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2023 BASEBALL SPECIAL RULES

FOR RULES AND INFORMATION GOVERNING MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS, DUES, ID CARDS, POSTPONEMENTS, RESIDENCE AND TRANSFER OF PARTICIPANTS, WAIVERS, QUESTIONNAIRES, FRANCHISE FEES, ROSTERS, PROTESTS, FORFEITS, GAME OFFICIALS, AWARDS, BILLING, TIED LEAGUES, FINES, ELIGIBILITY, PLAY-OFFS, OR GAME POINTS, REFER TO PGCBGC GROUND RULES AND DEFINITIONS. (Rev 11/24/2021)

The Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules and Regulations and Official Playing Rules will govern play. In case of conflicting rules, the PGCBGC "Ground Rules and Definitions" (Rev. 11/24/2021) will supersede.

- I. **SPECIAL RULES:** The following are the current Prince George's Baseball Special Rules. PLEASE FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THESE RULES AND KEEP THEM WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES. Where the special rule is noted (BR p. #) this rule appears in the Babe Ruth rule book on that page. It is repeated here to help coaches familiarize themselves with the rules.
 - A. **PITCHING LIMITATIONS:** The league will be abiding by the MLB Pitch Smart Guidelines.

AGE	DAILY MAX (PITCHES IN GAME)	REQUIRED REST (PITCHES)				
		0 Days	1 Days	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
7-8	50	1-20	21-35	36-50	N/A	N/A
9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
11-12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
13-14	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
15-16	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
17-18	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
19-22	120	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+

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- B. RE-ENTRY RULE:** Any of the starting players may withdraw and re-enter once provided such player occupies the same batting order position. A substitute who withdraws may not re-enter. Re-entry of already used players is allowed if all substitutes have been used and injury occurs or a player is ejected. Selection of this substitute must be made by the opposing manager.
- C. MINOR (9-10) 60 FT BASES SPECIAL BASE RUNNING RULE (BR p. 12):** When a pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's plate and in possession of the ball and the catcher is in the catcher's box, base runners shall not leave their bases until the ball has been pitched and reaches home plate.
- D. BASE RUNNING (ALL AGES):** No head first slides are allowed except for when returning to a base.

E. Bat Rules (see below): For a comprehensive list of USA Baseball approved bats updated for 2019 go to: www.usabat.com.

League Bat Rules

2023

T-Ball

USA Baseball T-Ball Stamp

Modified, Machine Pitch, Minor & Major Baseball

USA Baseball Marking

2 5/8" Barrel Maximum

NO BBCOR BATS

Prep/Junior Baseball (13-15)

USA Baseball Marking or BBCOR .50

2 5/8" Barrel

Senior Baseball (ages 16-18)

All Bats Must Be

BBCOR .50

No Greater Than -3

RBI Softball

Marked as "Official Softball Bat"

or "Official Fastpitch Bat"

Note: Solid one-piece wood bats are permitted for use in all divisions and must conform to Rule 1.10. No laminated or experimental bats shall be used in a game.

Tampering or altering bats may violate certain federal and state laws and voids the USA Baseball certification, as well as all manufacturer warranties. Rolling is considered tampering and would void the bat's certification and make it illegal for play.

- F. PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR:** Headgear must have extended earflaps covering both ears and be worn by players at bat, on deck, and when in the coaches box.

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G. CATCHER'S MASK: Any player or coach warming up a pitcher at home plate must wear a catcher's mask with throat guard.

H. CATCHER'S HELMET: Players must wear catcher's helmets with ear flaps.

I. JEWELRY: Players shall not wear jewelry.

J. TRIPS TO THE MOUND: When a pitcher is visited the second time in the same inning he shall be removed from the rest of the game as the pitcher only.

K. REGULATION GAME :

1. Games are six (6) innings, or four (4) innings if the game is called or 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead.
2. Prep (13), Junior (14-15) and Senior (16-18) games are seven (7) innings, or five (5) innings if the game is called or 4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead.

L. TIED GAMES: BR – p. 14, PGCBGC Ground Rules XXIII. If a game ends in a tie after it is a regulation game it will be recorded as a tie, each team receives one point for a tie whereas two points are awarded for each win.

M. CONTACT RULE: If a runner attempting to reach home plate intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player in the area of home plate he will be called out and ejected from the game.

N. MINOR (9-10) 60 FT BASES DROPPED THIRD STRIKE: The batter is out whether or not the third strike is caught.

O. CLEATS: Players are not allowed to wear shoes with metals cleats or spikes.

P. LINE – UP OPTIONS:

DESIGNATED HITTER: A designated hitter is not permitted. However, teams have the option of using:

EXTRA HITTER: A team may use a tenth hitter in its batting order. **(ALL AGES)** Or they may **bat the entire line-up. (Minor/Major AGES ONLY)** These options must be made **PRIOR** to the start of the game.

