



Meridian Babe Ruth Softball Rules

Other than the exceptions noted, the 2026 Babe Ruth Softball Rules and Regulations will be followed.

- **Field:** Home team shall occupy the third base side of the field and the visiting team shall occupy the first base side.
- **Game Balls:** Each team will furnish one new game ball to the umpire during the pre-game warmup. Game balls will be returned to the coaches at the end of the game.
- **Bench:** Players shall confine themselves to their team's dugout unless actively participating in the play or preparing to enter the game. No one except players, coaches, trainers, or bat girls shall occupy a bench during a game. (See Rule 3.16).
- **Dugout:** Both teams are responsible for cleaning out their dugout, outside the field, and under the bleachers after their game. Brooms to sweep out sunflower seed shells are in each field locker. NO GUM allowed in dugouts at any time.
- **Equipment:** All players shall use a protective helmet with a mask or shield on deck, at bat, and while on the bases and by players in the coaches' box. This includes any player retrieving bats. The pitcher (P) and corner infielders (1B/3B) are required to wear an approved fielder facemask on defense (See Rule 1.16c). Facemasks are strongly recommended for all players. The catcher or anyone acting as the catcher shall wear a catcher's mask while warming up the pitcher at home plate or any other location (See Rule 1.18).
- **On Deck Circles:** The on-deck batter may only occupy the on-deck circle to the rear of the current batter, regardless of which bench/dugout her team occupies.
- **Umpires:** MYBS Babe Ruth League will make its best effort to provide one umpire to call the plate for all 10/12/14/16U league games. If an umpire is not available, the manager, volunteer, or a coach may umpire. Field umpires, if available, will be provided for 10U, 12U, 14/16U games.
- **Warm-up Time:** Pitchers have 90 seconds to warm up between innings.
- **Sportsmanship Rules:**
 - Coaches and players shall NOT yell at umpires across the field or from the dugout. Doing so may result in removal from the game and/or future games. Even if a player or coach is not removed from the game, but a report or complaint is filed with the MYBS Board, that player or coach may be suspended from future games by the Board if the behavior is deemed inappropriate for unsportsmanlike.
 - Umpires will make mistakes, just as players and coaches will. Many are young and/or new to umpiring and this is where they get their start. If you have a question, approach the umpire in a respectful manner.
 - If there is an issue a team needs addressed, the COACH should contact the League Director and/or the MYBS Board.
 - Encourage parents to support their team. Discourage them from yelling at or demeaning the umpires.





TBall Rules

Other than the exceptions noted, the 2025 Babe Ruth Softball Rules and Regulations will be followed.

TBall Rule Exceptions:

- The batting tee shall be placed in front of home plate, close enough to home plate as to not hinder runners coming in to score.
- Games will run one (1) hour or three (3) innings in length, whichever comes first.
- Teams will bat through their entire line up each inning. Outs will be enforced; however, the team will still bat the entire line-up regardless if three (3) outs are made.
- The coaches will act as the umpires.
- Teams will play all players on defense. All extra defenders, above nine (9) must play in the outfield.
- No infielder can play closer to the batter than two (2) steps in front of the base path.
- Outfielders must play at least twelve (12) feet behind the base path.
- Each player will play defense at least three (3) innings and must play an infield position other than catcher and an outfield position.
- A player must rotate positions, never to play the same position more than once per game.
- All team members will bat in rotation.
- The infield fly rule will not be enforced.
- A batter is considered out if the catcher catches a foul ball that has been hit at least the height of the batter.
- No intentional bunting will be allowed. An intentional bunt will be called a “dead ball” and player will be instructed to swing again. A player must take a natural swing.
- A base runner may not lead off and may not leave the base until the ball is hit. If a base runner leaves early, he must tag up before he can advance, even if the ball is hit on the ground.
- A base runner may advance only one base. Runners may not advance to home unless they are forced by a hit ball.
- Time will be called when the ball has been fielded and thrown inside the confines of the infield.
- The pitcher shall be confined (both feet) within the six (6) foot radius around the pitching rubber until the ball is hit.
- Coaches for the defensive team are allowed on the field during defensive innings for their team.
- Offensive coaches will load ball on tee. There will also be a base coach at first base and third base.
- No Score will be kept in this division

