



Connecticut Babe Ruth Softball

Rules for CT 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 for Babe Ruth Softball State Tournaments will be drawn in the spring. The Home Team will be the team listed at the top of the bracket for each game. The Site Director will assign dugouts.
- 3) Umpires will be supplied by the host league and must be certified by Babe Ruth Inc. and approved by the State Commissioner.
- 4) There will be a Two Hundred fifty dollar (\$250.00) fee per team for the tournament, to be paid to the host league. Each team will split the cost of the umpires' 50/50. The umpires will be paid before the game begins. 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.
- 5) The host league will set the start times for all games and will insure that all teams have ample and equal warm-up time.
- 6) The host league shall provide an Official Scorekeeper and will maintain a pitching log that defines how many innings every pitcher has pitched through the tournament (U12 and younger). 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 shall be considered as entering the game when she steps on the pitcher's plate Rule 3.08 (a) (1).
- 7) No game will start with one umpire unless both Managers and the Site Director agree in writing to play using one umpire.
- 8) No game will be played without the protest committee present. The Site Director will appoint the protest committee.
- 9) The re-entry rule and the Mercy Rule (10 or more runs after equal at bats after 4, 15 runs after 3 for 12U and younger, 15 runs after 4 for 14U and older) are in effect for the state tournament.

10) Contact Rule:

- a) “If a runner attempting to reach home plate intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player in the area of home plate, she 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.” This rule is typically called “the slide or avoid rule”.
 - b) The rule specifically mentions home plate although should a player crash an opponent with malicious intent on any part of the field, she should have the same penalties imposed.
 - c) This does not give the catcher or any other fielder the right to stand in the base path so as to block the path of the runner. This would be called obstruction. If a fielder were to stand in the way of a runner trying to advance, then the runner would have the right to go around the fielder so as to avoid a collision. The umpire would need to judge as to whether the fielder was in the act of making a play or obstructing the runner. They may also need to judge as to whether the runner was avoiding the tag, or avoiding a collision with the defensive player.
- 11) The decision to play the game or not play the game will be up to the State Commissioner or the Site Director up until ½ hour prior to the scheduled game time. Each team will receive one phone call if the game is postponed. After the ½ hour limit, the game will be up to the Umpires on the field to play or not.
- 12) 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 site director.
- 13) 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, she 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 up to the discretion of the Umpire and /or the Site Director.
- 14) Proof of team eligibility as per rule 11.00 is up to the team Manager. All documents will be presented to the site director 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 start of the team’s first game in the tournament.
- 15) The team manager and three coaches will be required to wear identical uniforms consisting of the following: (1) a collared shirt in the same style and in the same colors as the team’s uniform and will have the Babe Ruth Softball patch on the left sleeve. (2) dress shorts or pants of the similar style and in the same colors as the team’s uniform, and (3) athletic footwear including running shoes, sneakers, cleats and excluding open toed footwear

16) Protesting games:

- a) No game will be played without the protest committee present. The site director will appoint the protest committee.
- b) Managers must have the Babe Ruth rulebook and this rule sheet with them at all times.
- c) All Official Playing Rules including rule 11.05 from the Babe Ruth Softball rule book and the re-entry rule and base running rule shall be under the jurisdiction of the Umpires. Also under the jurisdiction of the umpires is Paragraph 10 above. These rules can be protested.
- d) All other Babe Ruth Softball rules including but not limited to; team eligibility, player eligibility and those rules that are on this sheet except paragraph 10 are under the jurisdiction of the State Commissioner and their appointed staff including the Site Director. These rules will not be protested. A game will not be delayed to question these rules.
- e) 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 Site Director. The Site Director will decide if the protest is valid and then continue following the proper protest procedure.
- f) The Site director does not have to allow a protest even though it may be protest-able as per 15c 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.
- g) If the Site Director should allow the Protest Committee to hear a protest, the following procedure shall be used:
 - i) 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.
 - ii) The protesting Manager will state which rule they are protesting the call and why their interpretation of the rule differs from that of the Umpire.
 - iii) The Umpire will then state why they made the call and explain their view of the rule.
 - iv) The opposing Manager may make statements pertaining to the discussion.
 - v) The Committee members may ask questions pertaining to the discussion at any time.

- vi) The Site Director may disallow the protest at any time should it be decided that the call is not protest-able or if the manager is protesting a judgment call.

- vii) When the Committee has heard all discussion pertaining to the protest, then the three members will leave the presence of the Managers and Umpires and make a decision. The Committee needs to make a decision based on the best interests of all the players and follow whatever means and take as much time as is necessary to make a fair decision.



