

# South Shore Babe Ruth League

## "In-House" Playing Rules

**\*NOTE:** All official rulings come from the Babe Ruth Rulebook. The SSBRL "In-House" Rules are amendments to the official rules applicable in all divisions to promote safety, respect, and fair-play. If a coach does not comply with these rules, he shall forfeit the game. These rules are used to settle disputes on the field.

a) General Rules:

1. Every player must wear a batting helmet when hitting, when on base, when in the on-deck circle, and if coaching a base.

2. Speed-Up Rule (Voluntary in All Divisions):

If there are 2 outs and the catcher from the previous inning is on base, the player who made the second out can serve as the substitute runner for the catcher. The only exception is if the pitcher from the previous inning is the second out of the inning. Then the designated runner would be the first out of the inning. If this player is on base or is one of the next four batters, then the opposing manager will choose a player who is not one of the next four batters in the lineup.

3. Teams will have 2 options for their lineups. Managers must agree on the type of lineup they will be using prior to the game:

a) A team may bat all of their players in a "rotary lineup". On defense, all players may be rotated in and out of the field. Pitchers will follow the same rules of a normal lineup.

b) A team's starting lineup can consist of up to 11 players, 2 of them being Offensive Players (OP, EH, etc.). At the start of any game, if your roster consists of:

- 9 players- You will start and bat 9 players with no EH. The next two arrivals will enter the game immediately as the EH's in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> positions in the batting order. Additional arrivals may enter as substitutes after the completion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning.

- 10 players- You will start and bat 10 players with one EH. The first arrival will enter the game immediately as the second EH in the 11<sup>th</sup> position in the batting order.

- 11 players- You will start and bat 11 players with two EH's. All additional arrivals will be able to enter as a substitute after the completion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning.

- 8 players- You must start a game if you have 8 players. The first late arrival will enter the game immediately as the 9<sup>th</sup> batter in the lineup and the 9<sup>th</sup> fielding position. After the 9<sup>th</sup> player arrives, the previous rules involving the number of players and lateness apply. **THE 9<sup>TH</sup> SPOT IN THE ORDER IS NOT AN OUT.**

4. If an injury to any player in the lineup occurs and he can't continue to play in the game, the player shall be removed from the game and:
  - a) Enter any unused substitute. If none are available, you will:
  - b) Re-enter any previously removed starter in the injured player's batting position. If none are available, you will:
  - c) Vacate the injured player's position in the batting order with no penalty to the team. A courtesy runner of your opponent's choice will be provided if the injured player was on base. If the player was in the field, one of the EH's will enter the field position to continue. If none are available, you may finish with 8 players or forfeit at the discretion of the injured player's manager.
  - d) If playing at that time with 8 players and the player can't finish his at bat, that player shall be declared out and the next batter takes his turn at bat. If that player can not go back into the field the next inning, his team will forfeit the game.

5. Should a player be ejected from the game, the following rules apply for continuation of the game:

- A. If the ejected player was an EH:
  1. He is declared out whether he is on base or at the plate.
  2. If applicable, he will be replaced by a substitute player (before the top of the 4<sup>th</sup>) or replaced by a removed starter (after the 4<sup>th</sup> inning). If no one is available, the spot shall remain vacated and an out will be declared every time around the order. Coaches must be aware of this. Umpires are not responsible to remember where the eject player's spot in the order is.
- B. If the ejected player was one of the nine fielders:
  1. Enter any unused substitute. If none are available, you will:
  2. Place one of your EH's, at the opposing manager's choice, onto the field. Apply rules 5.A.1 and 5.A.2 to the ejected player
  3. If you have no EH's, but have players who have been previously removed from the game, the opposing manager will choose a player to re-enter. This player will occupy the ejected player's spot in the batting order.
  4. If you have no player at all on the bench (or EH), the spot shall remain vacated and the spot in the order will be declared an out every time up.
  5. If a team only has 8 and a player(s) is ejected, the game will be declared a forfeit.

6. No one except players, managers, two adult coaches, and a scorekeeper shall occupy the dugout during the game.

7. The home team will occupy the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout at all times (including All-Star play).

