

BASEBALL

Official Coaches & Managers Handbook



2020

Revised February 2020

Leadership Evaluation of Coaches

The Coach will:

- Reflect an understanding of the age group they supervise.
- Be aware that they are an example to those with whom they work.
- Cooperate with others in making the program of mutual benefit to all youngsters. Demonstrate that they have an appreciation of the philosophy of Babe Ruth Baseball.
- Show, by example, that they respect the judgment and position of the authority of the umpire.
- Exercise their leadership role adequately but leave the ball game in the hands of the players.
- Within guidelines set forth by Babe Ruth Rules, provide an opportunity for each youngster to participate in every game.
- Encourage their players at every opportunity.
- Familiarize themselves with home backgrounds of each youngster and their families.
- Instill a desire to win and to improve, striving to impart as much baseball knowledge as possible to each player.
- Encourage good health habits, good grooming and care of uniform.
- Be instrumental in shaping acceptable behavior patterns, whether the team wins or loses (good sportsmanship).
- Know the playing rules and regulations of Babe Ruth and are able to interpret them correctly. Play by the rules and adhere to their intent, instilling in the players a respect for the rules of the game.
- Be well acquainted with the player selection system used in their league and select players for the team according to their abilities.
- Be cautious and use sound, reasonable judgment in a protest situation.
- Have had an opportunity to participate in a training program concerning their responsibilities before being assigned to their position.
- Have knowledge of first aid and safety.

All managers and coaches in Madison County Youth Baseball Leagues are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the above guidelines.

Managers and coaches in the Madison County Babe Ruth Baseball Leagues must be Babe Ruth certified and the certificate of completion must be on file with the Baseball Commissioner. (Online course can be accessed at: [http://www.ripkencoaching.org/.](http://www.ripkencoaching.org/))

Failure to Meet Behavior Standards

If situations occur when a **manager or coach fails to demonstrate reasonable standards of behavior**, the following sanctions may be applied:

First Offense: Suspension from the next game.

Second Offense: Dismissal from his/her position.

And, possibly not be able to coach another Madison Parks & Recreation sport per review by the Madison Parks & Recreation Authority.

Tryouts and Drafts

Within the guidelines established by Babe Ruth, Inc., it is the responsibility of the local league to determine the proper placement of each player. To facilitate this process, tryouts are to be held on the second Saturday or Sunday in March of each year. In the event of rain, the date will be moved to the following Saturday or Sunday.

- **ALL** participants in each league should attend the tryouts. It is NEVER appropriate for a manager or coach to encourage a player to miss the tryouts. All registered players will be included in the draft process.
- The draft will follow the tryouts as soon as possible. The draft procedure for new players shall be conducted as follows:
- All teams will be drafted NEW each year.
- **A manager or coach's child must be chosen by that coach or manager based on their age and ability.** Siblings must be drafted by the same team, unless the parents of the siblings request otherwise. The sibling of a current member of a manager's team must be drafted in the third round or the next consecutive round if that position in the draft is otherwise occupied.
- Pitchers will be evaluated and chosen first so that each team will have same number of pitchers.

Support of the League

Coach or manager must take his/her team's role in supporting fund raising, concession stand work and field work projects organized by the league. Each team must recognize its obligation to participate. When work projects are planned, each coach or manager should plan to have a minimum of 3 workers present. **Coaches and managers must realize that their roles are not limited to only coaching.**

Respect for Babe Ruth League Rules

Each head coach and/or manager will be given a rulebook at the beginning of the season. There are specific regulations that govern pitching and required playing time. It is the responsibility of each coach or manager to adhere to these rules. Disregard for these rules is just cause for the dismissal of a coach or manager.

The local time limit rule will be enforced. It is the responsibility of each coach or manager to do whatever is necessary to ensure that a game begins on time. This includes the forfeiture of infield warm-ups. Warm-ups will be limited to batting in cage and throwing right before game, time permitting.

