



# Connecticut Babe Ruth Baseball

## Policies and Procedures for State Tournaments

- 1) The rules detailed in the following sections repeat or clarify the rules as written in the current Babe Ruth League Rulebook or are in addition to those rules. These rules as well as those in the Babe Ruth Rulebook must be followed.
- 2) Brackets will be drawn by the Board of Connecticut Babe Ruth League. If there is no District/Area play teams that wish to participate in the State Tournament must have their official rosters submitted and approved into the Babe Ruth Rostering system two (2) weeks prior to the Tournament. Failure to have the roster approved may result in exclusion from the Tournament. The schedule and bracket will be posted Babe Ruth Official Tournament Tool (Tourney Machine) one week before the start of the tournament and thereafter no changes will be made.

For Double Elimination Tournaments the position in the bracket will be chosen at random by the State Commissioner prior to the Tournament. The Home Team will be determined by a coin flip at Home Plate approximately 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game. The Home Team for the Championship Game shall be the team from the “Winners” side of the bracket. In the event of an “If Necessary” game the Winner from the Championship Game shall be the Home Team.

If the State Tournament has only three (3) participants each team shall play the other team once (Home Team determined using the same method as the Double Elimination). The two teams with the best record using the Babe Ruth Tie Breaker will play in a single game to determine the State Champion. There is no “If Necessary” game.

The team whose town is closest to the site of the Tournament will occupy the 1<sup>st</sup> Base Dugout. This does not mean that they are the Home Team.

The team occupying the 1<sup>st</sup> Base Dugout (closest team) will get infield practice for 15 minutes beginning 45 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the game unless otherwise communicated by the Tournament Director. The team occupying the 3<sup>rd</sup> Base Dugout (furthest team) will get infield practice for 15 minutes immediately following the 1<sup>st</sup> Base Dugout team.

- 3) Umpires will be supplied by the host league and must be certified by Babe Ruth Inc. and approved by the State Commissioner and the Umpire in Chief. There will be two (2) umpires for each game. For the Final Game and the “If Necessary” Game a third (3) umpire will be supplied at the State of CT Babe Ruth’s expense.

- 4) Any team that fails to play in a scheduled game may be ejected from the tournament and their fee will not be refunded.
- 5) There will be a fee of **\$350** per team assessed for the tournament. Checks are to be made payable to **CT Babe Ruth Baseball** and submitted to the host league prior to the start of the first game of the tournament. Each team will split the cost of the umpires' 50/50. The umpires will be paid before the game begins.
- 6) The State Commissioner will supply baseballs. A home run ball will be given to the player if the ball can be found and the player wants the ball.
- 7) The host league will set the start times for all games and will ensure that all teams have ample and equal warm-up time.
- 8) The host league shall provide an Official Scorekeeper. The host league will also provide a pitch count statistician who will maintain a pitching log that defines how many pitches every pitcher has thrown each inning through the tournament. A player becomes the pitcher of record when the manager announces the pitching change to the Official Scorekeeper. If the pitcher is not announced to the Official Scorekeeper, then the new pitcher becomes the pitcher of record when he takes his place on the pitcher's plate for his warm-up pitches.
- 9) No game will start with one umpire unless both Managers and the Tournament Director agree in writing to play using one umpire.
- 10) No game will be played without the Protest Committee present. The Tournament Director will appoint the Protest Committee.
- 11) The re-entry rule and the Mercy rule as define in the current Babe Ruth Rule Book are in effect for the State Tournament. Teams are allowed to use an extra player as defined by Babe Ruth League Rules.
- 12) The decision to play the game or not play the game will be up to the State Commissioner or the Tournament Director up until ½ hour prior to the scheduled game time. All consideration will be made to those teams that must travel. However, the bias will be to play the games so the decision will be made as late as practical. The decision to cancel a game will be communicated to the individual identified as the team manager to the phone number on the roster. Calls from other members of the team staff and players will not be returned. After the ½ hour limit, the game will be up to the Umpires on the field to play or not.
- 13) If a game is cancelled or suspended due to weather the CT State Board will pay for the umpires for the suspended game.

