

# Lake Area Youth Athletic Conference

## CAL RIPKEN BASEBALL COACH'S HANDBOOK And LOCAL RULES

2017 Edition

***Covering:***

*Rookie League (7 & 8 Years Old)*

*Cal Ripken Minor League (9 & 10 Years Old)*

*Cal Ripken Major League (11 & 12 years Old)*

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# **1. Playing Rules (Babe Ruth Rule Book Section)**

This rule book is provided by the Lake Area Youth Athletic Conference/Iredell County Babe Ruth-Cal Ripken League and the Iredell County Recreation Department as the Official Rule Book for 2017 Cal Ripken, Rookie, Minor and Major Leagues. All local rules override the Official Babe Ruth Rules. Any rule(s) not covered in this book may be found in the Official Babe Ruth Rule Book. The Executive Board of the Lake Area Youth Athletic Conference/Iredell County Babe Ruth League has the right to modify any rule herein if they feel it is for the betterment of the league. Proper notification will be given in this event.

## **1.1. Batter**

### **1.1.1. Batter Box**

The batter should remain in the batter's box once he/she has taken his position. The umpire may only call time for the batter before the pitcher has begun the pitching motion. The umpire should not be lenient in calling time at the batter's request unless there is a legitimate reason. If a batter does not get in the box after the request from the umpire, the umpire shall command the pitcher to pitch and the pitch shall be called a strike. The batter is out if he/she hits the ball while any foot is completely out of the batter's box. The batter is out if he steps on the plate while hitting.

### **1.1.2. Illegal Bat**

A batter using an illegal bat maybe called out only after he/she has reached base but before the next batter has taken a pitch. See ICRD rule Sec. 10.1 or Babe Ruth 1.10.

### **1.1.3. Throwing Bat (Local Rule)**

A batter maybe called out for throwing a bat only after his/her team has had a warning by the umpire. The ball is dead, and runners may not advance.

### **1.1.4. Batter Interference and Catcher Interference**

A batter may be called out for interfering with the catcher or any defensive player attempting to make a play. This does not include "catcher's interference" for the catcher's glove hitting the batter's bat on a swing (not a back-swing). In this case the play continues if the batter hits the ball fair. No interference is called if the batter reaches first base and no out was made on the play. If an out was made or if the batter did not get to first base, then the umpire calls catcher's interference, and the batter is awarded first base and any runners forced are advanced. (BR 6.06 & 6.08)

### **1.1.5. Batting Out of Turn**

If a batter bats out of turn and the mistake is questioned by the defensive team while the batter is still at the plate, then the proper batter simply takes the batting spot with the count on the wrong batter becoming the count on the proper batter. If the defensive team appeals after the batter reaches base and before another pitch is thrown to the next batter, the proper batter is called out and the wrong batter is taken off the base. Runners who advanced on the play are also returned. The next proper batter is the batter listed on the batting order directly after the proper batter who was called out. If one pitch is thrown to the next batter in the lineup, after the improper batter reaches base, the batter is considered to have batted properly and the correct batting order is established after his

name in the scorebook. (BR 6.07)

*Example: Baker bats in Abel position and hits a double. (A)The defensive team appeals before the next pitch: Abel is out, Baker is the proper batter. (B)The defense team appeals after a pitch is thrown: Baker is safe on second and Charles is the proper batter.*

## **1.2. Pitcher (Local Rules for regular season and local tournament only)**

### **1.2.1. Innings pitched (local rule)**

Our local Cal Ripken rules only allow three (3) innings per game for a pitcher and no more than six (6) innings per calendar week. A pitcher must have two (2) calendar days rest between pitching assignments if he pitches in more than two innings in any one game. Coaches are responsible for keeping up with the innings pitched. Coaches may request to view the other team's scorebook regarding innings pitched that week.

A **starting** pitcher properly removed on a single visit or between innings may return to the pitching position one time during the game. All other pitchers may not return as a pitcher once removed, even if between innings. Remind them one pitch to a batter is considered an inning pitched. (Note substitution rule). A game in which an ineligible pitcher has been used shall be declared forfeited.

### **1.2.2. Coach's Visits**

A pitcher must be removed from pitching on a coach's second visit in an inning to the mound; he may stay in the game at another position. (If a coach goes over the white line during a timeout or the coach goes to any player and has them go to the pitcher, it is considered a visit.) A coach cannot visit a pitcher twice while the same batter is at bat. Once the manager leaves the mound from their first visit, the pitcher must finish pitching to that batter before the manager may go to the mound again. (BR 8.06)

### **1.2.3. Pitcher's equipment on the mound**

The pitcher may not have anything sticking out of his back pockets, batting gloves on, a fielding glove with the color white or grey on it, or white undergarments showing while pitching. The pitcher's glove should be uniform in color. (BR 1.15)

### **1.2.4. Balks**

There are no penalties for "balks" in Cal Ripken minor league, but the defensive team should not be allowed to gain an advantage because of a balk. Balks will be called in the Cal Ripken major league. A balk is usually considered an attempt by the pitcher to deceive a base runner.

