

BLOOMINGDALE YOUTH SPORTS ASSOCIATION

BY-LAWS AND LOCAL RULES

2016

All local rules of Bloomingdale Youth Sports Association are sanctioned under the BYSA constitution and Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken guidelines. These rules have been developed to further the objectives of Babe Ruth Baseball Incorporated and Bloomingdale Youth Sports Association. Adherence to these rules, are the responsibility of all Board Members, Managers, Coaches, Umpires, Players, Parents and spectators. It is required that all managers inform their coaching staff, players and parents of these rules. Non-compliance of these rules by anyone involved in the activities of Bloomingdale Youth Sports Association may result in disciplinary actions outlined in guidelines or, if necessary, be brought before the Board of Directors for consideration of appropriate consequences. Note: Bloomingdale Youth Sports Association Constitution and the Babe Ruth Rules control the extent of inconsistency with these rules. Rules and Guidelines apply to both baseball and softball programs.

SECTION 1: PARK RULES

The Park used by BYSA is a Hillsborough County Park. All county ordinances applicable to County Parks must be followed. The term "park" as used in these rules includes any offsite game or practice site where a Bloomingdale team is practicing or playing in a scrimmage, interlock, regulation or tournament game. Please reference attachment 1 disciplinary action policy.

A. **BYSA has a zero tolerance for the following:**

1. Use, possession or being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances at the park.
2. Fighting, harassment, threats of violence, or bullying.
3. Use of profanity, or abusive language to children, coaches or umpires.

B. **Prohibited activities:**

1. Hitting the ball into any fences, unless in approved areas by batting cages.
2. Climbing of trees, fences or gates.
3. Use of skateboards, scooters, rip sticks, or bikes. Use of wheeled or motorized vehicles for handicapped persons is permitted.
4. Defacing or destroying property or equipment of BYSA. Person must repair damage. If done by a player, the player will sit out their next game.
5. No pets are allowed at the park.
6. No unauthorized vehicles.
7. No Digging of holes by kicking out the grass with the feet.
8. Batting cages - No unsupervised children. **Helmets must be worn at all times.**
9. No Swinging of bats in the common area including practice area.
10. No Throwing baseballs or softballs across walking paths throughout the park. Wall-ball is not permitted except in designated areas.
11. Children are not allowed in conservation (wooded) area behind BYSA fields.
12. Leaving children unattended at the Park after operating hours. Parents are required to pick up all players prior to the park closing, or make arrangements so children are not left unattended.
13. Games between parents and children are not permitted. This is a safety and insurance issue.

C. **Lightning Prediction System.**

BYSA has employed the THOR GUARD Lightning prediction system. When the alarm sounds all players and parents must immediately leave the park and seek shelter in their vehicle. Dugouts and covered bleachers are not suitable shelter; neither is the open parking lot. More information on THOR procedures is in the Safety Plan.

D. **Use of Park by other baseball organizations**

BYSA will not support other baseball/softball organizations playing at Bloomingdale fields unless 60% of the rostered players are active players in the Spring BYSA season in which permission is asked to use the fields. Organizations are also required to comply with Hillsborough County mandates such as background

checks, field playing approval, insurance coverage, and BYSA permission before they can use the fields. No organization will be supported or granted permission to use the BYSA fields unless these requirements are met.

SECTION 2: REGISTRATION

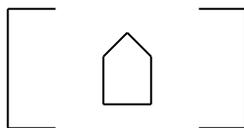
- A. BYSA registrations will be advertised via league web site and posted in local newspapers and bulletin boards. Typically the spring registration dates will be the first 2 Saturdays in December with 2 additional days to be determined by the Board, or will include early registration as determined by the Board.
- B. BYSA encourages participation of all players and families desiring to participate in this wonderful sport.
- C. Players wishing to sign up after posted registrations: After the deadline, determination of availability will be made by Player Agent, and Director of Baseball or Director of Softball.
- D. Late sign-ups will be accepted on a first come-first served basis. They will need to register their names and contact information on a division waiting list until an opening is available. Once available, the signee will be contacted and must sign up when directed. Failure to register for the season when requested by BYSA will forfeit the position to the next person on the list. BYSA cannot hold a position open for any player once registrations have been completed. Players will be placed on a team, if space is available, and contacted by the team manager.
- E. Division Managers and Division Player Agents are required to coordinate division openings with Player Agent and Director of Baseball or Softball without exception.
- F. Registration refund policy. Refund requests are submitted in writing to the Player Agent.

