

Butler County Babe Ruth Softball Rule Addendum

Any policies outlined in the Butler County Babe Ruth League COVID-19 guidelines will supercede the rules outlined within these rules.

1. GAME BALL: Defensive team must furnish one new game ball and one good used ball for backup.
2. REGULATION GAME:
 - a. U8 - 5 innings, 1 hr 30 mins; 5 runs per inning,
 - b. U10 - 6 innings, 1 hr 30 mins; 5 runs per inning
 - c. U12 - 7 innings, 1 hr 50 mins. 6 runs per inning
 - d. U14 - 7 innings, 1 hr 50 mins. 7 runs per inning
 - e. U18 - 7 innings, 1 hr 50 mins. 7 runs per inning
 - f. No new inning shall begin after the defined time limits.
 - g. A game may end in a tie. If there is time left, an extra inning may begin.
 - h. Run limits are lifted during the last inning of the game, meaning the 5th inning for U8, the 6th inning for U10, and the 7th inning for U12 & U14.

Exception – if there are 10 minutes or less remaining on the time limit at the conclusion of an inning, then the next inning will be played as the last inning of the game with no run limits regardless of what inning it is.
3. TEAM COMPOSITION: There will be no enforced rule on team composition in regards to age breakdown. However, teams shall not be fully rostered with players coming from another league. (Ex: School teams cannot roster as a whole team. There is to be no more than 5 players from school teams rostered on each BCBR team. This includes all Junior High, JV, or Varsity players. This is an attempt to discourage “stacking” teams with experienced players.)
4. SELECT PLAYERS: Up to 3 select players are permitted to be rostered on each team. The definition of a select player is any player that takes the field for a team other than that of the communities of Fairfield, Lindenwald, Millville, Oxford and Ross. These players must have participated in at least 50% of their team’s scheduled league games to be eligible to play in the post-season tournament. If they have not participated in the required number of games, those players are not permitted to be rostered for any tournament games. All select players must be identified, and made know to the league, prior to the beginning of the season.
 - a. PENALTY: If it is determined that a team used more than the allotted number of select players, all games in which those additional players participated will be forfeited and the player is suspended for the remainder of the season.
5. PITCHING LIMITATIONS: In U10, U12, and U14, a pitcher may pitch in no more than 10 innings per calendar week. The calendar week is Monday through Sunday. All pitchers and their innings pitched count will need to be entered online through the LeagueTime website so that this can be tracked by all Directors. This information will need to be entered within 24 hours of the completion of the game. This rule is to be strictly enforced by the organization Director.
6. PITCHING DISTANCES:
 - a. U8- 35 ft,
 - b. U10- 35 ft,
 - c. U12- 40 ft,
 - d. U14- 40 ft,
 - e. U18- 43 ft
7. WILD PITCH RULE: A pitcher MUST be removed from the pitcher’s position upon hitting 3 batters in one inning. If the ball hits the ground prior to hitting the batter, it WILL NOT count toward the 3 hit-batter rule. Player may move to another position during this inning and may return to pitcher’s position after the inning in which she hits 3 batters is completed.
8. OFFICIAL SOFTBALL: All organizations shall use the Worth “Dream Seam” blue seamed softball.
 - a. U8 & U10 shall use an 11” softball, Model number C11BYLUC
 - b. U12 and up shall use an 12” softball, Model number C11BYLUC
9. METAL CLEATS: Shall be permitted in U14 and up.
10. PLAYING SHORT: A team can begin a game with 8 players. The absent player shall be listed in the 9th batting position and the team will be required to take an automatic out in the ninth position in the batting order. No team will be allowed to play with less than 8 players.

11. PITCHING MOTION:

- a. Pitcher must start with both feet on the rubber.
- b. No step backward will be allowed during the pitching motion.
- c. Pitchers must keep one foot on the ground throughout the delivery of the pitch.
 - i. EXCEPTION: Due to field conditions, this rule may be relaxed if the pitcher's mound is not level. It is up to the umpire's discretion if the pitcher is illegally crow hopping.
- d. Umpires are instructed to be flexible with the pitchers due to the fact that this age group represents the beginning level of instruction. We encourage umpires to discuss technical flaws in pitching mechanics with coaches AFTER the inning, rather than holding up the game. Coaches are also advised not to hold up the games by "nit picking" the technical flaws of the opposing team's pitcher.

12. MOUND TRIPS: Coaches may make 2 trips to the mound per inning. On the 3rd trip, the pitcher is to be removed from the game as a pitcher for the remainder of the inning.