**The rule book says:** "After assuming set position, any natural motion associated with his delivery of the ball to the batter commits him to the pitch without alteration or interruption." Any alteration or interruption of this motion or conceived attempt by the pitcher to deceive the runner will be considered a balk. Please read the section on league pitching positions and balks in the Babe Ruth Rule Book. (BR 8.01 to 8.05)

Some of the basic and most common causes of a balk call are:

- The pitcher delivers the pitch from the set position without coming to a complete stop.

- The pitcher, while on the rubber, makes any motion naturally associated with his pitch and fails to make the throw. (RH Pitcher's front foot moves toward home, while right foot on rubber, and pitcher does not make throw home)
- The pitcher, while on the rubber, feints a throw to first base and does not complete the throw. (Turns shoulder or moves foot toward first)
- The pitcher, while on the rubber, fails to step directly toward a base before throwing to the base. (Pitcher may fake a throw to second or third, but not first)
- The pitcher makes any motion naturally associated with his pitch while not touching the rubber.
- The pitcher without the ball stands on or astride the rubber.
- The pitcher, after coming to a legal pitching position, removes his hand from the baseball without throwing it.

### **1.2.5. Dropped Third Strike in Major League**

In Cal Ripken Major League only, the batter may attempt to advance to first base on a dropped third strike (swung at or called) with first base open no matter the outs, or with two outs and first base occupied. The catcher may tag the batter/runner out, or throw the ball to force an out at first, or other forced base, or tag home with bases loaded. A player is considered out by abandonment when in the umpire's judgment the batter has left the batting area to return to their dugout (Local interpretation).

### **1.2.6. Maximum Runs per Inning**

In the Major League the maximum number of runs that a team may score in an inning is 10. In Minor League the maximum number of runs that a team may score in an inning is 7. Even if a hit by the last batter scores more runs than the maximum number of runs only maximum number of runs for that league will be scored.

### **1.2.7. Foul Ball While Bunting on Third Strike**

A fouled bunt attempt on a third strike will result in a strikeout.

### **1.2.8. Caught Foul Tip**

A caught foul tip (below the batter's head) is considered a strike for all situations. A player may steal on a caught foul tip; a batter may strike out on a caught foul tip etc....

## **1.3. Base Runners**

### **1.3.1. Baseline**

Base runners must run in the baseline and not vary more than three (3) feet from the baseline to avoid a tag. The runner sets the baseline after rounding a bag. It is considered a straight line to first and from the runner's rounding point to the next base at the other bases. All running attempts straight from one base to the next are considered straight lines. A base runner that varies more than 3 feet to avoid a tag shall be called out. A batter-runner may not run to the field side (left) of the first baseline with the intent to interfere with a throw to first base. In this case if in the umpire's' judgment there was interference by either the thrown ball hitting the runner or forcing a wild throw to first base the umpire may call interference and the runner would be out. (BR 7.08)

### **1.3.2. Interference (BR 7.09)**

- a. Runner hit by batted ball - A base runner is out if a batted ball (in which a defensive player other than the pitcher has not yet had the opportunity to make a play on) contacts the runner while off the base and in fair territory. The ball is dead.
- b. Runner interferes with a fielder attempting to field a batted ball - A runner who is judged to have interfered with a fielder who is attempting to make a play on a batted ball is out whether intentional or not. For interference the runner is out and the ball is dead. Runners may not advance, except the batter who goes to first. (BR 7.09)
- c. Batted ball contacts batter (or bat) in fair territory - The batter/runner is out and the ball is dead if he/she contacts a batted ball in fair territory before a defensive player other than the pitcher has had the opportunity to make a play on it. This includes hitting the ball with the bat a second time. If the ball rolls into a dropped bat in fair territory or the head of a broken bat hits the ball and in the umpire's judgment there was no intention to interfere the ball is live.
- d. Player/coach interference - If in the umpire's judgment another offense player (other than standing on a base) or coach interferes in any way with a defensive player attempting to make a defensive play, the batter/runner in jeopardy is out and the ball is dead. The base coach has the responsibility to try to move out of a fielder way, failure to do so in the umpire's judgment can be called interference. If a thrown ball hits a coach or player who is not officially in the field of play area, or passes through an open gate, which should be closed, the ball is dead and all umpire judgments and ruling should be in favor of the other team.
- e. Breaking up a double play - If in the umpire's judgment a base runner willfully interferes with a fielder with the intent to break up a double play, both base runners are out, the ball is dead, and other runners may not advance. (BR 7.09g/h)
- f. Base Coach Interference - If in the umpire's judgment a base coach assists a base runner by touching him/her (this includes catching, pushing, helping up or holding a runner), the runner is out and the ball is dead. (BR 7.09h) If the base coach leaves his coaching box area in any manner (running along with the runner) that could be considered to be an attempt to draw a throw, the umpire may call interference, call runner out, and declare a dead ball. (BR 7.09i)

