

# Major Rules – Spring 2017

(Updated 2/7/2017)

1. Time Limit/Game Length – The official scorer (home team scorer) shall record the official start time in the scorebook according to the umpire's watch or game clock. No new inning shall begin after the time limit has passed. If an inning starts within the time limit, it must be finished to the extent the outcome of the game may be affected.

- Time Limit - 1 hour 45 min for all games
- If time permits, regulations games will be 6 innings per game

2. Cal Ripken / Babe Ruth Rules shall be used at all times, except in any circumstances when said rules are in direct conflict with these posted Palm Beach Gardens Baseball Rules. In such case, Gardens Rules shall supersede Cal Ripken / Babe Ruth Rules. Any protest situation must be resolved before continuation of play. Umpire shall be informed of nature of protest and Board Member on Duty (BMOD) shall be sought to rule on protest. BMOD is permitted to seek advice of other board members or officials as he or she determines is necessary to resolve protest, including by telephone conference. Only Rules Questions may be protested. Judgment calls can never be protested. Game time will be suspended during protest.

3. Mercy Rule - The game will end via 10 run mercy rule when one team leads by 10 or more runs at the end of 4 innings or later, or 3½ innings if the home team is ahead. The team that is behind must complete at least 4 full innings at bat. If the visiting team takes a 10+ run lead in the top of the 4th, or 5<sup>th</sup> the home team shall have the opportunity to finish the inning in an attempt to catch up. . Due to the 8 runs per inning, the game will end after a 9 run mercy rule after the 5th inning.

4. An iPad will be used to keep the score. Scorekeepers will sign them out from the concession stand and return them after the game.

5. Weather decisions on field condition, practice / games being played, halting a game or completion of a game shall be made by the following people in order of availability:

- City of Palm Beach Gardens
- Baseball President
- Board Member on Duty
- Head Umpire
- Manager – May pull players from field only if both managers agree; however, managers MAY NOT postpone, reschedule or cancel a game.
- NOTE: Manager may cancel their practice at any time

6. Games halted by weather will be considered complete regulation games if at least:

- 3 ½ innings complete if home team ahead (Visitors must bat 4 times)
- 4 innings complete if home team behind (Both team have batted 4 times).
- All halted regular season games shall be considered suspended games unless they are considered completed games per above.
- All halted playoff games shall be considered suspended games and shall be played out until time limit or inning limit has been reached.
- Rules for Suspended Games shall apply

7. The batting order shall be the entire roster in attendance at the game. (i.e. the entire team must be in order with no substitutions). Late arrivals shall be added to the end of the batting order. Players will be alternated in the field each inning so that no child is to be off the field for two consecutive innings unless injured.

8. A team's at bat will end when the 3rd out is made or when the Eighth (8th) run has crossed the plate.

9. Pitching will be according to P.B.G. Baseball Rules. Refer to Pitching Rules.

10. No fake attempt to bunt and swing (Butcher Boy). If, at the umpire's discretion the play occurred, the batter is out and ball/play is dead.

11. Head first slides are permitted into any base except home. Head first slides into a home will result in runner being called out and ball/play is dead.

12. Players must slide into any base to avoid contact. (Avoiding contact is umpire discretion) No slide, as determined by the umpire, will result in the runner being called out, ball / play is dead. Attempting to hurdle a fielder making a tag is not a slide and player will be called out.

13. Courtesy Runner Rule – Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken rules do not permit courtesy runners for pitcher and catcher. However if a player is injured during the game and cannot run, and the player reaches base safely or is awarded 1st base, the batter last out shall take his/her place on base as a runner. In such case, the rule below shall apply. If a player has an injury which occurred prior to the start of the game such that he/she is too injured to be able to run the bases, said player should not be permitted to participate in the game.

14. If a player is forced to leave the game as a result of injury or illness which occurs during the game, the player may be removed from the game and his/her position in the batting order shall be skipped without penalty or an out being declared. If the player subsequently recovers from his/her injury during the game he/she shall be permitted to resume play assuming the same spot in the batting order. The judgment as to whether or not an injury occurred during the game shall be left to the umpire. If a player is leaving the game for reason other than injury or illness, an out shall be declared each time that player's turn in the batting order arrives. Regardless of anything to the contrary in this rule, a team's batting order must consist of at least 9 players. If after injury a team has only 8 batters, the team shall be required to take an out in the spot of the 9th player who left the order. In the event a team has less than 8 fielders, the team shall be required to forfeit the game. If a player leaves for any other reason, the BMOD will determine what the outcome on the player will be.

15. Catchers must have proper catcher's equipment (including protective cup), and must use a catcher's mitt.

16. If a game is tied at the end of the time limit or innings, the regular season game will end in a tie but a playoff game will use the Kansas City Tie Breaker.

Procedure: The game and batting order continues in regular fashion with 1 (one) exception: The last offensive player who completed his or her at bat shall begin the team's half inning at second base. The inning is started with 0 (none) out. Should the score remain tied after the initial tiebreaker inning, a regular season game will be considered a tie and a complete game, a playoff game will repeat this procedure until a winner is declared.

17. If umpires are not available, contact the board member on duty.

18. Players shall not wear jewelry of any kind, except permitted sports break-a-way jewelry. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces should be taped to the body.

19. In the event of injury, immediate medical attention shall be given and the player if necessary, be taken to the emergency room. PBGYAA Baseball Hotline (622-4157) shall be contacted as soon as possible.

20. Infield Fly rule shall apply.

21. Any player bleeding during a game shall be removed until the bleeding has stopped and a bandage applied. This player is considered injured until the bleeding has stopped.

