

# Babe Ruth League Rules (Spring 2025)

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Rules that may vary from the Official Baseball Rule Book are highlighted below:

1. Games are 90 minutes in length, or six innings, whichever comes first. Games must begin and end on time. No new innings will begin after 75 minutes. The official start time of the game is the start time on the schedule. Games must begin and end on time due to potential darkness hindering the late game. There is no mercy rule. Games can end in a tie.
2. The most runs a team can score in an inning is eight (8). To keep scores reasonably close, if a team is leading by twelve (12) or more runs entering their "at-bat," the most runs they can score that half inning is four (4). These rules apply during all innings of a game.
3. If a game is called early by an umpire due to inclement weather or for any other reason (including time, if 90 minutes passes before the end of that inning), the final score recorded for that game will be the score at the end of the last completed inning. The winner of the game will be the team with the higher score at the end of the last completed inning. No runs scored in a partial inning will be included in the final score.
4. At "drop dead" time, the umpire should announce "last batter" loud enough for both coaches to hear. If a pitch has already been thrown to the batter, that batter can finish their "at bat." If no pitches have been thrown to the batter, the game is over.
5. Pitchers cannot pitch in more than three (3) innings per game. The starting pitcher, nor any other pitcher, cannot return to the mound after being replaced. Coaches are only allowed one mound visit before having to replace a pitcher. To speed up the game, please limit pitchers to 5 warm-up pitches or less to begin an inning or when entering the game.
6. Each pitcher will receive one balk warning prior to a balk being called on that pitcher.
7. Please slide on a play at the plate. Please slide or "peel away" on a play at second base. Teams will receive one warning per game, and then after that a player will be called out if they interfere with a throw or a fielder trying to make a play. In addition, if the runner interferes on a potential double play by not sliding or getting out of the way, the hitter may also be called out on the play.
8. You may elect to play with a 4th outfielder, and have a total of 10 players in the field. The 4th outfielder must play at the same depth as the other three outfielders, and outfielders should be evenly spaced in the outfield. No rovers or extreme shifts. Substitutions are open and no players should have to sit more than two innings per game.

9. All players must be registered to play with Mueller Park, and all players must be on your team's official roster. You can find your roster online at [muellerparkbaseball.org](http://muellerparkbaseball.org). You cannot play with players that are not on your official roster. No substitutes.
  
10. There are no auto-outs when playing with less than nine (9) players. Games can be played with as little as seven (7) players. Players cannot be moved in the batting lineup, but players can be added and removed from the lineup without penalty. When removed from the lineup, the removed player can only return to the same spot in the lineup. When a new player is added to the lineup, that player must be placed at the end of the lineup. All players present must be in the batting lineup.

Metal cleats are allowed. 8th and 9th graders should use BBCOR – 3 bats or wood bats, but this will not be regulated, as umpires will not know the grades of the players in most instances. 7th graders are allowed to use bats that are lighter than – 3 (drop three).