### **1.3.3. Obstruction**

If a defensive player obstructs an advancing or returning runner, the umpire will declare obstruction. If there is no play on the obstructed runner, play continues. After the stoppage of play, the umpire shall call time and allow the advancement of the obstructed runner to the base. In the umpire's judgment, the runner could have safely advanced to if there was no obstruction. If the obstruction accrues on a base runner while the defensive team is making a play on the runner, the umpire shall call time and award the next base to the obstructed runner. (In a pickle, for example) Runners in front of the affected runner may be forced to advance. A catcher, or any defensive player without the ball, has no right to occupy the baseline and may be called for obstruction. (BR 7.06)

### 1.3.4. Free advancement of runners (BR 7.05)

The follow is a list of just a few of the common free advancement situations for base runners. There may be more situations than these.

Situation	# of Bases Awarded
If a defensive player deliberately touches a batted fair ball with any part of his uniform, cap, mask or thrown glove.	3 bases
If a defensive player deliberately touches a thrown ball with any part of his uniform, cap, mask or thrown glove.	2 bases
If a batted ball that goes through, under, or bounces over the outfield fence.	2 bases
For a ball thrown by a defensive player (other than the pitcher on the mound) that goes out of play over under or through the fence or into the dugout area.	2 bases
For a throw from the mound that goes out of play.	1 base
A pitched ball gets stuck in the backstop.	1 base
A player catching a pop fly (fair or foul) falls into a dugout or over a fence.	1 base

### 1.3.5. Over-running first base

A batter/runner may not be tagged out for over-running first base if he immediately returns to the base without making an attempt toward second. (A runner may turn either right or left to return; a left turn in itself does not indicate an attempt toward second.) (BR 7.08)

### 1.3.6. Two runners on the same base or passing a runner

When two runners are touching the same base, the trailing runner is out when the defensive player with the ball touches the base. The runner is out if he/she passes the runner in front of him/her before the preceding runner is put out. (BR 7.08)

### 1.3.7. Cal Ripken 60 Ft Special Base Running Rule

When a pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's plate and in possession of the ball and the catcher is in the catcher's box ready to receive delivery of the ball, base runners shall not leave their bases until the ball has been delivered and has reached home plate. Once the catcher has secured the ball and the runner has stopped his forward progress, the runner must immediately return to the base.

### 1.3.8. Runner leaving early for Minor League (Local rule)

Local Cal Ripken rules make it an out only after the umpire has issue a warning to both teams during the first occurrence during that game for the base runner to leave the base he/she is legally occupying after the pitcher has taken the pitching rubber and before the pitched ball has crossed the front edge of the plate. (This is generally a field umpire's call, but sometimes the plate umpire will see the movement, especially at second base, and may make the call.) As soon as the runner leaves the base early, the umpire is to call time. The ball is dead at that point, even if put in play by the batter. The runner is then called out. For Rookie League see 12.8

### **1.3.9. Missed base**

The Coach or Manager of the opposing team must appeal to the Home Plate Umpire on a missed base once the play is over. Once the runner has touched the next base or left the playing field after missing home, he/she is may be out and may not return to touch the base missed once the Home Plate Umpire has been asked to appeal the call. If it was the third out, all runs scored after the players missed the base do not count. Any appeal under this rule must be made before the next pitch, or any play or attempted play. If violation occurs during a play which ends a half-inning, the appeal must be made before the defensive team leaves the field. (BR 7.10)

### **1.3.10. Out by abandoning effort**

A runner is said to be out if he/she abandons his/her effort to remain on base or advance and begins to return to the dugout, even though they are not out. The exception to this is that a runner may return to touch home plate at any time before he/she steps out of the playing field into the dugout area. It is a judgment call by the umpire as to when a runner has abandoned his/her effort. A player does not have to leave the playing field to be considered abandoning their effort. (BR 7.08)

## **1.4. Intentional walks (Babe Ruth Rule)**

- **Minor League (9-10):** NO INTENTIONAL WALKS.
- **Major League (11-12):** NO INTENTIONAL WALKS.

