



# *Southeast Region*

## Babe Ruth Baseball & Softball



## **Southeast Region Tournament Team Information Manual** (Important information for League Presidents and Team Managers.)



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## References:

- Southeast Regional Web Site (<http://brlseregion.com>)
- Tournament Team Credentials Checklist (<http://brlseregion.com/mtip/documents/checklist.pdf>)
- Tournament Team Regional Pre-Arrival Checklist ([http://brlseregion.com/mtip/documents/tournament\\_pre-arrival\\_checklist.pdf](http://brlseregion.com/mtip/documents/tournament_pre-arrival_checklist.pdf))

# Introduction

This manual has been prepared as a guide and information resource for League Presidents and Tournament Team Managers in the Southeast Region provides an overview of the structure and management of Babe Ruth-sanctioned tournaments—the Tournament Trail tournaments held at the District, State, Regional, and World Series levels. At each level of competition, determining participating teams, travel logistics and costs, scheduling, and jurisdiction of the tournament are addressed.

The final section, “Total Commitment,” explains the responsibilities of local leagues, their tournament teams, and the coaches and players on those teams and how their actions (or inaction) can directly affect tournament hosts and other tournament participants at all levels. The manual explains the consequences that will result if a team fails to honor these responsibilities, including the assessment of fines and the imposition of sanctions.

## The Tournament Trail

**The Babe Ruth League Tournament trail has four stages:**

There are twelve (12) World Series tournament trail age groups:

- 10-Year-olds Baseball
- 12-year-olds Major60 Baseball
- 12-Year-olds Major70 Baseball
- 13-Years-olds Baseball
- 14-Year-olds Baseball
- 13-15 Year-olds Baseball
- 16-18 Year-olds Baseball
- 8U Softball
- 10U Softball
- 12U Softball
- 14U Softball
- 16U Softball

In addition there are three (3) non-World Series tournament trail age groups for which there are Southeast Region tournaments:

- Rookies Baseball
- 9-Year-olds Baseball
- 11-Years-old Major70 Baseball

# **The District Tournament**

## **District Participants**

Local League tournament teams begin play in a District Tournament. The number of participants in a District Tournament depends on the number of leagues in the District.

In some States, there may not be enough leagues to form District Tournaments for a particular age group. In this case, the individual tournament team from each league will advance to the State Tournament.

## **District Tournament Travel**

Leagues located within a District are within easy driving distance of each other and do not require overnight stay at the tournament site.

## **District Tournament Schedule**

District Tournaments generally begin around July 4. The duration of the tournament depends on the tournament format and the number of games scheduled. The format and schedule are determined by the District Commissioner.

## **District Tournament Jurisdiction**

All District Tournaments are played under the jurisdiction of the District Commissioner. The District Commissioner may appoint a District Coordinator to act on his behalf to run a tournament. The final ruling on any situation rests with the District Commissioner.

# The State Tournament

## **State Participants**

Each District winner will advance to a State tournament. The number of participants in the State Tournament depends on the number of Districts within the State.

## **State Tournament Travel**

In most cases, the leagues within a State are located within easy driving distance of each other. However, there is likelihood for overnight stay.

## **State Tournament Schedule**

State Tournaments generally begin around the middle of July. The duration of the tournaments depends upon the tournament format and the number of games scheduled. The format and schedule are determined by the State Commissioner.

## **State Tournament Jurisdiction**

All State Tournaments are played under the jurisdiction of the State Commissioner. The State Commissioner may appoint a State Coordinator to act on his behalf to run a tournament. The final ruling on any situation rests with the State Commissioner.

# The Regional Tournament

## **Regional Participants – World Series Trail**

Each State winner will participate in a Regional Tournament. In the Southeast Region, the number of participants depends on the format of the tournament and the age group.

The Cal Ripken Baseball Division, Babe Ruth 13-15 Baseball Division, Babe Ruth 16-18 Baseball Division, 12U Softball Division, 16U Softball Division, and 18U Softball Division are represented by potentially ten (10) States:

The Bahamas, Florida (Northern and Southern Divisions), Georgia, North Carolina (Eastern and Western Divisions), South Carolina, Tennessee (Eastern and Western Divisions), and Virginia.

The tournaments in these Divisions use pool play format or double-elimination format. Each will have a maximum of twelve (12) teams participating: the eleven (10) State champions and the host team. From time-to-time the Host State runner-up team is allowed to play in order to balance the two pool divisions when using the pool play format schedule (five teams per division).

