

BABE RUTH SOFTBALL DISTRICT 7
INTER-LEAGUE RULES- 12-UNDER DIVISION
2024
Effective February 2024

***PLEASE NOTE – The following rules are to be followed for all recreational play, regardless of where or who you are playing.

1. Playing time is no new inning after 1 hour & 30 minutes (finish the inning). *For games scheduled to be played on “School Nights”, playing time is **1 hour, 30 minutes Drop dead stop.** **School Nights is defined as M,T,W,TH.** **Drop dead should be discussed at the home plate meeting to ensure everyone is aware.**
2. Jewelry will be permitted to be worn during games. However, hoops or hanging earrings are prohibited. NOTE: No jewelry may be worn on the pitching arm.
3. 6 innings or time limit shall be considered a complete game.
4. A complete inning will consist of 3 outs or 4 runs.
5. There is free substitution. The offensive team will bat the entire line-up. You may field only **9** defensive players at any time during the game.
6. Pitching distance is 40 feet. The ball size is 12-inch official softball.
7. Pitchers are limited to **a rolling 9 Innings per 2 games.** Managers are strongly encouraged to focus on pitcher development and to take every opportunity to allow maximum participation in pitching.
8. There is no requirement that a pitcher must have part of her pivot foot on top of the pitcher's plate. Now, the pivot foot must only start in contact with the plate. This addition will also allow the pitcher to start with the non-pivot “stride” foot in contact with or behind the plate, and allows the pitcher to step back with the stride foot off of the plate; provided the stepback begins prior to the official start of the pitch, the separating of the hands. Ref. Rule 8.02 for 2023 updates.
9. Per Official Babe Ruth Softball Rule 8.12, the second trip in the same inning to the same pitcher shall automatically result in the removal of that pitcher from the game AS A PITCHER ONLY.
 - a. **Option, which must be discussed at plate:** In keeping with the goal of recreational play and skill development a coach may visit a pitcher, after time is called and granted, a 3rd time in an inning. On the 3rd visit, the coach may choose to remove the pitcher or leave her in the position. A coach is prohibited from making more than one visit while the same batter is at bat. All other related rules in 8.12 apply. **This option must be discussed, and agreed to, at the plate meeting and is only available prior to Spring break.**
10. A courtesy runner may run for the pitcher and/or catcher every time they reach base. Each courtesy runner used must be the last recorded out. Each courtesy runner may only pinch run once per inning. Using this rule in Catcher Speed Up situations, i.e. 2 outs or 4 runs scored, is encouraged to save time.
11. Pitcher & Corner Positions (1st & 3rd) defensive players must wear a protective fielding mask. The catcher must wear protective headgear, chest protector, and shin guards.
12. All offensive players must wear helmets w/faceguard while on the playing field.

13. The catcher must wear a mask during warm-up. *Any manager, coach or parent warming up a pitcher must also wear a catcher's mask regardless of on the field or on the side. If a coach is caught not wearing a mask while warming up pitchers anywhere prior to a game in warmups or during game, the **MANAGER** will be suspended for that current game.*
14. Drop 3rd strike rule applies. The Infield Fly rule applies.
15. Each team may play a game with 8 players. Teams may borrow players from other teams in the same age division, or lower, if properly registered in 1 (one) of the inter-league associations. The team may not borrow players in excess of a lineup of 9 players (including any substitutions). Borrowed players will not pitch or catch and must bat at the end of the batting order.
16. Any player in the lineup who must leave the field due to an injury will not result in an out if she misses her place in the batting order. She may return to the original place in the batting order when physically able. Any player leaving the field for any other reason will **NOT** result in an out when her turn comes to bat, the lineup will simply adjust upward.
17. End of Season Tournament:
 - a. Game play will be single elimination.
 - b. Regular season rules will apply.
 - c. Umpires will be provided by the host field.
 - d. A team MAY NOT borrow any players.
 - e. A team MAY play with 8 players without penalty. In the event a team has less than 8 players they will forfeit their game.
 - f. There are no ties. In the event of a tie, additional innings will be played until a winner is determined.