## **1.5. Regulation game (Local rule)**

- **Minor League (9-10):** Regular season Cal Ripken Minor League games are limited to 6 innings with no new inning beginning after 1 hour and 25 minutes from the actual start time of the game minus any lost time due to umpire stoppage. If an inning begins prior to the 1 hour and 25 minute mark, **that inning will be finished**. If the visiting team takes the lead during this inning, the home team will be allowed the opportunity to bat in the bottom half of that inning.
- **Major League (11-12):** Regular season Cal Ripken Major League games are limited to 6 innings no with no new inning beginning after 1 hour 35 minutes from the actual start time of the game minus any lost time due to umpire stoppage. If an inning begins prior to the 1 hour and 35 minute mark, **that inning will be finished**. If the visiting team takes the lead during this inning, the home team will be allowed the opportunity to bat in the bottom half of that inning.

*An inning is considered to have begun as soon as the final out of the preceding inning has been made.*

All Cal Ripken games are official after the time limit or after the losing team has batted 4 times and is behind by 10 or more runs or is behind by more than 15 runs after 3 innings. (Slaughter rule). Regular season games may end in a tie. Also note that a team may not score more than maximum number of runs per inning as specified in section 1.2.6. The umpires are in charge of time keeping, and their rulings are official. (See Section 12.1 for Rookie League time limits)

## **1.6. Infield fly**

The infield fly rule is in effect for all Cal Ripken Minor and Major league play as written in the Babe Ruth

Rule Book (BR 2.00). An infield fly is a fair fly ball (not including a line drive or attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder (or another player in the infield area) with ordinary effect, with first and second or first, second and third occupied before there are two outs. The umpire must call the "infield fly." The batter is out; therefore, there is no force on for any base. Runners may advance at their own risk. They must be tagged to be put out since there is no force.

## **1.7. Sliding**

Base runners must slide feet first into any base (except on a return to a base). A runner who slides head first in an attempt to advance to the next base shall be called out. If a runner intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player in possession of the ball, the player shall be called out and ejected from the game. A defensive player in the baseline without the ball will be called for interference.

## **2. Players**

### **2.1. Uniforms (local rule)**

All players are expected to be in uniform. They should have matching hats. Umpires should not disqualify players because of this, but teams that continuously field improperly dressed players may be warned and disqualified by the local director if efforts to fix the problem are not satisfactory. (Local rule) In other words, we expect our teams to look like ball teams. Players and base coach's shirt tails must be in. Similar hats are required.

### **2.2. Jewelry**

Players may not wear any jewelry (rings, visible necklaces, earrings, etc.) of any type. When any player is seen with jewelry, the umpire shall warn both teams. From that point on, any player getting in the batter's box with jewelry on will called out by the home plate umpire.

### **2.3. Picking up a player (local rule)**

Teams may pick up an eighth player to begin a game with eight. He/she must be on a league roster of another team from the **LAYAC Baseball** in the same age group (or younger) and in a different uniform. The picked up players can only play outfield and must bat last. He/she may stay in the game if another player shows up. Teams may pick up only one player and may not pick up a ninth player. If only batting eight players, the ninth batting position is NOT an out.

### **2.4. Lineup (local rule)**

- All Minor league and Rookie teams are required to have all players in the batting line up (bat-around rule). Players must play at least every other inning on defense.
- Major league teams may use the bat around rule, the EH (extra hitter), or bat nine. All players must have at least one at bat and play in the field two innings (one if the team plays three or less defensive innings). Failure of a coach to use the bat around rule to have all his/her players meet the minimum play rule will result in a forfeit. The southern division uses the bat-around rule for all age groups, including major league, for the regular season.

## **2.5. Catcher & Infield (local rule)**

All Minor league and Rookie teams are required to include a catcher. If playing short a player, team must lose players from the outfield. All infielders must play conventional infield positions.

## **3. Dugout area**

The dugout area is for players and coaches only. Players in uniform, three coaches, a bat-boy/girl and a scorekeeper (local rule) are allowed in the dugout area. No parents or other children are allowed in the dugout area. No swinging of bats is allowed in the dugout area. No soft toss or the use of batting sticks is allowed in the dugout area during the game. No players or coaches are allowed out of the dugout area except the two base coaches when the team is batting. A coach wanting time should step just out of the dugout to get the umpire's attention to call time. Anyone retrieving bats under 16 years old must wear an approved batting helmet. Anyone under 16 warming up a pitcher (on or off field) in a squatting position must have an approved catcher mask on. The head coach is responsible for his/her team keeping the dugout area clean. No tobacco products are allowed in the dugout area. This includes coaches and parents. On an out-of-the-park home run, the players and coaches in the dugout may go out of the dugout toward home plate to greet the batter. They may not touch the batter/base runner until they have touched home plate. They must return to the dugout in a timely manner.

