

## **Babe Ruth League Local Rules 2018- Merrimack and Souhegan (Hollis/Brookline, Amherst, Milford)**

The local rules for Babe Ruth in our combined league are outlined below to eliminate any confusion. The Official Babe Ruth Rule Book 2018 is to be the guideline for any rule clarification in season. These rules are built on Major League Baseball rules. Any rule NOT defined in this document shall be deemed to be governed by the Official Babe Ruth Rule Book for 2018.

### **League Operations-**

- We have scheduled for 12 games per team
- Every team MUST play a minimum of 10 games to count towards playoff seeding
- All players must be on a SV League submitted roster by season start (no min games played for playoff inclusion for players)
- All players must be on an Official League submitted roster by season start (no min games played for playoff inclusion for players)
- A minimum of 1 fully patched umpire must be at EVERY game
  - o 2 Patched umpires can be used, or a combination of 1 patched ump and 1 youth/training umpire can be used, as long that the patched ump is the plate ump.
- Playoffs to be double elimination.
  - o In order to minimize the amount of time needed to complete playoffs, Merrimack will only send their top 1 or 2 teams (final format still in discussion)
- Playoff seeding to be based on 10 games minimum play
- Any ties in standings will be determined by:
  - o Winning percentage
  - o Head to head
  - o Runs against
  - o Runs scored
  - o Coin Flip

### **Rescheduled Games-**

- Weather related cancellations of games are to be determined by the HOME team and umpire notifications are to be made as soon as decisions are made
- Up to a MAXIMUM of 3 (three) weather related games per team may be dropped from the schedule (weather ONLY)
- Make-up games are to be played or forfeits issued (Stress Flexibility and Cooperation, Kids want to Play!)
- Team managers are responsible for negotiating times and dates for make-ups, and must inform the coordinator in the town hosting the game so that umpires may be scheduled.
- Non-weather related cancellations are to be made up as soon as possible
- League Arbiters (non-participating league reps) are to be designated in grievance filings, and they will handle any non-weather related cancellations that do not appear to be attempted to replay. (Forfeits may be issued to team not attempting to replay)

## **Game Play-**

Lineup/Substitutions: Rules apply to all players present for games

- Teams must bat the full lineup for every game
- In-game free substitution is allowed
- Regardless of field position played, batters must remain in the same order on the lineup card.
- If a batter is removed from the lineup card and replaced, they cannot re-enter the game or lineup card in any way.

Minimum Play Rules- Rules apply to all players present for games

- At Bat- Each player is required to get one (1) at bat
- Defense- Each player is required to have four (4) defensive innings (12 outs) on the field per game attended.)
  - o This applies to 7 inning games. If a game is called for darkness or weather, less than 4 innings are allowed.
- Disciplinary or injury related exceptions to these rules above are to be made to the opposing coach and agreed upon

Pitching Rules- In game and Mandatory rest rules

- Balks- One warning per pitcher per game until playoff begin
- Inning's Pitched and Mandatory Rest Days- We will follow the official 2018 Babe Ruth Rules Guide (Section 6- Pitching) Innings Based
- Within 24 hours of the end of every game, each coach is required to report the score of the game, along with pitchers used and inning counts to the Merrimack coordinator for entry into the online scoring system.
- Scores and standings will be captured at myabaseball.com

Bat Rules- Rules and Guidelines to ensure legal/approved bats are used in games

- Approved/Legal Bats- We will follow the official 2018 Babe Ruth Rules Guide
- USA Baseball Marking or BBCOR .50 2-5/8" Barrel.
- *Wood barrel bats conforming to the specifications of Official Baseball Rule 1.10 are allowed.*

Game Completion- Games will be played until officially completed or stopped by the umpires due to field conditions. (Safety)

- Games do NOT have any time limits and shall not be stopped until official game is completed.
- Games shall be deemed official after 5 (five) total innings are recorded. (or 4.5 if home team is ahead)

- There are NO maximum run rules per inning in effect for any game. An inning can only end after 3 outs are recorded.
- Mercy rule- If a team is up by 10 runs or more at the point of official game, (5 innings) the score will be recorded as complete from that point.