

## Standing Rules

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## 1) Introduction

### **STANDING RULES**

Standing rules are informal, yet detailed, guidelines that describe the procedures of RHAM Youth Baseball, Inc. (hereinafter RYB) Their purpose is to provide guidance regarding the procedures, expectations, and standards of RYB These guidelines are meant to be flexible and reflect the current thinking and will of the RYB Board of Directors.

These Standing Rules elaborate and supplement the operating policies of the RYB Bylaws. Standing Rules shall be adopted, amended, or repealed by resolution of the Board of Directors. Whenever circumstances permit, the proposed resolution shall be circulated at least one month in advance to all Directors and Officers of RYB.

RYB Standing rules or bylaws in no way can supersede any provision of the annual **Charter** with the **Babe Ruth League, Inc.** or the **Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules and Regulations and Official Playing Rules**. Some finer breakdowns of age groups such as the Cal Ripken League are detailed in these Standing Rules for clarity in delineating league ages.

Any deviation from the official Playing Rules must have an approved waiver by Babe Ruth League, Inc. The following notations are from the introduction in the Official Playing Rules.

**Note to 2013 Revisions: A major revision of these Standing Rules was undertaken in 2013 in light of the fact that the Prep, Babe Ruth and softball operations of HYBSA were transferred to Tri County Baseball at that time, to change nomenclature to be consistent with the terms that are currently in use, and to conform to practices that had developed over time.**

### **NOTE TO 2017 REVISIONS**

**A substantial revision of the rules was undertaken on November 15, 2017 following the agreement to merge the baseball operations of Marlborough Youth Athletic League, Inc. and Hebron Youth Baseball, Inc. in order to correct nomenclature and adopt updated rules regarding coaching selection**

### **NOTATIONS:**

<p><b>RULES</b> – No Babe Ruth League, Inc. Rule or Regulation may be altered or waived without written permission of the President, Vice President or Commissioner of Babe Ruth League, Inc. The President of Babe Ruth League, Inc. has the authority to rule on any point or clarification not specifically covered in these rules. Adjustments can be made to these rules and regulations in order to accommodate a participant with a documented disability.</p>
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**WAIVER** – It is the obligation of local league Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth presidents for all waiver requests to originate with their district commissioner. All waiver requests must be submitted in writing and must include the approval and signature of the local league president, the district commissioner, the state commissioner and the regional commissioner before it may be considered for approval by Babe Ruth League, Inc. Headquarters.

## **2) Structure**

Participation in any program of RYB as a ball player shall be open to any youth residing in the Town of Hebron, Andover or Marlborough whose league age is not less than four years old or more than twelve years old.

### **Cal Ripken Baseball**

#### **i) Philosophy of League Structure.**

Perhaps the most difficult aspect of the annual operation of most youth baseball organizations is the determination of to what league players are assigned. Such assignment can be strictly by age (as determined by the April 30<sup>th</sup> cut off formulated by USA Baseball, by school grade (as is the experience of players and parents in other sports) or solely by talent. There are compelling arguments to be made in favor and against each of these criteria. It would be easy to simply use baseball ages as the governing criteria, but we do recognize that players want to compete with and against their classmates and that arbitrary age cutoff dates really are only relevant as to inter town tournament play. We could operate on the basis of school grade alone but we would disadvantage ourselves in tournament play. We could operate solely on the basis of skills which might provide an incrementally better quality of play at the 70 foot Majors level but this would punish a child who has a poor performance at a one day tryout, would risk having children leave the program at younger ages, and would be inconsistent with the goals of a recreational organization.

In light of these concerns, we have developed a structure which uses school grade as a controlling factor at the youngest age groups and which as players advance also considers their baseball age and skill level together with school grade. The structure also seeks to create a system in which players who are ready will be able to advance to the 70 foot Majors league for two years of play. Parents, players and coaches, however, must also understand that there may be instances in which will not occur because of quirks in the numbers of registrants in a particular age group. In these instances, some players may only play one year in the 70 foot major league.

**ii) The 70 Foot Major League** will consist of players whose league age is not less than ten years old or more than twelve (12) years old. It is the intention of RYB that only 11 and 12 year old players will play in this league. In the event that additional players are necessary in order to fill out teams, ten year old players will be chosen in consultation with the children's parents.