SECTION 3: TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Game Day
Team responsibilities are normally shared between BYSA participants. For games that involve only one BYSA team (e.g., Interlock), the BYSA team is responsible for all tasks listed below.

- 1. Home Team
 - a. Prepare the field for play. Rake and mark the batters' boxes (see diagram below) and base lines with **chalk on dirt areas only**.

Batters' Boxes Markings



Note: Inner Lines are NOT marked.

- b. Provide an Official Scorekeeper. This is Mandatory for all star eligibility. The scorebook will be in the shed near your field. Make sure it is for your division. The scorekeeper shall be located at the scorer's table.
- c. Provide a Plate Umpire if a league umpire is not assigned.
- d. The Manager is to inspect the field to insure that the field is acceptable for play.
- 2. **Visiting team**
 - a. Pitcher's mound and batters boxes need to be repaired after the game.
 - b. Provide a Field Umpire if a league umpire is not assigned.
 - c. Secure all equipment, including pitching machine, in the field storage shed following the last game of the day.
- 3. **Both teams**
 - a. Clean dugout and bleacher areas following the game.
 - b. Last game of the day ensure scorebook and score board control is put in the shed.

SECTION 4: MANAGERS, COACHES, AND VOLUNTEERS

Note: No coach or manager is guaranteed a future coaching position based upon tenure, prior participation, including as a board member, or sponsorship. All managers and coaches must submit to a background check and obtain periodic coaching certification and qualifications.

- A. All managers and coaches are appointed by the president and approved by the BYSA Board of Directors before being approved to work with a team anywhere in the park. Manager selections are based upon the manager’s ability to manage all aspects of the team, serve as a positive role model, promote the league, and support all BYSA programs or activities.
- B. Managers, coaches, and volunteers are all required to submit a new volunteer application every season. Receipt of the application triggers a background investigation that must be satisfied before the applicant can assume their duties. The BYSA picture badge will be issued to all managers, coaches and volunteers that meet all requirements. **Managers and coaches are not allowed on the field without this badge. The badge is to be worn at all time at the park when working with a team whether it is a game or practice.**
- C. Managers and coaches must attend coaching certification classes through Hillsborough County or the online equivalent. Managers must also attend BYSA coaching clinic, coaches are encouraged to attend. The BYSA clinic addresses the baseball and softball fundamentals that are to be emphasized and taught at BYSA.
- D. Managers must be CPR, and Concussion certified. The league arranges for several classes each season. Coaches and volunteers are all encouraged to become CPR and Concussion certified as there can never be enough with that training.
- E. Managers, coaches, volunteers, players and parents are required to maintain a level of conduct that is above reproach whether on the field, on BYSA Property, at practice sessions or at any BYSA field while representing Bloomingdale youth sports association.
- F. Managers are responsible to ensure that all players complete the mandatory playing time required by each division as mandated by BYSA Local Rules. Failure to follow these rules will result in: First offense: one game suspension. Second offense: two game suspension. Third offense: the Manager will be removed from the team (Baseball/Softball).
- G. Baseball managers are responsible for following and complying with the BYSA mandatory innings pitched rules at all times. Failure to abide by the rule will result in the following: First offense: One (1) game suspension. Second offense: two (2) games suspension. Third offense: The Manager will be removed from the team. This violation can be protested during the game by the opposing **team under Babe Ruth Guidelines.**

