

VIRGINIA STATE BASEBALL TOURNAMENT RULES SUMMARY

CREDENTIAL BOOKS: After being checked and approved by the Tournament Director, are to be returned to each team's manager.

PROTEST COMMITTEE: Each tournament game must be played in the presence of the Tournament Director and Protest Committee (composed of at least three members, of which none are umpires at that tournament). No tournament game shall start play in the absence of said director and committee.

PROTESTS: A manager must immediately claim a violation of a rule, at which time play will be suspended until the Protest Committee has made its decision based upon information received from the managers and umpires and the Committee's observations. The Protest Committee's decision will be final. No protest, except on player eligibility, will be honored after a game has been completed.

RE-ENTRY RULE: If the pitcher is removed from the game because of a second trip in the same inning, he may re-enter the game in any position with the exception of pitcher.

NOTE: If a player re-enters illegally as a pitcher, fielder, or runner, there is no penalty except that he must be removed from the game immediately when discovered. If he re-enters illegally as a batter, such illegal re-entry is penalized according to Official Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rule 6.07, Batting Out Of Turn.

If the pitcher is removed from the game because of a second trip in the same inning, he **may** re-enter the game in any position with the exception of pitcher, if he was one of the nine (or 10, if the Extra Player option is used) starting players.

COURTESY RUNNERS: With the exception of 8-Year-olds machine-pitch tournament rules for Virginia and for the Southeast Region, and the 16-18 Division, there is no provision for courtesy runners in Babe Ruth baseball rules. See Official Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rule 3.04, "A player whose name is on his team's batting order may not become a substitute runner for another member of his team."

NOTE: Local League Option and Tournament Regulation 11.05, paragraph 12 - Babe Ruth Baseball 16-18 Division – Courtesy Runners - At any time, the team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and (or) the catcher. In the event that the offensive team bats around, the pitcher and (or) catcher who had a courtesy runner inserted on their behalf may bat in their normal position in the batting order.

- a. The same individual runner may not be used for both positions (pitcher and catcher) during the game.
- b. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
- c. Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.
- d. A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then be used as a substitute for another player in that half inning. If an injury, illness, or ejection occurs and no other runners are available, the courtesy runner may be used as a substitute.
- e. The Umpire-in-Chief shall record courtesy runner participation and announce it to the scorer.

- f. A player who violates the courtesy runner rule is considered an illegal substitute. Should an injury, illness, or ejection occur to the courtesy runner, another courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher may run.

DESIGNATED HITTER: Official Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rule 6.10 and Tournament Regulation 11.05, paragraph 12 - Babe Ruth Baseball 16-18 Division - Designated Hitter (DH) (Local League Option and Tournament Play) – Any Babe Ruth 16-18 League may elect to use the Designated Hitter Rule option for the pitcher only. The rule provides as follows:

- a. The hitter may be designated to bat for the starting pitcher and all subsequent pitchers in a game without otherwise affecting the status of the pitcher(s) in the game. A Designated Hitter for the pitcher must be selected prior to the game and must be included in the lineup cards presented to the Umpire-in-Chief.
- b. The Designated Hitter named in the starting lineup must bat at least one time unless the opposing team changes pitchers. It is not mandatory that a team designate a hitter for the pitcher, but failure to do so prior to the game precludes the use of a Designated Hitter for that game.
- c. Pinch hitters for a Designated Hitter may be used. Any substitute hitter for a Designated Hitter becomes the Designated Hitter.
- d. A runner may be substituted for the Designated Hitter and the runner assumes the role of Designated Hitter. A Designated Hitter may not pinch run or be used as a courtesy runner.
- e. A Designated Hitter is locked into the batting order. No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting rotation of the Designated Hitter.
- f. Once the game pitcher is switched from the mound to a defensive position, then this move shall terminate the Designated Hitter role for the remainder of the game.
- g. Once the game pitcher bats for the Designated Hitter, then this move shall terminate the Designated Hitter role for the remainder of the game. (The game pitcher may only pinch- hit for the Designated Hitter.)
- h. Once a Designated Hitter assumes a defensive position, then this move shall terminate the Designated Hitter role for the remainder of the game. A substitute for the Designated Hitter need not be announced until it is the Designated Hitter's turn to bat.
- i. A 16-18 League may use both the Extra Player (EP) and the Designated Hitter (DH) in a game. If one or both start the game, the team must finish the game in accordance with the Extra Player and Designated Hitter rules.