Coaches and managers are strongly encouraged to rotate players so that each receives a fair amount of playing time. Players should be rotated to different positions to encourage skill building. It is not appropriate for the same players to play minimum time every game.

Managers and coaches are expected to show respect for all players, coaches and umpires and require this same behavior of their players. **Lack of respect for umpires will not be tolerated.**

Maintenance of Scorebook

It is important that accurate records are kept of every game. Documentation of innings played by each player and innings pitched must be evident in each team's scorebook.

Care of League Equipment

Coaches, managers and players are responsible for the upkeep of all league equipment. **Throwing of bats and helmets will not be tolerated.** All league equipment should be cleaned and returned to each leagues equipment manager within one week of the end of the regular season.

Safety Practices

Any accidents, injuries, disputes, or other incidents shall be reported to the Madison Parks and Recreation office by way of a written Incident Report that may be obtained under the forms library at www.hooverridge.com or from a baseball official. The Incident Report can be turned in to a youth baseball official or placed in the drop box outside of the Madison Parks and Recreation office.

Pre-Season Responsibilities

Each team shall have **one team manager or head coach**. The team manager or head coach **may select two assistant coaches**. However, **assistant coaches may only be selected after the draft has been completed**. Team managers or head coaches may not select assistant coaches from undrafted players' parents.

As soon as possible after the draft is completed, the manager or coach must call their players to inform them of their team membership and the date, time and location of the first practice. To enable the manager or coach to devote more time to the development of the players, it is suggested that the player's parents be requested to assist with the following responsibilities:

- Assistant coaching
- Scorekeeping
- Team Mom/Dad
- Collecting picture money
- Field care before/after games
- Coordinating fundraisers
- Organizing trash pick-up

The manager or coach should provide the parents with a contact telephone number and email address.

When players are called for the first practice, a shirt size must be obtained if not previously selected at the time of registration. This will allow us to order uniforms as soon as possible.

The uniforms should be distributed as soon as possible after receipt.

General Practice and Game Rules

(Adopted February 14, 2000)

There shall be no more than two scheduled official league practices per week and the time limit for practices shall be limited to 2 hours. The practices should be held at county approved fields. *(See page 10 for Tournament Team practice information)*

A responsible adult, designated by the head coach, must supervise all practice and warm-up exercises. This person must have passed the background check before they are able to assist.

It is recommended that at least one parent or guardian of each child participating be present for the duration of activities.

At least two adult representatives of each team shall remain at the playing field or practice facility until all youngsters are picked up by their parents or designee.

Tobacco use: The Madison County Youth Baseball League prohibits the use of tobacco products, e-cigarettes and vaping products by managers, coaches and players, or spectators at the E1/E2 and Hoover Ridge fields during scheduled practices and games.

Drug/alcohol use: Alcohol and illegal narcotics are prohibited, either possession or usage, at all Madison Parks and Recreation Youth Sports activities. Any manager, coach, player or spectator violating this rule may be suspended from Madison Parks and Recreation Youth Sports activities and asked to leave the premises.

All managers, coaches, players and spectators are required to refrain from using obscene, vulgar or profane language. Anyone violating this provision may be banned from Madison Parks and Recreation activities.

The time limit for all games (all leagues) shall be 2 hours.

An inning starts the instant the 3rd out is made from the previous inning.

It is the responsibility of both coaches and managers to do whatever is necessary to ensure that a game begins on time. This rule applies to ALL games in ALL leagues.

Once a game begins (all leagues) the umpire will be in control of all aspects of the contest. This includes enforcement of Babe Ruth Rules and local league rules.

Any appeals of the umpire's decisions shall follow Babe Ruth, Inc. procedures.

A maximum of four adults (one manager or head coach, two assistant coaches and one scorekeeper) are allowed in the dugout area during a game. The only exceptions to this rule are: the required presence of an adult of the same sex for each player (or parent of that player). The Rookie League manager or head coach may request additional assistance.

Players are the only children who should be inside the dugout area.

