



Murray Babe Ruth American League 2018 Information

Welcome to Murray Babe Ruth! We are very excited for the 2018 season. We would like to remind you that our Board Members, Coaches, and Scorekeepers are all volunteers giving their time for the benefit of our players. We are open to suggestions and would like to keep a positive atmosphere at the baseball field to make everyone want to be there. Remember

that the ultimate goal of Murray Babe Ruth is to provide opportunities for our kids to play baseball. We strive to organize the season in the kids' best interests not necessarily the parents. All Board Members have emails and you are encouraged to email them with suggestions or concerns. Our website is www.murraybaberuth.org.

We continue to look for additional volunteers to help with many parts of the league. Please consider offering to donate your time to make the league better. To learn more, please email craig@murraybaberuth.org.

Important Dates

- Online registration will open mid-January and continue until March 16th.
- In person registration at the Park Center inside Murray Park will be on Saturday, February 17th from 9am – 1pm.
- American League tryouts will be held at Ken Price Field on Saturday, March 17th in the morning from approximately 9am – 1pm.
- Regular season games for all divisions will start the week of April 2nd.
- Regular season games will end May 26th.
- The American League tournament will be held at Ken Price May 29th – 31st.

Babe Ruth Baseball Mission Statement

The Babe Ruth Baseball program, using regulation competitive baseball and softball rules, teaches skills, mental and physical development, a respect for the rules of the game, and basic ideals of sportsmanship and fair play. In all aspects, Babe Ruth League, Inc. is committed to providing our participants the very best educational, sports experience possible. It is our fundamental belief that every child with a desire to play baseball or softball be afforded that opportunity.

Sportsmanship

"Conduct and attitude considered as befitting participants in sports, especially fair play, courtesy, striving spirit, and grace in losing." Please use the Babe Ruth Sportsman Code as a guide in teaching your player good sportsmanship.

The Sportsman Code of Babe Ruth

Develop a strong, clean, healthy body, mind and soul.

Develop a strong urge for sportsmanlike conduct.

Develop understanding of and respect for the RULES.

Develop courage in defeat, tolerance and modesty in victory.

Develop control over emotions and speech.

Develop spirit of cooperation and team play.

Develop into real, true CITIZENS

Umpire Etiquette

As spectators of the baseball game, it is your responsibility to ensure that players have a positive experience on and off the field. Sometimes an Umpire may not make the call you think it should have been. If you disagree with a call, please do not badger the umpire or coaching staff as this just makes your player uncomfortable and usually does not solve the problem. The umpire has the last word on all calls. If you feel an Umpire acts in an unprofessional manner, you may email the Board with your concerns and they will be addressed as needed. We want the kids to learn that the umpire does not win or lose games for any team. We ask for your help in this to see that each team has a positive experience and that the parents and spectators set the example for our players.

Coaches

ALL Coaches (head and assistants) must have a background check and be certified to coach in Murray Babe Ruth.

The courses are available through the dedicated website Babe Ruth League Coaching Education Center: Powered by Ripken Baseball, also developed by ASEP with content provided by Ripken Baseball. The program can be found at www.BabeRuthCoaching.org.

Registration Fees

We strive to keep the registration fees as low as possible. The league is run by volunteers and no coach or league board member gets paid for their time. The fees go directly towards providing the best experience for all the players. 100% of the registration fee goes towards these 5 components:

- Field fees paid to Murray City for field maintenance and field prep before each game
- National and State Babe Ruth Chartering
- League Insurance
- Umpires (Umpires are scheduled through the Utah State Umpires Association)
- Uniforms for American League teams (National League teams provide their own uniforms)

*Murray Babe Ruth uses the players age as of May 1st each year to determine playing age. Starting in 2015, Murray Babe Ruth is offering the opportunity to play in 1 of 3 different Leagues: **16-18 League, 13 or 14-15 National League or 13-15 American League.** For more information or to discuss the options, please contact Craig Lake at craig@murraybaberuth.org.*

16 - 18 League

The 16-18 league, also known as 18U, will run similar to how it has the past few years. Coaches must pre-organize their teams consisting of 9 – 15 players and sign up as a complete team. All players must meet the boundary rules of the sponsoring league.

