



# **Babe Ruth League, Inc.**

## ***Southeast Region***

### **Baseball & Softball**



*Florida | Georgia | East North Carolina | West North Carolina | South Carolina | Tennessee | Virginia*

### **Southeast Region T-Ball Rules\***

1. **TIME LIMIT:** Six innings (5 ½ innings if the home team is ahead). No new inning will begin after play has lasted 90 minutes. In the event of a tie, the game will continue until there is a winner.
2. **BATTING ORDER:** All teams will bat all players and use free substitution. If a batter becomes disabled during a game and cannot bat, it is not an out. If a player is sick or otherwise not able to play before a game, the player should not be placed in the batting order on the team's official Babe Ruth lineup form. The opposing coach, the Crew Chief, and the press box should be informed. This player cannot enter the game. If a team falls below nine players in the batting order, the game will be declared a forfeit.
3. **RUN RULE:** If a team is ahead by 15 runs after three complete innings (2 ½ for the home team) or if a team is ahead by 10 runs after four complete innings (3 ½ for the home team), the game will be over.
4. **DEFENSE:** Ten defensive players (one additional outfielder). All four outfielders must be positioned in the outfield grass until the ball is hit. Players in the infield should be in their standard positions; no shifts, extra players on or around the mound, etc. The pitcher must be on or behind the pitching rubber.
5. **RUNS PER INNING:** There is a run limit of six runs per inning.
6. **CONTACT RULE:** The "contact rule" in Babe Ruth Rule 6.05(m) applies.
7. **DEAD BALL:** Players can advance as many bases as possible until the ball is in the infield and the defense has stopped the lead runner and all other runners. This is the umpires discretion.

Play may be stopped if in the judgment of the umpire, there is a serious injury to a player. Umpire would then award the runner(s) and/or batter bases according to his or her best judgment.

8. EQUIPMENT: Rawlings RCAL baseball or approved equivalent. Bats must be marked with the USA T-Ball stamp. Teams may use a tee of their own while at bat, subject to the Southeast Region Representative's approval. All players are required to wear approved batting helmets while batting. Catcher must wear a helmet that includes a face guard, or a regular catcher's mask. Other catcher's equipment is optional. The umpire will place the catcher in an area behind home plate that he deems safe before the batter swings.
9. GROUND RULES: The pitching rubber will be 46 feet from home plate. There will be 60 feet between bases. An arc will be drawn 25 feet from the back of home plate, from foul line to foul line, in fair territory. The area from this arc to home plate is included in foul territory for the purpose of batted balls.
10. BUNTING: No bunting or half swings are allowed. Bunting or half swings will be considered a dead ball strike.
11. INFIELD FLY RULE: The infield fly rule is not in effect.
12. UNINTENTIONAL BAT THROWING: A warning will be issued to the team in violation the first time a bat is thrown, that in the opinion of the umpire is unintentional. Both teams will be informed, but the offending team will be notified that the next time this takes place, the batter will be called out and play will be dead at the time of the incident. This is NOT an appeal play.
13. COACHES: A manager and three coaches who are on the official tournament team roster are allowed in the dugout. One defensive coach will be allowed down each baseline in foul territory. Coach may set the tee and then back out of play. The manager and coaches are required to be in full uniform in accordance with the current Babe Ruth rule book (shorts are not allowed).
14. TOBACCO: Tobacco in any form is prohibited in the park.
15. STEALING BASES: Stealing bases is not permitted; all base runners must remain in contact with the base until the ball is hit. Any runner who leaves a base early cannot advance beyond the base forced when the ball is put into play. If the batter swings and does not hit the ball, the runner(s) may not advance.
16. PROTESTS: Protests will be ruled on immediately by the protest committee and the Southeast Region Representative.

\*Any changes to these rules will be announced and discussed at the pre-tournament meeting.