

Glendale Babe Ruth Spring Baseball Rules, 2024 (Feb 17, 2024 v1)

League Rules and Regulations

1. **Official start time of each game will be the scheduled start time** - Managers are encouraged to make sure that their teams are ready to begin play on schedule. An exception would be late arrival of the umpire; in that case the first pitch starts the official game time.
 - a. **No new inning will start after 2 hours.** Any inning started will be played until complete.
 - b. If a game is tied at the end of seven complete innings, extra innings may start before the time limit.
 - c. There is a drop dead time of 9:55 p.m. at Dunsmore and Scholl due to lights.
 - d. NOTE: A new inning starts as the 3rd out is recorded. (Rules 4.10 and 4.11)
2. **Field set up is the responsibility of BOTH teams** - Please work together to get this done as quickly as possible to avoid game delays.
 - a. Delays at the beginning of the day cause a ripple effect that jeopardizes the last game of the day.
 - b. The home team of the last game played on any given date is responsible for ensuring that everything is stored and locked, and that the lights are turned off, if on.
3. **Pre-Game Warm Ups** - There are no on-field pre-game warm ups.
 - a. Ground balls may be fielded in the side lines of Dunsmore and Scholl.
 - b. All warm ups at Stengel must be in the outfield.
4. **Pre-Game Conference** -
 - a. Is limited to the head coach of both teams and umpire.
 - b. Handshakes are permitted but should be avoided.
 - c. Line-up cards are exchanged with the umpire and opposing team manager.
5. **Team Dugouts** -
 - a. Only coaches and players are permitted in the dugout.
 - b. Family members, observers, and visitors are not permitted near the dugouts or in the immediate area of the dugout.
6. **Baseballs** - NFHS stamped baseballs are recommended for this division.
7. **Bats** -
 - a. The use of team bats is discouraged. If bats are shared, the players should sanitize their hands after use if batting gloves are not used.
 - b. Only USABaseball (USABaseball.com), BBCOR 0.5 bats, and wood bats are allowed. No other bat designations or previously approved bats that do not bear these designations are allowed.
 - c. IF any bat is missing the silk-screened designations on the bat, the bat will NOT be allowed.

- d. Play is rolled back and an out is called. An out is only called after the infraction not for subsequent at-bats in the lineup.
- e. PLEASE assure that all the bats being used on your team are legal.

8. **Batter's Box** -

- a. The batter's box is 6 feet by 4 feet with the inside border 6" from the plate.
- b. Batters are required to keep one foot in the batter's box when receiving signals (signs) from the coaches in the coach's box.
 - i. If the player does not, the umpire will first warn and then call a strike.

9. **Batting** - Each team may bat 9 or the full line up if there are more than 9 players on team.

10. **Catcher's Mask & Throat Protector** -

- a. Any player warming up a pitcher at any location shall wear a mask.
- b. An extended "dangling" throat protector is considered a required part of the catcher's mask.
- c. Hockey-style catcher's masks with built-in extended throat protection are approved and do not require an extended "dangling" throat protector.

11. **Catchers / Pitchers** -

- a. A catcher may not pitch if used as a catcher more than 3 innings in a game.
- b. A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of the day.
- c. No player may catch more than 3 innings and pitch more than 41 pitches in a game.

12. **Courtesy Runners** (Rule 3.04, (49)) -

- a. At any time, the team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher. In the event that the offensive team bats around, the pitcher and/or the catcher who had a courtesy runner inserted on their behalf may bat in their normal position in the batting order.
- b. The same individual runner may not be used for both positions (pitcher and catcher) during the game (or inning (local league rule)).
- c. Neither the pitcher nor catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
- d. For purposes of local league play, the last two batters put out may be used as courtesy runners for the pitcher and catcher.

13. **Ejections** - Managers and coaches must set a good example.

- a. There is a one-game suspension for the next scheduled game for any ejection.
- b. Umpires should report all ejections to their scheduler.
- c. The umpire schedulers will report ejections to the league commissioner.

14. **Field Lights** -

- a. The fields light control boxes at all the Glendale City fields require combination codes to open. Lights are turned on and off at these boxes.
- b. The lights are programmed and will go out at 10 p.m. at Dunsmore and Scholl.
- c. No games will be allowed to continue past 9:55 pm at Dunsmore and Scholl.

15. **Game Balls** -

- a. Each team will provide 2 new balls at the start of the game.
- b. The umpire will keep the game balls and issue them when necessary.

16. **Hands** - Hands are the gatekeepers to prevent disease exposure that isn't airborne.

- a. Players should avoid touching their faces with their hands at all times.
- b. Avoid physical contact between player and coaches like fist-bumping or high fives.

17. **Intentional Walk** - An intentional base on balls may be given by the defensive team by having its catcher or coach request the umpire to award the batter first base. This may be done before pitching to the batter or on any ball and strike count.

- a. The ball is declared dead before making the award.
- b. Only count actual pitches thrown to a batter. (27)

18. **Manager / Coaches** -

- a. A manager and three league approved coaches are allowed on the field.
- b. Two adult coaches will be allowed on the field as base coaches.
- c. Players used as base coaches must wear a regulation helmet.
- d. Only approved managers and coaches are allowed on the playing field during a game.