Innings pitched Rules

*** The week starts on Monday and Ends Sunday**

**** If 1 pitch is thrown in an inning, counts as an inning pitched.**

<i>Division / Age</i>	<i>Maximum Innings</i>		<i>Rest Period</i>	
	<i>Innings per Week</i>	<i>Innings per Game</i>	<i>Innings Thrown</i>	<i>Rest Days</i>
<i>T-Ball</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Rookie B - 7</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Rookie A - 8</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Minors - 9</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Major 60 - 10</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Major 70 - 11/12</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Junior 13-15</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Senior 16-18</i>	<i>unlimited</i>	<i>unlimited</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>

- H. Managers are responsible for ensuring all players utilizing the batting cages are wearing approved protective helmets. Any player utilizing batting cages is required to wear a protective helmet at all times when batting or pitching in the cages.
- I. **Managers ensure any player catching for a coach hitting to his team must wear protective head gear (batting helmet or catchers mask).**
- J. Managers ensure that catchers use protective equipment when warming up pitchers on the field or in a bullpen session. Head gear covering the catcher's ears must be worn on all fields except field 8. **Skull caps may be worn on field 8 only.**
- K. All softball batters are to wear a face mask.
- L. Each Manager is responsible for their entire team while on the field. Each team will comply with all rules and conduct as set forth in the Babe Ruth Rule Book for each division. Rule books must be read and understood by each Manager and Coach. The team manager is responsible for providing his/her Division Manager with a copy of the Code of Conduct and Medical release form, signed by everyone involved with the team (i.e., Manager, Coaches, players and parents).
- M. It is State Law that all Coaches must comply with state concussion training by taking the "Heads up Training" online. Currently found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/headsup/onlinetraining.html>

SECTION 5: TRYOUTS AND DRAFT ELIGIBILITY

- A. Tryouts are held to facilitate an even draft process. Tryouts occur for the Spring Season only. They are used to allow an equal distribution of players across teams. Since there are no drafts for the T-Ball, or Challenger divisions, no tryouts are conducted for these divisions.
- B. Tryouts rules specific to each division:
 1. T-Ball: No tryouts.
 2. Bambino: No tryouts.
 3. Rookies A, Rookies B, Minors, Majors 60, Majors 70, Junior & Senior. Players must attend the tryout to be eligible to be drafted. Players ineligible to be drafted will undergo random assignment.

SECTION 6:

The League President shall enforce the official rules, resolve any disputes involving the rules and determine any protested Games. The League President may fine or suspend any player Coach, Manager or umpire for violation of these rules, at his discretion. Legal (or legally) is in accordance with these rules.

SECTION 7:

All Managers and Coaches must have a copy of ground rules during the season while playing.

SECTION 8: GENERAL FIELD AND GAME RULES

- A. No "On-Deck" Batters for Baseball or Softball on Fields 1 thru 7. On Deck is only allowed on Field 8. No exceptions.
- B. All coaches must be in the dugout when the ball is in play on all fields (except in the divisions where coaches are allowed on the field for instructional purposes). They must always be at least 1 roster coach in the dugout at all times.
- C. All scheduled start times on Saturdays will be the official time kept in order to keep Saturday games moving forward. It is up to the umpires and Managers to be aware of this time when starting or finishing their game. See division specific time limits.
- D. No metal jewelry including earrings except medical bracelets.

SECTION 8: DIVISION SPECIFIC GAME RULES

As listed below, umpires are provided for the spring season for the Baseball division (Rookie B & up) and all of Softball Division. Umpires are not provided during fall except for Softball Seniors, Major 70 & Juniors. The coaches

will call balls and strikes from behind the mound for the following age groups Tball, Rookie B, Rookie A, Minors, Major 60, Softball 8u, 10u and 12u.

