Flagler Baseball and Softball Local Rules:

1. Coaches/Volunteers/Team Mom:

- Every team's coach, volunteer and team parent **MUST** complete a **YEARLY** background check to participate with Flagler Babe Ruth Baseball. In addition to the yearly background check, starting in 2026 all volunteers, team parent, and coaches must complete a level 2 fingerprint background check and pass before being allowed to participate with Flagler Babe Ruth Baseball youth athletes.
- Coaches **must** complete the human kinetics Baseball or Softball coaching certificate.
- All teams are **only** allowed **2** coaches/volunteers on the field while on offense or defense regardless of how many coaches, volunteers, or team parents the team has background checked.
- All coaches must be 18 years of age, complete coaching certifications and complete the yearly background check to be eligible to coach.
- Each head coach will receive one free registration to use how they see fit for the current season.
  - Only head coaches will be reimbursed for their level 2 background check at the end of the season and will be responsible for any retention fee cost of the fingerprint background check.
- Coaches for Flagler Babe Ruth Baseball are not allowed to have any coaching involvement with any outside league travel ball organizations. This includes any involvement in travel ball dugout help, lineup input, decision making or coaching of any sort. Any violation of this rule will result in immediate removal from Flagler Babe Ruth Baseball.

2. A borrowed player constitutes a player registered in the Flagler Baseball program in the same or lower division.

- Each team will be allowed to use a borrowed player from the same division or bring up a borrowed player from a lower level ONLY to avoid forfeits and only to complete a 9-player roster or 11-player roster for rookie. All divisions excluding t-ball (see local t-ball rules) must have at least 6 team rostered players to be eligible to borrow, and they cannot borrow more than 3 players. The rookie division can at most borrow 3 players to fill out their 11-player roster.
- Prior to the start of the game the coach using a borrowed player(s) must notify the opposing coach that he is using a borrowed player(s).
- A borrowed player is NOT allowed to play an infield position (including pitcher and catcher) in a Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken League Game, may not start in front of or play more innings than a Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken roster player, and must bat at the end of the batting order.
- If you borrow an age appropriate and registered player from another team giving you a total of 9 players and a player from your team shows up, you must sub your player into the lineup and remove the borrowed player.

- **Fall Season Only *** A borrowed player may play in the infield but is not allowed to pitch unless agreed to by the borrowing teams head coach and is approved by the opponent's team head coach.

3. **Run rule per Inning:**

- T-Ball – 5 runs per team per inning.
- Rookie – 5 runs per team per inning.
- Minor & 10u Softball – 5 runs per team per inning.
- Major & 12u Softball – 7 runs per team per inning.
- Dale Long & 14u Softball and up – No run rule per inning.

10 RUN MERCY RULE FOR ALL DIVISIONS AFTER 4 COMPLETE INNINGS. 15 RUNS AFTER 3 COMPLETE INNINGS.

4. **Game Changer:**

- Will be used to calculate averages and end of the year awards. The use of Game Changer is not mandatory, but if it is used it must be kept for all team games (meaning you can't keep Game Changer for 3 team games and submit that for awards). If a team decides to not use Game Changer, then they will not have players eligible to win individual awards.
- Players must play 80% or more games for their team to be eligible for individual awards. Guest playing on another team does not change/alter your main team stats.
- Please make sure to accurately enter information for every game.
- Each team will be responsible for their own stats only and not scoring stats for the other team.
- GameChanger stat clarification "A stolen base is awarded when a runner advances to the next base on their own initiative during a pitch, while a wild pitch or passed ball occurs when the catcher fails to handle a pitch, allowing a runner to advance. A runner can be credited with a stolen base even if a wild pitch or passed ball occurs, but only if they were already attempting to steal the base before the misplay".
- Stats are based on the honor system by volunteers. If anyone is found to be deliberately altering stats all stats for that team will be considered fraudulent and will not be used.
- Training will be provided, If training is needed please reach out to baberuthflaglerbaseball@gmail.com to setup a training session online or in person at the fields.

