

Babe Ruth League, Inc.

East Tennessee

CAL RIPKEN

Coach Pitch for 6 year-olds

BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

(To be used for District and State Tournaments)

TOURNAMENT RULES

1. **Coach Pitch**—Coach Pitch (see specifications below) will be used in State Tournament play in this age group. Using a tee is not an accepted procedure in this age group.
2. **Age Group:** All players must be registered with Babe Ruth League, Inc. and cannot turn seven (7) before May 1 of the tournament year.
3. **Player roster:** 12 – 15 player roster (12 is recommended) with all players being placed in the batting order. Players can be exchanged defensively without any effect on the batting order (in other words, free defensive substitution).
 - a. A minimum of 10 players is required to start the game.
 - b. There will be four (4) outfielders. ALL outfielders must remain in the grass area of the outfield (cannot be positioned in the infield at any time, but can move once the ball is hit).
 - c. Defensive infielders (other than the pitcher) cannot assume a position any closer than 40 ft. From the batter. The field will be marked, as follows: Using the rear-most point of home plate as the measuring point, there will be a 40 ft. mark on the inside of the 1st and 3rd base lines. Then, an intermittent or dotted arc (3 ft. line, 3 ft. opening, etc.) will be marked from the 1st base line around to the 3rd base line, defining that players must stay behind this arc until the batter hits the ball. The purpose of this rule is safety. Once ball is hit, the arc is no longer a factor and all defensive players may play the ball without restrictions.
 - d. The player that assumes the pitcher's position must be positioned with at least one foot inside the pitcher's circle (radius of 6 ft., with the 46 ft. pitching rubber being the center of the circle). If the pitcher violates any of these requirements, the **(1)** The play will stand, even if the pitcher is involved in the play, and **(2)** the umpire(s) will warn the violating pitcher's manager that if that same pitcher

violates one or both requirements again, the player will have to be removed from the pitcher's position. The player can assume another position but cannot re-enter as a pitcher in that game.

NOTE: The pitcher position is only a reference to a "fielder's" position (does not throw a pitch). Therefore, there is NO "number of innings pitched" rule for the player in the position.

- e. The catcher takes the catcher's normal position in full gear.
4. **Game Length:** Six (6) innings, or No New Inning after 90 minutes. (Note—New Inning begins once the third out is recorded for the previous inning). Time limit is in effect for all games in the tournament, including the Championship game. Each batter receives a maximum of five (5) pitches. If the batter strikes out, or if the ball has not been hit into play after five (5) pitches, the batter is out.
- a. If the batter fouls the 5th pitch, the batter will receive pitches as long as the batter continues to foul pitches.
 - b. The half inning is over when three (3) outs are made or eight runs are scored.
 - c. The batter is out if the batter swings on a third strike and misses the ball. A foul-tip on a third strike (or 5th pitch) and caught by the catcher is also an out.
5. **Field Dimensions:** Standard Cal Ripken Division base length of 60 ft.
6. **COACH PITCHING:**
- a. A coach will pitch (overhand) to the batter from a minimum distance of 25 ft. from home plate.
7. **Dead Ball:**
- a. The ball is declared dead when the defensive team stops the lead runner or the runner abandons the effort to advance. Once play has been stopped, no other runners may advance beyond the last base tagged.
 - b. The ball will be declared dead when a player is injured and the umpire's judgment is unable to continue the play.
 - c. If a batted fair ball hits the coach who is pitching, the ball is immediately dead and it is considered a no-pitch. All runners return to the base they occupied before the ball was hit.
 - d. If a thrown ball hits the coach who is pitching, it is a live ball.

8. **Infield Fly Rule:** there is NO INFIELD FLY RULE.
9. **Catcher:** The catcher takes the normal position in full gear. Catcher catches the ball (or retrieves a missed, non-batted ball), gives the ball to the umpire, the umpire places the ball into the bucket or umpire ball bag. The catcher DOES NOT throw the ball back to the coach who is pitching.
10. **Bunting:** Bunting is not allowed. If a player bunts, it is considered to be a foul ball. If a player bunts on the third strike or 5th pitch, it is an out.
11. **Courtesy Runner:** Courtesy Runners will not be used in this age group. Coaches are encouraged to assist catcher to put on the catcher's gear prior to the third out unless the catcher is on base when the third out is made. In that case, coaches are encouraged to get the catcher ready immediately in order to keep the game moving.
12. **Base stealing:** Base stealing is not permitted. Runner(s) leaving their base(s) before the batter hits the ball or before the ball reaches home plate shall be regulated by the Special Base Running Rule found in the current edition of the Babe Ruth League Baseball rule book according to comment #3 under the Cal Ripken Baseball – Rookie and T-Ball League Rules and Regulations found in the same rule book. The runner(s) will not be called out.
13. **Baseballs:** Must use approved Cal Ripken baseballs.
14. **Maximum Runs Per Inning:** For innings 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, there will be a maximum of 8 runs allowed per team per inning. Once the 8th run is scored, even if it is part of a continuing play, no additional runs are counted. However, teams can score unlimited runs in the 6th inning.
15. **Game Run Rule:** There will be a run rule in effect for all games: 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings (3 1/2 if home team is ahead), and 10 runs after 5 innings (4 1/2 if home team is ahead).
16. **Umpires:** Two (2) umpires will be on the field at all times (one on the field and one at home plate, near the batter, and in a position to move quickly toward the plate to call fair or foul on a batted ball).
17. **Credentials:** As specified in the current Cal Ripken Rule Book.
18. **Patches:** Cal Ripken Baseball patches must be displayed as specified in the current Rule Book.
19. **Rules Not Specified**—Any other rule not specifically modified for this age group and covered within this document will be played in accordance with the current rules for Cal Ripken Baseball.

Updated and Adopted November 20, 2019

Updated by Tennessee Babe Ruth Board of Directors, January, 2024

Approved by Doug Strong, State Commissioner

Remains in Place Until Further Notice