the apex of home plate drawn from foul line to foul line. A batted ball must travel past this arc to be a fair ball; if it does not, it will be considered a foul ball.
 - If a batter hits part of the ball and part of the rubber tee, it is a fair ball if it goes past the 25-foot arc. If a batter hits all rubber (the tee) or the ball does not go past the 25-foot arc, it is a foul ball.
 - No stealing or leading off is permitted.
 - All overthrown balls will be considered live, and the runner(s) can advance until they are contained or give up the effort to advance to the next base. Balls entering dead ball areas will be dead and runner(s) will be awarded bases as specified by Rule 7.00.
 - (2) Base coaches are allowed on the field with (1) at first base and (1) at third base. All others must remain around their dugout area.
- **Defense:**
 - Ten players are on the field at any one time, including a catcher. There will be four outfielders. One player is placed on the pitching rubber assuming the defensive position of the pitcher.
 - The catcher must wear a catchers’ helmet with facemask. The umpire will place the catcher in an area behind home plate, that he/she deems safe before the batter swings. After the ball has been put in play the catcher will not be restricted on the field of play.
 - The pitcher must be in contact with the pitching rubber (one foot) until the batter has made contact with the ball. If, in the judgment of the umpire, the pitcher is not in the correct position, the offensive team can take the results of the play or bat again.

- Two defensive coaches may be positioned in foul territory to provide instruction to all defensive players - one coach positioned at least 12 feet beyond first base and one coach positioned at least 12 feet beyond third base in foul territory. Cannot enter the field of play. All other coaches must be around their dugout area.
- Free substitution is allowed on defense as long as your batting line up does not change. Substitution rules are in effect.
- The ball will be declared dead when the defensive team stops the lead runner, or the runner abandons the effort to advance. There are no halfway lines between the bases, trailing runners will be sent back to the last base touched when the umpire has called time. Runners either make the bag or they don't. If a coach is trying to have their runner(s) "dance" around the base to draw a throw, this is **NOT** considered trying to advance

Unless addressed here within, play shall be by current edition of the Babe Ruth League Baseball rule book.

Approved by WNCBR June 2021.