

**Melrose Babe Ruth League
Rules and Regulations
(Updated April 2021)**

1. League Principles

The Melrose Babe Ruth League is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to developing better citizens by providing properly supervised baseball competition for 13 through 16-year-old players.

The League will stress to all participants including players, coaches, officers, board members, and parents our commitment to administering a Code of Conduct that follows the spirit and intent of the:

Sportsmanship Code of Babe Ruth Baseball

Develop a strong, clean, healthy body, mind and soul.
Develop a strong urge for sportsman-like conduct.
Develop understanding of and respect for the rules.
Develop courage in defeat, tolerance and modesty in victory.
Develop control over emotions and speech.
Develop spirit of cooperation and team play.
Develop in real true citizens.

2. Conduct for Players, Coaches, and Spectators

- A. It is the responsibility of managers, coaches, players, and spectators to always conduct themselves in an appropriate manner, including refraining from any behavior that could be interpreted as unsportsmanlike. Personal name-calling, profanity, throwing of equipment, abuse of the umpire, or the use of obscene language or gestures may result in ejection from the game.
- B. Any player, manager, or coach ejected from a game shall face disciplinary action by the Board of Directors with the minimum penalty for the first ejection being suspension from the next game, in addition to the ejection from the subject game. In the event there is physical contact, the Board may apply additional penalties.
- C. If a player is ejected from a game, he will be ineligible to play in the next game but must be in uniform at the next game and sit on the bench. Failure to meet this requirement will require a carry over to the next game.
- D. If a player, manager, or coach is ejected twice in a season, the minimum penalty is a 2 game suspension in addition to the ejection from the subject game. Additional penalties may be imposed at the discretion of the Board of Directors. If a player,

manager, or coach is ejected three (3) times in a season, the minimum penalty is suspension for the remainder of the season, including playoff games and any summer programs.

- E. When a manager, coach, or player is ejected from a game, they shall leave the field immediately and take no further part in the game. They may not sit in the stands and may not be recalled. The intent of this rule is that the ejection causes the ejected person to be out of sight and hearing of all participants. In the event a player is ejected it is required of the manager to provide responsible supervision off premises for ejected player.
- F. Any manager and/or coach ejected by an official from a game is ineligible to coach at any league game at any level until the terms of the suspension have been fulfilled. The manager or coach may not be in attendance in the ballpark or in the vicinity of the game or in any way participate in the game either directly or indirectly.
- G. The Board of Directors must be notified directly (within 24 hours) of any ejected player, manager, coach, or spectator. This notification, consisting of the name and number (if player) of the person ejected, should be made by both managers—the home and visiting teams.
- H. Any manager or coach who repeatedly harasses umpires shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.
- I. No player shall be allowed to harass opposing players, managers, or coaches. Such action shall be cause for ejection in which case Rules 2B and 2D will be operative.
- J. Managers, coaches, players, and spectators may be subject to additional disciplinary action including multiple game suspensions, removal from position, and/or up to expulsion from the League for conduct deemed to be detrimental, destructive, disruptive or not in the best interest, safety or benefit of the League.

3. Spectator and Parental Conduct

The improper conduct of spectators, including parents, has an adverse effect upon players, coaches, umpires, other spectators and the course of the game or practice. In order to ensure a positive atmosphere for our players, all spectators and parents are required to abide by the following rules.

- A. While at the site of any Melrose Babe Ruth event, which shall include games, scrimmages, or practice spectators, including parents, are prohibited from: using profanity, using obscene language or gestures, and abusing umpires or coaches.
- B. Under no circumstances may a parent or spectator enter upon the field of play at a Melrose Babe Ruth event, unless specifically invited to enter the field of play by a

coach, officer, or member of the Board of Directors. The field of play includes any and all areas of the field which are determined, for purposes of a game, to be “fair territory” and “foul territory”.