SECTION 8A: BASEBALL

A. T-Ball: 4 and 5 yr. olds

1. Time Limits: All games have a one hour time limit.
2. Score is not kept in this division.
3. Managers are responsible to ensure that all players are rotated to different positions (Safety is the key factor for not moving a player).
4. No child shall play the same position more than 2 innings per game.
5. Managers and coaches are allowed to assist the players on the field during the Games.
6. A team's at bat consist of all players batting during the inning **or three outs made**.
 - a. Each batted ball will result in the batter and runners attempting to reach the next base only. Advancing more than one base is prohibited.
 - b. **If the entire line up bats in an inning, at no time is the last batter permitted to keep running to home. The manager and coaches will ensure that each runner and batter advance only one base. Play will be stopped and the members of each team that are on the field will return to their respective dugouts.**
7. Umpires are not provided for this division. Coaches from both teams officiate in a cooperative and sportsman-like fashion.
8. The T will be used for each at-bat. Coach pitch is not permitted.
9. Players will play regular baseball infield positions. Stacking the infield will not be permitted. All players are permitted on the field on defense. The extra fielders will assume a position in the outfield grass. A catcher is permitted as long as they wear the catcher's mask.

B. T-Ball: 6 year olds

1. All rules from above apply except:
 - a. Score will be kept. Official scorebook must be kept in this division (**No game will begin until an official scorekeeper is in place**). We must turn in to Cal Ripken at season end.
 - b. A five run per ½ inning rule is in effect. Each ½ inning will be over when 3 outs are made by the defense or five runs are achieved by the offense.
 - c. A two base maximum will be in effect on any batted ball for half of the season. After 10 games, the runner may advance as long as the ball is in play.
 - d. During the second half of the season, the play will not be stopped until the defense gets the ball in front of the lead runner and time is called. (All-Star rules.)
 - e. Games will be 1 hour and 15 minutes on Saturdays and 1 hour and 30 minutes during weekday games. No new inning started after 1 hour and 15 minutes on Saturdays and 1 hour and 30 minutes on weekdays.

C. Rookies B (Machine Pitch) – 7 year olds

1. Time Limits: No new inning to start after One hour and thirty minutes during the weekdays and Saturdays. If you begin an inning within this time frame you must finish inning.
2. Score is kept in this division. Official scorebook must be kept in this division (**No game will begin until an official scorekeeper is in place**). We must turn in to Cal Ripken at season end.
3. All players will be in the batting order and substituted as needed.
4. Players will be rotated as directed to different positions (Safety is the key factor for not moving a player).
5. No child shall play the same position more than 2 innings per game.
6. Managers and coaches may be on the field (2 Coaches Max) when on defense to assist players with position playing. When batting, coaches may occupy the coaching boxes. There must be a coach in the dugout at all times during the game.
7. Any player that assumes the pitchers position must remain within the "mound" 8-ft-diameter circle,

behind the machine and on one side or the other until the ball is hit.

8. A team's at bat consisting of three (3) outs or five runs, whichever comes first.
9. Base Running
 - a. A **runner may not advance** until the ball is batted into play.
10. When the ball is hit fair, **runners may advance a maximum of two bases**, unless the batter hits an over-the-fence home run. (double for batter, runner on 1st may advance to third, etc.) for the first 6 games of the season. After game 6 the runner may advance as long as the ball is in play.
 - a. Runners may advance only on a ball hit into fair territory or when a defensive play is made on any runner.
11. Pitching machine will be used throughout the season. The machine must be set at the Cal Ripken division determined distance/speed. Each batter will be given 6 pitches or three missed swings before striking out. No strike out on a foul ball. Should Managers from both teams agree it's in the best interest of BYSA objectives, coaches are permitted to pitch (only when Machine is unavailable for use.) Prior to the release of the ball by the machine, the player who is designated as **the pitcher will stand** parallel to or behind the pitching plate to either side of the mound.
12. **No infield fly rule in this division.**
13. No stealing or advancing of bases on passed balls allowed from pitching machine. Base runners leaving early will not be called out just returned to base occupied.
14. There will be a 5 run limit per inning.
15. 10 Run rule does not apply in this division.
16. Umpire will be provided for this division. (Spring Only)
17. BYSA will determine if a Tournament will be played at the end of the season for Rookie B. If so, the Seeds will be created by drawing from a hat.

Pitching Machine Rules on offense: Pitching machine will be used throughout the season. The machine must be set at the Cal Ripken division determined distance/speed. Each batter will be given 6 pitches or three missed swings before striking out. No strike out on a foul ball.

