

Minors/Majors Softball Division

Minors (10u) and Majors (12u) Softball divisions interleague games will operate utilizing the current year Babe Ruth League, Inc. Rules and Regulations approved by the Babe Ruth League, Inc. International Board of Directors and published in the current year Rules and Regulations book and posted on their website. The following exceptions and clarifications will also be in effect for all games.

Minors and Majors Softball Divisions would also qualify for any rules, regulations or by-law that utilized the terms "10u", "12u" as well as "Minors Softball" or "Majors Softball".

These rules will apply for all regular season and tournament games played governed by Babe Ruth League and involving Babe Ruth League chartered teams. This includes both Spring and Fall programs for the Minors and Majors Softball Divisions.

1.0 Game Length

- 1.1 All games will be regulated to 6 complete innings or 1 hour and 45 minutes – whichever occurs first.
- 1.2 No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes of game time has elapsed.
- 1.3 Extra innings may be played ONLY if six innings are completed with score tied BEFORE 1 hour and 45 minutes of game time has elapsed. No new extra inning will begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes of game time has elapsed.
- 1.4 Games will end in a tie if no team leads after the last full inning is played once the 1 hour and 45 minutes of game time has elapsed.
- 1.5 The above game length rules apply to all Mishawaka East End games regardless if played on Weeknights or Weekends.
- 1.6 **ONLY** Tournament games may continue past the time regulations to identify a winner. **Tournament Play Only:** Games tied after regulation or the time limit will continue until a winner is determined. The **International Tie-Breaker** will be used to resolve all ties.

2.0 Game Interruptions and Suspensions

- 2.1 An inning is considered a "Completed Inning" after the Visiting Team has recorded 3 outs while at bat and the Home Team is leading OR after the Home Team has exhausted 3 outs while at bat regardless of who is leading.
- 2.2 A game is considered a "Completed Game" after 4 completed innings if suspended for any reason. This would include a game that has completed 3 ½ innings, the Home Team is leading AND the Visitors have recorded 3 outs while at bat in the 3rd inning.

- 2.3 Should a game become suspended for any reason after it has become a “Completed Game” and it is in an uncompleted inning score at the end of the LAST completed inning will be the FINAL SCORE.
- 2.4 Should a game become suspended for any reason before it has become a “Completed Game” the game score, inning/out/lineup progressions and elapsed time should be identified by both Managers and recorded. The Home Team Manager is responsible to report the game information to the Division Commissioner.
- 2.5 The Division Commissioner and the VP of Softball will decide if the game can, and needs to be rescheduled. If the game can, and needs to be rescheduled, the Division Commissioner will coordinate the make-up date and time with both Managers as much as possible; but a final date and time will be decided by the Division Commissioner and announced.
- 2.6 Should a suspended game be rescheduled it will resume at the point of suspension and the Division Commissioner will identify the inning, number of outs, score, time elapsed and any roster issues with both Managers prior to the game. If there are any discrepancies the final determination will be decided by the Division’s Commissioner prior to the game being resumed.

3.0 Run Limits and The Mercy Rule

- 3.1 Any team can ONLY score 5 runs in any one inning (7 during tournament.)
- 3.2 The offensive portion of an inning, for any team, will conclude once the 5th (during tournament, 7th) run has crossed the plate in that inning regardless of total team score, outs accumulated or any other factor.
- 3.3 No runs will be counted after the 5th (during tournament, 7th) runner has crossed the plate for a single team in a single inning. (Example: 4 runs have scored and the bases are loaded. The batter hits a home run. Only the first runner will be counted in the team score; but the batter statistically will get credit for a Home Run and 4 RBI’s although the score itself will only reflect a single run for that event)
- 3.4 Any game will be considered a “Completed Game” once any team has become mathematically eliminated based on the Rule 3.1 after 3 completed innings. [REFERENCE: 16 run lead after 3 completed innings (22 for tournament) / 11 run lead after 4 completed innings (15 for tournament) / 6 run lead after 5 completed innings (8 for tournament)].
- 3.5 The game will become completed once the Home team has reached a score that will mathematically eliminate the Visiting team at the time the eliminating run crosses the plate regardless of the number of outs in the inning. (EXAMPLE BASED ON 5 RUN RULE: The Home team leads 2-4 entering the bottom of the 5th inning and scores 4 runs with one out. The game is over and considered a “Completed Game” once the 4th Home team run crosses the plate and is over at that point because the Visiting team has been mathematically eliminated).

- 3.6 Any game completed based on the “Mercy Rule” can be continued until the 1 hour and 45 minute time limit if both Managers agree; however the official game score is identified at the point of the “Mercy Rule”. (EXAMPLE: The Home team is leading 2-10 in the bottom of the 5th inning and the game has only gone on for 1 hour. The game is considered officially completed and the official final score is 2-10 in favor of the Home team. If both managers agree the teams can continue to play for no longer than an additional 45 minutes with no further score being recorded officially.)

