

## **BUTLER COUNTY BABE RUTH ASSOCIATION 2010 SEASON LEAGUE RULES**

There are 6 divisions in 2010 in Butler County Babe Ruth Association: Fairfield, Edgewood, Lindenwald, Millville, Monroe, and Madison.

Games are scheduled between Babe Ruth Teams (comprised of 14 and 15 year olds) and also between Prep Teams (comprised of 13 year olds). The rules, which govern play, are Official Baseball Rules (OBR) as used by Major League Baseball, Babe Ruth OBR Exceptions (for pitching) and Local League Rules listed here. Each division is responsible to provide a copy of the rules to each manager and insure the manager is knowledgeable of these rules.

**UMPIRES** – Only Butler County Umpires Association (BCUA) will be used for regular season and tournament games. BCUA is responsible to provide a copy of the rules to each umpire to insure each umpire is knowledgeable of these rules. Each Division Officer is responsible to report all ejections, forfeits (umpire related), and any umpire issues (this does not include specific ball/strike – safe. out, i.e. Judgment calls), to Joe Palmieri, President of Butler County Babe Ruth Association.

**PRE-GAME INFIELD PRACTICE** – The HOME team shall take the field 35 minutes prior to the game time and has the field for 15 minutes. The VISITING team shall take the field 20 minutes prior to game time for 15 minutes. Both managers are responsible to insure their teams are ready to play by the time of the pregame conference with the umpire, which is to occur 5 minutes prior to the scheduled game time. For Fairfield #1 and #2, no infield practice is permitted for the 2<sup>nd</sup> game.

**PREGAME CONFERENCE** – The umpire is responsible to hold a pregame conference at home plate 5 minutes prior to the start of each game with both managers. Both managers are responsible to provide the umpire a completed lineup card at the beginning of this pregame conference. Once the umpire has received the home team's lineup card, the game is considered started. The home team's Manager shall present ground rules. Prior to the conclusion of all pregame conferences, the umpire shall be paid.

**GAME STARTING TIMES** – Games during the week begin at 6:15 PM, except at Fairfield #1 and #2 will begin at 6pm.

**FORFEIT** – Each team must have nine players ready to play no later than 15 minutes after scheduled start time.

A team that has a player injured during the course of a game may use an ineligible substitute to complete the game with nine players. Opposing manager does not have the choice of the substitute player as stated in the Babe Ruth Rule book. If no substitute of any kind (eligible/ineligible) is available, the team can finish a game with 8 players. An automatic out is charged when the vacated position is to be at bat.

A team that has a player ejected during the course of a game may NOT use an ineligible substitute to complete the game. In this situation where an ejection created a need to replace a player, the team must complete the game with 9 eligible players. If they can't, the game is forfeited.

**TEAM NO SHOW** – Any team that fails to show for a scheduled game shall be responsible for the entire umpire fee.

**EXTRA HITTER (EH)**: Each team may elect to have a tenth hitter in the batting order. This player will be indicated in the lineup as the EH and will be treated as any other starter (can play any defensive position). If an EH is to be used, the player's name must be included on the lineup cards presented to the umpire at pre-game conference. Failure to declare an EH prior to the game precludes the use of an EH in that game. In a situation where the EH is ejected from the game and there is no eligible substitute an automatic out is charged when the vacated position is to be at bat.

**BASEBALLS** – Both the HOME TEAM and VISITING TEAM are responsible to provide ONE (1) NEW and One (1) USED, but in good condition Babe Ruth approved baseball to the umpire before the start of each game and both are responsible to keep the game supplied with baseballs as required. During/after inclement weather, both teams may be required to furnish extra baseballs so as to keep the game moving.

**10 RUN RULE**- At the point a game becomes a regulation game (4 ½ or 5 innings); a team leading by 10 or more runs will be declared the winner.

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**A Runner** – is out when he does not slide, or attempt to get around, “avoid contact with”, a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag or if he intentionally (maliciously) runs into a fielder. For intentionally running into a fielder, the umpire shall eject the offender from the game. Failure to comply shall result in game being forfeited.

**Rescheduling rain outs/suspended games** – Both managers have the responsibility to reschedule the makeup game within ten (10) days of the initial rainout game. After the Home team manager gets field availability from the Division Officer and the game has been satisfactorily rescheduled he should then advise his Division Officer of the rescheduled date, time, and location. The Home team division officer is then responsible to advise the visiting teams division officer of date, time, and location and to contact the BCUA assigner a minimum of 48 hours to arrange for an umpire. The BCUA assigner should ensure that an authorized Division person has rescheduled the game.