Q. EIGHT RUN RULE (Minor, Major and Prep): In any half inning, a maximum of eight runs can be scored. Once the eighth run has been scored, no additional play shall continue for that half inning.

EXCEPTION: Any number of runs can be scored by either team, in an inning that begins 1 ½ hours after the start of a game. In addition, if the sixth inning or seventh inning (Prep) begins before the 1 ½ hour mark, any number of runs may be scored.

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R. TIME LIMIT (BR p. 21): Games called because of time limit will be considered official games regardless of how many innings played.

1. Senior (16-18): No new innings may start after 2 hours 15 minutes.

Juniors (14-15), Prep (13), Major (11-12), and Minor (9-10): No new inning may start after two (2) hours

S. 10 RUN RULE (BR p. 20):

1. Senior (16-18): No mercy rule.

2. Junior (14-15), Prep (13), Major (11-12), and Minor (9-10): A game will be terminated if one team is behind by 10 or more runs provided the game is official (i.e. 3-1/2 or 4 innings for the Minor and Major Leagues, 4 ½ or 5 innings for the Prep and Junior Leagues)

T. COURTESY RUNNER:

1. The team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher when they are on base with two outs. The same runner may not be used for both positions.

2. Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.

U. MAJOR (11-12) SPECIAL BALK RULE: If a pitcher commits a balk he will be given a warning once. Any subsequent balks will be enforced per Official Baseball Rules.

II. **LEAGUE OR AGE GROUPS:** Senior (16-18), Junior (14-15), Prep (13), Major (11-12), Minor (9-10).
BIRTHDATE AS OF January 1, of current year.

III. **ELIGIBILITY:** Refer to PGCBGC "Ground Rules" (Rec. 10/18) and the following exceptions:

A. A youth may participate in Babe Ruth and PGCBGC Baseball.

B. Any youth participating in the PGCBGC baseball program may play only with one team within the PGCBGC program.

NOTE: Due to the fact that the high school baseball season is completed prior to the start of the Boys Club season, all players, whether or not they were listed on a JV or Varsity High School roster, are eligible to play in the PGCBGC League.

IV. **QUESTIONNAIRES/FIELD CHARTS** – Due in the PGCBGC Sports Office on or before the dated specified for each group on the Dates to Remember Schedule.

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V. TEAM COMPOSITION AND ROSTERS

- A. COMPOSITION:** Waiver of the maximum roster size and the mix of ages on a roster may be requested.
- **Minor (9-10) and Major (11-12)** – Each team shall consist of no less than twelve (12) players or more than fifteen (15) players, a manager, and two coaches. A Major (11-12) team shall be composed of not more than eight (8) 12-year-old players.
 - **Prep (13)** – Each team shall consist of no less than twelve (12) players or more than fifteen (15) players, a manager and two coaches.
 - **Junior (14-15)** – Each team shall consist of no less than twelve (12) players or more than fifteen (15) players, a manager and two coaches. Each team shall include a minimum of three (3) 13-year-old players, and no more than (5) 15-year-old players. However, if there is a Prep (13) division, each Junior (14-15) team shall consist of no more than eight (8) 15-year-old players. The remaining seven (7) players would be either 13 or 14-year-old players.
 - **Senior (16-18)** – Each team shall consist of not less than twelve (12) players or more than eighteen (18) players, a manager and two coaches. Each team shall include a minimum of three (3) 16-year-old players, and no more than eight (8) 18-year-old players.
- B. ROSTERS:** Due in the PGCBGC Sports Office on or before the date specified for each group on the Dates to Remember Schedule. Players may be added to the rosters up to two weeks after opening day. However, the number of players may NOT exceed 18* and a player must play at least ½ of the team's regular scheduled games in order to be eligible for Postseason play. *Unless a waiver is granted

VI. GAME PROCEDURE

- A.** All Monday thru Friday games will be played at **6:15 P.M.** - forfeit at **6:30 P.M.** Saturday games will be played at the time listed on the PGCBGC schedules. Forfeit time for multiple Saturday and weekday night games will be fifteen (15) minutes from the scheduled game time, for FIRST game only. Forfeiture time for second game will be the stated starting time. **Note: If a team has nine players present at the scheduled game time the game must start, regardless of any grace period.**

B. GAME STARTING TIMES

- 1. SINGLE GAMES: The time period begins at the scheduled game time.**

EXCEPTION: If the umpire is late the time limit starts with the first pitch as noted by the umpire to both teams, (this includes a volunteer umpire as well.) Should the delay in starting the game be caused by either team, the starting time will remain the scheduled game time.

2. MULTIPLE GAMES: The first game is played as stated in (1). The starting time for all subsequent games starts, after warm-ups and ground rules, with the first pitch as noted by the umpire to both teams. Should the previous game be forfeited or canceled, and then the time period begins at the scheduled game time.

NOTE: The time of a new inning starts when the third out ends the previous inning.

