



Welcome to the Eastern Massachusetts Cal Ripken Baseball Leagues State Championship Tournament 2017

The following is a brief outline of procedures and material we will be covering at the mandatory coaches/managers meeting.

Documents:

Upon check in, each team shall surrender to the Tournament Director a set of documents consisting of:

1. Letter of Eligibility (properly signed off)
2. Proof of Insurance
3. Official Tournament Roster Form
4. Team Photograph (This is in ADDITION TO the photo which must be submitted electronically to the Host as soon as you have won your District Tournament)
5. ID Cards or approved Birth Documents
6. Consent for Treatment forms.
7. Coaches Certification Forms
8. Security deposit of \$250.00 made out to Eastern Massachusetts Cal Ripken Leagues

These documents will be returned when your team has completed its run in the tournament.

Contact Information:

You have received contact information for the Tournament Chairman, Tournament Director and State Commissioner.

Changes to the Schedule:

The schedule will be played as written. Only the Tournament Director has authority to change the schedule. In case of inclement weather a decision will be made 2 hours prior to the start of the game based on field conditions and the forecast. If a decision can be made prior to that it will. All attempts will be made to get the games in as scheduled. Please be sure that your contact info is the best number to contact you during daytime hours. It is best to provide multiple contacts as backup.

Official Line Up Cards:

Official Line Up Cards provided by the host will be used and must be completed with first and last names and numbers of players, first and last names of coaches, protest committee members and batboy if one is used. No nicknames are to be used ie: "Billy" is ok but "Billy the Beast" is not. Give the official scorekeeper a copy of your line up as soon as possible. Changes can be made until the line up card is given to the umpire. After the line up card has been submitted to the umpire all substitution rules are in effect.

Bat Boy (Girl):

The use of a "bat boy" is allowed but the bat boy must be in uniform, must be on a local league roster and MUST wear a helmet at all times, regardless of the age of the bat boy.

Uniforms:

Only properly uniformed personnel are allowed on the field and in the dugout. Team personnel consists of 1 manager, 2 coaches. If a team has a scorekeeper that scorekeeper must remain outside the playing area and outside the dugout. During the game all managers/coaches must remain inside the dugout (unless coaching a base). The proper Ripken emblem must be properly displayed on all uniformed participants.

Official Scorekeeper:

The Host shall provide an official scorekeeper. This scorekeeper shall also be the official scorer. New this year, we will also have a pitch counter. Each team must check in with the official pitch counter at the end of each inning so that both teams and official pitch counter have the same pitches counted. Each manager must sign off on the pitching after each game. All substitutions, both offensive and defensive, must be made to the official scorer before the substitute enters or re-enters the game.

Baseballs:

RCAL game balls will be supplied by the Host. Each team is responsible for providing 2 game balls comparable to RCAL to offset costs incurred by the Host. Foul balls are expected to be returned to the umpire.

Umpire Fees:

Each team is responsible for the payment of 1 umpire per game. The established fee for the Kingston State tournament is \$60.00. Prior to ground rules give the fee to the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director is the only person who will pay the umpire.

Extra Hitter Option:

Extra Hitter Option is allowed in Tournament play. You must declare your intent prior to the start of the game. If you choose the option, you **MUST** complete the game with the Extra Hitter.

Headgear/Masks:

ANYONE (Coach, manager, player, parent) warming up a pitcher **MUST** wear proper headgear. This includes both on and off the field – anywhere on Tournament Site property. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Awards:

Any award to be given out must be approved by the Tournament Director or his designee.

Home Team:

The Home team shall occupy the first base dugout.

Visiting Team:

The Visiting team shall occupy the third base dugout.

Jewelry:

Jewelry shall not be worn! The only exception is a medical alert which must be taped to the body and does not “dangle”.

Pre-Game Warm-ups;

30 minutes prior to the posted start time of the game the Home team has the field for warm-up. You will be notified by the announcer when to take the field and when to leave it. This is use it or lose it! When your 10 minutes is up - **GET OFF THE FIELD PROMPTLY.**

20 minutes prior to the posted start time of the game the Visiting team has the field for warm-ups. You will be notified by the announcer when to take the field and when to leave it. This is use it or lose it! When your 10 minutes is up - **GET OFF THE FIELD PROMPTLY.**

10 minutes prior to game time Ground Rules, player introductions, National Anthem and reading of the Babe Ruth Sportsmanship Code.