5. **Time of Games:**

- T-Ball – No new innings start after 4 innings or 1 hour.
- Rookie – No new innings start after 5 innings or 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- Minor & 10u Softball – No new innings start after 6 innings or 1 hour and 45 minutes.
- Major & 12u Softball – No new innings start after 6 innings or 2 hours.
- Dale Long & 14u Softball and up – No new innings start after 7 innings or 2 hours and 15 minutes.

  *All games excluding t-ball are 15 minutes shorter in the fall season.

6. **Weather**

- Division Managers are responsible for alerting coaches of field closures due to inclimate weather. Coaches are responsible for alerting parents of said field closures. Coaches, Division Managers, and Board members are responsible for obeying and enforcing the 7-mile lightning

limit. The weather bug app is the official app for monitoring lightning. Play on the field or any practice area cannot resume/restart until the last lightning strike (30 minutes) is outside of 7 miles.

7. **Official Start Time** will be given by the umpire and be recorded in the official score book. Game times are based on the Official Start Time given by the home plate umpire regardless of the Scheduled Game Time.

8. **Rookie** Pitches must be delivered overhand with reasonable velocity and flat trajectory. Lobs or underhand deliveries are prohibited. Pitcher must keep one knee or foot on the pitchers plate or chalk line from a distance of 40 feet. Once the pitch is delivered the coach pitcher shall assume or remain stationary or in a kneeling position while the ball is in play. (Coaches who are pitching are not allowed to coach from the field of play) EP - none, as all players should bat and be alternated defensively each inning. Dead ball: hitting the umpire, let the ball be played as is. Hitting the coach pitcher, dead ball as they do not have time/space to completely be out of the players way to field the ball.(If the pitching coach is hit, the batter will be awarded first base and all players on base will be awarded 1 bag and moved to the next base or plate if they are on third base). Each batter receives a maximum of 5 pitches, if the batter does not foul off the 5th pitch or put the 5th pitch in play the batter will be out. Batters can bunt but if they attempt to bunt after swinging and missing at 2 previous pitches and the bunt goes foul they will be out.
   Players on the field: 10 fielded, with ONE pitcher.
   Time limit: Fall 1:15, Spring 1:30. Innings: 5. Max runs per inning: 5

9. **T-Ball** All players in lineup must hit every time on offense. SCORING stops after three outs or five runs have been scored but lineups will continue until all batters in the lineup have hit. When scoring has stopped, if a batter is called out on the base paths or at bat, they must go to the dugout. Each batter gets five swings. If the ball is not hit in 5 swings, they will be called out. All T-Ball players will receive a medal. The T-Ball team with the highest winning percentage will receive trophies along with individual medals and be acknowledged at the awards banquet as T-Ball Champions. If any teams are tied the tiebreaker is most runs scored and the second tiebreaker is least runs allowed.

10. **Forfeits -** If a team cannot field eight (8) or more registered/age appropriate division or borrowed players 20 minutes after the official start time for the game, a forfeit shall be declared. Once the game starts if an injury or unforeseen circumstances occurs, you will be given 10 minutes to find a replacement player to get your team to the necessary 8 players before a forfeit is declared. The teams may continue to play for fun with the absence of an umpire. A team that cannot field 9 players shall not be penalized by an out when the 8th and 9th player are at bat. In addition, a team shall not be penalized with an out when a starting player cannot complete play in a game due to an injury, illness or family/work obligation. *T-ball does not have a player forfeit limit and does not have a paid umpire as we are focused on the players learning the basics of the game (positions, how to throw, how to stand in the

batters box, how to correctly swing, how to run to the different bases and how to field the ball).

11. **Lineups –** First, Last name and number of the player must be written on the lineup cards and in the official scorebook.

12. **Hitting –** All players on the team must hit. *Unless player is injured and removed from the game. If a player is injured and removed from the lineup the team is NOT forced to take an out for the injury, the next batter in the lineup will bat and all subsequent batters will move up one spot.

