



## **Danbury Youth Baseball In-House Rules and Regulations**

### **In-House Mission:**

Danbury Youth Baseball (DYB) provides a fun, inclusive, and development-focused baseball experience for players of all skill levels. Our mission is to foster a love for the game by creating a positive environment where young athletes can grow their skills, build friendships, and develop confidence both on and off the field.

### **In-House Objectives:**

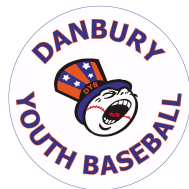
- To create a welcoming and supportive atmosphere where players of all abilities can enjoy the game of baseball.
- To emphasize skill development, teamwork, and sportsmanship in a fun and structured setting.
- To provide quality coaching and mentorship that focuses on player growth and confidence.
- To ensure every child has a positive experience through equal playing opportunities and encouragement.
- To promote respect, integrity, and a strong sense of community within our league.

DYB is governed by a Board of Directors (“the Board”). The all-volunteer board is nominated at the October meeting, elected in November and takes office in December. A full list of current board members is available on our website: <https://www.danburyyouthbaseball.com/board>

The rules contained herein are modifications, additions, or addendums to the official Babe Ruth League rules. Any discrepancies between the DYB rules, and the official Babe Ruth League rules are intentional and in the event of any such discrepancies, the DYB rules herein shall apply. An official Babe Ruth League rule book is made available to all coaches across all divisions at the start of every in-house season.

These rules and regulations may be added to, amended or rescinded by a 2/3 majority vote of board members present at any board meeting during the OFF SEASON ONLY, except in extenuating and unique circumstances. The off season is defined as the period from November 1st through March 31st. Safety issues (either with regards to the fields and/or facilities, or with regards to the rules and regulations) may be addressed at any time during the year.

In-house managers are appointed by the league commissioner. Managers and coaches are required by DYB to be certified through Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth. To become certified, please visit <http://www.baberuthcoaching.org> or [danburyyouthbaseball.com](http://danburyyouthbaseball.com). Once you pass the test you will need to fill out an application to be considered for a DYB coaching position. DYB coaching



registration and applications are on our website. Managers and assistant coaches are also required by federal law to pass a background check and complete the Abuse Awareness and Prevention training provided by Abuse Prevention Systems (APS). The background check and APS training requirements need to be fulfilled every two years. Failure to complete the background check or the APS training will result in not being allowed to coach a team (as Manager or as assistant coach).

**No one over the age of 18 can be on the field, in the dugout or in any other way assist the team, until they have passed the national background check and completed and passed the APS training.**

Players, managers, coaches, officials and spectators are prohibited from inappropriate language, sign language, or gestures. Throwing of baseball equipment during practices or games is also prohibited. **There is a zero-tolerance policy in place for these actions.** The above-mentioned actions during a game may result in ejection from the game. If a player is ejected during a game because of any of the actions above, the result will be an automatic one game suspension, enforced the following scheduled game. This suspension is in addition to the remainder of the game the player was ejected from, regardless of when the ejection occurred. Managers or coaches who are ejected from a game for any reason will be subject to a Disciplinary Review Board (see below) hearing. If spectators become unruly or out of control, they will be asked to leave the facility by the umpire, Manager(s) or league official(s). If they refuse to leave, the police will be called. If any of the above occurs, an incident report must be submitted by the appropriate league commissioner to the President of the Board.

**The Disciplinary Review Board (“DRB”)** consists of four board members and is designed to review all complaints and issues. Upon receiving a complaint, the DRB will vote to either reject the claim or to interview all parties involved. All decisions reached by the DRB are recommended to the league President who has final approval on disciplinary action. Decisions are final and are not subject to appeal.

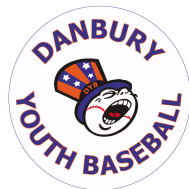
A separate document, **DYB Field Maintenance Procedures**, is provided to all coaches and is posted to the DYB website. These procedures must be adhered to by all coaches and volunteers.

