

STAFFORD BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC.

A Non-Profit Tax-Exempt Organization for 4 to 18-Year-Old Players



2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Board:

<i>President</i>	<i>Robert A. Dreistadt</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>David J. Bearon</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Michael Bouchard</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Frank DelRosso</i>
<i>Babe Ruth Director At-Large</i>	<i>Tony Greco</i>
<i>Cal Ripken Director At-Large</i>	<i>Don Kelley</i>

League Directors:

<i>Prep Director</i>	<i>Mark Romeo</i>
<i>AA Divisions Director</i>	<i>VACANT</i>
<i>Major League Director</i>	<i>Steven Hagan</i>
<i>Minor League Director</i>	<i>John Traeger</i>
<i>Rookie League Director</i>	<i>William Lewis</i>
<i>T-Ball League Director</i>	<i>Steven Cohn</i>
<i>Softball Director</i>	<i>Ken White</i>

Program Directors:

<i>Communications Director</i>	<i>Scott Hirons</i>
<i>Equipment Director</i>	<i>Troy Blanchard</i>
<i>Fundraising Director</i>	<i>Ray Piaskowski</i>
<i>Safety Director</i>	<i>Kim McCarther</i>
<i>Umpire Director</i>	<i>Roy Ruiz</i>
<i>Player Representative</i>	<i>Al McCarther Jr.</i>

RULES AND PROCEDURES 2011



POST OFFICE BOX 2078
STAFFORD, VIRGINIA 22555
(540) 657-1634
www.staffordbaseball.org

This page is intentionally left blank.

Table of Contents

1.0 LEAGUE OPERATIONS.....	5
1.1 Mission Statement	5
1.2 Policy	5
1.3 Responsibilities	5
1.4 Programs	10
1.5 Leagues and Divisions	10
1.5.1 The Babe Ruth Leagues.....	10
1.5.2 The Cal Ripken Leagues.....	10
1.5.3 The Girl’s Fastpitch Softball Leagues	11
1.5.4 Geographic Divisions.....	11
2.0 REGISTRATION	13
2.1 Responsibility	13
2.2 Fees	13
2.3 Refunds	13
2.4 Registration Period	13
2.5 Eligibility	13
3.0 MANAGER & COACH SELECTION.....	15
3.1 Criteria.....	15
3.2 Nomination	15
3.3 Ratification	15
4.0 PLAYER SELECTION.....	17
4.1 Team Composition	17
4.1.1 Responsibility.....	17
4.1.2 Returning Players (Tee-Ball and Rookie only)	17
4.1.3 Parent Requests.....	17
4.1.4 Replacement Players and Roster Adjustment.....	17
4.1.5 Official Rosters.....	18
4.2 Playing Down or Up a League	18
5.0 TRYOUTS – MINORS, MAJORS, AND BABE RUTH	19
5.1 Responsibility	19
5.2 Intent of Tryouts	19

5.3	Tryout and Team Rosters	19
6.0	DRAFT RULES	21
6.1	Responsibilities	21
6.2	Team Composition	21
6.3	Hat Picks	21
6.4	Draft Order	21
6.5	Draft Process – Single “A”, BRL, and Girl’s Softball	22
6.6	Draft Process – Double “A”	22
6.7	Trading	23
6.8	Official Team Rosters	23
7.0	ALL-STAR SELECTION	25
7.1	Player Selection	25
7.1.1	“A” Divisions – Minor and Major Leagues	25
7.1.2	“AA” Division – All Leagues (excluding T-Ball)	26
7.2	All-Star Manager Selection	26
7.2.1	“A” Division – Minors and Majors	26
7.2.2	“AA” and Babe Ruth Divisions	27
8.0	TOURNAMENTS	29
8.1	Preseason	29
8.2	End of Season – “In House”	29
8.3	All Star Season	30
8.3.1	Babe Ruth League and Cal Ripken “AA” Divisions	30
8.3.2	Cal Ripken “A” Divisions in Minor League and Major League	30
8.4	Postseason	30
9.0	FALL SEASON	31
10.0	EVENT LIMITATION	33
10.1	School Year	33
10.2	School Vacation	33
11.0	SCHEDULING	35
11.1	General	35
11.2	Practices	35
11.3	Alternative Field Locations	35

11.4	Game Scheduling	35
11.5	Game Length, Suspended Games, and No Games.....	36
11.6	Cancellations/Postponements	37
11.7	Game-time Decisions	37
11.8	Game Delay without Lightning.....	37
11.9	Game Delay with Lightning	37
11.10	Field Evacuation Procedures (lightning)	38
11.11	Stafford County Parks and Recreation Department Authority.....	38
11.12	Rescheduling	38
11.13	Continuing Suspended Games	38
12.0	PROTESTS	41
13.0	CODE OF CONDUCT	43
13.1	League Expectations of Conduct.....	43
13.1.1	Managers and Coaches	43
13.1.2	Parents and Other Persons	43
13.1.3	Players	43
13.2	Game Ejections	43
13.3	Reporting Violations.....	44
13.4	Evidence of a Violation	44
13.5	Minor Violation	44
13.6	Major Violation	45
13.7	Serving a Suspension.....	45
13.7.1	Managers, Coaches, Parents, and Other Fans	45
13.7.2	Players	45
13.8	Appeal Rights	46
13.9	Appeals Committee.....	46
13.10	Manager’s Right to Discipline	46
14.0	SAFETY	47
14.1	Coordinator of Safety.....	47
14.2	Safety Committee	47
14.3	Roles and Responsibilities.....	47
14.4	Accident Reporting.....	47

14.5	Safety Code	48
14.6	Storage Shed & Equipment Box Procedures.....	49
15.0	HOUSE RULES	51
15.1	General – Applies To All Leagues	52
15.2	The Cal Ripken Leagues – Tee Ball League.....	53
15.3	The Cal Ripken Leagues – Rookie League	54
15.4	The Cal Ripken Leagues – Minor League.....	57
15.5	The Cal Ripken Leagues – Major League.....	61
15.6	The Babe Ruth Leagues (to include 13-year-old Prep League)	65
15.7	The Girl’s Fastpitch Softball Leagues	69
15.7.1	8U Girl’s Machine Pitch Softball.....	72
15.7.2	10U Girl’s Fastpitch Softball.....	73
15.7.3	12U Girl’s Fastpitch Softball.....	73
16.0	TAXI SQUADS.....	75
16.1	Purpose	75
16.2	Permission to Compete.....	75
16.3	Code of Conduct.....	76
16.4	Manager and Player Selection	76
16.5	Eligibility.....	77
16.6	Player Participation.....	77
16.7	Jurisdiction	77
16.8	League Mandated Rules.....	77
16.9	Obligation.....	78
16.9.1	League Finance	78
16.9.2	Coaches and Managers.....	78
16.9.3	Players	79
17.0	UMPIRES	81
17.1	Director of Umpires	81
17.2	Regional Umpire Coordinators	81
17.3	Umpires.....	81
17.3.1	Responsibilities	81
17.3.2	Requirements	82

1.0 LEAGUE OPERATIONS

1.1 Mission Statement

The mission of Stafford Baseball League, Inc. (SBL) is to organize and administer the league and promote the love of baseball, good field manners, a sense of fair play, good sportsmanship, teamwork, honesty, and good health habits for the youth of Stafford County participating in youth recreational baseball. Those qualifying leagues under the direction of our league charter, or those leagues directly established at the discretion of SBL, may be eligible to compete in tournaments that lead to district, state, regional and national championships.

1.2 Policy

The SBL general membership shall meet annually in September, as provided for in the corporation's by-laws, for the purpose of electing an Executive Board of Directors (BOD). The newly elected executive board shall take office at the first BOD meeting following the election. The SBL BOD shall set forth *Guidelines* and *Procedures* to govern the youth baseball program for SBL. Such rules and procedures may be changed to reflect the league's current programs. The league's *Guidelines* and *Procedures* shall never be in conflict with the SBL by-laws. Changes to *Guidelines* and *Procedures* must be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors present at the time of presentation.

Upon ratification by the league's BOD, amended *Guidelines* and *Procedures* shall be presented at the next general assembly meeting for deliberation, debate, or as provided for in the league's by-laws under *Robert's Rules of Order*. The full text of the SBL rules and regulations shall be available for public inspection at a location determined by the SBL BOD.

On every even calendar year, the SBL BOD shall solicit a minimum of three bids for all bulk orders for uniforms, trophies, and league baseball equipment over \$10,000.00 and any single item order over \$2,500 that is purchased through vendors. Upon receiving these bids, the SBL BOD shall by majority vote select a vendor for the following season.

1.3 Responsibilities

Each member, parent/guardian, spectator or guest of the SBL is responsible for following these procedures to include the Code of Conduct listed in Article XIII.

- A. **Parents/Guardians:** Are responsible for transporting their child/children to and from practices, games, or team/league events. Parents or guardians are not to leave their child or children unattended at any league event(s) unless prior arrangements have been made with other legal age adults who are present. Neither the league nor its coaches/officials have the authority to administer or authorize medical attention other than basic first aid. Parents and guardians shall support and help with team/league events, to include assistance with field maintenance/clean-up, concessions support and other reasonable requests as required. Parents/Guardians shall bring questions or complaints regarding the league to their team manager or league commissioner. Parents are responsible for inspecting all personally owned equipment (batting helmets, bats, gloves, catchers gear) before each and every practice or game.
- B. **Managers/Coaches:** Managers are nominated by their commissioners and ratified and appointed by the SBL BOD for each season. Managers/Coaches are volunteers who agree to

hold practices, attend team games and league functions. They shall have a basic understanding of the game and conduct practices to advance the basic skill levels of all team players. Practices shall be run in an organized and respectful manner to all parties involved. If managers are unable to attend, the team responsibilities shall be delegated to the assistant coach. Managers/Coaches will assist their division director in day-to-day operations of their division and its interests to include general membership meetings. Managers and Coaches shall bring questions or complaints regarding the league to their league commissioner. The SBL BOD or the league's by-laws may define more specific duties further in these procedures.

- C. **Commissioners:** Commissioners are nominated by their league Director and ratified and appointed by the SBL BOD for each season. Each league shall have one commissioner for each division. Commissioners are volunteers who do not have to be managers or parents within each division. Commissioners shall have the responsibilities of assisting with manager / coach recruiting / selection, helping with registration and coaching clinics, and distributing team equipment, schedules, and rosters. They shall oversee and provide the needs for each team in their division, to include practice schedules, field maintenance, **inventory and resupply of storage containers**, coaching support, or rescheduling games. They shall ensure all teams and managers are conducting their responsibilities in accordance with the SBL's procedures and house rules. Commissioners are also responsible for running tryouts, running the player drafts, and making player/team assignments as defined in these procedures. They shall represent their division at league meetings and assist the director with in-house tournaments. Commissioners shall bring questions or complaints regarding the league to their league director. The SBL BOD or the league's by-laws may define more specific duties further in these procedures.
- D. **League Directors:** Cal Ripken league directors are nominated by the league President and ratified and appointed by the SBL executive board for concurrent seasons as general affairs officers, starting from the time they are ratified and ending in the fall. Each league shall have one director. League directors are members of the SBL BOD and shall represent their divisions, give monthly director reports on their divisions, tournaments, coaches, commissioners, status of field conditions, and attend any and all league meetings and events. They shall assist other BOD members with administrative duties as defined further in these procedures by the SBL BOD or the league's by-laws. League directors shall screen and select their commissioners, one for each of their divisions. League directors are to oversee and insure commissioners are conducting their responsibilities in accordance with the SBL's procedures and house rules. League directors shall assume the commissioner's responsibilities in their absence or when the position is vacant. League directors shall advise their At-Large Director on day-to-day operations of their league. Each director serves on the rules and procedures committee, they place registration banners, assist the league Secretary in running the registrations, preparing rosters, and distributing schedules. **Directors make all necessary arrangements for their commissioners, run any and all tournaments for their division on the local and state levels, and coordinate team assignments for concessions or other league events.** Directors shall make arrangements with the league's Equipment Director for equipment issue, return, and replacements. League directors shall bring questions or complaints regarding the league to their At-Large Director.
- E. **Administrative Assistant:** The Administrative Assistant is a contracted, paid position to provide administrative support to the Board of Directors and the league membership as a whole; the

Administrative Assistant will be tasked by the Executive Board via the Vice President or other Executive Board member as designated by the President. The terms of the contract for the Administrative Assistant will be administered by the Executive Board. Funding for this position will be budgeted for on an annual basis and similarly reviewed. The Administrative Assistant will perform a myriad of administrative functions, to include but not limited to, database management, file maintenance, preparation of forms, receiving equipment, field inspections, etc. The Administrative Assistant is responsible to the Vice-President for the conduct of day-to-day league administrative operations.

- F. **Director of Umpires:** Shall be nominated by the league President and ratified and appointed by the SBL executive board for concurrent seasons as a general affairs officer, starting from the time they are ratified and ending in the fall. The league's Director of Umpires is a member of the SBL BOD and shall represent their umpires at all league meetings, give monthly umpire reports for wages and performance on their umpires and coordinators, provide manager or team comments, request rule interpretation(s), and shall attend all league meetings and events. They shall assist other BOD members with administrative duties as defined further in these procedures by the SBL BOD or the league's by-laws. They shall make all arrangements to organize, inventory, and distribute all league umpire equipment and literature to include the equipment return or retrieval at the end of each season. They shall conduct umpire clinics and represent the league's umpires at all registrations. They shall coordinate with their regional coordinators in respect to scheduling, wages, and accountability. The Director of Umpires shall enforce those directives as determined by the SBL BOD. All umpire pay is to be approved by the Director of Umpires under the supervision of the SBL BOD and their annual budget. The Director of Umpires shall bring questions or complaints regarding the league to the league Vice President or BOD. The SBL BOD or the league's by-laws may define more specific duties further in these procedures.
- G. **Director of Fundraising:** Shall be nominated by the league President and ratified and appointed by the SBL executive board for concurrent seasons as a general affairs officer. The appointment is effective upon ratification through the end of the fall season. The Director of Fundraising is a member of the SBL BOD and shall attend all league meetings, give monthly concessions reports for income and expenses, performance of their coordinators and staff, product inventory and concessions equipment. The Fundraising Director shall organize the league concession needs as directed by the SBL BOD. The Fundraising Director is responsible on a weekly basis for the purchasing and distribution of products, accounting for expenditures, income and making weekly bank deposits. The Fundraising Director shall appoint site coordinators, consult with each division director to ensure team concession assignments are covered for each event, and shall consult with the league's Vice President or Treasurer prior to acquiring any concession needs. The Fundraising Director shall bring questions or complaints regarding the league to the league Vice President. The SBL BOD or the league's by-laws may define more specific duties further in these procedures.
- H. **Equipment Manager/Director:** Shall be nominated by the league President and ratified and appointed by the SBL executive board for concurrent seasons as a general affairs officer, starting from the time they are ratified and ending in the fall. The league's Equipment Manager/Director is a member of the SBL BOD and shall give monthly equipment reports and shall attend any and all league meetings and events. The Equipment Manager/Director shall

assist other BOD members with administrative duties as defined further in these procedures by the SBL BOD or the league's by-laws. The Equipment Manager/Director shall maintain, organize, repair, assign, and distribute the league's team equipment and uniforms in cooperation with the division directors. Once the season is over the Equipment Manager/Director shall make the necessary arrangements through the division directors for equipment return. The Equipment Manager/Director is the purchasing officer for uniforms and baseball equipment, and shall operate and run the league equipment facilities and track current inventory, which shall be reported to the league President. The Equipment Director shall bring questions or complaints regarding the league to the league Vice President. The SBL BOD or the league's by-laws may define more specific duties further in these procedures.

