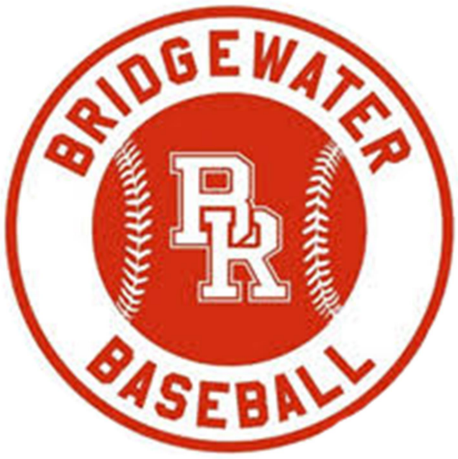
Bridgewater Baseball (BBSI)



Farm AA

Rulebook

2018 Season

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contacts..... 3

Important..... 5

Welcome..... 6

Cal Ripken Rule Updates for 2018..... 7

What's New for 2018..... 8

Manager / Coach Requirements..... 9

Schedules..... 10

General Rules..... 11

Rule of Conduct..... 12

Roster Rules..... 13

Batting..... 16

Pitching..... 18

Catching..... 19

Fielding..... 20

Equipment..... 21

Recommended Drills..... 22

Rain Outs & Lightning Policy..... 24

Code of Conduct Form..... 25

Contacts

League	Name	Email / tel #
Commissioner (Farm AA, Lower League)	Tom Alifano	tomalifano@verizon.net 908.229.8884
Commissioner (Pre-K, Lower League)	Mike Pikulin	michael.pikulin@veolia.com / 908.642.4853
Commissioner (K, Lower League)	Katie Franklin (K)	kifranklin65@gmail.com 585.314.6067
Commissioner (Farm A, Lower League)	Theresa Santiago	teeunique@gmail.com
Co-Commissioner (Minor, Lower League)	Anthony Spirra	anthonyspirra75@hotmail.com
Co-Commissioner (Minor, Lower League)	Robert Zeiman	rzeiman@aol.com 201.394.8243
Commissioner (Major 5th, Middle League)	Kevin Young	kevin@yobak.com 201.300.9988
Commissioner (Major 6th, Middle League)	Joe Locrotondo	jlocrotondo@hotmail.com 908.229.4447
Co-commissioner (Pony / Senior, Upper League)	Mike Colbert	njcolbert59@gmail.com
Co-Commissioner (Pony / Senior, Upper League)	Keith Garnett	Kgarnett911@gmail.com 908.500.8967

League	Name	Email / tel #
Commissioner (Babe Ruth, Upper League)	Mike Bellinger	mikebellinger@optonline.net
Lower League Chair	Mike Pikulin	michael.pikulin@veolia.com
Middle League Chair	Anthony Spirra	anthonyspirra75@hotmail.com
Upper League Chair	Art Lehberger	a.lehberger@verizon.net
VP, BBSI	Phil Confalone	pconfalone1@yahoo.com
President, BBSI	Tom Cannizzo	coachcaniz@gmail.com

Important

- Medical Release forms and Code of Conduct forms will be handed out during the first practice and collected at the second practice. Managers must have these with them at all times.
- Managers should also carry a complete contact list of players, parents, all managers, and the league commissioner.
- Make sure that you have a first aid kit with you at all times. Always make sure you have ice packs.
- Please keep a record of injuries by submitting an accident report to the commissioner of the league.

Please be patient with players and parents.

Please teach the kids how to play correctly.

Please encourage good sportsmanship

THANK YOU for volunteering your time to be a volunteer coach!

Welcome

Welcome to Bridgewater Baseball and Softball Inc! We are extremely thankful to you for volunteering your time to support the league and the players. It should be a rewarding experience for coaches, players and parents.

The Farm AA League for 2nd Graders continues from Farm A as an instructional league where the primary goal for the season is to teach more advanced baseball fundamentals (running, throwing, catching, batting and being a good teammate).

