 Brockton West Youth Baseball

**2017 Minor League Rules**

**General Rules**

For games prior to Memorial Day, no inning can begin after 7:30.

For games after Memorial Day, no inning can begin after 7:45. (Revised 5/30/2014)

**Rule 1**: No non-league player shall be on the field at any time

**Rule 2:** Managers, Coaches and Umpires are expected to treat each other with respect.

**Rule 3**: Managers and Coaches shall not challenge judgment calls, including balls and strikes. A Manager or Coach may question the interpretation of a baseball or league rule, but shall do so in a respectful manner. A Manager or Coach ejected by an umpire shall be prohibited from participating in the remainder of the existing game and the subsequent game, at the discretion of the President.

**Rule 4:** All players in attendance must be placed in the batting order and take turns at bat whether or not they are playing in the field. Each player is required to play 6 consecutive outs in the field or two innings.

**Rule 5:** Infield fly rule is **not** in effect.

**Base Running**

**Rule 6**: All base runners are expected to slide or avoid contact in any reasonably close play. If a player fails to slide or avoid contact, the umpire may issue a team warning. In the event a player fails to slide or avoid contact after the team has been issued a warning in the game, the player may be called out. It is the umpire’s discretion as to what determines a “reasonably” close play. When in doubt, the player should slide.

**Rule 7:** A head first slide other than as a result of diving back to the base is not allowed and will result in the player being called out.

**Rule 8:** A runner may steal second or third base (after the ball crosses home plate) or

may proceed to second or third base on a passed ball or wild pitch but no further under any circumstances. You are encouraged to have your catcher make the throw to second base. The ball is dead after the play even on an overthrow and the runner may not advance.

**Rule 9**: Runners may not steal home. Runners may score from third only if the ball is hit in play, as a result of a walk or hit-by-pitch with the bases loaded, or as a result of a defensive error as a continuation of a playoff of a batted ball.

**Rule 10:** Helmets with facemasks will not be allowed on the bases. Once a player reaches base, the player must remove the helmet with a face mask and replace it with a regular helmet.

**Rule 11**: In general, players should be directed to avoid contact. Incidental contact between base runners and fielders occurs fairly often at this level. The umpire has the discretion to determine whether the contact results in interference that requires a call

**Batting:**

**Rule 12**: A batter that throws a bat or helmet may be issued a warning by the umpire. In the event the same player throws the bat or helmet again during the game they may be called out by the umpire. In addition, if the umpire determines that the bat or helmet was intentionally thrown, the player may be subject to removal from the game.

**Rule 13:** There is unlimited bunting allowed during the game.

**Rule 14:** Once a batter squares to bunt, the batter must either bunt or take the pitch. If a batter squares to bunt and then swings away (slashing), the batter is automatically out (and may removed from the game at the discretion of the umpire). If the umpire rules slashing, the play is dead at once and runners may not advance.

**Rule 15:** Each team must have their entire roster in the batting order for the entire game. This batting order may change from game to game but shall not be changed during a given game other than for a late arriving player.

**Rule 16:** A late arriving player (after the game has started) must be placed at the

bottom of the batting order.

**Rule 17**: An inning will end after 3 outs, 6 runs or all batters in the line-up have hit in that particular inning.

**Rule 18:** The offensive manager must inform both the plate umpire and the opposing team that the last batter is appearing prior to the player stepping to the plate. This shall be the last batter for the team for that inning.

**Rule 19:** The last batter may not walk on balls and must either put the ball in play or strikeout. However, in the event the last batter is hit by a pitch, that batter will be allowed to go to first and the inning ends.

**Rule 20**: In the event of a declared last batter described in rule 18 or 19 above, a ball put in play shall remain in play until the earlier of; 1) the third out is made, 2) it is “mounded” within the 8-foot circle of the mound, or 3) the umpire has called time out as a result in the stoppage of play. In the event a ball is “mounded”, a runner who has not “committed” to the next base must return to the prior base (this call shall be made by the umpire’s judgment).

