



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)

Introduction

This manual has been prepared as a guide and information resource for League Presidents and Tournament Team Managers in the Southeast Region. It provides an overview of the structure and management of Babe Ruth-sanctioned tournaments—the Tournament Trail tournaments held at the Area, 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 15 World Series and Invitational World Series tournament trail age groups:

Rookie Baseball

9-Year-olds Baseball

10-Year-olds Baseball

11-Year-olds Major70 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

The District (or Area) Tournament

District Participants

Local League tournament teams begin play in a District (or Area) 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 Districts 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 1. 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 (Rule 11.06, paragraph 1). The District Commissioner may appoint a District Coordinator to act on his or her behalf to run a tournament. The final ruling on any situation, other than an official protest, rests with the District Commissioner.

The State Tournament

State Participants

Each District Champion will advance to a State tournament. The number of participants in the State tournament depends upon the number of Districts within the State and includes the State host.

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 a week or two after the District tournaments. 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 (11.06, paragraph 2). The State Commissioner may appoint a State Coordinator to act on his or her behalf to run a tournament. The final ruling on any situation, other than an official protest, rests with the State Commissioner.

The Regional Tournament

Regional Participants – World Series Trail

Each State Champion will participate in a Regional tournament. In the Southeast Region, the number of participants depends upon 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 14 States: the Bahamas, Bermuda, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Florida (Northern and Southern Divisions), Georgia, North Carolina (Eastern and Western Divisions), South Carolina, Tennessee (Eastern and Western Divisions), U.S. Virgin Islands, and Virginia.

The tournaments in these Divisions use double-elimination format as the standard with pool-play format used when warranted. Each could potentially have 15 teams participating: the 14 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 (usually four or five teams per division).

Regional Participants – Invitational World Series

The Invitational World-Series-bound Regional tournaments are set up in a similar way as the Regional tournaments whose champions advance to a World Series. Up to 16 teams are invited to participate in a double-elimination or pool format tournament. The age groups that make up the Invitational World Series are Rookies Baseball, 9-Year-olds Baseball, 11-Year-olds Major70 Baseball, 8U Softball, 10U Softball, and 14U Softball.

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, are the responsibility of the team.

Every effort is made to minimize the expenses for the participating teams by scheduling the tournament games in as few days as possible.

Regional Tournament Schedule

Regional tournament dates are determined by Babe Ruth League Headquarters scheduling of the World Series. The dates that the Regional tournaments must end are also set by Headquarters. The Regional tournaments generally begin around the middle of July.

In the tournaments that use the double-elimination bracket, there can be as many as 25 games (including an IF game). Each team plays a minimum of two games before being eliminated. The more a team wins, the more games it plays.

In the tournaments which use the 16-team (four divisions) pool-play format, the schedule consists of 24 games in the pool-play phase and a three-game single-elimination championship bracket phase. Each team is guaranteed to play in three games during the pool-play phase. The top two teams in each division advance to the single-elimination phase.

Regional Tournament Jurisdiction

All Regional Tournaments are played under the jurisdiction of the Regional Commissioner (11.06, paragraph 3). The Regional Commissioner may appoint a Regional Coordinator to act on his behalf to run a tournament. The final ruling on any situation, other than an official protest, rests with the Regional Commissioner.

The World Series

Babe Ruth League, Inc. holds several World Series and Invitational 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 Regional 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 champions, the State Champion from the Host State, 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, invited teams will be added to balance the pool divisions.

World Series Tournament Travel

The World Series are typically played during August. Teams which participate in the World Series arrive a few days before play begins to attend a 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.

The Host Family program is used to house all players in the 16-18 Year-olds age group World Series. The coaches are housed in a 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 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 10 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 local committees to ensure that the tournament is run smoothly.

Total Commitment

Babe Ruth League National Headquarters, including all District, State, and Regional Commissioners, shall have authority to establish tournament rules, regulations, and policies requiring strict adherence by leagues and tournament teams during the Babe Ruth League tournament trail. (Rule 12.00, paragraph 11)

Managers And Coaches

When a person agrees to be a manager or coach of a Babe Ruth tournament team, he or she is making a commitment to be responsible for that team through the complete tournament trail until eliminated.

One should never assume that a team will not get past the District tournament, or the States tournament, etc. One should never underestimate the talent and heart of your players. There are many factors which determine who wins a game and these can frequently change during a tournament.

Tournament teams are allowed one manager and three coaches. This ensures that the team has supervision even if one coach cannot make a particular game. Note: Teams are not allowed to replace managers, coaches, or players while a tournament is in progress. (Babe Ruth Baseball and Softball Rule 11.03, paragraph 1.b.)

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

A REMINDER THAT ONLY ONE (1) MANAGER AND THREE (3) COACHES ARE ALLOWED ON A ROSTER AND IN THE DUGOUT!

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

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

Multiple Tournament Participation

While some teams participate in other youth baseball and softball tournaments, potentially at the same time as Babe Ruth tournaments, the teams **MUST** assign first priority to the Babe Ruth tournament trail.

Don't Be A Quitter!

Every team is in the tournament to win, but the reality is, that in 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 their obligation to finish the tournament.

Forfeitures should not be taken lightly. The structure of the pool-play tie breaker rules does not differentiate between a regularly concluded game and a forfeited game. However, the scoring rules of a forfeited game 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 not necessary

Rescheduling problems

Pool-play standings are 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 prohibited from further competition in the tournament and will be assessed a "Reinstatement Fee" of not less than \$400, to be paid to Babe Ruth League, Inc. within 60 days of assessment notification. All of the funds collected will be disbursed to the affected Tournament Host.

Failure to comply will result in the suspension of tournament eligibility of the offending League at all age levels for a period to be determined by the Southeast Regional Commissioner, but not less than 1 year. The Reinstatement Fee and (or) other associated sanctions may be adjusted by the Southeast Regional Commissioner, under any of 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 participate in the Regional tournament as the State's representative. (This rule would now apply to the State Runner-Up.)
- Extenuating circumstances owing to loss of life or natural disaster.
- At the discretion of the Southeast Regional Commissioner.

Coaching Certification

All tournament coaches be certified by their League President that they have passed a criminal background check and taken and passed the Abuse Prevention Training program. The coaches must have completed a Coaches Certification Course. Rule 11.04, Paragraph 1.h. (Documents) applies: "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 or her personal conduct, as well as the conduct of team players, on and off the field.

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.