### **Divisions**

Our Cal Ripken divisions are comprised of the following age groups:

- T-Ball (“Single A”) - Ages 5-6
- Rookie (“Double A”) - Ages 7-8
- Minors (“Triple A”) - Ages 9-10
- Majors - Ages 11-12

**A players’ age is determined as of May 1 per the official Babe Ruth age chart, which can be found on our website, or by visiting**



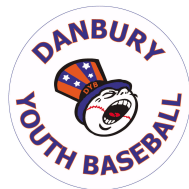
**<https://www.baberuthleague.org/leagueresources/baseball-age-chart.aspx>**. During our fall season, if a player(s) will meet the age requirements before May 1 of the next year, that player(s) will be moved up to the next higher division. For example, if a child is 10 years old in September 2022, but will reach his/her 11<sup>th</sup> birthday before May 1, 2023, that child will play in the Majors division during the Fall 2023 season. At the league's discretion a player may be assigned to a division above or below their age, depending upon certain extenuating circumstances.

## Rules by Division

### T-Ball Division (ages 5-6) Tee/Coach Pitch

The T-Ball division is an introduction to youth baseball. Players at this level will learn the basics and fundamentals of youth baseball and develop skills for future years. Players are given the option of swinging the bat at the tee OR three swinging strikes. In the spring, midway through the season, we will transition to coach pitch. Coaches at this level are strongly encouraged to move players into as many different positions as possible throughout the season. No player should play the same position more than 2 innings each game. The bases are 60 feet apart. There are no scores or standings throughout the season - and each season ends with a final T-Ball ceremony with medals awarded to all players.

- Games will be 6 innings or 90 minutes, whichever comes first.
- Players will have the option to hit off the batting tee or three (3) swinging strikes.
- Batting Helmets must be worn while hitting and running the bases.
- A half inning is three outs or batting through the whole order. Teams will switch when the team in the field records three outs OR the batting team bats through their entire lineup.
- The ball must travel at least ten (10) feet to be considered in play, there is no bunting allowed.
- No stealing or leading off.
- Runners can advance one base with an infield hit, and multiple bases if the ball goes into the outfield AT THEIR OWN RISK!
- The play ends when the ball is returned to the infield or an out(s) is recorded.
- All players are on the field for defense.
  - Traditional infield positions will be filled (with two pitchers standing to left and the right of the coach pitcher, no catcher), everyone else will play in the outfield.
  - Coaches are allowed on the field to help guide players.
- No player should sit more than two innings.
- No player should play the same position twice in a game.
- Headfirst sliding into any base is illegal.



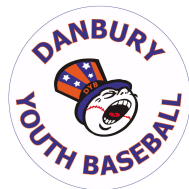
- Focus is on teaching fundamentals and sportsmanship.

### **Rookie Division (ages 7-8) – Youth/Coach Umpires**

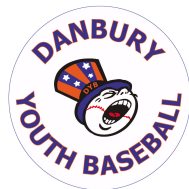
The Rookie division is designed to introduce players to live pitching. Coaches at this level are strongly encouraged to move players into as many different positions as possible throughout the season. No player should play the same position more than 2 innings each game. At the beginning of each season for a coach of the batting team will deliver pitches to the batters. After the first few games, we will move to a modified player pitch format (described in the bullet points below). The pitcher's mound will be adjustable between 46 feet and 40 feet from home plate depending on each youth pitcher's ability. The bases are 60 feet apart. The season will conclude with single-elimination playoffs. There will be standings kept during the season that will determine playoff seeding.

Additionally, teams are determined by a player draft and/or the league.