## **4. Actions of coaches, players or fans**

### **4.1. Coach**

A coach should be an ambassador of sportsmanship. He/she has the right to question umpire interpretation of rules but not judgment calls. Unsportsmanlike conduct of a coach may result in discipline from the umpire and/or the league director. An umpire has two basic discipline options in dealing with an unruly coach. First, he may confine the coach to the dugout and warn him any other problem will result in ejection. This is suggested when a coach oversteps his rights to be on the field. (Example: A base coach goes in fair territory during live play, etc...). Secondly a coach maybe ejected from the game and at this time he must leave the playing area or, at the umpire's discretion, he may have to leave the entire park. Once ejected, the coach is suspended for the next two games. The coach suspension is for two games, the game the incident occurred in is considered Game #1 and the next scheduled game is Game #2. If a coach is ejected and refuses to leave as told by the umpire, the umpire has the right to forfeit the game and/or call the proper law enforcement to remove the coach. Once a coach is told to leave and refuses, he/she may be charged with trespassing. The umpires are in control of the field and have this legal right. Unsportsmanlike conduct of a coach may be directed at players, spectators, or other coaches as well as umpires. The umpires shall not allow a coach to belittle, over punish, or mistreat any players on or around the field area that they are in control of. Base coaches are expected to stay in the coach's box. (The umpire will usually give a coach a warning before removing him/her.) Only one of the three official coaches of the team is allowed on the field to talk to his/her players at a time.

### **4.2. Player**

A player may be warned, confined to the dugout, or ejected for unsportsmanlike behavior. This is a judgment call by the umpire and should be based on his opinion of the situation and what is in the best interest of the player, not whose chances of winning a game it helps. A player who has committed an

unsportsmanlike act deemed to warrant ejection from the game should be removed from the game and confined to the dugout under the control of the coach. A player ejected for unsportsmanlike reasons is also suspended for the next two games. The player suspension is for two games, the game the incident occurred in is considered Game #1 and the next scheduled game is Game #2. A player may be confined to the dugout for the rest of a game for unsportsmanlike behavior not deemed to be serious enough for ejection. This is an umpire's judgment call. Throwing equipment, taunting, cursing, and other acts deemed to be detrimental to the spirit of game are considered unsportsmanlike conduct.

### **4.3. Spectator/Fan/Parent**

Spectators/Fans/Parents are expected to act in a proper, sportsman-like manner. Any fan using inappropriate language, smoking in the dugout area, drinking alcoholic beverages, or being disrespectful of players, other fans, or umpires maybe ejected from the field area or from the entire park at the discretion of the umpire. If it is clear to which team the fan is pulling for, then the umpire may ask that team's coach to take care of the situation. The coach is responsible for the behavior of his/her team's fans. If the situation continues to the point the umpire wishes to eject the fan, he/she should inform the coach that he/she has two minutes to have the fan removed or the game will be called a forfeit and be over. If the coach cannot control his fan, the umpire will not hesitate to call law enforcement to remove the fan. Be sure to get the fan's name as he/she will be suspended for at least two games and possibly the season. The fan's suspension is for two games, the game the incident occurred is considered Game #1 and the next scheduled game is Game #2. If it is not clear as to which team the fan is from, then the umpire will deal directly with the fan. Fans will not be allowed to belittle opposing players. (Calling them names, easy out, he's scared, etc.) Parents are not allowed on the field of play unless called for by the umpire in the case of injury.

### **4.4. Disciplinary Protocol for Ejected Individuals**

It is the game umpire's responsibility within 24 hours of an ejection of Coach, Player, or Parent to provide an email summary of the events that led to the ejection decision. This email must be forwarded to the Lead Baseball Director and the President of LAYAC. The designated LAYAC Conflict Resolution Board may at their discretion, interview the coach/parent involved and potentially others in attendance to determine the severity of infraction and determine if future actions are deemed necessary by the board. Unless the Dispute Resolution Committee and/or the President of LAYAC, upon review of a protest if filed by the ejected individual in writing, overrules the field decision of the umpire, the two game suspensions is mandatory. Penalties can be more severe at board discretion based on the particulars of the incident once reviewed. The ejected individual will not be allowed to attend (be at the facility or anywhere on the grounds) for the two games following the game of which that individual was ejected. If such an ejection occurs at the final game of a particular season, the suspension will carry to the following season. In the unfortunate event, an individual receives two ejections within any 12 month period; the LAYAC Baseball Committee will meet, review the incidents and have the authority to ban the multi offender for a period not less than one year.

