

## Sacramento Babe Ruth (13 – 15 yr olds)

### Local Rules and Game Procedures – 2015 Season

#### 1. Pre-game Routine

- a. Please make every effort to start games on time by conducting warm ups and having your team prepared to start on time.
- b. Warm-ups should be done in the outfield, with players standing and warming up *off of the foul line*. For throwing warm-ups, players should be lined up in left or right field, with their throwing partner standing in left/center or right/center field. This is done to protect our field and keep it in good condition.
- c. Any pre-game hitting, such as hitting wiffle balls, must be done with hitters standing on the dirt, next to the field side fences running down the outfield fences. No hitters may take practice while standing on the grass.
- d. No warm-ups of any kind (such as throwing or hitting ground balls) may take place in the area in front of the dugouts between home plate and the entry gates to the field. Typically the field maintenance people place a white mark in the shallow outfield area to hit from out toward the outfield. You may also hit ground balls from the warning track dirt next to the field side fences running down the outfield fences.
- e. We do not take infield and outfield on the field before the games. This is to save the playing surface which receives about 900 to 1,000 innings of play per year.
- f. Warm-up swings by the on deck batter need to be on dirt areas between the dugout and home walkways. Not on the grass.
- g. Lineups will be exchanged at home plate 10 minutes before the game. If players will be arriving late or their arrival is uncertain, put them on the lineup card. If players show up unexpectedly, they can be added to the lineup. Our goal is for players to play and we all realize that life sometimes happens. If they make the effort to get there, they can play at the coach's discretion. If the coach wants to leave them off of the lineup for disciplinary reasons, he may do this as well. However, you need to be consistent in your treatment of players, meaning you can't leave them off for "disciplinary" reasons if they're one of your lesser players, but let the better players get away with showing up late because they can help your team more.
- h. Home team is listed **last** on the schedule and will be in the third base dugout. Home team must secure a scorekeeper before the game begins and is responsible, along with the umpire, in making sure that a league score book is kept for the game to document all league games (this is to ensure player participation documentation for All Stars). Visiting team is responsible for securing a person to run the electronic scoreboard. Teams can help each other out as necessary, but the games will not begin until an official scorekeeper (even if it's a coach) is secured.

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#### 2. Game Times and Duration

- a. On days with back-to-back games, if both teams are ready to go early, and the umpires are willing, the follow-on games may start early if both teams agree to the early start time.
- b. Game time limits are such that no new inning can begin after 2 hours and 15 minutes, but **only** if there is another game afterward. Otherwise, play 7 innings or until that day's sunset time listed on the "League Schedule" included on the SBR league website. At the listed sunset time, the game is over (no exceptions due to insurance liability). Lights will not be used unless there is an SBR night game scheduled for that evening. Cost of turning on lights is \$100, so discretion (by the league President) will be used in deciding their use.
- c. We will use a modified 10 run rule. After 5 innings, the 10 run rule will be in effect and the game is over **unless** both managers and the umpire agree to continue.

#### 3. Play Time and Substitutions

- a. We have a mandatory play rule of 2 innings and one at bat for every player. If a player will not play due to disciplinary reasons or injury, managers must so indicate on the lineup card so that they can be noted in the scorebook. Any injuries and disciplinary actions shall be reported to the Player agent and/or President.
- b. Policing of this rule will be done **by the Board**. Managers, coaches, and scorekeepers DO NOT need to track other teams' players or playing time and game protests regarding this rule do **not** exist. If a Manager believes that this rule has been broken by another team/manager, the game and events should be reported to the Board. This local rule need not be discussed during games and will not affect the outcome of any games. If the board believes that any reported actions were done to manipulate games, the offending manager will face disciplinary actions.
- c. There may be instances where games end early due to time, light, or score and players have not reached their minimum number of innings. This is not a violation of the mandatory play rule and this may happen occasionally throughout the season.
- d. Any player can re-enter a game, as long as it is in the same batting position that they were originally batting in. This would allow for the swapping of multiple players in the same position over the course of a game. For example, two players could share the same batting position as long as each player gets their minimum 1 at bat and 2 innings on the field (field innings do not have to be consecutive). Though this differs from the rules of baseball, it allows for players to not have to sit the bench for long periods of time during a game.

#### 4. Scorekeeping and Lineups

- a. Home team shall provide an official scorekeeper who keeps score in the league scorebook. Visiting team supplies a scoreboard operator. Scorekeeper and Scoreboard operator are also responsible for maintaining a clean scorer's booth.

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- b. Managers may bat 9 players, more than 9 batters with an extra hitter(s), or their entire lineup. The number of players in the batting lineup is up to the Manager. When batting the lineup, there is free-substitution (positions can be moved around at will), but each player is still required to get two innings played on the field. If a team loses a player for any reason when batting more than 9 batters, they will not be penalized with an out when that player's at bat comes up. If a player is injured (e.g., they have a sore arm), they can just hit and not play the field. If doing anything a little out of the ordinary, report it to the umpire so that they can let the opposing coach know the situation.
- c. During All Stars, rules are strictly by the book.

#### 5. Pool Play

- a. Players may sign up to be pool players. Coaches' help with this is appreciated.
- b. Pool players can be used if a team does not have 9 players for a game or if a team would like extra players in case of injury, absence, or to allow for extra playing time.
- c. Pool players cannot play in place of the team's players; only as extra players.
- d. Pool players may only pitch or catch if that player's coach approves. The pitching restrictions of 7 innings per week (Monday – Sunday) still apply if you let one of your pitchers pitch for another team.
- e. Pool players must bat at the end of the batting lineup.
- f. If you need pool players, you need to let us know with sufficient time to find players.

#### 6. After the Game

- a. Please clean up your dugout after the game and remove all team and player equipment so that the next game's teams can take the dugout. BOTH TEAMS are responsible for cleaning up the field after games, not just the home team. Please make the players do this with help from the coaches. If it is the last game of the day, just tarp the pitcher's mound, pull the bases and put them in the equipment room, and put in the base plugs. If it is between games, have players clean and empty the dugout, rake and drag the field, clean up the mound and home plate area, and water the mound and home plate areas. Water the infield if there is time.
- b. You need to hold your team postgame meetings AFTER the field is cleaned up and outside of the field fences if there is another game after yours. Please watch what you say in these meetings so that I don't have to hear about it from an upset parent. Also realize that you have the player's attention for only a couple of minutes and then they're gone mentally. You're welcome to hold your meetings as you wish, but keep this in mind.
- c. Home team coach and scorekeeper shall make sure that the scorebook and pitching log are turned in to the snack bar.
- d. Umpire shall make sure that all game balls are turned in to the snack bar.

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**Contact Information**

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