If the double-elimination bracket format is used the tournament will also have a maximum of twelve (12) participants: the ten (10) State champions and the host team.

## **Regional Participants – Non-World Series Trail**

The non-World-Series-bound Regional Tournaments are set up in a similar way as the Regional Tournaments whose winners advance to a World Series. However, a 16-team is used for all invitational tournament age groups (Rookies Baseball, 9-Year-olds Baseball, 11-Year-olds Major70 Baseball, 8U Softball, 10U Softball, and 14U Softball). When necessary, the pool team numbers are adjusted to ensure four even divisions.

## **Regional Tournament Travel**

Regional Tournaments involve Interstate play. Teams decide whether to stay in hotels at the host site or commute. All travel expenses, including the hotel, is the responsibility of the team.

Every effort is made to compact the tournament schedule to cut down on the expense for the participating teams.

## **Regional Tournament Schedule**

Regional Tournament dates are driven by Babe Ruth League Headquarters scheduling of the World Series. The dates that the Regional Tournaments must end are set by Headquarters. The Regional Tournaments generally begin by the last week of July or the first week in August.

In the tournaments which use the 10-team (two divisions) pool play format, the schedule consists of twenty (20) games in the pool play phase and three in the single-elimination bracket phase. Each team is guaranteed to play in four games during the pool play phase. The top two teams in each division advance to the single-elimination phase.

In the tournaments that use the double elimination bracket there are eighteen (18) or nineteen (19) games. Each team plays a minimum of two games before being eliminated. The more a team wins the more games they play.

## **Regional Tournament Jurisdiction**

All Regional Tournaments are played under the jurisdiction of the Regional Commissioner. The Regional Commissioner may appoint a Regional Coordinator to act on his behalf to run a tournament. The final ruling on any situation rests with the Regional Commissioner.

# The World Series

Babe Ruth League, Inc. holds several World Series each year. These baseball and softball tournaments are held at various sites around the country.

## World Series Participants

World Series participants include the State Championship teams, the Host State Champion, and the Host League team.

In the Cal Ripken 12-Year-olds Major70 Baseball tournament, there are eight regional winners, the State champion from the Host State (Maryland), the Host team, and six International teams.

At times, the Babe Ruth League Board of Directors may decide to allow additional teams to participate in the World Series, such as an Invitational team from a foreign country or the State champion from the neighboring State. When this happens, Invitational teams will be added to balance the pool divisions.

## World Series Tournament Travel

The World Series are played during the second and third week in August. Teams which participate in the Series arrive a few days before play begins to attend the banquet and other functions, followed by a week of tournament play. All participants are required to stay at the site for the duration of the tournament unless otherwise approved by Babe Ruth League, Inc.

Babe Ruth League, Inc. makes the arrangements and pays for the team's travel to the World Series site. The Host Family program is used to house all players in selected World Series locations. The coaches are housed in the designated tournament hotel in the Host city.



## **World Series Tournament Schedule**

The Cal Ripken 10-Year-olds Baseball and 12-Year-olds Major60 Baseball, and the Babe Ruth 13-Year-olds Baseball, 14-Year-olds Baseball, 13-15 Year-olds Baseball, and 16-18 Year-olds Baseball tournaments are typically composed of ten (10) participants who are divided into two divisions of five teams each. The tournament consists of a 20-game pool play schedule with a five-game single-elimination bracket phase at the end. Each team plays in a minimum of four games during pool play. The top three teams from each division advance to the single-elimination phase.

In the Cal Ripken Major70 Baseball Division tournament, the ten United States teams are divided into two divisions of five teams each, with the six International teams forming a third division. There is a 32-game pool play schedule. Each team plays in a minimum of four games during pool play. This is followed by a single-elimination bracket phase in which the top four International winners play each other to determine an "International Champion", and the top two teams from each United States division play off to determine a "US Champion". These two champions then play each other to determine a "World Series Champion".

## **World Series Tournament Jurisdiction**

Babe Ruth League, Inc. assigns a World Series Tournament Director to oversee the tournament. Each Tournament Director heads up a World Series Task Force of two or three people who are also chosen by Headquarters. The Task Force personnel are Babe Ruth League officials with years of experience in the league. The Task Force assists the numerous local committees to ensure that the tournament is run smoothly.

# Total Commitment

## Managers and Coaches

When you sign on to be a manager or coach of a Babe Ruth tournament team, you are making a commitment to be responsible for that team through the complete tournament trail until eliminated.

Do not assume that your team will not get past the Districts, or the States, etc. Never underestimate the talent and heart of your players. There are many factors which determine who wins a game and these can change daily during a tournament.