Dead Ball:

- A. The ball will be declared dead when the offensive team stops the lead runner or the runner abandons the effort to advance. Once play has been stopped no other runners may advance beyond the last base tagged.
- B. The ball will be declared dead when a player is injured and in the umpires judgment is unable to continue the play.
- C. If ball strikes machine ball is dead.
- D. If a ball is thrown and hits the pitching machine the ball is LIVE!

Machine position: The pitching machine is placed @ 46ft.. The front two legs of the machine must be placed in front of the pitching rubber (best if up against the front edge).

D. Rookies A – 8 year olds

1. Score is kept in this division. **(No game will begin until an official scorekeeper is in place)** Scorebooks will be used for all games as they will need to be turned in at end of season.
2. Continuous batting order will be in effect for this division.
3. There will be a 5 run limit per inning.
4. 10 Run rule does not apply in this division.
5. Umpires will be provided for this division. (Spring only)
6. Time Limits: No new inning to start after One hour and 30 minutes during the weekdays and Saturdays. **If you begin an inning within this time frame you must finish inning.**
7. 10 Run rule does not apply in this division.
8. **No infield fly rule in this division.**
9. No child shall play the same position more than 2 innings per game, including Pitcher.
10. Any player that assumes the pitchers position must remain within the "mound" 8-ft-diameter circle,

behind the machine and on one side or the other until the ball is hit.

11. Bunting is allowed. You are not allowed to fake bunt pull back and swing. If a player does this and he swings he is going to be ruled as an automatic out.
12. No stealing or advancing of bases on passed balls allowed from pitching machine. Base runners leaving early will not be called out just returned to base occupied.
13. BYSA will determine if a Tournament will be played at the end of the season for Rookies A. If so, the Seeds will be created by drawing from a hat.

Pitching Machine Rules on offense: Pitching machine will be used throughout the season. The machine must be set at the Cal Ripken division determined distance/speed. Each batter will be given 6 pitches or three missed swings before striking out. No strike out on a foul ball. Should Managers from both teams agree it's in the best interest of BYSA objectives, coaches are permitted to pitch (only when Machine is unavailable for use.)

Dead Ball:

- E. The ball will be declared dead when the offensive team stops the lead runner or the runner abandons the effort to advance. Once play has been stopped no other runners may advance beyond the last base tagged.
- F. The ball will be declared dead when a player is injured and in the umpires judgment is unable to continue the play.
- G. If ball strikes machine ball is dead.
- H. If a ball is thrown and hits the pitching machine the ball is LIVE!

Machine position: The pitching machine is placed @ 46ft. with a speed of 43 mph established when ball crosses home plate. The front two legs of the machine must be placed in front of the pitching rubber (best if up against the front edge).

I. Minors – 9 year olds

1. Time Limits: No new inning to start after One hour and forty five minutes during the weekdays and Saturdays. If you begin an inning within this time frame you must finish inning.
2. Scorebooks must be used for all games no exceptions.(No game will begin until an official scorekeeper is in place). We must turn in all scorebooks to Cal Ripken.
3. There is a 5 run limit per inning. The 10 run rule does apply after 4 innings have been completed.
4. Stealing is allowed only after the ball passes the plate.
5. Managers and coaches must stay in the dugout at all times except when their team is batting (coach's box). When on defense, no coaches are allowed on field.
6. A continuous batting order will be used. Managers are responsible to ensure that all players play with no player to sit for two consecutive innings. (Safety is the key factor for not moving a player).
7. No player shall play the same position more than 2 innings per game, including the pitcher. If the pitcher is removed from that position, they cannot reenter to the pitching position.
8. BYSA will determine, each year, whether Minor AA will play an end of season tournament (Tournament seeds will be drawn from a hat.)

