

Tallahassee/Leon Babe Ruth League, Inc. 2004 Policies of Operation

Fee Policy

A registration fee, as set by the Board each year, must be paid in full by March 1st of each year. A letter informing parents of this financial responsibility shall be sent before the start of the season. Any player who has not paid or made arrangements to pay the registration fee by the due date shall not be allowed to play Babe Ruth Baseball and another player shall be drafted to replace him. A financial charge may be levied on any delinquent balances.

Parent Coaching Policy

Parents or guardians of players in the Tallahassee/Leon Babe Ruth Baseball program shall not be Team Managers or Coaches in the league in which their son or daughter participates during the regular or all-star seasons. However, parents may manage or coach during the extended summer program or the fall program. The Board has the discretion to depart from this policy upon a majority vote of the Board.

Purchasing Policy

The Board of Directors shall annually designate no less than two (2) persons who shall be authorized to make equipment purchases on the behalf of the league. No other league official, Team Manager, Coach or parent/guardian shall be authorized to make purchases.

The League President shall notify any regular vendors, in writing, as to those persons who are duly authorized to charge purchases to our accounts. Vendors shall also be informed that no charges made by any person other than those authorized by the Board shall be paid by Tallahassee/Leon Babe Ruth League, Inc.

Signatories Policy

The Board of Directors shall annually designate the Treasurer, President and Secretary who shall be authorized to serve as signatories on the League checking account, savings account, certificates of deposit, etc. Transactions on such accounts shall require one signature. The Treasurer shall present all bank statements (including deposit slips, cancelled checks and bank reconciliation) from the prior month for review by a Board member. This review shall coincide with Board Meetings.

TEAM POLICY

Tallahassee/Leon Babe Ruth League, Inc. shall be comprised of two leagues, a Prep League and a Senior League. The Prep League shall consist of a minimum of four (4) teams. The Senior League shall consist of a minimum of six (6) teams.

Team Composition

Each team shall consist of no less than twelve (12) players nor more than fifteen (15) players, a Team Manager, and no more than two (2) Coaches. The Prep League shall consist of players who are determined to be thirteen year-olds based on the current year Babe Ruth League Birth Chart. The Senior League teams shall consist of no more than eight (8) fifteen year-olds and seven (7) fourteen year-olds where age is determined by the current year Babe Ruth League Birth Chart.

Team Goals

1. To learn as much as possible about how to play baseball correctly.
2. To help each member enjoy this season by playing, learning, and having a good attitude at all times.
3. To participate within the bounds of fair play and the rules of the game.

Team Discipline

Intelligent, evenly applied discipline develops an understanding of, and respect for, league policy and rules, and develops a spirit of cooperation and team play.

Physical Contact Sanction

Physical contact among umpires and Team Managers, Coaches, players, or parents/guardians is strictly prohibited. Team Managers, Coaches, players, or parents/guardians who violate this rule shall be subject to a one (1) game suspension at the first offense or a greater sanction depending on the severity of the offense to be determined by the Board and may be dismissed and barred from the league for a period of one (1) year for any subsequent offense.

Team Rules

Team rules at a minimum shall include:

1. Each player and coach shall wear appropriate baseball attire to all practices and games.
2. No rings, bracelets, or heavy jewelry shall be permitted on the field.
3. Players shall use good manners at all times.
4. Players shall not physically or verbally abuse teammates, umpires, or members of other teams.
5. Players shall not, under any circumstances, argue with an umpire or league official.
6. Players shall report all injuries immediately.
7. Players shall hustle during all practice and game activity on the field.
8. Players shall not use any type of profanity.
9. Players shall maintain their schoolwork during baseball season. A player must have a 2.0 grade point average to be considered eligible for all-star selection.
10. Players shall be on time, fully dressed, and ready to practice or play a game.
11. Players shall not abuse equipment during a game.
12. Players and coaches shall not chew, dip, or smoke any tobacco substance, use any other controlled substance, or consume any alcoholic beverages during any practices or games.

Any individual who violates the rules specified above shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action as determined by the Team Manager, subject to approval of the President. The Board reserves the right to administer discipline when deemed necessary.