13. **Equipment:**

- Bats T-ball – Must have the USA T-ball Stamp
- Bats Rookie – Must have the USA baseball markings 2 5/8" Barrel Maximum (No BBCOR)
- Bats Minor – Must have the USA baseball markings 2 5/8" Barrel Maximum (No BBCOR)
- Bats Major – Must have the USA baseball markings 2 5/8" Barrel Maximum (No BBCOR)
- Dale Long – BBCOR .50 No Greater than -3 drop
- Softball – Must have sticker "Official Softball Bat" or "Official Fastpitch Bat"
- All Divisions – Can use a wooden bat, must be one solid piece of wood. 2 5/8" Barrel Maximum
- All Divisions – No recording equipment is allowed in the dugout or to be worn by any player or coach on the field.
- All Divisions – Catchers Helmet must cover ears and must have throat protection.
- Baseball – All players must wear a helmet while batting.
- Softball – All players must wear a helmet with facemask while batting. While in the field all players must wear protective mask.

14. **All-Stars:**

- The player **must** play in **50%** of team's games to play All-Stars.
- Any player suspended during regular season is ineligible for All-Stars.
- Players are only eligible to play on **ONE** All-Stars team. If team is eliminated, they cannot play on another All-Star team.
- Players are only allowed to compete on their divisions All-Star team. They may not play on another divisions All-Star team unless they are registered in another division and played in 50% of that team's games and are not already on another All-Star team.
- Playing time is **NOT** guaranteed. This is a big commitment
- Allstar teams will have official tryout for invited players only. Being invited to the tryout does not guarantee you will make the Allstar team. Players who are playing on the Advanced team in the Spring are not guaranteed a spot on the Allstar team.
- There is a $25.00 All-Star uniform fee.

15. **Advance Teams:**

- Available for Fall and Spring, every age group may not have Advanced team.

- Players **must** be playing in the league to be eligible to play on the age-appropriate aged Advanced team.
- Players are only eligible to play on **ONE** Advanced team.
- Advanced teams are run by multiple coaches, practice times will vary but will not overlap non advanced team practices. Advanced teams will have practice days of Friday, Saturday and Sunday reserved. No league games will be played on Fridays if the division has an advanced team in order to allow the Advanced team to practice.
- Some travel will be a part of Advance team games. No overnight games, all games will be within 2hr drive. Games will be on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.
- Advanced teams will have an open tryout for age appropriate players already signed up playing rec ball. Tryouts for Advanced Teams will be held the First Friday after Evaluations at 6:00 pm. Teams will be made up of a maximum of 15 players.
- Playing time is **NOT** guaranteed. This is a big commitment.
- There is a $25.00 Advanced uniform fee.
- This is an unpaid position, and no monthly dues will be collected.
- Coaches will be responsible for submitting uniform design, 3 team names all beginning with Flagler _____ and preliminary proposed tournament schedule to Flagler Board for Approval.
- Cost of Tournaments and Uniform will be split between players and will be the Advanced Teams head coach responsibility to manage as the League will not be collecting funds.
- Advanced Teams players and coaches are held to a high standard as you are representing Flagler Babe Ruth Baseball. Anyone who violates our code of conduct or has conduct unbecoming while on the Advanced team will be subject to the following disciplinary actions:
- First offense – Will be a one game suspension, Second offense – Will be an entire Tournament weekend suspension and if there should be a Third offense – you will be removed from the Advanced Team and place on 1 year probation with the league, any violation while on probation would be immediately removal from Flagler Babe Ruth Baseball and banned from rejoining the league for a period of 365 days from the probationary violation.
- Making the Advanced team does not guarantee a spot on the Allstar team.

16. Softball:

- Max of 9 players on the field. 3 outfielders, 4 infielders, 1 pitcher and 1 catcher.
- All players must wear a mask when in the field and a helmet with a facemask when batting.
- Pitchers 12 and under throw from the front pitching rubber. 12 and under have a set number of innings they can pitch (See rule handbook). Pitchers 13 and over, throw from the back pitching rubber and do not have a set number of innings that they can pitch.
- Players and Teams can chant for individual players on their team or for their team. (They are not allowed to create chants for the opposing team or any chants that are derogatory in any way.)(It will be up to the league and/or umpires ruling if a violation occurs. Up to expulsion of the player from the game or forfeiture of the game)

17. Request:

- We do our best to accommodate coaches and family request.

