

Munster Babe Ruth League

Local Rules

Revised June 14, 2024

The Sportsmanship Code of Babe Ruth Baseball

Develop a strong, clean, healthy body, mind and soul
Develop a strong urge for sportsman-like conduct
Develop understanding of and respect for the RULES
Develop courage in defeat, tolerance and modesty in victory
Develop control over emotions and speech
Develop spirit of cooperation and team play
Develop into real, true CITIZENS

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

I.	Managers and Coaches Responsibilities	PAGE 3
II.	Calendar Week	PAGE 3
III.	Pitching Rules	PAGE 4
IV.	Three Inning Rule	PAGE 4
V.	Substitute Players	PAGE 4
VI.	Batting	PAGE 5
VII.	Rescheduled Games	PAGE 5
VIII.	Tied Games:	PAGE 5
IX.	Determining Playable Field Conditions	PAGE 6
X.	Halting or Stopping a Game	PAGE 6
XI.	Rain Delays	PAGE 6
XII.	Protests:	PAGE 6
XIII.	Game/Player/Field Equipment	PAGE 7

XIV.	Game Scores and Records Requirements	PAGE 7
XV	Malicious Contact Rule	PAGE 7
XVI.	Player Disciplinary Action	PAGE 8
XVII	Adult Disciplinary Action	PAGE 8
XVIII.	Game Time	PAGE 9
XIX.	Time Limits	PAGE 9
XX.	Slaughter Rule	PAGE 9
XXI.	League Owned Playing equipment	PAGE 9
XXII.	Non-Babe Ruth Sanctioned Tournaments	PAGE 9
XXIII.	Babe Ruth End of Season Tournaments	PAGE 10
XXIV.	Rule Applicability	PAGE 10
XXV.	Player Draft – 13-15 League	PAGE 10
XXVI.	Slotting of Managers/Coaches Players	PAGE 10
XXVII.	Player Draft - 16-18 League	PAGE 11
XXVIII.	Field Usage Regulations and Pricing	PAGE 11

Munster Babe Ruth Local Rules

By requesting and receiving authority to manage a Babe Ruth team, managers and coaches must accept the responsibility to stay within the guidelines listed below.

I. Managers and Coaches Responsibilities:

Managers and Coaches should:

1. Protect and promote each player's health and self-respect.
2. Seek better performance with positive comments.
3. Encourage good sportsmanship by:
 - a. Teaching players to accept the results: develop courage in defeat, tolerance, and modesty in victory.
 - b. Requiring each player to shake hands with all members of the other team after the game.
4. Set goals for the team that are compatible with the goals of each athlete to play, to improve performance, and finally, to win. Team discussion of goals is encouraged.
5. Be a role model on and off the playing field.
6. Maintain control of players in the dugout.
7. Develop an understanding of the rules, and follow them.
8. Promote respect of equipment and facilities.
9. Remember that all teams, including travel and all star teams represent Munster and Munster Babe Ruth League.
10. Try to send the team home with a positive thought.
11. Schedule practice between games, when possible, to encourage continued skill development.

Managers and Coaches Must Not:

1. Use any profanity whatsoever and must not tolerate the use of such language by any players or coaches.
2. Engage in animated displays of temper and shall never throw anything in anger
3. Yell at any umpire. Call time-out and walk out to discuss the problem with them.
4. Yell negative comments out to the players on the field. Constructive criticism can be an important part of learning, but should be appropriately conveyed, usually, in private.
5. Place the goal of winning ahead of common sense.
6. Engage in activities or behaviors that will reflect poorly on themselves, their team, the Town of Munster or the Munster Babe Ruth League.

II. Calendar Week

Monday through, and including, Sunday.

III. Pitching Rules

Munster Babe Ruth follows Section 0.06 of the Official Babe Ruth Rule Book,

1. A Babe Ruth 13-15 and 16-18 pitcher, regardless of age, may pitch seven (7) innings per calendar week. One (1) pitch thrown in an inning constitutes an inning pitched.
 - a. Rule 0.06-1 applies to all regulation games regardless of when played.
2. Review your Babe Ruth handbook for all pitching guidelines for rest guidelines.
3. Games in which an ineligible pitcher has been used shall be declared forfeited.
4. Trips to the mound by a manager or coach may not exceed one (1) trip per pitcher per inning. Their second trip shall automatically result in the removal of that pitcher from the game as a pitcher.
5. There shall be a limit of 5 warm up pitches between innings if a suitable catcher (masked player or coach) is behind the plate. The umpire may limit the warm-up pitches if no suitable catcher is made immediately available.

