



# Connecticut Cal Ripken Baseball

## Policies and Procedures for State Tournaments

- 1) Effective with the 2024 – 2025 Season there will be no District Tournaments. For ages 8 through 12 the State Tournament will consist of a 4 game per team Pool Play round. The structure of the pools and how many teams will advance to the Double Elimination round is described in Table 1.

All teams participating in the Tournament MUST participate in Pool Play. The Host of the Double Elimination Round will automatically advance to the Double Elimination Round. The Host of the Double Elimination Round will be seeded where they finish in the Pool Round. If they would not qualify based on their record the team will be placed in a play-in game. In the case of a tie the Babe Ruth Tiebreaker will be used to determine which team(s) advance.

Any team that fails to play in a scheduled game may be ejected from the tournament.

**Table 1**

Total Teams	Pools										
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	DE Teams		
8	4	4							8	Play 1 team twice	All teams advance
9	5	4							9	4 Team play 1 team twice 5 Team play in pool all once	All teams advance
10	5	5							8	Play in pool all once	4 Adv to St DE from each pool
11	4	4	3						8	3 Team play each team twice 4 Team play 1 team twice	3 Adv from 4 team 2 from 3 team
12	4	4	4						9	Play 1 team twice	3 Adv to St DE from each pool
13	4	3	3	3					8	3 Team play each team twice 4 Team play 1 team twice	2 Adv to St DE from each pool
14	4	4	3	3					8	3 Team play each team twice 4 Team play 1 team twice	2 Adv to St DE from each pool
15	5	5	5						9	5 Team play each team once	3 Adv to St DE from each pool
16	4	4	4	4					8	Play 1 team twice	2 Adv to St DE from each pool
17	5	4	4	4					8	4 Team play 1 team twice 5 Team play in pool all once	2 Adv to St DE from each pool
18	5	5	4	4					8	4 Team play 1 team twice 5 Team play in pool all once	2 Adv to St DE from each pool
19	5	5	5	4					8	4 Team play 1 team twice 5 Team play in pool all once	2 Adv to St DE from each pool
20	4	4	4	4	4				8	4 Team play 1 team twice	2 Adv to St DE from each pool

Selection of the Pool Play sites, assignment to the Pools, and selection of the Double Elimination sites, and the schedules will be the responsibility of the CT Babe Ruth Executive Committee.

Assignment to a Pool will follow the Pool Creation Process posted on the CT Babe Ruth website.

The fee for the Tournament (Pool play and Double Elimination) will be \$350.

Dates for Pool Play and Double Elimination Play will be communicated and posted on the CT Babe Ruth League website as soon as the schedule for the Regional Tournament is set and no later than the Annual State Meeting.

Payment must be received by the State Treasurer by the date specified in May to be eligible to participate. Pool assignments and Pool sites will be communicated as soon as possible in early June.

The Home Team for the Pool Play games will be defined in the schedule document with each team being assigned as the Home Team for two games.

For the Double Elimination Round the higher seeded team will be designated as the Home Team. If both teams are equally seeded a coin toss 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game will determine the Home Team. In the "If Necessary" game, the team that won and caused the game will be designated as the Home Team.

- 2) Two umpires will be supplied by the host league and must be certified by Babe Ruth Inc. and approved by the State Commissioner and the Umpire in Chief. Each team will split the cost of the umpires' 50/50. For 11 & 12 year old Championship games the host will supply three umpires. The third umpire to be paid by the State Board. The umpires will be paid during the review of the Ground Rules before the game.
- 3) The State Commissioner will supply baseballs for all games of the tournament. A home run ball will be given to the player if the ball can be found and the player wants the ball.
- 4) The host league, the Tournament Chair Person and the State Commissioner will set the start times for all games and will ensure that all teams have ample and equal warm-up time.
- 5) The host league shall provide an Official Scorekeeper. The host league will also provide a pitch count statistician who will maintain a pitching log that defines how many pitches every pitcher has thrown in each inning through the tournament. A player becomes the pitcher of record when the manager announces the pitching change to the Official Scorekeeper. If the pitcher is not announced to the Official Scorekeeper, then the new pitcher becomes the pitcher of record when he takes his place on the pitcher's plate for his warm-up pitches. Note exception below, Section 1 of the Pitching Rules, paragraph h, page 4.
- 6) No game will start with one umpire unless both Managers and the Tournament Director agree in writing to play using one umpire.
- 7) No game will be played without the protest committee present. The Tournament Director will appoint the protest committee.