**Game Delays** – Any time play is temporarily halted due to adverse weather conditions, the umpire shall wait a minimum of 30 minutes prior to calling the game. During this time, the umpire shall check with both coaches as to drain-ability, estimated time to get the field back in safe playing conditions etc. Once the umpire determines the field is unplayable, cannot be made so, weather conditions remain unsafe, etc he shall inform both Coaches of this rationale used to call the game, and then do so.

**Use of Tobacco Products** – The use of all tobacco products including smokeless tobacco is prohibited by all participating field personnel: coaches, players, etc,

**15 Year Olds** – A maximum of eight (8) 15-year old players are allowed on any Babe Ruth team.

**Time Between innings** – One (1) minute maximum permitted for change from offense to defense.

**Warm-up pitches** – Pitcher permitted eight (8) warm-up pitches in first inning only five (5) pitches for all other innings.

**Mandatory Courtesy Runner for catcher** – With 2 outs, if the catcher is on base, he must be replaced by a courtesy runner (no exceptions). This will be a player who is not legally in the game at this time, i.e. a substitute that has either been in the game or will be playing in the game at a later time. Note: This rule is optional for pitchers.

Any player, manager, or coach warming up a pitcher at home plate shall wear a mask (throat protector is considered part of the catcher's mask). It is recommended anyone warming up a pitcher at any location shall wear a mask.

**Batter's Box Rule** – Each batter must keep at least one foot in the batter's box throughout the time at bat. If the batter's box is not visible, umpire's judgment shall prevail as to its intended location. Exceptions: A batter may leave the batter's box when:

- The batter swings at a pitch, or
- The batter is forced out of the box by the pitch, or
- The batter attempts a 'drag bunt', or
- The defensive team feints or attempts a play at any base, or
- The pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher's plate after receiving the ball, or
- A member of either team requests and is granted 'time', or
- The catcher leaves the catcher's box area to adjust his equipment or give defensive signals, or
- The catcher does not catch the pitched ball

If the batter leaves the batter's box and none of the above exceptions apply, the umpire shall charge a strike to the batter. The pitcher need not pitch and the ball remains alive.

To be eligible for participation in the City Tournament and/or Babe Ruth District All-Stars, a player must be listed on his regular season team's official roster no later than June 1, and plate at least one-half of that teams scheduled games.

**GAME TIME LIMITS:** No Inning will start after: PREP LEAGUE ----- 2 ½ hours unless score is tied  
BABE RUTH LEAGUE ----- 2 ½ hours unless score is tied

**At Fairfield #1 & #2** – no new inning of the first game to start after 8PM, 10:15PM for the second game, before school is out for the summer, When school is out: 8:15pm for the first game; 11PM for the second

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**TIED GAME'S** – Tied games or suspended games will be completed on a case-by-case basis.

**PREP LEAGUE ONLY MANDATORY PLAYING RULE** – It is mandatory each 13 year old (Prep League) player must play 12 consecutive outs each game, composed of offensive and defensive outs in every 7 inning game. The only exception will be shortened games due to (10) run rule, time limits, or managers discretion for disciplinary reasons, but this option must be conveyed to opposing manager during ground rules before the game starts.

**BLOOD RULE** – A player or coach who is bleeding or who has an open wound shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered. If medical care or treatment can be administered in a reasonable amount of time, based upon the umpires' judgment, the individual would not have to leave the game. If a player does leave the game for medical care or treatment (a temporary substitute who has not been in the game as of yet) may be used until the player temporarily removed can return to the game. The temporary substitute shall play the same position in the field or occupy the same position in the batting order as the player for which the substitution was made. The player used as the temporary substitute retains all entry rights into the game. If there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before that individual participates again.

**Unsportsmanlike Conduct** – Any unsportsmanlike conduct of any nature by managers, coaches, players or fans including parents, relatives, and friends may result in a suspension from all Babe Ruth Parks in the Butler County Babe Ruth Association for an indeterminate amount of time. The specific unsportsmanlike behavior will be reviewed by the Butler County Board on a case-by-case basis and may result in a lifetime suspension if warranted by the incident.

Relative to the ejection of a player, manager, or coach:

- Upon the first ejection in a season, the offender shall be suspended for the next one (1) full game following that in which the ejection occurred.
- Upon the second ejection in the same season, the offender shall appear before the Butler County Babe Ruth Association Board, prior to participating in any game, so that the facts of the incident can be fully reviewed and further disciplinary actions taken.
- Upon the third ejection in the same season, the offender shall be suspended for the remainder of the season. Upon Further review by the Association Board, the offender may receive a lifetime suspension from Butler County Babe Ruth Baseball if such actions are warranted due to the nature of the incidents that led to the ejections.

