

Oak Grove Athletic Association

Playing Rules

AGES 13-15 Common Rules

Revised (05-05-2011)

These are local option rules. These rules will supersede Babe Ruth and baseball rules.

KEEP IN MIND THAT THE KIDS COME FIRST!!!

1. All players will wear belted baseball pants. Team uniform should be uniform, including shirts, hats, socks and pants. Hats will be worn in the traditional manner. A number and **last name only must** appear on the back of the uniform shirt to assist the official scorer in identifying players. Uniform vests are not allowed.
2. Jewelry is not permitted. This includes any rings, necklaces, bracelets or ear rings, etc. The only exception is Medical Alert jewelry, which is permitted, but must be taped in place or covered with a sweat band if on the wrist.
3. A catcher must wear a chest protector, shin-guards, protective cup, mask and a throat protector. Any player warming up the pitcher must wear a mask and a cup while in the "down or crouched" position.
4. A protective helmet with full ear flaps will be worn by all batters and runners. **A face mask and a chin strap are optional.** A player refusing to wear a helmet, after being warned to do so by the umpire, will not be allowed to continue as a player in the game and shall be replaced by a substitute. The substitute will assume the ball and strike count if the player was a batter, or will take his position on the base he occupied if he was a base runner.
5. A runner must slide into the base, except first base, when there is a play made at the same time. If a runner runs over a defensive player, he will be called out. If a defensive player is obstructing the base and a play is not being made at that base, the play will be called as Defensive Obstruction.
6. A player is not allowed to play any position, or to bat without his shirt being tucked into his pants in the proper manner. Players not in full uniform shall not be permitted to play in the game.
7. The bat shall be a regulation baseball bat made of either wood or an approved alloy. "See Babe Ruth rule book." We will allow the use of bats with a 2 ³/₄" barrel size for 13-15 **league play only**. Bats with a 2 ⁵/₈" dimension will be the only approved bat for use during 13-15 District, State and Regional Tournaments, as well as during the World Series. Wood bats conforming to the dimensions described in Official Baseball Rule 1.10 are approved for use in Babe Ruth League. Composite bats are legal during regular season play but the All Star teams will be subject to the Babe Ruth bat rules for legal bats.

8. A first (1st) baseman's mitt may be used by the first (1st) baseman and a catcher's mitt may be used by the catcher only. All equipment must be kept in the dugout.
9. Batters must remain in the dugout until they are on-deck. **Players are not allowed to stand or sit outside the dugout during play.**
10. The official game time is kept in the score box. Ages 13 and older play 1 hour and 45 minute games or 7 innings, whichever comes first, unless there is a mercy rule applied. **The 5 minute rule is in effect in the 13 and older leagues based on requests from several coaches and umpires.**
11. Pitching changes must be reported to the home plate umpire who will announce the changes to the scorekeeper. **Failure to do so will result in pitcher of record being charged with innings until notification or recognition of change has been made.** Head coaches must check the pitching record for accuracy and sign immediately after the ball game. Pitching records kept by the official scorekeeper of the Optimist Park will be deemed correct and changes will not be accepted if the head coach failed to sign the affidavit **immediately** after the ball game.

12. All Babe Ruth Pitching Rules are in effect

Babe Ruth Pitching Rules

0.06 PITCHING LIMITATIONS

1. A Babe Ruth 13-15 pitcher, regardless of age, may pitch seven (7) innings per calendar week.
 - a. If a pitcher delivers one (1) pitch in an inning he shall be charged for one (1) inning pitched.
2. The calendar week of Babe Ruth Baseball is Monday through, and including, Sunday.
3. A Babe Ruth 13-15 pitcher must have two (2) calendar days rest between pitching assignments if he pitches in more than three innings in any one game. Each game in which a pitcher pitches is considered an assignment.
4. Games in which an ineligible pitcher has been used as specified in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall be declared forfeited. The withdraw of an ineligible pitcher after the pitcher is announced or after a warm-up pitch is delivered but before that pitcher has pitched a ball to a batter shall not be considered a violation. Babe Ruth League Officials are urged to prevent forfeits.
5. Each game in which a pitcher pitches is considered one (1) "assignment". Therefore, a pitcher in the same game may start out as a pitcher, play another position, and return to the mound and this would still be considered as one (1) assignment.
6. If a game is called before it has become a regulation game and the umpire declares it "no game", the pitching eligibility is the same as it was prior to the beginning the "no game" situation.

13. Should a question arise as to the interpretation of the playing rules, only the manager/head coach may appeal. A team failing to field at least nine (9) uniformed players within fifteen minutes after the scheduled game time shall forfeit the game. A forfeit shall count in league standings.
14. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Coaches and players are expected to display proper conduct while at Optimist Park. Coaches and/or players may be removed from a game and/or practice if improper conduct is displayed. An Umpire or a League Official must give appropriate warnings.
15. No spectator shall be allowed on the playing field during the playing of any game. In the event that spectators swarm on the playing field during the playing of any game, the umpire in chief will request that the field be cleared by both managers within five (5) minutes under penalty of having the game forfeited. No adult will be allowed on the playing field during the playing of any game without the consent of the umpires; and no persons except the officially registered players of the team, the manager and the coaches will be allowed on the bench or in the dugout during the playing of any contest.
16. In the event of a tie at end of regulation, there will be one additional inning played. If the game is still in a tie, then the visiting team will start the following inning with a runner on second base (the runner will be the last out from the previous inning) and the game will continue from that point. At the end of that half inning, the home team will then place a runner (the last out from the previous inning) on second base and the game will continue until the tie is broken.
17. Slash Bunting is prohibited. Slash Bunting is defined as a player that squares to bunt on a particular pitch, or makes a motion that signals an intention to bunt the ball, but then pulls the bat back and takes a swing at the ball. PENALTY: The offending player will be called out immediately
18. Head first slides are permitted in the Babe Ruth age groups, 13 and older. It is not recommend due to the increased chance for injury, especially if the player has a facemask on the batting helmet.

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Playing Rules

Ages 13-15 Rules Continued

SPECIAL RULES

1. Players may wear metal spikes.
2. Drop third (3rd) strike rule is in effect.

All other rules shall be played under Babe Ruth and baseball rules.

Protest based on play, which involves an umpire's judgment, is not permitted. Protest based on an interpretation of the rule must be made to the head umpire at the time the play occurs. The Head Umpire will make a public announcement to the crowd when a game is being played under protest and shall notify the opposing manager and official scorekeeper, who will note it in the official scorebook. The protest must be submitted in writing to the League Director or Assistant Director within 48 hours of the completion of the game. Members of the Sports Committee will hear the protest and rulings will be handed down to the Head Coach of both teams involved, within seven (7) days from the date the protest was received. The committee's ruling will be final. If the ruling changes the outcome of the game, the committee will determine how it will be resolved and this will be handed down with their decision. Exception: Protests involving the playing of ineligible players and ineligible pitcher.