- I. **Communications Director:** Shall nominated by the league President and ratified and appointed by the SBL executive board for concurrent seasons as general affairs officers, starting from the time they are ratified and ending in the fall. The Communications Director manages the league's official home page; assigns administrative rights to league volunteers and teams; ensures that league news and scores are updated on a regular basis; collects, posts and distributes important information on League activities; and serves as the primary contact person for optimizing use of the Internet for league administration and for distributing information to league members.
- J. **At-Large Directors:** Cal Ripken & Babe Ruth At-Large directors are members of the executive board who are elected as prescribed in the league by-laws. There are two at-large directors, one for each league. Each At-Large Director is responsible for all duties and activities, which are not delegated and fall under their respective leagues. The Babe Ruth At-Large Director shall assume the league director responsibilities for all Babe Ruth Divisions. At-Large Directors are to oversee and insure league/division directors are conducting their responsibilities in accordance with the SBL's procedures and house rules. At-Large Directors shall represent their respective leagues, give monthly reports on games, field status, tournaments, and attend and assist with all league meetings and events. They shall also assist other BOD members with administrative duties as defined further in these procedures by the SBL BOD or the league's by-laws. At-Large Directors shall assume the League/Division Director's responsibilities in their absence or when the position is vacant and shall advise the Vice President on day-to-day operations of their leagues. They shall represent their league on the Appeals Committee. At-Large Directors shall bring questions or complaints regarding the league to the league Vice President or BOD.
- K. **Player Representative:** Shall be nominated by the league President and ratified and appointed by the SBL executive board for concurrent seasons as general affairs officers, starting from the time they are ratified and ending in the fall. The Player Representative is the advocate of every player within the league; it is his/her responsibility to ensure that all players are treated equally and fairly. The Player Representative may serve as an arbitrator in an attempt to resolve disputes and/or conflicts that may arise between coach and player. In cases where disciplinary action against a player is needed, the Player Representative will make sure that any and all action taken is in accordance with SBL procedures.
- L. **Treasurer:** Is a member of the Executive Board who is elected annually as proscribed for in the league by-laws. The Treasurer performs the league banking and financial operations. The Treasurer shall submit to each SBL Board member, an up-to-date monthly balance and expense statement for approval and motion to summit. The Treasurer shall liquidate the league-

approved bills, check the league's mail, collect the league debts, schedule (at the request of either the Board of Directors of the Stafford County Parks Commission) and attend the annual audit by both the certified public accountant (CPA) and Park and Recreation Planning Commission and insure the annual corporation taxes and forms are filed accordingly. The Treasurer shall assist the league Secretary in his/her day-to-day operations. The Treasurer shall attend and assist with all league meetings, league events, and assist other BOD members with administrative duties as defined further in these procedures, by the SBL BOD, or the league's by-laws. The Treasurer shall bring questions regarding the league to the league President and register all complaints to the league Vice-President.

- M. **Secretary:** Is a member of the Executive Board who is elected annually as prescribed in the league by-laws. The Secretary is the league's Administrative Officer who shall coordinate all league registrations, meetings, and events. They shall read into the league record all minutes from each SBL meeting. The Secretary shall prepare, submit, and distribute all team rosters, team assignments, schedules, league database, league procedures, house rules packets, picture day assignments, and facility use permits. The Secretary shall record the current minutes of league meetings, motions, amendments, schedules, agendas, and update the appropriate league files accordingly. League files shall be kept current and available for members of the SBL BOD. The Secretary shall maintain the league hotline, prepare newsletter and other publications, check the league mail and distribute league messages and documents accordingly. The Secretary shall attend and assist with all league meetings, league events, and assist other BOD members with administrative duties as defined further in these procedures by the SBL BOD or the league's by-laws. The Secretary shall bring questions regarding the league to the league President and register all complaints to the league Vice-President.
- N. **Vice President:** Is a member of the Executive Board, and Vice Chairman of the BOD who is elected annually as prescribed in the league by-laws. The Vice President chairs the Rules and Procedures Committee, and Fund Raising Committee. The Vice President shall present a monthly report on their committees, league insurance or injury reports, and fund raising programs to include sponsorships. The Vice President assumes the President's or At-Large Director duties in his/her absence. They coordinate the day-to-day corporate affairs for the league President, and coordinate any district or state tournaments. The Vice President shall consult and inform the league President on all day-to-day league issues and shall be a member of the Appeals Committee. The Vice President shall attend and assist with all league meetings, league events, and assist other BOD members with administrative duties as defined further in these procedures by the SBL BOD or the league's by-laws. The Vice President shall bring questions or complaints regarding the league to the league President or BOD.
- O. **President:** Is a member of the Executive Board, and Chairman of the BOD who is elected annually as prescribed in the league by-laws. The President serves as the corporation's registered agent. He / She represents the league to the Stafford county government, other organizations, and at district and state meetings. The President authorizes and approves the league by-laws, contracts, team rosters, house rules and procedures, and any expenditures or operations of the corporation. The President nominates league/division directors or other general affairs officers, prepares annual budget, conducts day-to-day corporate affairs, and chairs and/or approves all league meetings, publications, events, or functions. The President shall attend and assist with all league meetings, league events, and assist other BOD members

with administrative duties as defined further in these procedures by the SBL BOD or the league's by-laws. The President shall also provide final ruling on all guidelines or procedures not delegated, and resolve any disputes that have followed the chain of command and are submitted to their attention. Officers of the Corporation consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, At-Large Directors, General Affairs Directors (as described in the League by-laws) and Division Directors. Only officers of the corporation are considered to be members of the Board of Directors (as defined by the by-laws). A quorum is defined as a majority of these officers (except in the case of removal from office which will require a 2/3 majority).

1.4 Programs

The SBL *shall* host a spring and *may* host a fall season. Each season shall be governed under the jurisdiction of the SBL. These procedures shall govern both seasons. The fall season procedures will be adjusted and applied as noted throughout this document. The two seasons, (spring & fall) shall be run as separate leagues.

Age Eligibility: SBL will follow Babe Ruth League Rules regarding age eligibility as published annually in the BRL rule book.

1.5 Leagues and Divisions

The Leagues within SBL are broken up by the player's age groups. In addition, SBL may divide leagues into separate divisions (either based on geographic location or based on skill of the players).

1.5.1 The Babe Ruth Leagues

The Babe Ruth Leagues include all programs for players ages 13-year-old and up. Based on seasonal registration numbers they can be divided into any variation of the following leagues:

- A. **13-Year-Old Prep League:** This preparatory league is for 13-year-old players only to inclement them to the larger 90' field as a group. The purpose of this is to build confidence and harness self-esteem to keep players this age from discontinuing playing baseball. 12-year-olds are allowed to participate at the discretion of the league.
- B. **Babe Ruth League:** During seasons in which registration numbers support a 13-year-old Prep League, this league will be comprised of 14 and 15-year-old players. Otherwise this league will be 13 to 15-year-old players.
- C. **16-Year-Old Prep League:** This is a preparatory league for 16-year-old players only. 14 and 15-year-olds may be allowed to participate at the discretion of the league.
- D. **Babe Ruth League 16-18:** This league is for 16 to 18-years-old players.

1.5.2 The Cal Ripken Leagues

- A. **"AA" Divisions:** If registration numbers allow, the "AA" divisions are organized as a county-wide geographic division within the Major and Minor Leagues to provide an opportunity for players with highly developed skills to advance to district, state, and national levels of competition. The "AA" division may be subdivided into separate leagues for 8 - 9-, 10-, 11-, and 12-year-olds. Players will play a cross-county, regular season schedule. The "AA" Minors ages 9 & 10, and

“AA” Majors ages 11 & 12, may be scheduled to play against each other in their respective divisions as well as other CRL teams outside SBL during the regular seasons. Players shall be selected through tryouts each year. Players not selected for this division will be placed in the Majors "A" or Minors “A” League drafts.

- B. **Major League:** The most experienced level of Cal Ripken Baseball, recommended for 11 and 12-year-old players. The Major League is played on a 70-foot field with a pitching distance of 50 feet from home plate. The Major League utilizes an extra hitter or EH to add more offense to the game and have fewer players sit out. Nine players are placed defensively in the field. Players attend a tryout and are drafted onto teams. During the draft, any registered player that did not attend the tryout has their name drawn from a hat and is placed on a team accordingly. Umpires are used, score is kept and there is post season play or tournaments.
- C. **Minor League:** This program is recommended for 9 and 10-year-old players. Among teammates of their own age and experience level, players continue building and refining their fundamental skills while they begin to understand game strategy. It is at the minor league level that players first experience post-season tournament competition. In the minor league player's pitch. All players present for the game bat in the order, whether playing defensively or not. However, only nine players are placed in the field defensively. Players attend a tryout and are drafted onto teams. During the draft, any registered player that did not attend the tryout has their name drawn from a hat and is placed on a team accordingly.
- D. **Rookie League:** *Rookie* is for 6-, 7- and 8-year-olds. The division will provide an instructional level of experience using pitching machine (when available) or coach pitch for hitting. The league director will place players onto community teams. No umpires will be used and no score will be kept. There will be no end of the season tournament.
- E. **T-Ball League:** *T-Ball* is SBL’s introductory level program for 4-, 5- and 6-year-olds. This division will provide an instructional level experience using the tee for hitting. The league director will place players onto community teams. No umpires will be used and no score will be kept. There will be no end of the season tournament.

1.5.3 The Girl’s Fastpitch Softball Leagues

The Girl’s Fastpitch Softball Leagues may be comprised of programs ranging from 8U to 18U depending on registration numbers. Softball is not offered for girls below the age of 6.

1.5.4 Geographic Divisions

If registration numbers allow, SBL will attempt to divide leagues into three geographic divisions. As numbers decrease within leagues, so too may the geographic divisions (from two or more to none). Geographic division lines are formed by the BOD for the best operation of the league. Obviously these lines will change based on the number of divisions formed. Moving players to geographic divisions other than their proper league assignment, outside of exigent circumstances, is strictly prohibited.

This page is intentionally left blank.

2.0 REGISTRATION

2.1 Responsibility

The registration for each season is the responsibility of the SBL BOD. BOD officers, league commissioners, and league volunteers from the general membership will assist the Secretary in conducting registration.

2.2 Fees

The BOD will set the fees annually no later than February 1st for the regular season and by April 30th for the fall season. A \$25.00 late fee per family, established by the BOD, must be paid prior to being considered once the established registration period has expired. All non-sufficient funds will incur a \$35.00 bad check fee. Once non-sufficient funds for a transaction have been identified, seven (7) calendar days from notification will be granted to make restitution. If restitution is not made within the allotted time, registration for the current and following season(s) will be denied until restitution is made and legal ramifications can result in the case of a bad check.

2.3 Refunds

Refunds will be administered in accordance the following conditions:

- A. The registered player is physically unable to play because of medical reasons. A note from a Medical Doctor is required; OR
- B. The registered player is unable to play because the parent or guardian has received military orders to relocate. A copy of the military orders is required; AND
- C. The refund request was made in writing (email is acceptable) prior to the first scheduled game. Following the first scheduled game there will be NO REFUNDS granted for any reason.

There will be a forty-five (45) day waiting period from the date of last posted registration before refunds are given by the league. (You must request your refund within the timeframe above). If registration payment was received via check or cash then refunds will be mailed via certified U.S. Mail only with a return receipt requested, or may be picked personally from the league Treasurer. Signature of receipt is required. If registration was received via credit card payment, then the credit card will automatically be refunded.

2.4 Registration Period

The length of the general registration period for all age levels will be not less than three weeks. Once general registration closes, players are not guaranteed team placements and may not be afforded the same priorities regarding team assignments, geographical locations, etc. in the event that they are assigned to a team from the waiting list if at all. There may be a supplemental registration for Babe Ruth candidates at the discretion of the Babe Ruth At Large Director.

2.5 Eligibility

All residents within the approved boundaries established by the governing headquarters of the baseball organization to which the SBL is affiliated are eligible. Players whose families move into a residence within SBL's boundaries after the general registration period may be added to a player replacement pool at the discretion of the Cal Ripken or Babe Ruth At-Large Director. These players

will be subject to the BOD approved fees. A League Director, with the concurrence of the League Vice-President, may refuse to register a player for safety reasons when no other age-appropriate alternative is available.

3.0 MANAGER & COACH SELECTION

3.1 Criteria

- A. **First Priority: Character.** It is absolutely essential that our Managers and Coaches are representative of the ideals of SBL. These ideals are outlined in the SBL Mission statement on page one, and it is imperative that all Managers and Coaches represent the league in a positive manner and place development of the individual players and collective teams ahead of any goals related to achievement (win-loss records, tournament standings, etc.). Individuals who have demonstrated behavior contrary to those ideals will be evaluated and considered accordingly.
- B. **Second Priority:** Participation in League activities, to include General Assembly meetings and fundraising efforts.
- C. **Third Priority:** Training received commensurate with the age group that the candidate desires to coach.
- D. **Fourth Priority:** An evaluation of last year's returning managers/coaches.
- E. **Fifth Priority:** An evaluation of a candidate's years of coaching experience. **Special Note:** If coaching experience has been obtained outside SBL, references should be provided to substantiate qualifications. Nominations shall ultimately rest on the judgment of the CRL "AA" Director or Babe Ruth Director without specific limitations imposed by the BOD. Neither the CRL "AA" director nor Babe Ruth director shall be required to explain or answer why an individual was not nominated.
- F. **Sixth Priority:** An evaluation of managers and/or coaches moving up or down into a division.
- G. **All SBL Managers and Coaches must be certified by Babe Ruth League, Inc.** in accordance with Babe Ruth Baseball rule 0.04. Training and certification from Babe Ruth League, Inc. can be obtained online at www.baberuthleaguecoaching.org.

Note: Prior to league approval, the BOD will consider comments provided by parents, umpires, other managers, or league officials.

3.2 Nomination

- A. T-Ball, Rookie, Single "A" Minor, and Single "A" Major – League Directors will submit their recommendations to the BOD based on applications received by the end of the registration.
- B. "AA" Minor & "AA" Major – the CRL At-Large Director shall submit a prioritized pool of manager & coach applicants for "AA" divisions to the BOD.
- C. BRL – The BRL At-Large Director shall submit a prioritized pool of manager and coach candidates for each respective division in BRL to the BOD.

3.3 Ratification

The BOD shall ratify manager selections by majority vote or make new selections, which must also pass by a majority vote if any of the original candidates are denied. The League President shall have a vote in the BRL and "AA" manager selection process.

This page is intentionally left blank.

4.0 PLAYER SELECTION

4.1 Team Composition

4.1.1 Responsibility

- A. **T-Ball and Rookie Division** – It is the responsibility of the league directors to assemble their commissioners and together, assign players to teams. The CRL At-Large Director shall oversee each process. Players will be assigned to teams based on their parent’s or legal guardian’s legal residence within league regional boundaries. SBL officials shall make all reasonable efforts to make team assignments based around neighborhoods or individual elementary school districts while giving priority to balancing the age groups of each team.
- B. **Minor, Major, “AA” & BRL (Prep included)** – It is the responsibility of the League Commissioners to ensure drafting is conducted in accordance with the rules of baseball as modified by the rules and procedures of the SBL.

