

**BASEBALL RULES**  
**South Williamson County Baseball Association**  
(Bethesda, College Grove, EWA, Heritage)  
**Rules for Fall 2010**  
**7/4/10**

**GENERAL RULES FOR ALL AGE GROUPS**

1. A 10 minute grace period in effect before the first game of the day only. The official game start time will revert back to the scheduled start time.
2. Protests must be submitted to the league commissioner in writing, with \$50.00. When protested event occurs, game will be stopped and umpire will make proper notation in scorebook held by home team, then game will continue; otherwise, protest is waived.
3. Any player causing a collision, not avoiding a collision or not attempting to avoid a collision, at any base, will be called out. In addition, if the collision, in the judgment of the umpire is deemed intentional, the player will be ejected from the game.
4. Official time will be kept by the home plate umpire and/or scoreboards where applicable, start time will also be noted on official home team score book.
5. If time expires and game is tied, there will be one (1) additional inning to play out the tie. If the game is still tied at the end of the one (1) inning, game ends in a tie.
6. Mercy rule; Cal Ripken - 10 runs after 4 innings or 3 ½ if the home team is winning; Babe Ruth Division - 10 runs after 5 innings or 4 ½ if the home team is winning.
7. All field gates will remain closed during play.
8. Can add one (1) player from age group immediately below division in need of a player *only* to avoid a forfeit. Extreme caution must be used in determining child's ability to play up in older age group. In addition, player must play in the outfield and must occupy the last batting position.
9. In age groups 9/10 and up there shall be at least 2 umpires per game if for some reason there is only one umpire then the visiting team shall provide an adult representative to umpire the bases.
10. Each team shall bat the entire roster except Babe Ruth 13U and older.
11. Free substitution except Babe Ruth 13U and older. Regular pitching rules still apply.
12. First half of the season for fall 2010 is defined as beginning of the season until Friday, October 1st, subsequently; Saturday, October 2nd is the second half of the season.
13. Bat sizes:
  - a. **Babe Ruth 13-15 division**
    - i. **Diameter no greater than 2 5/8"**
  - b. **Babe Ruth 16-18 Division**
    - i. **Diameter no greater than 2 5/8"**
    - ii. **Length/Weight differential no greater than -3.**
  - c. **All other divisions:**
    - i. **No big barrel bats, only 2 1/4".**
14. An at bat can not end on a foul ball.
15. Home team shall provide two (2) game balls.
16. If a player slings a bat while at bat, the umpire will issue the team a warning. If any team member slings a bat while at bat after the warning has been given, the batter will be called out.

## Coach Pitch – 5/6 Year olds

1. Baselines - 50 feet.
2. Games will be six (6) innings or 1:15 in length
3. Center point of the 3 foot pitcher's line will be 38 feet from the back point of home plate.
4. Batted balls must reach six (6) foot arc around home plate to be fair.  
(Associations shall have this marked with chalk.)
5. The player-pitcher must stand with at least one foot behind the pitcher line whose mid-point is at 38'.
6. The coach-pitcher will stand no closer than 15 feet from the rear of home plate which will be marked on the field by an appropriate line. The coach-pitcher must use their best judgment in determining the best distance to pitch from based on the skill level of the player to whom they are pitching. The intent of this rule is to give the batter the opportunity to succeed, i.e., getting the ball in play, as well as prepare the player for the next level (machine pitch) where the pitch will be coming from 46'.
7. An inning consists of three (3) outs or seven (7) runs, whichever comes first.
8. No one will sit out two (2) consecutive innings.
9. No player shall occupy the player/pitcher position more than two (2) consecutive innings; may re-enter later in game.
10. Outfielders must be six (6) feet behind the baselines.
11. Play stoppage occurs at the discretion of the umpire(s). Ordinarily this occurs when the ball is returned to the infield & controlled by a defensive player.
12. Each player will receive five (5) pitches, then a mandatory two (2) attempts from the tee (which constitutes an out), unless the coach deems a particular player an exception. This rule assumes that the aforementioned exception will be limited.
13. No bunting.
14. There will be no more than two (2) offensive and two (2) defensive coaches on the field.
15. No stealing.
16. Pitcher is required to wear a helmet with a face mask. (Safety issue.)
17. Batter/Runner limited to one (1) base advancement on a passed ball at first & second base. This is not an award, as the ball is still live. All other runners may advance until play stoppage occurs which is at the discretion of the umpire(s). Ordinarily this occurs when the ball is returned to the infield and controlled by a defensive player.
18. Scores will be kept all locations. Official score book kept by home team.
19. Defense consists of ten (10) players or more but only standard five (5) infield positions can be filled, other defensive players shall be in the outfield. Five (5) outfielders with an offensive coach catching.
20. There will not be any forfeits due to lack of players in this age group.
21. Regulation baseball shall be used.