18U teams will play against other 18U Babe Ruth teams from other leagues in the surrounding area. Our home field is Ken Price, however games may also be scheduled at Willow Pond if necessary. You can expect to travel to other local fields for games as well.

These teams will typically play two Babe Ruth games during the week (one game at our home fields and one game at another league's field). They are also free to play in a Saturday league or travel to local or regional tournaments on the weekends. They will be able to sign up for practice times at Willow Pond.

18U teams may be eligible to play in District, State and Regional Tournaments after the regular season if they meet the eligibility requirements. Please contact the league President if you have questions.

16 - 18 League Baseball Gear

Each coach is responsible to provide uniforms for their team. Coaches will discuss with parents and players requirements for equipment, uniforms and associated costs. Registration and uniform fees will be paid directly to the coach. Teams that advance beyond State, must wear a uniform that represents their sponsoring league (Murray Babe Ruth). This league will follow the bat rules of National Babe Ruth. Bat rules changed January 1, 2018. Please review them so there are no conflicts during the season <http://www.baberuthleague.org/bat-rules.aspx>

13 & 14 - 15 National League

National League started in 2016. This league offers the opportunity for teams in the 13 – 15 year old age group to register with Murray Babe Ruth as a pre-formed team and play other National League teams in the Salt Lake valley. This is a great option for teams that may have played together as an All Star team or in a "super" league in the past.

Coaches must pre-organize their teams consisting of 9 – 15 players and sign up as a complete team. All players must meet the boundary rules of Murray Babe Ruth as the sponsoring league.

These teams will typically play two Babe Ruth games during the week (one game at our home fields and one game at another league's field). They are also free to play

in a Saturday league or travel to local or regional tournaments on the weekends. They will be able to sign up for practice times at Willow Pond.

Teams can register as 13U team (if all of their players are 13 or younger on May 1st – see the birthday chart for cut off dates <https://www.baberuthleague.org/league-resources/baseball-age-chart.aspx>) or a 15U team (ages 14 – 15 or younger on May 1st) and will normally be scheduled to play against other National League teams in their same age bracket. There may also be opportunities to play real or scrimmage games against American League teams.

National League teams may be eligible to play in District, State and Regional Tournaments after the regular season if they meet the eligibility requirements. Please contact the league President if you have questions.

Please refer to the Official National League document on the website for additional information.

National League Baseball Gear

Each coach is responsible to provide uniforms for their team. Coaches will discuss with parents and players requirements for equipment, uniforms and associated costs. Registration and uniform fees will be paid directly to the coach. Teams that advance beyond State, must wear a uniform that represents their sponsoring league (Murray Babe Ruth). This league will follow the bat rules of National Babe Ruth. Bat rules changed January 1, 2018. Please review them so there are no conflicts during the season <http://www.baberuthleague.org/bat-rules.aspx>

13 - 15 American League

The American League option is the traditional Babe Ruth format. Each player will sign up individually and will be drafted to a team after tryouts. Every player that registers is guaranteed to be on a team and play.

Each American League team will be scheduled for two weeknight games and one practice each week (practices may be during the week or on Saturday). Rainout makeup games may be scheduled on Friday evenings or on Saturday mornings if necessary.

Teams will consist of players from 13 – 15 years old (15U) and compete against other Murray Babe Ruth American League teams. Games will be played at Willow Pond Park and Ken Price Ballfield. At the board's discretion, inter league play may be scheduled against other American League teams from other local leagues-. If enough 13 year olds register, the board will consider creating separate 13U Prep division.

American League coaches may wish to play real or scrimmage games against National League teams. Requests will be accommodated as the schedule permits. Please coordinate these games through the league President or appropriate board member.

The American League season ends with a single-elimination tournament to crown the champion. Results from the regular season games will be used to seed the tournament.

After the American League tournament, there will be tryouts for Murray Babe Ruth American League All-Star teams that will play in District and State Tournaments (and if they win, in Regional and World Series Tournaments). Teams may be 13U, 14U and 15U, or combined, depending on player numbers and the ability to compete at State. The age division that the team competes in, is based on the age of the oldest player on the team.