4.1.2 Returning Players (Tee-Ball and Rookie only)

Any player who was a member of a team the previous year and who is still of eligible age and resides within the boundaries of that division will return to that team. Requests for exception to this automatic assignment can only be made by the parent or guardian of the player and must be made in writing (e-mail is acceptable) prior to the conclusion of the general registration period.

4.1.3 Parent Requests

- A. **Requests for Teams/Managers:** Parents are not permitted to request specific teams or managers/coaches. Parents may request in writing (e-mail is acceptable) that their child NOT be placed on a specific team or play for a particular manager or coach. Such a request will be limited to one (1) manager/coach/team per season and must be submitted prior to the end of the general registration period. The At-Large Director will approve or deny such requests for their division. A decision denying the request may not be appealed.
- B. **AA Tryout Waiver:** Highly skilled players who know in advance that they will not be able to attend tryouts (illness, injury, out of town, etc.) may be granted a tryout waiver by the Cal Ripken At-Large Director, provided that the waiver is requested in writing (e-mail to the Cal Ripken At-Large Director is acceptable) at least 72 hours prior to the tryout. If such a waiver is granted, any team may select that player during the normal draft process as if he had been in attendance at the tryout. Prior to the start of the tryout, the Cal Ripken At Large Director must identify any players who have been granted such a waiver to all of the managers of the relevant division.)

4.1.4 Replacement Players and Roster Adjustment

A player may not be removed from an official roster without a written request (e-mail is acceptable) from the manager to the appropriate director, and only for one of the following reasons: (1) player moving out of the league’s jurisdiction, (2) sickness or injury that precludes further team participation by the player for the remainder of the season, (3) disciplinary actions, (4) failure of the player to attend practice or games, (5) safety measures, and (6) a player has announced his / her intention to be removed from the roster (has quit the team). If a player has been removed from the

roster per the above criteria, the manager is obligated to notify the league, and a replacement player may be requested in writing (e-mail is acceptable) by the manager to the appropriate director. The BOD may elect to re-assign Single A ("A") players with advanced skills to a Double A ("AA") roster prior to the 5th game of the season for the purpose of establishing all-star eligibility.

4.1.5 Official Rosters

- A. **T-Ball and Rookie Division** – League Directors are responsible for assembling the official team rosters for their respective leagues. The CRL At-Large Director shall oversee this process. Each League Director will review and verify their league rosters prior to the submission to the *League Secretary* for official approval by the *League President*. The *CRL At-Large Director* will resolve any conflicts in the interpretation of player assignment.
- B. **Minor, Major, “AA” & BRL (Prep included)** – League Directors are responsible for assisting the League Secretary in assembling the official team rosters for their respective leagues following their drafts. Each League Director will review and verify their League team rosters prior to submission to the League Secretary for official approval by the League President. The CRL or BRL At-Large Directors will resolve any conflicts in the interpretation of player assignment.

4.2 Playing Down or Up a League

- A. **Playing Down a League:** Players will not be allowed to play down a league, unless the parent or guardian makes a written request (e-mail is acceptable) prior to the conclusion of the general registration period. The *At-Large Director* will evaluate each request on a case-by-case basis and approve or deny such requests. A decision denying the request may be appealed to the *League President*. Under special circumstances and only after the tryout period has expired, the SBL BOD may recommend to the parent(s) or guardian(s) that a child may benefit by “playing down” for safety reasons. In such instances, resolution will be accomplished through discussions between BOD representatives and parent(s)/guardian(s). The appropriate division director(s) shall document the final decision.
- B. Generally requests to play down will be denied unless the player has some type of physical or mental disability. Safety is the number one criteria in determining the validity of a request to play down; Skill level is not necessarily a determining factor unless skill and safety are commensurate with the request.
- C. **Playing Up a League:** Players will not be allowed to play up a division, unless the parent or guardian makes a written request (e-mail is acceptable) prior to the conclusion of the general registration period. The *At-Large Director* will evaluate each request on a case-by-case basis and approve or deny such requests. A decision denying the request may be appealed to the *League President*. Under special circumstances and only after the tryout period has expired, the SBL BOD may recommend to the parent(s) or guardian(s) that a child may benefit by “playing up” for safety or other reasons. In such instances, resolution will be accomplished through discussions between BOD representatives and parent(s)/guardian(s). The appropriate league director(s) shall document the final decision. 8-year olds not drafted by a Minor league team will be returned to the Rookie league for placement on a Rookie roster. 8-year olds are not eligible to be drafted if they do not attend the tryouts. Unless a waiver is granted by the At-Large Director, parents of players requesting to play up a league will not be allowed to manage their child’s team at that level; if, however their child is drafted at the higher level, they can act as the coach if the manager is amenable. This is determined by the needs of the league.

5.0 TRYOUTS – MINORS, MAJORS, AND BABE RUTH

5.1 Responsibility

The League Directors are responsible for conducting tryouts and will make every effort to include the respective regional Commissioners in the conduct of the tryouts. They are expected to personally run the tryout session(s) or delegate this role to the Commissioners. A League Director's delegation of this duty must receive the approval of the appropriate At-Large Director.

5.2 Intent of Tryouts

The intent of tryouts is to give all managers within a certain division a “quick look” at the players' relative baseball skill to help managers even up the teams in the draft process. In order to do so, every player, at a minimum, should be tasked to throw, bat, and field under reasonably equal conditions.

High School Players: Any player on a high school team who registers but does not make their division tryouts will be drafted onto a team as if they had, in fact, attended tryouts. The reason for this exception is that some high school coaches will not permit their players to play or participate with other baseball organizations during their high school season.

Potential “AA” Division Players: All eligible players who meet the league's prerequisites and want to try out for the “AA Division” can do so. No player is categorized as an “AA” player until the divisions are set following the draft each season.

5.3 Tryout and Team Rosters

The League Secretary, prior to the tryouts, will publish a tryout roster for each league by division. The League Secretary, as soon as practical following the conclusion of general registration, will give each At-Large and League Directors these rosters. The League Directors will submit the appropriate roster to each division manager prior to the league tryouts.

This page is intentionally left blank.

6.0 DRAFT RULES

6.1 Responsibilities

League Commissioners are responsible for conducting their respective drafts under the supervision of the appropriate *At-Large* or *League Director*. *Commissioners* will secure the appropriate draft sequencing charts and blank pre-printed team assignment rosters from the *League Secretary* prior to draft date. The *Commissioners* will provide a roster for the managers of those players who attended tryouts. At the conclusion of the draft, *Commissioners* will turn in their team assignment rosters to the *League Secretary* and *At-Large* or *League Directors* for publication of computer-generated official league rosters for the *League President* to authenticate.

The *League President* will determine the number of teams in a league by dividing the total number of registered players by the number twelve.

6.2 Team Composition

No team shall have less than 12 players or more than 15. No more than eight (8) players of the older age group are allowed on one team in any multi-age, Cal Ripken division. No more than eight (8) players of the older age group are allowed on one team in any multi-age, Babe Ruth division with the exception being if Prep is not offered and 13- through 15-year olds are combined, in which case the maximum number of 15-year olds on any one team is five (5).

6.3 Hat Picks

All managers will verbally certify that all hat picks (those registered players who did not attend a tryout session) are correctly listed and did not attend a tryout session. Players (to include varsity and junior varsity high school players) who are precluded from trying out because of their participation as a member of a high school baseball team will not be considered a hat pick for the purpose of the draft. They will be drafted as if they had attended tryouts. If authorized by the League Director, hat picks may be done in two levels based on prior knowledge of the players. Hat picks may be conducted in an “A” level and a “B” level to ensure an even distribution of talent throughout the league. If a player’s ability is not known he or she will be placed with the “B” level hat picks.

6.4 Draft Order

- A. The order of drafting will be established by lottery. The *League Commissioner* will determine the drafting priority by drawing numbers out of a hat to establish the order teams have in the draft.
- B. Teams shall draft players in order of the team’s draft sequence number as dictated by the league’s official draft sequencing chart.
- C. When a league consists of two or more age groups, each age group will be drafted separately (in descending order) in single-A only. In “AA” Divisions it will be the decision of the League Director whether or not to hold separate drafts by age.
- D. Players that did not participate in the tryouts shall be selected next within their respective age

group draft. The names of all players that did not attend tryouts will be drawn from a hat.

- E. The draft selection process shall continue in the same sequence until all players have been selected.
- F. In the case of drafts where more than one age group will be drafted, the teams draft order will be reversed in **each** subsequent age bracket. Example:

Age / Round	Yankees	Red Sox	Mets	Orioles	Nationals
10 y/o, Round 1	1	2	3	4	5
9 y/o, Round 1	5	4	3	2	1
8 y/o, Round 1	1	2	3	4	5

- G. **Minors only:** 8-year olds moving up a division shall be drafted in their own round after all 9 and 10-year olds have been drafted. Managers do not have to draft 8-year olds. 8-year olds not drafted by a Minor league team will be returned to the Rookie league for placement on a Rookie roster.
- H. **Siblings:** The manager drafting a sibling's brother/sister will immediately gain draft rights to the sibling. The sibling(s) will be immediately added to the team count and placed on the team roster as the **last** available draft position(s).

6.5 Draft Process – Single “A”, BRL, and Girl’s Softball

- A. By lottery (pick from hat), managers draw numbers to establish draft-sequencing order.
- B. The child of the manager and assistant coach will not impact the team’s draft sequence except in cases where there are more than one child for either or both the manager and / or assistant coach. If the manager and / or assistant coach have more than one child they will be placed on the draft sheet according to the rules regarding siblings.
- C. By hat pick, managers draw players in the appropriate age group that did not attend tryouts after all players who attended the tryouts have been drafted. (This is a continuation of the draft process).

6.6 Draft Process – Double “A”

- A. Prior to the start of the draft, the Double “A” Division Director or the CRL At-Large Director will determine the number of players to be placed on each team; no less than 12 but no more than 15. They will also determine the age split at each level, with the maximum number of older players being eight (for example, the maximum number of 10-year olds on a “AA” Minor team will be eight).
- B. **Tryout Attendance:** Players must attend tryouts to be eligible for the “AA” draft unless they have received a waiver from the Cal Ripken At-Large Director. Prior to the start of the tryout, the Cal Ripken At Large Director must identify any players who have been granted such a waiver to all of the managers of the relevant division. If such a waiver is granted, any team may select that player during the normal draft process as if he had been in attendance at the tryout.
- C. By lottery (pick from hat), managers draw numbers to establish draft-sequencing order.

- D. The child of the manager and assistant coach will not impact the team's draft sequence except in cases where there are more than one child for either or both the manager and / or assistant coach.
- E. **Siblings:** The manager drafting a sibling's brother/sister will immediately gain draft rights to the sibling. The sibling(s) will be immediately added to the team count and placed on the team roster as the **FIRST** available draft position(s) in his or her age group. The sibling must have attended "AA" tryouts or had an authorized waiver and must be an eligible draft pick for "AA".
- F. Players not drafted into the "AA" division will be drafted or placed onto teams in the "A" divisions.

6.7 Trading

Trading among team managers within the same league is allowed for thirty minutes immediately following the end of the draft session. Trading outside this 30-minute window is strictly prohibited with no exceptions. The *League Commissioner* will announce the start of the trading period and the time that it will end.

6.8 Official Team Rosters

Completed official team rosters are to be submitted no later than thirty minutes after conclusion of the trading period. Submission of a team's official roster to the *League Commissioner* signals that the manager has completed all *drafting* and *trading*.

This page is intentionally left blank.

7.0 ALL-STAR SELECTION

7.1 Player Selection

All-Star competition is a reward for outstanding play and dedication during the season. SBL All-Star teams are **not** “travel” teams or a separate travel league even though they may travel to games and play teams from other leagues. The difference being, that all players on All-Star teams must be selected from SBL regular season teams. There is no other registration process or additional registration payment on the part of the player.

7.1.1 “A” Divisions – Minor and Major Leagues

- A. Teams shall be formed from each division within each league to compete in an SBL sponsored all-star tournament. Each division all-star team will be represented by each age group in the Minor and in the Major. At least one player from each regular season team will be selected to participate on the all-star team.
- B. All managers shall meet and select a pool of eligible players prior to a “*Last Look*” demonstration of abilities. Managers shall submit the names of their all-star nominees to their *League Commissioner*. At this meeting, managers must confirm their candidates’ availability for a “last look” tryout, all-star practices, and all-star games.
- C. Each *Division Commissioner* is responsible to assemble and run a “Last Look” all-star tryout on either the first or second weekend in June. Commissioners shall inform every manager of the exact time and date with at least two weeks advance notice. All league managers or a designated coach shall attend and represent their team. League Directors shall communicate and assist the commissioners when needed.
- D. Each all-star candidate must participate in a “*last look*” tryout to be considered for an all-star team. Candidates shall wear their team jerseys at the “*last look*” tryout to aid in the recognition of candidates from other teams.
- E. After the “*last look*” tryout has been held, all managers shall meet at a time and place designated by the *League Commissioner* to select the top ten players. The top ten shall be selected by ballot voting by the team managers within each region.
- F. *Commissioners* will supervise the voting selection to ensure that it is fair and without bias. Each manager shall submit their list of who they believe are the top ten players from those who were in attendance. Each player must receive a minimum of two votes to be considered in the top ten. All league managers or a designated coach shall attend and represent their team. Managers are permitted to vote for one member of their own regular season team, however, a manager cannot vote for their own child/children or the child/children of the coach from their own regular season team.
- G. *Commissioners* shall announce only the top ten players in random order out of the presence of parents and managers. At this point, the all-star manager may select up to five players from the tryout pool of players but must select at least two players. In addition, the *all-star manager* will select two assistant coaches, one scorekeeper, and may select a bat-boy/bat-girl.
- H. The *Division Commissioners* shall not show the managers’ *top ten* lists to anyone. Once the

teams have been formed, the *League Commissioner* will notify the *League Directors* of the selections. All of the managers' *top ten* lists and additional player selections shall be turned over to the *League Director* for verification. *League Directors* will provide a listing to the *League Secretary* for publication of the official tournament rosters.

- I. During seasons in which SBL participate in a Cal Ripken 60' Major Division District or other Cal Ripken Baseball 60' Major Division tournaments, that team may come from the "A" Major League Divisions. In this event SBL will use the "AA" Major All-Star team selection process as outlined in section 7.1 2below for the "A" Major All-Star selection process. This will be determined by the BOD annually.

7.1.2 "AA" Division – All Leagues (excluding T-Ball)

- A. Teams from each division shall be formed to represent SBL at the District level and above in each age group (8—through 16-year olds) or any combination thereof permitted by Babe Ruth League, Inc.
- B. *All-Star Managers (Taxi Squad)* will be empowered with the responsibility of selecting players for the district all-star teams. All-Star managers shall use the players within their division to form a revolving taxi squad in order to evaluate the talent level. It is not implied that all league players will be asked to participate on these teams. These events will be announced in advance, and once taxi-squad selection evolutions begin, the All-Star managers have full discretionary power as to who is invited to participate on the eventual age-specific All-Star team. See Taxi Squad procedures contained with the SBL procedures.
- C. To be considered for the all-star team, all candidates must play in at least 50% of their regular season games unless injury, illness, or family matters prevents them from doing so. To determine eligibility, the score books for each team must be reviewed prior to final selection and roster publication/dissemination. Any attempt to alter the books prior to the submission for review will be grounds for immediate dismissal of the offender from SBL in any and all capacities. The *League President's* decision shall be final. At a minimum, players selected for the all-star team must as required by Cal Ripken Tournament Rules, participate in at least 50% of their regular season games without exception.
- D. Once the teams have been formed, *All-Star Managers* will notify the *League Director* of the selections. The *League Director* will provide a listing to the *League Secretary* who will publish the official tournament roster to be approved and signed by the *League President*. All-Star Rosters will not be announced to players until the League President has approved and signed them.

