

# Madison Babe Ruth Baseball Association

## Local Playing Rules and Game Regulations

### Section 1 - Game Regulations (revised 3/6/2001)

**General: The precedence of rules is:**

**1 - Local rules**

**2 - Babe Ruth rules**

**3 - Official Baseball rules**

A. Only players registered on a teams Official League Players Roster will be allowed to play in an official game. If a team is unable to field 9 rostered players the game will be declared a forfeit. Teams may not borrow players from another team or league. Players not registered with the Madison Babe Ruth Baseball Association should never be allowed on the playing field during a game.

B. Game time Limit. Babe Ruth's option for a time limit on regulation game is adopted.  
(Ref. Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations page 21 "Time Limit")

**All Leagues** – No new inning may start after two (2) hours. A new inning starts when the third out of the previous inning occurs. Once an inning has started it must be completed. After two (2) hours a game will be declared a regulation game regardless of the number of innings played.

C. Babe Ruth's '10 Run Rule" Option has **NOT** been adopted.

D. Player Participation Rules. (**Controlled by BOD vote only**)

1) **Prep 13 Division** – In regular season games, all players must have a minimum of two innings of playing time in defense and one turn at bat. This rule does not apply to the End of Season Tournament or other Tournament events. (Adopted 1999) It is expected that coaches will seek to allow more playing time per player than the minimum. Every player should have averaged playing 1/2 of the innings they were present for the season by season's end.

2) **14~15 Division** – In regular season games, all players must have a minimum of two innings of playing time in defense and one turn at bat. This rule does not apply to the End of Season Tournament or other Tournament events. (Adopted 2000) It is expected that coaches will seek to allow more playing time per player than the minimum. Every player should have averaged playing 1/2 of the innings they were present for the season by season's end.

3) **16~18 Division** – In regular season games, all players must have a minimum of two innings of playing time in defense and one turn at bat. This rule does not apply to the End of Season Tournament or other Tournament events. (Adopted 2000) It is expected that coaches will seek to allow more playing time per player than the minimum. Every player should have averaged playing 1/2 of the innings they were present for the season by season's end.

E. Game Cancellations. The league commissioner will be responsible for determining if field and weather conditions require the game be cancelled and rescheduled. If the league commissioner is not available to make the call, the Home team Manager will make the final decision. Once a game starts, control of the game becomes the responsibility of the umpire.

F. The Home team will be responsible for the following items:

- 1) Supplying game balls to Plate Umpire (Minimum 2 new and 1 good used)
- 2) Keeping the official game score book
- 3) Completing the official game summary sheet
- 4) Home Team will always take the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout

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- G. Pre Game. The visiting team may take the field (10) minutes prior to the game time "if available". The home team may take (10) minutes prior to the game time "if available". If there is less than twenty minutes available, time shall be divided equally. If there is less than six minutes available they will take the field five minutes prior to pitcher warm-up and the visiting team will be allowed five minutes prior to the pitcher warm-up when they begin their defensive half of the first inning. Official Game Time will not be set until the umpire has executed his official baseball rules and the Home pitcher has warmed-up and ready to pitch.
- H. League Scoring. A point system will be utilized to determine league standing as follows: 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss. The league standings will be used to determine Tournament seats in the End of Season Tournament.
- I. Game Start Delays. All games will begin at the scheduled start time with the following delay exceptions:
- Delay the start of game clock
    - Weather Conditions - maximum 30 minute delay then game must be re-scheduled
    - Field Conditions - maximum 30 minute delay then game must be re-scheduled
    - Waiting on both Umpires - 20 minute delay then game must be re-scheduled
    - Waiting on single Umpire - 10 minute delay then start game with 1 umpire
  - Game Clock starts with delay in start of game
    - Team waiting for coach or minimum number of players - maximum 10 minute delay then team forfeits

### Section 2 – Playing Rules

- A. No jewelry shall be worn. Including earrings.
- B. Only Managers, Coaches, Players and Umpires shall be allowed on the field or in the dugouts during the game.
- C. Any player "slinging the bat" and creating a dangerous situation shall receive a warning. The managers of both teams will be notified of the warning. Upon the second occurrence of "slinging the bat" and creating a dangerous situation by that batter in the same game, that batter will be called "out" and no base runner shall be allowed to advance.
- D. Babe Ruth's Extra hitter option is adopted. (Ref. Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations page 21 "Extra Hitter")  
To enable additional playing time for players any team may utilize the Extra Hitter "EH" option provided by Babe Ruth. If the "EH" election is made on the original "Batting Order" it must be maintained throughout the game unless the team loses players and has only nine players to complete the game. In the case of an injured player the "EH" is removed from the "Batting Order" and his turn at bat is skipped. In all other situations the "EH" is removed from the "Batting Order" and each time the removed batter is scheduled to bat an out will be recorded.
- E. Babe Ruth's option to re-enter a used substitute for an injured or ejected player is adopted.  
(Ref. Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations page 21 "Re-Entry of Used Player")  
This rule is adopted to help avoid game forfeits due to a loss of players during a game. However, a forfeit will be called when a team is unable to field 9 rostered players.
- F. Game Protests. Only Rule discrepancies may be Protested. Discuss these with the Umpires for possible resolution. If unresolved, Protest must be so noted in the Official Game Book. The game summary sheet will be utilized to explain rule discrepancies as understood by each coach and umpire. The summary sheet will be passed to the Protest Committee for examination and recommendation to the League President. If the League President finds justification for the protest, the game will be replayed from the point of protest. See the MBRBA Game Protest Procedure for complete guidelines.