Team Manager, Coach or Player Ejection

An ejection of a Team Manager, Coach, or player shall result in an automatic one (1) game suspension. The suspended Team Manager or Coach shall not be allowed at the park for his suspended game. A suspended player must attend his suspended game. A suspended Team Manager or Coach is entitled to appear before the Appeals Committee (appointed by the President). A Team Manager or Coach must submit his appeal in writing by noon of the day following his ejection. A response shall be rendered within 24 hours. A suspended player is not entitled to an appeal.

Players at Game Time and Forfeiture

A team must start and finish a game with nine (9) players unless a player is injured, and then the team may finish with no less than eight (8) players. Statistics of a forfeited game shall count up until the time of forfeiture.

Mandatory Playing Rule¹

In an official game, all players must play two (2) consecutive innings of defense and have at least one (1) official plate appearance. In addition, each player must start every other game and play a minimum of four (4) consecutive innings. This rule may be waived if a player arrives late to a game or presents a discipline problem. A discipline problem is defined as not attending practices or showing disrespect to the Team Manager, Coaches, umpires, league officials, or other players. When a Team decides to use the exception to the Mandatory Playing Rule, the Team must notify the opposing Team and the official scorekeeper before the game begins. The President or the appropriate Vice President shall be responsible for rulings as requested on interpretations of the exception to the Mandatory Playing Rule. The mandatory playing rule is waived during the Paul Mauck Tournament.

Sanctions² Sanctions for violating the Mandatory Playing Rule shall include:

First Offense: The Team Manager or the Coach shall receive a warning and the policies shall be reviewed for compliance.

Second Offense: One game suspension for the Team Manager or Coach responsible for the violation. The suspension shall be served at the next scheduled game. The suspended Team Manager or Coach must be in attendance at the game. The suspension shall not be lifted until the Team Manager or Coach has attended a game while under the suspension.

Third Offense: Appear before the Board of Directors, with the Board having full authority to determine an appropriate sanction.

Extra Hitter Rule³

Each team may elect to utilize an Extra Hitter (an additional batter in the line-up). The Extra Hitter must be declared prior to the beginning of the game and included on the line-up card. If a team begins the game with an Extra Hitter, they must finish the game with an Extra Hitter. Otherwise, that position shall be considered an out each time it comes up. The Extra Hitter may be substituted for or may be switched with another player on defense. If substituted for prior to the fifth inning, that player is subject to the Mandatory Playing Rule. No player shall be designated the Extra Hitter for two (2) consecutive games unless that player has otherwise met the minimum playing time provided for under the Mandatory Playing Rule. The Extra Hitter Rule shall not be considered a start in accordance with the Mandatory Playing Rule. An exception can be made for injuries or disciplinary reasons.

Shared Position Rule⁴

Team Managers may use the Shared Position Rule which, when implemented, shall nullify the requirements for minimum play outlined above for the players who are in shared positions. The Shared Position Rule is as follows:

A Team Manager may designate one or more defensive positions as “shared positions” by informing the scorekeeper, umpires, and opposing Team Manager prior to the start of the game. Two players shall then alternate defensive innings at the shared position and shall also alternate plate appearances for the entire game. The Extra Hitter shall not be considered a shared position. The pitcher cannot be in a shared position under any circumstances. In the event of injury, a Team Manager may split the shared position to avoid forfeiture.

Managers may utilize the Shared Position and the Extra Hitter during the Paul Mauck Tournament.

PLAYER SELECTION POLICY

Senior League

Teams

Teams shall be named by the Board or take the name of the sponsors. No high school name shall be used.

Teams shall have no less than twelve (12) players, nor no more than fifteen (15) players, depending upon the number of players in the draft pool and the choice of each team, independently, to carry the number of players it desires. No team may drop out of drafting players as long as there are players remaining in the draft pool.

Age Requirements

Fifteen year-old players are defined as individuals in their final year of Babe Ruth play as fifteen year-olds (that is, do not turn sixteen until August 1). All returning fourteen year-old players shall be permitted to stay on the same team as in the previous regular season. However, any fifteen year-old player who does not wish to remain with his/her previous team may request to be placed into the draft. This request must be in writing and set forth in detail the reasons for the request. The Board shall consider each request and may grant it only if extraordinary circumstances are present. New players may be nominated for vacancies based upon recommendation from area high school baseball coaches, area baseball parks and nomination from a Board member. Selection shall be based

on athletic ability and sportsmanship. Former Babe Ruth players wishing to return to the program should make a written request to the Board stating the reason for leaving and for returning. The President may add additional fourteen and fifteen year-old players to fill out the draft subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

Fourteen year-old players are defined as those who turn fourteen but not fifteen before August 1. Those returning from the previous regular season shall be evenly divided by a draft procedure between the Senior teams.