If time is shorter than 30 minutes before game time, it will be evenly divided 3 ways for equal time for each step outlined above.

Game Length:

All tournament games shall be 6 innings in length, except when shortened by the mercy rule or extended by extra innings. In the case of inclement weather, the game shall be

suspended at the time of stoppage and resumed from the point it was stopped with play continuing to completion at the first available time.

Practice Fields:

Arrangements must be made with the Host Chairman

Warming up Pitchers:

The warming up of “relief” pitchers shall take place in designated areas and the Headgear Rules MUST be followed.

Protest:

All teams will name a protest committee member. In the event that there are less than 3 Eastern Mass Commissioners present a “protest committee” shall be formed by the Tournament Director and the Protest Committee person from each team. This committee shall rule on the protest. All protests will be ruled on immediately. Judgment calls are not grounds for a protest. This committee will only rule on the rule and its application or interpretation and shall not make any judgments. Remember it is your right to have a committee hearing on the spot. There is no appeal of the protest committee ruling. The purpose of this is to get the rule correct.

Addressing the Umpire:

Only the manager may talk to an umpire and in a professional manner. Do not yell out to an umpire. Simply ask for time out and in a calm manner talk to the umpire. Remember we are on display for all to see, including the youngsters who are playing.

Pitching: Rules are new for 2017

1. See separate document from Steve Tellefsen President and CEO of Babe Ruth League regarding pitch counts.
2. A starting pitcher may reenter the game as a pitcher provided that s/he has not been removed by rule.
3. Balks will be enforced. See rulebook for information on what constitutes a balk
4. All signs must come from the catcher and the pitcher must be on the mound.
5. If an ineligible pitcher takes the mound and makes a warm up throw, but is removed before making a pitch to a batter, it shall not be considered a pitching change.

Mercy Rule:

The 10 run mercy rule is in effect in all tournament games without exception, after 3 ½ complete and Home Team is ahead by 10 runs or more. After that equal times at bat.

Playing Time:

There is no mandatory playing time in Cal Ripken Tournament Baseball. This is not about a time limit, this refers to playing time for an individual player.

Substitutions:

A starter may be removed and can reenter the game once. A substitute can never reenter the game (except in the case of an injury). The starter may only reenter for the substitute that entered the game for that starter, or his substitute. If a team has no more legal substitutes and an injury or ejection occurs the opposing manager may choose which player may reenter.

*Note: A substitute may enter for a substitute.

Reentry:

When a starter reenters the game he must occupy the same batting order position in the lineup that he was in originally.

Infield Fly Rule:

The infield fly rule is in effect for all games.

Base Runners:

1. Base runners may not leave the base until the ball has reached the plate. In the case of a runner, the base umpire shall signal for all to see and after the pitch/play, place the base runner(s) at the appropriate base(s). NOT APPLICABLE FOR 50/70.
2. Turn on fair ground ball past first is permitted. The runner can turn either way, in fair territory or foul, to return to first base. His right to immunity is immediately forfeited upon any act that, in the umpire's judgment, indicates the batter/runner's attempt to advance to second base.
3. If a runner overruns first base after a fourth ball the rules make no distinction between a batter who has walked and any other batter/runner. Therefore, this runner has the same right to over run first base as a runner who hit a fair ground ball.
4. Sliding into a base – there are no restrictions on the type of slide that can be used ie: head first slides are allowed.

Contact Rule:

If a runner attempting to reach a base intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player, he shall be called out on the play and ejected from the game. The object of this is to penalize the offensive team for deliberate, unwarranted, unsportsmanlike action by the runner for the obvious purpose of crashing into the defensive player, rather than trying to reach base. Obviously, this is an umpire's judgment call.

Ejections:

A player/coach/manager who is ejected will be suspended from the remainder of the tournament and may be suspended from advancing on to Regional or National Tournaments as well. There are extremely rare exceptions to this rule. The manager is responsible for the behavior of his Coaches, players, staff and fans.

The Eastern Massachusetts Cal Ripken Baseball staff will make every attempt to prevent you from making a costly error, but ultimately, following the rules is the responsibility of the manager. If you are uncertain about a rule ask for clarification.

Obviously, we cannot cover every situation here, but you can be assured we will follow the rules and help you to understand them to the best of our ability.

Please respect the Host Community. Pick up your dugout after each game. Good luck and enjoy your experience.