**All suspensions are reviewable by the LAYAC Exec Board. Final decisions are made for the betterment of the individuals involved and the league as a whole.**

## **5. Calling Time**

Only the umpire may call time. Players, including the batter or coach may ask for time, but only the

umpire can call time. The ball is alive until the umpire calls time. Coaches are not allowed to go into fair territory until time is called by the umpire.

## **6. The Scorebook (Local rules)**

### **6.1. Official book**

For regular league play the home team scorebook is official, unless at any point the umpire feels the home scorekeeper is not doing the job properly, at which time the umpire may assign the visiting team scorebook as the official scorebook. The umpire will announce this change to both coaches. It is the visiting coach's responsibility to have their scorekeeper to keep a check on the official book and bring any discrepancies to the attention of the umpires as soon as they are noticed. If a team is playing with only eight players, the ninth batting position is not considered an out. If a team using the bat-around rule has a player leave, for any reason, his position in the batting order is skipped with no penalty. A team not using the bat-around rule must have a legal substitute for the vacated spot in the batting order, unless caused by an injury, or the vacated spot will be called out at its time to bat. If caused by injury, any player left on the bench may replace the injured player in the lineup. If no other player is available, the position in the batting order will be skipped with no penalty.

### **6.2. Lineups for scorebook**

The coach or scorekeeper must present their lineup to the opposing coach before 10 minutes of the scheduled starting time. Names and numbers should be correct. Players arriving late are to be added to the bottom of the lineup when they arrive. If a coach has a no show listed in his official batting order turned in to the other scorekeeper, the no-show will be called out if he/she has not arrived when it is his/her time to bat. (In other words, if a player is not physically, there don't put them in the line-up.) If a team is batting all its players and a player leaves early or can no longer play, his/her position will be skipped in the batting order without being called out. If the team is batting only 9 or 10 (EH), they may substitute any players not currently in the lineup. If a team is out of players, the position will be skipped without an out being called. (Regular season and county tournament only)

### **6.3. Substitutions**

A substitute is considered to have entered the game when:

- a. He/she is announced to the opposing scorekeeper or home plate umpire.
- b. If a pitcher, when he/she takes his/her position on the pitcher's rubber.
- c. If a batter, when he/she takes his/her place in the batter box.
- d. If a fielder, when he/she reaches the usual position occupied by the fielder he/she is replacing.

Note: The substitute pitcher must pitch to one batter.

## **7. Weather Conditions/Darkness**

### **7.1. Stoppage of play**

At the field the umpires are in charge of delaying, stopping, resuming, or calling off any games due to

weather conditions, darkness (including light failure) or for any other reason the game has been stopped by the head umpire. The umpire should always make safety the main priority, not playing the game. Coaches have the right not to put their players on the field if they feel it is a dangerous situation but not to delay or call the game. Teams should not leave the park until the umpire has officially cancelled the game; doing so will constitute a forfeit if conditions improve to the point the game could be played. The area director or field director may cancel or delay games but cannot overrun the umpire in forcing a game to be played. At the first sign of lightning in the area, players and fans should be gotten off the field and to their cars. A mandatory 15 minute wait is required after the last lighting or thunder.

## **7.2. Complete game (local rule)**

A game is considered complete if one of the following is fulfilled: (local rules)

1. The time limited has expired and that inning has been completed.
  - (See section 1.5) Major/Minor League
  - (Section 12.1) Rookie League (7/8)
2. At the end of the last complete inning one team is 10 or more runs ahead. (4 or more innings must be completed for this rule to be in effect.)
3. At the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning, one team is ahead by 15 runs or more.
4. At the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning, one team is ahead by 20 runs or more.
5. Only the 10 run rule applies in Tournament play.

If the game is not complete, both scorekeepers should mark at the exact point of the stoppage and note all situations (men on base, count, and innings pitched, etc.). If it a conference game we will try to complete it at a later date; most non-conference games will not be made up. Make-up is at the discretion of the local director.

## **8. Protests**

### **8.1. Protests**

A protest may only be filed in a case that a manager/coach feels the umpire made a decision in violation of the official rules of the league. It should be remembered that local rules do override the "official rule book." Protests may never be based on an umpire's judgment call. The notification of protest must be made to the umpire in charge before the next pitch to a live batter is made. The umpire shall have both scorekeepers to note the situation at that time. The umpire (if he wishes) may call the league director for clarification of the rule at that time, or the game may continue under protest. If the game is finished, the protesting coach has 24 hours to file a written protest with a \$50 check, made to Iredell County Babe Ruth, with the league director or a county Babe Ruth board member. The league director will convene a protest committee as set forth by Iredell County Babe Ruth rules. Ruling of this committee are final. If the protest is approved by the committee, the protest fee will be returned, and if the protesting team's chance of winning the game were (in the director's opinion) adversely affected, then the game will be played over from the point of protest. If the protest is not approved, the protest fee will go to the local Babe Ruth League. Protests for game suspensions of players/coaches/spectators must be filed within 24 hours of the ejection with the same procedure.