Farm A should have given the players basic concepts and rules of baseball. Please continue to teach these concepts, rules, and keep the game fun! Since teaching and modeling baseball procedure is our priority, **competition should be kept to a minimum.**

This season is really the first level of advanced baseball which includes, pitching, catching, and stricter baseball rules. This season will set the foundation for a fun and exciting future in Bridgewater Baseball. With this in mind, we have set individual player goals for the season.

- Each player will begin to throw and catch a baseball between the bases (60 feet).
- Each player will be able to consistently hit balls pitched.
- Each Player will be able to hit a ball pitched by another player by the end of the season.
- Each player will continue to learn competitive game base running and know every position.
- Each player will continue to learn the advanced vocabulary of the game.
- Advanced players will learn to pitch and catch.
- Each player will learn the proper conduct both on and off the field. This includes staying on the bench while your team is at bat, being a good sport, and learning about being a good teammate.

Cal Ripken Rule Updates for 2018

- **Number of coaching staff** – 1 manager + 3 coaches per team for all divisions of Babe Ruth League Inc.
- **Approved Bats** – Must use bats that have the **USABat marking**.

Babe Ruth League Bat Rules	
2017	**2018**
T-Ball	
Marked for T-Ball Use	USA Baseball T-Ball Stamp
Cal-Ripken Baseball	
2 1/4" Barrel with 1.15 BPF Marking	USA Baseball Marking 2 5/8" Barrel Maximum NO BBCOR BATS
Babe Ruth Baseball 13-15	
2 5/8" Barrel Aluminum or Composite BBCOR .50	USA Baseball Marking or BBCOR .50 2 5/8" Barrel
Babe Ruth Baseball 16-18	
All Bats Must Be BBCOR .50 No Greater Than -3	All Bats Must Be BBCOR .50 No Greater Than -3
Babe Ruth Softball	
Marked as "Official Softball Bat" or "Official Fastpitch Bat"	Marked as "Official Softball Bat" or "Official Fastpitch Bat"

Note: Solid one piece wood bats are permitted for use in all divisions and must conform to Rule 1.10. No laminated or experimental bats shall be used in a game.

Tampering or altering bats may violate certain federal and state laws and voids the USA Baseball certification, as well as all manufacturer warranties. Rolling is considered tampering and would void the bat's certification and make it illegal for play.

What's new for 2018

- Fair Playing Time clarification (please refer to the Roster Rules section)
- Roster Rules – Clarification on the Temporary Substitution Rule ("Play Ups")

Manager/Coach Requirements

Each team will have a Manager and Assistant Coaches, who are **Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. Certified** and have completed a background check (**blue form**).

If you have completed the **"KidSafe"** program through the recreation department, a photocopy will suffice for the background check.

We also encourage the coaches to engage the help of willing parents to assist and participate in the coaching experience. They are required to have attended the Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. certification course to educate them and also prepare them for future involvement in all Bridgewater sports.

It is recommended that all coaches attend the coaching clinics run by the league.

All questions should be directed to your League Commissioner, League Chairperson, VP or President of Bridgewater Baseball (in that order).

Lastly, parents can be helpful in creating and maintaining a positive Farm AA season by helping the Manager organize snack schedules, information flow, and team events.

Schedule

1. The league commissioner begins to form the teams in February/March.
2. **Farm AA games are mostly played on <u>Wednesdays and Fridays</u>**.
3. The practices/games start promptly at 6:00pm and end at approximately 7:30pm (no inning will begin after 7:45pm).
4. The Farm AA League schedule will be posted on the Bridgewater Baseball website the week prior to the start of the season.
5. A manager or coach (preferably both) should be at the field at 5:45pm to greet their players and get organized for the evening.
6. Parents should be instructed to have their children at the field approximately 5-10 minutes before the scheduled time.
7. The first 15 minutes of each game will be used by each team to warm-up and teach skills (Every year the player's get older and move up, it is extremely important for the coaches to teach them the rules of the game and how to play at the next level. Pre-season practices and skills are important).

