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General League Rules (Revised November 2025)

All playing rules are governed by the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth rulebook, except for the addendum below:

Protests

Any formal protest must be filed in writing and delivered in person to their League Commissioner within 24 hours of the event. A \$100.00 fee must accompany all formal protests. The fee will be returned if the protest is upheld. The protest will be adjudicated by President, Director of Baseball, League Commissioner and Umpire in Chief.

Ejections

Manager/Assistant Coach –Any manager or coach ejected from a ball game by the umpire is required to leave Jack Bourne Park or RF&P Park immediately. A first ejection results in the ejected manager or coach being automatically suspended from participation in the next scheduled game and from all practices held between the time of the ejection and the next scheduled game. The ejection will be reviewed by the Director of Baseball, Chief of Umpires and League Commissioner. Punishment may increase if the Director of Baseball, Chief of Umpires and League Commissioner believe it is warranted. A second ejection results in the ejected manager or coach being automatically suspended from participation in practices or games for the remainder of the baseball season.

Player – Any player ejected from a game may be suspended from participating in future games if the Director of Baseball, Chief of Umpires and League Commissioner believe it is warranted.

Player Participation

- Players that arrive by game time cannot sit for a 3rd inning before every other player sits at least 2 innings.
 - The only exceptions to this rule will be made for players that arrive after his/her team's manager completes the umpires meeting at home plate prior to the game. In the case of late arriving players, the following will be utilized:
 - A manager/coach is not required to play any player that arrives after both managers complete the meeting with the umpire prior to the start of the game. (A manager/coach should not make this decision arbitrarily or lightly and will make every effort to allow all players to play unless there are extenuating circumstances). An example that may keep a player out of the lineup is repeated late arrivals without notice after warnings to both the player and the parents.
 - If a manager/coach chooses not to play any player, the manager/coach shall notify their league commissioner. If a late arriving player is allowed to play in the game, the following rules shall apply.
 - A player that arrives after the manager's meeting with the umpires is completed may not play in the first 2 innings and only has to play in 2 of the remaining innings.



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- A player that arrives after the visiting team takes to the field in the 2nd inning may not play in the first 3 innings and only has to play in 2 of the remaining innings.
- o **For all divisions, except JBR:** a player that arrives after the visiting team takes to the field in the 3rd inning is ineligible to play in that game.
- o **For JBR division ONLY:** a player that arrives after the visiting team takes to the field in the 4th inning is ineligible to play in that game.
- In the case of a team playing a game with less than 9 players a manager can allow a late player who arrives before the start of the 3rd inning to enter the game at his and the umpires discretion. (this is to avoid forcing the players that are on time to play shorthanded by rule)
- o This applies to all league games and post season play (this rule does not apply to all-star season).
- Violations of the playing time rule may result in game forfeiture, manager suspension or both.
- No player that is currently wearing a hard cast on any part of their body will be allowed to play until the cast is removed and clearance given by a medical doctor.
- Free substitution is allowed on defense. The opposing manager must be notified of any exceptions prior to the start of the game.
- A team may play with a minimum of 8 defensive players if it does not have 9 available players. The pitcher
 and catcher positions are mandatory. If a team cannot field 8 rostered players for a game, then a forfeit
 will be submitted.
- Any team playing with only 8 players will be charged an out every time the 9th batter was due up. A team cannot finish a game with less than 8 players.
- A player that leaves the game early for any reason other than injury or illness will be charged an out when their position comes up in the batting order.

Pitching Limitations

- The calendar week for Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth baseball is Monday through Sunday for pitching purposes.
- NO pitcher, once removed from the mound, may return to the mound during that game. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!
- PITCH COUNT IS A HARD STOP AT THE MAX NUMBER. YOU CANNOT FINISH THE BATTER.



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- For Minor Recreation and Minor Competitive:

- Max Number of Pitches 50 per day
- Rest Requirements depending on number of pitches
 - 0-20 pitches = 0 days rest
 - 21-30 pitches = 1 days rest
 - 31-40 pitches = 2 days rest
 - 41-50 pitches = 3 days rest
- *No pitcher shall appear in a game as a pitcher for more than 2 times per week
- *If a game is called before becoming official, all pitchers shall adhere to the rest requirements based on number of pitches thrown.

For Major Recreation and Major Competitive:

- Max Number of Pitches 65 per day Rest Requirements depending on number of pitches
 - 0-20 pitches = 0 days rest
 - 21-35 pitches = 1 days rest
 - 36-50 pitches = 2 days rest
 - 51-65 pitches = 3 days rest
- *No pitcher shall appear in a game as a pitcher for more than 2 times per week
- *If a game is called before becoming official, all pitchers shall adhere to the rest requirements based on number of pitches thrown.