**1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010 Rule changes that have been made:**

- Age for baseball season is determined by how old baseball player is on April 30<sup>th</sup> of Baseball year.
- Eliminated the option of divisions supplying a base umpire
- Eliminated requirement for Prep League to use shorter base and pitching distances early part of the season. They will use Official Baseball Rules distances from the season onset.
- Added the batter's box rule so as to keep batters in the box in order to keep the game moving.
- Added the option for each team to use an Extra Hitter (EH)
- Added new Babe Ruth safety rule – all to wear mask when warming up pitchers
- Added time limits to Fairfield #2
- Clarified umpires responsibilities during adverse weather delays
- Specified in week games starting times
- Specified no infield practice for 2<sup>nd</sup> game at Fairfield #1 & #2
- Specified that a no show Team is responsible for entire umpire fee.
- Clarified responsibilities as to who pays umpires for regular season and tournament play
- Specified each team to supply one new BR approved baseball to start a game
- Added role of a temporary substitute for a player leaving the game to receive treatment/care
- Added each team to supply also a used BR approved baseball to start the game
- Added phrase "avoid contact with" as clarification to slide rule.
- Changed Babe Ruth League time limit to 2 ½ hours to match Prep League
- Changed the forfeit time to 15 minutes after scheduled start time for all games.
- Changed the Extra Hitter (EH) can now bat in any spot of the batting order.
- Added two additional divisions (Monroe & Madison).

**Babe Ruth Directions (contact Ken Gallo for corrections to these directions: kag12345@cinci.rr.com )**

- **Fairfield #1 & #2**

This is for Water Works Park. Take Tylersville Road to Bypass-4 jog south to Symmes Road  
Turn Right onto Symmes Road go past Rt 4 until it dead ends at River Road.  
Turn left on River Road  
Turn Right on Mississippi. It will dead-end into the Park

- **Lindenwald**

This is Joyce Park. Take Tylersville Road to Bypass-4 jog south to Symmes Road  
Turn Right onto Symmes Road go past Rt4 until it dead-ends at River Road.  
Turn Right on River Road  
Turn Left at the second street on the left  
You will find the fields down that road on the right  
Prep and Babe Ruth games are normally played on Field #5 or Field #2

- **Millville**

Take 129 Michael A Fox Highway into Hamilton (on High Street) after you cross the river on the west side of Hamilton  
Bear left at the edge of town (where there is a 5 way stop at Eaton Avenue) staying on 129 but the road will be Millville  
Road) You will stay on this road for several miles (after you pass about 5 churches in a row)  
This area is known as Church Row  
The fields will be on the left.

- **Wehr Rd Field – Edgewood Youth Baseball Association**

Take I-75 north to Monroe exit turn left (west) onto Route 63  
Take this until Rt 4 North  
Or take Route 4 North from Hamilton/Fairfield/Westchester  
Take this to Route 73 Hamilton-Trenton exit turn left onto Hamilton-Trenton  
Take Route 73 past Edgewood High School  
Turn left onto Wehr Rd (this road has a lot of curves; be careful) Fields are at end of road

- **Trenton (Prep games played here)**

Take I-75 north to Monroe exit turn left (west) onto Route 63  
Take this until Rt 4 North  
Take this to Route 73 Hamilton-Trenton exit turn left onto Hamilton-Trenton  
Left on First Avenue  
First Street after the RR tracks turn right onto Home Avenue

- **Monroe Wildabeest (Prep games played here)**

Take Route 4 North to Route 63  
Turn right on Britton.  
Go through the light at Macready.  
The field is on your right behind the Primary School

- **Monroe High School Freshman Field (Babe Ruth games played here)**

Take Route 4 North to Route 63  
Turn left on Yankee Rd.  
Turn right into the school.  
Turn left at the stop sign on top of the hill. The Freshman field is the first field on the right.

- **Madison High School (Babe Ruth games played here)**

Take Route 4 North to into Middletown  
Turn left on Central Ave (SR 122)  
Continue on Central (SR 122) across the bridge, approximately 3 miles to High School.  
Turn right into High School parking lot. Field is located behind the football stadium.

## RAINOUTS

Fairfield - Waterworks Park 829-7292  
[www.fairfieldfyba.com](http://www.fairfieldfyba.com)

Lindenwald - Joyce Park 892-6613  
[www.lindenwaldbaseball.org](http://www.lindenwaldbaseball.org)

Millville 892-2304  
[www.millvillebaseball.org](http://www.millvillebaseball.org)

Edgewood \_\_\_\_\_  
[www.eteamz.com/eyba](http://www.eteamz.com/eyba)

Monroe 539-8238  
[www.monroesports.net](http://www.monroesports.net)

Madison 423-4660

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