- C. At the Pine Banks facility spectators and parents are prohibited from standing in back of or immediately to the side of the teams’ dugouts.
- D. Under no circumstances shall a parent engage in a conversation or discussion with a coach at either a practice or a game while players, including the son or daughter of the parent, are present. The posing of a question concerning timing of a practice or games and the exchange of salutations is not considered a conversation or discussion. Any such discussions shall be in a civil and respectful manner by all participants and shall be free from profanity or obscene language.
- E. Violation of any of the foregoing rules shall result in the imposition of such penalties as determined appropriate to the circumstances by the Board of Directors. Such penalties shall include, but not be limited to, a spectator or parent’s forfeiture of the right to attend Melrose Babe Ruth games. If a parent or spectator is prohibited from attending Melrose Babe Ruth games they may not be present at the site of competition and shall be out of the sight and the hearing of all participants in the game. In the first instance any penalty administered shall be directed against the parent and in the event the parent fails to abide by the decision of the Board of Directors or is the subject of a repeat infraction of any of these rules the Board shall administer such suspension against the son or daughter of the parent as is deemed necessary to insure compliance with the aforesaid decision. Such penalty against player may include expulsion from Melrose Babe Ruth.

4. Managers and Coaches

- A. All managers (head coaches) are responsible for ensuring that at least one coach is present at every game.
- B. Each team should have at least one additional coach.
- C. All coaches must be approved by the League and should be listed on the official team roster.
- D. No manager (head coach) may manage another team within the same division except in the case of an emergency.
- E. The President may not manage any team unless approved by the Board of Directors.

5. Quorum at League Meetings

In order for a vote to be taken on any business related to league rules, regulations or expenses, there must be at least five voting members present including the President or his designee. League votes may be taken by email, with five members voting to be considered a quorum.

6. Draft

- A. All divisions' teams will draft in a blind draft format. New teams are established each year. Team selection will be guided by the Board of Directors to select balanced clubs with pitchers, catchers, and remaining body of team members. Once teams are selected, coaches are positioned to a team by selecting a number from a hat. Sons/daughters of managers (head coaches) and one assistant coach will then be traded for players of comparable skill, with other trades being made as necessary to ensure balanced teams.
- B. If an expansion team is necessary, the Board of Directors reserves the right to determine the most equitable method to be used including protecting players or the use of multiple picks. The Player Agent and the Board of Directors will make every effort to assure balance and parity in the league.
- C. The draft process consists of **confidential** discussions and evaluation information. Every effort should be made to protect the privacy of players.
- D. The Player Agent will maintain a list of eligible player and birth dates.

7. Rosters

- A. No players may be traded except immediately following the draft, and then only for a player equal to one round above or below the player being traded, with final approval by the Board of Directors. No trades may be made once the draft meeting is closed.
- B. No player may be cut from a team. A player may be suspended for disciplinary reasons. The Board of Directors must approve disciplinary actions.
- C. If a player quits a team he may be replaced by an eligible undrafted player with the approval of the Board of Directors. The Player Agent shall maintain a list of eligible players.

8. Player Fees

Each season the Board of Directors will determine player fees for each division. Player

fees must be paid in full prior to the draft in order for a player to be eligible. The Board of Directors will review any hardship cases and must approve alternate payment plans. All discussions regarding hardship cases will be held in strict confidence.

9. Player Eligibility

- A. No Freshmen, JV, and Varsity Baseball pitcher may pitch in a Melrose Babe Ruth game while his/her school's season is in progress, and while that player is on a high school coach's list.
- B. The Player Agent will maintain a list of pitchers as submitted from local high school area coaches

10. Minimum Inning Requirement

All players must play at least 3 innings in the field and have 1 at bat. The only exception to this rule would be if the game is ended by inclement weather or when Rule 25 applies.

11. Team Responsibilities

- A. The Home Team as listed second on the schedule shall supply four baseballs for each game.
- B. The Home Team shall sit on the third base side of the field.
- C. Both teams are responsible for retrieving foul balls.
- D. Both teams are responsible for post-game clean up and policing of the field and surrounding areas.
- E. Both teams are responsible for spreading the tarp on the field every night after the last game on a field

12. Regulation Game

- A. Games shall consist of seven innings.
- B. If the Home Team is leading after 3 1/2 innings and the game is called because of darkness or inclement weather, it will be considered a legal and regulation game.
- C. If the Home Team is losing, four complete innings must be played for the game to be considered legal.

