

Oahu Babe Ruth League

2022 RULES

A. QUALIFYING SEASON

1. Qualifying season for the opportunity to advance to postseason play in Babe Ruth or Cal Ripken Baseball at the State, Regional and World Series levels.
2. Teams are expected to complete the season as scheduled. Canceling games may result in removal from the League. Managers of teams removed from the League may be prevented from participating in future seasons.
3. Subdivisions may be created based on the number of teams entered.

B. TEAM COMPOSITION:

1. NO LESS than 12 and NO MORE than 18 legal players (please note that for postseason play, teams may have no more than 15 players) on a team as defined within the boundaries of the program, seashore to seashore for the island of Oahu.
2. A minimum of one (1) manager and three (3) coaches are to be listed on each team roster. Teams are encouraged to roster additional coaches for the regular season.
3. Only managers and coaches who have registered and are listed on the active roster are eligible to enter the field/dugout during games.
4. Teams will be registered in the respective division based on the player's age on May 1st of the calendar year of participation.
5. Once the team is registered, no player movement from team to team will be allowed during the season of participation. Tournament teams are governed by national rules.
6. Replacement Players: If a player is unable to complete the season due to injury, moves to another island or out of state, or other circumstances that prevents participation, the manager may request to replace that player with someone new. If a player plays for a school team and is unable to participate during part of the season, he/she CANNOT be replaced if the player elects to return after the school season is completed. **ALL REPLACEMENTS PLAYERS ARE SUBJECT TO LEAGUE APPROVAL.**

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C. COACHES:

1. Coaches shall serve as role models to players and parents by conducting themselves in a professional and civil manner, demonstrating good sportsmanship at all times.
2. An ejection of a manager or coach by the umpire from a game will result in an automatic two (2) game suspension. The league reserves the right to impose additional penalties it deems appropriate, which may include expulsion from the league and/or removal of the team from State Tournament consideration.. Suspensions may be extended if the manager or coach DOES NOT COMPLY.
3. Unacceptable behavior shall not be tolerated and may be subject to League action. Examples include but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Profanity;
 - b. Openly critical comments directed toward the opposing team and/or umpires;
 - c. Abusive language or actions towards own players;
 - d. Unsportsmanlike conduct;
 - e. Absence of control of parents and supporters;
 - f. Non-compliance with league rules.
 - g. Use ineligible players (not registered) will be responsible for any injury to said player and will forfeit all games in which the ineligible player was used.
 - h. Discouraging players from showing up for certain games will result in the team being removed from further league play.
4. Any threat or physical contact towards an umpire, the coach shall be removed from the game immediately and serve an automatic two (2) game suspension. If an ejection occurred prior to the threat or physical contact, the coach shall be issued a four (4) game suspension (two (2) games for the ejection under Section C-2 and two (2) games under Section C-4). If the threat or physical contact occurs after a game, a two (2) game suspension shall be issued. The League reserves the right to impose additional games of suspension as it deems appropriate for a first offense. For a second offense, the League may suspend the coach for the entire season or expel the coach from the League and ban him/her from future participation in any OBRL sponsored league.

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5. Background checks conducted for Oahu Babe Ruth League by NCSI through Sports Engine are required for all coaches and volunteers.
6. All coaches MUST complete “Coaching Youth Baseball the Babe Ruth Way” online certification program on the Babe Ruth League website (baberruthcoaching.org/coaches/). The certificate issued upon passing is good for life.
8. All Coaches MUST also complete the APS Abuse Prevention Training course. A link to complete this is provided at the completion of background screening.
9. Coaches should familiarize themselves with the rules of baseball and those pertaining specifically to Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth baseball and have them in their possession during games. Do not argue any point of the game in the absence of a copy of the rules. If there is a disagreement regarding the proper application of a rule, coaches shall not engage in a drawn out argument with the umpire. Coaches have the option to file a protest (refer to Section G)
10. Coaches and players are to remain in the dugout during the game.

D. PLAYERS:

1. League age on May 1st of the calendar year of play.
2. Legal players MUST reside and attend school within the established boundaries of Oahu Babe Ruth.
3. Good sportsmanship is highly encouraged.
4. Ejection based on unsportsmanlike conduct will result in a 2 (two) game suspension.
5. The league reserves the right to impose additional penalties as deemed appropriate, including expulsion from the league.