**Tournament teams are allowed one manager and two coaches.** This ensures that the team has supervision even if one coach cannot make a particular game. However, *if you cannot commit to the entire tournament then you should not have your name on the roster.*

Note: Teams are not allowed to replace managers, coaches, or players while a tournament is in progress. Reference Babe Ruth Baseball and Softball Rule 11.03, paragraph 1.b.

To see a table of tournament dates, visit the Southeast Region's Web site at <http://brlseregion.com>.

**A REMINDER THAT ONLY ONE (1) MANAGER AND TWO (2) COACHES ARE ALLOWED ON A ROSTER AND IN THE DUGOUT!**

This means no scorekeeper or third coach. If a team somehow gets through the District, State, and Regional tournaments with a third coach or scorekeeper, he will not be able to travel to the World Series to be a part of the team.

**TEAM BATBOYS/BATGIRLS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TRAVEL TO THE WORLD SERIES WITH THE TEAM.**

When a team advances to the World Series it will not be allowed to bring a batboy/batgirl. The Host site assigns local boys and girls for this task.

## Multiple Tournament Participation

More and more leagues are signing up to have its tournament teams play in other youth baseball tournaments such as the one held at the Cooperstown Baseball World. Teams who decide to participate in one of these tournaments will do so at their own discretion.

A team may find it has a conflicting schedule between the Babe Ruth League tournament and the other youth baseball tournament. Beware that the Babe Ruth League schedule will not be changed for any such conflict. The only time rescheduling is done in a Babe Ruth tournament is if games are cancelled due to inclement weather, or there are problems with the field.

The fact that a league has signed up to play in another tournament is not the concern of the Babe Ruth Southeast Region. The Southeast Region has a commitment to promote the best Babe Ruth Baseball tournament possible for all teams, and to produce a Regional Champion to represent the Region at a Babe Ruth World Series.

### **Don't Be A Quitter!**

Every team is in the tournament to win but the reality is that in a pool play format only two teams from each pool will advance. The standings can sometimes become apparent after teams have only played three of their four games. Team standings notwithstanding, all teams must complete its obligation to finish the tournament.

Forfeitures should not be taken lightly. The structure of the pool play tie breaker rules do not differentiate between a regularly concluded game and a forfeited game. However, the scoring rules of a forfeited game (per Official Baseball Rules) can adversely affect other teams in the standings when applying the tie breaker rules.

### **Sanctions against Leagues**

When a team fails to show up for a tournament, or a game, or pulls out of a tournament before it is complete, it affects the tournament and its participants in many ways. Some of these are:

Loss of revenue for the host

Teams spending idle days in hotels, or traveling when they didn't have to

Rescheduling problems

Pool play standings unfairly affected

Any team in the Southeast Region who fails to report to or complete all of the team's scheduled games in the Regional Tournament will be assessed a "**Reinstatement Fee**" of four hundred dollars (\$400), to be paid to Babe Ruth League, Inc. within 60 days of assessment notification. All of the funds collected will be distributed to the Tournament Host.

Failure to comply will result in the suspension of tournament eligibility of the offending League at all age levels for a period of two (2) years. The "Reinstatement Fee" may be waived only by the Southeast Regional Commissioner, under the following circumstances;

- The State Champion advises the State Commissioner immediately upon the completion of the State championship game that they will not move on and the State runner-Up accepts the offer to attend the Regional as the State Representative. (This rule would now apply to the State Runner-Up).
- Extenuating circumstances due to loss of life or natural disaster.
- At the discretion of the Southeast Region Commissioner.

## **Coaching Certification**

All tournament coaches must have completed a course and received certification from an accredited program.

### **Tournament Regulations – Rule 11.04 Documents, Paragraph 1 (h):**

“Coaching Certification I.D. Card or Certificate - Tournament Managers and Coaches must complete coaching education and certification prior to the start of their first level of tournament competition”.

No coach will be allowed on the field during competition if proof of certification is not presented as part of the team credentials prior to the start of play.

## **Conduct**

Each manager and coach is responsible for his personal conduct on and off the field as well as the team players.

The Regional Commissioner wants everyone to enjoy themselves while at the Regional Tournament. Conduct detrimental to the basic aim of “developing real, true citizens” will not be tolerated. Any team or individual whose conduct is not above reproach will be disqualified and sent home without delay.

**Individual leagues shall be held responsible for the action of its parents and fans. The leagues are liable for any damage done, and any unauthorized expenses incurred by their tournament team players, coaches, manager, or fans.**