## Machine Pitch – 7/8 Year olds

1. The baseball pitching machine used shall be the Louisville Slugger Ultimate Pitching Machine, Model # L60111. This machine shall be set as follows: Power Lever Setting #8; Release Arm Setting #4; Throwing Arm Setting #3, which will result in a speed of approximately 38 mph. See pictures on last page.
2. Baselines will be 60 feet.
3. A game will consist of six (6) innings or 1:30 in length
4. If a batted ball hits the machine or coach, it is a dead ball, the batter will be awarded first base and other base runners may advance if forced.
5. Machine adjustment – upon agreement of coaches – adjustment may occur at beginning of inning; otherwise adjustment at discretion of umpire.
6. Offensive team shall provide machine operator.
7. Pitcher is required to wear a helmet with a faceguard.
8. Pitching distance is 46' feet, measured from the back of home plate to the release point of the machine (release point is same as the base plate that has ground spikes on it); pitcher must stand even with machine, within arms length of pitching machine; both feet behind line drawn on field with chalk; there shall be a line drawn even with base plate of pitching machine.
9. **Note: No coach will be allowed to intentionally delay the progress of a game. This will be left to the discretion of the umpire(s). Penalty for such an act will be one warning; second time will result in an automatic ejection of the coach.**
10. An inning consists of three (3) outs or seven (7) runs maximum.
11. No player will sit out two (2) consecutive innings.
12. Play stoppage occurs when the lead runner is stopped. (Umpire's discretion.)
13. Seven (7) pitches or three (3) strikes for each batter; but cannot end on foul ball.
14. Bunting will be allowed during the second half of the season only. No "slash bunts". Once a player shows bunt, they must either bunt or pull back. If a player shows bunt, pulls back, and then hits or attempts to hit, they will be called out.
15. No stealing.
16. For the first half of the season, the batter/runner will be limited to a one (1) base advancement on overthrow to first base only; this is not an award – ball is still live. All other runners may advance until play stoppage occurs when the lead runner is stopped which is at the discretion of the umpire(s).
17. Defense consists of ten (10) players. Four (4) in the outfield and one (1) catcher.
18. If a team has less than ten (10) players, nine (9) regular positions must be fielded.
19. If a team has less than nine (9) players, a catcher's position must be fielded.
20. A team can start and play with eight (8) players and the ninth spot in the batting order will be an automatic out. Less than eight (8) players will be a forfeit.
21. If a team has enough players to start the game but not all players are present, all players that will eventually be present will be listed on the team lineup. Once the player(s) arrive, they will then be added to the batting lineup and placed at the bottom of the order.

## Minors – 9/10 Year olds

1. Baselines – 60 feet.
2. A game consists of six (6) innings or 1:45 in length.
3. An inning consists of three (3) outs or seven (7) runs maximum.
4. All players must play at least two (2) defensive innings.
5. Runners at third are “frozen” when the catcher attempts to pick off a runner stealing second – first half of the season only.
6. Play stoppage occurs when the pitcher possesses the ball and steps on the mound (green area or hill) with the intention of preparing to pitch.
7. No dropped third strike.
8. Infield fly rule is in effect.
9. Cal Ripken Minor Division 9/10 – Under no circumstance shall a pitcher be permitted to pitch in more than six (6) innings per calendar week. (Monday through, including Sunday). If a pitcher pitches in more than three (3) innings in one assignment, they are required two (2) calendar days rest prior to pitching again. Each game in which a pitcher pitches is considered an assignment. If a pitcher delivers one pitch in an inning, they shall be charged for one inning pitched.
10. Regular baseball rules on pitcher substitutions.
11. Defense consists of nine (9) on the field.
12. Stealing allowed when ball passes front edge of home plate.
13. Pitching distance is 46 feet measured from back of home plate to center of pitching rubber.
14. Bunting is allowed.
15. A team can start and play with eight (8) players and the ninth spot in the batting order will be an automatic out. Less than eight (8) players will be a forfeit.
16. If a team has enough players to start the game but not all players are present, all players that will eventually be present will be listed on the team lineup. Once the player(s) arrive, they will then be added to the batting lineup and placed at the bottom of the order.
17. Balks will not be called.