- D. If the game is called in the top of an inning and the home team has not had a chance to bat, the score will revert to the previous complete inning.
- E. The umpire has sole responsibility for calling the game once it has begun.

13. No Game

- A. During the regular season, if a game fails to reach the regulations 3 ½ to 4 inning minimum, it is not a regulation game and will resume from the point of suspension at a later date, if possible.

14. Game Times and Curfews

- A. All weekday first games will begin promptly at 6:00 PM with no inning to start after 8:00 PM. The game shall be declared over at 8:10 PM.
- B. All weekday second games will begin at 8:15 promptly immediately after the first game concludes, with no infield/outfield warmup for either team. No inning shall begin after 10:15 PM. The game is over at 10:25.
- C. If an inning isn't completed the game reverts to the last completed inning.
- D. For games where the high school holds up the start of the game, the remaining time will be equally divided for the two games. For example, if the high school clears the field at 6:25, then there will be 4 hours of playing time. The first game would end at 8:25 and the second game would end at 10:25.
- E. For weekend games, no inning may begin 2 hours after the start of a game and will be declared over 2 hours and 10 minutes after the start of the game.

15. Make-Up Games

- A. The Scheduler will reschedule make-up games. Games may not be cancelled without permission of the Scheduler or his designee.

16. Protests

- A. All disputes will be reviewed and ruled on by the Board of Directors. A prompt ruling will be rendered and sent to all concerned parties. This ruling is final.
- B. Notice that a game is being played under protest must be filed with the umpire-in-

chief by the manager (head coach) immediately at the time of the disputed decision and before the next pitched ball to the batter or next play. The scorebook must be signed by the umpire and the two head coaches indicating the game and situation in which the protest is being made.

- C. A written report setting forth all the facts of the protest must be filed to the Board of Directors by 6:00 PM of the next day following the game in question.
- D. No protests will be considered involving a judgment call by an umpire; only rule misinterpretations will be considered for protest.

17. Pitching Rules

- A. A pitcher may pitch seven (7) innings per calendar week. This includes rescheduled and make-up games. For the Prep league, pitchers will be limited to three innings per game for the first few games of the year. The Board will inform the coaches on when the three inning limit is lifted.
- B. Monday through Sunday is a calendar week.
- C. If a pitcher delivers one (1) pitch in an inning he shall be charged for one (1) inning pitched.
- D. A pitcher must have one (1) calendar day rest between pitching assignments in which the pitcher pitches in three innings **or** less.
- E. A pitcher must have two (2) calendar days rest between pitching assignments in which the pitcher pitches in more than three (3) innings. Example: A pitcher who pitches more than three innings on Sunday will not be eligible to pitch until Wednesday.
- F. Each game in which the pitcher pitches is considered an assignment, Therefore, a pitcher in the same game may start out as a pitcher, play another position, and return to the mound and this would still be considered as one (1) assignment.
- G. Games which are halted due to weather are considered as pitched games. Example: a player pitches the first inning on a Tuesday and then the game is halted due to rain, that pitcher must have one day's rest.
- H. Games in which an ineligible pitcher has been used shall be declared a forfeit. I. Trips to the mound by a manager or coach may not exceed one trip per inning per pitcher. The second trip in an inning automatically results in the removal of that player as a pitcher, for the game.
- I. For playoff games only, the seven innings per calendar week rule is suspended.

The following pitching rule shall apply: No pitcher shall be allowed to pitch in more than seven (7) innings in any two (2) successive games.

18. Forfeits

- A. Games in which an ineligible pitcher or player has been used shall be declared a forfeit. The ineligible player must be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors within 48 hours of the end of the game.
- B. A team must have eight (8) eligible players to start a ballgame. During the regular season, if a team has only 8 players, the team should borrow a player from the opposing team or another team. That player should play in the outfield and bat at the bottom of the order.
- C. Starting times of the game will be listed in the schedule or as determined in case of rescheduled games. There is a fifteen-minute grace period, however, game times remain as described in Rule 14 Games Times and Curfews.
- D. If during a game an injury occurs and causes a team to have less than eight players, the team should borrow additional players from their opponent in order to have 9 defensive players.
- E. If an ejection causes a team to have less than eight eligible players, this will result in an automatic forfeit

19. Hidden Ball

Hidden Ball tricks are not allowed.

