



# NAMPA BABE RUTH LEAGUE, INC.

## TEE BALL DIVISION

### MISSION

- The Nampa Babe Ruth Baseball/Softball Program, using regulation competitive baseball and softball rules, teaches skills, mental and physical development, a respect for the rules of the game, and basic ideals of sportsmanship and fair play. In all aspects, Babe Ruth League, Inc. is committed to providing our participants the very best educational sports experience possible. It is our fundamental belief that every child with the desire to play baseball or softball be afforded that opportunity.

### PURPOSE

- Ballplayers ages 4-6 years of age learn hitting and fielding fundamentals in a fun and supportive team environment. Young athletes hit the ball from a batting tee which is height-adjusted for a level swing, batting in order through the line-up for the entire game. The primary goal is to begin to instruct young players in the fundamentals of baseball and develop a love for the game.

### SPORTSMANSHIP

- Nampa Babe Ruth League, Inc. is focused on putting kids first above all else. Our primary consideration is, and always will be, what is best for the youth of our community. For this reason it is imperative that we follow and fully support the Babe Ruth League's Sportsmanship Code, which states:
  - o Develop a strong, clean, healthy body, mind and soul
  - o Develop a strong urge for sportsman-like conduct
  - o Develop an understanding of and respect for the RULES
  - o Develop courage in defeat, tolerance and modesty in victory
  - o Develop control over emotions and speech
  - o Develop spirit of cooperation and team play
  - o Develop into real, true CITIZENS
- Nampa Babe Ruth (NBR) also requires that all coaches, players, and parents agree to adopt and follow our written "Code of Conduct and Responsibilities" guidelines which have been created by the Board of Directors.

### ELIGIBILITY

- T-Ball division players shall be between the ages of 4 and 6 years. League age shall be determined by the player's actual age as of April 30<sup>th</sup>. No players younger than 4 years old or age 7+ years are eligible to play tee ball. T-Ball is available to both boys and girls.



## NAMPA BABE RUTH LEAGUE, INC.

### 2021 NBR OFFICIAL RULES

- Rules for the Babe Ruth League, Inc., Cal Ripken Division, will apply unless modified herein. Rule amendments and/or supplemental rules for local league play may be proposed by the Division Director and must be reviewed and/or approved by the NBR Board of Directors annually.

### COACHES

- Each team is allowed to have one (1) Head Coach and two (2) Assistant Coaches. All coaches must complete and submit an NBR Coaches Packet, must pass a national background check, must complete a safe sport abuse prevention program, and must be approved by the NBR Board of Directors. The NBR Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, will have the authority to disqualify or remove any Coach from the league. Approved Coaches will be given uniform by the league, which should be worn on the field. Coaches must agree and adhere to the Coaches Code of Conduct, established by the Board of Directors.

### PARENT VOLUNTEERS

- At this age, Parent Volunteers are allowed to help out during practices and games, as deemed necessary and/or requested by the Head Coach. Parent Volunteers should have a signed liability waiver on file with the NBR League. They are not required to complete a full background check or have coaching training/certifications. They are also not required to attend coaches meetings. They can, therefore, only help and assist under the guidance and direction of the Head Coach.

### NUMBER OF TEAMS

- Tee Ball can have as many teams as deemed necessary by the Division Director and the NBR Board of Directors. The number of teams in the division will often be determined largely upon the total number of players registered in the division. Another factor impacting the number of teams will be the number of available and/or approved coaches for each team. Tee Ball teams will be co-ed and will generally consist of 10-12 players, unless the Board of Directors feels it is necessary to change the roster size.

### TEAM ROSTERS

- Players will be assigned to a roster and available team at the discretion of the Division Director. There will be no player evaluations or try-outs for Tee Ball. If a player's parent is a coach in the division, he/she will be given automatic placement on the coaching parent's team. Furthermore, siblings will also be given priority for placement on the same team whenever possible. Requests to play with friends, relatives other than siblings, or to play for particular coaches must be made at the time of registration.
- Reasonable efforts will be made to honor such requests, where feasible, but are not guaranteed. The Registrar and/or Division Director are responsible for such decisions. In the case of dispute, the NBR Board of Directors shall make the final decision.



## NAMPA BABE RUTH LEAGUE, INC.

- Late sign-ups who are accepted by the Registrar and the NBR Board of Directors shall be assigned to a team by the Registrar and/or Division Director. They will not likely be able to receive any accommodations and will be placed on a team with the greatest need for additional players.

### SCHEDULE

- Tee Ball teams will be formed after the close of registration and once coaches have been identified. Coaches will be notified by the Division Director. Coaches will be responsible for contacting their players to schedule and/or start practices. Practices will typically be about an hour in length, however practice dates, times, locations, and frequency will be at the discretion of the Head Coach. Coaches are encouraged to work with their players and families to accommodate a schedule that best meets the needs of the team, by group consensus or majority.
- Game schedules will be prepared by the League Scheduler. Games in the Spring Season typically start in late April and the season will conclude near the end of May. Games will generally last about one (1) hour in length and consist of three (3) innings of play.

