

Babe Ruth League, Inc.
Southeast Region

A Guide to Selecting a Tournament Team

Each year leagues toil with the effort to select tournament teams. In many cases parents as well as players have issues with the way this is handled. We will make an attempt to describe a way (with variations) to make this effort as painless as possible.

The selection of tournament teams is not brain surgery or rocket science, but you might think so... The "MUST" is to have all players registered and assigned to teams prior to any tournament effort. Players that tryout and ultimately are selected must appear on a valid regular season roster to be covered by insurance for the tournament tryouts. In addition, unless there is an approved waiver, the player must appear in a minimum of 1/2 of the games scheduled for his/her team. Any player that does not meet this requirement by the time of the District Tournament (and an approved waiver is not on file) is ineligible to participate on the tournament team and must be dropped from the League's Official Tournament Roster.

1. The league needs to complete the registration process.
2. Then there needs to be a tryout and draft to select the regular season teams. At this time some leagues determine who its tournament team managers will be based on a vote of the managers at the draft.
3. Next, the league needs to decide when tournament teams will be created.
4. Once this decision is made, the league must advertise (spread the word) to all registered players about the day and time of tryouts for the various tournament teams. At the first tryout explain to all what the expected commitment will be for the players selected. Be realistic in demands and build in some flexibility for players to be absent for valid reasons such as doctor appointments, etc. Also, please keep in mind that tryouts could consume two or three weekends, or more, if a large league. In this case the managers may wish to do a "Cut" process each weekend.
5. The selection process should be made by vote of all of the managers of the league being selected (i.e., the Minors managers select the 9s and 10s, etc.) provided they attended the tryouts. Some leagues will select 12 players this way and allow three additional players to be selected by the tournament team manager (six additional players for the senior's teams). The bottom line is that there needs to be a way of selection that is open, fair, and unbiased.
6. Obtain Babe Ruth ID Cards for all tournament players.

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The above describes a Guide for tournament team selection. Other than the "MUST" list there is nothing that is mandatory by Babe Ruth League, Inc. You may use this Guide as is or modify to meet your specific needs.

Practice Games:

From time-to-time we are asked how an established tournament team can play games with other leagues tournament teams as "warm-ups" for the Babe Ruth Tournament Trail.

The answer is "no-problem" as long as the Board approves extra-curricular game participation and the leagues insurance covers the players (note -- the Babe Ruth K&K insurance covers the players). Schedule games with other leagues tournament teams, AAU, teams, etc. on Sundays when the players are free to participate. The team manager will have to coordinate with the player's regular season team manager about pitching, if applicable.

Qualifying Games:

Only games scheduled within the local league or with another Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Baseball or Babe Ruth Softball league (Interlocking Schedule) can count towards a player's eligibility to participate on a tournament team. The player must appear in at least ½ half of the League's scheduled games played prior to the tournament. Only regulation games count (forfeitures and games that are not declared official by Babe Ruth rules will not count).

If you have any questions or comments please address them to John Armentrout (jdarmentrout @brlseregion.com), Southeast Region and Virginia State Training & Compliance.