### **8.2. Protest committee**

The protest committee will be made up of the two area directors and chaired by the league President. If

any committee member is unavailable or has a conflict of interest in the protest, the League President will appoint one of the two alternates to take his place.

## **9. Leagues, Teams, and Players**

### **9.1. Leagues (local rules)**

LAYAC will offer 7-8 coach pitch, 9-10 minor, and 11-12 major. If there are enough players, single year age groups may be used. Leagues must have at least 4 teams and no more than 10 teams. The following age groups may be offered: combined 7 and 8 coach pitch, (or a 7 year old Rookie (coach pitch) and 8 year old Advanced Rookie (coach pitch)), a combined 9-10 year old minor league (or a 9 year old minor and 10 year old minor, and a combined 11-12 major league (or a 11 year old major and a 12 year old major).

### **9.2. Teams (local rules)**

Each local organization has the responsibility to select their teams. A fair and balanced team selection draft is required. A skills day is recommended. All players wishing to play in the regular season league must be allowed the opportunity to play. Players who cannot afford the cost of registration must be allowed to play. (ICRD and ICBR will help with this situation) Teams or organizations that intentionally "stack" teams may be disqualified from the league. A fair and balanced draft must be held. Local organizations should not allow teams to carry over from one age group to the next (in other words from 7-8 to 9-10 to 11-12). Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken only recognizes 3 official coaches per team, and that should be the maximum that should be allowed for draft purposes.

### **9.3. District of Players (local rules)**

All Iredell County Babe Ruth League teams are based on elementary school district lines. A player must attend or live in the district of the elementary school that he/she is considered to be eligible for. Some local organizations serve more than one elementary school. These multiple-district organizations must be approved by ICRD and ICBR. Players living within Iredell County may request a waiver to play for another area for legitimate reasons. All players playing out of district must have a release from their "home school" area director and be approved by ICRD and the Iredell County Babe Ruth Board. No out of county players are allowed to be registered under Official Babe Ruth Rules unless an additional area is assigned to Iredell County by the national or state associations.

### **9.4. Players age (local rules)**

All Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth player's ages are based on the player's age on April 30 of the season year. Please see the Babe Ruth Rule Book for an age chart. Local rules allow a player to play up one year, with permission of the parent, the coach and the league director. Playing up is not recommended unless the player's level of ability is truly at a level that his/her development would be better in the older age group. All Cal Ripken league players must play all stars and challenge at their proper age level.

## **10. Equipment**

### **10.1. Bat**

The Cal Ripken bat must be no more than 33 inches in length nor have a bat barrel in excess of 2 5/8

inches and must comply with current Babe Ruth bat regulations according to USA Bat standards (<https://www.baberuthleague.org/bat-rules.aspx>). **For Fall Baseball only:** “big barrel bats” (excess of 2 5/8” barrel) will be allowed.

## **10.2. Gloves**

First baseman mitts are only allowed to be worn by player playing first. The catcher may wear a regular glove in the minor league. Pitcher's mitts must be uniform in color and may not be grey or white. (BR 1.12-1.15)

## **10.3. Cleats (Local Rule)**

Shoes with metal cleats or sharp spikes are not allowed in the Cal Ripken league. (BR 1.11)

\*\* Some fields may require specific attire/equipment, such as turf or athletic shoes; this will be communicated through each association’s coordinator.

## **10.4. Protective gear**

All offensive players in the playing area must wear a double ear flap batting helmet. This includes the batter on deck. The catcher must wear an approved catcher's mask with throat protector. This includes anyone warming up the pitcher from a squad position. Catchers must also wear a cup. Bat boys/girls (under 16) must wear an approved batting helmet when in the playing area. (BR 1.16)

## **10.5. Baseballs**

The Cal Ripken Major, Minor, and Rookie Leagues shall use regular official baseball approved by the Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken.

# **11. Field Dimensions**

## **11.1. Major League**

The field dimensions for Major League games will be 70 ft bases and 50 ft pitching mound. The distance of the pitching mound should be measured from the apex of home plate to the front edge of the pitching rubber.

## **11.2. Minor League**

The field dimensions for Minor League games will be 60 ft bases and 46 ft pitching mound. The distance of the pitching mound should be measured from the apex of home plate to the front edge of the pitching rubber.