The 8 year old Tournament shall be governed by the Babe Ruth Rules as modified by the 8-Year-Old Official Tournament Rules posted on the CT Babe Ruth website.

- 8) The re-entry rule and the Mercy rule are in effect for the state tournament. Teams have the option to use an extra player as defined by Babe Ruth League Rules.
- 9) The decision to play the game or not play the game will be up to the State Commissioner or the Tournament Director up until ½ hour prior to the scheduled game time. Each team will receive one phone call if the game is postponed. After the ½ hour limit, the game will be up to the Umpires on the field to play or not.
- 10) There will be no use of profanity by coaches or players. Abuse of this rule is an automatic ejection from the game for the offending person by the umpire or tournament director.
- 11) Players ejected for any reason may be suspended for that game plus three innings of their next game, and if the offense is repeated by the same player, he may be ejected from the tournament. A manager or coach's first offense will mean a one game suspension in addition to the ejection with a second offense resulting in an ejection from the tournament. The duration of the penalties and penalties for other rule infractions is up to the discretion of the Umpire and /or the Tournament Director.
- 12) Each team shall consist of no more than 1 manager and 3 coaches and at least 12 but no more than 15 players. The team scorekeeper must be outside the fence during the game. If one of the coaches will be keeping score, then that coach must remain in the dugout while the ball is in play.
- 13) Proof of team eligibility as per rule 11.00 is up to the team Manager. All documents will be presented to the Tournament Director one hour before the start of the team's first game and will be returned after the team is finished playing in the tournament. The rosters cannot be altered after the start of the team's first game in the tournament.
- 14) All teams participating in Babe Ruth local league and tournament competition are required to display the Official Cal Ripken Baseball patch/emblem as described in the Rule Book.
- 15) Coaches are required to be in full uniform (jersey/pullover), baseball pants. If coaches wear pull-over jackets, they must all match and have the Cal Ripken Baseball approved shoulder emblem on the sleeve or chest or have the emblem on the hat as described in the rules.
- 16) Every player, coach or manager that is warming up a pitcher must wear a protective mask.

## **Tournament Pitching Rules**

### Section 1,

**Tournament Pitching Rules** – These pitch count limitations will apply to all tournament games played in State, Regional and World Series competition.

There are no limitations on the number of innings a pitcher may pitch in a tournament (bracket or pool play) game subject to the following pitch count limitations:

Tournament Pitching Rest Requirements:

Age	Daily Max (Pitches in a Day)	Rest Period		
		0 Days	1 Day	2 Days
8-10	75	1-40	41-65	66+
11-12	85	1-40	41-65	66+

- a) A League Age 8-10 – Pitcher shall not deliver more than 75 pitches in the same game or on the same day. Exception: If the pitcher reaches the maximum pitch count limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely or is put out.
- b) A League Age 11-12 – Pitcher shall not deliver more than 85 pitches in the same game or on the same day. Exception: If the pitcher reaches the maximum pitch count limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely or is put out.
- c) **Intentional Walk Rule** – An intentional base on balls may be given by the defensive team by having its catcher or coach request the umpire to award the batter first base. This may be done before pitching to the batter or on any ball and strike count. Time is called and the ball shall be declared dead before making the award.
- d) All pitchers must adhere to the pitch count rest requirements.
- e) In a game suspended by darkness, weather or other causes and resumed the following calendar day, the pitcher at the time the game was halted may continue to the extent of his/her eligibility.
- f) Games in which an ineligible pitcher has been used, as specified in paragraph 4, shall be declared forfeited. However, it shall not be considered a violation if the ineligible pitcher is removed prior to the time that the pitcher delivers the first pitch to a batter. Tournament Officials are urged to take precautions to prevent forfeits.
- g) All players have full pitching eligibility beginning at each level of tournament competition. (District, State, Area, Regional and World Series)

