

**Melrose Babe Ruth League
Rules and Regulations
(Updated October 2010)**

1. League Principles

The Melrose Babe Ruth League, Inc. is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to developing better citizens by providing properly supervised baseball competition for 13 through 18-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 and Coaches

- A. Any player, manager and/or coach ejected from the 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 addition, (i) if a player, manager or coach is ejected twice in a season, the minimum penalty is a one (1) week suspension in addition to the ejection from the subject game and (ii) 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 all Rounds playoff games, the Tournament of Champions and the All Star Game). In the event there is physical contact, the Board may apply additional penalties.
- B. 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.
- C. Any manager and/or coach ejected by an official from a game are ineligible to coach at any league game at any level until the next contest at the same level has been completed.
- D. During the suspension the disqualified coach may not be present at the competition site.
- E. Commissioners 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 home and visiting teams.

- F. Any manager or coach who repeatedly harasses umpires shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.
- G. No player shall be allowed to harass opposing players, managers or coaches. Such action shall be cause for ejection in which case Rule 18.2 will be operative.

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 insure 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 or 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 Bank 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 Melrose Babe Ruth 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 expected to be 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.

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. Sons/daughters of managers (head coaches) and one assistant will be automatically optioned to their parent or sibling's team. Before the draft process the Player Agent and the Board of Directors will determine what round of the draft the player must be selected.
- B. 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.
- C. 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.
- D. The draft process consists of **confidential** discussions and evaluation information. Every effort should be made to protect the privacy of players.
- E. The Player Agent will maintain a list of eligible player and birth dates.

7. **Rosters**

- A. Teams may carry up to 13 players.
- B. No players may be traded except immediately following the draft meetings, and then only for a player equal to one round above or below the player being traded, with final approval by the MBR Board.
- C. No player may be cut from a team. A player may be suspended for disciplinary reasons. The President must approve disciplinary actions along with the Executive Board.
- D. If a player quits a team he may be replaced by an eligible undrafted player with the approval of the President. 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. Players must be paid in full prior to be eligible for the draft. The Board of Directors will review any hardship cases and 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 the MBR while his/her school's season is in progress, and while that player is on a high school coach's list.
- B. President and Player Agent will maintain a list of pitchers as submitted from local H.S 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 is the weather, curfew or when the slaughter rule occurs.

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. Team at bat is 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 at Morelli.
- F. Home team is responsible for applying the infield lines at Morelli.

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. There will be no extra innings during regular season games.
- E. 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 back to the previous complete inning.
- F. 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 must be replayed in its entirety.
- B. All playoff and championship games must be played in its entirety. If a game is suspended for any reason, it will be resumed from the exact point of suspension.

14. Game Times and Curfews

- A. All weekday first games will begin promptly at 5:45 PM with no inning to start after 7:45 PM. The game shall be declared over at 8:00 PM.
- B. All weekday second games will begin promptly immediately after first game concludes, with no inning beginning after 10 PM. No infield warmup for second game. The game is over at 10:15.
- C. If an inning isn't completed the game reverts back 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. If the high school clears the field at 6:25, then there's 3:50 minutes of playing time-First game would end 8:20--10:15 second game ends.
- E. For weekend games, no inning may begin 2 hours and 15 minutes after the start of a game and will be declared over 2 hours and 30 minutes after the start of the game.
- F. No extra innings in regular season.

15. Make-Up Games

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

16. Protests

- A. All disputes will be reviewed and ruled on by the Executive Board and the President. 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 League President 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 Minors, pitchers will be limited to four innings per game for the first few games of the year. The Board will inform the coaches on when the four 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 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.
- E. A pitcher must have a one- (1) calendar day rest between pitching assignments in which the pitcher pitches in three innings **or** less.
- 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.
- J. For Playoff games and Babe Ruth Tournament games only, 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.
- B. A team must have nine (9) 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 nine players, but has remaining ineligible players on the bench, the opposing manager (head coach) will select a player to take the injured player's place.
- E. If an ejection causes a team to have less than nine 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. Minors League Division. The umpire shall give each pitcher one warning before calling a balk.

21. Protective Equipment

- A. Helmets with double earflaps must be worn by all batter and base runners.
- 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

Any type of spike, whether plastic or metal may be used in both the Major and Minors.

23. Disciplines 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

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. Force plays: What is commonly known as the "slide rule" is addressed in Babe Ruth rule 7.09(G) and is also a judgment call by the umpire.

25. Twelve Run Rule (both Divisions)

League game will be terminated IF after (4 ¹/₂ -5 innings) if one team is ahead by 12 or more runs and have held equal times at bat or the home team is leading. 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 last of the 6thth inning, the game is over and the visiting team wins.

26. Intentional Walks

There shall be no intentional walks.

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

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).

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. If a player arrives after the lineups have been given to the opposing team, the player will be put in to the last batting position after notifying the opposing manager of the late arrival. 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 3 innings in the field, unless the game is shortened. Unless **the league** has suspended a player, coaches are to follow the three inning minimum rule. A player should not sit out more than two consecutive innings.

28. Playoffs

All teams make the playoffs in both divisions. For 2011, the League will use a Double-elimination format for the playoffs at both levels. 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.**