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C. GAME BALLS: Baseballs stamped, as an Official Babe Ruth League baseball will be used. The leagues may select from the following baseballs: a cushioned cork rubber pill center or a rubber pill center. A softer ball may be used for Major (11-12) and Minor (9-10). The official baseballs include deBeer, Diamond, MacGregor, Nike, Pro-Nine, Rawlings, Riddell, Trump, Wilson and Worth.

D. HOME TEAM will supply **three** new balls for each game. It is the home team's responsibility to supply additional balls to complete the game, if those given the umpire are lost or found not acceptable by the official umpire.

E. COACHES may furnish their own pitching rubber and home plate.

F. DISTANCE BETWEEN BASES AND PITCHING DISTANCE

1. Senior (16-18), Junior (14-15) and Prep (13): bases 90 ft., pitching distance 60 ft 6 in.
2. Major 11-12: bases 70 ft., pitching distance 50 ft.
3. Minor 9-10: bases 60 ft., pitching distance 46 ft.

G. PLAYING CONDITIONS AND POSTPONEMENTS:

1. In case of rain or wet field on week days other than M-NCPPC fields, the HOME TEAM COACH MUST NOTIFY THE BOYS/GIRLS CLUB OFFICE NO LATER THAN 3:00 P.M. by calling 301-446-6800. If fields are canceled after 3 P.M., the Boys/Girls Club Office may be charged for Officials.

2. In case of rain occurring too late for the game to be postponed, and/or the teams playing to contact each other to postpone, the HOME TEAM COACH MUST BE AT THE FIELD at the scheduled game time in order to be able to inform the PGCBGC Office if an official umpire was present. This is the only check we have on the umpire, and unless a check is made, we are forced to pay for the officials as charged by the association. This can, and does at times, cost the PGCBGC money.

3. If the game has not been postponed by the Sports Office, then the teams should go to the field where the umpire will decide whether or not the field is playable. If an official umpire is not present, the game will not be played unless the opposing coaches agree the game can be played.

4. For information concerning canceled or postponed games due to weather or field conditions, on WEEK DAYS please call 301-927-0822 AFTER 3:30 P.M. and on WEEKENDS

AFTER 7:30 A.M. This office does not receive information on field closings from the Park Division until after 3 P.M. during weekdays. In case of a shower during the day on weekends, both teams should report to the field and the umpire will make the decision on the field. Refer to Rule VI. H. 3.

5. The PGCBGC office will be responsible for rescheduling postponed games.

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H. UMPIRES:

1. Senior (16-18), Junior (14-15), and Prep (13) league games will have one or two umpires assigned to umpire the game.
2. Major (11-12) and Minor (9-10) will have one umpire assigned to umpire the games. A game in the Major (11-12) or Minor (9-10) leagues shall be postponed when an umpire fails to show. We would like teams to have a competent adult who could umpire games. Both teams would have to agree to the sub-umpire.

I. LEAGUE STANDINGS AND RECORDS – Both teams are responsible for submitting line up sheets for the game. They should be submitted within 48 hours of the game. Coaches are to send in their scores using the following format:

1. Fax 301-446-6801 or E-Mail scorekeeper@pgparks.com
2. To check league standings, league standings will be sent out and posted weekly. League standings are computed on the overall won and loss record.

J. PRESENTATION OF ID CARDS:

1. All ID card presentations must be made prior to the start of the game, to the opposing coach. Each player in all countywide sports must have a valid ID card order to be eligible to participate.
2. Failure to present ID cards for each child participating when the request is made prior to the game will result in the forfeiture of the game. However, if both coaches agree to play, no forfeit will result and it will be an official game. In this instance the game official must sign the score book that the ID card check was requested before the game and state which team did not have their card(s) for the ID card protest to be upheld.
3. LATE PLAYERS - must present their ID cards to the field Supervisor, if present, or to the opposing coach if requested prior to entering the game.
4. If eligibility is questioned, any or all players in a game must sign the scorebook or line-up sheet when requested. Failure to do so may result in the forfeiture of the game.

K. SCOREBOOK PROCEDURE:

1. All Players listed in the scorebook must adhere to the following format:
 - A. Initial of First Name, Full Last Name and Uniform #
 - * No nicknames are allowed and names should be the same as on the ID card. This procedure is critical so that players can be authenticated for post season play.

REMEMBER: RULES AND INFORMATION GOVERNING MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS, DUES, ID CARDS, POSTPONEMENTS, RESIDENCE AND TRANSFER OF PARTICIPANTS, WAIVERS, QUESTIONNAIRES, FRANCHISE FEES, ROSTERS, PROTESTS, FORFEITS, GAME OFFICIALS, AWARDS, BILLING, TIED LEAGUES, FINES, ELIGIBILITY, PLAY-OFFS, GAME POINTS - ARE CONTAINED IN THE PGCBGC GROUND RULES (Rev. 11/24/2021)