### CANCELATIONS:

- It will be the responsibility and discretion of the Field Maintenance Director, Division Director, and/or NBR Board of Directors to cancel games due to inclement weather, poor field conditions, air quality issues, or other unforeseen purposes. Every effort will be made to play games as scheduled, when possible, however cancelations will generally be made at least one (1) hour prior to any scheduled game. The Director will notify coaches of any cancellations and it will be the responsibility of the Head Coach to notify their teams with as much notice as possible. Make-up games are generally not rescheduled for Tee Ball.

### FIELDS

- The coaches of the home team shall be responsible for preparing the designated field for play, including setting up the batting tee and bases, which the league will make available. The coach of the home team will also provide an official game ball from the allotment of balls provided by the league. At the conclusion of the game, the game ball can be retained by the coach and placed in their team's gear bag for future use.
- Bases must be securely fastened in a safe manner and must be evenly spaced 53 feet apart. This is typically done by measuring 53' from home plate down both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> baselines. The pitcher's rubber should be designated 43' from home plate, between home and second.
- No pre-game warm-ups or practices shall take place on the field within ten (10) minutes of scheduled games to allow time for field preparation.



## NAMPA BABE RUTH LEAGUE, INC.

- Approved coaches, assistant coaches, and/or league-approved parent volunteers are the only ones permitted to be on the field during play. Coaches from both teams may be on the field at the same time to help instruct and encourage players; however, should not interfere with or impeded play for the players and coaches of the opposing team.
- Coaches of the last game for each day shall be responsible for field clean up and shall return the league tee and bases to the appropriate storage shed at the end of the game.

### EQUIPMENT

- Players only need their own glove. Coaches may check out NBR league gear and equipment such as; bats, batting helmets, practice balls, tees, catcher's gear, bases, and other training aids that may be available. Such equipment can be obtained through the NBR Equipment Coordinator at [nbr.equipment@gmail](mailto:nbr.equipment@gmail.com) or requested through the Division Director. Coaches will be responsible for the care, condition, and return of all team gear and equipment belonging to the NBR league. League equipment must be returned back to the Equipment Coordinator at the conclusion of the season or when such gear is no longer needed, whichever comes first. It is recommended that all team equipment be returned immediately preceding the last game played for the season.

### BALLS

- For safety reasons, only soft core or safety balls shall be used in Tee Ball. Both practice and game balls will be provided to each coach at the start of the season. Only approved Tee Balls will be allowed for use during official league games. Games balls, once used, will become future practice balls. All league balls shall be returned to the NBR Equipment Coordinator at the end of the season for future use. Damaged or extremely worn balls can and should be discarded and replaced.

### BATS

- League approved bats will be made available to all Tee Ball teams. Bats can also be individually purchased by parents and coaches and used in NBR league play, but must meet league requirements.
- Beginning January 1, 2018, Nampa Babe Ruth and several other organizations have adopted the USABat standard for youth baseball bats. Unlike standard youth baseball bats, tee ball bats (length 26" and shorter) are not required to undergo lab testing to receive approval under the USABat Program. However, to be approved for play, tee ball bats must feature the USA Baseball mark and accompanying text which reads:

*"ONLY FOR USE WITH APPROVED TEE BALLS"*



New USA Baseball approved bats that are available for purchase will have the required USA Baseball logo on the barrel near the handle, as shown above.



## NAMPA BABE RUTH LEAGUE, INC.



- Under USABat standards, USA Baseball has implemented a Tee Ball Sticker Program that allows coaches, parents, and league administrators to purchase approved stickers to mark tee ball bats that were manufactured and/or purchased prior to the implementation of the USABat standard. Stickered bats are also acceptable. For questions, please contact the Division Director or the NBR Equipment Coordinator.

### SAFETY

- The safety of our young athletes, our coaches, and spectators is very important. Every effort should be made to always ensure safe game play and general safety for all. Safety concerns should be reported to the Division Director if unable to be immediately resolved by coaches and/or parent volunteers.
- Players should remain on the benches when in the dugout. They shall also keep their hands to themselves and be respectful of others. Bullying, hitting, pushing, or causing harm to others is a violation of our code of conduct and will not be tolerated. Coaches should try to address all concerns with the player's parent(s) before bringing the matter to the attention of the Director. Parents and spectators are expected to remain off of the field and conduct themselves in an appropriate manner, setting the example for our youth. Those violating the code of conduct may be asked to leave the field.
- Batters and base runners must always wear a batting helmet when hitting and/or on the field.
- Players in the catcher's position must also wear a helmet for safety and should provide ample space for the batter to swing, as not to be accidentally struck with the bat. It is recommended that catchers remain against the backstop when the batter swings. Catchers are not required to wear full catcher's gear, but may wish to do so. Coaches can check with the NBR Equipment Coordinator for gear availability; however catcher's equipment that appropriately fits such young and smaller size kids is often challenging.
- Players in the pitcher's position are recommended to also consider wearing a batting helmet for safety since they are generally the closest to the ball when hit into play and their reaction times and defensive skills are generally undeveloped at this age. This is not required and may be up to the discretion of the child's parent(s) and/or the coach. Pitchers should remain at the marked pitcher's rubber while the batter swings and should not advance until the ball is hit into play in a forward direction.
- Coaches and Parent Volunteers are allowed and encouraged to be in the dugouts and on the field during play to help provide for the safety of players.