7.2 All-Star Manager Selection

7.2.1 "A" Division – Minors and Majors

- A. At an *All-Star* selection meeting, the manager of each team in their respective divisions will write the name of his/her nomination for *all-star* manager on a sheet of paper and submit it to the *Division Commissioner*. The *Division Commissioner* will tally the votes and determine the manager that received the most votes to be the *All-Star* manager. Should the tally result in a tie, the *League Commissioner* will cast the deciding vote. The "A" Division All-Star Managers will be selected no later than the Memorial Day Weekend break.

- B. During seasons in which SBL participate in a Cal Ripken 60' Major Division District or other Cal Ripken Baseball tournament, that team will come from the "A" Major Division. In this event SBL will use the "AA" Major All-Star Manager selection process as outlined in section below for the "A" Major All-Star Manager selection process.

7.2.2 "AA" and Babe Ruth Divisions

At a date to be determined, all BOD members and manager All-Star candidates will assemble. The BOD will interview potential All-Star managers for each of the age groups. Candidates will be given the opportunity to present their qualifications and reasons for seeking the all-star manager's position if they so choose. This interview process will be open only to board members and other "AA" managers within their respective divisions. The BOD will go into a brief executive session once all candidates have had a chance to speak. All parties (board members and managers) shall be brought back together to cast their votes by ballot. The *League President* shall also have a vote. The *League Treasurer* shall tally the votes and announce the all-star managers in the presence of everyone at the meeting. The *League Secretary* shall keep the final tally as a reference for the BOD until the season is over. In case of a tie, a second vote will be cast for only those candidates who have tied. In the event of a deadlock, as provided by SBL by-laws, the *League President shall break the tie*.

- A. Upon their ratification, each all-star manager shall adhere to the BOD approved *Taxi Squad Procedures* herein which shall be strictly followed by all parties involved.

This page is intentionally left blank.

8.0 TOURNAMENTS

All BRL and CRL Major and Minor teams will participate in their own respective single/double elimination tournaments at the end of their season. All Single A teams may participate in a single elimination, mid-season tournament. All end of season tournament champions and runners-up shall receive awards. The *respective Division Directors* shall be responsible for the logistics and supervision of their tournaments. Provisions for inclement weather/unforeseen delays will allow the BOD to adjust brackets accordingly to meet a compressed time schedule, to include adjusting double elimination tournaments to a single elimination format. If no tournament may be completed the regular season final standing records will determine the league champion and runner up.

- A. Any District all-star eligible teams will not have a mid-season tournament. The District all-star managers shall use the Memorial Day weekend to enter into league-sponsored tournament play elsewhere in the region, or possibly host their own invitational tournaments.
- B. All SBL in-house tournaments will play under division house rules. Teams will use Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken tournament pitching rules as outlined in the respective SBL House Rules. There will be no “clean slate” for championship games; the tournament pitching rules will apply for the entire tournament, to include the championship game.
- C. Prior to the championship game, the higher seeded team will be the home team. A coin toss between the two opposing managers will determine the home team for the championship game. In the CRL divisions, an intentional walk may take place by announcement from the catcher or pitcher. In the BRL divisions, the pitcher must pitch to the batter for the intentional walk.
- D. There will be no SBL time limit for Championship games when played on a weekend or Holiday. This will be announced by the League Director prior to the start of the Championship game.
- E. All *League Directors* and *Commissioners* are responsible for running each tournament within their respective divisions. The *Directors* will administer and oversee the actual tournaments under the guidance of the SBL BOD. The *Commissioners* will run the tournaments with the help and guidance of each *Division Directors*. This includes all SBL sponsored and all-star Tournaments.

8.1 Preseason

The formation of a special tournament team(s), other than those designated as Taxi Squads, after the start of general registration and prior to the start of the regular season of SBL league play is discouraged, but is permissible provided that approval has been granted by the *League President*. No support will be provided from the league (e.g., insurance coverage and the use of uniforms and equipment) unless approved by the *League President*.

8.2 End of Season – “In House”

Geographic divisions within Leagues will be pooled together in a league-wide tournament to determine the County Champions. Cal Ripken “AA” Divisions will not be pooled with Cal Ripken “A” divisions. The format of the tournament shall be determined by the League Director with approval of the At-Large Director. Postseason standings for all age groups will be decided by the winning

percentage (wins divided by the number of games played). In the event of a tie, the tiebreaker will be decided in the following order: Total number of wins, then total number of losses, then head-to-head record, then runs allowed (RA), and then runs for (RF). The game scores received by a final date (to be announced by the respective Division Directors) will determine standings. Managers who fail to report their final game scores to the league by the deadline may forfeit their team's standing. Unreported game scores by the deadline will be treated as a loss. Teams will be seeded in the league wide tournament based on their win-loss record during the regular season. Once the tournament field is reduced to 4 teams (regardless of the tournament format), the tournament will become single-elimination and the final 4 teams will be seeded in a Championship Bracket. If, after the start of a double elimination tournament the League Director determines that weather conditions or other acts of nature make it unsafe to play, then the tournament may be reduced to single elimination, pool play, or some other format. The BOD reserves the right to cancel the End-of-Season Tournament if weather or other delays beyond SBL's control continue to persist. The champion and runner-up shall receive awards.

8.3 All Star Season

8.3.1 Babe Ruth League and Cal Ripken "AA" Divisions

The "AA" Cal Ripken Divisions and the Babe Ruth League only, as described here-in, will be eligible to participate in district level and above all-star tournaments.

8.3.2 Cal Ripken "A" Divisions in Minor League and Major League

The Cal Ripken "A" Divisions for Minor League and Major League may have an in-house all-star tournament for each age group (9-, 10-, 11-, & 12-year olds). These "A" Division all-star teams will not advance to district level competition (Except when section [7.1.1](#) applies). All SBL in-house tournaments will play under league house rules. The only exception being, that any tournament used to determine district representation will be played using the Official Cal Ripken Rules not SBL House Rules. Teams will use Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken tournament pitching rules as outlined in the respective SBL House Rules. There will be no "clean slate" for championship games; the tournament pitching rules will apply for the entire tournament, to include the championship game. The results will be final provided enough innings have been played or the SBL time limit has been reached to count as an official game with the exception of the championship game. The Championship game will be played without time limit. (The League Director shall have the authority to impose the respective SBL time limit on the Championship game if weather or other factors necessitate). The CRL At-Large Director in cooperation with each League Director, and their Commissioners, shall be responsible for logistics and overall supervision of this tournament.

8.4 Postseason

Any manager or coach who desires to form a tournament team supported by the SBL for postseason play must get prior approval from the *League President*. Any player who is on an official Babe Ruth league *all-star* team is ineligible for tournament play of this type until such time as his/her *all-star* team is eliminated from official Babe Ruth League *all-star* competition. 100% of players on these rosters must be registered SBL players from either season within that calendar year on recreational league teams. The purpose of this is for the advanced development of recreational league players to give them the opportunity to become future All-Star team participants.

9.0 FALL SEASON

The fall season shall be governed under these procedures and shall follow the directions as noted for the fall season.

This page is intentionally left blank.

10.0 EVENT LIMITATION

10.1 School Year

During the school year, a maximum of three SBL events per week is allowed. These events include games, practices, and/or meetings. The *League President* or his designated representative may waive the weekly limit on an individual team basis prior to the additional event. *Taxi Squad Managers* shall follow the *Taxi Squad Procedures*. Penalties for exceeding the limit may include manager/coach censure and/or forfeiture of game(s). In Accordance with Babe Ruth rules, the calendar week begins on Monday and goes through, and including, Sunday.

10.2 School Vacation

There are no specific limitations on the number of baseball events that can be held when school is out of session. However, prudent judgment should be exercised when scheduling multiple events per week as to the impact on other activities the players may be involved in and the demands being placed on the parents/guardians.

This page is intentionally left blank.

11.0 SCHEDULING

11.1 General

The regular season and its post-season tournament will run generally from April to the end of June with *all-star* competition immediately following in July (spring season) and from the end of August until the end of October (fall season). General Registration will be conducted at an appropriate time to facilitate the administrative requirements necessary to conduct the overall league schedule. Multi-sport participation and participation in other baseball programs during the established SBL baseball season is discouraged.

11.2 Practices

The *Division Commissioners* will schedule practices on fields contracted for use by the SBL. A list of fields, prepared by the *League President*, shall be given to each *Commissioner* identifying which fields are available for practices in their regions. Teams shall be assigned official practice times by their commissioners. Managers may request from their commissioners the use of any unassigned practice times for make-up practices or additional practice slots on an as available basis. Commissioners shall evaluate and make these additional assignments on a weekly basis.

11.3 Alternative Field Locations

Special requests for utilization of fields not covered under the SBL facilities use permits may be permitted provided the owner or their representatives grant permission in writing, and the League Director approves such requests. Use of public parks do not require written permission from the owner or representative, however teams must abide by the permit and use regulations set by the governing body of those parks. Requests for alternative field use for SBL events must be made in writing and approved prior to the use of such field, from the team manager to the League Director. The League Director must notify the Vice President of all special requests approved for outside field utilization.

11.4 Game Scheduling

- A. The League Secretary will schedule all games prior to the start of the season. Approval from the *League President* is required prior to publication of all schedules. Once the master schedule for each division has been posted, it is the responsibility of the respective *League Directors* to coordinate rescheduling of postponed or suspended games, based on field availability, weekly event limitations, etc. All attempts will be made not to schedule games on Sundays. However, due to the limited number of playing fields and the necessity to play ten games prior to *all-star* competition, Sunday games may be required.
- B. A team will be scheduled to play at least ten games. Every team in a league/division will be scheduled to play all other teams in that league/division at least once. Team standings within a league will be based only on league games, which will be identified on the game schedules.

11.5 Game Length, Suspended Games, and No Games

The following rule shall compliment *Babe Ruth baseball rule 4.10 and Babe Ruth Tournament Rule 11.05 subparagraph 7* found in the “Babe Ruth Inc., Baseball Rules and Regulations and Official Playing Rules,” handbook:

- A. A Cal Ripken League/8U through 12U Girls Softball League **complete** game shall be six (6) innings (5 ½ innings if the home team is ahead) **or** the age appropriate time limit according to SBL house rules whichever comes first. A Babe Ruth League/14U through 18U Girls Softball League **complete** game shall be seven (7) innings (6 ½ innings if the home team is ahead) **or** the age appropriate time limit according to SBL house rules whichever comes first.
- B. SBL games may go into extra innings if there is a tie and the respective time limit has NOT been reached.
1. During the regular season, if the score is tied after the SBL time limit has been reached it will be recorded as a tie.
 2. During the regular season if a score is tied after regulation innings **AND** the SBL time limit has **NOT** been reached the game will continue under international tie-breaking rules until one team is ahead at the end of the inning **OR** the SBL time limit has been reached. Then 11.5.B.1 above applies.
 3. During tournament play the game will NOT end in a tie. No tournament game can end in a tie. If a tie exists at the end of regulation innings **OR** after the SBL time limit has been reached (regardless of the inning), the game will continue under international tie-breaker rules at the top of the next inning. Play will continue under international tie-breaker rules until the completion of an inning results in a winner.
 - ❖ *The international tie-breaking procedure places the last batter to complete his at-bat from the previous inning at 2nd base to start each half-inning. The game proceeds normally in all other aspects.*
- C. If a game is *called*, it is considered a **REGULATION GAME** if four innings (3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead) have been completed for Cal Ripken games or five innings (4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead) have been completed for Babe Ruth games. (This does not apply to games that end because of SBL time limits. That is by rule a complete game as mentioned above).
- D. If a regular season **regulation game** (as defined above) is *called* with the score tied then it will be recorded as a tie. If a tournament **regulation game** is *called* with the score tied then it will be a **suspended game** and will be continued. (*See SUSPENDED GAMES, below*).
- E. If a regular season game is called before it has become a **regulation game**, and two innings have not been completed for a Cal Ripken game or three innings have not been completed for a Babe Ruth game, then the umpire shall declare it “**NO GAME.**” If “No Game” is declared by the umpire, no records (pitching or otherwise) are kept. It is as if the game was never started.
- F. If a regular season game is *called* before it has become **regulation**, and two innings have been

completed for a Cal Ripken game or three innings have been completed for a Babe Ruth game, or if a tournament game has been *called* before it has reached *regulation* at any point then it will be considered a **SUSPENDED GAME** and MAY be continued from its point of discontinuance at the discretion of the League Director. This will depend on scheduling and field availability. Otherwise, the At-Large Director MAY declare it a regulation game and revert the score BACK to the last completed inning.

- G. If a game has become a **SUSPENDED GAME**, then it is the responsibility of the managers and umpire to be sure that both scorebooks are in agreement. This includes remaining time left in the age-respective SBL time limit, score, runners on, pitch counts, number of pitches thrown, eligible pitchers, etc.

11.6 Cancellations/Postponements

In the case of inclement or impending inclement weather listen to 93.3 FM & B101.5 FM for bulletins, or check the SBL website for League-wide cancellations. If no cancellation announcement is made, all participants should proceed to the game as scheduled. If weather is a factor, Commissioners will evaluate the field conditions prior to the event. The league Commissioner will immediately notify in turn the *Umpire Coordinators*, affected managers, and League Directors of the weather-related cancellations. The League Directors will notify all of their commissioners and the *At-Large Director* of the cancellations.

11.7 Game-time Decisions

Game-time decisions for weather will be made by the home team Manager prior to the first pitch of the game. Once the first pitch has been thrown the umpire-in-chief will make the decision to halt play.

11.8 Game Delay without Lightning

After a fifteen minute period of evaluation, the umpire will make the decision to call the game due to inclement weather or resultant field conditions, or begin another fifteen minute delay. After a second fifteen minute delay if field conditions are deemed unplayable the umpire shall call the game. In all cases, safety should be the first consideration.

11.9 Game Delay with Lightning

- A. **If thunder is heard** by any SBL official (to include coaches), then the field must be evacuated of all players, coaches, umpires, and spectators.
- B. If lightning is seen during daylight hours then the field must be evacuated of all players, coaches, umpires and spectators.
- C. If lightning is seen at nighttime and there is no lightning detector available then the field must be evacuated of all players, coaches, umpires and spectators.
- D. If lightning is seen at nighttime and there is a lightning detector available and the lightning is greater than 20 miles away play may continue. If the lightning indicator alerts that lightning is less than 20 miles away then the field must be evacuated of all players, coaches, umpires and spectators. *Heat lightning (the term given to lightning in which thunder cannot be heard) can be seen from distances of up to 100 miles away depending on light conditions and elevation and*

does not impose an immediate threat.