General Rules

1. Except as otherwise noted, we will follow the most current Cal Ripken rules and regulations. All managers and coaches should be familiar with these rules.
2. Players must wear their full official team uniform during games.
3. There should be no more than 4 coaching staff in the dugout during games.
4. Games should consist of four to six innings (keep in mind that players at this age start to lose interest towards the end of a long game so use your best judgement).
5. All players are to be included at all times.
6. Players should be instructed not to leave the field during the practice/game.
7. Please instruct parents that any player who cannot make a practice or game should contact the team manager.
8. The managers of each team should meet prior to the game to determine if any changes are needed to the basic game schedule. (Examples: safety issues, with players and or the field, weather, an extra inning if time is available). Both managers should agree in advance to any changes.
9. All players must remain on the bench at all times unless they are in the field or up to bat. No sitting with parents.
10. No one other than players and coaches should be in the bench area.
11. There is no eating during a practice or game. Drinks are okay. Snacks and drinks can be consumed at the end of the evening.

Rules of Conduct

1. All managers, coaches, and other volunteers must read, and abide with the Bridgewater Baseball Code of Conduct for managers and coaches at all times.
2. It is the responsibility of the manager to maintain proper decorum and behavior among the parents of the players as well as the players and coaches on his team.
3. Any abuse directed at a player by anyone involved with the team is ultimately the responsibility of the manager.
4. Instances of unacceptable behavior should be addressed by the manager immediately and reported to the commissioner for follow-up.
5. Coaches or any other team assistants not coaching first base or third base must stay in the bench area.
6. The use of alcohol, tobacco, or foul language on or around the playing field is not allowed and will not be tolerated.

***** Manager/Coaches – Important *****

This is a game for the kids. We are volunteers here to support the kids. Let's be patient. Mistakes will be made. Let's set a good example for the kids on how we handle them. Encourage good sportsmanship and be positive.

Report any incidents to your commissioner immediately. They will be recorded and reviewed by the Board to see if necessary action needs to be taken during the season.

Any major incidents will be taken into consideration upon applying to manage or coach for the following season.

Roster Rules

FAIR PLAYING TIME RULE

The intent of the **Fair Playing Time Rule** is rule is to prevent players from playing the whole game while other players sit 2-3 innings a game.

- No player may sit two innings until every player has sat one complete inning.
- Except for injury, no player sits two consecutive innings.
- No player may sit more than two innings in any game including ones which go beyond the 4 innings.
- After eight innings a player may sit a third inning provided every player has sat at least two (2) innings already.
- If there is an exception, the manager will be expected to justify it.

If a manager intends to sit a player for an entire game for disciplinary/behavioral reasons or injury, this must be declared to the umpire and to the opposing manager before the game.

a. If a **behavioral problem occurs during a game**, the player's manager must immediately notify the opposing manager and the umpire of the benching and must notify the Commissioner that day.
a. If a **behavioral problem occurs during a practice**, the Commissioner must be told before the next game about the intent to have that player sit out the game.
b. If the **reason is disciplinary**, the player's family and the Commissioner must be notified. Discipline problem is defined as a behavioral problem that occurs during a game or practice, and is unduly disruptive in the opinion of his manager.

TEMPORARY SUBSTITUTION RULE ("PLAY UPS")

The Farm AA Commissioner will work with Farm AA managers and coaches to create and maintain a list of Farm AA players (and their parents) who would like to be considered for Minor League Play-ups.

- Farm AA play-up will be selected on a **rotating basis**
- Farm AA play-up player in the Minors will always **bat last** and **must play the entire game**, including playing **at least one inning each in the infield**
- Farm AA play-up player **CANNOT pitch** in Minors game
- Farm AA play-up players may not replace a player after the game begins
- Farm AA play-up players **may not be used during the playoffs**
- Play ups **must not interfere with player's own Farm AA game, Tournament game and/or practice commitments**. For example, a Farm AA player should NOT miss his Tournament practice in order to participate in a Minors play up game
- Safety will always be the priority in field assignments

PROCEDURE TO SECURE A "PLAY UP" PLAYER FROM FARM AA LEAGUE

If a Minor team manager knows in advance that less than nine (9) players will be available for a game, he can request a temporary substitution player from the Farm AA League using this procedure:

