

BULLARD CAL RIPKEN BASEBALL OFFICIAL RULES ROOKIE DIVISION

Except as expressly set forth below, the playing rules for all baseball games shall be those covered in the most current edition of the Babe Ruth Cal Ripken League playing rules.

1. Both teams are responsible for field maintenance. The home team must prepare the field before the game (drag the field, water the field, pound the dirt) and the visiting team shall do the same after the game, for every game.
2. The home team is listed first on the schedule and will occupy the 3rd base dugout and the visiting team will occupy the 1st base dugout.
3. The visiting team shall have exclusive use of the field for warm-up purposes for the first 15 minutes and the home team for the second 15 minutes during the half-hour preceding the game. For the safety of the players and spectators, batting practice is not allowed during the warm-up time. Whiffle balls can be hit a safe distance from the infield.
4. Should an umpire not arrive for the game, one should be chosen from among the parents of the participating teams with dual consent of the respective coaches.
- 4 (a). It is the responsibility of the head coach of the Home team to notify the Rookie Coordinator of the absence of any umpires.
5. Both the Home team and the Visiting team will supply three (2) baseballs to the umpire in charge of the game before the start of play.
6. Umpires cannot be pulled from another game if your umpire does not show up.
7. All players are placed in the batting order. Team's batting lineups must be exchanged between coaches and/or scorekeepers prior to the start of the game. Each team shall supply an adult to monitor the lineup in order to track the maximum number of runs in an inning and to assure the proper batting order of participants. If a player bats out of turn, the coaches should work together to re-insert the player who missed an at-bat without taking an automatic out. If the coaches cannot agree, the umpire will decide the issue.
8. There will be a five run limit per inning. The number of runs scored in a given inning will be monitored only for the purposes of determining when the five run maximum has been met. This is an "instructional" league; while competition is part of any sport, it is not the primary objective in the Rookies division. Please keep this in mind when dealing with kids, umpires, parents and opposing coaches.
9. Rookies teams are to play ten players in the field; six in the infield and four in the outfield. Teams must field a minimum of eight players at the beginning of the game. If a team is unable to field eight players, the game will be forfeited, unless the opposing team wishes to allow one or more of its players to play in the field for the other team. (The loaned field player will bat his own spot for his own team, and just field for the opposing team; the last out from the prior inning should be the player loaned to play in the field for the opponent.) Coaches are encouraged to make such arrangements if necessary so as to have the games proceed when at all possible. Outfield players must start the play on the outfield grass for every pitch.
10. Games will consist of six innings or one hour and thirty minutes, whichever occurs first. No new inning shall start after 1:30 has passed since the first pitch. An inning starts at the moment of the third out of the prior inning.
11. No player will be kept from playing defensively for more than one consecutive inning and not more than two innings in a six inning game. The only exception is for disciplinary reasons or illness.
12. Pitching machines will be set approximately 40 feet from the home plate. There may be occasion when the pitching machine is slightly closer or farther away and coaches should simply work with the distance provided.
13. A batter shall receive a maximum of five machine pitches. If the batter swings for three strikes at or before the fifth pitch, the batter strikes out. If the batter fails to hit a ball into fair play by the fifth pitch, the

batter is out, unless the fifth pitch and all successive pitches are foul balls, which shall warrant another pitch.

13 (a). A ball that is hit into fair play and strikes the pitching machine, coach or generator is a dead ball and the batters and all base runners advance one base only. The pitching coach must stand behind the pitching machine when pitching to his players.

13 (b). There are no bean balls in machine pitch. Any pitch from a pitching machine that hits a player, regardless of whatever the player swings, does not count as a pitch, (it is not a strike and does not count toward the five-pitch count).

13 (c). There are no walks.

14. All pitching in Rookies is by Machine.

15. Players are prohibited from swinging a bat in the dugout or dugout area, and there are no deck circles.

16. There is no infield fly rule in Rookies

17. Players must slide on all close tag plays. The umpire may call a player out for not sliding on a close tag play. Headfirst slides are not allowed.

18. Any attempt to "run over" a defensive player by the base runner will be called out and may be ejected.

19. All batters and base runners must wear helmets at all times .

20. Catchers are required and must be in full catcher's gear, though they are not required to wear catcher's mitts.

21. The distance between bases is 60 feet. The home run line is approximately 140 to 150 feet from home plate. These distances will be measured as best as we can and coaches should not complaint about slight discrepancies.

22. There is to be ABSOLUTELY NO badgering of opposing teams players (i.e., "hey batter batter"). Players are free to cheer for their own teammates as they wish, but must stop when the pitching coach presents the ball to be pitched.

23. All players on a team's roster will bat in rotation in every game. The batting order cannot be changed once the game begins except to add late players to the bottom on the line up. Again: Coaches are to allow for corrections of batting line up errors as a show of good sportsmanship, unless abused.

24. Defensive substitutions are allowed during the course of an inning.

25. The offensive team may have an adult coach on the field of play, one at first base, one at third base, and a pitcher for machine pitch. Any other offensive coaches must stay in or directly adjacent to the dugout occupied by their team.

26. A maximum of two defensive coaches are allowed to coach from the outfield when their team is playing defense. Defensive coaches need to restrain themselves from coaching too loud or talking too much, as it may disturb the opposing team's batter (umpire's discretion).

27. All hits are singles and base runners advance only one base. If a ball goes past the outfield cones/fence but bounces/touches ground before passing the cones/fence, it is a double and all base runners advance only two bases. There are no triples in Rookies. There are no contested doubles in Rookies.

27 (a). A ball hit in the air and fair when it passes over the outfield cones/fence is a home run, and the batter and all base runners proceed all the way home.

28. Players, coaches and parents may not badger, mock, or taunt the umpire or the players, coaches, or parents of the opposing team in any manner during the course of a game. Players, coaches, and parents who are disruptive to the progress and/or purpose of the game (or games" will forfeit the privilege of participation in the game (or future).

games) at the discretion of the umpire and/or Board. Under no circumstances are the coaches, players and/or parents to argue with umpires, coaches or parents of the opposing team. Any one doing so shall be reported to the Board and will be subject to forfeiture of the privilege of participation in future games.

29. Fresno Unified School District rules prohibit the use of tobacco products and/or the consumption of alcohol any time while on school property. Use of cigarettes, cigars, or other tobacco products and/or the consumption of alcohol while on school property will result in the offending person or persons being asked to leave the school grounds.

30. No pets or animals of any kind are allowed on school property, unless a person is being aided by said animal.

31. No player shall play with a cast (hard or soft).

32. NO PROTESTING – Umpires' decisions are final. Should a dispute arise during the course of the game, the two head coaches and the umpire should reach a mutual understanding regarding the dispute. The should be done quietly and quickly. Remember, there are no standings in Farm and Rookies.

33. Rookies base runners shall not leave their base until the ball is hit into play.

34. There is no stealing of bases in Rookies.