11.10 Field Evacuation Procedures (lightning)

- A. In the event of a field evacuation because of lightning, everyone must seek shelter in their vehicles with the windows rolled up and sealed. Dugouts and picnic shelters are not sufficient.
- B. After a period of 30-minutes if there is no further thunder or lightning, then play may be resumed.
- C. If there is another lightning strike or thunder is heard during the first 20-minutes of your 30-minute delay then the clock starts over and you must wait 30-minutes from the last strike.
- D. If after 20-minutes into the 30-minute waiting period there is another lightning strike or thunder is heard that the game will be suspended or declared a “No Game” whichever is appropriate according to SBL procedures. The only exception to this will be if the 30-minute timer started prior to the scheduled game time. Under that circumstance, if you see and additional lightning strike or thunder is heard after 20-minutes into your 30-minute delay then you may wait an additional 30-minutes from the time of the last lightning or thunder strike.
- E. If there is an additional lightning strike or thunder is heard and you are already in your second 30-minute delay then the game will be suspended or declared a “No Game” whichever is appropriate according to SBL rules and procedures covering suspended games.
- F. If play is resumed after the 30-minute waiting period and there is cause for a second lightning evacuation based on the procedures set forth above then the game will be suspended or declared a “No Game” whichever is appropriate according to SBL procedures covering suspended games.

11.11 Stafford County Parks and Recreation Department Authority

- A. SBL recognizes the Stafford County Parks and Recreation Department’s authority to govern County owned property. As such, SBL recognizes that under certain circumstances an official representative of that department may close a field based on their policies and procedures. In the event that occurs the department representative should coordinate and collaborate with SBL officials at the field before making a final decision.
- B. SBL officials/coaches will not argue with park official and will immediately report the field closure to their League Director.

11.12 Rescheduling

The *At-Large* or *League Directors*, after conferring with the League’s Director of Umpires, will coordinate games that need to be rescheduled. *Managers* are not to reschedule games and cannot authorize/contract umpires. *All field usage must be coordinated with the Secretary of the League.*

11.13 Continuing Suspended Games

- A. Suspended games will be rescheduled at the discretion of the respective League Director that can best accommodate the SBL schedule. Managers are to follow all league schedules as published.
- B. A suspended game that is rescheduled in a double-header format shall only be played until it

has become a REGULATION GAME (as defined in 11.5 C) or its remaining time limit (which makes it a complete game by rule), whichever comes first. This is to ensure enough field time for the second game. On some occasions, if field time allows (i.e. a weekend schedule), the suspended game may be played to completion (as defined in 11.5 A). This decision will be at the discretion of the League Director and will be clearly stipulated prior to the suspended game commencing. (Regardless of the Director's decision, no game will exceed the remaining balance of the respective SBL time limit.)

- C. A suspended game that is reschedule in a double-header format will be played prior to the regularly scheduled game.
- D. A suspended game that is rescheduled in its own timeslot will be played to its completion or the remaining time limit or remaining innings, whichever comes first.
- E. Suspended games will be continued from its point of discontinuance as if the game had never been stopped. If for some reason the scorebooks do not agree at the point of continuance then the home team's scorebook will be used.
- F. If in the event the same players are not available for the rescheduled game then the players will be substituted for in accordance with all SBL and Babe Ruth League substitution rules. For example, a player who was not at the originally suspended game, but is now available for the continuance game will NOT be considered a starter and will be considered a substitution player.

This page is intentionally left blank.

12.0 PROTESTS

Protests are discouraged by the league, especially during a regular season game. The regular season is for instruction and recreation and overemphasis on wins and losses is frowned upon. SBL is an instructional league for umpires as well as players and it is understood that mistakes will be made. Coaches are encouraged to overcome and move on. In most situations, during the regular season, most protests will be denied by the League Directors even in the case of the protesting team being right. The League Director will ensure that the umpires and managers learn from the mistake so it does not happen in the future.

- A. Protests may only be filed on misinterpretation of rules. Judgment calls may not be protested. To lodge a protest, the Manager protesting must call timeout and announce the intention and grounds for protest to both the opposing manager and the umpire. The umpire will then indicate in both scorebooks the protested call, current inning, batter, pitch count, and number of outs. The game will then proceed and the Manager lodging the protest must contact his or her Commissioner to formally file the protest within 48 hours of the game being completed. The Director of each league has the authority to rule on all protests. His/Her decision may be appealed.
- B. ***Process for Appeals:*** *The Appeals Committee* shall be made up of a three member committee consisting of the *League At-Large Director, Vice President,* and the *League President*. If the decision impacts any member of the *Appeals Committee*, that member shall recuse himself from the decision process and the *League President* shall appoint another member of the SBL BOD to serve in his place. Anyone involved in making a ruling shall be recused from the appeals process. All appeals are subject to a \$25.00 cash payment in advance. This fee will be refunded if the protested decision is reversed.

This page is intentionally left blank.

13.0 CODE OF CONDUCT

All players, coaches, managers, and parents/fans will be expected to behave in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. Any player, coach, manager, or parent/fan whose conduct is unbecoming or abusive will at a minimum be warned and may be removed from the playing field or stands at the discretion of any league official (member of the BOD or commissioner), tournament official, or umpire. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Cursing or throwing of any objects to include bats and equipment may be cause for ejection at the umpire's discretion. Further penalty may include a team forfeiting or being removed from a game or tournament. Ejections may result in further punitive sanctions imposed by the League (up to and including suspensions or expulsion from SBL).

13.1 League Expectations of Conduct

13.1.1 Managers and Coaches

Managers and Coaches are expected to set the standards for field manners, fair play, sportsmanship, teamwork, honesty, and good health habits. Managers are responsible for controlling their team, parents, and fans. It is expected that Managers will take control of volatile situations or unsportsmanlike behavior on the part of their coaching staff, players, parents or fans. Failure to attempt to do so may result in their suspension and/or other penalties as deemed appropriate by the BOD.

13.1.2 Parents and Other Persons

Persons who become unruly in the opinion of Managers, Coaches, Umpires, or other Parents shall be approached by the manager of the team they are associated with (example: the team their child, grandchild, sibling, etc. is on) or the manager accompanied by the umpire. The umpire has the right to eject the parent or other persons from the ball game or provide a warning. A warning shall consist of notification of the warning and the consequences of ejection from the game if the disturbance continues.

13.1.3 Players

Players shall exhibit good field manners, fair play, sportsmanship, teamwork, honesty, and good health habits. Players are expected to be good role models for their peers and players in younger leagues. Deviations from these characteristics shall be considered a violation.

13.2 Game Ejections

- A. An ejection from the game requires the ejected party to leave the immediate playing area. Immediate playing area is defined as 100 yards from any point on the playing field (including the outfield or fencing). If the ejected party refuses to leave, the game shall be stopped with the time limit continuing to run until the ejected party leaves. If the ejected party continues to refuse to leave the game may be forfeited by the team the ejected party supports.
- B. If an ejected player is not of legal age and the parent or legal guardian is not present, the

ejected player shall not be permitted on the playing field, but must remain in the team dugout until a parent or legal guardian arrives. Continued disruption by the ejected player may result in suspension or forfeiture of the game.

- C. An automatic two (2) game suspension shall be imposed on managers, or coaches ejected from a game to be served during the next two games played by the associated team that he was ejected from; and/or other penalties as deemed appropriate by the At-Large Director in accordance with provisions set forth in the official rules of Babe Ruth Baseball, Inc., Babe Ruth Baseball, or SBL.
- D. An automatic one (1) game suspension shall be imposed on players ejected from a game to be served during the next game played; and/or other penalties as deemed appropriated by the At-Large Director.

13.3 Reporting Violations

All members of SBL (players, parents, coaches, fans, officials, etc.) are expected to report Code of Conducted violations.

- A. Parents, fans, or other members of SBL are required to report violations to their team manager or other SBL official.
- B. Managers and coaches shall report all violations to their Commissioner or League Director.
- C. The Commissioner shall report all violations to the League Director.
- D. The League Director will report all violations to the At-Large Director
- E. The At-Large Director will report all violations to the Vice President.
- F. Umpiring officials shall report all violations to the Director of Umpires who is required to notify the League Vice President.
- G. The SBL Player Representative will be notified by the League Director or At-Large Director of all violations involving players.

13.4 Evidence of a Violation

Evidence of a violation includes ejection from a game or games; violation of SBL *House Rules, Procedures, or by-laws*; as well as any written complaints (including Email) from any SBL member(s). The SBL active membership consists of *League Officials, Managers, Coaches, and Parents* of players as defined in the by-laws. The *Division Commissioner and/or League Director* will investigate all allegations by interviewing at a minimum the offended party and the subject manager/coach.

13.5 Minor Violation

An example of a Minor Violation is a first-time violation of a house rule (with no extenuating circumstances). The punishment for a minor violation shall be at a maximum a one-game suspension and/or other penalties as deemed appropriate by the BOD in accordance with provisions set forth in the official rules of Babe Ruth Baseball, Inc., Babe Ruth League, or SBL, with the exception of a game ejection. A game ejection may result in a two (2) game suspension (see the Game Ejections section above).

13.6 Major Violation

A major violation may involve the need for dismissal from the program for at least the remainder of the current season, not to exceed five years and/or other penalties as deemed appropriate by the BOD in accordance with provisions set forth in the official rules of Babe Ruth Baseball, Inc., or SBL. The *League Director* in consultation with the *At-Large Director* will submit a written report to the *Vice President* for a decision. Examples of major violations include, but are not limited to:

- A. **Use of Alcohol/Drugs:** In no way will alcohol, drugs or the “*appearance*” of intoxication be tolerated at an SBL event. This will be classified as a major violation and at a minimum include a one-season suspension.
- B. **Conduct Detrimental to the League:** Failure to set a positive example for the players, parents, and the League, as determined by the Board of Directors, will be classified as a major violation. As representatives of SBL, your conduct, on and off the field must be above reproach. Acts of violence or aggression toward anyone will not be tolerated.
- C. **Conduct Towards Umpires:** Abusive or aggressive conduct towards umpires will not be tolerated. Team Managers are the only persons authorized to approach the umpire with questions regarding the rules of the game. Arguing of balls and strikes or judgment calls (safe vs. out) is prohibited. In the course of a season, any one individual will receive a maximum of three warnings / offenses. If an individual is warned by the umpire with regards to his/her behavior, it shall be considered an official warning and will be recorded as such in the case of a first offense / warning. A second offense / warning will be considered a major violation and will incur a two-game suspension. A third offense / warning will be considered conduct detrimental to the league and will incur a suspension for the remainder of the season (to include any end of season tournament). Further, any individual dismissed for a third offense / warning will be ineligible to hold a managerial, coach, commissioner, director or board member position during the subsequent season. Umpires are required to report these warnings to the Director of Umpires. The Director of Umpires shall be responsible for keeping track of the number of warnings an individual has received throughout a season.

13.7 Serving a Suspension

13.7.1 Managers, Coaches, Parents, and Other Fans

During any suspension, the manager or coach, parent or fan shall not be allowed within 100 yards of the playing surface.

13.7.2 Players

A suspended player, at the discretion of the manager with concurrence of the commissioner or league director, may be directed to sit in the dugout with his team and not participate. The suspended player is not allowed on the playing field and must be announced to the opposing manager and umpire-in-chief prior to the start of the game that he is not an eligible substitute. If at any time, the player becomes a disruption to the game then he must be removed from dugout if the parent or guardian is present. Otherwise, the game may be suspended or forfeited by offending team.

13.8 Appeal Rights

- A. **Right to Appeal:** All disciplined members will have a right to appeal the decision to the *appeals committee*. All appeals are subject to a \$25.00 cash payment in advance. This fee will be refunded if the protested decision is reversed.
- B. **Appeal Process:** The appeal must be made in writing (e-mail is acceptable) to the appropriate At-Large Director within two days or in person at a meeting to be specially called within five days of notification of intent to appeal. The *Appeal Committee* may reverse the decision of the *League Director* by a two-thirds majority. The affected party shall be subsequently notified of the *Appeals Committee* decision as soon as possible, but not to exceed two days. During the appeals process, those parties subject to disciplinary action may not participate in team activities until the appeals process is completed, unless otherwise granted permission by the At-Large Director.
- C. If the disciplined member is a player then the Player Representative shall be in attendance during any appeal and shall ensure that proper procedures are being followed. The Player Representative (although not a voting member of the Appeal Committee) shall be allowed to participate in all discussions and deliberations.
- D. If the disciplined member is a player involved in a major violation resulting in his or her dismissal from the program, and the player has received an unfavorable ruling from the Appeals Committee, the player has the right to request a second appeal before the full BOD. The BOD may overturn a player dismissal from the program by 2/3 majority vote.

13.9 Appeals Committee

The *Appeals Committee* shall be made up of a three member committee consisting of the *League At-Large Director*, *League Vice President*, and the *League President*. If the decision impacts any member of the *Appeals Committee*, or any member of the committee was the official that imposed the sanction, then that member shall recuse himself from the decision process and the *League President* shall appoint another member of the SBL BOD to serve in his place.

13.10 Manager's Right to Discipline

Managers and coaches may administer short-term suspensions for repeated, unexcused absences from practices/games or for unsportsmanlike conduct during practices and/or games. The *Division Commissioner* prior to implementation must approve such suspensions and in no case shall the suspension exceed one game. The *Division Commissioner* shall inform the *League Director* and the coach shall inform the player's parent or legal guardian prior to implementation. Further, the coach shall announce the imposition of a one-game suspension to the umpire and opposing manager prior to the start of the game in which the suspension will be served making this player ineligible for the game. The suspended player is not eligible to enter the game in any capacity, and the manager is excused from meeting the minimum playing requirements for the suspended player in this case.

14.0 SAFETY

14.1 Coordinator of Safety

The *Safety Director* is appointed by the *League President*. This individual acts as Stafford Baseball League’s primary point of contact for the safety plan. The Safety Officer modifies the league's safety plan as necessary.

The ultimate responsibility for ensuring compliance of the safety plan lies with the safety officer. Because of the size of SBL, the commissioners of each division are tasked with ensuring compliance with the safety plan.

14.2 Safety Committee

This committee will have the primary responsibility to consider and recommend courses of action regarding any safety issues that may present itself to the League. The Safety Committee consists of the Safety Director (chairman), the Director of Umpires and both At Large Directors. The League President shall break any tie votes with regard to the Safety Program.

Mission: To create awareness, through education and information, of the opportunities to provide a safer playing environment for children and all participants in SBL.

14.3 Roles and Responsibilities

League President	The League President has the primary responsibility for providing safe conditions and the delegation of tasks to others to meet needs.
Board of Directors	Review injury data and possible causes of an accident. Implement corrective action plans as required.
Safety Director	Develop and implement the safety program. Program may include performing and/or providing necessary safety training, developing/monitoring audit programs (eg; field inspections), injury investigation and reporting, communication of safety requirements to all coaches, umpires, adults, and children. **Continuous Improvement of the Safety Program**
Managers & Coaches	Understand and follow all safety rules, regulations and guidelines. Communicate to all team participants the safety requirements and the Stafford Baseball League Safety Code. Required to report all injuries and unsafe conditions to Safety Officer.

14.4 Accident Reporting

Coaches are required to report all injuries that occur during practices, games, or while the team is

under his control, to the Safety Officer. Accidents requiring reporting are those which require immediate first aid (e.g., application of ice bag, bandages) and/or those in the following injury categories; contusion, laceration, sprain, fracture or dental. Accident reporting shall include area of injury (i.e., hand, face, leg, foot, etc.), position being played, and possible accident cause.

The Safety Officer will correlate all injury data. Corrective actions (if applicable) will be identified and implemented. The BOD will review the data from the previous season prior to the commencement of each season.