8. No re-entry under Babe Ruth Baseball rules will be permitted until the 8<sup>th</sup> inning, except under provisions previously described.

9. All game suspensions require that the player be in full uniform and in attendance for the entire game(s) to fulfill the suspension unless otherwise directed by the Division Head and/or Disciplinary Committee. A suspension can be postponed to avoid forfeits.

10. Time limit for all games is 2 hours and 15 minutes in any scenario. If a team does not have enough players at gametime, they will be given a 15 minute grace period. The time limit will begin at this time. If the players show before the grace period expires, the game will begin with the remaining time. If after 15 minutes the player(s) do not show up, the game shall then be ruled a forfeit.
11. An official game is 4 ½ or 5 innings or when a game reaches its' time limit.
12. There is a 12-run mercy rule after 4/12 or 5 innings. The teams must have an equal number of at-bats.
13. Head-first slides are not permitted into home plate. It is permitted at any other base.
14. Bats: 13 year olds can use wood or aluminum with a BESR up to -8. All other players must use wood bats. There are no restrictions on the type of wood bats.

b) Pitching Rules and Limitations:

1. Trips to the pitching mound can only be made by a designated manager or coach. Two trips to the same pitcher in the same inning will result in the player being removed from the game as a pitcher. The player may continue to play at another position. Under no circumstances may a pitcher pitch again once he is removed. This rule is in place to protect the health of the players.
2. All high-school players are limited to pitch 3 innings per week.
3. Pitching week is Monday to Sunday
4. Rest for pitchers are as follows:
  - a) 3 innings or less: that pitcher may pitch the next day
  - b) more than 3 innings pitched: pitcher must rest 2 full calendar days
5. Balks in the 13 year old division will not be called for the 1<sup>st</sup> five games of the season and pitchers will be given a warning. Balks will be enforced for 13's starting with the 6<sup>th</sup> game of the season. All other divisions will have balks all season.
6. Any pitchers ages 13-15 are allowed up to 7 innings in a week. After the game, managers will be required to fill out each pitcher's innings in the game record book at the concession stand.

c) Safety and Discipline:

Any violation of any these rules will result in the player being declared out (when batting or running), ejected from the game, benched for the next game they attend, and subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors. There is strict **ZERO TOLERANCE** with these rules.

1. Players are required to avoid flagrant contact with any member of the fielding team for safety reasons. This will be determined by the umpire's judgment.
2. The phantom tag play in order to deceive a baserunner is prohibited for safety reasons. This will be determined by the umpire's judgment.

3. Players shall not use profane language.
4. Throwing of equipment in a flagrant manner which would endanger either people and/or property is not permitted. This will be determined by umpire's judgment and violators will be financially responsible for any damages they may cause.
5. No player is permitted to approach and/or enter the opposing dugout during a game without prior consent from the opposing manager and umpires.
6. No player or coach may run out onto the field at an umpire for any reason at all.

d) Playing Requirements:

1. Each player must play 10 full games, 7 of which must be in the field in all divisions. Absence is considered a FULL game on the field. Players arriving after the beginning of the game will be considered having played a full game on the field. Players arriving after the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning may be entered at the manager's discretion and will be considered to have played a full game on the field. This is subject to the conditions of rule 3 in section A.
2. The EH must play the full game as the EH if not using a rotary lineup. A player will not have more than 3 of his 10 full game playing requirement be as an EH. No player is allowed to EH in 2 consecutive scheduled games except under the terms or rule 3 in section A. Exceptions must be approved by the Player Agent or Division Head.
3. Each player must play 3 full, consecutive innings in every game and must bat at least once if not using the rotary lineup. Any player not batting in a game, caused only by a reduced inning game by time limitation or weather, must start and bat in the next scheduled game if they attend timely.
4. All substitutes must be entered at the completion of the third inning if not using the rotary lineup. This rule applies to all divisions. A starting player who has not batted after the completion of the third inning will play the full game. Players arriving after the third inning may be entered at the manager's discretion.

\*\*NOTE: Members of the SSBRL Board of Directors who participate in the League's activities as a manager, coach, or umpire temporarily suspend their authority as a Director when directly involved in that activity.