13. CONTINUOUS BATTING/PLAYER RE-ENTRY: All teams shall bat all players in attendance. In the event a player is removed from the game due to injury or illness, they will not be forced to take an out when that player's turn come up in the batting order. If a player is EJECTED, the team MUST TAKE AN OUT when that spot in the order comes up. Unlimited defensive substitution is allowed.

- a. The opposing coach must be notified if a player is leaving the game due to illness or injury.

14. PLAYER SUBSTITUTION: A team shall be permitted to pull up no more than 2 players from a younger age group to fill player vacancies. There shall be a maximum of 5 games that the substitutes will be permitted to play. These players cannot play in the pitching position. Players can only be pulled from one age level below.

15. BASE STEALING: Base runners shall not leave their bases until the pitched ball is released from the pitcher's hand. For violation, the runner shall be called out.

- a. In U10, runners shall only be permitted to steal one base per pitch and are not permitted to steal home base.
 - i. EXCEPTION: In U10, if a runner occupies third base at the time of the pitch and the catcher attempts to pick off the runner by throwing down to third base, the base runner is allowed to run home.

16. RUN LIMIT: A game shall be called if a team is ahead by 12 runs or more after the 4th inning or if they are ahead by 10 runs or more in the 5th inning. If the HOME team is losing at its option, must have its' turn at bat (within the time limit of the game), even if they cannot catch up due to run limit restrictions.

17. MUST PLAY RULE: Every player that is present for a game must play at least 2 innings of defense and bat once prior to the end of the 4th inning. EXCEPTION: If a player is present but is injured or is being disciplined by the coach, and will not be playing, the home plate umpire and the opposing coach must be made aware prior to the start of the game.

18. INFIELD FLY RULE: The infield fly rule is in effect for all age groups.

19. DROPPED 3rd STRIKE: In U10, Batters will be declared out when the catcher drops a third strike. Base runners can still advance in this situation with less than two outs, except stealing home.

20. COURTESY RUNNER: A courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher and catcher. The courtesy runner must be the player that recorded the last out.

21. CHEERING: Only positive cheering will be allowed. Cheering directed towards the opposing team will not be permitted. Excessive yelling during the pitcher's wind up and delivery with the intent to distract the pitcher also violates this rule.

22. SAFETY:

- a. All fields must be equipped with a safety base at first.
- b. All softball players must wear batting helmets with a face mask. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- c. No sunglasses with metal frames will be permitted.
 - i. Exception: Prescription eye glasses.
- d. Pitchers, First, and Third baseman must wear fielder's masks. NO EXCEPTIONS.

23. GAME DELAYS: Umpires are being instructed to strictly adhere to the rules between half-innings for getting teams quickly on and off the field. Pitchers will be allowed five pitches between half-innings in the first inning and only three pitches between half-innings from the second inning on. In addition, umpires are urged to follow the 60 second time limit for getting teams on the field. If a team is taking too much time, the umpire can call a ball on the first batter for each 10 seconds late.

Additional League Information

- All teams must be chartered under Babe Ruth Baseball/Softball and they must provide their own insurance with sufficient coverage.
- All rules within the Babe Ruth Softball rulebook shall be followed, with the exception of the rules included on the rule addendum. The Butler County Babe Ruth Board of Directors shall govern all decisions and disputes.
- Our season shall begin on 6/6/20.
- Teams will participate in a post-season tournament. Brackets shall be created by team seeding at the end of the season. A meeting shall be held at the end of the season to complete the brackets and schedule tournament games.
- Managers or their agents are not permitted to recruit players that have previously played for any other organization in Butler County Babe Ruth Softball. If a player moves from one organization to another, the player must receive written permission from the previous organization.
- Teams must give at least 48 hours' notice if they are not going to show for a game.
- Directors shall be responsible for rescheduling rainouts. Alternate fields shall be permitted to be used if there is a scheduling conflict with the original game location. Every effort should be made to ensure that all rainout games are made up.
- All managers, win or lose, are required to update their game score and innings pitched online through the LeagueTime website within 24 hours of completion of the game. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the game.

Tournament Rules

- All rules stated here-in will be enforced for the tournament.
 - o Exception: Tournaments will not adhere to the 10 inning pitch limit.
- For seeding, the tie breakers are as follows:
 - o Win/Loss record
 - o Head to head record
 - o Runs Allowed
 - o Runs Scored
 - o Coin toss.
- Elimination games must be played out, even if time has expired. Extra innings will use the "International Tie Breaker" rule.
 - o This rule places the player that recorded the last out of the previous at bat at second base.
 - o Play continues from there until winner is determined.
- Tournament Hosts, (Semi-Finals and Finals):
 - o 2019 – Lindenwald
 - o 2018 – Ross
 - o 2017 – Lindenwald
 - o 2016 – Fairfield