1. Manager will contact the Farm AA Commissioner and cc: Minors Commissioners to obtain the latest Play Up list
2. Manager will identify and contact an eligible Farm AA player's family from the list with the game date, time and field information
3. Manager may have to repeat step #2 until a suitable player is found
4. Once a player is found, the manager will confirm the substitution via email to the player's family, and copy both the Farm AA and Minors League commissioners.
5. Play ups will not be permitted to play if nine (9) players are present at the start of the game. They will be told ahead of time that their services may not be needed. Play ups may not replace a player after the game begins.

Failure to follow any of these procedures may result in forfeiture of that game.

In addition, a disciplinary action may be taken against the offending manager and/or coaches so please follow the process outlined above!

Batting

1. The full roster should be used in the batting order.
2. Runs are not counted. Scores are not kept. Wins and losses are not recorded.
3. The Manager will set the lineup for the game and the players should sit on the bench in the correct batting order. The manager will change the order each game to allow all players to “lead off”.
4. All players will bat each inning or **until the defensive team makes three outs**, whichever comes first. If three outs are made, start the batting order at that player point next inning.
5. Players can advance any number of bases on a hit. Have the player run to first base after they hit the ball fairly. They can continue to any base as long as the ball is in the outfield. They must stop when the ball comes into the infield area. They go to the base closest to them when the ball comes in. **Please DO NOT make a big deal about this. Let them have fun!**
6. If the runner is clearly out at first or any other base explain the rule and send them back to the bench. A close play will go to the runner.
7. Each batter will get three pitches from the opposing pitcher. If the pitcher throws three balls, have the coach take over for them for that at bat.
8. If the batter cannot hit after 6-8 pitches, move to the side of the batter and soft toss pitches until they hit it fair.
9. We are not here to embarrass or humiliate the batter’s ego. Use your best judgment.
10. There is no tagging up on caught fly balls.
11. Walks, stealing, tagging up and bunting are not allowed.
12. Players can advance one base on an overthrow, but not on a throwback from the catcher to pitcher.

13. Players are allowed to slide (feet first). Teach each player before allowing him or her to do so.
14. A player batting must wear a league certified helmet at all times.
15. Please ensure that all players have equal playing time throughout the season.
16. All players should be taught what their job is when sitting on the bench, which is part of the game. (i.e. - support the batter, listen to coaches as they go over a situation, discuss previous innings situations, etc.).
17. **Only (1) on-deck batter at a time.** They must wear a helmet and be in the on-deck cage area alone with his/ her bat, supervised by a coach.
18. All other players remain on the bench when their team is up.

Pitching

1. Please identify which players have the ability to pitch.
2. Please only use those pitchers that can reach the plate and throw strikes.
3. Please don't let a player embarrass him or herself while pitching. If they can't pitch yet, don't allow them to do so. It is imperative managers use common sense. Please move the game along!!
4. Baseball pitching is done with an overhand fastball. All other pitches are prohibited.
5. Pitchers should be positioned in front of the rubber (approx. 46ft. from home plate). If a player is having trouble reaching home plate, do not move them closer. They must pitch from the rubber. If they can't, then they are not ready to pitch.
6. A pitcher should only be throwing three pitches to each batter. If the pitcher proves they can through strikes let them continue for that at bat. If they throw three balls have the coach take over for them for that at bat.
7. Do not let pitchers throw more than one inning. Preferably half an inning if you have enough pitchers (meaning: half the full batting order or approximately 5 batters).
8. Use the traditional three strikes rule for a batter. No batter will walk!
9. Always warm up a player before they enter a game.
10. If there are not any players on a team that can pitch, the offensive team's manager should pitch.

Catching

- The league will provide full catcher's gear.
- In addition to this equipment, the player in the catcher's position must wear a protective cup (not supplied by the league).

