

## **Babe Ruth League, Inc. – Southeast Region**

### **2012 DISTRICT, STATE, & REGIONAL BABE RUTH SOFTBALL 8U LEAGUE RULES**

#### **Tournament Rules (and recommended regular season rules):**

1. A spring-loaded Louisville Slugger Portable Pitching Machine will be used in Regional Tournament play.

2. Age: 8 & under (must have been registered with Babe Ruth League, Inc.). Players cannot turn 9 before January 1st (2012).

3. Player roster: 12- to 15-player roster with 10 players batting in order (11 with EH).

A. An Extra Hitter (EH) can be used as the 11th batter. If a team elects this option it must start with the EH and end with the EH or forfeit the game. [Both teams in a game are not required to use this option.]

B. There will be four outfielders. ALL outfielders must remain in the grass area of the outfield (cannot be positioned in the infield at any time).

C. One player is placed on either side of the pitching machine assuming the defensive position of the pitcher. Both feet must remain inside the pitchers circle until the ball is hit.

D. The catcher takes her normal position in full gear.

4. Game length: 6 innings. Each batter receives a maximum of five pitches. If the batter strikes out, or if the ball has not been hit into play after five pitches, the batter is out.

A. If the batter fouls the 5th pitch, batter will receive pitches as long as batter continues to foul pitches. [Note: Any fouled bunt after two strikes is an out.]

B. The half inning is over when three outs are made.

C. The batter is out if she swings on a third strike and misses the ball.

5. Field dimensions: Standard Babe Ruth 12U Softball Division base length of 60 ft.

6. Pitching machine: The pitching machine is placed at 35 ft. with a speed of 32 mph (established when ball crosses home plate). The front two legs of the machine must be placed in front of the pitching rubber (best if up against the front edge of the rubber or at least the front edge of any underground base for the pitching rubber). Coaches are not allowed to check the machine before their team bats. Only umpires can make adjustment decisions.

7. UMPIRE will feed the machine. Machine should be checked prior to batting. Only the umpire can make adjustments during play.

8. Dead ball:

A. The ball will be declared dead when the defensive team stops the lead runner or the runner abandons the effort to advance. Once play has been stopped, no other runners may advance beyond the last base tagged.

B. The ball will be declared dead when a player is injured and in the umpire's judgment is unable to continue the play.

C. When a batted ball hits the pitching machine (Refer to Rule 5.09(f)). [The pitching machine is considered the same as an umpire. When the ball is declared dead, the batter occupies first base and the base runners advance one base, only if forced.]

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9. Infield fly rule: There is NO INFIELD FLY RULE.

10. Bunting: Bunting is allowed. However, NO FAKE BUNTING IS ALLOWED. If the batter offers to bunt then she must bunt the ball or pull the bat back to take the pitch. If the batter offers to bunt, pulls the bat back and then swings at the pitch, the batter will automatically be declared out by the umpire.

11. Courtesy Runner: The catcher may have a courtesy runner run for them every time they

are up to bat. Each courtesy runner used must be a player who is not in the game at the time. Each courtesy runner may only pinch run once per inning.

12. Base stealing: Base stealing is NOT PERMITTED

13.

Softballs: Must use approved Babe Ruth 11" softballs.

Optional Regular Season Rules but required for Tournament Play (District through Regional):

13. Ten-run rule: The ten-run rule (4 complete innings, or 3-1/2 innings if home team is ahead) will be in effect (tournaments only).

14. Umpires: Two umpires will be on the field at all times (one on the field and one at home plate, behind the batter). One will feed the pitching machine.

15. Credentials: Approved birth documents, Certificates of Accidental & Liability Insurance, Tournament Team Roster, Letter of Eligibility, Consent for Treatment forms, a 5x7 or 8x10 color or black and white team photo with the players, manager, and coaches identified, and Coaches Certificate of Completion of the Coaches Certification Program are required.

In addition, Babe Ruth Softball patches must be displayed as specified in the current Rule Book.

16. Type of elimination [Note - The 1st and 2nd place State winners advance to the Southeast Regional Level.]:

At the Regional level, pool play will be in effect with the teams placing 1st and 2nd in each pool division advancing to the championship round (single elimination).

Please note: In the 8U League, the Pitcher position is only a reference to a "Fielder's" Position (does not throw a pitch). Therefore, there is NO "Number of Innings Pitched" rule for the player in the position. The position player must remain within the

“mound” 8’ diameter circle and behind the machine (on either the right or left side) until the ball is hit. A “Courtesy Runner” is not allowed for the pitcher.

Reapproved by Henry P. Sermons, March 15, 2012