



Murray Babe Ruth Baseball 2017 By-Laws & other Information

American League

(Version 2017.2 - updated 3/16/2017)

Coaches,

Welcome to the 2017 Murray Babe Ruth Baseball Season! We want to start by thanking you for the time and energy you will put into our league and our players. We appreciate all you do to help make Murray's league one of the best in the state! Below we will list some quick rule reminders that we want you to keep in mind as you draft your team and get ready for the season. We follow the official 2017 Babe Ruth rule book EXCEPT in those areas specifically changed below. We'll pass out the rule book to every coach at or before tryouts.

National Babe Ruth publishes changes and clarifications to their rules on their website. Please check the following pages to make sure you are up to date on all of the current rules:

<http://baberruthleague.org/latest-rule-changes.aspx>

<http://baberruthleague.org/bat-rules.aspx>

Pay particular attention to the new 2018 bat rules. I don't know exactly if any BBCOR bats will be recertified under the new USA Bat Standards, but I'd be careful about spending any significant amounts of money purchasing new bats this year.

I. Miscellaneous

In order to determine a player's "playing age" we'll follow the published age chart (<https://www.baberruthleague.org/league-resources/baseball-age-chart.aspx>)

All Managers and coaches MUST be certified. No manager or coach will be allowed on the field unless a copy of their certification has been given to a member of the board. Please take care of this ASAP, it is not a 5 minute process DO NOT wait until the last minute. Go to www.BabeRuthCoaching.org to complete the certification. If you have already completed the process in years past the certification is still good (you can log back into the coaching website and print out a new copy if needed).

Rotating Players – No player can sit 2 innings in a row, any player that is sitting on the bench (not playing in the field) must play in the field during the following inning. Every player must sit one full inning (3 outs) before any player can sit a second inning. The only exception to this rule is in case of injury or for disciplinary reasons. The Coach/Manager must notify a Board Member or the Field Supervisor as soon as the determination is made that a player will sit 2 innings in a row. Please remember that although we want the league to be as competitive as possible, it is still about making sure the players have a positive

experience and are learning and getting better. Violations to this rule will result in the coach/manager being suspended for the next game.

During the regular season we will not utilize the catcher's speed up rule or substitute runners for base runners. Every batter should become their own base runner. The only exception is in case of injury to the base runner in which case the injured player is removed from the game (would normally not be able to bat or play defense again in a later inning). In order for the injured player to reenter the game the player's coach must appeal to the field supervisor, umpire and opposing coach and receive unanimous approval.

There is catcher's equipment available at Willow Pond Park that a coach can check out for a game. Please ensure that it is taken care of and returned in good condition (ultimately it's the coach's responsibility).

Each team will bat every player that is at the game and dressed in uniform. Players that show up after the roster has been submitted will be added to the end of the batting order.

After every game the manager must review the official score book and sign acknowledging the score and the pitching record. If you leave the field without reviewing/signing the book the record will be assumed to be correct.

II. Zero Tolerance

A zero tolerance rule is in place for all coaches, players, and parents/spectators. Zero Tolerance includes heckling or razzing players, coaches or umpires. The use of profanity or abusive language will not be tolerated. Any other act that subjects players, coaches, umpires, or spectators to negative or hostile comments or actions will absolutely not be tolerated. The following rules will be enforced for the specified party.

Zero Tolerance for Coaches

Remember that as adults on the field you are examples to players and fans. Please handle yourself with class on and off the field at the ball park. That includes appropriate attire (e.g. no beer or alcohol branded t-shirts) AND appropriate language at the fields. Remember, you are the example for the players and spectators. All managers and coaches are required to sign the zero tolerance form before the first game.

1. Warning by umpire or field supervisor or board member for minor offense
2. First offense: Ejected for the remainder of the game and suspended for the next game.
3. Second offense: Ejected and terminated as coach

Zero Tolerance for Players

Every player must read and agree with (by signing) the zero tolerance form before the first game.

1. Warning by umpire or field supervisor or board member for minor offense
2. First offense: Ejected for the remainder of the game.
3. Second offense: Ejected for the remainder of the game and suspended for the next game.