(NOTE: Official Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rule 6.10 does not apply to the Babe Ruth Baseball 13-15 Division or Cal Ripken Baseball Division.)

HEAD-FIRST SLIDES: There is no Babe Ruth baseball rule that prohibits head-first slides.

CAL RIPKEN BASEBALL DIVISION (60-FOOT) SPECIAL BASE-RUNNING RULE: When a pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's plate and in possession of the ball and the catcher is in the catcher's box ready to receive delivery of the ball, base runners shall not leave their bases until the ball has been delivered and has reached home plate. Once the catcher has secured the ball and the runner has stopped his forward progress, the runner must immediately return to the base.

NOTE: The ball remains live and should the catcher make an errant throw to the pitcher or make a play on the runner, the runner can then attempt to advance.

CAL RIPKEN, 13-15, and 16-18 DIVISIONS (including Prep Leagues) – LOCAL LEAGUE AND TOURNAMENT PLAY SPECIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

THE PLAYING FIELD (CAL RIPKEN BASEBALL DIVISION – MAJOR70) – It is recommended that the distance from home plate to the nearest outfield fence or other obstruction be a minimum of 225 feet; however, the playing field need not have an enclosing fence surrounding the outfield playing area.

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT BASEBALL – Rawlings is the only official Tournament Baseball to be used for all District, State, Regional and World Series competition. The Rawlings tournament baseball has a cushioned cork rubber pill center. The Rawlings baseballs marked BRO or RBRO are to be used for all Babe Ruth Baseball 13-15 and 16-18 tournament competition. The Rawlings baseballs marked CAL or RCAL are to be used for all Cal Ripken Baseball tournament competition.

BAT REQUIREMENTS:

CAL RIPKEN – All non-wood bats must have the USABat marking. Barrel maximum no greater than 2 5/8". No BBCOR bats are permitted in the Cal Ripken Division.

13-15 – All non-wood bats must have the USABat marking or marked BBCOR .50. Bat barrel no greater than 2 5/8".

16-18 – All non-wood bats MUST be a BBCOR .50 and no greater than -3' bat. Barrel no greater than 2 5/8". Diamond Kinetics "Swing Tracker" sensor which is attached to the bottom of a baseball bat can be used during live, in-game at bats.

ALL DIVISIONS – If any bat in Cal Ripken Baseball or Babe Ruth Baseball cannot be clearly identified for its make and model to determine the barrel composition, then the bat must be removed from the game. Any cracked or flat bats must be removed from the game.

NOTE: The Diamond Kinetics "Swing Tracker" sensor that is attached to the bottom of a baseball bat can be used during live, in-game at bats.

PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR (ALL DIVISIONS) – Such headgear must cover the top of the head and have extended earflaps, which cover both ears, and properly fit the player wearing it. The batting helmet shall not have a chrome or mirror-like surface.

PENALTY- If a player refuses to wear headgear, he shall be removed from the game.

CATCHER'S MASK, HELMET, AND THROAT PROTECTOR (ALL DIVISIONS) – Any player, manager, or coach warming up a pitcher at any location shall wear a mask. Hockey-style catcher's masks with built-in extended throat protection are approved and do not require an extended "dangling" throat protector. The catcher's mask shall not have a chrome or mirror-like surface.

PENALTY- If the player, manager, or coach refuses to wear this required protective equipment, he shall be removed from the game.

