

BUTLER COUNTY BABE RUTH ASSOCIATION

PREP/BABE RUTH LEAGUE RULES

****Last revision 4/16/2026*

Games are scheduled between Babe Ruth Teams (comprised 15 -,16- and 17-year-olds) and also between Prep Teams (Comprised of 13 and 14 year olds) The rules, which govern play, are Official Baseball Rules (OBR) as used by Major League Baseball, Babe Ruth OBR Exceptions (for pitching) and Local League Rules listed here. Each division is responsible to provide a copy of the rules to each manager and ensure the manager is knowledgeable of these rules.

PREP LEAGUE ONLY MANDATORY PLAYING RULE – It is mandatory each 13–14-year-old (Prep League) player must play 12 consecutive outs (2 complete innings) each game, composed of offensive and defensive outs in every 7-inning game. (*This includes each player receiving at least one at bat.*) The only exception will be shortened games due to (10) run rule, time limits, or managers discretion for disciplinary reasons, but this option must be conveyed to opposing manager during ground rules before the game starts. We recommend ALL players getting playing time in Babe Ruth league games.

UMPIRES – “Spring, Summer, Fall (Buckeye Elite) will be used for regular season and tournament games. Buckeye is responsible to provide a copy of the rules to each umpire to ensure each umpire is knowledgeable of these rules. Each Division Officer is responsible to report all ejections, forfeits (umpire related), and any umpire issues (this does not include specific ball/strike – safe. out, i.e. judgment calls), to Mike Stanger at Buckeye Elite

PRE-GAME INFIELD PRACTICE – The HOME team shall take the field 35 minutes prior to the game time and has the field for 15 minutes. The VISITING team shall take the field 20 minutes prior to game time for 15 minutes. Both managers are responsible to ensure their teams are ready to play by the time of the pregame conference with the umpire, which is to occur 5 minutes prior to the scheduled game time. For Fairfield #10 and #11, no infield practice is permitted for the 2nd game. Use of a baseball net shall be done outside the fence lines, to ensure there are no ruts placed in the field of play at any ballpark.

PREGAME CONFERENCE – The umpire is responsible to hold a pregame conference at home plate 5 minutes prior to the start of each game with both managers. Both managers are responsible to provide the umpire a completed lineup card at the beginning of this pregame conference. Once the umpire has received the home team’s lineup card, the game is considered started. The home team’s Manager shall present ground rules. Prior to the conclusion of all pregame conferences, the umpire shall be paid.

EXTRA HITTER (EH): Each team may elect to have a tenth hitter in the batting order. This player will be indicated in the lineup as the EH and will be treated as any other starter (can play any defensive position). If an EH is to be used, the player’s name must be included on the lineup cards presented to the umpire at pre-game conference. Failure to declare an EH prior to the game precludes the use of an EH in that game. In a situation where the EH is ejected from the game and there is no eligible substitute an automatic out is charged when the vacated position is to be at bat. Prep League players must still fulfill their mandatory playing rule even when designated as an EH. See PREP LEAGUE ONLY MANDATORY PLAYING RULE.

BASEBALLS – Both the HOME TEAM and VISITING TEAM are responsible to provide ONE (1) NEW and One (1) USED, but in good condition approved leather baseball to the umpire before the start of each game and both are responsible to keep the game supplied with baseballs as required. During/after inclement weather, both teams may be required to furnish extra baseballs so as to keep the game moving.

BATS – The bat may not exceed 34" in length, and the bat barrel may not exceed 2 5/8" in diameter. **Bats MUST be certified and marked BBCOR .50 or marked “USA BASEBALL” ONLY.** Wood barrel bats conforming to the specifications of Official Baseball Rule 1.10 are allowed.
If a batter enters the batter’s box with an illegal bat, the batter will be called out and the batter and manager will be removed/ejected from that game.

PITCHING AND BASE DISTANCES - All leagues will pitch from 60 feet and bases be placed at 90 feet.

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GAME TIME LIMITS: No Inning will start after 1 ¾ at all other facilities.

At Fairfield #10, #11 & Wurzelebacher#1 – No new inning of the first game to start after 8PM, 10:45PM for the second game, before school is out for the summer. When school is out: 8:15pm for the first game; 11PM for the second.

Sportsfeed site - All managers win or lose, are required to update their game stats, including the score and pitch count for all pitchers. Managers are required to enter stats within 24 hours of completion of game. **Failure to enter stats within 24 hours will result in forfeiture of game.**

FORFEIT – Each team must have nine players ready to play no later than 15 minutes after scheduled start time. If a team does not have enough players to start a game, that team is responsible for the entire umpire fee.