Substitutes may be called up from the 60 Foot Major League on an as needed basis. They must be selected from a list prepared by the 60 Foot Major League Chair and approved by the 70 Foot Major League Chair. The League age of substitutes must be not less than ten years old. If a 60 Foot Major League substitute is called up and the 70 Foot Major League team has at least 9 players present at the start of the game, the 60 Foot Major League call up may still be used but cannot start in the field nor play more innings than any regular player. The called up player shall be placed last in the batting order. The coach who needs a player will make a request to the 60 Foot Major League Chair who will assign the player for each game on a rotating basis from the list described above. In the event that the 60 Foot Major chair cannot be reached and time is of the essence, the decision as to which player shall be called up will be made by the Cal Ripken Director, the President, or the 70 Foot Major League chair.

**iii) The 60 Foot Major League** will consist of players whose league age is not less than nine (9) years old or more than twelve (12) years old. It is the intention of RYB that vast majority of the players in the 60 Foot Major League will be baseball age 10 or 11 and have completed two seasons in Minors. A twelve year old player who is new to our league may be placed in this league as well as twelve year old players whose parents make a request that they be placed in this league. Nine year old players will only be placed in this league if necessary to fill out teams. Nine year old players will not be allowed to try out for this league but will be chosen, if necessary, in consultation with parents of children being considered. In the event that declining registration prevents us from offering this program, it is the goal of our rules to place all 11 and 12 year old players in the 70 Foot Major program, to place those 10 year old who are in 4<sup>th</sup> grade in the Minors program and to place each 5<sup>th</sup> grade 10 year old on the basis of skill and based upon the need for a specific number of players in each league.

Substitutes may be called up from the Minor League on an as needed basis. They must be selected from a list prepared by the Minor League Chair and approved by the 60 Foot Major League Chair. The league age of substitutes must be not less than nine years old. If a Minor League substitute is called up and the 60 Foot Major League team has at least 9 players present at the start of the game, the minor league call up may still be used but cannot start in the field nor play more innings than a regular player. The called up player shall be placed last in the batting order. The coach that needs a player will make a request to the Minor League Chair and the Minor League Chair will assign the

player for each game from the list described above on a rotating basis. In the event that the Minor League chair cannot be reached and time is of the essence, the decision as to which player shall be called up will be made by the Cal Ripken Director, the President, or the 60 Foot Major League chair.

**iv) The Minor League** will consist of players whose league age is not less than eight (8) years old or more than ten years old, with the following exception: (11) year old players can be placed into the Minor League for their own safety provided they do not pose a threat to younger players. This can only be done with approval of the RYB President, the Minor League Chairman, and the Major League Chairman.

Substitutes may be called up from the Rookie League on an as needed basis. They must be selected from a list prepared by the Rookie League Chair and approved by the Minor League Chair. The League age of substitute must be not less than eight (8) years old. If a Rookie League player is called up and the Minor League team has at least 9 players present at the start of the game, the Rookie League call up may still be used but cannot start in the field nor play more innings than a regular player. The called up player shall be placed last in the batting order. The coach that needs a player will make a request to the Rookie League Chair and the Rookie League Chair will assign the player for each game from the list described above on a rotating basis. In the event that the Rookie league chair cannot be reached and time is of the essence, the decision as to which player shall be called up will be made by the Cal Ripken Director, the President, or the Minor League chair

- i) **The Rookie League** will consist of players whose league age is not less than seven (7) or more than nine (9) years old. All players in first or second grade shall play in this league. The league President, Cal Ripken Director and Rookie League chair are authorized to consider exceptions to this rule which will likely only be granted for students who have stayed back in school. The use of this exception is not intended to allow a player to play in Minors in second grade because his parents chose to not send him to kindergarten during the year he turned five.
- ii) **The Tee-ball League** will consist of players whose league age is not less than (4) years old or older than six (6) years and who are also in kindergarten or will be attending kindergarten the following fall.

### **3) Team Mangers, Assistant Coaches, Umpires and Discipline**

One (1) Team Manager and no more than two (2) assistant coaches shall supervise every team. The minimum age required to coach a team in any League shall be eighteen (18) years as of March 1.

All Team Managers will be nominated yearly by each respective League Chairman and they shall not begin their coaching duties until approved by the Coaching and Rules Committee

All Assistant Coaches will be nominated yearly by the Team Manager of each team and approved by the Chairman of the league that the team plays in.

The Team Manager will be responsible for all actions of players and Assistant Coaches on their team.

All persons who wish to manage a team shall inform the league President or Cal Ripken Director at the time of registration and no later than a date to be set by the President which will be advertised in the Rivereast News Bulletin, by email to all registered families, and on the league website.

The following individuals will serve on the Coaching and Rules Committee: Cal Ripken Director, Player Agent, one other Board member, and two non-director members of the organization appointed by the President. For the years of 2018 until 2022, inclusive, one of the five members shall be a resident of Marlborough.

