

## League Rules for Babe Ruth

13-16 division rules shall be the official Babe Ruth rules with the following exceptions.

the rules below:

### Games /Practices / Time Limit

- Throughout the season league games will be played two nights a week. Please see the game schedule for days, times, field assignments, and matchups.
- Games will begin at 6:30 pm sharp during the week. Players should report to the field no later than 6:00 pm in order to properly warm up for the game i.e. playing catch, batting practice, and taking infield/outfield. On game nights each team will play a single 7 inning game starting promptly at 6:30 pm.
- Each team will get the same number of games by the end of the season. There will also be a league tournament/playoffs at the end of the season. There will be 20 game nights throughout the season. Since there is an odd number of teams this year (5) each team will get an off night or practice night every 5th game night (see game schedule).
- Games will begin at 6:30 pm with no new inning starting after 8:30 pm (subject to change later in the season, when school is over and more daylight is available).
- Please check your game schedule for game times as some fields do not have lights, so game times may vary throughout the year.
- Time limit begins when the home team takes the field to start the game.
- Regulation game length is 7 innings.
- 10 run rule is in effect after 4 ½ innings
- Tie games will remain a tie for league standings
- Games will be cancelled if the temperature feels like 40 degrees or less at game time. The umpiring crew has the discretion to call the game at any time due to weather conditions, and the crew may call the game at temperatures above 40 degrees, if in its discretion it is appropriate to do so.
- If lightning is seen, play MUST be halted and players must leave the field. The game cannot start back up until 30 minutes have elapsed AFTER the last visible lightning strike. No additional time is added and time limit is still in effect.

## **League Specific Rules**

- Throughout the season each team will play a single 7 inning game each game night. There will be no double headers.
- Each team will play 2 games per week, unless they have an off night on a specific week, in which case they will play one game that week. Since there is an odd number of teams this year (5) each team will get an off night or practice night every 5th game night (see league schedule).
- There will be NO stealing bases when up by 5 or more runs which includes going home on wild or passed balls.
- Runners can advance bases at all times for pass balls or wild pitches EXCEPT if leading by 5 or more runs, no advancing home on such wild pitches or passed balls.
- The half inning will be ended after 5 runs are obtained UNLESS a team is behind and it's the last inning.

## **Playing Time/Batting Order**

- National Babe Ruth rules apply except:
- All players will play at least 3 complete offensive and defensive innings (18 outs), except in the case of games shortened due to time, weather or the 10 run rule.
- Round Robin batting order may be used, but is not mandatory. Round Robin batting means each player on the team will be in the batting rotation whether or not playing a defensive position. Those players who have been assigned defensive positions do not have to be the first nine players in the batting line-up.
- If a team decides to opt out of Round Robin batting, Re-Entry rules apply – NO free substitution (See rule book for reentry explanation). This means starters can re-enter the game but must go back in the same spot in the batting order.
- A coach may reduce playing time for injuries, unexcused absences, or unacceptable behavior (e.g., throwing the bat or helmet, improper communication such as taunting or profane language, unsportsmanlike conduct).
- Coaches will inform the umpire and opposing coach before the start of a game if a player will not be playing.

## **Pitching**

- The manager must remove the pitcher when a pitcher reaches the pitch count limit (if the limit is reached in the middle of an at-bat, the pitcher may finish pitching to that batter).

- No pitcher shall pitch more than 95 pitches per day.
- No pitcher shall pitch more than 5 innings a week for league play AND must adhere to the following rest requirements:
- If a player pitches 75 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 61-75 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 46-60 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed
- If a player pitches 31-45 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed
- If a player pitches 1-30 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required

### **Covid-19**

- Please refer to the official proposed safety guidelines for a complete list of guidelines proposed by North Dakota baseball. The following are specific rules players and coaches must adhere to during the 2021 Grand Forks baseball league season. If a player does not follow these rules they will be suspended from the league.
- Players must bring their own equipment to use during practices and games including: Hat, Glove, Cleats, and Batting Gloves. Players will not be allowed to share these items.
- Please contact league director Zach Risky if you have questions about purchasing equipment.
- There will be limited equipment provided by Grand Forks Baseball and available to players.
- If you do not want your son to use catcher's gear provided by Grand Forks Baseball, since this piece of equipment will be shared, please have your player bring his own catcher's gear or notify your coach you do not want your son to play catcher.
- There will be NO handshakes following games.
- Players will be required to be 6 feet apart from teammates, coaches, and umpires when possible while still keeping the integrity of the game intact.