- Coaches can have up to 3 requests. Children of Coaches and Assistant Coaches do not count against the request total. Example (Head coach has 2 age-appropriate children and the assistant coach has 1 age-appropriate child, the team would still be eligible for 3 request. Giving the team a total of 6 players in this scenario and not letting them draft a player until the 7th round.)
- Request do not guarantee your player will be on that coach's team.
- If coaches have more than 3 request the head coach is permitted, but not required, to accept up to 3 request at their discretion.

18. Awards/Playoffs:

- The Friday before playoff week there will be an awards banquet for all teams. Further details will be provided during the season.
- Free admission for players. Parents admission will be one canned good. Canned goods will be donated to a local charity in the Fall for Thanksgiving and a local food bank in the Spring.
- Food and awards will be provided per team and division.
- Certain awards are based on statistical numbers others will be based on team votes.
- Playoffs are single elimination tournament. Playoff rankings are based on end of season record. Champions are awarded a medallion.

19. Flagler Athletic Skill Training (FAST):

- Is a first come first serve program that is all volunteer run.
- It will run from the end of Spring to Beginning of Fall. Number of sessions is based on demand and volunteers' availability.
- Cost is $60.00 for twelve sessions. The player will be provided a hat and a shirt.
- Sessions are two hours a week three times a week. Sessions start at 6:00 p.m..
- Schedule is based around volunteers' schedules and weather.

19. Pitching:

Age	Daily Max (Pitches in Game)	0 Days Rest	1 Days Rest	2 Days Rest	3 Days Rest	4 Days Rest
7-8	50	1-20	21-35	36-50	N/A	N/A
9-10	75	1-40	41-65	66-75	N/A	N/A
11-12	85	1-40	41-65	66-75	75-85	N/A

Age	Daily Max (Pitches in Game)	0 Days Rest	1 Days Rest	2 Days Rest	3 Days Rest	4 Days Rest
13-15	95	1-45	46-65	66-75	75-85	86+
16-18	105	1-45	46-65	66-75	75-90	91+

20. Code of Conduct:

- Disrespecting of opposing teams' players, teammates, fans, umpires, volunteers, coaches, or board members will not be tolerated.
- Violating code of conduct or local rules can result in 6-month probation, 1 year suspension or lifetime ban from Flagler Babe Ruth Baseball and Softball.

All players/teams are responsible to keep the infield groomed and lined before a game and should warm up in the outfield only.

Dugouts and bleachers should be cleaned up after each game.

Make it nice for the next game! It is important to develop and nurture Flagler Baseball pride and everyone's help and cooperation is needed.

Flagler Babe Ruth Baseball is a non-bullying league. Any bullying activities should be reported immediately in an email with as much detail as possible to baberuthflaglerbaseball@gmail.com. All incidents will be investigated by the entire board and if findings should show bullying has taken place the aggressor will be disciplined which can result in 6-month probation, 1 year suspension or receiving a lifetime ban from all Flagler Babe Ruth Baseball activities.

HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES - OFFICIAL SCOREBOOK, & PITCH COUNT

An official scorebook is kept throughout the regular season. The home team is responsible for getting this book from the concession stand and keeping the book for their home games including each player's properly spelled first and last names, dates and teams playing. Coaches, please identify parents/guardians who are comfortable keeping the book or willing to learn.

The coaches are responsible for keeping track of pitches. Pitch counters are available in the concession stand for pickup and should be recorded in the scorebook.

VISITING TEAM RESPONSIBILITY – OPERATING THE SCOREBOARD

The away team is responsible for operating the electronic scoreboard which is available for pickup from the concession stand.

***(If a rule is not specifically addressed in these local rules. The Official Babe Ruth Baseball Rule book shall govern and be used to determine the official ruiling.)**