- A complete game in this division will be 6 innings or 2 hours from the actual (not scheduled) start of the game, whichever comes first.
- If 2 hours have passed and the home team is losing, they will be allowed to bat in the bottom of the inning.
  - For the playoffs there is no time limit. If the game is still tied after one extra inning, any subsequent innings will begin with a runner on second base until a winner is determined.
- The defense will have 4 outfielders who must start each play on the outfield grass (or at least 10 feet behind the baseline on Field 1), for a maximum of 10 players on the field each inning.
- No player shall play the same position more than 2 total innings per game.
  - “Minimum position” rule does not apply during the playoffs.
- When a coach is pitching a player from the defensive team will stand near the coach and play the position of pitcher on balls put in play.
- Teams will be allowed to start the game with 8 players and to play and finish with 8 players.
- Any team that is unable to field 8 players, 10 minutes after the scheduled start time of a game will forfeit the game.
  - This rule shall be subject to agreement between the head coaches of each team for each game. The goal is to play the game.
- A player may remain a pitcher until either of the following occurs, at which time the coach must be brought into pitch.



- 3 walks in a row
- 2 batters get hit by a pitch in a single inning
- Once a pitcher is removed due to the above in a single inning, a coach from the batting team will come in to finish the inning.
- Pitchers may not pitch more than 50 pitches in a game.
- If a pitcher is removed during his/her first inning of pitching due to the 3 walks or 2 hit by pitch rule above, that player may be brought back in as pitcher in the next CONSECUTIVE inning, at the coaches' discretion.
- Balks are not called.
- Except for the above exception, a player removed from the position of pitcher may not be brought back as a pitcher, regardless of how many innings that player had already pitched.
- One pitch delivered in an inning shall count as a full inning for the purpose of inning limitations described above.
- Pitchers will adhere to the official Babe Ruth Tournament pitch count rules (see chart below).
- The Manager of each team must email the pitcher inning count to the division commissioner within 24 hours of the completion of each game. Failure to do so may result in the game being entered as a forfeit.
- Any coach found to be violating the rules for the maximum number of innings pitched per game or per week shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Disciplinary Review Board and the games in which an ineligible pitcher pitched shall be declared a forfeit.
- When a ball is hit to the outfield, the batter and any runners may advance as many bases as they can **until the ball is in the possession of the pitcher**. If a play is made and the runner or runners are put out, the out or outs will stand. If the runner or runners reach safely the base or bases to which they are advancing, and in the umpire's judgment, the runner or runners were less than halfway to the base at the time the ball crossed into the infield dirt, the runner or runners must return to the previous base.
  - **When a coach is pitching, the ball must be in the possession of the player in the pitcher's position, not the coach.**
- There is no infield fly rule.
- There will be a 5 run limit per inning, except for the last inning where there will be no limit on the number of runs scored.



- Last inning includes any instances where the umpire and coaches agree to shorten the game due to time constraints. For example, if the last inning is the 5th inning, the 5th inning will be unlimited runs for both teams (if the home team needs to bat).
- There is a 10-run mercy rule. If a team is winning by 10 or more runs at the end of 4 complete innings (or 3½ innings in the home team is ahead), the game is over. Game can be continued to be played if agreed to by coaches, but score will be locked.
- Head-first sliding going into or heading back to any base is illegal. The runner will be called out.
- No coaches are allowed outside the dugout while their team is on the field.
- 2 base coaches are allowed outside the dugout door while their team is batting.

### **TOURNAMENT PITCHING REST REQUIREMENTS: Ages 7-8**

**AGE: 7-8**

**PITCHES IN A DAY: DAILY MAX 50**

**REST PERIOD:**

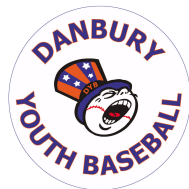
- **1-20, 0 Days**
- **21-35, 1 Days Rest**
- **36+, 2 Days Rest**

### **Minors Division (ages 9-10) – Patched Umpires**

In the Minors division, we will continue to build upon a foundation of fundamental baseball and general athletic skills. Coaches at this level are encouraged to continue moving players into as many different positions as possible throughout the season. The pitcher's mound will be 46 feet from home plate and the bases will be 60 feet apart.

Pitchers are limited by a pitch count. The league will attempt to coordinate specialty clinics throughout the season for pitching, catching, position play, hitting, etc. The season will conclude with single elimination playoffs. Teams are determined by a player draft composed of all registered players for the Minors division.