19. **Mercy rule will be in effect in every game** - If a team is losing by 10 runs or more after 5 innings have been completed, or $4\frac{1}{2}$ if the home team is ahead, the game will be called. For local league play, a game will be terminated immediately if one team is ahead by 15 or more runs after $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 innings and has equal times at bat. (28)

20. **Minimum Players on the Field** - A team is permitted to play a game with a minimum of 8 players when the opposing team has a minimum of 8 players, too.

- a. A team that does not have a minimum of 8 players to start a game forfeits the game.
- b. With 8 players:
 - i. The official lineup will show batters 1 - 8 with the 9th spot vacant.
 - ii. An out is recorded every time the 9th batter would have batted.
- c. When batting 9 and a player leaves early with no available substitutes, an out is recorded when the first time a missing player would have batted. No subsequent outs are recorded after the first time.

- d. When batting the entire lineup with more than 9 batters and a player leaves early, an out is recorded the first time the missing player would have batted. No subsequent outs are recorded after the first time.
- e. When batting 9 or the full lineup and a player is ejected, an out is recorded every time the missing player would have batted.
- f. The use of substitute players is permitted.

21. **Minimum Play Requirements** – For local league play, unrestricted defensive substitutions will be allowed if all players in the lineup are batting to facilitate meeting the minimum playing requirements.

- a. If a team is only batting 9 players with other players available, the following rules apply:
 - i. Each player must play defensively for a minimum of six (6) consecutive outs and complete one (1) time at bat.
 - ii. A starter may not return to the game until his replacement has met his minimum playing requirements. In other words, all substitutes must play six (6) consecutive defensive outs and have one (1) at bat before being removed from the game.
 - iii. Any player who does not meet the minimum playing requirements must start the next game and complete the requirements from the previous game and the current game before being removed from the current game.
 - iv. For games shortened by rain or run differential, there is no penalty. Any player who does not play in shortened game will start the next game.
 - v. Any manager who willfully or repeatedly fails to follow the substitution protocol is subject to disciplinary action, including suspension for one or more games.
- b. The team managers are responsible to assure that each player on their team receives equal playing time.
- c. Every player should expect to play the same amount of time as any other player on the team during every game.

22. **Pitchers** –

- a. A pitcher in this division may pitch 7 innings per calendar week.
- b. A calendar week is Mon – Sun including Sun.
- c. One pitch in an inning is considered an inning pitched.
- d. The maximum number of pitches in one day is 95.
- e. If the pitcher reaches the maximum pitch count limit while facing a batter, he or she may continue to pitch until the batter safely reaches base or is put out.
- f. A pitcher must have 2 calendar days rest between pitching assignments if he/she pitches more than 3 innings in any one game. (10)
- g. Please note the Catchers / Pitchers restrictions rule (#11).

23. **Post-Game Activities** -

- a. After-game activities with touching of any kind to acknowledge the other team should be avoided.
- b. A parade of players with no touching is permitted.
- c. Team snacks and gatherings after a game are permitted.

24. **Protests** are to be handled on the field prior to the next pitch. The umpire will make the final call after review.

25. **Rainouts will be rescheduled** - Depending on weather and field space, it may be necessary to play back-to-back games on consecutive days. **Please be prepared to play a rain impacted game in the same week.** Fridays are usually kept open for this purpose.

26. **Returning High School Players** -

- a. No returning HS players can participate in the playoffs.
- b. If a HS player is cut or quits with more than half of the HS season remaining, he / she may be added to a junior team during the regular season.

27. **Score Boards** - There are working score boards at Dunsmore and Scholl. Their use is optional and not required by the league.

- a. Visiting team is responsible for scoreboard operation or it can be any volunteer.
- b. Controllers must be secured after each game.

28. **Scorekeeping** -

- a. The home team has primary responsibility for the official scorekeeper.
- b. Line-up cards are exchanged between teams.
- c. Please give legible line-up sheets (last name, first name, jersey #, and position) to scorekeeper and opposing manager.

29. **Slide and Avoid Rule** - All players MUST slide or attempt to go around player with ball attempting to make a tag at any base.

30. **Substitute Players** -

- a. Substitute players from other teams or pools may be used.
- b. A substitute player is defined as a player from another team within the division that is used on another team for the purposes of assuring that 9 players are fielded by a team for a game.
- c. Substitute players must bat at the end of the lineup.
- d. Substitute players may not play the positions of catcher, pitcher, or shortstop.
- e. Substitute players should use their regular team uniform.
- f. Players from the opposing team in a game may be used as substitute players AND must bat in the lineup of the borrowing team. This is at the discretion of the lending team manager.

31. **Third to First Pickoff Move** - The 3rd to 1st pickoff move is not allowed in BR. (80)
32. **Trash Pickup** - Please assure that all trash is picked up after game from the dugouts, score booths, and surrounding areas.
33. **Umpires** - Are allowed a 25-minute grace period for arrival to a game.
 - a. An umpire may call the game from behind the plate or mound.
 - b. Line-up cards will be handled by the umpire.
 - c. Umpires will avoid handling player equipment on the field.
 - d. Only a team manager may address the umpire.
34. **Warming up a Pitcher** - Managers or coaches may warm up pitchers wearing an approved catcher's mask.
35. **Misc**
 - a. Metal cleats may be used in this division. Football or soccer cleats should not be used.
 - b. Bat selection is the one thing that players and parents usually get wrong. You can provide a copy of the bat selection charts to parents. It is also recommended that players planning to play in HS should get into a BBCOR 0.5 bat as soon as possible.