A. When to Report

B. All such incidents described above must be reported to your league Director within 48 hours of the incident.

C. How to Make the Report

D. Reporting incidents can come in a variety of forms (phone, e-mail, fax, etc). When formal documentation is required, an accident form must be filled out. This form is available through the League website. Additionally, the following information must be provided to our insurance company and their form must be completed with the following information:

1. The name and phone number of the individual involved (or of their parents)
2. The date, time, and location of the incident
3. A detailed description of the incident , including possible accident cause

Note: Within 48 hours of receiving the incident report, the Safety Officer, or Division Director, will contact the injured party or the party's parents or legal guardian and verify the information received.

14.5 Safety Code

A. The SBL safety code has been adopted by the BOD and is enforced by the Safety Officer. The Executive Committee, League Directors and Commissioners, league officers, participants, and volunteers are required to abide by this code.

B. Responsibility for Safety procedures rests with the league president.

C. Arrangements should be made in advance of all games and practices for emergency medical services. *(Have a cell phone or obtain the whereabouts of the nearest phone to access 911, if needed).*

D. Coaches should have training in first aid. First aid kits are issued with team equipment.

E. No player wearing a cast or splint will be allowed to participate in an SBL practice or game until the cast / splint is removed and written permission from a doctor is presented.

F. No games or practices should be held when weather or field conditions are not safe, particularly when lighting is inadequate.

G. Play area should be inspected prior to practices and games for holes, damage, stones, glass and other foreign objects. If corrections of unsafe conditions cannot be eliminated immediately, contact the Field Coordinator and/or Safety Officer.

- H. All team equipment should be stored within the team dugout, or behind screens, and not within the area defined by the umpires as "in play".
- I. Only players, coaches, scorekeepers, and umpires are permitted on the playing field or in the dugout during games and practice sessions.
- J. The manager or delegated adult is responsible for keeping bats and loose equipment off the field of play.
- K. Procedures should be established for retrieving foul balls batted out of playing area.
- L. During practice and games, all players should be alert and watching the batter on each pitch.
- M. During warm-up drills, players should be spaced so that no one is endangered by wild throws or missed catches.
- N. A team coach should inspect equipment regularly (prior to a practice or game).
- O. Batters must wear SBL approved protective helmets during batting practice and games. See Babe Ruth Baseball rule 1.16: BABE RUTH PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR (All Divisions) – Protective headgear shall be worn on deck, at bat, while a base runner, and by players in the coach's box, during practice and all games. Such headgear must cover the top of the head and have extended earflaps, which cover both ears, and properly fit the player wearing it. **Penalty** – if a player refuses to wear headgear, he shall be removed from the game.
- P. Catchers must wear catcher's helmet, mask, throat guard, chest protector, shin guards and protective cup with athletic supporter for all practices and games. NO EXCEPTIONS. See Babe Ruth Baseball rule 1.16: BABE RUTH CATCHER'S MASK AND THROAT PROTECTOR (All Divisions).
- Q. Coaches should encourage all players to wear protective cups and supporters for practices and games.
- R. During sliding practice, bases should not be strapped down or anchored.
- S. At no time should "horse play" be permitted on the playing field or in the dugout area.
- T. Parents of players who wear glasses should be encouraged to provide "safety glasses"
- U. Players are not permitted to wear watches, rings, pins or metallic items during games and practices with the exception of medical bracelets.
- V. Any player, manager or coach warming up a pitcher at home plate shall wear a mask. Additionally, it is recommended anyone warming up a pitcher at any location wear a mask. A throat protector is considered part of the catcher's mask. **Penalty** – If a player, manager or coach refuses to comply he shall be removed from the game.
- W. Coaches should conduct pre-game warm ups in such a way not to endanger spectators (i.e., playing catch, pepper, swinging bats, etc.).
- X. Use of spare safety equipment in the sheds should be reported to the safety coordinator to ensure it is replenished and complete.

14.6 Storage Shed & Equipment Box Procedures

The following applies to all storage sheds and equipment boxes used by SBL and to anyone who has been issued a key to use those sheds:

- A. All individuals with keys or combinations to the equipment sheds (i.e., managers, umpires, etc.)

must be aware of their responsibilities for the orderly and safe storage of all equipment.

- B. Equipment should be placed in the shed to enable free and safe access when entering or leaving the shed.
- C. Extension cords should be hung on appropriate hooks to ensure integrity and safety.

15.0 HOUSE RULES

SBL games are played under the Official Baseball Rules as published by the Official Playing Rules Committee of Major League Baseball with modifications and additions published annually in the “Babe Ruth League, Inc., Baseball Rules and Regulations and Official Playing Rules.” SBL House Rules are provided as a supplement to that document. Where SBL House Rules conflict with the Babe Ruth League Rules and Regulations or the Official Playing Rules of Baseball, then the SBL House Rule will apply. These general House Rules and the House Rules for each division apply only to SBL games and are not applicable to district tournaments or other official Babe Ruth League/Cal Ripken League tournaments or games.

15.1 General – Applies To All Leagues

- A. All managers and coaches must remain professional at all times. They are responsible for controlling all spectators from their side who are not acting or responding in a sportsmanlike manner.
- B. During any SBL sanctioned in-house game, only the manager and two assistant coaches are allowed in the dugout.
- C. The HOME TEAM shall sit in the third base dugout.
- D. The HOME TEAM is responsible for raking and lining the field. The VISITING TEAM is responsible for policing the grounds for trash. Each team is to clean up and to dispose of all trash from their respective dugouts.
- E. The first HOME TEAM to play at a field on any given day is responsible for getting out the field preparation equipment. The last HOME TEAM to play at a field on any given day is responsible for putting the field preparation equipment away.
- F. The last teams to play on any field (practice or games) are responsible for redressing the field and making sure all gang boxes are secured and locked.
- G. Any player, manager or coach warming up a pitcher at home plate shall wear a mask. A throat protector is considered part of the catcher's mask. Penalty – If a player, manager or coach refuses to comply he shall be removed from the game.
- H. A coach may accompany players including the pitcher to the mound during the warm-up throws and that will not be counted as a trip to the mound. Once the umpire has declared play at the beginning of the ½ inning, all trips to the mound are recorded in accordance with baseball rule 8.06.
- I. If injury occurs, refer to the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth rules as applicable. An injury report MUST be completed and submitted to the appropriate commissioner/director in accordance with the League Safety Program guidelines.
- J. Teams will limit their practices to the following time constraints: Majors, Minors & Rookies: 2 hours (120 minutes) Tee Ball: 1 ½ hours (90 minutes)
- K. In reference to league matters, parents, players, and coaches shall not make phone calls after 9 PM.
- L. During any game only the current batter and the on-deck batter shall be allowed out of the dugout to take warm-up swings with a bat or any other object. During innings other players may take swings outside of the playing field under the supervision of a coach or other responsible adult (e.g. a hitting stick drills, hitting off a tee, etc.).
- M. **TOBACCO** – Babe Ruth League Baseball and Softball rules prohibits the use of all tobacco products including smokeless tobacco for both local league and tournament competition. This rule applies to all field personnel. In addition to this, SBL prohibits the use of tobacco products by ANYONE within 50 feet of home plate, either dugout, or within 25 feet of any part of the playing surface during any SBL sanctioned event.

15.2 The Cal Ripken Leagues – Tee Ball League

- A. T-Ball is an instructional league. NO SCORE WILL BE KEPT. No scorebooks should be kept by coaches or parents in the dugout. Every effort should be made by SBL coaches to keep T-Ball fun, educational, and encouraging for all players.
- B. All players present will bat once “each” inning. The - half inning is over when all players have batted. The last player to bat in an inning will be the leadoff batter the next time his/her team comes to bat continuing in reverse order.
- C. A team's at bat is complete when all of its players have batted once.
- D. Defensively all players must be in fair territory (no child will assume the position of catcher), and each team must have four infielders (1B, 2B, SS, and 3B) within three feet of the baseline, two fielding pitchers on either side of the mound, and the remaining players placed in outfield positions. Outfielders shall not be on the infield surface.
- E. The field will be a regular 60' diamond with a 25 foot arc from home plate. All players shall hit the ball from a Batting Tee. The batter must make contact with all or part of the ball to be considered a hit and the ball must also reach the 25' arc or else it will be called foul. If only the Tee is struck during the swing, and no part of the ball was struck, it shall be called foul.
- F. There is NO PITCHING BY PLAYERS OR COACHES; the ball must be hit from the tee at all times.
- G. There is no bunting or strikeouts.
- H. No player shall play any one position more than two innings per game. Every player must be rotated and play both infield and outfield every game. Every player will play at least two innings in the infield. If the game length does not allow every player two innings in the infield, then those players who did not play infield in the previous game will automatically be placed in the infield at the start of the next game.
- I. Play shall cease when (1) an infielder has possession of the ball inside the base paths, or (2) the ball is clearly in the control of an infielder or first baseman. When an infielder records an out, all runners will cease any attempt to advance for extra bases.
- J. If the batter or runner is put out, they shall leave the field and assume their position on the bench.
- K. When the last player in the batting order puts the ball in play and reaches first base all the runners on base including the batter shall circle the bases and cross home plate.
- L. The game length shall be FOUR INNINGS. No new inning will start after ONE HOUR (60 minutes) from the start of the game. Games called because of the time limit will be considered a regulation game regardless of the number of innings played.
- M. Coaches are jointly responsible for performing the duties of umpire. Only one is required, but two are recommended. On-field managers or coaches may double as umpires if agreed to by both teams.
- N. No base stealing is allowed and base runners must remain on base until the ball is hit. Leading off from a base is prohibited.

O. Because of the batting tee and lack of a catcher, there will be no plays made at home plate.

15.3 The Cal Ripken Leagues – Rookie League

- A. In single-A Rookie divisions: **NO SCORE WILL BE KEPT**. No scorebooks should be kept by coaches or parents in the dugout. In double-A Rookie divisions: score will be kept. Each team will maintain their own scorebooks and relinquish them to the league director or commissioner upon request. Every effort should be made by SBL coaches to keep Rookie baseball fun, educational, instructional and encouraging for all players in all divisions.
- B. Games will be played with the use of a pitching machine if available at the field or by the coach pitching to the players. In either case, the pitched ball should have a relatively flat trajectory. Soft tossing the ball does not prepare these players for the next level. The Rookie League Director will determine the tension (or speed) of the pitching machine for all divisions.
- C. Pitching Machine - The offensive team manager shall be responsible for feeding the balls into the machine. If the batted ball hits the pitching machine the ball will be declared dead, the batter will be awarded first base, and all other runners will advance one base. Each player is limited to a maximum of five pitches. The batter will be considered a strikeout if the ball is not put into play after five pitches. In single-A Rookie divisions, a foul ball / tip on the fifth pitch is a “no pitch” and the batter shall continue his/her at bat. In double-A Rookie divisions the umpire will be responsible for operating the pitching machine. If the batter has not placed the ball into fair territory after five (5) pitches then the batter is out. It will be the umpire’s discretion to award an extra pitch to a batter if he or she feels that the pitch was UNHITTABLE because of a pitching machine malfunction. (The term “unhittable” should not be confused with a strike or strike zone).
- D. Coach/Pitcher – The coach/pitcher shall remain standing and pitch with an **OVERHAND MOTION FROM THE MOUND** no less than 40’ from home plate. **NO UNDERHAND PITCHING IS ALLOWED**. If the batted ball hits the coach/pitcher, the ball will be declared dead, the batter will be awarded first base, and all other runners will advance one base. Each player is limited to a maximum of 10 pitches. The batter will be considered a strikeout if the ball is not put into play after 10 pitches. A foul ball/tip on the tenth pitch is a “no pitch” and the batter shall continue his/her at bat.
- E. Game length shall be **SIX INNINGS**. No new inning will start after **ONE HOUR and FORTY-FIVE MINUTES** from the beginning of the game. Games called because of darkness or time limits shall become final, regardless of how many innings have been played.
- F. Since the official score is not kept, umpires are not required; coaches are jointly responsible for performing the duties of umpire. No walks will be issued but strikeouts (5 pitches) will be enforced. In double-A Rookie division one umpire will be provided.
- G. In the event of a rules violation, the Manager who observes the violation should (1) notify the opposing Manager of the violation and attempt to resolve the situation; (2) if unable to resolve the situation, document the date, opposing Manager's name, rule violated, and situation and submit the information to the league commissioner within 48 hours.

- H. A team may start a game with less than nine players. If a team has less than eight players the Manager/Coach may elect not to place a player in the pitcher and/or catcher positions.
- I. Any player who does not start a game will be a defensive starter in the next game he/she attends. Rainouts, forfeits, or postponed games do not count as a defensive start unless an official game has been declared. Coaches must keep track of all game lineups throughout the season, to comply with minimum playing requirements.
- J. All players present will be placed into the batting order. Eleven players will be played defensively to start the game. There will be a fourth outfielder, and a fifth infielder will be placed on either side of the pitching machine. Those players who are not in the starting lineup will automatically be placed defensively in the second inning. No player will sit out defensively for two innings in a row. No player will sit out defensively a second inning until all players have sat out at least once.
- K. In single-A Rookie divisions, a team's at bat is complete when three outs are recorded or when all of its players have batted once, whichever comes first. In double-A Rookie divisions, a team's at bat is complete when three outs are recorded or the 5th run of the $\frac{1}{2}$ inning is scored, whichever occurs first.
- L. The regulation pitching mound area (10-foot circumference around the pitching rubber) shall be marked when using the "Pitching Machine"; "NO" Players shall be allowed to enter the area unless fielding a batted ball. Precautions must be taken to protect the players when using the pitching machines.
- M. In single-A Rookie divisions, play will cease once an infielder has possession of the ball in the infield. The manager/umpire will call time out and award any runner the next base if, prior to the manager/umpire calling time out, that runner had advanced more than halfway. A mark indicating half way is recommended. In double-A Rookie divisions, the ball is in play in accordance with regular baseball rules.
- N. If possible with the number of players available, no player will sit out a defensive half of an inning more than once per game. Should there be a need for a player to sit a second inning, they shall not do so unless all the other players have also sat out for one inning in that game.
- O. No player shall play any one position more than two innings per game (three for catchers). Every player must be rotated and play both infield and outfield every game. Every player MUST play at least two innings in the infield. If the game length does not allow every player two innings in the infield, then those players who did not play infield the previous game will automatically be placed in the infield at the start of the next game. Violation of this rule will be treated as a minor violation; however, repeated violations will be cause for treating the infractions cumulatively as a major violation. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS! It is the Manager's responsibility to teach ALL players the basic fundamentals of ALL positions.
- P. No base stealing is allowed and base runners must remain on base until the ball is hit. Leading off from a base is prohibited.

Q. In double-A Rookie division the 10-run rule (mercy rule) is in effect for all games. A game must be terminated once becoming regulation if one team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs and has had equal times at bat, or the home team is leading.

