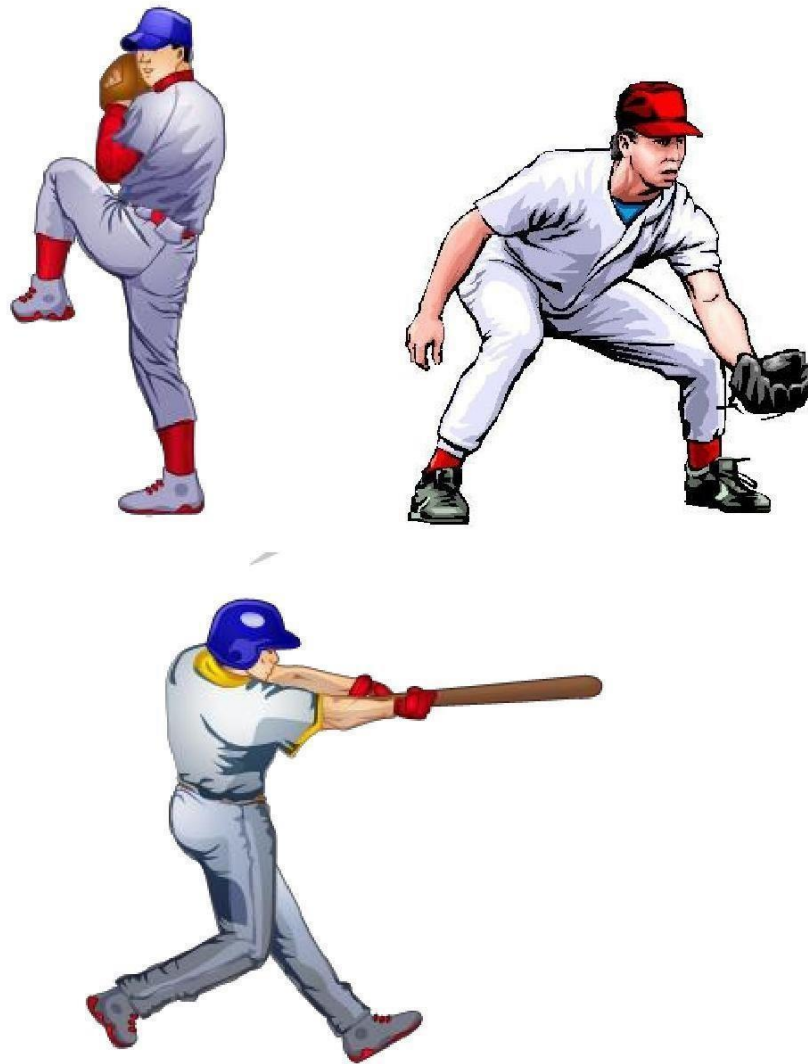


Bethel Baseball Association

Rules

2017-2018



Approved on February 20, 2018. These rules supersede all prior rule changes

Bethel Baseball Association (BBA) Rules and Regulations 2017-2018

The purpose of BBA is to provide, for every age eligible bethel resident, a chance to play the game of baseball. The 2 divisions are Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth

BBA- is governed by a board of directors, its by-laws and in accordance with Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth rules and regulations

The BBA Board –is nominated at the September meeting, elected in October, and officially takes office on November 1st.

League Rules and Regulations – may be added, amended or rescinded by a two thirds vote of board members present at general board meetings during the off season. The off season is defined as the period from August 31st through March 31st. Safety issues may be addressed at any time. The rule change process is initiated by a written proposal to the rules committee for assessment and review. The rules committee will present all proposals to the board for a two thirds vote for approval. Abstentions are considered a “Null” or non-vote and the individual has decided not to participate in the subject vote.

Regular Season Managers-are appointed based on nominations or recommendations made by league commissioners, the player agent, the board of directors or the President during the February board meeting to the executive board. The league shall not permit a person to manage more than one team, (They may assist on other teams), unless all other options have been exhausted and there are no other candidates.

Web Sites- All web sites depicting BBA activities including articles, pictures, results etc., are not authorized, unless approved in advance by the Board of Directors.

Dual Participation Rule- See Babe Ruth rule book

BBA Players- With the exception of scholastic teams, players are prohibited from participating on a team or in a league of any other baseball program during the spring (including the tournament season) or fall baseball season. This means that any player may play in another league during the summer after the conclusion of the BBA regular season. If a player is on a BBA travel team, he/she may not play on another team. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the immediate suspension of the player from BBA by the league president.