Draft

Players shall be drafted from both the fifteen and fourteen year-old pools, based upon a procedure to be prepared by the Team Managers and the President; however, the Executive Committee shall approve of the procedure.

Prep League

Nominations

The Prep League Vice Presidents shall: obtain All-Star rosters from all area parks; solicit nominations from area park presidents and coaches; and prepare a list of players believed to be capable of participating in Babe Ruth Baseball. The list should include the player's name, address, telephone number, positions, skills (throwing, hitting, and running speeds), and attitude.

Selections

A try-out session(s) for those players identified shall be held under the supervision of the Prep League Vice Presidents. A list of no more than 52 players along with four (4) alternates deemed capable after the try-out shall be given to the President for his or her final approval. The President shall send letters of invitation. Should additional players be necessary to ensure that each team has the same number of players, the Prep League Vice Presidents shall select additional players from the alternate list, subject to the approval of the President.

Draft

All Prep League players and Team Managers are expected to participate in the spring Prep Camp. At the completion of the Camp, the Prep League Vice Presidents shall convene a meeting of all Prep League Team Managers. The first order of business at this meeting shall be to determine the order of the draft. Team Managers shall then proceed to draft all players onto four (4) equal teams. The teams shall be represented by the numbers 1 through 4. Team Managers shall draw to determine which team they shall manage after which all players on their teams shall be contacted as soon as possible.

Transfer Requests

Once assigned to a team, Prep players shall not be allowed to change teams unless such a change is approved by the Prep League Vice President(s), the President, and affected Team Managers.

ALL-STAR SELECTION POLICY

Teams

The All-Star teams shall be no less than thirteen (13), and no more than the fifteen (15) players. The All-Star teams shall be selected as follows:

“15 A” Team, consisting of best players in the Senior League.

“14” Team, consisting of the best fourteen (14) year-old players not selected by the “A” Team.

“15 B” Team, consisting of the best remaining players in the Senior League.

“Prep” Team, consisting of the best players in the Prep League.

Player Selection

The League President shall convene a meeting of all persons who are designated as Team Managers in the regular league. Team Managers are expected to attend unless excused from the meeting by the League President. In the event of a Team Manager's absence, a Coach from the team shall be present and shall carry all voting rights for that team.

Player Nominations

Persons eligible to attend are: the Team Managers and/or Coaches of teams, and the President. If the President's son or daughter is directly affected by the vote, than the President shall designate a League Officer (an officer whose son or daughter is not directly affected by the vote) to attend the meeting. The President or League Officer shall convene the meeting and review the policies that cover All-Star selection. After the policy review, the President or League Officer shall then call upon each Team Manager to nominate players from his team for the All-Star team. The Team Manager shall present information to support nominations as deemed appropriate.

Balloting

Once all nominations have been made, the President or League Officer shall begin the balloting process. Team Managers must each cast a ballot containing the names of thirteen (13) players who have been nominated.

Election

A player shall be elected if six (6) votes are received on the first ballot. Subsequent discussion should then occur on remaining players and positions that need to be filled. A second ballot shall then be conducted of those players who were not elected on the first ballot. Team Managers shall be allowed to cast the number of votes equal to the number of positions that remain unfilled after the first ballot.

Any player who receives six (6) ballots in the second round shall be deemed elected, and the balloting shall continue until all positions are filled.

Team Manager's Option, Player Selection

The All-Star Team Manager shall have the authority to select two (2) players to fill out the roster as appropriate. Such players shall be from among those nominated and receiving at least one vote at the All-Star Player Selection Meeting.

All-Star Team Manager Selection

The Team Manager who wins the annual Senior League Paul Mauck Tournament shall be given the opportunity to be the Team Manager for the "15A" Team, "14" Team, or "15B" Team at his or her choice. The Team Manager of the second-place team in the Senior League Paul Mauck Tournament shall be given the opportunity to be the Team Manager of one of the Senior League All-Star teams not selected by the Team Manager of the winner of the Tournament. The Team Manager of the third-place team in the Senior League Paul Mauck Tournament shall be given the opportunity to be the Team Manager of the remaining Senior League All-Star Team.