An initial determination shall be made by the Coaching and Rules Committee concerning each person who has volunteered to be a manager as to whether he or she is of good character, has demonstrated a willingness and ability to work with children of varying athletic, physical and emotional abilities, is familiar with the goals of RHAM Youth Baseball, and agrees to work toward those goals, and possesses reasonable baseball knowledge. If the Committee believes that a candidate should not be allowed to manage, it must allow him or her to meet in person with the committee to discuss this.

In the event that there are more qualified individuals than available coaching positions, the Coaching and Rules Committee will review the qualifications of all candidates considering the following:

- a. number of years as a youth baseball coach;
- b. baseball knowledge and skill;
- c. general coaching experience (including in other sports) and ability;
- d. ability to work with children.

The Coaching and Rules Committee will meet individually with any prospective

manager if he or she requests. The decision of the Coaching and Rules Committee as to the selection of managers may be appealed to the Board of Directors which may overturn it only with a two thirds vote of all in attendance at a regular or special meeting.

All persons who wish to be an assistant coach shall submit their names in the same manner as described for managers above. Assistant coaches will be reviewed as described in paragraph 3 above. A list of eligible assistants shall be made available to all managers before the draft.

**The "chain of command" regarding any complaint by any concerned individual shall be as follows:**

- i) Any complaint regarding the actions of any Assistant Coach must be submitted in writing to the Team Manager or any RYB officer.
- ii) Any complaint regarding the actions of any Team Manager must be submitted in writing to the League Chairman or any RYB officer.
- iii) Any complaint regarding the actions of any league president must be submitted in writing to the RYB President or any RYB officer.
- iv) Any complaint regarding the actions of the RYB President must be submitted in writing to any member of the Board of Directors.

All complaints shall be referred to the RYB Eligibility and Disciplinary Committee which will hold a meeting at which all interested parties may be heard. The Eligibility and Disciplinary Committee has the power to suspend any coach, manager or league officer for a period of up to the 18 months.

**The following rules apply to interactions between managers, coaches, and umpires:**

**i) Ejection** - If a coach or manager is ejected from a game, he or she will automatically be suspended from the next scheduled game. If the game in which he or she is ejected from is the last game of the season that suspension will carry over to their next game (whether it's the fall or following spring). He or she will be allowed to attend the game as a spectator, however cannot be in the bench area. There is no right of review for this suspension.

**ii)Bad Behavior** - If an incident occurs between a coach or manager and an umpire that is brought to the attention of either the Umpire-in-Chief's or any other board member, the coach or manager will be spoken to by the League Chair and the Umpire-in-Chief and receive a warning. On a second offense, the disciplinary process called for in section 3(c), supra, will be invoked.

#### **4) Playing Rules**

These rules apply to all Majors and Minors leagues:

A) All players shall be placed in the batting order and each team shall hit through the entire order. (i.e. everyone hits no matter if playing or sitting that inning) No player is allowed to bat in the same spot in the batting order two games in a row.

B) All players will play at least two innings in the infield per game, preferably at two different positions. In the event that a game has not been played to a full six innings and a player does not receive his or her two inning allotment, he/she shall start the next game in the infield. In addition, each player must play at least one full inning in the outfield. All players shall play at least one inning in the outfield per game. In the event that a game has not been played to a full six innings and a player does not receive his or her one inning allotment, he/she shall start the next game in the outfield.

C) The following pitching rules are adopted

- Maximum 2 innings in any game
- Maximum 4 innings in any calendar week
- Maximum 60 in a game and 85 per calendar week for 70 Foot Majors. Maximum of 40 pitches per game and 70 pitches per week for 60 Foot Majors or Minors.
- If pitch count in a game is 1-40, 0 calendar days of rest are required; 41-65 requires 1 day of calendar rest; if a pitcher reaches his max pitch count, he can finish the batter, however, please note that the rule allowing a pitcher to finish a batter does not allow him to avoid the additional rest which might be required. For example, if a minors pitcher has thrown 38 pitches when a new batter comes to the plate, he may throw as many pitches as is necessary to complete the at bat. However, if he exceeds 40 pitches, he must then sit out a day. If he is removed on the 40<sup>th</sup> pitch, he may return the following day. Managers will regularly consult with each other as to the number of pitches thrown by a pitcher so as to avoid controversy. If there is a dispute, the pitcher's own manager's count will be deemed official.
- Calendar week is defined as Monday–Sunday
- Once a pitcher is removed – he cannot pitch again in the same game
- Our pitching rules will remain in effect even during our out of town games; these games provide a good opportunity to give others the chance to pitch so the 4 inning per week maximum will apply in weeks where we are also playing an out-of-town game.
- There is no maximum number of pitches per inning.