IV. Three Inning Rule – Minimum Playing Requirement

In the 13-15s Division, each player on a team, present at a game, must play at least three (3) innings defensively. There shall be free substitution of all players in all divisions.

V. Substitute Players

- A. In the 13-15s Division, all players are eligible to be used as substitutes for other teams.
- B. Substitute players **MUST** play only outfield positions defensively and must be placed in the last positions in the batting order.
- C. Substitutes may only be used when a team has nine (9) or less of its own players at the start of a game. In the event that a regular member of the team arrives after the start of the game, all substitutes who started the game must continue to play in and complete the game and the later arriving player shall be inserted at the bottom of the order, behind the substitute player(s).
- D. Substitute players may not play more innings defensively than a regular player on the team.
- E. A team may not borrow a player from the opposing team for offensive purposes. Managers are encouraged to be sure they will have sufficient players for each game.

NOTE: In the event that a team is unable to field a team, every effort should be made to play an exhibition game with the players available from both teams. The team that has less than nine (9) players shall forfeit the game unless agreed by both teams. If both managers agree to play the game as is, game shall not be forfeited.

F. A team may continue to play a game if, due to injury, illness, or ejection of a player, a team falls to less than nine (9) players and an Automatic Out will be assessed to that team at the vacated position in the batting order. Both teams may agree that automatic out is not recorded.

VI. Batting

A. Continuous Batting Order shall be used, even if the opposing team has less players in attendance. Each player available will be listed in the starting line-up and is assigned that position in the batting order for the entire game.

B. For safety purposes, On Deck batters must occupy the appropriate on deck circle, regardless of home or away status.

VII. Rescheduled Games

A. Canceled Games: In the 13–15-year-old Division, games which are cancelled for any reason, an attempt will be made to reschedule, especially in cases where teams have had 4 or more cancellations to ensure that each team plays a regular season up to 20 games.

B. Suspended Games: Games that are suspended for any reason prior to the game reaching the regulation limit for an official game will be declared “No Game” and will be considered a canceled game, governed by paragraph A, above. No records will be kept for such games, except pitching records which count as number of pitches for that week. NOTE: If a game is stopped in the middle of an inning, all runs scored in that innings by the visiting team shall not count in calculating the score unless the home team has batted in the bottom half of that inning and has either tied the game or taken the lead.

VIII. Tied Games

A. Games that reach regulation limit for an official game which are stopped or suspended for any reason, including weather, darkness or time limit, will not be continued.

B. If an official game ends or is stopped with a tied score, one (1) additional inning will be played beginning with the last out of the previous inning on second base. The

game will be recorded as a tie in the standings and shall not be resumed or rescheduled if the game remains tied after that one (1) inning.

IX: Determining Playable Field Conditions

If present, the President, Vice President or the Field Maintenance Director shall determine if the baseball field is playable. If the President, Vice President are not available, the Maintenance Director and/or any members of the Board of Munster Babe Ruth present, other than the managers or coaches involved in the game, will make the determination. If neither the President nor another Board Member is present, then every effort must be made to contact the President, or a Board member for a decision before beginning play.

X. Halting or Stopping a Game:

Once a game is started, only the umpire, league President or league Commissioner may halt a game.

XI. Rain Delays

If a game which has started is halted or delayed by rain, the umpire must wait 30 minutes before calling a game. The time of any rain delay shall not be included in calculating the time limit for the game. If the start of a game is delayed by rain and is not started within 30 minutes of the scheduled start time, the game shall be canceled and governed by paragraph A, above.

XII Protests

A. All protests must be submitted, in writing, to the President, or a member of the Protest Committee (Vice President and Executive Board) within twenty-four (24) hours, except that a violation of the pitching rules may be raised at any time.

B. The Protest Committee will be comprised of the League President, Executive Board and the Commissioner of the league, unless either official has a family member playing on one of the teams involved in the protest, in which case the President shall appoint an alternate member of the committee. Alternates to the Protest Committee also will be appointed by the League President if a member of the committee is not available.

C. Judgment calls by the umpires are not a basis for protest. Only rule Interpretations will be considered.

D. The chief or home plate umpire must be notified of a protest prior to the next pitch and each team's score book must be signed by both managers and the home

plate umpire at that time. The specific rule in question must be stipulated at that time. Umpires must report any protest to Chief Umpire immediately after game.