15.4 The Cal Ripken Leagues – Minor League

- A. A line-up sheet shall be provided to the umpires and opposing teams scorekeeper 10 minutes prior to the game time. Players who are not present at the time the line-up card is submitted waive their right to be in the starting lineup. Line-up cards are only required to contain the starting line-up and are not intended to establish a player's eligibility to enter the game. Line-up cards shall be handed to the Umpire-in-Chief when meeting to go over the ground rules, prior to the start of the game. The top two copies are for the umpires and the third copy shall be for the opposing team. All substitutions and changes must be reported to the Umpire-in-Chief. The inning and half inning when a starter or substitute enters or is removed from the game shall be clearly indicated in both team scorebooks and reported to the Umpire-in-Chief as the substitution occurs.
- B. All players present will be placed into the batting order. Those players that are not defensive starters will be identified as extra hitters (EH) on the line-up card. There will be free substitution in the Minor League. Any player substituted for may reenter the game an unlimited number of times. Players must remain in their same spot in the batting line-up. Players arriving late will be added to the bottom of the batting order upon arrival. This will immediately be reported to the opposing team manager and umpire-in-chief.
- C. A team may start a game with only eight players. A 15-minute grace period from the scheduled start time is permitted to allow the minimum number of players to arrive. If a manager is in communication with and has confirmation from a player that he is en route to game, then the grace period may be extended, not to exceed an additional 15-minutes. If a team has less than eight players after the grace period, the game shall be a forfeit. **The grace period(s) will be counted towards the total game time.** NOTE: If a team, at any point has more than 8 players, they must finish the game with a minimum of 9 players (with the exception of an injury or illness that occurs or becomes evident during the game which reduces the eligible number of players to less than 9) or the game will be declared a forfeit.
- D. A team's at bat is complete when three outs are registered or the 5th run of the ½ inning is scored, whichever occurs first.
- E. Game length is SIX INNINGS. No new inning will start after ONE HOUR and FORTY-FIVE MINUTES from the beginning of the game. The official start time should be announced by the Umpire-in-Chief and indicated in the home team's scorebook. If at the end of regulation, the score is tied and the time limit has not been reached, the game will continue under international tie-breaking rules until one team is ahead at the end of the inning or the time limit is reached. The international tie-breaking procedure places the last batter to complete his at-bat from the previous inning at 2nd base to start each half-inning. The game proceeds normally in all other aspects. This procedure increases the probability of scoring runs by placing a runner in scoring position with no outs. If at the end of the last inning played the score is tied and the time limit has run out, the game shall be recorded as a tie.

- F. The last inning shall be the 6th inning unless the time limit is running out. If the umpire thinks the game is going to end because of the time limit, he/she shall announce it to both teams prior to the start of the inning. The next inning the teams play will be viewed as the 6th inning for the purpose of waiving the five run rule. In the event the Umpire waived the five run rule as listed above, the game shall continue under the waiver of the five run rule for the remainder of the game.
- G. The 10-run rule (mercy rule) is in effect for all games. A game must be terminated once becoming regulation if one team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs and has had equal times at bat, or the home team is leading.
- H. Any player who does not start in a game will be a defensive starter in the next game he/she attends. Rainouts, forfeits, or postponed games do not count as a defensive start unless an official game has been declared. Coaches must clearly mark the starters of each game in their scorebooks and present the scorebook for verification of eligibility of the starting lineup and pitching eligibility to the opposing Manager during the pre-game conference.
- I. Every player will play a minimum of twelve outs (2 full innings) per game and complete one time at bat. In an effort to equitably distribute playing time, no player shall play only the minimum in two consecutive games, and every effort will be made to allow a player who only plays part of a game to play the whole game in the next game played. Note: Players arriving after the start of the fourth inning waive their right to the minimum playing time requirement.
- J. Because there is free substitution in the Minor League, NO PLAYER SHALL SIT OUT DEFENSIVELY MORE THAN TWO (2) INNINGS IN A ROW.
- K. No player in the Minor League shall play only outfield positions for the entire game.
- L. Managers are required keep a record of the defensive innings played by each player and the positions that they played. At any time during the season a commissioner or league director may request to review these records.
- M. Players arriving after the start of the fourth inning will be inserted into the game during the next available half-inning.
- N. Speed up rules:
 - 1. No throwing the ball around the infield as is often done after an out is made and no one is on base.
 - 2. Warm-up pitches are limited to five pitches between innings. New pitchers are allowed eight warm-up pitches when first assuming the mound.
 - 3. Courtesy runners for the catcher are allowed when there are 2 outs. The courtesy runner must be either a player not in the game or the player who made the second out of the inning.
- O. Intentional walks will only be permitted in tournament play. During the regular season there will be no intentional walks in Minor League. During tournament play intentional walks will be accomplished by the catcher informing the umpire of the intent to intentionally walk the batter. An intentional walk can be communicated to the umpire at

any time during the batter's time at bat. The Umpire will award the batter first base and the ball is considered a "dead ball." Exception: During tournament play at the "AA" level – There are no "automatic" intentional walks. Teams must pitch around each batter if they so choose.

- P. All managers and coaches must remain professional at all times. They are responsible for controlling all spectators from their side who are not acting or responding in a sportsmanlike manner. Umpires are instructed to call time, give a warning to the manager of the offending team. Once a warning is given, it is the manager's responsibility to communicate the warning to their supporters. If the problem persists, any further action, which may include a forfeit, ejection, or league imposed suspension, will be at the umpire's discretion per the rulebook and the league procedures. Depending on the offense, the umpire may elect to waive that warning and deal with the problem in the appropriate manner. Games will not result in a forfeit unless a manager has first been given a warning.
- Q. In the event of a rules violation, the Umpire's Ruling shall immediately be applied and the game shall proceed subject to the rights of protest by the opposing manager. This shall not be the case with forfeits, which constitute a final action. All protested violations of these rules shall be reported within 24 hours to the Director of Umpires/Vice-President via the Umpire-in-Chief. The Director of Umpires in turn shall notify the appropriate Commissioner or Director of the violations within 24 hrs of receiving the reported violation. If the rules violation has an influence in the final outcome of the game, the Commissioner or Director shall give his ruling within 48 hours of receiving notice. He shall refer to the Stafford Baseball League Procedures for guidance.
- R. Use of batting helmets with face guards are recommended for all Cal Ripken Divisions.
- S. In the Single "A" Division and during the fall season, there is no stealing of home plate (to include no advancing to home on a passed ball). A runner on 3rd base can only advance by being forced via base on balls, a batted ball, or a thrown ball to a base in an effort to make a play; NO EXCEPTIONS.
- T. In the Double "A" Division, there is no stealing of home plate on the throw back to the pitcher, unless overthrown.
- U. If a runner attempting to reach any base including home plate intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player he will be called out on the play and ejected from the game.
- V. Sliding headfirst into home plate is prohibited; NO EXCEPTIONS.
- W. If a runner attempting to reach **any base including home plate** intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player he will be called out on the play and ejected from the game. Sliding into any base including home plate is required whenever a play at the base is being made (whether a play is being made is at the discretion of the umpire based on the proximity of the play to the time the runner contacts the base or plate). If the umpire believes there was an issue of safety based on the proximity of the play, the runner will be called out. If in doubt, players should slide into the base. *See the Babe Ruth Baseball/Softball CONTACT RULE (ALL DIVISIONS) – If a runner attempting to reach home plate intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player in the area of home plate, he will be called out on the play and ejected from the game.*

X. Minor Division Regular Season Pitching Rules:

1. During the regular season a pitcher, regardless of age may pitch six (6) innings per calendar week.
2. This applies to all games regardless of when played. This includes rescheduled and make-up games.
3. If a pitcher delivers one (1) pitch in an inning he shall be charged for one (1) inning pitched.
4. The calendar week begins on Monday and goes through, and including, Sunday.
5. Pitchers shall be evaluated by their coaches every inning to protect their arms. A player complaining of discomfort should not be allowed to pitch no matter what his pitch count is.
6. A strict pitch count of seventy (70) recorded pitches per game, per pitcher shall be enforced.
7. During the regular season a pitcher must have three (3) calendar days rest between pitching assignments if he pitches more than sixty (60) pitches in any one game.
8. During the regular season a pitcher must have two (2) calendar days rest between pitching assignments if he pitches more than two (2) innings in any one game.

Y. Minor Division Tournament Pitching Rules:

1. No pitcher in tournament play shall be allowed to pitch more than six innings in any two successive games.
2. A strict pitch count of seventy (70) recorded pitches per game, per pitcher shall be enforced.

15.5 The Cal Ripken Leagues – Major League

- A. A line-up card shall be provided to the umpires and opposing teams scorekeeper 10 minutes prior to the game time. Players who are not present at the time the line-up card is submitted waive their right to be in the starting lineup. Line-up cards are only required to contain the starting line-up and are not intended to establish a player's eligibility to enter the game. Line-up cards shall be handed to the Umpire-in-Chief when meeting to go over the ground rules, prior to the start of the game. The top two copies are for the umpires and the third copy shall be for the opposing team. All substitutions and changes must be reported to the Umpire-in-Chief. The inning and half inning when a starter or substitute enters or is removed from the game shall be clearly indicated in both team scorebooks and reported to the Umpire-in-Chief as the substitution occurs.
- B. All players present will be placed into the batting order. Those players that are not defensive starters will be identified as extra hitters (EH) on the line-up card. There will be free substitution in the Major League. Any player substituted for may reenter the game an unlimited number of times. Players must remain in their same spot in the batting line-up. Players arriving late will be added to the bottom of the batting order upon arrival. This will immediately be reported to the opposing team manager and umpire-in-chief.
- C. A team may start a game with only eight players. A 15-minute grace period from the scheduled start time is permitted to allow the minimum number of players to arrive. If a manager is in communication with and has confirmation from a player that he is en route to game, then the grace period may be extended, not to exceed an additional 15-minutes. If a team has less than eight players after the grace period, the game shall be a forfeit. **The grace period(s) will be counted towards the total game time.** NOTE: If a team, at any point has more than 8 players, they must finish the game with 9 players (with the exception of an injury or illness that occurs or becomes evident during the game which reduces the eligible number of players to less than 9) or the game will be declared a forfeit.
- D. A team's at bat is complete when three outs are registered or the 5th run of the ½ inning is scored, whichever occurs first.
- E. Game length is SIX INNINGS. No new inning will start after TWO HOURS and FIFTEEN MINUTES from the beginning of the game. The official start time should be announced by the Umpire-in-Chief and indicated in the home team's scorebook. If at the end of regulation, the score is tied and the time limit has not been reached, the game will continue under international tie-breaking rules until one team is ahead at the end of the inning or the time limit is reached. The international tie-breaking procedure places the last batter to complete his at-bat from the previous inning at 2nd base to start each half-inning. The game proceeds normally in all other aspects. This procedure increases the probability of scoring runs by placing a runner in scoring position with no outs. If at the end of the last inning played the score is tied and the time limit has run out, the game shall be recorded as a tie.
- F. The last inning shall be the 6th inning unless the time limit is running out. If the umpire thinks the game is going to end because of the time limit, he/she shall announce it to both teams prior

to the start of the inning. The next inning the teams play will be viewed as the 6th inning for the purpose of waiving the five run rule. Also, in the event the Umpire waived the five run rule as listed above, and the inning is completed prior to the two-hour time limit, the game shall continue under the waiver of the five run rule for the remainder of the game.

- G. The 10-run rule (mercy rule) is in effect for all games. A game must be terminated once becoming regulation if one team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs and has had equal times at bat, or the home team is leading.
- H. Any player who does not start in a game will be a defensive starter in the next game he/she attends. Rainouts, forfeits, or postponed games do not count as a defensive start unless an official game has been declared. Coaches must clearly mark the starters of each game in their scorebooks and present the scorebook for verification of eligibility of the starting lineup and pitching eligibility to the opposing Manager during the pre-game conference.
- I. Every player will play a minimum of twelve outs (2 full innings) per game and complete one time at bat. In an effort to equitably distribute playing time, no player shall play only the minimum in two consecutive games, and every effort will be made to allow a player who only plays part of a game to play the whole game in the next game played. The EH is not considered a defensive starter for the purpose of establishing the eligibility of the starting lineup. Note: Players arriving after the start of the fourth inning waive their right to the minimum playing time requirement.
- J. Because there is free substitution in the Major League, NO PLAYER SHALL SIT OUT DEFENSIVELY MORE THAN TWO (2) INNINGS IN A ROW.
- K. No player in the Major League shall play only outfield positions for the entire game.
- L. Managers are required keep a record of the defensive innings played by each player and the positions that they played. At any time during the season a commissioner or league director may request to review these records.
- M. Players arriving after the start of the fourth inning will be inserted into the game during the next available half-inning.
- N. Lead-offs and stealing will be permitted during game play. The base runner will be permitted to lead off and may attempt to steal any base any time the ball is live and in play.
- O. Pitchers may attempt to pick off a base runner during game play and each pitcher will be given two warnings per game before a "Balk" is enforced.
- P. The batter may attempt to advance to first base on a dropped third strike. The pitcher will be credited for the strike out but the catcher must throw the batter out at first base.
- Q. Speed up rules:
 - 1. No throwing the ball around the infield as is often done after an out is made and no one is on base.
 - 2. Warm-up pitches are limited to five pitches between innings. New pitchers are allowed eight warm-ups pitches when first assuming the mound.

3. Courtesy runners for the catcher are allowed when there are 2 outs. The courtesy runner must be either a player not in the game or the player who made the second out of the inning.
- R. Intentional walks will be accomplished by the catcher informing the umpire of the intent to intentionally walk the batter. Intentional walks can be communicated to the umpire at any time during the batter's time at bat. The umpire will award the batter first base and the ball is considered a "dead ball". Exception: this rule does not apply at the "AA" level – There are no "automatic" intentional walks. Teams must pitch around each batter if they so choose.
- S. All managers and coaches must remain professional at all times. They are responsible for controlling all spectators from their side who are not acting or responding in a sportsmanlike manner. Umpires are instructed to call time, give a warning to the manager of the offending team. Once a warning is given, it is the manager's responsibility to communicate the warning to their supporters. If the problem persists, any further action, which may include a forfeit, ejection, or league imposed suspension, will be at the umpire's discretion per the rulebook and the league procedures. Depending on the offense, the umpire may elect to waive that warning and deal with the problem in the appropriate manner. Games will not result in a forfeit unless a manager has first been given a warning.
- T. In the event of a rules violation, the Umpire's Ruling shall immediately be applied and the game shall proceed subject to the rights of protest by the opposing manager. This shall not be the case with forfeits, which constitute a final action. All protested violations of these rules shall be reported within 24 hours to the Director of Umpires/Vice-President via the Umpire in Chief. The Director of Umpires in turn shall notify the appropriate Commissioner or Director of the violations within 24 hrs of receiving the reported violation. If the rules violation has an influence in the final outcome of the game, the Commissioner or Director shall give his ruling within 48 hours of receiving notice. He shall refer to the Stafford Baseball League Procedures for guidance.
- U. Sliding headfirst into home plate is prohibited; NO EXCEPTIONS.
- V. If a runner attempting to reach **any base including home plate** intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player he will be called out on the play and ejected from the game. Sliding into any base including home plate is required whenever a play at the base is being made (whether a play is being made is at the discretion of the umpire based on the proximity of the play to the time the runner contacts the base or plate). If the umpire believes there was an issue of safety based on the proximity of the play, the runner will be called out. If in doubt, players should slide into the base. *See the Babe Ruth Baseball/Softball CONTACT RULE (ALL DIVISIONS) – If a runner attempting to reach home plate intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player in the area of home plate, he will be called out on the play and ejected from the game.*

W. Major Division Regular Season Pitching Rules:

1. During the regular season a pitcher, regardless of age may pitch six (6) innings per calendar week.
2. This applies to all games regardless of when played. This includes rescheduled and make-up games.
3. If a pitcher delivers one (1) pitch in an inning he shall be charged for one (1) inning pitched.
4. The calendar week begins on Monday and goes through, and including, Sunday.
5. Pitchers shall be evaluated by their coaches every inning to protect their arms. A player complaining of discomfort should not be allowed to pitch no matter what his pitch count is.
6. A strict pitch count of eighty (80) recorded pitches per game, per pitcher shall be enforced.
7. During the regular season a pitcher must have three (3) calendar days rest between pitching assignments if he pitches more than seventy (70) pitches in any one game.
8. During the regular season a pitcher must have two (2) calendar days rest between pitching assignments if he pitches more than two (2) innings in any one game.

