

**Babe Ruth League, Inc.  
Southeast Region**

**CAL RIPKEN ROOKIE BASEBALL PLAYING RULES  
FOR THE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL TOURNAMENT**

The following Southeast Regional Rookie Baseball Tournament Rules are recommended for District or Area tournaments, State tournaments, and local league play. For rules not covered in this document, refer to the current edition of the Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules & Regulations & Official Playing Rules. Rookie Baseball is open to all League Age (on May 1) 7- and 8-year-olds.

**1. Pitching machine and game balls** – A spring-loaded portable pitching machine and Babe Ruth-approved tournament baseballs are required to be used in Regional tournament play. The pitching machine is placed at 46 feet from home base (the rear point of home plate) with a speed of 43 mph (established when ball crosses home plate). The front stabilizer plate 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.

**2. Batting order** – 10\* players will bat in order [11 with Extra Player (EP)].

A. **Extra Player** – The EP can be used as an 11th batter. If a team elects this option, it must start with the EP and end with the EP or forfeit the game. NOTE: It is not required that both teams use this option.

B. **Outfielders** – There will be four\* outfielders. ALL outfielders must remain in the outfield (cannot be initially positioned in the infield at any time).

\*Rule 1.01 – Baseball is a game between two teams of nine players each, under direction of a manager, played on an enclosed field in accordance with these rules, under jurisdiction of one or more umpires. A team with only nine players available shall bat all nine players without the use of the EP and use three outfielders.

C. **Pitcher** – The player that assumes the pitcher's position must remain within the "mound" (5-foot-radius 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 that same pitcher violates one or both requirements again, he or she will have to 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 deliver a pitch). Therefore, there is NO "Number of Pitches Delivered" rule for the player in the position. A "courtesy runner" is not allowed for the pitcher.

D. **Catcher** – The catcher takes the catcher's normal position in full gear.

**3. Game length** – Six innings or until there is a winner; there is no time limit.

**4. Batter** – Each batter receives a maximum of four pitches. If the batter strikes out (on or before the fourth pitch), or if the ball has not been hit into play after four pitches, the batter is out.

A. If the batter fouls the fourth pitch, batter will receive pitches as long as batter continues to foul pitches. NOTE: Any pitch bunted foul after two strikes is a third strike and the batter is out.

B. There are no bases on balls in machine-pitch Rookies.

C. The batter will be awarded first base if he is touched by a pitched ball which he is not attempting to hit unless (1) the ball is in the strike zone when it touches the batter, or (2) the batter makes no attempt to avoid being touched by the ball. If the ball is in the strike zone when it touches the batter, it shall be called a strike, whether or not the batter tries to avoid the ball (Rule 6.08b).

**5. 15-run rule** – If one team is ahead by 15 runs at the end of three complete innings (two and a half innings if the home team is ahead) the game must be terminated by the plate umpire and shall be declared a regulation game.

**6. 10-run rule** – If one team is ahead by 10 or more runs at the end of four (or five) complete innings (three and a half or four and a half innings if the home team is ahead) the game must be terminated by the plate umpire.

**7. Field dimensions** – Cal Ripken Major60 playing field.

**8. Umpires** –

A. There are two umpires. One umpire is behind the plate and the other umpire will feed the machine. The machine should be checked prior to batting. Only the umpire may make adjustments during play.

B. Either umpire is allowed to declare “no pitch” if the umpire judges that the pitch is not reasonably hittable. This is a judgment call and thus not subject to protest. This judgment will be declared after the pitch has reached the batter. However, if the batter swings at such a pitch before a “no pitch” is called, the result of the swing will count.

#### **9. Dead ball –**

A. The ball will be declared dead when, in the umpire’s judgment, there is a “no pitch” called, 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 the play.

C. If a fair ball hits any part of the pitching machine without touching any defensive player first, the ball is dead and the batter will be awarded first base. All other runners will 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 (Rules 5.09f and 7.04a). If a 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 in 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 will be awarded first base. All other runners will 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 (Rules 5.09f and 7.04a).

E. A thrown ball that hits any part of the pitching machine is a live ball.

#### **10. Infield fly rule – There is NO INFIELD FLY RULE.**

**11. Bunting** – Bunting is allowed. NOTE: Slash bunting (when the player fakes a bunt and then takes a full swing). PENALTY – The batter is out, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

**12. Courtesy runner** – Catchers may have courtesy runners run for them every time that they reach base. Each courtesy runner used must be a player who is not in the team’s current lineup. A player may only be a courtesy runner once per inning.

**13. Base stealing** – Base stealing is not permitted. Runner(s) leaving their base(s) before the batter hits the ball or before the ball reaches home plate shall be regulated by the Cal Ripken 60 Ft. Baseball Special Base Running Rule found in the current edition of the Babe Ruth League Baseball rule book. The runner(s) will not be called out.

**14. Appeals** – Appeals in accordance with Rule 7.10 that a base runner has failed to touch a required base can be made when the ball is dead.