XIII. Game/Field/Player Equipment

- A. All teams, upon completion of each game, will be required to clean the dugouts, the bleachers and the surrounding areas. Failure to clean the dugout after games can result in a forfeit at the discretion of the League President.
- B. Field Maintenance will also be available to close the field and will be sanitizing dugouts, catchers' equipment, batting helmets before and after each game.
- C. All Munster Babe Ruth League players may wear metal or soft cleats.
- D. Jewelry: Jewelry may not be worn during league play
- E. All Munster Babe Ruth League players must wear an athletic protector in order to play in any game.
- F. Clothing: The pitcher may not wear a white undershirt or a batter's glove (while pitching)
- G. League will provide (2) new baseballs to the umpire for each game.
- H. Please refer to 2021 COVID Operations plan for additional usage of equipment, mask, and other safety precautions.

XIV. Game Scores and Records Requirements

After each game, and using the format provided by the league, both managers must record prior to their next game (unless the next game is the second game of a doubleheader):

- 1) the score of the game;
- 2) the number of innings pitched by each pitcher for the manager's team; and
- 3) the identity of all substitutes used by the manager in the game to be recorded in the scorebook.

XV. Malicious Contact Rule

If, in the Umpire's judgment, a base runner intentionally initiates malicious contact to dislodge the ball from the fielder who already has possession of the ball, the runner is called out and is ejected from the game, and the ball is called "dead" as of the time of the infraction.

XVI. Player Disciplinary Action

- A.. Any player intentionally trying to harm another player either as a batter, pitcher, fielder, or runner shall be ejected from the game and the situation brought before the Board for review and possible further disciplinary action.
- B. Swearing: Swearing, obscene gestures, and undesirable conduct or disrespectful actions may be grounds for expulsion from the game. Under no circumstances will a second incident of swearing be tolerated.
- C. 24 Hour Notice: Notification of disciplinary action because of missed practices, insubordination, etc. must be given to the Commissioner, to the player, and to the player's parents twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the game, unless such action is required to be taken on the day of the game.

XVII. Adult Disciplinary Action:

- A. Defined as Managers, Coaches, or any adult or teenager assisting team in the field or in the dugout.
- B. Swearing: Swearing may be grounds for expulsion from the game. Under no circumstances will a second incident of swearing be tolerated.
- C. Managers are required to always have a copy of the National and Local Babe Ruth rules. Both managers and coaches must be familiar with and follow all local and national Babe Ruth rules. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action (including possible suspension) by the Board of Directors. Special attention must be given to local Rule III (Pitching) and Rule IV (Three Inning Rule). Managers are responsible for maintaining accurate records in their scorebook and for completing the League Pitching Log as required in these rules. Failure to follow these rules will result in an automatic one game suspension. During a Suspension, the manager may not be in the dugout, but may be in the bleachers as a fan.
- D. Managers, coaches and helpers will conduct themselves at all times in a manner, which does not interfere with the game. Any undesirable behavior by managers, coaches or helpers will be brought to the Board of Directors for review and possible disciplinary action (See Article IX of the Munster Babe Ruth Bylaws).
- E. There will be no smoking or use of smokeless tobacco products on Munster Babe Ruth property, this includes the stands, press box, concessions, batting cages, dugouts or playing field.

XVIII. Game Time

- A. A team will forfeit the game if, after fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled starting time, or upon availability of an umpire, whichever occurs last, a team does not have at least nine (9) players, including substitutes, present to start the game.
- B. An Official 13-15 Division game shall consist of 4.5 or 5 innings, meaning the losing team must have batted at least 5 times.

XIX. Time Limits

- A. There is a One Hour and 45 Minute (1:45) time limit on all games in the 13-15 Divisions. No inning shall start after one hour and forty-five minutes after the actual start of the game. The umpire shall announce the official start time of the game prior to the first pitch. There is a two-hour (2:00) time limit on all games in the 16-18 Division. No inning shall start after two hours after the actual start of the game. The umpire shall announce the official start time of the game prior to the first pitch.
- B. The home plate umpire shall keep the official time.
- C. No inning shall begin after 11:00 PM.
- D. If it is not possible to start a scheduled game within ten minutes of its published time, no in-field practice will be allowed.