## **11.3. Rookie League**

The field dimensions for Rookie League games will be 60 ft bases and 46 ft pitching distance. The distance of the pitching machine should be measured from the apex of home plate to the front edge of the pitching machine.

## **12. Special rules for the 7/8 age Rookie League(s)**

**No teams should be made up of all 7 yr olds or all 8 yr olds; all teams should have an equal mix of 7 and 8 year olds.**

Regular season Cal Ripken minor league rules will be used for the Rookie League except for the following list of rule modifications:

### **12.1. Time limit**

Regular season Cal Ripken Rookie League games are limited to 6 innings with no new inning beginning after 1 hour and 15 minutes from the actual start time of the game minus any lost time due to weather stoppage. If an inning begins prior to the 1 hour and 15 minute mark, **that inning will be finished**. If the visiting team takes the lead during this inning, the home team will be allowed the opportunity to bat in the bottom half of that inning.

Slaughter rule is 15 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 (or more) innings.

### **12.2. Maximum Runs per Inning**

The maximum number of runs that a team may score in an inning is 6 for all Rookie Levels. Even if a hit by the last batter scores more runs than the maximum number of runs, only 6 runs will be scored for that inning.

### **12.3. Umpires (Local Rule)**

If using a two man crew the plate ump should stand behind the catcher to the right for a right hand batter and to the left for a left hand batter. The field ump will operate the pitching machine for both teams. When using only one umpire, he/she will be on the pitching mound operating the pitching machine for both teams.

### **12.4. Pitching**

For the Rookie League the ball will be pitched overhand by the hitting team's coach from within the pitcher's circle, surrounding the 46ft pitching rubber.

New ruling starting in the 2010 season for combined 7/8 and 8 year old Rookie League teams are 5 pitches of which only 3 may be swung at. A fouled ball on the last allowed pitch will allow another pitch. This may continue as long as the batter continues to foul balls. After the third unsuccessful swing the batter is out. Hit batters may not advance to first in Rookie league.

Only the umpire may rule a pitch a "no pitch" because of an erratic pitch *as long as the batter does not swing*.

If a batted ball hits the pitcher, the ball is dead and the batter awarded first base, and all runners advance one base.

## **12.5. Defense positions**

The defense uses 10 players. Four must be in the outfield. The outfield is considered to be 12 feet behind the baselines. The defensive pitcher must have one foot in the pitching circle and be completely behind the pitching machine when the ball is pitched. He may be to the right or left. In the Rookie League the defensive team may have two coaches in the outfield. The coaches may not in any way physically help the defensive player, move into the infield area, interfere with the ball or offensive player, argue with the umpire, or be disruptive in anyway (including yelling that intimidates players, either team).

The umpire should give each team one warning for any problems with the outfield coaches and then take them off the field for any other problems. Once a coach is removed, he/she may not be replaced. Exception: An outfield coach that intentionally interferes with a batted ball, interferes verbally or physically with an offensive runner, or argues with an umpire should be removed without a warning and that coach should be restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game. Any other problem with the offending coach warrants an ejection.

## **12.6. Calling Time**

### **12.6.1. Rookie League for 7/8 year olds**

Play will be stopped and time called only after the offensive team has as stopped advancing the lead runner. This may be either by the offensive team's runners abandoning the effort to advance or because the defensive team has gotten the ball in front of the lead runner and forced the offensive team to stop advancing runners. When advancement has stopped is an umpire's judgment call.

## **12.7. Over throws**

Over throws at first or third that go out of play are considered dead balls, and all runners get one additional base (even on the 10th batter). The halfway rule does not apply here. Runners must have the base occupied to advance to the next base as the ball is dead at the time it goes out of play. Overthrows at home are considered live balls.

## **12.8. Leaving base early/no base stealing**

No base stealing is allowed even on balls that go by the catcher. Runners should not leave the base until the ball is hit or the ball crosses the plate. The umpire is to warn each team once per game about leaving early; on the team's second offence the base runner should be called out. (Umpires should be consistent on this.)

## **12.9. Slides**

Runners must slide to avoid a collision at any base as long as the defensive player is on the base and not up the baseline. An intentional collision of a runner with a defensive player in possession of the ball results in the runner being out and warned. A defensive player without the ball should not block the baseline and should be called for obstruction. Umpires should explain this to the players after the incident. A runner who slides head first into any base (except on a return to a base) shall be called out.

## **12.10. Bunting**

Bunting is not allowed. Any ball intentionally bunted is call an out, and no base runners may advance. A "swinging bunt" is not considered a bunt.