D.) For the 70 foot major league, only, dropped third strike rule is in effect, as are balks; please consult your rule books for detailed explanations on each of these rules. For the

first fourteen days of the regular season, balks will only result in a warning. Thereafter, the penalty will be assessed.

E) If a team has only 8 players at the starting time for a game, they can start with 8, provided that:

- A 9<sup>th</sup> player is expected to show up for the game; if a 9<sup>th</sup> player does not show up by the end of the completed 2<sup>nd</sup> inning, the game is officially a forfeit but play may continue at the discretion of the umpires and both managers; and
- The team with 8 players will automatically become the visiting team, allowing more time for the 9<sup>th</sup> player to arrive before they take the field defensively for the first time
- If you know on advance that you will be short players, players can be called up from the next lower league. There will be a call up list with ten names for each league. No player may be called up who has a scheduled game for his or her own team. A called up player is placed last in the batting order but otherwise is treated the same as every other player as to playing rules. If a manager should contact the league chair of both his or her league and the lower league as soon as he or she knows that a call up will be required. No player may be called up a second time until all available players on the list have been used.

- **F) Other Rules**

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a. Mercy rule will be in effect. The mercy rule will be 10 runs, after a fully completed game (defined as at least 4 at bats by the visiting team or 3 at bats by the home team. The rule applies to each fully completed inning going forward after a game is official. Coaches should use good judgment to ensure respect of other team and players is maintained.

b. If a player who will be the catcher in the following inning is on base with two outs, the offensive manager has the right to replace him as a runner by the player who made the last out in order for him to get his catching gear on and keep the pace of the game moving along; this rule is common in most youth baseball leagues.

c. As to minors only, there will be a maximum of 5 runs scored per inning. In the last inning, there is no limit to the number of runs that a team which is trailing at the start of its half inning may score. In the event that it appears that a game will not be played to completion due to darkness or time limits, the managers should consult before each inning with the umpire to decide which inning will be considered the final inning for the purpose of this rule.

d. As to minors only, each team may only “advance without a batted ball” for a total of five bases per inning. For the purpose of this rule, “advancing without a batted ball” is defined as “advancing to another base after a pitched ball passes the batter but in a situation in which the ball is not put into play.” This definition is intended to include advances due to stealing, passed balls, and wild pitches. If two runners advance on the same play, this counts as a total of two bases. In the event of an overthrow to a base by a catcher either to pick a runner off or to throw out an advancing runner, a player may advance further without being charged with an additional base. For example, if a runner tries to steal second and the catcher’s throw goes into center field, the runner may advance to third and/or home but only be charged with one base. No more than two of the charged advances per inning may involve a runner starting on third base and advancing to home.

e. Bunting is an important baseball skill and should be taught at all levels. That said, its use ought to be limited to when it is appropriate baseball strategy. It is not appropriate baseball strategy to have a player attempt to bunt for a hit on all or most of his at bats because the manager lacks confidence in the player’s ability to hit.

f. No player may be intentionally walked in local league play. On the other hand, it is a manager’s responsibility to teach a pitcher how to “pitch around” a strong hitter by pitching at the edges of the strike zone in an effort to get a hitter to swing at a “bad” pitch.

## **5) Tournament teams**

a) RHAM YOUTH BASEBALL will field teams which will compete in the Connecticut Cal Ripken tournaments in the following age groups: 10 and under and 12 and under. In order to be eligible for the 10 and under team, a player must be baseball age 9 or 10. In order to be eligible for the 12 and under team, a player must be baseball age 11 or 12. These teams will be known as “tournament teams.” Players shall not “play up.” For example, a ten year old player may not play on the 12 and under team. These teams may be entered into other leagues or tournaments. Parents will be advised of the anticipated cost in advance of the tryouts.

b) Tryouts will be held for each of the two tournament teams. The tryout will be organized by the player agent, the selected tournament team manager, and the Cal Ripken Director. Notice of the tryouts will be given via email to all eligible families at the email address they have on file with Hebron Baseball and also announced in the Rivereast News Bulletin. Evaluators who have no children trying out for the team will be recruited to provide input in the process.

