



# DOVER BASEBALL CAL RIPKEN MINOR DIVISION GUIDELINES

Revised: January 2018

The Dover Baseball Association is affiliated with Babe Ruth League, Inc., which includes the Cal Ripken Baseball League. These organizations have adopted the Official Baseball Rules, published by the Commissioner of Baseball, as their primary playing rules. These rules allow for local league modifications to suite best suit the needs of its players.

The following modifications to the existing national Cal Ripken rules have been generated, and Board approved, with the intent of helping every player reach their full potential in a safe and competitive environment.

## **I. Player Eligibility**

Players participating in the Minor Division must be 9 or 10 years of age by Babe Ruth designated cut-off date of May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **II. Game Day Rules and Expectations**

### **a) Defining Inning and Game Length**

- i) A game is considered complete if any of the following occurs:
  - (1) The completion of six innings or two hours of play, whichever comes first; or
    - (a) if the home team is in the lead after the top of the sixth inning.
  - (2) A game will be declared completed if at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning either team is ahead by 10 or more runs; or
    - (a) 4 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead by 10 runs or more.
- ii) No full inning will start later than two hours past the scheduled start of the game.
- iii) A half-inning is complete once 3 outs have been made.

### **b) Umpiring and Rules of Play**

- i) The league will employ one umpire for each game.
  - (1) The umpire will make all calls from behind home plate.
- ii) Rules of Play
  - (1) There is no leading;
  - (2) Stealing is allowed;
    - (a) A base runner is allowed to attempt a steal once the ball has passed home plate.



**c) Batting**

- i) Coaches will bat all available players in their lineup.
- ii) A player hit by a pitch will automatically be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base. The decision will not be put on the player.

**d) Fielding**

- i) Teams will field the traditional 9 defensive players.
- ii) Defensive players, with the exception of pitcher, may not be moved during an inning except for an injury or other emergency.
- iii) No player may field a given position for more than 3 innings in a game.
- iv) All players must play at least two innings in the infield unless otherwise approved due to safety concerns by the Division Director.

**e) Pitching**

- i) The BABE RUTH PITCH SMART GUIDELINES shall be followed and shall apply to pitches thrown outside Dover Baseball. All pitchers shall be subject to the following pitch count/rest schedule:

**Maximum Pitches**

<u>Per Game</u>	<u>0 Day Rest</u>	<u>1 Day Rest</u>	<u>2 Days Rest</u>	<u>3 Days Rest</u>	<u>4 Days Rest</u>
75 Pitches	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+

- (1) Regardless of what league or division the pitches were thrown in, pitchers MUST receive the complete full day(s) of rest required in order to be eligible to pitch in Dover Baseball. For example, if a pitcher throws 50 pitches in either an AAU game or a Dover Baseball game on a Sunday, then he or she must receive two (2) full days rest and is NOT eligible to pitch in Dover Baseball until Wednesday.
  - (2) Managers shall reach a consensus on the number of pitches thrown by each pitcher at the end of each inning and at an individual pitcher's removal from the game. Any disputes shall be resolved with the umpire before leaving the field.
  - (3) Pitch Counts shall be recorded and verified by both Managers after each game and then forwarded to the Director.
- ii) The CAL RIPKEN TOURNAMENT PITCH COUNT RULE shall be in effect for the playoffs and shall apply to pitches thrown outside Dover Baseball. All pitchers shall be subject to the following pitch count/rest schedule:

**Maximum Pitches**

<u>Per Game</u>	<u>0 Day Rest</u>	<u>1 Day Rest</u>	<u>2 Days Rest</u>
75 Pitches	1-40	41-65	66+



- (1) Regardless of what league or division the pitches were thrown in, pitchers MUST receive the complete full day(s) of rest required in order to be eligible to pitch in Dover Baseball. For example, if a pitcher throws 70 pitches in either an AAU game or a Dover Baseball game on a Sunday, then he or she must receive two (2) full days rest and is NOT eligible to pitch in Dover Baseball until Wednesday.
  - (2) Managers shall reach a consensus on the number of pitches thrown by each pitcher at the end of each inning and at an individual pitcher's removal from the game. Any disputes shall be resolved with the umpire before leaving the field.
  - (3) Pitch Counts shall be recorded and verified by both Managers after each game and then forwarded to the Director.
- iii) Pitcher Re-entry: Once a pitcher has been removed from the mound, they may not re-enter the mound within the same game.
  - iv) Intentional Walks: At any point during a pitch count, a Manager may allow an opposing batter to take first base via intentional walk simply by signaling the umpire. Upon receiving the intentional walk instructions, the umpire shall rule the ball dead and instruct the batter to take first base. No further pitches will be required to be thrown to that batter.
  - v) No pitcher shall appear as a pitcher in three consecutive games, regardless of their pitch counts.
  - vi) Violation(s): Any violation of the pitching rules may result in game forfeiture and/or other sanctions.
- f) Player Safety**
- i) Only the player at bat and the player on deck will have a bat in their hands.
  - ii) All batters and base runners will wear a safety helmet.
  - iii) Batters will keep their helmets on from the time they enter the designated on-deck area until the time they return to the dugout after the play is over.
  - iv) All players will wear a protective cup during all games and practices.