CATCHER'S MASK, HELMET, AND THROAT PROTECTOR (CAL RIPKEN DIVISION) – *Required to wear shin guards and chest protector. The catcher's helmet must cover the ears. Hockey-style catcher's masks are approved as meeting this requirement.

CHROME BATTING HELMETS – Chrome batting helmets are not permitted in Cal Ripken Baseball and Babe Ruth Baseball local league and tournament play.

JEWELRY –Jewelry is permitted in all Divisions of Babe Ruth League, Inc. Umpires have the authority to remove anything believed to distract or increase risk to player safety. Medical alert or religious bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry and continue to be permitted.

WIRELESS COMMUNICATION – Wireless communication devices are not allowed; however, electronic scoring devices are permitted. No device on the field or in the dugout may be used as a means of communication.

TRIPS TO THE MOUND (ALL DIVISIONS) – Refer to Official Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rule 8.06 with the following exception: the second trip in the same inning to the same pitcher shall automatically result in the removal of that pitcher from the game as a pitcher only.

CAL RIPKEN BASEBALL AND BABE RUTH BASEBALL – Local League and Tournament Play Special Rules and Regulations – FORFEITED GAME

- **Tournament Play (Pitch Count)** – If a game was forfeited before it became a regulation game or after it became a regulation game, all pitches will count towards the pitch count.

CONTACT RULE (ALL DIVISIONS) – If a runner attempting to reach home plate or a base intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player, he will be called out on the play and ejected from the game. The objective of this is to penalize the offensive team for deliberate, unwarranted, unsportsmanlike action by the runner for the obvious purpose of crashing the defensive player. Obviously, this is an umpire’s judgment call.

OFFICIAL BABE RUTH LEAGUE, INC. BASEBALL RULE 8.01 (ALL DIVISIONS) – The pitcher must take signs from the catcher while standing on the rubber. **PENALTY** – After a warning by the umpire, the pitcher, on the next offense, shall be removed from the mound as a pitcher for the remainder of the game.

OFFICIAL BABE RUTH LEAGUE, INC. BASEBALL RULE 8.05 – BALK PENALTY (CAL RIPKEN MAJOR60 ONLY) – The ball is dead, the umpire shall warn the pitcher of the infraction and if the infraction is repeatedly violated, has the authority to remove the pitcher from the game as a pitcher only.

MANAGERS’ & COACHES’ UNIFORMS – Tournament Competition – If coaches wear pullover jackets, they must have the Babe Ruth Baseball emblem, or Cal Ripken Baseball approved shoulder emblem on the sleeve or chest.

CAP EMBLEM OPTION – Leagues have the option to purchase caps approved dealers of Pacific Headwear and/or Outdoor Cap or Replica Major or Minor caps licensed by Outdoor Cap containing the official Cal Ripken Baseball or Babe Ruth Baseball emblem. These caps from Pacific Headwear and Outdoor Cap with the official Cal Ripken emblem and Babe Ruth emblem will satisfy the Official Shoulder emblem requirement for local league and tournament play.

ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO (ALL DIVISIONS) – Babe Ruth League, Inc. prohibits the use of all alcohol and tobacco products on all fields and dugouts for both local league and tournament competition. These products include smokeless tobacco, E-cigarettes, vapors, and all alcohol-related products. **This rule applies to all field personnel, which includes managers, coaches, and umpires.**

SLASH BUNT (CAL RIPKEN DIVISION) – A batter is out for illegal action when the player fakes a bunt and then takes a full swing. **PENALTY** – Batter is out, the ball is dead, and the runners may not advance.

EXTRA PLAYER (EP) (ALL DIVISIONS) – A team may elect to add a tenth player to the batting order for District, State and Regional tournament competition and World Series. Prior to the beginning of the game, this player will be indicated in the lineup as the “EP”. The “EP” will be treated as any other starter, and cannot be eliminated during the course of the game. NOTE: If a team’s lineup starts with 10 players, the team must finish with 10 players. Penalty shall be a forfeit.

PITCHING RULES – These pitch-count limitations will apply to all tournament games played in District, Area, State, Regional, and World Series competition.

