

Rookie 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.

- The time limit is 1 hour 30 minutes.
- If time permits, 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 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, 5th, or 6th inning the home team shall have the opportunity to finish the inning in an attempt to catch up. The game will end immediately if the home team takes a 10 run lead in the 4th. There is 8 run mercy rule after 5 innings (can't score more than 7 runs per 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 Seventh (7th) run has crossed the plate, whichever occurs first.

9. An active play will end when the umpire calls "TIME". Time shall occur as soon as either the runners have ceased to attempt to advance or when the defensive team has control of the ball in front of the lead runner, at the umpire's discretion. At no time should the defensive player attempt to throw the ball to the umpire to stop runner advancement. Players are not permitted to call time to stop the advancement of the runners.

10. Bunting is allowed once an inning. No bunting with a runner on third base. No more than 1 bunt per player per game. Penalty: For any infraction (fair or foul), the ball is dead and the batter is out.

11. Defensive manager/coaches may coach from the outfield foul territory near the fence (one in right field, one in left field).

12. Offensive manager/coaches may coach 1st and 3rd base.

13. No head first slides into any base. Head first slides into a base will result in runner being called out and ball/play is dead. Players may slide head first back to a base.

14. 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.

15. Courtesy Runner Rule – Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken rules do not permit courtesy runners for catcher. However if a player is injured during the game and cannot run, and the player reaches base safely, 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.

16. 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.

17. The defensive team shall field 10 players on the field at one time.

18. Catchers must have proper catchers equipment (including protective cup), but can use either a catcher's mitt or fielder's glove.

19. The defensive player-pitcher must keep one foot in the pitching mound dirt and be even with or behind the pitching machine until the pitch is delivered.

20. Pitching machines will be used, set up and agreed to by both managers prior to the start of the game. The league will provide the machine. If both managers cannot agree on the machine setup the umpire's judgment will be final. Machine should be set for 39 MPH. Power setting = 7, Micro = 3, Block = 4. However, these settings may change with newer machines. The machine should be placed at 46' on the pitching rubber.

21. The UMPIRE will operate the pitching machine.

22. Once the game starts ANY and ALL changes to the machine settings will be made by the UMPIRE ONLY and will be made at the end of the inning (home team is out). However the umpire may adjust the pitch height or pitch direction at any time he/she determines is necessary.

23. Only base coaches shall talk to or instruct base runners until play is stopped by the UMPIRE.
24. If umpires are not available, contact the board member on duty.
25. 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.
26. If a batted ball strikes the machine, the play shall be dead. The batter shall be awarded first base and all runners shall advance 1 base only if forced to advance.
27. 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.
28. The batter shall be allowed up to 3 strikes or 6 pitches, whichever comes first. The batter may get another pitch if the last pitch is a foul ball or if the pitch is deemed unhittable by the UMPIRE. The UMPIRE shall inform the batter that this is the last pitch.
29. Infield Fly rule shall not apply.
30. Any player bleeding during a game shall be removed until the bleeding has stopped and a bandage applied.
31. In the event that a team can only field 9 players, the 10th position in the batting order shall be considered an automatic out.
32. Player-pitcher shall wear a helmet with face mask at all times when on the field.
33. All BATTERS must wear a helmet with a face mask at all times when batting, on base or on deck. On deck batters are permitted in the on deck circle and must be in the circle to the back of the batter.
34. Players must remain in the dugout during games. Exception: Trips to bathroom or water fountain. No player should be sitting in the stands.
35. 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.
36. No metal cleats.
37. Behavior of players, managers, coaches and spectators will be according to the PBGYAA Code of Conduct.
38. 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.
39. Players or coaches ejected from a game will automatically sit out the next game. Players or coaches must attend the next game dressed in uniform and sit in the stands. They will not participate in any game until this requirement is met.
40. 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.

41. No Lead-offs or Steals are permitted. The ball is dead until put in play. Base runners are not permitted to leave the base until the ball crosses home plate. Base runners leaving early shall be subject to the Cal Ripken Delayed Dead Ball Rule.

42. NO Ball Buckets shall be on the field (outside the dugout) during the game.

43. 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 missing 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.

44. Rules are subject to modification by order of the PBG Baseball board of directors.