4.0 Player Substitutions, and Batting Orders

- 4.1 All players, in attendance, will be placed in a continuous batting order.
- 4.2 Players are free to be substituted in and out of the field at any time as long as the continuous batting order is not changed unless a player is injured and must be removed from the game.
- 4.3 If a player is injured or removed from the continuous batting order for any reason they may not return to the game.
- 4.4 If a player arrives after the game’s first pitch they will be inserted into the next batting position after the last listed batter in the continuous batting order.
- 4.5 If a player batting out of order is discovered in the middle of an at bat, the proper batter shall take his/her place and assume the existing count. If batting out of order is discovered after an improper at bat, Official Babe Ruth League, Inc. Softball Rules will apply.
- 4.6 All players must play a minimum of 6 outs (two innings) in the field. These defensive substitutions must enter by the top of the 3rd inning. League officials, umpires, opposing managers, or coaches are urged to prevent any unintentional violation of this rule. If a violation is discovered after the top of the 3rd inning, any substitute not yet entered shall be immediately entered into the game to receive their playing time. This rule is VOID for any player who arrives after the 3rd inning
- 4.7 Any substitution made must be reported to the opposing team’s scorekeeper at the time the substitution is made.

5.0 Base Running and Sliding

- 5.1 A “Double 1st Base” will be utilized. The white portion of the bag is for use by the 1st baseman and the orange part for the batter/runner. The batter/runner must use the orange part unless rounding the bag with no play at 1st base. The 1st baseman must use the white portion, and if he touches the orange portion, in his attempt to force the batter/runner out, the batter/runner shall be declared safe.

- 5.2 Runners must avoid contact and slide when a tag play is in effect and possible at Home Plate, 2nd or 3rd base. Any player who intentionally runs into a defensive player at any base will be declared out and may be subject to ejection. Interpretation of “Intentionally” will be at the sole judgment of the umpire.
- 5.3 A home plate “Mandatory Slide” rule is in effect for any contested play at home plate. All base runners must slide on any contested play at home plate. Interpretation of a “contested play” will be at the sole judgment of the umpire. If a runner fails to slide during a contested play at home plate, and there is contact between the runner and the catcher, the runner will be ruled out by the umpire. NOTE: There will be NO head first slides into home plate. Any player sliding head first into home plate will be called OUT.
- 5.4 A catcher may not impede (block) a base runner’s path to home plate before he/she has possession of the ball. If a base runner slides into a catcher blocking the plate prior to the catcher having possession of the ball, the runner will be ruled safe whether they reach home plate or not. Interpretation of “blocking the plate” will be at the sole judgment of the umpire.
- 5.5 There is no leading off of any base. A base runner may leave the base once the ball has left the pitcher’s hand. If a runner leaves early, he/she will be placed back on the base they previously occupied, and it will constitute a team warning. If it occurs more than once per game the runner will be called out. Interpretation of “leaving early” will be at the sole judgment of the umpire. For the Minors division, only one base is awarded on an error, overthrow, or out of play ball. No base will be awarded on an overthrow back to the pitcher. For the first half of the regular season in the Minors division, a runner may leave third base but not advance to home on passed balls to the catcher. They may advance home on an error, overthrow, or an out of play ball. After June 1st will follow Babe Ruth rules as stated above.
- 5.6 The infield fly rule will be in effect for the Minors and Majors Softball Division.
- 5.7 A “Courtesy Runner” may be requested by any team at bat WITH two outs for the catcher ONLY (EXAMPLE: The team’s catcher is on base and the team has two outs or 4 runs **6 runs during tournament**). The team Manager will call time-out and announce a “courtesy runner”. The player who recorded the last out shall replace the catcher on base and the catcher can come to the dugout to start putting on their equipment.)

6.0 Pitching

- 6.1 A player may pitch only 2 consecutive innings with a maximum of 3 innings per game. Only the first pitcher can be re-entered in a later inning. **No pitcher in Minors or Majors Divisions tournament play shall be allowed to pitch in more than nine (9) innings in any two (2) successive tournament games within the same tournament level. (e.g.) All players have full pitching eligibility beginning at each level of tournament competition.**