A team that has a player injured during the course of a game may use an ineligible substitute to complete the game with nine players Opposing manager does not have the choice of the substitute player as stated in the Babe Ruth Rule book. If no substitute of any kind (eligible/ineligible) is available, the team can finish a game with 8 players. An automatic out is charged when the vacated position is to be at bat.

A team that has a player ejected during the course of a game may NOT use an ineligible substitute to complete the game. In this situation where an ejection created a need to replace a player, the team must complete the game with 9 eligible players. If they can't, the game is forfeited.

TEAM NO SHOW – Any team that fails to show for a scheduled game shall be responsible for the entire umpire fee.

TIME BETWEEN INNINGS – One (1) minute maximum permitted for change from offense to defense.

MAXIMUM RUNS PER INNING – The season will have no max run per innings, each team must acquire 3 outs to complete an inning.

10 RUN RULE- At the point a game becomes a regulation game (4 ½ or 5 innings); a team leading by 10 or more runs will be declared the winner.

TIED GAME'S – Tied games or suspended games will be completed on a case-by-case basis.

GAME DELAYS – Any time play is temporarily halted due to adverse weather conditions, the umpire shall wait a minimum of 30 minutes prior to calling the game. During this time, the umpire shall check with both coaches as to drain-ability, estimated time to get the field back in safe playing conditions etc. Once the umpire determines the field is unplayable, cannot be made so, weather conditions remain unsafe, etc., he shall inform both Coaches of this rationale used to call the game, and then do so.

RESCHEDULING RAIN OUTS/SUSPENDED GAMES – Both managers have the responsibility to reschedule the makeup game within ten (8) days of the initial rainout game. After the Home team manager gets field availability from the Division Officer and the game has been satisfactorily rescheduled, he should then advise his Division Officer of the rescheduled date, time, and location. The Home team division officer is then responsible to advise the visiting team division officer of date, time, and location and to contact the SSFBCU assigner a minimum of 24 hours to arrange for an umpire. The Buckeye assigner should ensure that an authorized Division person has rescheduled the game.

A RUNNER – is out when he does not attempt to get around, “avoid contact with”, a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag or if he intentionally (maliciously) runs into a fielder. For intentionally running into a fielder, the umpire shall eject the offender from the game. Failure to comply shall result in game being forfeited.

MANDATORY COURTESY RUNNER FOR CATCHER – With 2 outs, if the catcher is on base, he must be replaced by a courtesy runner (no exceptions). This will be a player who is not legally in the game at this time, i.e. a substitute that has either been in the game or will be playing in the game at a later time. If no legal sub is available, the last batted out will be the courtesy runner. The same courtesy runner may only be used once per inning. *Note:* This rule is optional for pitchers.

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PITCH COUNT - These are full days off, if a pitcher pitches today. These are the following days off.

AGE	DAILY MAX (PITCHES IN GAME)	REQUIRED REST (PITCH ES)			
		0 DAYS	1 DAY	2 Days	
13-14	95	1- 45	46-75	76+	
15-16	105	1- 45	46-75	76+	

WARM-UP PITCHES – Any new pitcher is permitted eight (8) warm-up pitches. All existing pitchers are permitted five (5) pitches.

Any player, manager, or coach warming up a pitcher at home plate shall wear a mask (throat protector is considered part of the catcher’s mask). It is recommended anyone warming up a pitcher at any location shall wear a mask. This doesn't apply for a coach over the age of 18.

BLOOD RULE – A player or coach who is bleeding or who has an open wound shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered. If medical care or treatment can be administered in a reasonable amount of time, based upon the umpires’ judgment, the individual would not have to leave the game. If a player does leave the game for medical care or treatment (a temporary substitute who has not been in the game as of yet) may be used until the player temporarily removed can return to the game. The temporary substitute shall play the same position in the field or occupy the same position in the batting order as the player for which the substitution was made. The player used as the temporary substitute retains all entry rights into the game. If there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before that individual participates again.

BATTER’S BOX RULE – Each batter must keep at least one foot in the batter’s box throughout the time at bat. If the batter’s box is not visible, umpire’s judgment shall prevail as to its intended location. Exceptions: A batter may leave the batter’s box when:

- The batter swings at a pitch, or
- The batter is forced out of the box by the pitch, or
- The batter attempts a ‘drag bunt’, or
- The defensive team feints or attempts a play at any base, or
- The pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher’s plate after receiving the ball, or
- A member of either team requests and is granted ‘time’, or
- The catcher leaves the catcher’s box area to adjust his equipment or give defensive signals, or
- The catcher does not catch the pitched ball

If the batter leaves the batter’s box and none of the above exceptions apply, the umpire shall charge a strike to the batter. The pitcher need not pitch and the ball remains alive.