For JBR:

- Max Number of Pitches 75 per day Rest Requirements depending on number of pitches
 - 0-20 pitches = 0 days rest
 - 21-35 pitches = 1 days rest
 - 36-50 pitches = 2 days rest
 - 51-65 pitches = 3 days rest
 - 66-75 pitches = 4 days rest
- *No pitcher shall appear in a game as a pitcher for more than 2 times per week
- *If a game is called before becoming official, all pitchers shall adhere to the rest requirements based on number of pitches thrown.
- The balk rule will be enforced for the Major Recreation, Major Competitive, JBR divisions.



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Game Information

- The calendar week for Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth Baseball is Monday through Sunday for scheduling purposes.
- Game times and schedules cannot be altered unless approved by Director of Baseball.
- The 10-run rule of Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth Baseball takes effect during any inning following the inning in which a game is considered official. The 10-run rule applies only to the Minor Recreation, Major Recreation, Major Competitive, JBR divisions.
- There will be a maximum run per inning rule for minor and major recreation. Minor Recreation 5 runs per inning Major Recreation 6 runs per inning
- An official game is considered as follows:
 - Minor Recreation, Minor Competitive, Major Recreation, Major Competitive after 3 ½ or 4 complete innings are played
 - JBR after 4 ½ or 5 complete innings are played
- No innings will begin after the official time limit for a game has been reached. In the event of injury, time will be called and the game clock will stop.
- The official time limit for a game is listed below for each division:

Wiffle Ball: 45 minutes

TeeBall: 1 hour

Jr Rookie: 1 hour 30 minutes

Rookie: 1 hour 30 minutes

Minor Recreation: 1 hour 45 minutes

Minor Competitive: 1 hour 45 minutes

Major Recreation: 2 hours

Major Competitive: 2 hours

JBR: 2 hours



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- If a game is tied after the regulation number of innings and time permits, a maximum of 2 extra innings will be played to break the tie. If the game is still tied, it will be considered a tie game for the purposes of league records. At the end of the season, a tie game will be considered a loss. All single elimination post season games are exempt from any tie limitations.
- The President, Director of Baseball, League Commissioner or Director of Jack Bourne Park will be responsible for determining when the fields at Jack Bourne Park are not playable. Henrico County staff will be responsible for determining when the fields at RF&P Park are not playable.
- All rained out and incomplete games will be played according to the make-up schedule and in the order as they occur. However, no team will be required to play more than 2 games in any one day or more than 4 games in any one week during the regular season.
- No limitations for post season play. All rained out and incomplete games will be restarted from the
 beginning unless they reach the official game status. All pitching records for the game that must be
 restarted will be cleared. This does not apply to post season play as those games will be considered
 suspended.

Ground Rules

- Only players in full uniform, the manager, coaches, umpires and league officials shall be allowed on the playing field during a game.
- All managers and coaches must be in matching uniforms of their team. The manager and coaches may wear shorts; however, they must be matching. No denim jeans are allowed. If a manager or coach is not dressed appropriately, then they will be asked to leave the dugout.
- Only official scorers and league officials shall be permitted in the scorer's booth. Scorekeepers are not
 allowed in the team dugout unless they are a uniformed manager or coach. THERE SHALL BE NO
 COACHING OF ANY PLAYER FROM THE SCOREBOOTH. This will be strictly enforced and the manager
 is responsible for the actions of their scorekeepers.
- No tobacco shall be permitted at any time.
- No profanity shall be permitted at any time.
- No batting practice will be allowed on the scheduled playing field ½ hour before the start of the game. Each team will be allowed 10 minute warm up period before start of game. If games are behind schedule, this warm-up period may be waived in order to keep games on schedule.
- No contact rule at home plate and at all bases: If a runner attempting to reach home plate or another base intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player in the area of home plate or a base, he will be called out on the play and ejected from the game (UMPIRES JUDGMENT CALL).



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- Anyone warming up a pitcher at any location shall wear a mask. A throat protector is considered part of the catcher's mask.
- If any bat in Cal Ripken Baseball or Babe Ruth Baseball cannot be clearly identified for its make and model to determine the barrel composition, then the bat shall be removed from the game.
- Slash Bunting is prohibited. Any batter who, upon delivery of a pitch to home plate, has squared around
 with the intent to bunt is prohibited from slashing or swinging away at the pitched ball. Any batter who
 fakes a bunt and then swings away as defensive players are charging toward home plate shall be called
 out.