



Meridian Babe Ruth Softball Rules

Other than the exceptions noted, the 2026 Babe Ruth Softball Rules and Regulations will be followed.

- **Field:** Home team shall occupy the third base side of the field and the visiting team shall occupy the first base side.
- **Game Balls:** Each team will furnish one new game ball to the umpire during the pre-game warmup. Game balls will be returned to the coaches at the end of the game.
- **Bench:** Players shall confine themselves to their team's dugout unless actively participating in the play or preparing to enter the game. No one except players, coaches, trainers, or bat girls shall occupy a bench during a game. (See Rule 3.16).
- **Dugout:** Both teams are responsible for cleaning out their dugout, outside the field, and under the bleachers after their game. Brooms to sweep out sunflower seed shells are in each field locker. NO GUM allowed in dugouts at any time.
- **Equipment:** All players shall use a protective helmet with a mask or shield on deck, at bat, and while on the bases and by players in the coaches' box. This includes any player retrieving bats. The pitcher (P) and corner infielders (1B/3B) are required to wear an approved fielder facemask on defense (See Rule 1.16c). Facemasks are strongly recommended for all players. The catcher or anyone acting as the catcher shall wear a catcher's mask while warming up the pitcher at home plate or any other location (See Rule 1.18).
- **On Deck Circles:** The on-deck batter may only occupy the on-deck circle to the rear of the current batter, regardless of which bench/dugout her team occupies.
- **Umpires:** MYBS Babe Ruth League will make its best effort to provide one umpire to call the plate for all 10/12/14/16U league games. If an umpire is not available, the manager, volunteer, or a coach may umpire. Field umpires, if available, will be provided for 10U, 12U, 14/16U games.
- **Warm-up Time:** Pitchers have 90 seconds to warm up between innings.
- **Sportsmanship Rules:**
 - Coaches and players shall NOT yell at umpires across the field or from the dugout. Doing so may result in removal from the game and/or future games. Even if a player or coach is not removed from the game, but a report or complaint is filed with the MYBS Board, that player or coach may be suspended from future games by the Board if the behavior is deemed inappropriate for unsportsmanlike.
 - Umpires will make mistakes, just as players and coaches will. Many are young and/or new to umpiring and this is where they get their start. If you have a question, approach the umpire in a respectful manner.
 - If there is an issue a team needs addressed, the COACH should contact the League Director and/or the MYBS Board.
 - Encourage parents to support their team. Discourage them from yelling at or demeaning the umpires.





14U/16U Division Rules

Other than the exceptions noted, the 2025 Babe Ruth Softball Rules and Regulations will be followed.

- Games shall begin promptly and will continue until six innings (6) have been completed (See Rule 0.02.8) or the time limit of two hours (120 minutes) is reached. No new inning after one hour thirty minutes (90 minutes). No extra innings will be played due to a tie score.
- Players will play with a 12-inch softball.
- A maximum of nine (9) defensive players will be allowed on defense at one time.
- The batting order shall consist of all rostered players present at each game. Free defensive substitutions will be allowed, unless otherwise prohibited by rule (e.g., if a starting pitcher is removed from the game defensively, they may re-enter as the pitcher, unless removed as pitcher due to a second trip to the mound in the same inning). If a player is removed due to injury, no out is recorded in that batting spot. If a player is ejected, then an out is recorded in that spot.
- If there is a play at the plate, the runner must slide or avoid contact with the fielder making the play. If a violation occurs, the umpire will give one warning. Any subsequent violation will result in the runner being called out and the run will not count.
- Pitching distance is 43 feet from the pitching rubber to the back of home plate.
- Base runners may lead off a base on release of the pitch. The penalty for leaving the base before the pitch is released will be an automatic out (See Rule 7.12).
- All stealing is allowed, including stealing home, straight steals, and delayed steals.
- Players are allowed to steal second on a walk if the ball is not in control by the pitcher or inside the pitching circle.
- When a ball hits a batter on the pitch, the batter must make an attempt to avoid contact with the ball for it to be considered a walk (at the umpire's discretion). If the ball first hits the ground outside the batter's box, it is considered a dead ball and will not be a walk. If the ball hits the ground inside the batter's box and then strikes the player, it is live and considered a walk at the umpire's discretion.
- Dropped third strike rule is in effect. A batter can attempt to get on first base when the catcher fails to catch the third strike before the ball touches the ground AND there are fewer than two outs AND first base is not occupied at the time of the pitch or any time first base is occupied if there are two outs. If the batter does run, the catcher must throw her out at first or tag her out to complete the out. In the event the batter walks toward their dugout or goes outside the base path, the dropped third strike rule has been voided and that player is considered out.
- Each team may score a maximum of 6 runs per inning. The 5th and 6th innings will be open innings with no run limit.
- Run rule is in effect – 15 runs after 3 innings or 10 runs after 4 or more innings.