**Pitching**

**Rule 21:**

**BABE RUTH LEAGUE TOURNAMENT PITCHING REGULATIONS**  
**Cal Ripken Baseball, Babe Ruth 13-15 Baseball, and Babe Ruth 16-18 Baseball**

These pitch count limitations will apply to all tournament games played in District, Area, State, Regional and World Series competition. (**NOTE:** There is no limit to the number of pitchers a team may use in a game.)  
   
There are no limitations on the number of innings a pitcher may pitch in a tournament (bracket or pool play) game subject to the following pitch count limitations:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TOURNAMENT PITCHING REST REQUIREMENTS** | | | | |
| **AGE** | **DAILY MAX (PITCHES IN GAME/DAY)** | **REST PERIOD** | | |
| **0 Days** | **1 Day** | **2 Days** |
| **7-8** | 50 | 1-20 | 21-35 | 36+ |
| **9-10** | 75 | 1-40 | 41-65 | 66+ |
| **11-12** | 85 | 1-40 | 41-65 | 66+ |
| **13-15** | 95 | 1-45 | 46-75 | 76+ |
| **16-18** | 105 | 1-45 | 46-75 | 76+ |

If the pitcher reaches the maximum pitch count limit while facing a batter, he may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely or is put out.

1. **Intentional Walk Rule** – An intentional base on balls may be given by the defensive team by having its catcher or coach request the umpire to award the batter first base. This may be done before pitching to the batter or on any ball and strike count. The ball shall be declared dead before making the award.
2. All pitchers must adhere to the pitch count rest requirements before pitching in another tournament game.
3. All players have full pitching eligibility beginning at each level of tournament competition. (District, State, Area, Regional, and World Series)
4. If a game is forfeited before it becomes a regulation game, include no records.  Report only the fact of the forfeit.  This means the pitching eligibility in the Cal Ripken, 13-15 and 16-18 Baseball Divisions would be the same as it was prior to the forfeited game.  The pitching eligibility for the next game would be the same as it was prior to the forfeited game.
5. In a game suspended by darkness, weather, or other causes and resumed the following calendar day, the pitcher of record at the time the game was halted may continue to the extent of his/her eligibility for that day, provided said pitcher has observed the required days of rest.

**Example 1:**  A league age 12-year-old pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes on Wednesday. The pitcher is not eligible to pitch in the resumption of the game because he/she has not observed the required days of rest.   
**Example 2:**  A league age 12-year-old pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes on Thursday. The pitcher is eligible to pitch up to 85 pitches in the resumption of the game because he/she has observed the required days of rest.   
   
F.  Games in which an ineligible pitcher has been used, as specified above, shall be declared forfeited.  
  
G. The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after that pitcher is announced, or after a preparatory (warm-up) pitch is delivered, but before that player has pitched a ball to a batter, shall not be considered a violation.  Tournament Officials are urged to take precautions to prevent protests.   
  
H. The age of the tournament will determine the pitch count regardless of the player's league age.  
   
**Example 1**:  If a league age 15-year-old player swings up and participates on the 16-18 tournament team and pitches, the pitcher will abide by the 16-18 tournament pitching rules.   
**Example 2:**  If a league age 12-year-old player swings up and participates on a 13-year-old tournament team and pitches, the pitcher will abide by the 13-15-year-old tournament pitching rule.  
  