### **III. Day of Game Responsibilities**

#### **a) Home Team**

The home Team is:

- ii) listed first on the schedule and will use the 1<sup>st</sup> base dugout;
- iii) responsible for preparing the field for play; including putting out bases, chalking lines and operating the scoreboard;
- iv) scheduled to use the batting cage from 60 minutes before the scheduled start of a game and will last for 20 minutes, and will have infield practice scheduled 30 minutes before the scheduled start of a game and will last for 10 minutes;
- v) responsible for furnishing two brand new league approved game balls; (1) Balls will be provided by Dover Baseball;
- vi) responsible for reporting the final score of the game to the division VP and/or the designated website personnel;
  - (1) It is the responsibility of the two head coaches to confer both during the game and at the end of the game to verify the game score.
    - (a) All scoring disputes will be directed to the umpire and settled before leaving the field.



**b) Visiting Team**

- i) The visiting Team is:
  - (1) listed second on the schedule and will use the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout;
- ii) scheduled to use the batting cage from 40 minutes before the scheduled start of a game and will last for 20 minutes, and will have infield practice scheduled 15 minutes before the scheduled start of a game and will last for 10 minutes;
  - (1) responsible for maintaining the field after play; including raking the infield, putting away bases, makes sure equipment shed is locked.

**IV. Division VP Responsibilities**

**a) Communication**

The division VP is responsible for maintaining contact with coaches and parents regarding issues pertaining to the division.

**b) League Standings**

The division VP is responsible for making sure that the website is kept up to date with game results. Scores and standings will be kept solely for the purpose of determining a playoff order. There is recognition of a regular season and playoff champion in this division.

**c) Cancellations and Makeups**

The Division VP, the VP of Baseball Operations, and/or the umpire will be responsible for any and all game cancellations. Coaches may not cancel games.

- i) An attempt should be made to make up all games cancelled.
- ii) All make-up games must be rescheduled with the Division VP.

**d) Player Call-Ups and Roster Shortages**

- i) The division VP will maintain a Call-Up list of the names of players from the Small Minor Division who are deemed capable of playing up in the Minor Division.
  - (a) Players will be placed on the list in the order in which their names are received by the division VP. Said players will be used in the same order as their names are received.
- ii) When a coach becomes aware that he/she will not have enough players to field a team for a given game they must contact the division VP who in turn will contact players from the Call-Up list to fill the vacant roster spots. Coaches may not find their own players.
  - (a) Small Minor players who have a scheduled Small Minor game at the same time are not eligible to play up to the Minor Division.
  - (b) It will be the responsibility of the VP to inform both teams' coaches with the names of the players that will be playing up.
  - (c) If a player is called-up they become eligible for the game and will play under the following conditions:
    - (i) They must not sit out for more than 2 defensive innings in the game;
    - (ii) They will bat last in the order; and
    - (iii) They may field any position except pitcher and catcher.



- iii) Once a called up player has played in a game their name will be moved to the bottom of the Call-Up list.
- iv) A player may not be called-up to play in a game which conflicts with a game that is scheduled for their regular season team.

## **V. Parent Responsibility**

### **a) Communication**

- i) It is the parent's responsibility to appropriately communicate with coaches any concerns they have with concerns they might have.
- ii) It is the parent's responsibility to make the coach aware of games in which their child will not be able to attend.

## **VI. Coaching and Player Development**

### **a) Weekly Field Time**

- i) Weekly field time should include one practice and two games each week.

### **b) Player Development Expectations**

By the end of the Minor League season players should be consistently demonstrating knowledge of:

- i) Field set-up and base-running concepts
  - (1) The different bases and fielding positions;
  - (2) Running through 1<sup>st</sup> base and Home plate vs. stopping at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
- ii) Basic fielding concepts
  - (1) The Ready Position;
  - (2) The fielding responsibilities of the positions; ie. The 2<sup>nd</sup> baseman covers second, backs up the 1<sup>st</sup> baseman and cuts off the throws from the right fielder.
  - (3) An awareness of base runners when fielding and throwing a ball.
  - (4) Players should be developing an understanding of game time situations.
- iii) Basic hitting concepts and hitting safety
  - (1) Stance and swing;
  - (2) Proper holding of the bat;
  - (3) Players should be developing a level swing vs. an upper-cut swing;
  - (4) Swinging when others are a safe distance away;
  - (5) No throwing of the bat.
- iv) Basic Individual Catching and Throwing Technique
  - (1) Using two hands to catch the ball;
  - (2) Catching out in front of the body;
  - (3) Throwing from a side-ways direction;
  - (4) Using the front foot and glove to direct the ball;
  - (5) Throwing with an overhand motion.



**\*\*FINAL NOTE\*\***

The game of baseball is just that, A GAME! Mistakes will be made. There will be fielding mistakes; there will be coaching mistakes; and there will be umpiring mistakes. But there should not be mistakes in behavior.

It is the objective of the Dover Baseball Association to teach the game of baseball and to implant firmly in the children of the community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, and respect for authority, so that they may be well adjusted, stronger, and happier children and will grow to be good, decent, healthy, and trustworthy citizens.

This objective can only be reached with the help of all; players, coaches and spectators alike!

Dover Baseball has developed a Code of Conduct Policy that is intended to serve as a means of helping us meet this objective.

The policy can be found on the association website, [dovernhbaseball.org](http://dovernhbaseball.org).