



2010 Fall Ball League 5 Weeks: Sept 11 - Oct 10 Player Information Document

Tonka Babe Ruth (TBR) is a volunteer organization dedicated to providing a quality baseball program for youth living in the Minnetonka School District. Players will be placed on a team in one of three divisions depending on age and grade.

1. **Prep:** Players that will be 13 years old on April 30, 2011, or entering 7th grade this fall.
2. **Jr. Babe Ruth:** Players that will be 14 and 15 in 2011, or entering 8th / 9th grade this fall
3. **Sr. Babe Ruth:** Players that will be 16/17/18 in 2011 or entering 10/11/12th grade this fall

Eligibility

Ballplayers that were 12 to 17 years old on April 30, 2010 are invited to register. For the 2010 Fall Ball season players can play with the school grade. This includes:

- Any 12 year old (or incoming seventh grader) that played on a STLL, ETLT or Glen Lake Little league team during the 2010 regular season
- Any 13 - 17 year old (or incoming eight through twelfth graders) that played on a Tonka Babe Ruth Prep, Warriors, AAA, Majors, Mantle, Tier II or Tier I Division team during the regular season.
- Any ballplayer, even if they have limited baseball playing experience, which lives in the Minnetonka School District and meets the age and grade requirements.

This is a great opportunity to play baseball games on five Minnesota fall weekends.

Purpose

This is a fun league with an opportunity for players to develop their baseball playing skills and to gain a better understanding of how to respond to different game situations.

The Fall Ball League provides ballplayers living in the Minnetonka School District, ages 12-17 years old with an opportunity to play baseball with friends in games against other Minnetonka teams or in inter-league games against teams from other area communities.

Ballplayers will have an opportunity to play various positions during league games.

Registration Process

All Fall Ball registration will be done online. Participants must complete an electronic registration form found on the Tonka Babe Ruth Web site. See the **Register Online** page on the TBR website (<http://tonkababeruth.org>).

If you have any questions regarding Fall Ball registration or the program please contact:

Todd Bontrager
C (651) 261-7723
toddbontrager@hotmail.com

All electronic registrations must be completed by August 22, 2010, the registration cutoff date.

Fees:

2010 fee is \$110. The registration fee is intended to cover the cost of field usage, field preparation, umpires, and equipment.

Team Size/composition

Historically we have had about 12 teams: 3 or 4 - 13 year old (7th grade) teams, 4 or 5 14/15 year old teams, 3 to 5 16/17/18 year old teams. Our schedule also includes playing teams from surrounding communities. There will be 11 to 13 players placed on each team. An effort will be made to have a mix of ages on the JBR (14 and 15 year olds) and SBR (16, 17 and 18 year olds) teams.

The placement of players on the Fall Ball Teams will be coordinated by the Fall Ball Director with input from the managers and coaches. A draft process will be followed. Directors will make sure each team has players with pitching and catching skills. The date, time and location of the team formation meeting(s) will be established by our Fall Ball Director and communicated to the coaches. If interested in coaching, contact the Fall Ball Director.

Final team rosters, coach name and contact information and date, time and location of the first practice will be posted on the Tonka Babe Ruth web site by August 29, 2010.

Game Rules

- If a team is short a player then pick a player from the other or another team and play the game. There should be no games forfeited because a team is short players.
- If a team is leading by a big margin the team with the lead should give other players an opportunity to pitch and play positions that they are less skilled at so they can develop other skills.
- The umpire is the game official and is always right. Please accept umpires calls as final at all times.
- Games will be 7 innings in length. The 10 run rule will apply in the 5th inning and thereafter.
- No inning will be started after 2 hours and 15 minutes so that the subsequent game can start on schedule.
- The last game of the day can be played to completion if no one is scheduled to use the field.
- All players on the team will bat in consecutive order, 1 through 13. If a player arrives late, that player will be placed at the bottom of the order.
- Pitchers can pitch up to 3 innings in a game (no more than 50 pitches) or 6 innings in a weekend (no more than 100 pitches). However, teams are encouraged to provide multiple players with an opportunity to develop their pitching skills during each game. Use good judgment for pitchers and pitch counts.
- An effort should be made to provide equal playing time for all players on the team unless disciplinary action is being taken against a player.
- The code of conduct should be acknowledged by all players and parents during a team meeting.
- The Division Director or community field supervisor has the authority to cancel games if field conditions are determined to be unsafe for players or will be subjected to damage.
- The umpire and team coaches should determine if a game should be suspended or rescheduled because of rain or inclement weather.
- Cancelled or games suspended before the completing of 4 1/2 innings may be rescheduled if fields are available and there are no game conflicts.

Season

Practices will be scheduled starting the week of August 30. However, no practices will be scheduled Saturday through Monday of Labor Day weekend

The season begins Saturday, September 11, 2010 and ends Sunday, October 10, 2010. All teams will play a game on both Saturday and Sunday each weekend. If a game is canceled due to weather, or other conditions, it will not be re-scheduled.

In addition, there will be one scheduled practices each week during the 5 week season. Managers can schedule additional practice times, subject to field availability, through the Fall Ball Director.

Game schedules will be posted on the Tonka Babe Ruth team web sites once the teams are formed.

Coaches

Each team will have a manager and one or two coaches. Players, managers and coaches should display good sportsmanship at all times. Coaches will be provided with Minnetonka caps.

Umpires/Fields

One umpire will be provided for each game. Should an issue arise with an umpire contact the Fall Ball Director: Todd Bontrager (651) 261-7723.

All 13 year old games will be played on modified fields (75' base path) and all Junior and Senior Division games will be played on regulation (90' base path) fields. Minnetonka home games will be played at Bennett Park, Freeman Park 2, Lake Susan Park or Bandimere Park. Inter-league games will be played on the fields designated by the host team.

Field crews should be provided. However, managers are encouraged to bring a rake and shovel should they need to prepare the infield and mound before the game. Managers should assist players with replacing home plate and pitchers mound tarps after the last game of the day or if it starts to rain during a game.

Uniforms/equipment

Each Fall Ball player will receive a Black or Blue M (Minnetonka cap) and socks they can keep. They will also receive a Tonka Babe Ruth jersey/shirt and belt that needs to be returned at the end of the season. Players will need to provide their own baseball pants. If you do not have pants from the regular season and need a pair, contact Shari Force-Smith, TBR Equipment Director, c (952) 210-7845, Shari.Force@concur.com. Players will need to provide their own glove, baseball cleats, bat and helmet.

There will be a designated time & day for managers to pick up of uniforms, equipment, including, the first aid kit, practice balls and catchers gear, etc. with Shari Force-Smith. All Equipment returns should occur immediately after the season ends.

Each Manager will receive game baseballs. The home team manager should provide three new baseballs to the umpire before the game.