22. Players must remain in the dugout during games.

Exception: Trips to bathroom or water fountain. No player should be sitting in the stands.

23. All players on a team shall wear uniforms identical in color, time and style according to the Babe Ruth rulebook. Players not in uniform WILL NOT be allowed to participate in the game. Players must have shirts tucked in at all times during games.
24. No metal cleats.
25. Behavior of players, managers, coaches and spectators will be according to the PBGYAA Code of Conduct.
26. Players or coaches ejected from a game will automatically sit the next game. Players or coaches must attend the next game, dressed in uniform and remain in the stands. They will not participate in any game until this requirement is met.
27. All pitching signs must be delivered to the pitcher through the catcher. First offense will result in a warning to the managers. Every offense after the first will result in a ball being called.
28. Only 4 Babe Ruth certified coaches are allowed on the field at one time. All coaches must be Babe Ruth certified, complete background checks with the city of PBG and complete coaching applications with the baseball league. All coaches must be in uniform, shirt & hat. Managers and coaches are permitted to coach 1st and 3rd base. Players are also allowed to coach bases should the manager so choose. Players must wear a helmet when coaching a base.
29. Each team will play 9 defensive players in the field.
30. All BATTERS must wear a helmet at all times when batting, on base or on deck.
31. On deck batters are permitted in the on deck circle and must be in the circle to the back of the batter.
32. Dropped third strike by the catcher is a live ball according to Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Rule 6.09(b).
33. Coaches may warm up pitchers. Players warming up pitchers must wear a catcher's mask. Pitchers warming up in the bullpen must be protected by a coach or by a player wearing a helmet.
34. Balks will be called in every game. First balk to a pitcher will be a warning. Next balk and all others will be called and enforced per Babe Ruth Rulebook. One warning per team per game.
35. Ball Buckets – Each team is permitted one ball bucket on the field while on defense. The bucket is for the defensive team only. It must be placed within 2 feet of the dugout fence in such a way to minimize any interference with the game. A defensive coach should be sitting on the ball bucket while it is on the field and the coach shall attempt to move the bucket if possible to minimize any interference with a live play. If no coach is sitting on the bucket it should be returned to the dugout. The ball bucket shall be considered part of the field of play and if hit by the ball, the ball shall remain live. The offensive team shall remove their bucket from the field when it is their turn at bat. The umpire shall remind the offensive team to remove the bucket if seen. There shall be no penalty for any ball hitting any bucket regardless of how it occurs.
36. Rules for suspended games:
  - All weather delayed or otherwise suspended games which have not reached required regulation length will be continued from the point the game was suspended.
  - Time limitations imposed on the original game will be continued from the point the game was suspended. [No Time limit for Championship Games]
  - All players in attendance at the time the game resumes will be allowed to play. If a rostered player was not in the lineup at the time the game was suspended, but is in attendance at the time the game is resumed, he/she shall be added to the bottom of the lineup. If a player in the lineup at the time the game was suspended is not available at the time the game is resumed, he/she shall be removed from the lineup without penalty. That player's spot in the batting order shall be skipped with no out declared. If the

issuing player was on base at the time the game was suspended he/she shall be replaced by the player(s) present who made the last batted out(s) in batting order.

- Pitching limitations for the game shall be enforced from the beginning of the game as originally played. However weekly pitching limitations shall be reset to the current week. Both game and weekly pitching limitations, including required rest times, shall apply.
- Rules governing 8/9 minimum player requirements shall still apply.

37. Rules are subject to modification at any time by order of the PBG Baseball board of directors.

# P.B.G. Baseball Pitching Rules

## MAJOR League

1. Pitching week starts on Monday and ends on Sunday.

2. Pitching limitations:

Max pitches per game / day	Rest Period		
85	0 days	1 day	2 days
	1 - 40	41 - 64	66+

3. If the pitcher reaches the maximum pitch count limit while facing a batter, he may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely or is put out.

4. Upon 2 (two) trips to the mound by a coach in the same inning with the same pitcher - manager must remove the pitcher from the mound and the pitcher is ineligible to return as pitcher for that game.

5. Any and all pitchers that have thrown a pitch in a game are ineligible to re-enter the game as a pitcher once a subsequent pitcher on the same team has thrown a pitch in the game.

6. Pitching rules broken will result in the pitcher not being able to pitch in their next eligible game. Managers will be suspended for 1 (one) game or more based on the decision by the Baseball Board of Directors.

### Travel Pitching Guidelines:

Travel baseball participants are children from our league. It is recognized that we are primarily a recreational league. However it is also acknowledged that travel play improves the level of play within our league and the skill level of our players. Here are the parameters which involve pitching:

1. Pitches per game – We will not deviate from our Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth innings per week guideline.

2. As travel games mostly occur on Sunday, in order to meet the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth requirement for proper rest whenever a recreation team and travel team play in the same week ( Monday – Sunday) the recreation program managers will be asked to pitch a child for no more than 40 pitches.

3. So that each recreation manager will know what to expect each week the travel managers will be asked to announce by Monday of each week if they have games that Sunday. They will also declare from their travel roster the pitchers for the Sunday games. Recreation managers are then encouraged to impose the 40 pitch count maximum. Any pitcher not declared by the travel manager is available to pitch his full complement of pitches for the recreation team that day.

4. Pitch counts per league guidelines are in force in both recreation and travel play.

5. In the event a recreational manager uses a travel requested pitcher more than allotted pitches per game on Saturday, the rec manager is requested to send an email to the requesting travel manager or travel director.

6. During recreational playoffs, no travel requests are allowed for any pitcher with a scheduled playoff game during the requested week.