**Official Pitch Count Record**

1. The Tournament Director will designate the scorekeeper or another game official as the official pitch count statistician.  The pitch count statistician shall record all pitches as defined in the rule book (Rule 2.00 – A pitch is a ball delivered to the batter by the pitcher), in addition to any pitches delivered to the batter ruled a “no pitch” by the umpire.
2. The pitch count statistician must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire. However, the manager has the ultimate responsibility for knowing when his/her pitcher must be removed to meet the mandated rest requirements.
3. The official pitch count statistician should inform the umpire-in-chief when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted above. The umpire-in-chief will inform the pitcher’s manager that the pitcher must be removed. However, the failure by the pitch count statistician to notify the umpire-in-chief, and/or the failure of the umpire-in- chief to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.
4. To assist in tracking of the pitch count, download and print a “Pitch Count Sheet” at [www.BabeRuthLeague.org](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__baberuthleague.us9.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3Db3b863c1e9a99735ba63e25cb-26id-3Dd493b57626-26e-3D4727b2762c&d=DwMFaQ&c=uz2CXaOvYBYee6kBgqD_XEUxukR0ZFah7_qZFm1YPHk&r=ZGd1twiphVikBR8JzZxnQMfyjk-go6cQvdn1OqOwJH8&m=nKdmxcy4zvoFuhsK8V1kFBXtZOqsZYrchBv7fTo5Ic4&s=b3HvrseQHf2oO7Jzs2X1kLtxRq6L47Y_41xVWxl5R78&e=) under the Rules, Regulations and Policies section of either the Coaches or Officials selection in the menu. You can choose either the [Cal Ripken Baseball](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__baberuthleague.us9.list-2Dmanage1.com_track_click-3Fu-3Db3b863c1e9a99735ba63e25cb-26id-3D3f40c8a641-26e-3D4727b2762c&d=DwMFaQ&c=uz2CXaOvYBYee6kBgqD_XEUxukR0ZFah7_qZFm1YPHk&r=ZGd1twiphVikBR8JzZxnQMfyjk-go6cQvdn1OqOwJH8&m=nKdmxcy4zvoFuhsK8V1kFBXtZOqsZYrchBv7fTo5Ic4&s=PPB_4fP3n75b3vf2GcE5sHaI3FhHV_9nfkwOaGeTFNU&e=) or [Babe Ruth Baseball](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__baberuthleague.us9.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3Db3b863c1e9a99735ba63e25cb-26id-3D1f56cd856c-26e-3D4727b2762c&d=DwMFaQ&c=uz2CXaOvYBYee6kBgqD_XEUxukR0ZFah7_qZFm1YPHk&r=ZGd1twiphVikBR8JzZxnQMfyjk-go6cQvdn1OqOwJH8&m=nKdmxcy4zvoFuhsK8V1kFBXtZOqsZYrchBv7fTo5Ic4&s=3j5KmaiQKGPneDnKDPYqDsRbauUAdC3cEwMj7i-Qc8c&e=) Pitching Sheet.

**Rule 22:** A pitcher must be removed if he/she hits three batters in an inning. (Players must make an attempt to get out of the way of a pitched ball to be considered hit by a pitch.)

**Rule 23:** There are no balks called or enforced under any circumstances.

**Rule 24:** Home team must furnish two balls (one new) for each game.

**Rule 25:** Curve balls are prohibited in minor league games. The first infraction will be called a ball, with a warning issued to the pitcher. If a batter hits a curve ball the play will stand, however the warning will still be issued to the pitcher. If the pitcher throws a second curve ball the plate umpire will instruct the manager to remove the pitcher from the mound (but not the game). The home plate umpire shall make the final determination of whether a pitcher is throwing a curve ball or whether the spin on the ball is a result of a pitcher’s natural motion. A pitcher removed from the mound as a result of this rule is not considered ejected from the game and may play any other position.

**Rule 26:** There is no “hidden ball” trick allowed.

**Rule 27:** A manager/coach is allowed 2 trips to the mound to visit each pitcher in an inning and 3 trips in a game. The pitcher must be removed on second trip in an inning or the third trip in a game for a given pitcher. A manager/coach is charged with a “trip” each time he crosses the foul line, including between innings. Coaches are not allowed to accompany a pitcher to the mound between innings.

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**Substitutions:**

**Rule 28:** All substitutions however, must be made at the beginning of an inning with the

exception of an injury.

**Rule 29:** Players on the field may not change positions during an inning unless there is

a pitching change.

**Playoffs**

**Rule 30:** 4 team Minor League playoff format is 4th place team plays 1st place, and 3rd place team plays 2nd place in a single elimination game. Higher seed team is home. The two winners play a 3-game series for minor league championship. The higher seeded team will be the home team for the third game.

FOR ANYTHING NOT LISTED ABOVE PLEASE REFER TO OFFICIAL CAL RIPKEN RULE BOOK