

Babe Ruth League, Inc.

Latest Rule Changes for 2025

The International Board of Directors has approved the following rule changes beginning with the 2025 season. These changes will be reflected in the 2025 Babe Ruth League, Inc. Rules and Regulations. Rule Changes Beginning with the 2025 Season (*Please note Division or Level of Play*)

2025 Season - Babe Ruth Softball

1. Rule 11.05, Number 4 - Tournament Game Length.
 - All 14U, 16U, and 18U tournament games shall consist of seven (7) innings, unless the home team leads at the end of 6½ innings.
 - All 12U, 10U, 8U, and 6U tournament games shall consist of six (6) innings, unless the home team leads at the end of 5½ innings.
 - **Timing Rule:** No new inning shall begin after 1 hour and 30 minutes. The official game time starts immediately after the pregame plate conference.
2. Rule 11.05, Number 17 - If the score is tied at the end of regulation play (six innings; 12u, 10u, 8u, 6u, or seven innings 14u, 16u, 18u,) teams will continue play in extra innings until a winner is determined. ***At the start of each extra inning, a runner is placed on second base. The runner will be the last recorded batted out of the previous inning.*** A substitute runner may be used in accordance with substitution rules.
3. Clarification - A COURTESY RUNNER – The pitcher and catcher may have a courtesy runner every time they reach base. The courtesy runner can be any player who is currently not in the lineup. Courtesy running does not count toward the substitution count of either player.

Discussed rule changes at State Meeting:

1. Rule Changes - Discussion
 - a. 6U Rules – No changes

b. 8U Rules – Add unintentional bat throwing – Per Player – 1st offense – Warning, 2nd offense – Batter is Out

i.Coach Pitch – Up to the district as to if they allow coach pitch or not.

ii.Lead runner discussion – Clarified definition of lead off.

c. Pitching Limits – 10U and 12U 6 innings over 2 rolling games (was new in 24) This is a Florida Rule – Continue Rule.

d. Bat Rule of “Nothing can be attached to the end of the bat” – No T Ball Bats for 6U, no noted or listed illegal bats at this time.

i.Modify to allow 8u and younger to use Choke Up knobs(Florida Rule Only)

e. Post Season Uniforms –

i.NO sublimated patches except purchase from National – MUST have invoice in tournament book

ii.Coaches MUST match – No Exceptions. – No Hey Dudes.

f. Jewelry

i.14U and up – Follow National rule

ii.12U and Under – No jewelry except Medical or religious and must be taped down

g. Run Rules – 15 runs after 3 innings and 10 runs after 4 innings. Florida Rule*

g. Bath throwing: Florida Rule* - If the batter throws a bat while swinging, slips out of hand, the first time for the player is a warning, if it happens again, each subsequent time it's an out.

i. National Rule Changes

i. Pitcher and Catcher can have a courtesy runner every time up to bat, even if batting twice in the same inning.

ii. 14u and up must be 7 innings or 90 minute games for the tournament. (Timer to start at end of plate meeting)

iii. If tournament game ends in a tie after regulation, teams will play one full inning, and if still in a tie, then game will go to International Tie Break rules. (Last recorded batted out from previous inning starts on second base).

1. Florida Rule – Go directly into ITB after regulation innings are completed. (Note POOL PLAY Games CAN end in a tie!)

6U Rules:

i. Game rules changed to finish the inning instead of drop-dead time. Game time remains at 1 hour and 15 minutes.

8U Rules:

- ii. Voted to keep the coach pitch option for 8u.
- ii. Runner Rule not changed (allowed to take a lead but not steal at the release of the ball from the “machine or the coach pitcher’s hand”).
- ii. leading off/stealing clarification: runner can leave the bag upon release of the ball. (this is not a steal) if the ball is on play, the runner may advance. If there is no fair ball the runner MUST go back to the bag where they started.
- ii. Coach must start at 32’ from home plate with both feet in place. Discussed painting a pitching stripe for coach pitchers at the tournament.

1. Change penalty for coaches that are coach pitching, if they coach from the mound, they will be removed from the game, not the mound.

Fielder's masks: Voted on for 10u and under, all infielders must wear protective masks.

Rules in General:

1. Rules concerning players that are safety concerns and need to play down (Older players playing in younger division) – Discussion on kids moving up in the spring need to be encouraged to play up in the fall to get ready for adjustment.
 - a. Interleague Games. Teams in the fall playing kids down that have to move up in the Spring (Example East Pasco 10u/12U kids)

Lake City/ Columbia County may not allow metal cleats which would affect 14u and up teams at State. Doug to check in on this

8. 12/14U Combined Teams: Consideration

- a. If the 12u players are not rostered on a 12u team, they do not qualify for a 12u division all-star team
- b. If they are rostered 12u, they must play 10 games of 12u to qualify for a 12u division all-star team.
- c. Having the younger players move up and play against much older, mature players is extremely unsafe. To play with those girls in that age range, they could be 13, 14 or possibly 15 depending on when their birthday is, playing against 12U which could run a young 12U and 11U
- d. Pitching from the 14u pitching distance (43ft) puts the younger players at a disadvantage. The mound is measured at different distances for different age groups for a reason.

e. They also may not get the chance to develop as pitchers or primary positions while competing with older, more experienced players who might dominate playing time. Playing in their own age groups would allow for more opportunities to gain experience among players their own level and ability.