E. EQUIPMENT.

1. Bats: *For information and full clarification on bats, go to baberruthleague.org.*
2. Each team will be provided with game balls by the league.
3. No metal cleats are allowed for Cal Ripken divisions. Metal cleats are allowed for Babe Ruth divisions (13 and above).
4. Protective masks for batting helmets are recommended but not required.

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5. Catcher's helmet must cover the ears.

F. GAMES/PLAYING RULES:

1. Time Limit:

- a. Games will be played with a time limit. **1 hour and 45 minutes “drop dead”** or 6 innings will apply for all Cal Ripken 12u and 10u games. A **2 hour “drop dead”** or 7 innings will apply for all Babe Ruth 13u & 15u games.
- b. If the home team is at bat and they score to tie or go ahead and game is called, the game will be recorded as a tie or a win in favor of the home team.
- c. If the visiting team is at bat and the game is called, game reverts back to previous inning and will be recorded as a tie, win or loss based on the score at the end of the last completed inning.
- d. Time commences from the first pitch.

2. Scoring Runs:

- a. Five (5) runs or three (3) outs, whichever comes first, will end an inning. The sixth (6th) inning for Cal Ripken and seventh (7th) inning for Babe Ruth will be an open inning subject to Games, 1.a above.
- b. For a homerun over the fence, all runs will be counted regardless of the five (5) run maximum rule. For “inside the park” homeruns, only five (5) runs will be counted.

3. Game balls: Each team will provide one (1) new and one (1) “lightly used” ball to the umpire at the start of the game. If more balls are needed, playable balls will be provided by teams as follows: visitor – home – visitor – home etc.

4. One (1) offensive timeout per inning.

5. One (minute) or five pitches, whichever comes first, between innings.

6. Babe Ruth Contact Rule will be in effect (note: there is no “must slide” rule)

7. Balk Rule: Balks will be called for the 12u division (NO WARNINGS). Cal Ripken rules will apply to the 9-10 division.

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8. Foul Balls: BOTH teams will be responsible for retrieving and returning balls to the plate umpire.

9. Pitching:

a. Starting pitcher will be allowed up to 12 (twelve) warm up pitches.

b. Substitute pitchers will be allowed up to 8 (eight) warm up pitches.

c. Pitching limits – Cal Ripken/ Babe Ruth implemented the use of a “pitch count” beginning in 2017. This rule will be used for all State, Regional, and World Series tournaments. For the OBRL Qualifying Seasons, we will be utilizing a “modified” pitching rule. For all players pitching on Saturday, any pitcher throwing more than two (2) innings (Cal Ripken) or three (3) innings (Babe Ruth) will be ineligible to pitch on Sunday. Scorekeepers must track the number of innings pitched in their books and have the opposing manager sign off after the game. Coaches can ask to see the opposing team’s scorebook prior to Sunday games to see if there are any ineligible pitchers.

d. Intentional Walk – Pitchers no longer have to deliver the four pitches to intentionally walk a batter. The manager can inform the umpire at any point during an at bat that he/she would like to intentionally walk the batter.

10. Trips to the Mound - Three (3) visits per game. *Changing pitchers will not count as a visit. A pitcher visited twice in the same inning, MUST be removed as a pitcher.*

11. Slash Bunts **are NOT allowed in the Cal Ripken Division** A batter may not “show” bunt and pull back and swing/slash at the pitched ball. **Penalty:** Batter is out, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

12. Courtesy Runner: For the catcher of record only to expedite the game. Player that made the last out in the inning will be the courtesy runner.

13. Batting:

a. All players present WILL be listed on the lineup card and bat.

b. Players arriving late will be added to the end of the lineup.

c. A player that leaves the game early will not be recorded as an out. Players remaining move up in the lineup.

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14. Defensive Substitutions: All players present will be play defensively every other inning. No player will sit more than one inning.
15. Scorekeeper: Home team will be the official scorekeeper during games, and will be responsible for monitoring game start and end time.
16. Dugouts: Home team – 3rd base; Visitors – 1st base.
17. Only games not played due to rain or other unplayable conditions may be rescheduled based on availability of fields, open dates, and the potential impact to post-season qualification at the discretion of Oahu Babe Ruth League.