In the event that a game cannot be played at the scheduled time due to weather or other conditions, the league commissioner will reschedule it for the first available make-up time. The game must be played at that time or forfeited. If neither team can field the minimum number of players, it is considered **"NO GAME"**. Final standings for the divisions will be determined by each team's winning percentage, number of wins divided by number of games played.

No one should be on the field except manager or coach, coaches, players and umpires.

No jewelry is allowed on the field except the Medical Alert type, which must be taped to prevent dangling.

Any manager, coach, scorekeeper, etc. removed from a game by the umpire must leave the park immediately and is suspended for the next game. If there is a second offense, the offender is suspended for the remainder of the year. He/she may reapply the next season.

The Baseball Board may replace any coach or manager who fails to schedule regular practices, intentionally fails to advise all players of practices or fails to attend a game without good cause.

The catcher must be properly equipped with a protective mask and athletic supporter when warming up a pitcher.

Any team may start a game with at least 8 players, but if only playing with 8 players, that team must take an out for the 9th batter. A team may pick up another player from another team within the same league division, but that player must play the outfield and bat last. If a team cannot field 8 players within 10 minutes of the scheduled game start time, that team must forfeit the game.

Weather

In the event of inclement weather, League Officials will make the decisions regarding play at the field.

In the event of bad weather when multiple games are scheduled, the first game to be delayed 30 minutes will be cancelled. Subsequent games will be played at their regular time if conditions allow.

When games are canceled due to weather conditions, fields are not to be used for practice.

After play has begun, the umpire is responsible for terminating play when conditions risk the safety of the players and coaches (i.e., darkness or lightning).

Lightning strikes require a 30 minutes pause in play. At the first sign of lightning all players, managers, coaches, umpires and spectators are to leave the field immediately to safety and shelter. The umpire and managers shall confer on the suitability of playing conditions after 30 minutes, with the umpire having the final decision.

General Policies

All managers and coaches must meet the Madison County Parks and Recreation Volunteer Application criteria, which includes mandatory completion of online (i) Abuse Prevention Training and (ii) Concussion Training and Certification, both in accordance with the Safe Sports Act, have a clear background check, and be Babe Ruth Certified.

The Baseball Commissioner, or their representative, is responsible for submitting a budget and coordinating purchases.

Managers and coaches should inform the league equipment manager of team needs. The league will not be responsible for purchases made without the Commissioner's approval.

BASEBALL LEAGUE DIVISIONS

T Ball League	4 to 5 year olds
Rookie League	6 to 8 year olds
Minor League	9 to 10 year olds
Major League	11 to 12 year olds
13 Year Old Prep	13 year olds
Jr. Babe Ruth	13 to 15 year olds
Sr. Babe Ruth	16 to 18 year olds

*The league divisions may be altered depending on number of participants.

T Ball League

All players are to be in the line-up and are to get to bat once each inning.

All players will be in the infield.

No score shall be kept.

It is recommended for ALL batters to wear a helmet.

Players not attending practice sessions are not guaranteed full amount of playing time. **PRACTICE IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS GAMES.**

Rookie League

A pitching machine will be used with a setting of 43 MPH.

The game shall consist of 6 innings.

All players are to be in the batting line-up. No player can sit out 2 innings in a row. The batting rotation should be 3 outs or last batter; whichever comes first. No run limit.

All players must be played; extra players will be in the outfield.

A Babe Ruth approved ball will be used.

It is mandatory for ALL batters to wear a helmet. It is recommended that all players wear the appropriate protective equipment (facemasks, athletic supporter, mouth pieces, etc.) Any player playing the pitching position (at the pitching machine) must wear a helmet equipped with a face mask.

Players not attending practice sessions are not guaranteed full amount of playing time. **PRACTICE IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS GAMES.**

All other rules refer to official playing rules (Cal Ripken Rules).

Minor League

Baseball Teams play with no more than 10 fielders.