Connecticut Babe Ruth Softball

AMENDMENTS FOR USE AT THE CT STATE BABE RUTH SOFTBALL 8 & UNDER TOURNAMENT

8u CT State Tournament Rules (and recommended regular season rules):

1. A spring loaded Louisville Slugger portable Pitching Machine will be used in State Tournament play.
2. A Jugs 11” Softie safety softball or equal will be used.
3. Age: 8 & Under (must have been registered with Babe Ruth League, Inc.). Players cannot turn 9 before January 1st of the tournament year.
4. Player roster: 12-15 player roster with 10 players batting in order (11 with EP).
 - a. An Extra Player (EP) can be used as the 11th batter. If a team elects this option, it must start with the EP and end with the EP or forfeit the game. Both teams in a game are not required to use this option.
 - b. There will be four outfielders. ALL outfielders must remain in the grass area of the outfield and cannot be positioned in the infield at any time.
 - c. The player that assumes the pitcher’s position must remain within the “mound” 8-ft. diameter circle, behind the machine, and on one side or the other until the ball is hit. If the pitcher violates any of these requirements, then (1) the play will stand, even if the pitcher is involved in the play, and (2) the umpire(s) will warn the violating pitcher’s manager that if the same pitcher violates one or both requirements again, the player will be removed from the pitcher’s position. The player can assume another position but cannot re-enter as a pitcher in that game. The player may not be ejected from the game for this infraction.

(NOTE: The Pitcher position is only a reference to a “Fielder’s” position (does not throw a pitch). Therefore, there is NO “Number of Innings Pitched” rule for the player in the position. A “Courtesy Runner” is not allowed for the pitcher.)

- d. The catcher takes the catcher’s normal position in full gear.

5. Game length: 6 innings. Each batter receives a maximum of five pitches. If the batter strikes out, or if the ball has not been hit into play after five pitches, the batter is out.
 - a. If the batter fouls the 5th pitch, the batter will receive pitches as long as the batter continues to foul pitches. (NOTE: Any fouled bunt after two strikes is an out.)
 - b. The half inning is over when three outs are made.
 - c. The batter is out if the batter swings on a third strike and misses the ball.
6. Field dimensions: Standard Babe Ruth 12U Softball Division base length of 60 ft.
7. Pitching machine: The pitching machine is placed at 35 ft. with a speed of 32 mph (established when the ball crosses home plate). The front two legs of the machine must be placed in front of the pitching rubber (best if up against the front edge of the rubber or at least the front edge of any underground base for the pitching rubber). Coaches are not allowed to check the machine before their team bats. Only umpires may decide if adjustments should be made.
8. Umpire:
 - a. The umpire will feed the machine. The machine should be checked prior to batting. Only the umpire may make adjustments during play.
 - b. The umpire(s) is/are allowed to declare “no pitch” if the umpire(s) judges that it is not reasonably hittable. This is a judgment call and thus not subject to protest.
9. Dead ball:
 - a. The ball will be declared dead when the defensive team stops the lead runner or the runner abandons the effort to advance. Once play has been stopped, no other runners may advance beyond the last base tagged.
 - b. The ball will be declared dead when a player is injured and in the umpire’s judgment is unable to continue play.
 - c. If a batted fair ball hits any part of the pitching machine without touching a defensive player first, the ball is immediately dead. The batter will be awarded first base. All other runners return to the base that they occupied before the ball was hit unless forced to advance as a result of the batter being awarded first base. (Rule 5.09f and 7.04a) If a batted fair ball is first touched by a defensive player and then hits any part of the pitching machine, it is a live ball.

- d. If a fair ball touches an umpire on fair territory before it touches an infielder including the pitcher, or touches an umpire before it has passed an infielder other than the pitcher, the ball is dead and the batter is awarded first base. All other runners return to the base that they occupied before the ball was hit unless forced to advance as a result of the batter being awarded first base (Rule 5.09f and 7.04a).
- e. If a thrown ball hits any part of the pitching machine, it is a live ball.

10. Infield fly rule: There is NO INFIELD FLY RULE.

11. Bunting: Bunting is allowed. However, NO FAKE BUNTING IS ALLOWED. If the batter offers to bunt, then the batter must bunt the ball or pull the bat back to take the pitch. If the batter offers to bunt, pulls the bat back, and then swings at the pitch, the batter will automatically be declared out by the umpire.

12. Courtesy Runner: The catcher may have a courtesy runner for them every time they are up to bat. Each courtesy runner used must be a player who is not in the game at the time. Each courtesy runner may only pinch run once per inning.

13. Base stealing: Base stealing is not permitted. Runners may not leave their base(s) before the batter hits the ball or before the ball reaches the plate (Rule 11.07-8U (j)). The penalty (Rule 7.12) is that the runner will be called out. The batter will remain at bat or return with the count that existed before the runner was called out.

Optional Regular Season Rules (but required for State Tournament Play):

15. Mercy Rule: When one team is ahead by at least 10 runs (4 completed innings, or 3-1/2 innings if the home team is ahead) or 15 runs after 3 innings will be in effect (tournaments only).

16. Umpires: Two umpires will be on the field at all times (one on the field and one at home plate, behind the batter). One will feed the pitching machine.

17. Credentials: Approved birth documents, Certificates of Accidental & Liability forms, a 5x7 or 8x10 color or black-and-white team photo with the players, manager, and coaches identified, and Coaches Certificate of Completion of a certified Coaches Certification Program are required.

18. Babe Ruth Softball patches must be displayed as specified in the current Rule Book.