4. Third offense: Ejected for the remainder of the game and suspended for the remainder of the season

Zero Tolerance for Parents and Spectators

Parents / Guardians must read and agree with (by signing with their player) the zero tolerance form before the first game.

1. Umpires have been instructed to request coaches to ask their spectators to settle down for minor infractions. If the coach does not comply with the request or the spectator continues to demonstrate unacceptable behavior, then the coach can be ejected from the game (and this would be considered the coaches first offense).
2. Umpires also have the ability to suspend the game and call the field supervisor or board member to help deal with unruly spectators
3. Second offense: Ejected for the remainder of the game and suspended for the next game.
4. Third offense: Ejected for the remainder of the game and suspended for the remainder of the season

III. Rain Outs

Before the game starts, the field officer is in charge of calling the game for weather, with input from the city and board members. If the game has already started then the umpire is in charge of that decision.

Games are considered complete games after 1 hour 45 minutes OR 4 complete innings (3.5 innings if home team is ahead at that point)

If the game does not reach either of these points and the game is called for weather, the game will be replayed from the beginning. No statistics carry over.

If the game is called after the 4th inning, it goes back to the last completed inning of play to determine final score.

13 year old pitching rules still apply in a rain out situation. (Yes, both teams could forfeit).

IV. Pitching Rules

In order to help develop the younger pitchers, a 13 year old pitchers must record 3 outs in each game or give up 7 runs. If not the game will be forfeited. The outs or runs can be completed by one or more 13 year old pitchers. Once a 13 year old pitcher has entered the game, only 13 year old pitchers may pitch until the 3 outs or 7 runs is reached.

This year we are beginning to use Pitch Counts as well as Innings to ensure that we don't overuse our pitchers. We will track pitches thrown by each pitcher each game. See the page at the end of this document with the specific pitching rules.

“No pitcher re-entry.” A pitcher cannot reenter the game as a pitcher if you have substituted another player in as pitcher. Example: Player A pitches innings 1, 2, 3. Player B then comes in to pitch inning 4. Player A is not eligible to pitch again in that game regardless of pitch count.

V. Protests & Disputes

Judgment calls will NOT be argued with the umpire (balls/strikes/put outs).

Disputes over a ruling on the field that is not a judgment call shall be brought to the attention of the umpire and ruled upon immediately. A field supervisor or board member should be present at every game, if not then call Craig on his cell phone (801-641-4006) to discuss the issue. Copies of the official rule book will be available at the field for consultation.

Disputes that are related to Murray Babe Ruth bylaws will be settled by a majority decision vote of the board. These protests must be submitted in writing with a copy given (emailed) to the board and the opposing coach. A decision on the protest will be made within 48 hours.

The procedure for playing a game under protest shall be:

1. The manager will immediately notify the umpire what he is protesting.
2. The manager will notify the opposing team.
3. The manager will notify the scorekeeper who will note the protest in the official scorebook at the point in the game when it occurs. The scorekeeper will document the minutes played, position of runners, where in the count the at-bat batter is, etc.
4. If a game is not completed because of a protest, it will be continued from the point of the protest. The same lineups MUST be used, and the pitching rule will be in effect for the week the game is completed not when the game originally started.
5. The board has various options available to resolve disputes, including replaying the remainder of the game from the point of protest, letting the game stand, etc.

I. All-Stars

The American League teams will have their own district tournament against other American League teams from other local leagues. The State Tournament will include both National League and American League teams.

A few weeks before the end of the season, the board will ask each manager to nominate 3 – 4 players from his team. The board will distribute the list of nominated players to the all-stars coaches to assist them in putting together the best team (this will be in addition to a formal all-stars tryout session).

Encourage those strong players on your team to try out for the all-stars team so we can field the most competitive team for post season play. Please notify the board if you are interested in coaching an all-stars team. We can put together one or more all-stars teams in the following age groups: 13U, 14U, 13-15.