Fielding

- **Positions:** There may be up to ten players on the field. Four players can play outfield (Left, Left Center, Right Center and Right) and only six players will play infield (1B, 2B SS, 3B, C, and P). All players should be placed in the proper position by the manager/coach.
- If more than 10 players, have them on the bench or instruct them with coaches on the side.
- **Important**: Rotate players between outfield and infield every inning unless there is a Safety Issue. Based on the skill level of the player try to designate a few positions for a player. Always use your best judgment … **Safety first!!** A player should not play the same position for more than two innings. Playing different positions will broaden the players understanding of the game. Use your best judgment.
- Two defensive coaches are allowed on the field to monitor the players and one must be assigned to the bench. If there are not enough coaches for the game, designate a parent to watch the bench.

Equipment

1. Player uniforms (spring - pants, shirt, and hat; fall – shirt and hat) will be distributed prior to “Opening Day” celebration.
2. All players are advised to wear a protective cup. (Not supplied by the league).
3. Players should wear their full uniforms (pants, shirt, socks, and hat) during games. Shorts are not acceptable.
4. Players **must bring their own glove** and are welcomed to bring a bat.
5. We strongly urge parents to write the players name and phone number on all equipment.
6. If players bring their own bats, parents & coaches should refer to the “Hey Coach” (Stuff for Everyone) page on the BBSI website or the Babe Ruth website at http://www.baberuthleague.org/bat-rules.aspx.
7. **All bats must have USABat marking to comply with Babe Ruth / Cal Ripkin rules.** All non-wood, USABat bats should have a barrel size that can either be 2 1/4” or 2 5/8” with maximum of 31” in length.
8. Players should wear plastic spikes. Soccer spikes are fine. Opened-toed foot apparel is not permitted.
9. Players should dress appropriately based on weather conditions, cold, heat, rain, etc.
10. Players **should not** bring balls from home. The league uses a special ball which is different from the standard hard baseball.

Recommended Drills

Keep it Simple and Make it Fun! - Skills should be taught all season long. Be creative, have contests, goals, etc.

Running

1. Run straight to each base.
2. Touch each Base.
3. Run through first base. Don't slide into first base.

Drill: Run through First Base. Run from First to Second. Run from Second to Home.

Fielding

1. Good stance – wide stance and knees bent.
2. Glove and hand out in front.
3. Use both hands to catch the ball.

Drill: Have the players field gently rolled ground balls without a glove and throw back. Repeat with glove.

Hitting

1. Good stance – Shoulder width and feet square to the plate.
2. Hands up by ear and stay balanced.
3. Push the hands back and small step straight towards the pitcher.
4. Keep the head steady and watch the ball as you swing.

Drill: Soft toss hitting practice with wiffle balls into the fence.

Throwing

1. Eyes on target.
2. Get the ball back up high and behind the head.
3. Point your glove and step towards the target.

Drill: Soft toss back forth with one knee on the ground.

Pitching

1. Stand in front of the rubber and wait for the catcher and batter to be ready.
2. Start the pitching motion (pick one that is comfortable for them).
3. Throw the ball (ball up high and behind the head) to the catcher and get into a fielding position.

Drill: Practice throwing a towel by whipping it forward to simulate pitching.

Outfield

1. Glove up for fly balls.
2. In front of the ball for grounders.
3. Throw to second base.
4. Do not hold or run with the ball.

Drill: Have a coach toss fly balls to catch. Throw to second. Repeat with grounders.

Rain Outs & Lightning Policy

1. In order to determine if a game is cancelled due to weather, please check **http://www.bridgewaterbaseball.com** under the Field Conditions tab or call the recreation department hotline at 908-526-7107, after 4:00pm.
2. The web site will say “Open” or “Closed”. If closed, please contact the other manager to confirm the cancellation and then contact your parents. Email communication is the recommended way and probably the most efficient way to communicate
    a. If games have not been canceled, the two managers should show up at the field or contact each other to make a determination as to whether the game could be played.
3. It is not required to make-up rain out games in Farm AA. If both managers want to, they can work with the league commissioner to try to find a date and field to reschedule the game.
4. In case of **LIGHTNING**, a thirty (30) minute postponement applies to all current games at a specific location. All people must seek shelter (in vehicles). If after thirty (30) minutes, lightning is still sighted, a Board Member, Commissioner, or a Senior Umpire can decide to cancel the game(s).
5. If lightning returns after play has resumed, the thirty (30) minute postponement starts over. The time limit for the game will remain in force during the lightning delay - no extra time will be granted for the delay for recreation games. The game(s) will automatically be cancelled upon the start of a second (30) minute lightning delay.
6. The cancellation of an earlier game, due to lightning, does not necessarily cancel all later games.