- 14) There will be no use of profanity by coaches or players. Abuse of this rule is an automatic ejection from the game for the offending person by the umpire or Tournament Director. If the Tournament Director is affiliated with the team of the offending player they must recuse themselves from the decision and consult with another State Official or allow the umpire to make the call.
- 15) Players ejected for any reason may be suspended for that game plus three innings of their next game, and if the offense is repeated by the same player, he may be ejected from the tournament. A manager or coach's first offense will mean a one game suspension in addition to the ejection with a second offense resulting in an ejection from the tournament. The duration of the penalties and penalties for other rule infractions is at the discretion of the Umpire and /or the Tournament Director. If the Tournament Director is affiliated with the team of the offending player they must recuse themselves from the decision and consult with another State Official or allow the umpire to make the call.
- 16) Each team shall consist of no more than 1 manger and 3 coaches and at least 12 but no more than 15 players. In the 16 – 18 Year Old Division the team is limited to no more than 18 players. The team scorekeeper must be outside the fence during the game. If one of the coaches will be keeping score then that coach must remain in the dugout while the ball is in play.
- 17) Proof of team eligibility as per rule 11.00 is up to the team Manager. All documents will be presented to the site director at least one hour before the start of the team's first game and will be returned after the team is finished playing in the tournament. The rosters cannot be altered after the seeding of the team in the tournament.
- 18) The manager and three coaches must match each other, they may be in uniform jersey matching the players with numbers on the back or wear matching cage jackets with the Babe Ruth patch on the left sleeve for all games. Baseball pants and coaching style shoes are required. Failure to be properly dressed may result in the expulsion of the participant (coach, player) from the field.
- 19) Every player, coach or manager that is warming up a pitcher must wear a protective mask.

## Tournament 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
13-15	95	1-45	46-75	76+
16-18	105	1-45	46-75	76+

- a. A League Age 13-15 – Pitcher shall not deliver more than 95 pitches in the same game or on the same day. Exception: If the pitcher reaches the maximum pitch count limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely or is put out.
- b. A League Age 16-18 – Pitcher shall not deliver more than 105 pitches in the same game or on the same day. Exception: If the pitcher reaches the maximum pitch count limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely or is put out.
- c. Intentional Walk Rule – An intentional base on balls may be given by the defensive team by having its catcher or coach request the umpire to award the batter first base. This may be done before pitching to the batter or on any ball and strike count. Time is called and the ball shall be declared dead before making the award.
- d. The pitch count is determined by the age of the tournament regardless of the player's league 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 13-15-year-old tournament pitch count. Same would apply to the 15-year-old swing player that participates on a 16-18-year-old tournament play.
- e. All pitchers must adhere to the pitch count rest requirements before pitching in another tournament game.
- f. In a game suspended by darkness, weather or other causes and resumed the following calendar day, the pitcher at the time the game was halted may continue to the extent of his/her eligibility.

- g. 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 protests.
- h. All players have full pitching eligibility beginning at each level of tournament competition. (District, State, Area, Regional and World Series)

Notes and Interpretations:

- A player is limited to the number of pitches listed per game. However, if the maximum is not reached and his team plays a second that day, then that player may pitch until the “Daily Max” is reached. Example: A player in a 13-Year-Old game can pitch 50 pitches in the first game of the day that the team plays and then 45 pitches in the second game of the day.
- As noted above, If the pitcher reaches the daily maximum pitch count limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely or is put out. If the pitcher reaches 45 or 75 pitches while facing a batter, he may continue to pitch. However, he will then need to follow the required rest period for the number of pitches thrown. Example: A pitcher in an 14-Year-Old game reaches 45 pitches while facing a batter. He continues to pitch and retires the batter on the 47th pitch. He must then have a day of rest.
- In a game suspended by darkness, weather, or other causes and resumed the following calendar day, the pitcher of record at the time the game was halted may continue to the extent of his/her eligibility for the day that the game was resumed.
  - **Example 1:** A league age 15-year-old pitcher delivers 80 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes on Wednesday. The pitcher is not eligible to pitch in the resumption of the game because he needs 2 days of rest.
  - **Example 2:** A league age 15-year-old pitcher delivers 80 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes on Thursday. The pitcher is eligible to pitch up to 95 pitches in the resumption of the game because he/she has observed the required days of rest.
- All players have full pitching eligibility beginning at each level of tournament competition. (District, State, Area, Regional, and World Series)

- A team may elect to intentionally walk a batter and request to the umpire that he award first base to the batter. The ball will be declared to be dead and then the batter is awarded first base. However, at any time during the batter's plate appearance, the defensive team can make the request. Pitches thrown before the request is made count towards the pitchers "Daily Max".
- In a case where a game is forfeited before it becomes a regulation game, or after it became a regulation game, all pitches will count towards the pitch count.
- The umpire will be the sole judge as to whether a thrown ball should be considered a pitch or not.

## **Official Pitch Count Record**

- a. 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 (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.
- b. 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/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/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted above. The umpire-in-chief will inform the pitchers 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/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.