- A complete game in this division will be 6 innings or 2 hours from the actual (not scheduled) start of the game, whichever comes first.
  - If 2 hours have passed and the home team is losing, they will be allowed to bat in the bottom of the inning.
  - In the event of a tie at the end of 6 complete innings, one extra inning may be played, however the extra inning may not begin after 2 hours from the actual (not scheduled) start time of the game and the game will end in a tie.



- For the playoffs there is no time limit. If the game is still tied after one extra inning, any subsequent innings will begin with a runner on second base until a winner is determined.
- Teams will be allowed to start the game with 8 players and to play and finish with 8 players.
  - Any team that is unable to field 8 players, 10 minutes after the scheduled start time of a game will forfeit the game.
  - This rule shall be subject to agreement between the head coaches of each team for each game. The goal is to play the game.
- No player shall play the same position more than 2 total innings per game, EXCEPT for Pitcher and Catcher positions.
  - This rule does not apply in the playoffs.
- Pitchers will adhere to the official Babe Ruth Tournament pitch count rules (see chart below).

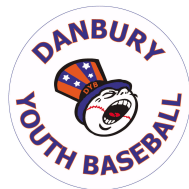
### **TOURNAMENT PITCHING REST REQUIREMENTS: Ages 9-10**

#### **AGE: 9-10**

#### **PITCHES IN A DAY: DAILY MAX 75**

#### **REST PERIOD:**

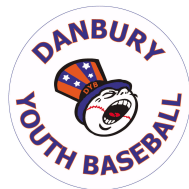
- **1-40, 0 Days**
  - **41-65, 1 Days Rest**
  - **66+, 2 Days Rest**
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- A pitcher hitting 3 batters in a single game must be removed from the position of Pitcher, regardless of the number of pitches thrown.
  - Once a player is removed from the position of Pitcher, he or she may not return to the position of Pitcher.
  - Balks will not be called.
  - The Manager of each team must email the pitch counts for any/all pitchers used to the division commissioner within 24 hours of the completion of each game. Failure to do so may result in the game being entered as a forfeit.
  - Any coach found to be violating the rules for the maximum number of pitches thrown in a day, or the minimum number of calendar days rest between pitching assignments, shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Disciplinary Review Board and the games in which an ineligible pitcher pitched shall be declared a forfeit.
  - There is no leading but stealing after the ball crosses home plate is permitted, including stealing home.



- When a batter is walked, the stealing of second base immediately by the batter is not permitted. The batter, now base runner on first base, shall not be allowed to steal second base until after the next pitch is delivered to the following batter.
  - If the catcher attempts to throw out another base runner stealing a base and the ball is overthrown, all runners may advance at their own risk, including the batter/runner who just walked.
- The defense will have 4 outfielders who must start each play on the outfield grass (or at least 10 feet behind the baseline on Field 1), for a maximum of 10 players on the field each inning.
- Infield fly rule shall be discussed between the two managers and the umpire before the start of each game.
- There will be a 5 run limit per inning, except for the last inning where there will be no limit on the number of runs scored.
  - Last inning includes any instances where the umpire and coaches agree to shorten the game due to time constraints. For example, if the last inning is the 5th inning, the 5th inning will be unlimited runs for both teams (if the home team needs to bat).
- There is a 10-run mercy rule. If a team is winning by 10 or more runs after 4 complete innings (or 3½ innings if the home team is ahead) the game is over. Game may be continued to be played but the score is locked.
- Head-first sliding into a base is illegal.
- Head-first sliding going back to a base is permitted.
- If the runner misses home plate, he/she may dive head-first back into Home to touch home plate before being tagged out.
- A maximum of 4 coaches are allowed in the dugout and on the field at any time.
- No coaches are allowed outside the dugout while their team is on the field.
- 2 base coaches are allowed outside the dugout while their team is batting.