J. Majors 60 – 10 year olds

1. Time Limits: No new inning to start after 2 hours during the weekdays and Saturdays. If you begin an inning within this time frame you must finish inning.
2. Scorebooks must be used for all games no exceptions. **(No game will begin until an official scorekeeper is in place).** We must turn in all scorebooks to Cal Ripken.
3. There is a 5 run limit per inning. The 10 run rule does apply after 4 innings have been completed.
4. Managers and coaches must stay in the dugout at all times except when their team is batting (coach's box). Only the manager and two certified Coaches allowed in the dugout.
5. No player is to sit on bench for more than two consecutive innings.
6. If the pitcher is removed from that position, they cannot reenter to the pitching position.

7. The batting order shall consist of all roster players, and that order will not change regardless of defensive substitutions. In the event that a player must be removed from the game while a batter or runner due to illness or injury the last recorded out will take spot on base. If player is unable to return to game, their batting position will be skipped on lineup without any out being recorded.
8. Any 12 year old player that is playing down is not allowed to pitch in this division.
9. No running on 3rd strike drop.
10. Pitching limitations (see innings pitched rules above)
11. Umpires will be provided for this division. (SPRING ONLY)

K. **Major 50/70**

1. Time Limits: No new inning to start after 2 hours during the weekdays and Saturdays. If you begin an inning within this time frame you must finish inning.
2. Scorebooks must be used for all games no exceptions. (No game will begin until an official scorekeeper is in place). We must turn in all scorebooks to Cal Ripken.
3. The 10 run rule does apply after 4 innings have been completed. Managers / coaches should always maintain proper sportsmanship throughout a game. Managers / coaches should realize that there is no tolerance for running up the score.
4. Managers and coaches must stay in the dugout at all times except when their
5. Team is batting (coach's box). Only the manager and two certified Coaches allowed in the dugout.
6. The league will provide umpires.
7. Pitching limitations (see innings pitched rules above)
8. Batting order 2 options:
 - a. Batting order consists of 9 (you must still meet minimum play 6 consecutive outs and one at bat). Substitutions must be made.
 - b. Batting order may consist of entire roster and defensive positions may be changed every inning. Batting order is set for remainder of game. If a player is injured, players move up in one spot with no automatic out penalty.

L. **Juniors**

1. Official Babe Ruth Rules shall govern all play in the Junior/Senior League division.
2. Scorebooks must be used for all games no exceptions. (No game will begin until an official scorekeeper is in place). We must turn in all scorebooks to Cal Ripken.
3. Time Limits: No new inning to start Two hours and Thirty Minutes after the scheduled game start time during the weekdays. On Saturdays, new inning begins when the last out of the previous inning is made. If you begin an inning within this time frame you must finish inning. **EXCEPTION-** Field Curfew NO ADDITIONAL PLAY MAY OCCUR AFTER 10:15 PM. THIS IS THE DROP DEAD TIME AND NO PLAY AND OR CONTINUATION OF AN INNING MAY OCCUR.
4. Managers and coaches must stay in the dugout at all times except when their Team is batting (Coach's box).
5. Head gear covering the catcher's ears is not required on field 8. Skull caps may be worn on this applies to field 8 only.
6. BYSA league provides two umpires to officiate these games during the Spring season. In the fall a plate umpire only will be provided.
7. The 10 run rule does apply after 5 innings have been completed. Managers / coaches should always maintain proper sportsmanship throughout a game. Managers / coaches should realize that there is no tolerance for running up the score.
8. Batting order 2 options:
 - a. Batting order consists of 9 (you must still meet minimum play 6 consecutive outs and one at bat). Substitutions must be made.
 - b. Batting order may consist of entire roster and defensive positions may be changed every inning. Batting order is set for remainder of game. If a player is injured, players move up in one spot with no automatic out penalty.

M. Senior Baseball

1. Official Babe Ruth Rules shall govern all play in the Junior/Senior League division.
2. Scorebooks must be used for all games no exceptions. (No game will begin until an official scorekeeper is in place). We must turn in all scorebooks to Cal Ripken.
3. Time Limits: No new inning to start after Two hours and Thirty minutes after the scheduled game start time
4. The 10 run rule does apply after 4 innings have been completed. Managers / coaches should always maintain proper sportsmanship throughout a game. Managers / coaches should realize that there is no tolerance for running up the score.