## Notes and Interpretations:

- A player is limited to the number of pitches listed per game. However, if the maximum is not reached and his team plays a second that day, then that player may pitch until the “Daily Max” is reached. Example: a pitcher in a 12-Year-Old game can pitch 42 pitches in the first game of the day and then pitch another 43 pitches in the second game of the day.
- As noted above, If the pitcher reaches the daily maximum pitch count limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely or is put out. If the pitcher reaches 40 or 65 pitches while facing a batter, he may continue to pitch. However, he will then need to follow the required rest period for the number of pitches thrown. Example: A pitcher in an 11-Year-Old game reaches 40 pitches while facing a batter. He continues to pitch and retires the batter on the 42<sup>nd</sup> pitch. He must then have a day of rest.
- In a game suspended by darkness, weather or other causes and resumed the following calendar day, the pitcher at the time the game was halted may continue to the extent of his/her eligibility. The continuation rule 11.05 (h) supersedes the pitch count rule 11.05 (4). for days rest as described above in Pitching Rest Requirements.
- A team may elect to intentionally walk a batter and request to the umpire that he award first base to the batter. The ball will be declared to be dead and then the batter is awarded first base. However, at any time during the batter’s plate appearance, the defensive team can make the request. Pitches thrown before the request is made count towards the pitchers “Daily Max”.
- In a case where a game is forfeited before it becomes a regulation game, or after it became a regulation game, all pitches will count towards the pitch count.
- The umpire will be the sole judge as to whether a thrown ball should be considered a pitch or not.

## Section 2,

### **Official Pitch Count Record**

The Tournament Chairperson must designate the scorekeeper or another game official as the official pitch count statistician. The pitch count statistician shall record all pitches as defined in the rule book (Rule 2.00 – A pitch is a ball delivered to the batter by the pitcher), in addition to any pitches delivered to the batter ruled a “no pitch” by the umpire. **1**

The pitch count statistician must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire. However, the manager has the ultimate responsibility for knowing when his/her pitcher must be removed to meet the rest requirements above.

The official pitch count statistician should inform the umpire-in-chief when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted above. The umpire-in-chief will inform the pitcher’s manager that the pitcher must be removed. However, the failure by the pitch count statistician to notify the umpire-in-chief, and/or the failure of the umpire-in-chief to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.

## **The Cal Ripken Contact Rule**

There is no codified “must slide rule” at any Babe Ruth or Cal Ripken level. Because some leagues adopt a “must slide rule” for the regular season, managers, coaches, players and parents are often surprised that the rule is not in affect for post-season tournaments as well.

The contact rule, as stated on page 19 of the rulebook, is below:

Contact Rule (all divisions) – If a runner attempting to reach home plate intentionally and maliciously 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 deliberate, unwarranted, unsportsmanlike action by the runner for the obvious purpose of crashing the defensive player, rather than trying to reach home plate. Obviously, this is an umpire’s judgment call.

What this rule means is that the runner cannot be called out for “not sliding” when attempting to score. The rule does not mandate sliding nor does it strictly prohibit contact between the offensive and defensive players. It simply requires the runner to make a reasonable attempt to not initiate contact while trying to score.

In situations when the defensive player, without the ball, impedes the runner the obstruction rule (7.06) covers the situation. Part of this rule addresses home plate situations and states “the baseline belongs to the runner and the catcher should be there only when he is fielding a ball or when he already has the ball in his hand.”

It is clear from the above verbiage that at times both the runner and the catcher have the right to be at home plate. In these situations, (runner trying to score and catcher with the ball at the plate) contact will occur. It is up to the umpire to decide if either player is guilty of “deliberate, unwarranted, unsportsmanlike action.” If in the umpire’s opinion either is guilty that player should be ejected. Normally it is the moving runner and not the stationary catcher that initiates the contact, but if the catcher does they should be ejected as well. Further, the intent of this rule should be enforced on the entire field of play, not just at home plate.

League presidents need to take the lead in informing all managers and parents that during post season play there is no “must slide rule.” Players will not be called out for naturally occurring contact whether or not they slide. Tournament directors need to inform umpires covering the tournaments that there is no “must slide rule” for tournament play. Qualified umpires will understand the rule, which is sometimes described as “slide or avoid.”

## **The Slash Bunt Rule**

This is when a batter shows intent to bunt, drawing the infielders in towards the plate. The batter then draws his bat back and takes a full swing at the pitch. If the batter should hit the ball while the infielders are still looking for a bunt, one of those fielders could get hurt.

We cannot ignore the fact that this is a very dangerous play. We ask that you not allow your players to attempt this maneuver. A batter is out for illegal action when, in the umpire's judgment, the batter fakes a bunt and then takes a full swing. Penalty: The batter is out, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

We also ask that you instruct your infielders to be aware of the bunt when the batter shows such an intention, but the player should follow the pitch to the plate rather than breaking towards the plate too early.