### **Majors Division (ages 11-12) – Patched Umpires**

The Majors division is where players begin to make the adjustment to a more advanced game. Leading, pick off moves, balks, the infield fly rule, and the dropped 3rd strike rule are all introduced at this age. This is also when players begin their transition to a larger field. The pitcher's mound is 50 feet from home plate, and the bases are 70 feet apart. We will continue to build upon a foundation of fundamental baseball and general athletic skills and may also begin to find specific positions where players can succeed, although coaches are still encouraged to move players around as much as possible. The season schedule will consist of 1 mandatory team practice, and at least 1 game every weekend. Depending on the number of teams that make up the division in each season, there may be 2 games on the weekends. The league will



attempt to coordinate specialty clinics throughout the season for pitching, catching, position play, hitting, etc. The season will conclude with single-elimination playoffs. Teams are determined by a player draft composed of all registered players for Majors division.

- A complete game in this division will be 6 innings or 2 hours from the actual (not scheduled) start of the game, whichever comes first.
  - If 2 hours have passed and the home team is losing, they will be allowed to bat in the bottom of the inning.
- In the event of a tie at the end of 6 complete innings, one extra inning may be played, however the extra inning may not begin after 2 hours from the actual (not scheduled) start time of the game and the game will end in a tie.
  - For the playoffs there is no time limit. If the game is still tied after one extra inning, any subsequent innings will begin with a runner on second base until a winner is determined.
- Teams **must** start the game with 8 players but will be allowed to play and finish with 8 players.
  - Any team that is unable to field 8 players, 10 minutes after the scheduled start time of a game will forfeit the game.
  - This rule shall be subject to agreement between the head coaches of each team for each game. The goal is to play the game.
- There will be a 5 run limit per inning, except for the last inning where there will be no limit on the number of runs scored.
- No player shall play the same position more than 2 total innings per game, EXCEPT for Pitcher and Catcher positions.
- This rule does not apply in the playoffs.
- Pitchers will adhere to the official Babe Ruth Tournament pitch count rules (see chart below)

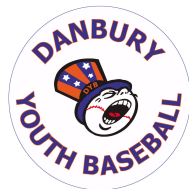
### **TOURNAMENT PITCHING REST REQUIREMENTS: Ages 11-12**

**AGE: 11-12**

**PITCHES IN A DAY: DAILY MAX 85**

**REST PERIOD:**

- **1-40, 0 Days**
  - **41-65, 1 Days Rest**
  - **66+, 2 Days Rest**
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- A pitcher hitting 3 batters in a game must be removed from the position of Pitcher, regardless of the number of pitches thrown.
  - Once a player is removed from the position of Pitcher, he or she may not return to the position of Pitcher.

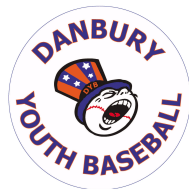


- The first balk by a pitcher will not be enforced by the umpire. The umpire or manager shall instruct the pitcher on why a balk was called. Any additional balks for the same pitcher shall be enforced at the umpire's discretion.
  - This rule will be discussed by both Managers and the Umpire prior to the start of each game.
- The Manager of each team must email the pitch counts for any/all pitchers used to the division commissioner within 24 hours of the completion of each game. Failure to do so may result in the game being entered as a forfeit.
- Any coach found to be violating the rules for the maximum number of pitches thrown in a day, or the minimum number of calendar days rest between pitching assignments, shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Disciplinary Review Board and the games in which an ineligible pitcher pitched shall be declared a forfeit.
- The defense will have 3 outfielders, for a maximum of 9 players on the field each inning.
- There is a 10-run mercy rule. If a team is winning by 10 or more runs after 4 complete innings (or 3½ innings if the home team is ahead) the game is over.
- Head-first sliding going into a base is permitted but should be discouraged.
- A maximum of 4 coaches are allowed in the dugout and on the field at any time.
- No coaches are allowed outside the dugout while their team is on the field.
- 2 base coaches are allowed outside the dugout door while their team is batting.