American League Baseball Gear

Each player will be provided a team jersey and hat. Teams usually wear grey baseball pants which are easy to find at any sporting goods store, but each coach can decide with their team. Most players who are interested in playing catcher will have their own equipment by this age, but this isn't always the case. The league has limited sets of catcher's gear that can be borrowed for practices and games. The coach will be responsible for ensuring the equipment is treated well and returned to the league.

Required for Each Player:

- Baseball glove
- Cleats (metal cleats are allowed at all Murray Babe Ruth fields)
- Athletic Protective Cup (required for any player who plays catcher, also a good idea for all infield players)

Optional:

- Batting Helmet (must be worn, may be borrowed from teammates)
- Bat (before purchasing a new bat, please review the new rules for 2018)
 - Bat not to exceed 2 5/8" diameter or 34" in length)
 - Only composite barrel bats marked USA Baseball or BBCOR .50 will be allowed
 - Wood bats are allowed
 - Specific rules at <http://www.baberuthleague.org/bat-rules.aspx>
- Batting Gloves
- Gear Bag

Lost and Found

There are many items that get left at the field each night. For missing items, please check with your coach first, then ask a board member to check the supply closet. Unclaimed items will be donated at the end of each season.

Trash

Please take a look around as games end and pick up any trash that is left on or around the bleachers or dugouts. Players and spectators should leave the park looking nice each day.

Alcohol/Tobacco

Murray City and Murray Babe Ruth League prohibit the use of all alcohol and tobacco products on all fields, in the dugouts and bleachers for both local league and tournament competition. These products include smokeless tobacco, E-cigarettes, vapors, and all alcohol products. Patrons who smoke are asked to do so at least 100 yards away from home plate. In addition, no alcohol is allowed anywhere in any Murray City park including in the stands/bleachers, pavilions or parking lots.

Snack Bar

Depending on the availability of volunteers, a Snack Bar may be operated at Willow Pond Park.

Rain-out Info

Rain-outs will be called by 4pm. It will be posted no later than 4pm. You will need to check the website or rainout hotline **801-264-2525**. You can also sign up for notifications through the league website. Games will be rescheduled whenever possible and all schedules will be posted and updated on the website.

Game Schedules

Games are typically played Monday – Thursday at 5:30pm and 7:30pm. Rain-outs will be rescheduled as soon as practical and will be posted to the website. If necessary, Friday nights and Saturdays may be used to schedule rain-out make up games.

All games & regular practices will be posted on the website. Please check the site frequently to make sure schedules haven't changed. You can also subscribe to team calendars through the website.

Team Volunteers

Each team will need to have an Official Team Parent & at least Two Official Scorekeepers. Talk to your coach about these responsibilities.

The Official Team Parent will oversee the administration tasks of the team in order to support the Coaching Staff and may be asked to communicate important information to team.

There must be one Official Scorekeeper from each team at each game. The two Official Scorekeepers assigned to each game will:

- Arrive 10 minutes early to enter the team lineup into the scorebook
- Keep the scorebook during the game
- Record pitcher name and pitch count after each inning during the game
- Run the scoreboard during the game
- Work with coaches to ensure that final scores and pitch counts are reported to the League after each game

Murray Babe Ruth will provide training for any parent that wishes to become a Scorekeeper or assist with the scoreboard during games. Please talk with your coach to arrange this training.

Rules

Murray Babe Ruth is chartered under the National Babe Ruth organization. We follow their rule book; any exceptions are specifically noted in the Murray Babe Ruth bylaws document located on the league website. Copies of the Babe Ruth Rule Book are available at the score table at Willow Pond or in the Score Box at Ken Price Field, please feel free to come by and borrow one.

Each year National Babe Ruth adjusts certain rules; current changes for 2018 are located at: <http://www.baberuthleague.org/latest-rule-changes.aspx> Please take note of the bat rule changes for 2018.

Have Fun!

We are so glad that you are playing baseball with us this year. If you have any questions or concerns, please visit the website www.murraybaberuth.org or email info@murraybaberuth.org