Swing Option- The VP of Cal Ripken may elect to permit a 12 year old player to also play in the 13 year old Prep League. Swing players are INELIGIBLE to pitch or catch in a prep league game. See BR Rule book.

Zero Tolerance- Players, coaches, officials and spectators are not to use inappropriate language, sign language or throw baseball equipment during practices or games. If a player, manager or coach gets into a physical confrontation they will be automatically ejected from the game. If equipment is thrown they will also be ejected. NO WARNINGS !!! Zero Tolerance for any of this type of activity !!!! If a player is ejected, it is an automatic one (1) game suspension, not including the game from which he/she was ejected. A report by the league commissioner will be submitted to the player agent, VP of appropriate division, and the league president. If a manager or coach is ejected, it is an automatic three (3) game suspension. If a repeat incident occurs for either player, manager or coach, they will be subject to a DRB hearing. If spectators are unruly or out of control they will be asked to leave the facility by the umpire, Manager or league official. If they refuse the police will be summoned for appropriate action. An incident report must be submitted by the appropriate league commissioner to the player agent, appropriate VP and the president.

The Team/Game-

- All games are to be played in accordance with the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth rule book.
- BBA rules are in addition to and supplement the BR rules.
- All Baseball players are required to provide their own GRAY baseball pants.
- Teams can play a game with a minimum of eight (8) players. A ten (10) minute grace period will be allowed if the 8th player is on the way. If the 8th player does not show up in 10 minutes the game will be declared a forfeit.
- The home team is assigned the first base dugout and will be responsible for taking care of installing and removing bases. This includes placing black plugs in the holes when the bases are removed.
- The team located on the scoreboard side of the field is responsible for posting the score during the game and returning scorecards to the shed at the conclusion of their game.

Managers and Coaches-

- A maximum of four (4) CERTIFIED COACHES, One (1) manager and three (3) coaches are allowed on the field/dugout during the game.
- Siblings are not permitted on the field, in the dugout or batting cages during a game.
- All players must be in the dugout or on deck cage when their team is at bat.
- An on deck batter must be in the on deck cage while awaiting their turn at bat.
- While on defense, all reserve players must be in the dugouts at all times.

Coach and Umpire Etiquette

- The manager is the only coach that can question or discuss an umpires call or request an interpretation of it.
- All other coaches should remain in the dugout area and refrain from any discussion.
- If a manager chooses to protest, he must inform the umpire immediately that the game is being played under protest, then follow the protest procedure within 24 hours to the league commissioner, player agent and VP of their league.

On Field Disturbances

-VP, League commissioners, Player agent or other officials reserve the right to review on filed disturbances with managers or coaches at time of occurrence. Any controversial or questionable issues that occur during a game involving an umpire or opposing coach which are not witnessed by a league official should be reported to the appropriate VP for a review of the incident and proper closure.

Umpires- Minimum age for rookies is 13. All other umpires must be 18 and patched.

Catchers Equipment- Pitchers must pitch to a fully equipped catcher. Catchers are required to wear cups.

Protective Equipment- All players are required to wear protective cups (Rookie, Minors, Majors and Babe Ruth)

Players late for games-

-A player arriving late for a game will be placed at the bottom of the lineup with no penalty to the team.

-The manager is required to inform the opposing manager of the addition to the lineup.

-If a player leaves early, remove the player from the lineup and notify the opposing manager.

-There is no penalty to a team for a player leaving early from a game.

Sliding- Sliding into bases is strongly encouraged and recommended. More commonly heard of as “**slide or avoid**”. All runners must try to avoid colliding with the defensive player at all times. Malicious contact will not be allowed and the offending player will be ejected from the game. The umpire will use his good judgement and expertise to determine if the player attempted to avoid the collision in reaching the base or plate and then make the appropriate call. If a defensive player obstructs an offensive player and he is not making an attempt to catch (play) the ball, the umpire will rule the runner safe from defensive obstruction. Head first sliding is permitted but not encouraged.

Slash Bunting-NOT ALLOWED. See BR rule book

Equipment- Bats-See Babe Ruth rule book for approved bats. Effective January 1, 2018 all bats must be stamped with USA bat logo.

