

**2024 Central Wisconsin Junior League
BABE RUTH RULES SUMMARY**

EACH TEAM WILL BE CHARTERED UNDER THEIR OWN LOCAL LEAGUES.

All play will follow the official babe ruth rule unless documented below:

RULES

1. Decision on playability due to future weather forecast is up to the Home coach whom must make a decision a minimum of 90 minutes prior to the scheduled start. Coaches should then communicate with players and families using texts or group messaging apps and look to find makeup dates.
2. BBCOR, Wood or USA (any drop) bats may be used. USSSA bats are not allowed.
3. Metal cleats are allowed in Babe Ruth.
4. Teams are allowed to start the game with 8 players. No game should start with 7 players. Teams may "borrow" a player from the opposing team under the forfeit rule.
5. Teams can play a 9 man or 10 man (designated hitter) with controlled substitutions (High school rules) or bat your entire lineup with unlimited defensive substitutions but must declare before the game begins to umps and opponent coaches.
6. **Run Rule:** a game will be finished when after 4 innings complete, a team is up by 10 runs
Game length will be 7 innings or 2 hours. An inning starts when the 3rd out is made. No new inning shall start after 2 hours (please note exact game start time so this can be determined).
No ties, California rule will apply if a game is tied after 7 innings. Start the inning with a runner at 2nd base (last out of the previous inning), with one out and a 0-0 count. Games can exceed the two-hour time limit if they are tied and playing the California rule.
There must be a league approved adult in the dugout at all times and kids need to stay in the dugout at all times unless they are warming up.
7. **Suspended Game Rules:** If a game is suspended due to rain, darkness, natural event: A game is considered complete if you completed 5 innings (or 4 1/2 if the home team is winning) before the suspended game is called. If less than 5 innings played (4 1/2 if home team is winning)
 - You resume the score, inning, runners, balls and strikes identical to the point where the game was suspended
 - A pitcher is allowed to "restart" pitching again as long as they have the correct number of days rest (<https://www.mlb.com/pitch-smart/pitching-guidelines/ages-13-14>).
8. **Player Eligibility:** Players in younger grades may play up. Grade 7 must be grade 7. Grade 8 and 9 play together. If a 9th grade player is currently playing high school baseball, they must follow WIAA rules and regulations during the high school season. If a 9th grader is on a Legion or Jr. Legion Team, they may not play in this league. Players must play in at least 1/2 the regular season games to be eligible to play in the league tournament. If you are 16 years of age prior to April 30 you cannot play in this league. Any exceptions to the rules above must be approved by the board.
Exception Passed on 4/4/2023 - For 2023 season, Antigo and Mosinee are granted approval to allow grade 8 kids that are age qualified to play down to play in both leagues. They cannot pitch or catch at the grade 7 level.

9. **Courtesy Runner:** Courtesy runner is allowed for catcher and pitcher. Last out or any bench player that did not play defense last half of the inning.
10. **Player Ejection:** If a player is ejected from a game that player will also miss the next two games. Any player ejected from the league tournament will not play for the remainder of the league championship.
11. **Pitch Count for League/Travel Ball:** There is a pitch count for this league (see table below), if you pitched on the weekend that goes towards your pitch count for the week.

PITCHING/CATCHING RULES WILL FOLLOW THE MLB PITCH SMART GUIDELINES-

Pitch Counts:

- 1-20 pitches in a day is zero days rest
- 21-35 pitches is one calendar day rest
- 36-50 pitches is two calendar day rest
- 51-65 pitches is three calendar day rest
- 66-95 pitches is four calendar day rest
- Max Pitch count in Majors is 95 pitches
- If the threshold is reached during a batter, the pitcher is allowed to finish the batter.
- ***If a pitcher makes 41 pitches in a game, he/she is not allowed to play catcher in the same game.***
- The visiting team is the official pitch count recorder. The home team is the official score book. With both of these, both teams should keep track & compare as often as needed to ensure accuracy.

12. All teams in the league will qualify for the league championship tournament and seeding will be based on winning percentage. In the event a game is suspended and coaches cannot agree upon a rescheduled date, the home team must report it to the board for a decision. Additional games scheduled by the coach will not count in the standings or for seeding purposes.
- Seedings determined by winning percentage
 - Head to head
 - Games completed
 - Coin toss