An inning is over when three outs are made or five runs scored. There may be 8 runs scored if the batting team already has 4 runs scored within the inning and the next batter hits a home run out of the park with the bases loaded. There is no run limit during the sixth inning of the game, or last inning as instructed by the umpire.

Stealing shall be allowed only after pitch crosses home plate.

The balk rule, as described in the Babe Ruth League Playing Rules, will apply as if no runners are on base.

All players are to be in the batting line-up.

Free substitutions in the Minor League are allowed.

Pitching: See "General Rules" section on page 10.

It is mandatory that ALL batters and base runners wear a helmet. It is recommended that all players wear the appropriate protective equipment (facemasks, athletic supporter, mouth pieces, etc.). All back catchers must wear a cup.

Players not attending practice sessions are not guaranteed full amount of playing time. **PRACTICE IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS GAMES.**

Major League

50' Pitching

70' Bases

Pitching: See "General Rules" section on page 10.

It is mandatory that ALL batters and base runners wear a helmet. It is recommended that all players wear the appropriate protective equipment (facemasks, athletic supporter, mouth pieces, etc.). All back catchers must wear a cup.

Players not attending practice sessions are not guaranteed full amount of playing time. **PRACTICE IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS GAMES.**

Manager Selection Process - Regular Season

Anyone wishing to become a manager or head coach of a league team must fill out an application provided by the Madison County Parks and Recreation Office. This application must be completed and submitted to the Madison Park and Recreation Office no later than the spring training date. The Commissioner of Baseball, baseball committee and Madison Parks and Recreation Authority will review the applications. This group will decide the appointment of each team's manager or head coach.

Any assistant coach must have a Volunteer Application on file with the Baseball Commissioner.

TOURNAMENT TEAMS

Tournament Teams are designed to provide the League with an opportunity to:

- Field competitive teams that can compete at a high level
- Provide advanced player development
- Focus on team goals before individual goals
- Display positive reflection of Madison Youth Baseball on all fields, both home and away

Players will play on their tournament team during the regular league season and also in tournaments over the summer. **Players are required to play in the recreational league to be eligible to play on a tournament team!**

General Selection Criteria: Player registration and tryouts for tournament teams will occur after the start of the recreational league season. Evaluation criteria includes, but is not limited to, ability/skill, attitude, sportsmanship, teamwork skills, listening skills, and ability to be coached. We want our teams to represent Madison County well!!

Coach Selection: The Baseball Board will select the Head Coach for each Tournament Team, who will then select his assistant coaches.

Team Selection The head coach and the assistant coaches he chooses (also approved by the Board) will select players for their respective team after a tryout and present them to the Board. The Baseball Board will

approve all final Tournament Team player rosters. Teams will consist of a minimum of 10 players with a maximum of 12 players.

Eligibility: Players must commit to play and participate in at least half (50%) of the scheduled recreational league games during the regular season.

Tournaments: Each Tournament Team is guaranteed 3 tournaments. There will be an opportunity for more at each coach's discretion. Tournament participation that occurs prior to the end of the recreational league season will be limited to one-day Sunday tournaments. After the end of the recreational league season tournaments may be Saturday/Sunday 2-day tournaments and/or 1-day Sunday tournaments.

Practices: Players will be expected to attend all scheduled practices. Days and times for practice will be determined by the coach, as needed.

Playing Time: Each player is guaranteed at least one at bat and three defensive outs in each game. Coaches will play children and place them where they feel they will most benefit the team.

Financial Responsibility: The Tournament Team registration fee is \$200/player. This fee includes a hat, team jersey, the cost of 3 tournaments, and three dozen tournament grade game balls per team.

GENERAL RULES---ALL LEAGUES

Pitching Regulations:

Pitchers are limited to 35 pitches per calendar day across all leagues, except Jr. Babe that will follow the NHSF pitching guidelines. Pitchers who start an at bat with less than 35 pitches shall be allowed to finish that at bat. These regulations shall be in effect during the regular league season up through the Friday before the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

Catching Regulations:

A player can catch a maximum of 3 innings if they intend to also pitch in that game. If a player starts a 4th inning as the catcher (even one warm-up pitch) they are ineligible to pitch in that game.