XX. Slaughter Rule

- A. A 10-run slaughter rule applies to all games as follows: a game is over if a team is ahead by more than 10 runs after 4.5 or 5 innings and have had equal times at bat or the home team is leading.
- B. A 15-run slaughter rule applies to all games if a team is ahead by more than 15 runs after 3.5 or 4 innings and have had equal times at bat or the home team is leading.

XXI. Return of League Owned Playing equipment

Upon completion of the last game of the season, it is the responsibility of each manager to collect all League owned equipment and turn in to the Field Equipment team.

XXII. Non-Babe Ruth Sanctioned Tournaments

- A. A player participating in a tournament not sanctioned by the national or local Babe Ruth will not be covered by local Babe Ruth insurance.

B. Any player not participating in the local tournament due to playing in a non-sanctioned tournament shall not be eligible to play in the local tournament or receive an award for tournament play.

XXIII. Babe Ruth End of Season Tournaments

Unless specified, rules for end of season tournament play will be the same as those for regular season play.

XIV. Rule Applicability

Unless specifically stated, the above rules (1 through XVIII) shall not be applicable to the 16–18-year-old league.

XV. Player Draft - 13-15 League

A. If deemed necessary by the League President and Player Agent, the league will conduct a draft of all travel ball players prior to the regular 13-15 draft, to lessen the burden of fielding a team on Saturdays, when most travel ball players are unavailable.

B. The only pre-assigned players in the 13-15 league will be managers' family member(s), plus one (1) pre-assigned coach and their family member.

C. Team composition of all other players and coaches will be determined at the player draft.

D. A player evaluation will occur prior to the draft which all registered players must attend. Players failing to attend the pre-draft evaluation shall be placed in a blind draw from which no team may select a second player from until all teams have drawn from the pool.

XXVI. Slotting of Manager/Coaches Players

A. Managers and Coaches (1) will have their children slotted as follows:

13-year-old players = automatic 5th and 6th Round Selection (if both children are same age)

14-year-old players = automatic 3rd Round and 4th Round Selection (if both children are same age)

15-year-old players = automatic 1st and 2nd round Selection (if both children are same age)

C. Coaches must be registered as a coach prior to the draft

XXVII. Player Draft - 16-18 League

- A. The 16-18 league will consist of In-house teams.
- B. Managers in the 16-18 In-house league may name one (1) coach prior to the draft. This coach must be registered as a coach in the registration system.
- C. Managers in the 16-18 In-house league may pre-assign up to a maximum of four (4) registered players. The 4 pre-assigned players will include any manager and coach family members. (Example: Both the manager and coach have a family member pre-assigned, leaving up to 2 additional registered players who can be pre-assigned to their team prior to the draft for a total of 4 pre-assigned registered players.)
- D. Once the pre-assigned players are determined, all remaining registered players in the 16-18 league will be entered into the player draft.
- E. High School varsity and junior varsity players who enter the player draft will be evenly placed among each 16-18 league team, with the intent to ensure each team has the same number of high school players (or as even as possible).

XXVIII. Field Usage Regulations and Pricing

- A. To comply with Munster Parks and Recreation requirements, all players who use Munster Babe Ruth fields must register under the Munster Babe Ruth Charter. This is a mandatory requirement to meet Munster Parks & Registration insurance requirements.
- B. Any travel team requesting use of MBR fields must have a minimum of seven (7) players registered to play and rostered on a MBR in-house team. These players must enter the pre-season draft; i.e. travel teams will not be allowed to remain in-tact to play in the Munster Babe Ruth in-house league.
- C. Players not registered to play on an in-house team, must register as a “non-rostered” player.
- D. The standard registration fee to play on rostered in-house team is \$250; the non-rostered player registration fee is \$160.

Costs and field use policies for the 2024 Spring/Summer season are as follows:

- E. It will cost \$50 per game for field maintenance, paid directly to the field maintenance crew member on game day. MBR field maintenance will be responsible for ensuring infield playability, chalk (batter boxes & infield foul line), lights and field lock-up.

F. Umpires and baseballs are the responsibility of each travel team; MBR will not provide either.

G. MBR or the field maintenance crew member on duty will not maintain the scoreboard during games.

H. Travel team games can generally be scheduled for play anytime MBR in-house games are not scheduled. Travel team game schedules should be submitted to the MBR board prior to the start of the MBR in-house leagues to ensure field and field maintenance crew availability.