

FERN CREEK BABE RUTH LEAGUE RULES

All league play shall be in accordance with the 2015 Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball and Softball official playing rules and regulations with the exceptions and additions listed in the Fern Creek Babe Ruth League rules.

1. SCHEDULE

- a. The **CHIEF UMPIRE** and **TEAM MANAGERS** have the responsibility to maintain schedule.
- b. The time limit clock will begin immediately preceding delivery of the 1st pitch of the game or at the time the Chief Umpire commences the play, whichever comes first.
- c. Any game postponed will be rescheduled by the **UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF**.
- d. Games must be played or forfeited at the rescheduled time.
- e. Pitching limitations for scheduled and /or rescheduled games will be in accordance with Babe Ruth rules or Fern Creek Babe Ruth rules.

2. GAME LENGTH

- a. Games will vary according to age group. Official time is to be kept by the Chief Umpire. Immediately upon the 3rd out of the bottom of an inning, if any amount of time is remaining, a new inning must be started and completed. If the home team is ahead in runs and batting when time expires, the game shall be called. No New Inning will start with 5 minutes or less before time expires.
- b. If an umpire judges the team ahead in runs is deliberately delaying the game in an effort to run out the clock, he may add increments of 5 minutes to the expiration time until the problem ceases.
- c. A 10 run rule for league games will be in effect for 9/10 and over baseball and 11/12 and over softball.
- d. In games where there is a cap on the number of runs per inning, the game is called either when time expires as noted above or when the remaining number of innings times the cap number per inning is less than the deficit, whichever comes first.

3. PROTESTS

- a. NOTE NO PROTESTS ARE ALLOWED FOR WEE BALL OR 5 YEAR OLD COACH PITCH. PROTESTS RESULTING FROM VIOLATION OF THE OFFICIAL BASEBALL, BABE RUTH OR FERN CREEK RULES MUST FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE:
- b. A manager wishing to protest a game must point out the protest situation to the **UMPIRE** and **OPPOSING MANAGER** at the time of the infraction.
- c. The scorekeeper **MUST** note the time, inning and situations on the score sheet.
- d. At the completion of the game, the **SCOREKEEPER, BOTH MANAGER** and **UMPIRE MUST** sign the scorebook. If a manager refuses to sign the scorebook after given the opportunity, the protest will be upheld without review. Umpires **MUST** note in scorebook if manager refuses to sign.

- e. The protest **MUST** be followed up in writing, along with a \$25.00 fee, to the Chief Umpire, League President or Division Representative within 48 hours of the game's completion. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned. The League Representative will request a written statement from the opposing manager and present the issue to the protest committee.
- f. Violations of the playing time requirements **MUST** be noted at the time of the infraction. If both managers agree to the infraction, the game will immediately be declared a forfeit by the team in violation. If there is not an agreement, then the above listed procedures **MUST** be followed.
- g. Lack of adherence to the above procedures will result in an invalid protest.
- h. Review and decision by the protest committee is final.
- i. Violations on the part of both teams will result in a double forfeit.

4. **TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES**

- a. The visiting team will occupy the first base dugout and furnish scoreboard operator/pa announcer.
- b. The home team will occupy the third base dugout and furnish an official scorekeeper.
- c. Infield practice will be for 11 and over baseball only.
- d. The visiting team must conclude their infield practice 5 minutes before the game and the home team must conclude their infield practice and be ready for play by game time.
- e. Each team will supply one (1) new ball and have ready for use, 2 good used balls. (Exception 5 year old coach pitch) The home team will provide the game ball and Tee.

5. **PLAYING TIME REQUIREMENTS**

- a. All roster players arriving by the first pitch **MUST** fulfill a minimum playing time requirement, provided the game is played to completion of innings. To the time limit or official game due to the 10 run rule.
- b. The only exceptions are those beyond the control of the manager (i.e., injury, illness, and rain shortened game). If a player arrives after the game starts, they may be played at the option of the manager, but, if they play at all, they must fulfill the minimum requirement.

6. **SPEED UP RULE**

- a. If the catcher for the next inning is on base, the player who made the last batted out of the inning (or previous inning if there are no outs) **MUST** run for the catcher.
- b. If the player, who was replaced, by a substitute runner, does not catch the next inning, the team will forfeit the game.

7. GENERAL

- a. Coaches may not physically aid any player in the course of play. Offensive coaches are restricted to the base boxes and defensive coaches to the dugout.
- b. Only the manager, two (2) coaches and roster players are allowed in the dugout. A bench person or team mother will be allowed for 3-4 Wee Ball, 5 Year Old Coach Pitch, 6 & 7/8 Baseball and 7/8 Softball.
- c. A player, manager or coach ejected from play is not eligible in their next game. Use of any ineligible player, manager or coach will result in an automatic forfeit. Any player, manager or coach ejected twice during a season must appear before the Board of Directors to explain their actions. If the person ejected protests or refuses to leave playing area, then the Umpire may impose a 2nd ejection which will also result in an appearance before the Board. In any game where an ejection occurs, the Chief Umpire for the game must submit a written report to the Umpire-in-Chief within (48) hours of the game.
- d. The use of foul language and tobacco products including e-cigarettes is prohibited on the playing field and dugouts. Please avoid or limit use of any electronic devices during the game as these players deserve your undivided attention. Alcoholic beverages are band from Fern Creek Park.
- e. A manager may request that the area behind the backstop be cleared of spectators.
- f. Managers, or their designee in their absence, will be allowed to approach the Umpire about questionable calls or discussion of the rules. At no time shall an assistant coach question or approach an Umpire.
- g. All players must be in complete uniform, with shirts tucked in.
- h. Re-entry is not limited except by prior stated requirements.
- i. All teams must furnish **CONCESSION STAND** workers according to the auxiliary schedule. IF a team does not have enough workers or does not arrive to work the concession stand on time, a (1) game suspension will be imposed upon the team manager.
- j. No type of jewelry will be allowed to be worn during games and practices by a player. If a player is asked to remove jewelry and refuses, they will not be allowed to play that complete game or practice.

(Revised 2/2015)