SECTION 8B: SOFTBALL

A. 8U Softball (Machine Pitch)

1. Score is kept in this division. Official scorebook must be kept in this division **(No game will begin until an official scorekeeper is in place)**. We must turn in to Babe Ruth softball officials at season end.
2. Umpire will be provided for this division. (Spring Only)
3. Ten Run Rule does not apply in the 8U division. Managers / coaches should always maintain proper sportsmanship throughout a game. Managers / coaches should realize that there is no tolerance for running up the score.
4. Offense:
 - a. All players will bat with a consistent batting order throughout the entire game.
 - b. A team's at bat consists of three outs or five runs, whichever comes first.
 - c. Each batter will be given 6 pitches or three missed swings before striking out. No strike out on a foul ball. If a foul ball occurs on the 6th pitch, the batter remains, but must swing at the next pitch. This continues until a ball is put in play or batter strikes out. If the batter chooses not to swing at the 6th pitch, she will be called out.
5. Base Running:
 - a. A runner may not attempt to advance until the ball is batted into play.
 - b. A runner may not advance when fielder has thrown ahead of runner.
 - c. When the ball is hit in fair territory, runners may advance a maximum of two bases, unless the batter hits a legally batted over-the-fence home run. The runners and batter-runner may attempt to reach a single extra base in the event that a legally batted ball reaches the outfield grass.
 - d. The batter-runner and all other runners may attempt to reach a single extra base in the event that the thrown ball by any defensive player attempting to get the batter-runner out at first base is overthrown to first base.
 - e. In the Spring, base running rules may be altered approximately half way through the season to align with All Star Rules.
 - f. There is no base stealing at 8U softball.
6. Defense:
 - a. Players will be rotated as directed to different positions. Players will rotate positions throughout the game and each player should play in the infield and the outfield in each game. (Safety is the key factor for not moving a player into the infield).
 - b. No child shall play the same position more than two innings per game.
 - c. Each team may field up to ten defensive players providing both teams have 10 players. However, there may not be more than 6 defensive players in the infield. This means outfielders must be positioned in the outfield grass. If at any time during the game, due to injury or any other reason, either team only has 9 players, then both teams shall field 9 players for the remainder of the game.
 - d. Prior to the release of the ball by the machine, the player who is designated as the pitcher will stand parallel to or behind the pitching plate to either side of the mound.
7. Coaches, Managers and other Adults: Each team will have a manager, two coaches, and/or a team mom/dad who are allowed in the dugout or on the playing field as long as each adult has successfully completed a background check. This provides for a total of up to 4 candidates for each team involved in the conduct of the game, even though you will only need 3. On offense, a coach may occupy each coach

box at first base and third base in foul territory. On defense, a maximum of two coaches may occupy the outfield in foul territory for instructional purposes. At least one adult must be in the dugout at all times to maintain order and control of the players.

8. Pitching machine will be used throughout the season:
 - a. The machine must be set at the Babe Ruth Softball division determined distance/speed. (Set machine @35feet for 32 mph) If and only if, the pitching machine is unavailable for use, manager/coaches from each team will pitch to his/her own team.
 - b. Dead ball rulings. If a ball that is hit or thrown strikes the machine coach pitcher, the ball will be ruled dead. The base runners and batter-runner will be allowed to proceed to the base that they were heading toward at the time the ball struck the aforementioned object. *NOTE:* If, in the judgment of the umpire, the coach pitcher made no effort to get out of the way of a ball that has been hit or thrown, or intentionally interfered with a defensive play, the ball will be ruled dead and the runner closest to home will be called out, and all other runners returned to the base that they last legally occupied. If there are no runners, then the batter-runner will be out.
9. The Circle Rule is in effect for this division of girls' softball.
 - a. As soon as possible after the player designated as pitcher has the ball within the eight foot radius circle and no further play is imminent, the umpire will call TIME.
 - b. After "time" has been called by the umpire, the machine operator or coach may take possession of the ball to prepare for delivery to the next batter.