G. PROTESTS:

1. No protest on judgement calls. Umpire's decision is final.
2. Procedures for filing a protest:
 - a. Umpire must be informed that the game is being played under protest. The protesting team is responsible for ensuring that the Official Scorekeeper makes note in the scorebook of the exact point that the protest was made.
 - b. Manager must submit written notification of protest within 48 hours of game's completion via email to Jim Koishigawa (battersbox808@hotmail.com) or Darren Ueki (darren.ueki@gmail.com) , citing the situation and the rule that was incorrectly applied.

A check payable to Oahu Babe Ruth League for \$25 must be mailed with 72 hours to:

Jim Koishigawa
94-077 Kaweloalii Pl.
Mililani, HI 96789

- c. Failure to submit protest and payment within the time indicated above will result in protest being denied.
- d. If the team protesting the game wins, protest should be withdrawn at the completion of the game.

H. GENERAL RULES:

1. Use of alcohol before, during, and after games is NOT ALLOWED.
2. Use of tobacco products is NOT ALLOWED in and around the dugout area.

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3. Teams are responsible for their own uniforms. Uniforms will be the same color and style for players/coaches, with numbers on the back. Coaches are not required to wear the same uniform as the players during the regular season. They must wear matching shirts and shorts. Shirts must be tucked in. Baseball hats are required when in the field of play. **NO VISORS**.
4. Teams are responsible to secure their own practice fields. A copy of the league's liability policy will be provided upon request.
5. **Teams traveling to invitational tournaments are responsible for all financial obligations to travel.**
7. **Teams traveling to Regional/World Series Tournaments are responsible for all financial obligations. Some assistance from the League and Babe Ruth League Inc. may be provided.**
8. Once the schedule has been finalized, cancelling games will result in an AUTOMATIC FORFEIT. A loss will be recorded in standings for the team canceling and a win for the opposing team.

I. REPORTING GAME RESULTS, INFRACTIONS. AND MISC.:

1. Game Results:
 - a. BOTH teams must email game results to: ripkenscores@gmail.com (RESULTS SENT VIA TEXT OR ANY OTHER FORM WILL NOT BE RECORDED)
 - b. The “**SUBJECT**” line in the email should contain the **date of the game, division, and participating teams**. The body of the email should contain the **name of the team that won the game**.
 - c. Results will be posted on our League Lineup website (we are still working to get the same feature up and running on our SI Play website). Please note that all games will be recorded with a final score of 1-0 or 1-1 for tied games.

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d. Results must be reported no later than the Friday following the game. Unreported games scores will be considered a loss for both teams.

2. Infractions: MANAGERS will be responsible for reporting any infractions, use of illegal players, playing short, lack of umpires, etc. Any infractions reported to league MUST be in writing with supporting document of infraction. Any infraction reported to league officials verbally will not be accepted by Oahu Babe Ruth League Officials.

3. Post Season Play: Score Books from Regular Season Play will be used to Certify Tournament Team Roster, if needed. If unable to provide a scorebook for all games your team played, it will be grounds to disqualify your team or player in question.

Darren Ueki: 383-4311 darren.ueki@gmail.com

Jim Koishigawa: 286-6531 battersbox808@hotmail.com

The only way to correct problems is to have them reported. Complaining outside of the program does nothing to help resolve issues.

Supplemental COVID-19 Rules and Procedures

- **NO TENTS** or any other types of temporary coverings are allowed.
- Teams must warm up outside of the baseball complex.
- Teams must meet outside of the baseball complex (**baseball complex** is defined as the four entrances in the outfield) and enter as a group.
- Teams playing the second game of the day must wait until teams from the previous game have vacated the baseball complex.
- Only three (3) people are allowed to sit in the dugout. All other team members must socially distance in the bleachers and along the fence down each foul line
- Teams must vacate the baseball complex immediately after games are completed. Coaches wishing to talk to their teams must do so outside of the baseball complex.
- NO POTLUCKS before or after games.

Violation of these rules and procedures may result in the revocation of permits by the City and County. As requirements change, OBRL will update this policy.

Thank you for your support and cooperation!