## Majors – 11/12 Year Olds

1. Baselines – 70 feet.
2. A game will consist of six (6) innings or 1:45 in length.
3. Double headers will be six (6) innings or 1:45 in length.
4. Infield fly rule is in effect.
5. Dropped third strike is in effect.
6. A maximum of seven (7) runs per inning will be allowed.
7. Each team will be required to bat the entire roster.
8. Cal Ripken Major Division 11/12 – Under no circumstances shall a pitcher be permitted to pitch in more than six (6) innings per calendar week (Monday through, and including Sunday). If a pitcher pitches in more than three (3) innings in one assignment, they are required two (2) calendar days rest prior to pitching again. Each game in which a pitcher pitches is considered an assignment. If a pitcher delivers one pitch in an inning, they shall be charged for one inning pitched.
9. Lead offs are allowed.
10. Balks will be called.
11. Regular Babe Ruth baseball rules on pitcher substitutions.
12. Pitching distance 50 feet from back edge of home plate to center of pitching rubber.
13. A team can start and play with eight (8) players and the ninth spot in the batting order will be an automatic out. Less than eight (8) players will be a forfeit.
14. If a team has enough players to start the game but not all players are present, all players that will eventually be present will be listed on the team lineup. Once the player(s) arrive, they will then be added to the batting lineup and placed at the bottom of the order. If a game is started with the minimum number of players, an out will be charged for the 9<sup>th</sup> spot until the late player arrives.

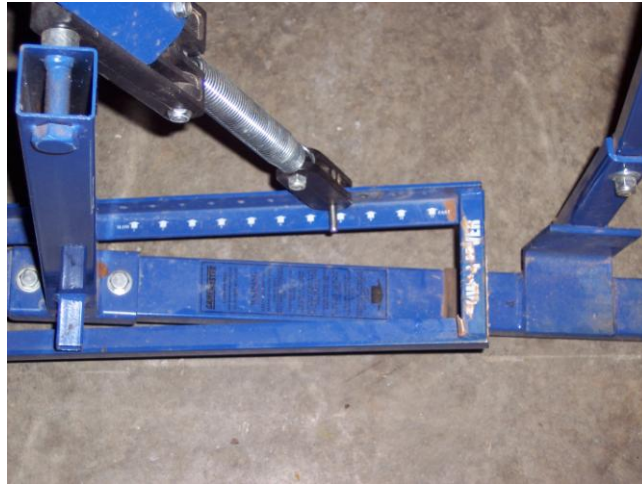
## **Babe Ruth – 13 and Up**

1. A game consists of seven (7) innings or 2:00 in length.
2. Regular Babe Ruth baseball rules.
3. A Babe Ruth 13-15 pitcher, under no circumstances, shall be permitted to pitch in more than seven (7) innings per calendar week (Monday through, and including Sunday). If a pitcher pitches in more than three (3) innings in one assignment, they are required two (2) calendar days rest prior to pitching again. Each game in which a pitcher pitches is considered an assignment. If a pitcher delivers one pitch in an inning, they shall be charged for one inning pitched.
4. There are no rule limitations for a Babe Ruth 16-18 pitcher. Extreme care should be used so an individual player is not overextended; protect the players arm.

Note: The boards from Bethesda, College Grove, EWA and HCRA have all agreed to these rules for the fall 2010 season.

## Pitching Machine Settings

Power Lever #8



Release Arm #4



Throwing Arm #3