B. SECTION 10U SOFTBALL

1. Official Babe Ruth Rules shall govern all play in the 10U division.
2. Time Limits: No new inning to start after One hour and thirty minutes during the weekdays and Saturdays. If you begin an inning within this time frame you must finish inning.
3. Score is kept in this division. Official scorebook must be kept in this division. We must turn in to Babe Ruth softball officials at season end.
4. Umpires will be provided for in this age group. (Spring Only)
5. Coach Assist Pitching (Entire Fall Season and Beginning of Spring)
 - a. No walks allowed. If a batter receives four balls during an at bat, then that batters coach shall take over as pitcher.
 - b. No Strikes may be called by the umpire while the coach is pitching.
 - c. The batter will retain their strike count when the coach takes over.
 - d. The coach may deliver up to three pitches. An at bat cannot end on a foul.
 - e. Time shall be called and play must be stopped prior to each time the coach takes possession of the ball.
 - f. Runners may not attempt to steal bases while the coach is pitching.
 - g. During the first (up to) 6 games of Spring season, Coach Assist Pitching rules detailed above will apply. There will be no coach pitch after the 6th games of the year. Player agent shall determine if this rule is shortened from 6 games.
 - h. Stealing is allowed after the ball crosses home plate. Note rule during Coach Assist Pitching above.
6. An offensive team shall score no more than 5 runs per inning regardless of inning.
7. Pitching rule is 10 innings per week. (Monday – Sunday is week)
8. If pitcher hits batter with ball in air three times pitcher will be disqualified from pitching for the remainder of that game only. If ball bounces and then hits batter, the runner advances to first, but that does not count as one of the three hit batters.
9. The 10 run rule does apply after 4 innings have been completed. Managers / coaches should always maintain proper sportsmanship throughout a game. Managers / coaches should realize that there is no tolerance for running up the score.
10. No Drop third strike is in play in the 10U division.
11. On offense, all players on the team present for the game must be in the lineup and the integrity must remain for the entire game.
12. On defense, no player will be out of the defensive lineup for 2 consecutive innings unless there is an injury prohibiting that player from being on the field.

C. SECTION 12U SOFTBALL

1. Official Babe Ruth Rules shall govern all play in the 12U division.
2. No new inning shall begin after two hours, when there is a game following. Otherwise, there is no time limit.
3. Pitching rule is 10 innings per week. (Monday – Sunday is week)
4. Batting order 2 options (A or B):
 - a. Batting order consists of 9 (you must still meet minimum play 6 consecutive outs and one at bat). Substitutions must be made.
 - b. Batting order may consist of entire roster and defensive positions may be changed every inning. Batting order is set for remainder of game. If a player is injured players move up in one spot with no automatic out penalty.
5. The 10 run rule does apply after 4 innings have been completed. Managers / coaches should always maintain proper sportsmanship throughout a game. Managers / coaches should realize that there is no tolerance for running up the score.

D. SECTION 14/16U SOFTBALL

1. Official Babe Ruth Rules shall govern all play in the Junior/Senior League division.
2. No new inning after 2 1/2 hours.
3. No league age 12yr olds are allowed in the Senior Division.
4. Fall Rules:
 - a. OPTIONAL FALL RULE IF BOTH MANAGERS AGREE ~ an offensive team shall score no more than 5 runs per inning.
 - b. Continuous batting order shall be utilized.
5. Optional Spring Batting order - 2 options (A or B):
 - a. Batting order consists of 9 (you must still meet minimum play 6 consecutive outs and one at bat). Substitutions must be made.
 - b. Batting order may consist of entire roster and defensive positions may be changed every inning. Batting order is set for remainder of game. If a player is injured players move up in one spot with no automatic out penalty.
6. The 10 run rule does apply after 4 innings have been completed. Managers / coaches should always maintain proper sportsmanship throughout a game. Managers / coaches should realize that there is no tolerance for running up the score.