



## Babe Ruth Softball

### CT Babe Ruth Softball State Tournament Rules 8U

#### Pool Play

Each team has 1 home game and 1 game in which they will be visitors.

The home team will set up the umpires and will pay for the umpires.  
One umpire for each game.

Calling of games due to weather prior to the start will be that of the Host Site in conjunction with the State Commissioner. Once a game has started the umpires will make the call and resumption will be in conjunction with the UIC, Host and State Commissioner.

The format for the 8U State Tournaments will be Pool Play in which each team will play 2 games. This will be followed by a double elimination portion, in which all teams will participate.

The pitching distance for 8U is 35 feet.

1. A spring loaded Louisville Slugger portable Pitching Machine will be used in State Tournament play.
2. A Rawlings 11" regulation softball or equal will be used.
3. Age: 8 & Under (must have been registered with Babe Ruth League, Inc.). Players cannot turn 9 before January 1<sup>st</sup> of the tournament year.

4. Player roster: 12-15 player roster with 9 players batting in order (10 with EP). Page 54
- a. An Extra Player (EP) can be used as the 10<sup>th</sup> batter. If a team elects this option, it must start with the EP and end with the EP or forfeit the game. Both teams in a game are not required to use this option.
  - b. There will be three outfielders. ALL outfielders must remain in the grass area of the outfield and cannot be positioned in the infield at any time. The outfielders can move once the pitched ball is hit.
  - c. The player that assumes the pitcher's position must remain within the "mound" 8-ft. diameter circle, behind the machine, and on one side or the other until the ball is hit. If the pitcher violates any of these requirements, then the play will stand, even if the pitcher is involved in the play, and (2) the umpire(s) will warn the violating pitcher's manager that if the same pitcher violates one or both requirements again, the player will be removed from the pitcher's position. The player can assume another position but cannot re-enter as a pitcher in that game.

The player may not be ejected from the game for this infraction.

(NOTE: The Pitcher position is only a reference to a "Fielder's" position (does not throw a pitch). Therefore, there is NO "Number of Innings Pitched" rule for the player in the position. A "Courtesy Runner" is not allowed for the pitcher.)

- d. The catcher takes the catcher's normal position in full gear.

5. Substitution: The re-entry rule states that: Any of the 9 (10 with EP) starting players may withdraw and re-enter once provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever she is in the line-up. A substitute once withdrawn cannot re-enter, Pg. 19 (3.04). Exception noted for an injured player, Pg. 52 (11.05 #5).
6. Game length for double elimination: 6 innings. Each batter receives a maximum of five pitches. If the batter strikes out, or if the ball has not been hit into play after five pitches, the batter is out.
  - a. If the batter fouls the 5<sup>th</sup> pitch, the batter will receive pitches as long as the batter continues to foul pitches.(NOTE: Any fouled bunt after two strikes is an out.)
  - b. The half inning is over when three outs are made.
  - c. The batter is out if the batter swings on a third strike and misses the ball.
  - d. Maximum of 5 Runs per inning for all innings except the last inning. The umpires will determine the last inning based on the time elapsed the umpires will notify both coaches when the last inning is about to begin.
7. There is no “stealing” at the 8&U level, therefore, the baserunner(s) must maintain contact with the base until the pitched ball reaches the plate.
8. Time limits for games shall be no new inning may start after 1 hour and 30 minutes. EXCEPTION: Championship Games.

9. Any 8u Tournament Game must be terminated immediately if one team is ahead by fifteen (15) or more runs after two and one half (2-1/2) or three (3) innings and each team has had equal times at bat. Any 12u Tournament Game must be terminated immediately if one team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs after three and one half (3-1/2) or four (4) innings, if each team has had equal times at bat, or the home team is leading.
10. Field dimensions: Standard Babe Ruth Softball Division base length of 60 ft.
11. Pitching machine: The pitching machine is placed at 35 ft. with a speed of 32 mph (established when the ball crosses home plate). The front two legs of the machine must be placed in front of the pitching rubber (best if up against the front edge of the rubber or at least the front edge of any underground base for the pitching rubber). Coaches are not allowed to check the machine before their team bats. Only umpires may decide if adjustments should be made.
12. Umpire:
  - a. The umpire will feed the machine. The machine should be checked prior to batting. Only the umpire may make adjustments during play.
  - b. The umpire(s) is/are allowed to declare “no pitch” if the umpire(s) judges that it is not reasonably hittable. This is a judgment call and thus not subject to protest.

### 13. Dead ball:

- a. The ball will be declared dead when the defensive team has the ball in hand by an infielder in fair territory of the infield. Once play has been stopped, no other runners may advance beyond the last base tagged.
- b. The ball will be declared dead when a player is injured and in the umpire's judgment is unable to continue play.
- c. If a batted fair ball hits any part of the pitching machine without touching a defensive player first, the ball is immediately dead. The batter will be awarded first base. All other runners return to the base that they occupied before the ball was hit unless forced to advance as a result of the batter being awarded first base. (Rule 5.09f and 7.04a) If a batted fair ball is first touched by a defensive player and then hits any part of the pitching machine, it is a live ball.
- d. If a fair ball touches an umpire on fair territory before it touches an infielder including the pitcher, or touches an umpire before it has passed an infielder other than the pitcher, the ball is dead and the batter is awarded first base. All other runners return to the base that they occupied before the ball was hit unless forced to advance as a result of the batter being awarded first base (Rule 5.09f and 7.04a).
- e. If a thrown ball hits any part of the pitching machine, it is a live ball.

### 14. Infield fly rule: There is NO INFIELD FLY RULE.

15. Bunting: Bunting is allowed. However, NO FAKE BUNTING IS ALLOWED. If the batter offers to bunt, then the batter must bunt the ball or pull the bat back to take the pitch. If the batter offers to bunt, pulls the bat back, and then swings at the pitch, the batter will automatically be declared out by the umpire.
16. Courtesy Runner: The catcher may have a courtesy runner for them every time they are up to bat. Each courtesy runner used must be a player who is not in the game at the time. Each courtesy runner may only pinch run once per inning.
17. Base stealing: Base stealing is not permitted. Runners may not leave their base(s) before the batter hits the ball or before the ball reaches the plate (Rule 11.07-8U (j)). The penalty (Rule 7.13) is that the runner will be called out. The batter will remain at bat or return with the count that existed before the runner was called out.
18. Coaches are not permitted to take positions on the field excluding 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base coaching locations.
19. Credentials: As defined in Rule 11.04 (1), Certificate of Accidental & Liability Insurance, Official Babe Ruth roster from SportsEngine, Consent for Treatment Form completed and signed for each player, a color team photo with the players, manager, and coaches identified. Certificates defined in Rule 11.04 (1) g are not required to be provided as they are now a part of SportsEngine.
20. Babe Ruth Softball patches must be displayed as specified in the current Rule Book. (will not be enforced)