

Babe Ruth League, Inc.
East Tennessee

CAL RIPKEN
T-Ball Rules for 5 year-olds
BASEBALL TOURNAMENT
(To be used for State Tournaments)

TOURNAMENT RULES

1. **Batting Tee**—A batting tee will be used in State Tournament play in this age group. Using a tee is the only accepted procedure in this age group.
2. **Age Group:** All players must be registered with Babe Ruth League, Inc. and cannot turn six (6) 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). If a player becomes ill or injured, that player is removed from the game and his/her spot in the batting order is skipped without penalty.
 - a. A minimum of 10 players is required to start the game.
 - b. Ten players are placed defensively. 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 on the mound (not necessarily the pitching rubber). The mound is defined as having the 46 ft. pitching rubber being the center, and a dirt or drawn circle

around the pitcher's rubber with radius of approximately 6 ft. If the pitcher violates any of these requirements, the offensive team will have the choice to take the result of the play or have the batter bat again (with the same count as prior to the play-in-question).

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

4. **Game Length:** Six (6) innings. Each batter receives three strikes. Once the batter has entered the box, the batter is not allowed to take practice swings or line-up the ball. Either of these cases will result in a strike being called. Three strikes constitutes an out.
 - a. If the batter fouls a ball after two strikes, the batter will be permitted to continue until there is a third strike (swing-and-miss or called strike due to practice swing/lining-up-the-ball) or until the ball has been put into (fair) play.
 - b. If the batter strikes the tee, it will be considered a foul ball.
 - c. A twenty-five (25) foot arc will be established in front of home plate (measured from the rear point of the plate). The ball must travel beyond this arc and be in fair territory and meet other stipulations of a fair ball (touched in fair territory or remain fair when crossing first or third base) to be considered a fair ball.
 - d. The half inning is over when three (3) outs are made or six runs are scored, whichever occurs first.
5. **Field Dimensions:** Standard Cal Ripken Division base length of 60 ft.
6. **Defensive Coaches:** One defensive-team coach may be positioned in foul territory and at least twelve (12) feet beyond first base and a second defensive-team coach can be positioned in foul territory at least twelve (12) feet beyond third base. The purpose of these defensive-team coaches is to be able to instruct, from foul territory and at least twelve (12) feet beyond first or third base, their defensive players.
7. **Offensive Coach Adjusting Tee:** An offensive-team coach will be able to adjust the tee for a taller or shorter batter prior to the batter entering the box. The coach shall then place the ball on the tee, which must be placed directly on the center of home plate, and back out-of-the-way.
8. **Dead Ball:**
 - a. The ball is declared dead when the defensive team stops (or contains) 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, in the umpire's judgment, is unable to continue the play.
 - c. If an overthrown ball remains inside the fences, it is a live ball and runners may advance until they are stopped (or contained) or give up the effort to advance to the next base. Balls entering dead ball areas (normally beyond the fences) will be declared dead and advancement will be as per normal baseball rules.
- 9. **Infield Fly Rule:** there is NO INFIELD FLY RULE.
- 10. **Catcher:** The catcher takes the normal position and must wear either full catchers gear (note—shin guards may be regular baseball shin guards or soccer shin guards).
- 11. **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, it is an out.
- 12. **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.
- 13. **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.
- 14. **Baseballs:** Must use approved Cal Ripken baseballs.
- 15. **Maximum Runs Per Inning:** There will be a maximum of 6 runs allowed per team per inning. Once the 6th run is scored, even if it is part of a continuing play, no additional runs are counted. The maximum runs-per-inning will be in effect for the entire game.
- 16. **Game Run Rule:** There will be a run rule in effect for all games: 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).
- 17. **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).
- 18. **Credentials:** As specified in the current Cal Ripken Rule Book.
- 19. **Patches:** Cal Ripken Baseball patches must be displayed as specified in the current Rule Book.

20. 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 for 2020 Season

Approved by Doug Strong, State Commissioner

Remains in Place Until Further Notice