Time Limit- A two hour time limit will be in effect for minor and major league regular season games. No new inning may start after two hours. Time starts when the umpire puts the ball in play. Play-off games are not subject to a time limit.

Running batting order- is in effect for all leagues. All players must also play the field at least ½ of the game.

Ten Run Rule- is in effect for Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth league games. The game will be terminated once becoming regulation if one team is ahead by 10 or more runs and have had equal times at bat or the home team is leading.

Protest Procedure is a written protest to the league commissioner and the Vice President within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game. League Commissioner, Vice President and President will review the protest and a decision will be handed down.

Disciplining Players- Any manager that needs to discipline a player and have them sit the bench for more than (1) game, must have it approved by player agent, league commissioner , VP and President.

Catcher Speed up- Mandatory for Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth Leagues. The player making the second out will run for the catcher on base. To be used ONLY when there are two outs !

Warm Ups- Pitchers are allowed a maximum of 4 warm up throws between innings. A new pitcher will be provided up to 8 warm up pitches.

Hit Batters –When a pitcher hits (3) batters during a game he will be removed as pitcher. The umpire will issue a warning after the 2nd hit batter.

Pitcher substitution/Re-entry rule- A player who has pitched in a game, and has been removed, cannot re-enter that game as a pitcher. He may play any other position during the remainder of the game.

Cal Ripken Pitching eligibility- See Babe Ruth Rule Book for inning/pitch count limitations.

There is no stealing of second base after receiving a walk.

Player Draft- Cal Ripken players for Rookies, Minor and Major Leagues are rated by personnel of BBA. A Player Draft is held in March and is administered by the League President and appointed staff. Minor and Major League teams are selected based on players ratings determined by point score evaluations. Players will then be categorized A-B-C, accordingly. Tee and Rookie Teams are selected by their League Commissioners and Player Agent, balancing the teams and players skills as fairly as possible.

Division Tie (Minor and Major Leagues)

In the event that at the end of a season, two or more teams in the same league/division finish with identical best won-lost percentages, the following steps will be taken to declare a Division Champion: Tie games are not counted for purposes of computing won-lost percentages.

1. Head to head (best won-lost percentage between the teams)
2. Best net runs between the teams.
3. Best net runs in all games.
4. Best Won-Lost percentage in games played in the division (if applicable).
5. Best net runs in division games (if applicable).
6. Coin Toss!

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS (Parks and Rec. 203-794-8531 press 1 for cancellations)

Parks and Recreation will handle weekday rainouts up to 4PM. They will notify the League if the games are cancelled due to weather. If games are not called by 4 PM, decisions involving cancellations will be handled at the field. Saturday or Sunday cancellations will be handled by Parks and Rec in conjunction with League President, Vice President and Umpire. Fall Baseball cancellation procedure will be published with the Fall Baseball Schedule. All rainouts will be rescheduled on the first available day for each team, if possible. Also, games will try to be replayed in schedule order. Any exceptions based on end of season significance are solely at the discretion of the League President and the Player Agent. There are no exceptions, postponements, etc. including managers change or reschedule games. The person in charge of scheduling games will schedule makeups as best as possible. Managers and teams should be prepared to play any day and time from first game to end of spring season. Noncompliance will result in "Double forfeits". See your Cal Ripken/ Babe Ruth Vice President for any clarifications.

Major League -70 ft

Sundown restrictions- No inning can begin after 7:50 up to and including May 5. May 6th and later no inning may begin after 8:00 PM (Night games are excluded from this rule.)

The Umpire has the right to terminate any game due to darkness.

All games called on account of darkness or weather will be considered a regulation game if 3 innings has been completed. Any game called after 3 full innings, but during an inning, the score will revert back to the last completed full inning.

Drafting up players- Managers will call the player agent for any call up needs. Please do it as early as possible. No player called up may pitch or catch. Managers not following this rule will be suspended for three games.

Forfeit- A team with 7 or less players will not be permitted to play. The game will be declared a forfeit.

Batting order- Running batting order is in effect. No out for any child who must leave the game or gets injured during the game. (NOTE: A player may not say they are hurt in the second inning and not bat and then come back in the 4th and say they are fine. Once they are out they are out.)

Stealing- Runners may not directly steal second base after a walk.