# NAMPA BABE RUTH LEAGUE, INC.



## GENERAL PLAYING RULES FOR T-BALL

### LENGTH OF GAME

- Tee Ball games are limited to three (3) full innings of play.
- No new innings will begin more than one (1) hour after play began.
- If the one (1) hour time limit is reached in the middle of an inning, the game will continue until a full inning is completed, but no further inning shall commence.

### PLAYERS/ROSTER

- All available players on a team's roster may play on the field.
- A team may play with as few as eight (8) players on the field if necessary. In that case, the team can play without a player in the catcher's position or with only two (2) outfielders.
- If a team has less than eight (8) players available to play, the team may borrow the needed number of players from the opposing team. In that case, members of the opposing team who are helping defensively should play positions in the outfield.
- If a team has eleven (11) or twelve (12) players present, all players can still play on the field. When fielding, the "extra players" on the field must serve as additional outfielders. It is not permissible to have more than seven (7) players in the infield at a time. Teams can have two players on either side of the pitcher's mound area.
- Players can and should be rotated through multiple fielding positions each game and throughout the season.
- All players should play the entire game, but must at least play two (2) full innings of each game, unless the game is stopped for some reason, or the player is required to sit out due to injury or disciplinary reasons.
- Any player not playing due to discipline shall have been notified by the coach why he/she is not playing and the child's parent(s) must also be informed.
- A player can request to sit out if they choose to or need a break
- Players should get the opportunity to play a variety of positions to promote development and the learning experience.
- Coaches may consider ability and safety with respect to position assignments.
- Players should play both infield and outfield positions at least one (1) time each during a game.



## NAMPA BABE RUTH LEAGUE, INC.



### BATTING

- All eligible players available to play shall be in the batting line-up. Everyone hits.
- All players in the batting line-up shall have an opportunity at-bat in each inning.
- The inning shall end upon the completion of one at-bat for each player in the batting line-up.
- All batters must wear a batting helmet for safety.
- Players will hit off a league approved tee and can continue to take swings on the ball until it is hit in a forward direction at least six (6) feet forward.
- A coach should assist the batter until successful contact with the ball is made and the ball travels forward within the field of play.
- Bunting is not allowed.
- There is no three (3) strike rule. Batters can take as many swings and attempts needed to hit the ball into play.
- Throwing the bat is prohibited. As this is a safety issue and coaches should work with batters on this and provide instruction or warnings as necessary.

### BASE RUNNING

- Pinch runners are not generally allowed, except when necessary to; 1) replace an injured player, or 2) to replace a player who must leave prior to the end of the inning.
- There will be no leading off. A runner who leads off will be required to return to his/her base before advancing.
- A runner cannot leave the base and advance towards the next base until the ball is hit.
- There will be no stealing bases in tee ball.
- Only one base runner will be allowed per base.
- Batters and base runners will generally advance one (1) base at a time per hit, when the ball is in the infield. If/when the ball is hit into the outfield, base runners may take no more than two (2) bases. The only exception to this rule will be known as the "Last Batter Rule," when all base runners and the batter advance through all the bases to home plate.

### LAST BATTER RULE

- When the last batter in the line-up comes to the plate the hitting team's coach shall announce that he/she is the "last batter" of their line-up. Once the last batter hits the ball, all base runners, including the batter, shall continue to run through the bases and head for home plate. The inning is completed and play ends once all runners have crossed home plate or when the catcher has control of the ball, whichever comes first.

### OUTS

- Outs will not be counted in the first inning, allowing all players to run the bases and get to home plate.
- Outs can be made and will count from the second inning on.
- A runner that is called out, by a defensive baseball play, will be required to return to the dugout. Coaches should take the opportunity to explain the play and why the batter/runner was ruled out, to help them understand and learn the fundamental rules of baseball.



## NAMPA BABE RUTH LEAGUE, INC.

- All players in the batting line-up will bat in each inning, regardless of the number of outs. There will be no three (3) out rule.
- Outs are identified and called by the coaches on the field. In the event of a disagreement amongst the coaches, the call of the coach closest to the play shall control, regardless which team he/she is on.

### FUN

- This is one of the most important parts of the game, so let's have FUN this season!