II. Game Management

Run Rule:

- Maximum of 7 runs per half inning. The half inning ends as soon as the 7th run crosses home plate unless the last hit is an over the fence home run (then all players on base can score). This rule applies in every inning. This means that if the home team is down by more than 7 runs in their last at-bat they most likely cannot win the game. We will still play that final half inning, however, because runs for/against can be used as a tie breaker for placement in the end of season tournament.
- If a team is leading by 15 or more runs after three (3) complete innings the run rule will be declared and the game will end. If the home team already is leading by 15+ runs then they will not bat in the bottom of the 3rd inning.
- If a team is leading by 10 or more runs after four (4) complete innings (or any time after each subsequent completed inning before the time has run out for the game) the run rule will be declared and the game will end. If the home team already is leading by 10+ runs then they will not bat in the bottom of the 4th inning.

Number of players:

- A team may begin or end a game with 7 or 8 players. When the shorthanded team is up to bat, they will need to take an automatic out in the batting spot of the missing player(s) the first time through the batting order only. Subsequent times through the batting order the automatic out(s) will NOT need to be taken. Players that show up late will be added to the end of the lineup and then the automatic out will not need to be taken for that spot.
- The only exception to this rule is if a team falls below 9 players because of injury, an automatic out will not need to be taken.

Extra Innings:

- California speed up rule will be in effect if a game is tied and a new inning starts after 1 hour 45 minutes.
 - Last player out will be placed on 2nd base – Team at bat gets all 3 outs
 - Teams switch
 - If teams are still tied after end of next inning and drop dead hasn't been called then repeat, but with only 1 out per side and runner placed on 3rd.
- Drop dead is usually called at 2 hours 05 minutes in the first game of the night. (However if the game appears to be close to going complete then we'd like to finish it if possible. Coaches and umpires should use their best discretion knowing the league's preference is to have complete games). If drop dead is called then score will revert to score at the end of the last completed Inning. The last game of the night will be played until a team is up after a completed inning after no new innings is called at 1:45 or the lights turn off at 11:00pm in which case the score reverts to the score at the end of the last completed inning which mostly likely means the game will end in a tie.

Pitching Rules

- We're beginning to follow the MLB PitchSmart guidelines (<http://m.mlb.com/pitchsmart/>) developed by Major League Baseball and USA Baseball for youth pitchers.
- 2017 is a transition year for Murray Babe Ruth from innings to pitch count.
- Pitch count must be entered into the score book. If the team score keeper isn't skilled enough to track all of the pitches then the coach or assistant coach should keep count on the field.
- Because this is a transition year, I know there will be questions and issues arise. Remember the goal is to protect the health and wellbeing of the players so always err on the side of limiting the use of a players arm.
- Players can begin using breaking pitches after developing consistent fastball and changeup
- Do not exceed 100 combined innings pitched in any 12 month period
- Take at least 4 months off from competitive pitching every year, including at least 2-3 continuous months off from all overhead throwing
- Make sure to properly warm up before pitching
- Set and follow pitch-count limits and required rest periods
- Avoid playing for multiple teams at the same time
- Avoid playing catcher while not pitching (an inning as catcher could count like an inning as pitcher depending on the game flow)
 - For this first transition year, this is a request, not a requirement. Coaches should use their best discretion to avoid overusing a player.
- Players should not pitch in multiple games on the same day
- Monitor for other signs of fatigue
- A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game
- No pitcher should appear in a game as a pitcher for three consecutive days, regardless of pitch/innings counts
- Coaches should review these rules with parents of pitchers before and frequently during the season.
- If a player is playing Babe Ruth and for a different team on Saturdays, then have the conversation with the parents every week. Ask on Monday how many pitches he threw on Saturday and use that information to plan your week.

Age	Daily Max (Pitches in Game)	Required Rest (Pitches)				
		0 Days	1 Days	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
13-14	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
15-16	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
17-18	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+
Age	Daily Max (Innings Pitched)	Required Rest (Innings)				
		0 Days	1 Days	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
13-15	6	1-2	3	4	5	6+
16-18	8	1-3	4	5	6	7+