NO PITCHER MAY PITCH MORE THAN ONCE IN THE SAME GAME (ALL LEVELS)

ALL PLAYERS MUST PLAY IN ½ OF ALL GAMES

Please see BR rule book for ANYTHING NOT COVERED in this document

Minor League -60Ft

Rules are same as Majors PLUS

Defensive fielders- Minors will play with 9 players in the field

Stealing- Stealing 2nd and 3rd base is allowed. A runner may not steal home or score on a passed ball. Runners may leave the base after the ball crosses the plate.

Rookie (7-8 Yrs)

This is an instructional league for 7 and 8's. Score will be kept however no league standings will be provided. Managers are to use good common sense in trying NOT to run up the score. High score differentials will be discussed with league commissioner and appropriate VP.

No leading stealing or infield fly rule

Free substitution- in the field.

Inning- 3 outs or 5 runs scored whichever comes first.

Players- All players will play in the field

Baseballs- RIF balls will be used

Instruct the players on proper technique in dropping (not throwing the bat) while running to first.

Sliding and bunting-Is allowed and should be encouraged and properly instructed.

Pitchers and Catchers- All kids should be given an opportunity. We need to develop more of both and do not assume anything. Let them try at least once and see who has the potential if given proper instruction.

Pitching- Balls and strikes will be called. There are NO walks. If a pitcher throws 4 balls or Hits the batter the coach from the batting team will come in until the batter gets on base or is put out. The child may return to face the next batter. If a child walks, hits or any combination there of 3 batters in an inning he/she will be replaced by the coach for the duration of that inning. Pitchers WILL Pitch from the 46 ft mound NO EXCEPTIONS. **Game-** Rookie games are 5 Innings OR 1 and ½ hours whichever comes first.

Umpires- All rookie umpires are at least 13 years old and are not allowed to text or use cell phones while umpiring.

Rookie Prep (5,6)

This is an instructional league for 5 and 6 year olds

Manager/coaches responsibility to keep game fun and fast paced

A complete game is 4 innings or 90 minutes

NO bunting stealing or infield fly

No scorekeeping

All games will use pitching machine

Each batter will get 3 swings or 5 pitch maximum. If not put in play the tee will be brought out.

If the batter or a runner is out the coach may let him stay on the base to help teach base running skills.

Teams will bat through the order once per inning

All players will be on the field defensively

Runners will hold their bases once the ball is in position of a child in the infield or if the coach has the ball

Tee Ball (4,5,6)

Same as above with no pitching machine

All plays will be off the TEE

Babe Ruth (13 and Up)

BR rule book will be followed

Running batting order and free substitution

Swing player option is in effect. See BR rule book.

Managers must communicate all games to director of umpires upon scheduling of games and should provide adequate time if any changes are made.

Manager and Coach Responsibilities

- Practice good sportsmanship
Set a good example for your players. Be a great role model
- Managers
Maintain control of parents, spectators, players and team at all times.
Any issues with managers, coaches or fans will be dealt with by the league. If an incident occurs, the League Commissioner is required to submit an Incident Report to the appropriate Vice President and BBA President, for a proper investigation of the incident.
- Dugouts
Managers are responsible for cleanliness of dugouts.
VERY SIMPLE_ Make them better at the end of your game than how you found them.
Last team on the field empty the garbage.
- **Home managers-** Put out and take in bases after your game (unless there is a game after yours. If you put bases in green boxes make sure plugs are put in holes.
Team on scoreboard side of field will keep score. If you are on Pullan or Leonard. Try to find announcer and somebody to keep score.
- Managers and coaches will attend required clinics and MANDATORY coaches meeting in April. All managers and coaches must be NYSCA certified and have a background check done by P and R.
- Managers and coaches will not be allowed to coach in another baseball league during BBA in-town and travel seasons. The only exception would be for scholastic baseball coaches. Parents that have a Cal Ripken or Babe Ruth aged child playing in AAU or other baseball league not in conjunction with BBA where BBA is fielding a team at said child's level of play, are ineligible to coach that child or that child's respective division/league in BBA. Any manager, coach or parent suspected of recruiting BBA players for AAU or other baseball league will be suspended and/or prohibited from managing, coaching or holding a Board or Committee position in BBA for an indefinite period of time as determined by the DRB.
- Any Manager or coach who recruits kids away from Bethel baseball to play in another league will be suspended from BBA for an indefinite period time to be determined. The DRB will be convened and hear arguments and details and the final decision as to suspension and length thereof will be up to the DRB .