There are no limitations on the number of innings a pitcher may pitch in a tournament (bracket or pool play) game subject to the following pitch-count limitations:

Tournament Pitching Rest Requirements:

AGE	DAILY MAX (PITCHES IN DAY)	REST PERIOD		
		0 Days	1 Day	2 Days
8-9-10	75	1-40	41-65	66+
11-12	85	1-40	41-65	66+
13-15	95	1-45	46-75	76+
16-18	105	1-45	46-75	76+

- The pitch count is determined by the age of the player regardless of the tournament age. For example, a 12-year old swing player participates and pitches on a 13-year-old tournament team. The pitch count that will be used for this situation is the 12-year-old tournament pitch count. Same would apply to the 15-year-old swing player that participates on a 16-18 year-old tournament team.
- In a game suspended by darkness, weather, or other causes and resumed on a following calendar day, the pitcher at the time that the game was halted may continue to the extent of his or her eligibility.
- Games in which an ineligible pitcher has been used, as specified in paragraph 4, shall be declared forfeited. The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after that pitcher is announced, or after a warm-up pitch is delivered, but before that player has pitched a ball to a batter, shall not be considered a violation. Tournament officials are urged to take precautions to prevent forfeits.

OFFICIAL PITCH-COUNT RECORD

- The Tournament Director must designate the scorekeeper or another game official as the official pitch-count statistician. The pitch-count statistician shall record all pitches as defined in the rule book (Official Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rule 2.00 – A pitch is a ball delivered to the batter by the pitcher), in addition to any pitches delivered to the batter ruled a “no pitch” by the umpire.
- The pitch-count statistician must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire. However, the manager has the ultimate responsibility for knowing when his or her pitcher must be removed to meet the rest requirements above.

- c. The official pitch count statistician should inform the umpire-in-chief when a pitcher has delivered his or her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted above. The umpire-in-chief will inform the pitcher's manager that the pitcher must be removed. However, the failure by the pitch-count statistician to notify the umpire-in-chief, and (or) the failure of the umpire-in-chief to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his or her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.
- d. Any Cal Ripken District, State, Area, Regional, or World Series tournament game must be terminated immediately once becoming regulation (3 ½ or 4 innings) if one team is ahead by 10 or more runs and the teams have had equal times at bat or the home team is leading by 10 or more runs.
 Any Cal Ripken Division tournament game must be terminated immediately if one team is ahead by 15 or more runs after two and half (2 ½) or three (3) innings and has had equal times at bat.
 Any 13-15 or 16-18 District, State, , Regional, or World Series tournament game must be terminated immediately once becoming regulation (4 ½ or 5 innings) if one team is ahead by 10 or more runs and the teams have had equal times at bat or the home team is leading by 10 or more runs.
 Any Babe Ruth 13-15 Division or 16-18 Division tournament game must be terminated immediately if one team is ahead by 15 or more runs after three and half (3 ½) or four (4) innings and has had equal times at bat.
- e. District, State, and Regional Commissioners or their designated representatives shall appoint Protest Committees, composed of at least three members, to be present at all tournament games. A manager must immediately claim a violation of a rule, at which time play will be suspended until the Protest Committee has made its decision. The Protest Committee's decision will be final. No protest, except on player eligibility, as defined in Rule 0.07, will be honored after a game has been completed. (All protests concerning player eligibility must be presented in writing from the protesting League President with clear indication of proof for the protest.) Video will not be accepted or viewed by tournament staff or umpire.
- f. No tournament team shall play in more than two tournament games per day without written permission from Babe Ruth League, Inc., which will be obtained by the State Commissioner.

10-AND-UNDER TOURNAMENTS

All 10-and-under tournaments must be staged under the Cal Ripken Division 60-foot tournament rules with the exception of Official Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules 11.02-1.a, 5.09(h), 6.09(b) dropped third strike, 7.04(a), 7.07, and 8.05 a-m (balk rules).