Code of Conduct for Manager and Coach

Bridgewater Baseball ("BBSI") is a program of service to youth. At the heart of our program is the relationship between the manager/coach and the player. Because the manager/coach is in control of our program and the control, which he/she exercises, may be either beneficial or harmful to the player, Bridgewater Baseball has developed a code of conduct for all managers and coaches.

Our intent is not so much as to legislate as to enlighten our adult leaders to the importance of their position as role models. In accepting the responsibility to be a role model, each manager and coach must agree to abide by the following rules and regulations:

A. Managers and coaches are expected to act in the best interest of the team and BBSI. This includes fair assignments of player positions and equal treatment for all players.
B. No manager or coach shall use any profanity at any time.
C. No manager or coach shall use alcohol or tobacco in or around the playing field.
D. Throwing of any object, i.e., helmets or bats, is strictly prohibited and will result in the immediate suspension of a manager or coach. Managers must control their players and coaches.
E. Name-calling or other unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and, when observed, must be stopped immediately.
F. The manager and coaches have the responsibility to maintain reasonable order by spectators. No manager or coach should encourage any spectator to be unruly or to use profanity at any time.

Code of Conduct for Manager and Coach

G. Only the manager or acting manager may question any umpire calls. All discussions with umpires must be carried out in a normal speaking voice. Where possible, discussions should be isolated from the players and all discussions will be terminated at the direction of the umpire. No discussion will result in a show of displeasure by the manager, either verbally or otherwise.
H. All managers and coaches will be civil towards each other. Similar to dealing with an umpire, managers and coaches shall not engage in unsportsmanlike acts or raise their voices to each other. Any such demonstration will subject the offending party to disciplinary action by Bridgewater Baseball.
I. At the conclusion of all games, the manager and coach shall insure that their respective players congratulate the other team and engage in a customary handshake.
J. As coaches and managers, you may have access to medical information about your players. This must be kept confidential and cannot be discussed with other parents, players or other team coaches.
K. Any alleged violations of the code of conduct or league rules must be reported immediately to the league commissioner who, in turn, will promptly report the violations in question to the Conduct Committee convened by the Board of Directors of Bridgewater Baseball. The Committee will have authority to impose sanctions, including suspensions. The decision of the Committee may be appealed to the Board of Directors within a period of 48 hours after receiving notice of the decision.
L. Any manager or coach who knowingly violates the rules of the game will be forced to forfeit the game and be immediately suspended.

Code of Conduct for Manager and Coach

M. Any alleged violations of the code of conduct or league rules must be reported immediately to the league commissioner who, in turn, will promptly report the violations in question to the Conduct Committee convened by the Board of Directors of Bridgewater Baseball and Softball. The Committee will have authority to impose sanctions, including suspensions.

N. If, for any reason, you cannot abide by the aforementioned code of conduct, please do not volunteer to be a coach or manager. We look forward to a great season and greatly appreciate your service to our youth.

Acknowledged & Accepted: _____

Name (Print): _____

Date: _____

The use and definition of "Social Media", which should be broadly understood for the purposes of this code of conduct policy includes but is not limited to the following BLOGS, WIKIs, MICROBLOGS, MESSAGE BOARDS, CHAT ROOMS, ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS, ONLINE FORUMS, SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES (i.e. Facebook, LinkedIn, Vine, Instagram etc.) and other sites and services that permit users to share information with others in a contemporaneous manner. Although not an exclusive list, some specific examples of prohibited social media conduct include posting commentary, content, or images that are defamatory, harassing, libelous, or that can create a negative perception or connotation to the organization.