In general, League teams should adhere to the Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules and Regulations and Official Playing Rules, unless otherwise superseded by our league rules herein. Tournament teams should adhere to individual tournament regulations, in addition to observing our pitching regulations above.

Bat Standard (Effective 1/1/2018)

Several national member organizations (Cal Ripken Baseball, Little League Baseball, etc.) asked USA Baseball, as the national governing body, to take the lead and establish a new bat standard. USA Baseball established a Bat Study Committee of leading scientist and conducted theoretical modeling, field testing, and lab testing. USA Baseball mandated a new bat performance standard as well as allowing the use of 2 5/8" **BIG BARRELS** for all age levels.

- This includes all divisions of Cal Ripken: T-Ball, Rookies, Minors, and Major Leagues
- The USA Baseball bat performance standard does not apply BBCOR certified bats for Junior Babe Ruth and Senior Babe Ruth. However, if your child does not use a BBCOR bat for these leagues the bat WILL need to have the USA Baseball stamp.

To ensure your athlete will be in compliance with this requirement the bat must have the new USA Baseball stamp on it (shown below). Bats that players may have used prior to 1/1/2018 that are not USA Baseball compliant may not be used in any Cal Ripken division.



T-BALL ONLY!! If you already own a tee ball bat you can simply purchase a special sticker. The USABat Tee Ball Sticker is a 1.25" X 2" vinyl sticker featuring the USA Baseball logo and permanent text which reads: **ONLY FOR USE WITH APPROVED TEE BALLS.** Applying a USABat Tee Ball Sticker to a tee ball bat (26" and shorter) will make the bat compliant under the USABat Standard for tee ball. New tee ball bats featuring the USA Baseball mark do not need to be stickered. Stickers can be purchased on-line through USA Baseball.

ALL STARS

(When applicable)

Manager Selection Process – All-Stars

The selection process for All-Star Managers shall be as follows:

Regular season coaches should indicate their interest in managing an All-Star Team and preferred age group once an invitation email is received from commissioner. The Baseball Board will vote on the election of the All-Star coach. A coach not selected will be notified promptly by the Baseball Committee.

The All-Star Manager will elect assistant coaches after his team is formed. All volunteers must have a volunteer form on file with the Baseball Commissioner.

All-Star Player Selection Process

There may be an opportunity for your child to be selected for the All Star Team in his age bracket. In order for your child to be eligible for All Star team evaluation, the following conditions and expectations must be met and agreed to:

General Selection Criteria: Player evaluation for All Stars teams includes, but is not limited to, ability/skill, attitude, sportsmanship, teamwork skills, listening skills, and ability to be coached. We want our teams to represent Madison County well!!

Selection Process: The Baseball Board will select the Manager of each All Star team, who will then select his assistant coaches. The team manager and the assistant coaches he chooses (also approved by the Board) will select players for their respective All Star team and present them to the Board. The Baseball Board will approve all final All Star player rosters.

Eligibility: Your child must have played in at least half of the scheduled games during the regular season. Players selected for the All Star team are permitted to play at their age-appropriate level regardless of the league in which they participated during the regular season.

District V Tournament: Your child must be available for all days of the District Tournament for his age group (see schedule below). A Championship win in this tournament allows the team to represent our District in the State Tournament that generally follows 1-2 weeks later.

Practices: Your child must attend each of the All Stars practices (generally 4 per week).

Playing Time: There is no guarantee of playing time in All Stars. Coaches will play children and place them where they feel they will most benefit the team.

Financial Responsibility: All Stars teams function separately from regular season baseball and involve their own financial outlay. The out-of-pocket cost for each player is generally between \$25-\$40 that is collected by the coaches to cover costs of uniforms and the warm-up tournament. This money must be paid immediately upon All Star selection, or your child's slot must be forfeited.