I. TOBACCO, MARIJUANA, AND RELATED PRODUCTS POLICY

- a. The use of all tobacco products, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco, vapes, and e-cigarettes is strictly prohibited.
- b. Additionally, the use or possession of marijuana, CBD, THC products, or any other marijuana related items, whether for recreational or medicinal purposes, is not permitted at any league event including games, practices, and team gatherings.
- c. This policy applies to all coaches, players, parents, spectators, and officials, regardless of age or local laws.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT – Any unsportsmanlike conduct of any nature by managers, coaches, players or fans including parents, relatives, and friends may result in a suspension from all Babe Ruth Parks in the Butler County Babe Ruth Association for an indeterminate amount of time. The specific unsportsmanlike behavior will be reviewed by

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the Butler County Board on a case-by-case basis and may result in a lifetime suspension if warranted by the incident. Relative to the ejection of a player, manager, or coach:

- Upon the first ejection in a season, the offender shall be suspended for the next one (2) full game following, that in which the ejection occurred.

- Upon the second ejection in the same season, the offender shall appear before the Butler County Babe Ruth Association Board, prior to participating in any game, so that the facts of the incident can be fully reviewed and, further disciplinary actions taken.

- Upon the third ejection in the same season, the offender shall be suspended for the remainder of the season. Upon Further review by the Association Board, the offender may receive a lifetime suspension from Butler County Babe Ruth Baseball if such actions are warranted due to the nature of the incidents that led to the ejections.

If and parent or legal guardian is ejected from the ballpark, the players associated with that person must also be removed from the game.

TOURNAMENTS: To be eligible for participation in the City Tournament and/or Babe Ruth District All-Stars, a player must be listed on his regular season team's official roster no later than June 1, and play in at least one-half of that teams scheduled games. Only exceptions are for playing for high school teams where they are prohibited to play until that season is complete.

SAFETY BASES

I. Safety bases, added 2026 season

- *A two-colored base placed at first base (often half orange, half white or orange/red + white).*
- *One color (white) is for the fielder, the other (orange) is for the runner.*
- *Purpose: reduce collisions and injuries at first base.*
- *Usage rules*
- *The runner should touch the orange (runner) portion when running through first base.*
- *If a runner uses the wrong bag on a run through, they can be considered out on an appeal or the umpire's discretion.*
- *Fielder should touch the white (fielder) portion when making a play at first.*
- *If the ball carries the fielding player to the orange bag, an out can still be called (ie, dropped third strike, or a ball that carries into foul territory). The runner and fielder shall switch bags during this play.*
- *If both use their correct halves, contact is usually avoided, and no interference/obstruction is called.*
- *Common officiating interpretations*
- *Force play: The play remains a force unless the fielder is making a tag on the runner instead of merely touching the base; the fielder should use the white half for force outs.*
- *If the fielder tags the runner (off the base) while the runner is not on the orange half, standard tag/interference rules apply per league.*

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- *If the runner uses the white half and is obstructed by the fielder standing on that half, umpires may call obstruction/award the runner as appropriate.*
- *If the fielder occupies the runner's half and a collision or contact occurs, umpires judge based on obstruction/avoidability and may call obstruction or interference per rulebook wording.*
- *If a runner misses touching the base entirely (neither half), normal appeal/tag rules for missing a base apply.*

Prep/Babe Ruth Field Addresses/Directions

Fairfield #10 & #11

- **5133 Groh Lane, Fairfield, OH 45014 (Water Works Park)**

Route 4 to West on Symmes Road Take
Symmes to River Road.
Turn left on River Road
Turn Right on Mississippi. It will dead-end into the park

- **Lindenwald**
40 Joe Nuxhall Way, Hamilton, OH 45015 (Joyce Park)

Route 4 to West on Symmes Road Take
Symmes to River Road.
Turn Right on River Road
Turn Left on Joe Nuxhall Way
You will find the fields down the road through the double gates on the right
Prep and Babe Ruth games are played on Field #2 or Field #5

- **Ross**
2679 Chapel Rd., Okeana, OH 45053

Take 275 to Colerain Ave - Turn North on Colerain - Take Ross exit - Turn Left on Hamilton
Cleves Rd (128) - Turn Right on Cincinnati Brookville Rd (126) - go approximately

5 miles to blinking light

Turn Right onto Chapel Rd - 1/4 mile down on Left is Wurzelbacher Park

Rainout Numbers

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Waterworks Park (Fairfield)	Rainout	Facebook page
Joyce Park (Lindenwald)	Rainout	513-892-6613
Shiloh/Trenton	Rainout	Facebook page
Wurzelbacher Park (Ross)	Rainout	513-738-8100