20. Balks

- A. Major League Division. No warnings will be given on balks.
- B. Prep League Division. No balks shall be called during the regular season. If there is a balk called, the umpire shall explain the infraction to the pitcher and the pitcher's manager.
- C. In the Prep division, balks will be called during the playoffs

21. Protective Equipment

- A. Helmets with double earflaps must be worn by all batters, base runners, and player

base coaches

- B. Headgear must be worn by every catcher. This headgear must cover the top of the head.
- C. Masks worn by the catchers shall have a throat protector.
- D. All catchers must wear a protective cup.
- E. Any player refusing to wear any of this protective gear shall be removed from the game.

22. Baseball Shoes

- A. Any type of spike, whether plastic or metal may be used in both the Major and Minors.
- B. Metal spikes of any kind CAN NOT be worn on the Pine Banks turf field

23. Discipline and Ejection

- A. It is the responsibility of managers, coaches, players and parents to always conduct themselves in an appropriate manner, including refraining from any behavior that could be interpreted as unsportsmanlike. Personal name-calling, profanity, throwing of equipment, abuse of the umpire, or the use of obscene language or gestures may result in ejection from the game.
- B. If a player is ejected from a game by the umpire, he will be ineligible to play in the next game. The player must be in uniform at the next game and sit on the bench. Failure to meet this requirement will require a carry over to the next game.
- C. If a player is ejected from a game for a second time during a season he will be required to sit out two games. The bench and uniform requirement as described above must be met before the player will be eligible to play.
- D. If a coach or manager is ejected from a game he will not be allowed to coach or manage the next game. NOTE: The coach may not be in attendance in the ballpark or in the vicinity of the game or in any way participate in the game either directly or indirectly.
- E. Managers, coaches, players and parents may be subject to additional disciplinary action including multiple game suspensions, removal from position, and/or up to expulsion from the League for conduct deemed to be detrimental, destructive, disruptive or not in the best interest, safety or benefit of the League.

24. Contact Rule

- A. If a runner attempting to reach home plate intentionally runs into a defensive player in the area of home plate, he will be called out on the play and ejected from the game. The objective of this rule is to penalize the offensive team for crashing the defensive player rather than trying to reach home plate. This is an umpire's judgment call.
- B. If a runner is forced to advance to another base, the runner must slide or veer to the side to avoid contact or the runner will be declared out. If contact is made and is deemed intentional by the umpire the player is subject to ejection.

25. Twelve Run Rule (both Divisions)

- A. A game will be declared over IF after (4 ½ inning (if the home team is leading) or 5 innings) if one team is ahead by 12 or more runs.
- B. If the visiting team is behind 12 runs or more after batting in the top of the 6th inning, the game is over and the home team wins. If the home team is behind 12 runs or more after batting in the bottom of the 6thth inning, the game is over and the visiting team wins.

26. Intentional Walks

- A. Intentional walks are allowed. The manager of the defensive team shall inform the umpire that the batter is to put on first base. No pitches need be thrown.

27. Line-up and Substitution Rules for Regular Season and Playoffs—Both Levels

- A. Each player in attendance at a game must be included in the batting order for his team and bat in a rotating/perpetual batting order (i.e. all players for each participating team are included in the batting order).
- B. If a player must leave the game for whatever reason, his/her batting position becomes vacant for the remainder of the game. The line-up does not assume an out for the vacated position.
- C. If a player arrives after the lineups have been given to the opposing team, the player will be put into the last batting position after notifying the opposing manager of the late arrival.
- D. There shall be free substitution of all players in defensive positions, except pitchers who are governed by the above-mentioned rules. Each player must play a minimum of 3 innings in the field unless the game is shortened.

- E. Unless **the league** has suspended a player, coaches are to follow the three inning minimum rule.
- F. A player must not sit out more than two consecutive innings.

28. Playoffs

- A. All teams make the playoffs in both divisions.
- B. The playoff format is double elimination with the exception of the championship game which will be single elimination.
- C. The League reserves the right to alter the format if weather conditions or other issues make it necessary or beneficial.

***No smoking is permitted in or around the field, dugouts, or backstops and bleachers.**