## **Protest Procedure for Tournament Games**

- 1) No game will be played without the protest committee present. The Tournament Director will appoint the protest committee. The Committee shall consist of one member representing each team and the Tournament Director for a total of 3 people.
- 2) Managers must have the Babe Ruth rulebook with them at all times.
- 3) All Official Playing Rules including rule 11.05 from the Babe Ruth rulebook and the re-entry rule and base running rule shall be under the jurisdiction of the Umpires. Also under the jurisdiction of the umpires are the Contact Rule and the Slash Bunt Rule. The interpretation of these rules by an umpire or the application of these rules by an umpire can be protested.
- 4) All other Cal Ripken rules including but not limited to team eligibility, player eligibility and those rules that are on this sheet are under the jurisdiction of the State Commissioner and his appointed staff including the Tournament Director. These rules will not be protested. The procedures used by the umpires cannot be protested. A game will not be delayed to question the afore-mentioned rules or the umpires' procedures.
- 5) The team manager is the only person allowed to protest an umpire's decision. The manager will notify the umpire in chief who will then notify the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director will decide if the protest is valid and then continue following the proper protest procedure.
- 6) The Tournament Director does not have to allow a protest even though it may be protest-able as stated above. A rule that does not affect the play such as the shoulder emblems and plainly stated rules such as playing with nine players are two examples of rules that will not be protested.
- 7) If the Tournament Director should allow the Protest Committee to hear a protest, the following procedure shall be used:
  - a. The Committee, the Umpires and the Manager from each team shall meet. This meeting should take place in a secluded spot on the field so as not to have interference from spectators.
  - b. The protesting Manager will state why he is protesting the call and why his interpretation of the rule differs from that of the Umpire.
  - c. The Umpire will then state why he made the call and explain his view of the rule.
  - d. The opposing Manager may make statements pertaining to the discussion.

- e. The Committee members may ask questions pertaining to the discussion at any time.
  - f. The Tournament Director may disallow the protest at any time should he decide that the call is not protest-able or if the manager is protesting a judgment call.
  - g. When the Committee has heard all discussion pertaining to the protest, then the three members will leave the presence of the Managers and Umpires and meet together to render a decision. The Committee needs to make a decision based on the best interests of all the players and follow whatever means they deem appropriate while taking as much time as is necessary to make a fair decision.
- 8) Once the Committee has reached a decision regarding the protest the Tournament Director shall inform the managers from both teams and the umpires of the decision. The Committee will either agree with the umpire(s) and uphold the outcome of the play or they will disagree with the umpire(s) and revise the outcome of the play.



# Connecticut Cal Ripken Baseball

## Rules for 70 Ft Major Division

1. These rules are in effect for the division of Cal Ripken Baseball that is played on the 70 ft diamond.
2. All leagues, games and tournaments will be operated under the supervision of and direction by the Cal Ripken Division of Babe Ruth League, Inc.
3. All games shall be played according to the Official Baseball Rules as written in the current Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules and regulations
4. The rules noted below are clarifications of the abovementioned rules.
5. All rules relative to age, team composition and pitching limitations will follow the Cal Ripken Rules.
6. The playing field will be as detailed in the field diagrams on page 91, 92 and page 94. The dimensions of the pitchers' mound, the home plate area and the catcher's box are not the same between the 2 separate layouts, and cannot be combined. Also see notes on page 16.
7. The special base running rule on page 12 will not be applicable.
8. All non-wood bats must have the USA Bat Marking. Barrel Maximum no greater than 2 5/8". No BBCOR Bats are permitted in the Cal Ripken Division. Solid wood bats are allowed as long as they meet the the specifications set forth in Rule 1.10 of the Babe Ruth Rule Book.
9. Shoes with metal cleats or spikes are not permitted to be worn by any player, coach or manager. (page 18 and 39)
10. The catcher's helmet must cover the ears. Hockey style masks are approved. (page 18)
11. A regulation game shall consist of six innings or four innings if the game is called (page 18). Tournament Rule 11.05, paragraph 6 and 7 applies for tournament play (page 27 and 28).

12. The balk penalty is as noted in several paragraphs of rule 8.00.
13. Designated hitters are not allowed. Rules 5.09(h), 6.09(b), 7.04(d) and 7.07 are applicable to the 70 Ft Major Division. (page 21)
14. The following rules will be applicable to the 70 Ft Major Division of Cal Ripken Baseball; 5.11 and 6.05(b).
15. Any rule not mentioned here will be under the discretion of the Umpires and rule 9.01(c).