The top 10 scorers in the tryouts will be selected for the team. The manager may then select 2 to 5 additional players who have tried out for the team.

c) The tournament team managers shall be selected in the following manner. Any coach or manager in 70 Foot Major, 60 Foot Major, or Minors during the previous season may notify the Cal Ripken Director of his or her interest in being a tournament team manager. If more than one individual expresses an interest in being selected as the tournament team manager for a particular age group, the Board of Directors will select the tournament team manager by secret ballot. A majority vote of all Board of Directors is required to select the manager. If after one ballot, there is not a majority, the candidate with the least number of votes will be dropped from the ballot and voting will continue in the manner until a manager is selected. Managers have the right to choose their own assistant coaches. If no individual who was a coach or manager during the previous season expresses interest in being a manager of the team, the Board of Directors will select a manager from any individual eligible to be a tournament team manager under Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken rules.

d) Players selected for tournament teams must commit to attending all games and practices. Any parents that cannot commit to being available for the District and State Tournaments should not have their child tryout for the tournament team. Parents and players must understand that playing time is not guaranteed on tournament teams although all managers are expected to use their best efforts to ensure playing time for all players in each game.

## **6) Tryouts**

### **a) Who Must Try Out**

All players registered for 70 Foot Majors, 60 Foot Majors and Minors must attend tryouts each year. If a player is unable to attend a tryout because of a scheduling conflict, an effort will be made to conduct a makeup. If that is impossible, the player will be assigned a score based upon whatever information is available.

### **b) Purpose and Integrity of Tryouts**

Tryout scores are one indicator that league use to establish team parity and to determine a youngster's readiness to play in the league for which they are trying out. No Association member, player, or prospective player shall take any action that compromises the integrity of tryouts including counseling a player not to participate in tryouts. Any Association member who blatantly attempts to subvert the integrity of league tryouts shall be suspended from the Association for the remainder of the season. The President, in consultation with the Disciplinary Committee, shall investigate any allegations of Tryout improprieties, and he/she will reach a decision that will be binding on all parties within ten (10) days from the day the improprieties were first reported.

### **c) Tryout Procedures**

All players will be judged on basic skills, form, and potential. Criteria and scoring procedures will be determined by each League President prior to tryouts, and will include, but not be limited to, hitting, throwing, fielding and running.

## **7) Draft**

### **a) Draft Procedure**

All leagues will hold a draft of all players registered each year. Players will no longer remain on their prior season team despite the fact that they remain in the same league for a second year. For the 70 Foot Majors, the 60 Foot Majors, and Minors, each manager, prior to the draft, shall select one assistant coach who will then be considered by the Coaching and Rules Committee as described above. The draft will reverse order each round until all players are selected. For Rookie League and T Ball, teams shall be selected by managers in consultation with the league chair and the Cal Ripken Director to ensure relative parity. For Rookie League and T Ball, it is appropriate to take into consideration the requests of parents as to team placement although HYBSA does not obligate itself to honor those requests in all instances.

### **b) Parent/Team Manager Rule**

If a Team Manager or assistant coach has a child in the draft, that child must be drafted in the round in which the child's score falls.

**c) Sibling Rule**

If a siblings are in the draft for the same league, the team which first selects one of the siblings shall select the other one in the round in which the sibling falls unless, prior to the draft, the children's parents have notified the league that their children may be placed on different teams.

**d) League Parity**

At the conclusion of the draft, all managers will together review the drafted teams to ensure that reasonable parity has been achieved. Managers will have been selected on the basis of their commitment to meeting the HYBSA goal of offering a competitive program to all children. If the majority of the managers believe that the teams as selected are not reasonably equal in talent, they will take such steps as necessary to correct the imbalance.

**8) Sponsors**

The Executive Board with the approval of the League will set Sponsor's Fees.

Sponsor's Fees will be reviewed by January 1st.

**9) Trophies shall be awarded only to the following players:**

- a) League Champions: Each member of the teams in the following leagues with the best league record:
  - i) 70 Foot Major League end of the season tournament champ
  - ii) 60 Foot Major League end of the season tournament champ
  - iii) Minor League end of the season tournament champ
- b) In the event that there is no end of the season tournament in any league, the trophies shall be awarded to the regular season champion.
- c) A participation award (such as a medal) shall be given to all T Ball players.

**10. Umpires**

All games in Minors, 60 Foot Majors and 70 Foot Majors shall be officiated by umpires who have completed a training course offered by HYBSA and/or Tri County Baseball or some other baseball umpire board. Umpire compensation shall be determined by the Board of Directors after consideration of the recommendation of the Umpire in Chief. Umpires who are 18 years of age or older will be considered members of the Association.

RYP has a long standing commitment to the training of young people aged fourteen and older as umpires. It views such training and the opportunity for young people to work as umpires as an essential part of the services this organization offers to its community. All members are expected, therefore, to treat all umpires, regardless of age or skill with the respect due their position

These Standing Rules have been adopted at the time of incorporation, in total without revision, from the by-laws RYP. Edits will be made as time permits to place in a presentable format and organize in a logical fashion. Changes or revisions will be made by a resolution of the Board of Directors.