

# Simsbury Babe Ruth Rules and Regulations and Individual Conduct Policy

## General Statement (Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference)

### **The Rules Demand:**

- Rectifying mistakes in judgment without “evening up.”
- Adherence to right decisions despite disapproval of spectators.
- Control of temper at all times in warning crowds or inflicting penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Respect for judgment of companion officials in making decisions.
- That interpretations and announcements be made clear to both teams.
- That players or players of other teams not be discussed in the presence of prospective opponents.

### **The Contest Demands:**

- Fair play at all times.
- A “square deal” to opponents by players and spectators.
- Playing for the joy of playing and for the success of the team.
- Playing hard to the end.
- Keeping one’s head and PLAYING the game, not TALKING it.
- Respect for officials and expectation that they will enforce the rules.
- That an athlete should not quit, cheat, bet, or “grandstand.”

### **Sportsmanship Demands:**

- Treatment of visiting team and officials as guests and the extension of every courtesy to them.
- Giving opponent full credit when they win and learning to correct one’s own faults through failures.
- Modesty and consideration when one’s team wins.
- An athlete will not “crow” when the team wins or blame the officials when it loses.

The actions of players, managers, umpires and league officials must be above reproach. Educating our Babe Ruth players in the basics of teamwork, good sportsmanship and discipline are critical goals of our Simsbury Babe Ruth program.

### Managers

Simsbury Babe Ruth managers must be leaders who recognize that they hold a position of trust and responsibility. Managers must have understanding, patience and the capacity to work with young adults. They must inspire respect and realize that they are helping shape the physical, mental and emotional development of young adults. Managers and Coaches must act as

positive role models, understand and teach what it means to respect opponents and officials and encourage their players at every opportunity; refrain from negative coaching Techniques, encourage players to develop good sportsmanship, teamwork and self-discipline, whether their team wins or loses, provide an opportunity for each player to participate, and collaborate with parents to support the goals of Simsbury Babe Ruth.

## Players

Players will put forth their best effort and cooperate with their manager, coaches, teammates and umpires to learn teamwork, sportsmanship and self-discipline. Players will support their teammates and show respect to their manager and coaches, umpires and opponents. In doing so, players will not argue with umpires, teammates or opponents or use offensive language at any time in games or practices. Players will attend practices and games with few exceptions, which must be discussed with the manager in advance, except for illness or emergency. As per Babe Ruth policy, players will refrain from use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs.

## Parents

Parents support the efforts of managers, coaches, umpires and players to help achieve the goals listed in the general statement. Parents become involved in Babe Ruth by volunteering their time to make it a success.

### **Parents must:**

- Be aware of the Babe Ruth rules and regulations.
- Be positive in any criticism of the Simsbury Babe Ruth program and be willing to volunteer their service to improve it; present their opinions and criticisms to officers of the League in a constructive manner.
- Demonstrate that they recognize the effort expended by the volunteer personnel by refraining from unsportsmanlike conduct and "grandstand managing"
- Realize that the umpire is closest to the play and that each umpire "calls them" as he or she sees them; understand that the umpire has assumed a difficult but necessary role.
- Recognize that Babe Ruth Players are not professional players, who need encouragement, not criticism.
- Applaud good plays; ignore errors; encourage a greater effort, initiative and hustle; congratulate the winner and encourage the loser.

## Umpires

The umpire represents authority on the field and has the final decision on all plays. The wide power and responsibility given to umpires in CIAC Official Regulations and Playing Rules demands that they exercise maturity in dealing with managers, parents and players, and that they know the rules thoroughly and have the ability to apply them quickly. Umpires must show the same respect to managers and players that the rules demand is shown to them.

## Specific Sanctions - Managers, Coaches and Players

The umpire has the authority to disqualify any player, coach or manager for objecting to judgement decisions or for unsportsmanlike conduct, including use of foul or abusive language or attempting to incite spectators. The umpire should typically give one warning prior to making the decision to disqualify. **In especially blatant circumstances, this warning is not required.**

Any manager, coach or player who is disqualified by an umpire must immediately leave the area of the game, may not sit with spectators, and cannot return to the game. In addition, the disqualified manager, coach or player is automatically suspended from his or her team's next physically played game and may not attend that game. The umpire will report the incident to the Director of the League and the League President within 24 hours. Before the disqualified manager, coach or player can return to the playing field, that person may have to appear before a committee of at least three board members. This committee will normally consist of the League President, Vice President of League and the Division Director, but substitutions can be made if any of the above are not unavailable. The members of the board present at the hearing may impose additional penalties they feel are justified. Managers who violate the rules of conduct may also be asked to appear before the committee to explain their behavior. As above, the committee may impose penalties they feel are justified.

Managers encountering behavioral or attendance difficulties from a player in practice or games may also insist that the player appear before this board committee to explain his/her behavior or attendance difficulties. The committee will have similar powers as above. Prior to this step, however, the manager will have attempted to resolve the problems by dealing directly with the player, meeting with the Division Director, and including parents in the problem solving effort.

Any player using alcohol, tobacco or drugs will be suspended for the season. However, the player may appeal to the above committee. If the committee feels there is strong evidence that the player will receive immediate assistance with his/her problem, that parents are very supportive of the anti-alcohol, tobacco and drug stance of Simsbury Babe Ruth, and that there is a low likelihood that the behavior will be repeated, the appealing player will be suspended for four games and associated practices for the first offense. Any further use by the player of alcohol, tobacco or drugs in their remaining Babe Ruth career will necessitate automatic expulsion, with no appeal.

## Specific Sanctions - Parents and Spectators

Parents or spectators who violate good sportsmanship will be asked to refrain from such behavior. If the spectator can be identified as being associated with a particular team, the umpire will instruct the team's manager to speak with the spectator and issue a warning. If the behavior continues, the umpire will suspend the game until the spectator leaves the area of the field. If the spectator is unaffiliated with either team, the game will be suspended until the situation is resolved. In extreme or unresolvable situations, the Police should be called.

Simsbury Babe Ruth Board of Directors