



South Colonie Babe Ruth Questions And Answers

The transition from Little League to Babe Ruth has been simplified. The following Q & A's will hopefully make the transition a smooth one.

Q: When can I start playing Babe Ruth?

A: You are eligible to play Babe Ruth after your Little League career has ended as a 12-year-old.

Q: What age can my son play to?

A: They are allowed to play 3 years of Babe Ruth. Ages 13-15. The age cutoff is the same for Little League, where any one turning 13, 14, or 15 after May 1st is eligible. Currently, Babe Ruth International is running a pilot program that allows for 16-year-olds to play in Babe Ruth as well. This began in 2016 and has been approved to occur again for 2019.

Q: Where are the games played?

A: All home games are played at either Kuhn Field or Rogo Field, both located within Cook Park. Any away games are at the opposing team's facilities. Night games will be played under the lights with fields which have lights.

Q: What towns are in the league?

A: Currently there is Guilderland, North Colonie, Bethlehem, Niskayuna, East Greenbush and Rotterdam.

Q: How many teams are in the league?

A: This changes from year to depending upon enrollment. In 2018 we had 4 teams.

Q: What is this 13-year-old team all about?

A: The 13-year-old league was created to instruct the kids and make the transition easier to Babe Ruth as the field is much bigger and the rules are more along the lines of MLB. The team consists of only 13-year-olds.



Q: Can my player play on both teams?

A: Yes and no. All 13's are eligible for the 13 year old team. Depending on how many 13's sign up and how many 15 year old's are not eligible anymore. We try and limit the number of kids on the regular team to 14 if possible.

Q: Do I have to play on both teams?

A: No. Some choose just to play on the 13's only and some (if selected), just want to play for the 13-15 groups. In some cases, if enrollment is low, this could change and 13's would play in all games.

Q: How does one get on a team?

A: There are tryouts in March when the weather breaks, similar to Little League for the coaches to get a feel for the kids and see who can possibly play on the 13-15-year-old teams. All kids make the 13-year-old team.

Q: Where and when is registration?

A: Registration is mostly completed on-line on our website, however paper registrations are still accepted. Registration must be completed by April 1st of the upcoming season.

Q: How much does it cost?

A: The current registration fee is \$295.00.

Q: As a parent what fund raisers or help is needed?

A: There are none. No fund raisers (although we could use one), no field days for cleanup, no concession stand, no pancake breakfast, no candy.

Q: How many games are played?

A: Each regular team is played two times for a total of 16 games (assuming there are 4 teams). The 13's can play anywhere from 10-12 games depending upon field and team availability.

Q: Are there conflicts between the 13-year-old team and the regular teams?

A: No, those games will never be scheduled at the same time, unless by accident. In this case, the player should plan to play on the 13-15 (House) team.



Q: What about school trips, dances, school concerts, etc?

A: We look at our calendar and send the league black-out dates to avoid this as best we can.

Q: Are there playoffs or All-Stars?

A: Yes and yes. Depending upon the coaching staff, available funds and player commitment, an All-Star team will be formed. It is usually a double elimination (no pool play).

Q: Is there a website to see standings and schedules?

A: Yes, it is run by the league. The website is: www.coloniebaberuth.com

Q: How does one become a coach or manager of a regular team or 13-year-old team?

A: You have to take a test (online). The current cost is \$24.95. Unlike Little League, this certificate is for life. There is no renewal fee. Also, in order to Coach, you must join the league as a Board member.

Q: How do the All-Stars get picked?

A: They are picked by all the coaches from each team, including the 13-year-old Manager.

Q: What about uniforms?

A: The league provides a shirt / jersey and hat. Pants need to be purchased by you and the color will be determine by which team your player is selected to.

Q: What about other equipment?

A: At this age, all the kids have their own helmets and bats. Some kids share bats but not helmets.

Q: What shoes can be worn?

A: Babe Ruth allows the player to wear either rubber cleats or metal spikes. Modified for the school requires the rubber cleats only.



Q: How long are the games and when are they played?

A: The league starts the beginning / middle of April and the plan is to be done by the end of May. Games are 7 innings long. No new inning shall start, and a game shall end when after four and one-half innings (4 1/2) or two and one-half (2 1/2) hours of play, one team is ahead by ten (10) runs. If the team that is ahead is the visiting team and it is at bat, the home team must be allowed to have its at bat before the game can be ended.

Q: What do you mean by instructional for the 13's?

A: One coach is allowed on the field when your team is on the field to show the kids what they need to do and assist them on a play by play basis if needed.

Q: What bat can be used?

A: Babe Ruth requires that the bat be stamped BBCOR. The barrel can be 2 5/8 not 2 3/4. We will have a link on our website for the latest bat standards.

Q: Is there insurance coverage?

A: We cover the insurance, with the highest limit available which is currently \$2 million dollars.

Q: What are the mandatory playing times.

A:

- All 13 year old players must play a minimum of three (3) defensive innings and have one (1) turn at bat in each game attended.
- All 14 year old players must play a minimum of three (3) defensive innings and have one (1) turn at bat in each game attended.
- All 15/16-year old players must play a minimum of four (4) defensive innings and have one (1) turn at bat in each game attended.
- If this requirement is not met in a completed full game, that player shall play the entire subsequent game (up to 7 innings). The only exception to this rule is if a game is shortened because of darkness, rain or the ten (10) run mercy rule. Failure to comply with this rule will be reviewed by the Executive Committee with the possibility of a forfeit of that game if found to be negligent.