### **General Rules (applicable to all Cal Ripken Divisions)**

#### **Slash Bunting**

- Slash Bunting is not permitted whatsoever in any division. Slash bunting is when a batter shows intent to bunt, drawing the infielders in towards the plate then draws his bat back and takes a full swing at the pitch. If the batter should hit the ball while the infielders are looking for a bunt, one of the infielders could get hurt. This has the potential to be a very dangerous play. A batter who shows the intent to bunt must either bunt the ball or take the pitch. If in the umpire's judgment, a batter attempts to slash bunt, the ball will be declared dead, and the batter will be called out with a warning issued to the head coach of that team by the umpire. If a second batter on the same team attempts the slash bunt, the ball will be declared dead, the batter will be called out and the Manager will be ejected



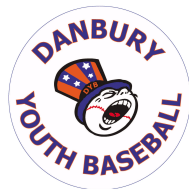
from the game by the umpire. If the same player attempts to slash bunt a second time, that player shall be ejected from the game as well by the umpire.

### **Replacement Player Participation**

- Replacement players may only be used to supplement missing rostered team players to increase the number of players at the start of a game to a maximum of 11 in Rookie and Minors divisions, and to a maximum of 10 in Majors division. If missing rostered team player(s) show up late for a game, the replacement player(s) shall remain in the game and the rostered players are inserted at the bottom of the batting order behind the replacement player(s).
- Replacement players are called up from the next division below (replacement players for Majors are pulled from Minors division, etc.) except for the Rookie division who are pulled from other Rookie division teams.
- **In Majors and Minors divisions, under no circumstances shall a replacement player be pulled from the same division.**
- Any player selected to play up a level as a replacement player **must** play the whole game.
- Replacement players may **only** play the position of Outfield and **must** be placed at the bottom of the batting order. Replacement players **cannot** play any infield position including Catcher or Pitcher.
- No replacement players shall be inserted into a game after the start of a game.
- The coach of any team requiring the need of a replacement player shall make such a request to the Division Coordinator or Commissioner with a minimum of 24 hours' notice of the scheduled start of a game. In the event of a last-minute need for a replacement player, the coach shall find the Board Member(s) on duty to assist in possibly finding a replacement player to avoid a forfeit.
- **Coaches may not call or pull replacement players on their own. Discovery of such may result in disciplinary action by the Board.**

### **Player Participation**

- Free Substitution: Players can rotate in and out of the game freely, subject to the minimum number of innings per game rule below.
- **No player shall be allowed to sit for more than 2 consecutive innings.**
- Continuous Batting Order: The batting lineups for each team shall consist of all members present at the start of the game. Coaches must report the lineup to the opposing coach prior to the start of the game and should also notify the opposing coach of any player that



he/she knows of at that time who must leave early at which time the batting order will be decreased to the number of remaining players.

- Coaches **must** notify the opposing coach of a player that must leave early prior to that departing player's at-bat. Failure to report departing players prior to the departing player's next at-bat will result in an automatic out for that at-bat only. No replacement players shall be inserted into a game after the start of a game.
- Players who arrive late for a game shall be inserted at the bottom of the batting order and still must play a minimum of 3 innings. However, no player will be permitted to play if they arrive after the first pitch of the top of the 4th inning.
- **ALL PLAYERS MUST PLAY A MINIMUM OF 4 COMPLETE INNINGS ON THE FIELD FOR A 6 INNING GAME.**

### **Miscellaneous**

- Infield practice prior to the game shall begin with the visiting team starting 20 minutes prior to the start of the game for 10 minutes followed by the home team taking infield practice for 10 minutes. Any team that does not use their scheduled time will not be allotted additional time for infield practice to ensure that the game starts on time.
- Dugouts are for players and coaches. No siblings or parents are allowed in the dugout or on the field at any time.
- Players must be properly equipped and dressed in their team uniforms (cups (for boys), team hat, team shirt, baseball pants, and team socks). Players not in proper uniform will not be permitted to play.
  - Players are not permitted to wear "travel team" attire. This means no travel hats, pants, or jerseys may be worn during an in-house game.
- Coaches must be appropriately dressed. Sleeveless shirts and tank tops will not be allowed on the field, and all hats (if worn) must be worn with the bill facing forward.
- No food is permitted on the field by the coaching staff during the game.
- Only the Manager may discuss any calls with the umpire during the game or ask for a rule clarification