The position of Team Manager for the "Prep" Team shall be awarded to the Team Manager who wins the Prep League Paul Mauck Tournament.

All-Star Team Managers shall select their assistant coaches.

The Board reserves the right to appoint a Team Manager or Assistant Coaches for All-Star Teams when a Team Manager has been in the league for less than one year.

Player Notification

The All-Star Team Managers shall notify selected players within 24 hours after the All-Star Player Selection Meeting. In the event that a player selected cannot serve for any reason, the All-Star Team Manager may select a replacement from among those players nominated at the All-Star Player Selection Meeting.

AWARDS POLICY

League Championship

Tallahassee/Leon Babe Ruth League, Inc. shall annually award trophies to those players, Team Managers, and Coaches whose teams win the the Paul Mauck Tournament that is held after the final regular season game. Trophies shall be given only to those persons whose names appear on the official team roster.

All-Star Trophies

Players, Team Managers, and Coaches who are on the official roster for an All-Star team shall receive appropriate recognition, as determined by the Board, for their participation on an All-Star team.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

General

Individual awards shall be determined at the All-Star selection meeting. The Team Managers shall make every attempt to distribute awards in such a manner so that no one individual shall be recognized exclusively for all awards.

Prep League Rookie of the Year

Tallahassee/Leon Babe Ruth League, Inc. shall annually award a Rookie of the Year award to the player selected by the Team Managers as the most outstanding Prep League player.

Kirwin-Elliott Award

The Kirwin-Elliott Award shall be given annually to the Prep League player that exemplifies the spirit of leadership, sportsmanship, and dedication to baseball's team concept. The trophy rotates from year to year to the player that is designated as the recipient. The year following receipt of the award, the player shall be given a plaque to replace the actual trophy.

Coaches Award

One player from each Prep League team shall be awarded a trophy for their persistent efforts in improving their quality of play and demonstrated sportsmanship.

Senior League Batting Championship

The Batting Championship Award shall be given annually to the Senior League player who has achieved the highest batting average. The Team Managers shall determine the award winner and shall set a number of plate appearances that a player must have in order to qualify for the award.

Senior League Pitching Award

The Pitching Award shall be given annually to the Senior League player who is the best pitcher based on criteria adopted by the Board. The Team Managers shall determine the award winner and shall set a number of appearances that a player must have in order to qualify for the award.

Senior League Sportsmanship Award

The Sportsmanship Award shall be given annually to a Senior League player who has demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship. The Team Managers shall determine the award winner.

Senior League Most Valuable Player

The Most Valuable Player trophy shall be given annually to a Senior League Player who has had the most impact on the league and his team. The Team Managers shall determine the award winner.

Sponsors' Plaques

Tallahassee/Leon Babe Ruth League, Inc. shall annually give a plaque to each team sponsor. Such plaques shall be distributed at the annual banquet, if possible.

Other Trophies and Awards

The Board shall from time to time determine that additional recognition is appropriate. In such circumstances, the President is authorized to obtain an appropriate plaque or trophy to extend special awards. In the event that such awards become consistent from year to year, then such awards may be added to this policy.

Rule Clarifications

1. **Mandatory Play Rule** - Since the majority of the games are less than seven (7) innings, the alternate start and minimum play can be reduced from four (4) to three (3) consecutive innings. Likewise, Coaches should begin making substitutions in the third inning in order to comply with the minimum playing time.
2. **Sanctions**
First Offense- The Coach will receive a warning and the policies will be reviewed for compliance.
Second Offense- One (1) game suspension.
3. **Extra Hitter Rule** - If the Extra Hitter (EH) is injured or ejected, then a non-playing substitute may enter the game. In the event that only ten (10) players are available, then that position will be considered an out each time at bat. The EH may be used to satisfy the minimum playing time only if the starting player remains in the game for a minimum of four (4) innings.
4. **Shared Position Rule** - The Shared Position Rule may not be used as a start, but will satisfy the minimum playing time if the Players stay in the entire game.

Prep Players- The Prep Players who have been assigned to the Senior League Teams are available on an “as-needed” basis. If the Preps receive a call to attend a game, then they must play in some capacity! However, Preps are not subject to the Mandatory Play Rule.

Approved by the Board on 12/14/03

Adopted by the Membership on 1/13/04