- 6.2 For the Minors Softball Division two walks are permitted per inning. For each inning, after two are walked, remaining batters who receive 4 balls will not be walked. A coach from the batter's team will assume the existing pitch count. The player stays at the pitcher's position, must remain within the circle, and on one side of the coach. The coach is permitted no more than 3 pitches to batter. Strikes will be called during coach pitch. No walks or stolen bases are permitted during coach pitch. (EXAMPLE: 1st and 2nd batters are walked. The 3rd batter has a count of 4 balls and 2 strikes. The coach pitches a strike or the batter swings and misses the ball, the batter is out on a strikeout.) If a fair ball touches the coach in fair territory before it touches an infielder, or touches the coach before it has passed an infielder other than the pitcher-player, the ball is dead and the batter will be awarded first base. All other runners will return to the base that they occupied before the ball was hit unless forced to advance as a result of the batter being awarded first base. A thrown ball that hits any part of the coach is a live ball.
There will be no coach assist pitch during the tournament. Normal Babe Ruth rules will apply.
- 6.3 Once a pitcher has pitched 1 scored pitch, it is considered an inning pitched for that player.
- 6.4 Once a pitcher has been removed from the mound he/she may not reenter in the same inning but can re-enter in another inning.
- 6.5 Pitchers may NOT wear accessories such as batting gloves, wristbands, accent sleeves, or sunglasses. An umpire may require a pitcher to remove any accessory he/she determines as distracting.
- 6.6 For the Minors Softball Division no balks will be called; but any balk activity should be discouraged with coaching. For Majors Softball Division balks will be called, Official Babe Ruth League, Inc. Softball Rules will apply.
- 6.7 The dropped third strike rule is in effect for the Majors Softball Division. No dropped third strike for the Minors Division.
- 6.8 A second coach's trip to the mound in the same inning to the same pitcher shall automatically result in the removal of that pitcher from the game AS A PITCHER ONLY. This includes any combinations of coaches/managers and any player directed by any coach to visit the pitcher.

7.0 Equipment

- 7.1 All players will adhere to Babe Ruth published rules pertaining to helmets and helmet safety
- 7.2 All players will adhere to Babe Ruth published rules pertaining to footwear and no metal cleats
- 7.3 All players will adhere to Babe Ruth published rules pertaining to accepted bats.
- 7.4 Only "OFFICIAL SOFTBALL" or "OFFICIAL FASTPITCH" bats are eligible for use in league play.
- 7.5 The bat shall be marked "OFFICIAL SOFTBALL" or "OFFICIAL FASTPITCH" by the manufacturer.

- 7.6 If any bat in Babe Ruth Softball cannot be clearly identified for its make and model to determine the barrel composition, then the bat should be removed from the field and shall be placed in the concession stand during the game. Interpretation of “clearly identified” will be at the sole judgment of the umpire.
- 7.7 Any player using a bat that has been determined to have been “tampered” with will be declared out. Interpretation of “tampered” will be at the sole judgment of the umpire.
- 7.8 Repeated or purposeful use of an illegal bat during league games will be reported to the League Board of Directors.
- 7.9 Possible player and/or manager suspensions may ensue based on the circumstances and review of the infraction(s).

8.0 Scorekeeping and Volunteers

- 8.1 ONLY Babe Ruth certified volunteers and season registered players shall be allowed in the dugouts during games
- 8.2 No more than 4 Babe Ruth certified volunteers shall be allowed in the dugouts during games
- 8.3 The Home team’s scorebook shall be the official scorebook.
- 8.4 The Home team’s official scorekeeper must be identified before the 1st pitch to the Visitor’s Manager
- 8.5 It is the home team manager’s responsibility to report the scores of all games played in any week no later than each Saturday to the commissioner.

9.0 Unsportsmanlike Conduct and Incident Review

- 9.1 Excessive, disruptive, or negative chanting are not permitted. Chants should not be designed to distract the pitcher, such as loud, synchronized shouting during the delivery. Distracting actions, such as yelling during the pitcher’s windup or intentional verbal interference are considered unsportsmanlike. The first offense may result in a warning.
- 9.2 Babe Ruth unsportsmanlike conduct rules will be enforced.
- 9.3 A batter throwing a bat, or any equipment, will be warned, and it will constitute a team warning. Any subsequent batters for that team throwing a bat, or any equipment, will be called out, at the discretion and judgment of the umpire.
- 9.4 A player may be ejected from a game by an umpire OR the player’s Manager for unsportsmanlike or dangerous conduct.

9.5 ALL ejections must be reported to the Division Commissioner within 24 hours and a review of the incident must be completed by the VP, Commissioner, and Player Agent within 72 hours of the incident and reported to the League President by that time.

9.6 Recommendations for further actions and/or player/coach suspensions must be presented to the League Board of Directors within 72 hours of the incident. The League Board of Directors must approve, reject, or identify an alternative follow up action within a week of the incident if a recommendation is made. This vote will be collected by the League Secretary and can be made by the League Board Member in person, via telephone, or electronically.

Any IN GAME issue that is NOT clarified by Babe Ruth League, Inc. published rules and regulations or these supplemental District inter-league divisional rules WILL BE determined by the IN GAME Home Plate Umpire.

This determination WILL BE FINAL during that game and the issue at question should be reported to the Divisions Commissioner within 72 hours so the issue can be avoided in further games.

Denotes Tournament Rules

Denotes Minors Specific Rules