

Interlock Baseball and Softball Ground Rules – Spring 2021

Pinellas County Babe Ruth / Cal Ripken Leagues

Rules apply to all leagues

- Unless otherwise noted Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken rules apply
- Last recorded batter/out can run for the catcher with two outs in an inning, no other special base runners
- Home team supplies game balls
- Both teams must play the entire game through to completion. Teams cannot leave a game early.
- **Bats:** Bat rules are listed at: www.baberuthleague.org/bat-rules.aspx
BASEBALL - USA Baseball marking required for baseball. 15U may use either USA Bat or BBCOR .50.
SOFTBALL - bats must be marked "Official Softball Bat" or "Official Fast pitch Bat."
- No jewelry unless medical alert or religious, if worn they must be taped to the body.
- **Metal cleats only for 15U baseball AND 14/16U softball)**
- Helmet with ear flaps worn on field at all times while on offense, SB helmets must also face masks.
- Mercy rule is 20 after 2 innings, 15 after 3, 10 after 4
- Games will **NOT** be called after a team is mathematically eliminated. At both managers discretion, games can be called for mathematical elimination.
- Warming up catchers – players must wear a helmet. Coaches must wear umpire or catchers type masks. Violation results in an ejection
- Umpires will enforce quick warm ups to speed up play.
- 12U and older, 2 umpires are required. 10U and younger, 1 or 2 umpires is allowed.
- ALL regular season games can end in tie. The game end is based on time limit.
- **Intentional walks for baseball ONLY do not require pitches be thrown. Coach instructs plate umpire.**
- **Intentional walks for softball, pitches must be thrown.**

Pitching Limitations

- All teams are required to keep track of score, including innings pitched
- These refer to regular season limitations, as tournament play is covered separately
- Calendar week defined as Monday through, and including Sunday
- If a player delivers one pitch in an inning he/she is charged for one inning pitched
- **Baseball:** Refer to Rule 0.06 in the 2019 Baseball Rules & Regulations book
 - 10U and 12U: May pitch 6 innings per calendar week. Must have two calendar days rest between pitching assignments if he pitches in more than two innings in any one game
 - 15U: May pitch 7 innings per calendar week. Must have two calendar days rest between pitching assignments if he pitches in more than three innings in any one game
- **Softball:** Refer to Rule 0.06 in the 2019 Softball Rules and Regulations book
 - 10U and 12U: May pitch in no more than 9 innings per calendar week
 - 14u/16U: No pitching restrictions

CAL RIPKEN & BABE RUTH BASEBALL

8U Baseball

- **Power setting:** TBD Depending on which machine is used. After presidents meeting with District will decide.
- AB rule: 4 pitches per hitter or 3 strikes, whichever happens first. Third strike foul rules apply. If fourth pitch is fouled, at bat continues.
- Maximum of one fair bunted ball per inning is allowed. Foul bunt on third strike is an out.
- 5 runs/inning run rule
- Teams MUST bat the lineup
- One base on an overthrow. (Not automatic, player can still be thrown out taking the extra base)
- No dropped third strike
- No infield fly
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 6 innings
- Teams can play 4 outfielders. Team CANNOT play 5 infielders. Only 1 pitchers helper.

10U Baseball

- 5 runs/inning run rule
- Teams are REQUIRED to bat the lineup which allows for free defensive substitutions
- No dropped third strike
- No infield fly
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 6 innings
- UMPIRES: Slightly expand strike zone to encourage swinging
- Mound conferences limited to baseball rules

12U Baseball

- 5 runs/inning run rule
- Teams are REQUIRED to bat the lineup which allows for free defensive substitutions
- Dropped third strike is enforced
- Infield fly rule is enforced
- Open bases apply, lead offs
- No new inning after 105 minutes or 6 innings
- UMPIRES: Slightly expand strike zone to encourage swinging
- Balks rule is enforced. First balk is a warning by the umpire. Subsequent balks are enforced at the umpire's discretion.
- Mound conferences limited to baseball rules

15U Baseball

- 7 runs/inning run rule
- Teams are not required to bat the lineup. If they do bat the lineup, they can make free defensive substitutions
- Dropped third strike is enforced
- Infield fly rule is enforced
- Open bases apply, lead offs
- No new inning after 120 minutes or 7 innings
- Balks rule is enforced. Balks are enforced at the umpires' discretion.
- Mound conferences limited to baseball rules

BABE RUTH SOFTBALL

Per Babe Ruth Rules for all Softball age groups, Pitchers, 1st Base, and 3rd Base positions must wear face masks during the game when on defense.

8U Softball

- 4 pitches per hitter or 3 strikes, whichever happens first. If fourth pitch is fouled, at bat continues.
- Power setting: Set at 7 for entire Fall Season
- 5 runs/inning run rule
- Teams MUST bat the lineup.
- One base on an overthrow.
- No slap bunting.
- Maximum of one fair bunted ball per inning allowed. Foul bunt on third strike is an out.
- No dropped third strike
- No infield fly
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 6 innings
- Teams can play 4 outfielders. Team CANNOT play 5 infielders. Only 1 pitchers' helper.
- Pitchers helper must have one foot in the pitcher's circle

10U Softball

- 5 runs/inning run rule
- Teams are REQUIRED to bat the lineup which allows for free defensive substitution.
- No dropped third strike
- No infield fly
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 6 innings
- Teams can only play 3 outfielders.
- UMPIRES: Slightly expand strike zone to encourage swinging
- Illegal Pitches: First illegal pitch is a warning by the umpire. Subsequent illegal pitches are enforced at the umpire's discretion.
- Mound conferences limited to softball rules

12U Softball

- 5 runs/inning run rule
- Teams are REQUIRED to bat the lineup which allows for free defensive substitutions
- Dropped third strike is enforced
- Infield fly is enforced
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 6 innings
- Teams can only play 3 outfielders
- Illegal Pitch rules apply
- Mound conferences limited to softball rules

14/16U Softball

- 7 runs/inning run rule
- Teams are not required to bat the lineup. If they do bat the lineup, they can make free defensive substitutions
- Dropped third strike is enforced
- Infield fly is enforced
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 7 innings
- Teams can only play 3 outfielders
- Illegal Pitch rules apply

- Mound conferences limited to softball rules