

# FYBA FALL BABE RUTH ASSOCIATION

## PREP/BABE RUTH LEAGUE RULES

UPDATED 8/1/2025

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 insure 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. For Babe Ruth the expectation is that a player plays at some point in every game.

**UMPIRES** – FYBA 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 Bill Jarvis

**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 insure 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. No infield practice is permitted for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**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 Babe Ruth approved 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** – no Bat requirements for fall baseball.

**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:** two games per day, 90 minute drop dead time frame. 5 to 15 minute break between games.

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**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, they may borrow outfielders in order to play. There are **no standings or forfeits** in fall ball.

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 not is charged when the vacated position is to be at bat.

**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** – league will reschedule games if necessary and possible.

**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.

3-4-2021

AGE	DAILY MAX (PITCHES IN GAME)	REQUIRED REST (PITCH ES)				
13-14	85 pitches or 3 innings Per DAY					
15-16	95 pitches or 3 innings Per DAY					

**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.

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**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.

**USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS** – The use of all tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco and e-cigarettes is prohibited by all participating personnel (coaches, players, etc.) Tobacco products such as cigarettes, cigars, pipes, etc. are prohibited from use within Fairfield's Waterworks Park by participating personnel and spectators.

**Marijuana products are also prohibited**

**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 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  
  
FYBA 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 FYBA 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.