## **The Babe Ruth League Contact Rule**

There is no codified “must slide rule” at any Babe Ruth or Cal Ripken level. Because some leagues adopt a “must slide rule” for the regular season, managers, coaches, players and parents are often surprised that the rule is not in affect for post-season tournaments as well.

The contact rule, as stated on page 19 of the rulebook, is below:

Contact Rule (all divisions) – If a runner attempting to reach home plate intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player in the area of home plate, he will be called out on the play and ejected from the game. The objective of this rule is to penalize the offensive team for deliberate, unwarranted, unsportsmanlike action by the runner for the obvious purpose of crashing the defensive player, rather than trying to reach home plate. Obviously, this is an umpire’s judgment call.

What this rule means is that the runner cannot be called out for “not sliding” when attempting to score. The rule does not mandate sliding nor does it strictly prohibit contact between the offensive and defensive players. It simply requires the runner to make a reasonable attempt to not initiate contact while trying to score.

In situations when the defensive player, without the ball, impedes the runner the obstruction rule (7.06) covers the situation. Part of this rule addresses home plate situations and states “the baseline belongs to the runner and the catcher should be there only when he is fielding a ball or when he already has the ball in his hand.”

It is clear from the above verbiage that at times both the runner and the catcher have the right to be at home plate. In these situations (runner trying to score and catcher with the ball at the plate) contact will occur. It is up to the umpire to decide if either player is guilty of “deliberate, unwarranted, unsportsmanlike action.” If in the umpire’s opinion either is guilty that player should be ejected. Normally it is the moving runner and not the stationary catcher that initiates the contact, but if the catcher does they should be ejected as well. Further, the intent of this rule should be enforced on the entire field of play, not just at home plate.

League presidents need to take the lead in informing all managers and parents that during post season play there is no “must slide rule.” Players will not be called out for naturally occurring contact whether or not they slide. Tournament directors need to inform umpires covering the tournaments that there is no “must slide rule” for tournament play. Qualified umpires will understand the rule, which is sometimes described as “slide or avoid.”



## **Protest Procedure for Tournament Games**

- 1) No game will be played without the protest committee present. The Tournament Director will appoint the protest committee. The Committee shall consist of one member representing each team and the Tournament Director for a total of 3 people.
- 2) Managers must have the Babe Ruth rulebook with them at all times.
- 3) All Official Playing Rules including rule 11.05 from the Babe Ruth rulebook and the re-entry rule shall be under the jurisdiction of the Umpires. Also under the jurisdiction of the umpires are the Contact Rule. The interpretation of these rules by an umpire or the application of these rules by an umpire can be protested.
- 4) All other Babe Ruth Baseball rules including but not limited to team eligibility, player eligibility and those rules that are on this sheet are under the jurisdiction of the State Commissioner and his appointed staff including the Tournament Director. These rules will not be protested. The procedures used by the umpires cannot be protested. A game will not be delayed to question the afore-mentioned rules or the umpires' procedures.
- 5) The team manager is the only person allowed to protest an umpire's decision. The manager will notify the umpire in chief who will then notify the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director will decide if the protest is valid and then continue following the proper protest procedure.
- 6) The Tournament Director does not have to allow a protest even though it may be protest-able as stated above. A rule that does not affect the play such as the shoulder emblems and plainly stated rules such as playing with nine players are two examples of rules that will not be protested.
- 7) If the Tournament Director should allow the Protest Committee to hear a protest, the following procedure shall be used:
  - a. The Committee, the Umpires and the Manager from each team shall meet. This meeting should take place in a secluded spot on the field so as not to have interference from spectators.
  - b. The protesting Manager will state why he is protesting the call and why his interpretation of the rule differs from that of the Umpire.
  - c. The Umpire will then state why he made the call and explain his view of the rule.
  - d. The opposing Manager may make statements pertaining to the discussion.

- e. The Committee members may ask questions pertaining to the discussion at any time.
  - f. The Tournament Director may disallow the protest at any time should he decide that the call is not protest-able or if the manager is protesting a judgment call.
  - g. When the Committee has heard all discussion pertaining to the protest, the three members will leave the presence of the Managers and Umpires and meet together to render a decision. The Committee needs to make a decision based on the best interests of all the players and follow whatever means they deem appropriate while taking as much time as is necessary to make a fair decision.
- 8) Once the Committee has reached a decision regarding the protest the Tournament Director shall inform the managers from both teams and the umpires of the decision. The Committee will either agree with the umpire(s) and uphold the outcome of the play or they will disagree with the umpire(s) and revise the outcome of the play.