X. Major Division Tournament Pitching Rule

1. No pitcher in tournament play shall be allowed to pitch more than six (6) innings in any two successive games.
2. A strict pitch count of eighty (80) recorded pitches per game, per pitcher shall be enforced.

15.6 The Babe Ruth Leagues (to include 13-year-old Prep League)

- A. A line-up card shall be provided to the umpires and opposing teams scorekeeper 10 minutes prior to the game time. Players who are not present at the time the line-up card is submitted waive their right to be in the starting lineup. Line-up cards are only required to contain the starting line-up and are not intended to establish a player's eligibility to enter the game. Line up sheets shall be handed to the Umpire in Chief when meeting to go over the ground rules, prior to the start of the game. The top two copies are for the umpires and the third copy shall be for the opposing team. All substitutions and changes must be reported to the Umpire-in-Chief. The inning and half inning when a starter or substitute enters or is removed from the game shall be clearly indicated in both team scorebooks and reported to the Umpire-in-Chief as the substitution occurs.
- B. A team may start a game with only eight players. A 15-minute grace period from the scheduled start time is permitted to allow the minimum number of players to arrive. If a manager is in communication with and has confirmation from a player that he is en route to game, then the grace period may be extended, not to exceed an additional 15-minutes. If a team has less than eight players after the grace period, the game shall be a forfeit. **The grace period(s) will be counted towards the total game time.** NOTE: If a team, at any point has more than 8 players, they must finish the game with 9 players (with the exception of an injury or illness that occurs or becomes evident during the game which reduces the eligible number of players to less than 9) or the game will be declared a forfeit.
- C. A team's at bat is complete when three outs are registered or the 5th run of the $\frac{1}{2}$ inning is scored, whichever occurs first.
- D. Game length is SEVEN INNINGS. No new inning will start after two hours and 15 minutes from the beginning of the game. The official start time should be announced by the Umpire-in-Chief and indicated in the home team's scorebook. If at the end of seven innings, the score is tied and the time limit has not been reached, the game will continue under international tie-breaking rules until one team is ahead at the end of the inning or the time limit is reached. The international tie-breaking procedure places the last batter to complete his at-bat from the previous inning at 2nd base to start each half-inning. The game proceeds normally in all other aspects. This procedure increases the probability of scoring runs by placing a runner in scoring position with no outs. If at the end of the last inning played the score is tied and the time limit has run out, the game shall be recorded as a tie.
- E. The last inning shall be the 7th inning unless the time limit is running out. If the umpire thinks the game is going to end because of the time limit, he/she shall announce it to both teams prior to the start of the inning. The next inning the teams play will be viewed as the 7th inning for the purpose of waiving the five run rule in the PREP Division. Also, in the event the Umpire waived the five run rule as listed above, and the inning is completed prior to the expiration of the time limit, the game shall continue under the waiver of the five run rule for the remainder of the game.

- F. Extra Hitter Rule: Each team is required to utilize 10 batters (extra hitter) in the line-up if 10 or more players attend the game. No penalty or out will be administered if only nine players are available. Note: If a team's 10th player arrives after the game has begun, he will be immediately inserted into the 10th spot in the batting order and a clear indication of the insertion will be made in the scorebook noting his time of arrival. The extra hitter shall be a player that is not in the game as a defensive player. When an extra hitter enters the game as a defensive player, a starter must be removed from the defensive line-up. (This does not apply to Prep League in the fall season).
- G. The 10-run rule (mercy rule) is in effect for all games. A game must be terminated once becoming regulation if one team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs and has had equal times at bat, or the home team is leading.
- H. Any player who does not start in a game will be a defensive starter in the next game he/she attends. Rainouts, forfeits, or postponed games do not count as a defensive start unless an official game has been declared. Coaches must clearly mark the starters of each game in their scorebooks and present the scorebook for verification of eligibility of the starting lineup and pitching eligibility to the opposing Manager during the pre-game conference.
- I. Every player will play a minimum of twelve consecutive outs (2 full innings, one after the other) per game and complete one time at bat. In an effort to equitably distribute playing time, no player shall play only the minimum in two consecutive games, and every effort will be made to allow a player who only plays part of a game to play the whole game in the next game played. The EH is not considered a defensive starter for the purpose of establishing the eligibility of the starting lineup. Note: Players arriving after the start of the fourth inning waive their right to the minimum playing time requirement. PREP LEAGUE FALL SEASON ONLY: The two full innings do not need to be consecutive because of the free substitution rule above.
- J. Any player who has not been in the game at the end of the third inning and has not met the minimum defensive playing requirements will enter the game prior to the first pitch of the fourth inning. The inning and half inning of when a starter or substitute enters or is removed from the game shall be clearly indicated in both team scorebooks and reported to the umpire in chief as the substitution occurs.
- K. Speed up rules:
 - 1. No throwing the ball around the infield as is often done after an out is made and no one on base.
 - 2. Warm-up pitches are limited to five pitches between innings. New pitchers are allowed eight warm-up pitches when first assuming the mound.
 - 3. Courtesy runners for the catcher are allowed when there are 2 outs. The courtesy runner must be either a player not in the game or the player who made the second out of the inning.
- L. There are no "automatic" intentional walks. Teams must pitch around each batter if they so choose.

- M. If a runner attempting to reach any base including home plate intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player he will be called out on the play and ejected from the game.
- N. All managers and coaches must remain professional at all times. They are responsible for controlling all spectators from their side who are not acting or responding in a sportsmanlike manner. Umpires are instructed to call time, give a warning to the manager of the offending team. Once a warning is given, it is the manager's responsibility to communicate the warning to their supporters. If the problem persists, any further action, which may include a forfeit, ejection, or league imposed suspension, will be at the umpire's discretion per the rulebook and the league procedures. Depending on the offense, the umpire may elect to waive that warning and deal with the problem in the appropriate manner. Games will not result in a forfeit unless a manager has first been given a warning.
- O. In the event of a rules violation, the Umpire's Ruling shall immediately be applied and the game shall proceed subject to the rights of protest by the opposing manager. This shall not be the case with forfeits, which constitute a final action. All protested violations of these rules shall be reported within 24 hours to the Director of Umpires/Vice-President via the Umpire-in-Chief. The Director of Umpires in turn shall notify the appropriate Commissioner or Director of the violations within 24 hrs of receiving the reported violation. If the rules violation has an influence in the final outcome of the game, the Commissioner or Director shall give his ruling within 48 hours of receiving notice. He shall refer to the Stafford Baseball League Procedures for guidance.
- P. Balks
- ❖ Prep and all Babe Ruth Divisions during the fall season: Each pitcher will be given two warnings per game before a "Balk" is enforced.
 - ❖ Babe Ruth Divisions during the spring season (not to include Prep): Prior to June 1st, each pitcher will be given one warning per game before a "Balk" is enforced. After June 1st, no warnings will be given.
 - ❖ Tournaments: No Warnings are given in any of these leagues.
- Q. Babe Ruth Divisions Regular Season Pitching Rules:
1. During the regular season a pitcher, regardless of age may pitch seven (7) innings per calendar week.
 2. This applies to all games regardless of when played. This includes rescheduled and make-up games.
 3. If a pitcher delivers one (1) pitch in an inning he shall be charged for one (1) inning pitched.
 4. The calendar week begins on Monday and goes through, and including, Sunday.
 5. Pitchers shall be evaluated by their coaches every inning to protect their arms. A player complaining of discomfort should not be allowed to pitch no matter what his pitch count is.
 6. A strict pitch count of ninety (90) recorded pitches for Prep and one-hundred (100) for Babe Ruth per game, per pitcher shall be enforced.

7. During the regular season a pitcher must have three (3) calendar days rest between pitching assignments if he pitches more than eighty (80) for Prep and ninety (90) pitches for Babe Ruth in any one game.
 8. During the regular season a pitcher must have two (2) calendar days rest between pitching assignments if he pitches more than three (3) innings in any one game.
- R. Babe Ruth Divisions Tournament Pitching Rules:
1. No pitcher in tournament play shall be allowed to pitch more than seven (7) innings in any two successive games.
 2. A strict pitch count of ninety (90) for Prep and one-hundred (100) for Babe Ruth pitches per game, per pitcher shall be enforced.
- S. BOTH TEAMS (Managers, Coaches, & Players) are to line, rake, and repair the field. Both teams are also responsible for properly putting ALL field preparation equipment away, picking up all trash in the dugouts and on the field or premises, turning off the lights, and locking up. Any violations of this rule by any party may result in their suspension.

15.7 The Girl's Fastpitch Softball Leagues

- A. A line-up card shall be provided to the umpires and opposing teams scorekeeper 10 minutes prior to the game time. Players who are not present at the time the line-up card is submitted waive their right to be in the starting lineup. Line-up cards are only required to contain the starting line-up and are not intended to establish a player's eligibility to enter the game. Line-up cards shall be handed to the Umpire-in-Chief when meeting to go over the ground rules, prior to the start of the game. All substitutions and changes must be reported to the Umpire-in-Chief. The inning and half inning when a starter or substitute enters or is removed from the game shall be clearly indicated in both team scorebooks and reported to the Umpire-in-Chief as the substitution occurs.
- B. All players present will be placed into the batting order. Those players that are not defensive starters will be identified as extra players (EP) on the line-up card. There will be free substitution in Girls Softball. Any player substituted for may reenter the game an unlimited number of times. Players must remain in their same spot in the batting line-up. Players arriving late will be added to the bottom of the batting order upon arrival. This will immediately be reported to the opposing team manager and umpire-in-chief.
- C. A team may start a game with only eight players. A 15-minute grace period from the scheduled start time is permitted to allow the minimum number of players to arrive. If a manager is in communication with and has confirmation from a player that he is en route to game, then the grace period may be extended, not to exceed an additional 15-minutes. If a team has less than eight players after the grace period, the game shall be a forfeit. **The grace period(s) will be counted towards the total game time.** NOTE: If a team, at any point has more than 8 players, they must finish the game with 9 players (with the exception of an injury or illness that occurs or becomes evident during the game which reduces the eligible number of players to less than 9) or the game will be declared a forfeit.
- D. A team's at bat is complete when three outs are registered or the 5th run of the ½ inning is scored, whichever occurs first.
- E. Game length is SIX (8U, 10U, 12U) or SEVEN (14U, 16U, 18U) INNINGS. No new inning will start after ONE HOUR and THIRTY MINUTES from the beginning of the game. The official start time should be announced by the Umpire-in-Chief and indicated in the home team's scorebook. If at the end of seven innings, the score is tied and the time limit has not been reached, the game will continue under international tie-breaking rules until one team is ahead at the end of the inning or the time limit is reached. The international tie-breaking procedure places the last batter to complete his at-bat from the previous inning at 2nd base to start each half-inning. The game proceeds normally in all other aspects. This procedure increases the probability of scoring runs by placing a runner in scoring position with no outs. If at the end of the last inning played the score is tied and the time limit has run out, the game shall be recorded as a tie.
- F. The last inning shall be the 6th/7th inning unless the time limit is running out. If the umpire thinks the game is going to end because of the time limit during the next inning of play, he/she shall announce it to both teams prior to the start of the inning. The next inning the teams play

will be viewed as the last inning for the purpose of waiving the five run rule only and does not mean that the game is over unless time expires. In the event the Umpire waived the five run rule as listed above, the game shall continue under the waiver of the five run rule for the remainder of the game.

- G. The 10-run rule (mercy rule) is in effect for all games. A game must be terminated once becoming regulation if one team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs and has had equal times at bat, or the home team is leading.
- H. Any player who does not start in a game will be a defensive starter in the next game he/she attends. Rainouts, forfeits, or postponed games do not count as a defensive start unless an official game has been declared. Coaches must clearly mark the starters of each game in their scorebooks and present the scorebook for verification of eligibility of the starting lineup and pitching eligibility to the opposing Manager during the pre-game conference.
- I. Every player will play a minimum of twelve outs (2 full innings) per game and complete one time at bat. In an effort to equitably distribute playing time, no player shall play only the minimum in two consecutive games, and every effort will be made to allow a player who only plays part of a game to play the whole game in the next game played. The EH is not considered a defensive starter for the purpose of establishing the eligibility of the starting lineup. Note: Players arriving after the start of the fourth inning waive their right to the minimum playing time requirement.
- J. Because there is free substitution in the Girls Softball Leagues, NO PLAYER SHALL SIT OUT DEFENSIVELY MORE THAN TWO (2) INNINGS IN A ROW.
- K. Managers are required keep a record of the defensive innings played by each player and the positions that they played. At any time during the season a commissioner or league director may request to review these records.
- L. Players arriving after the start of the fourth inning will be inserted into the game during the next available half-inning.
- M. Base runners may attempt to steal any base once the pitcher releases the ball. If, in the umpire's judgment, the runner leaves their entitled base too soon, the runner will be called out and the ball will be declared dead (no pitch). (Restrictions apply to 8U & 10U divisions; see League Specific Rules below)
- N. When the pitcher has the ball inside the pitching circle, runners must immediately and without hesitation either return to their entitled base or attempt to advance. Any runner who commits in one direction and then goes the other will be declared out.
- O. At no time will the defensive team be allowed to shift to a five person infield (excludes pitcher and catchers). The girls will be allowed to adjust to a right handed, left handed batter but at no time will an outfielder be allowed to be pulled into the infield position for tactical purposes.
- P. Speed up rules:
 - 1. No throwing the ball around the infield as is often done after an out is made and no one is on base.

2. Warm-up pitches are limited to five pitches between innings. New pitchers are allowed eight warm-up pitches when first assuming the mound.
 3. Courtesy runners for the pitcher and catcher at any time. The courtesy runner must be either a player not in the game or the player who made the last out of the inning. The same courtesy runner may not run for both the pitcher and catcher in the same inning.
- Q. Intentional walks will only be permitted in tournament play. During the regular season there will be no intentional walks in any Division. During tournament play intentional walks will be accomplished by the catcher informing the umpire of the intent to intentionally walk the batter. An intentional walk can be communicated to the umpire at any time during the batter's time at bat. The Umpire will award the batter first base and the ball is considered a "dead ball."
- R. All managers and coaches must remain professional at all times. They are responsible for controlling all spectators from their side who are not acting or responding in a sportsmanlike manner. Umpires are instructed to call time, give a warning to the manager of the offending team. Once a warning is given, it is the manager's responsibility to communicate the warning to their supporters. If the problem persists, any further action, which may include a forfeit, ejection, or league imposed suspension, will be at the umpire's discretion per the rulebook and the league procedures. Depending on the offense, the umpire may elect to waive that warning and deal with the problem in the appropriate manner. Games will not result in a forfeit unless a manager has first been given a warning.
- S. In the event of a rules violation, the Umpire's Ruling shall immediately be applied and the game shall proceed subject to the rights of protest by the opposing manager. This shall not be the case with forfeits, which constitute a final action. All protested violations of these rules shall be reported within 24 hours to the Director of Umpires/Vice-President via the Umpire-in-Chief. The Director of Umpires in turn shall notify the appropriate Commissioner or Director of the violations within 24 hrs of receiving the reported violation. If the rules violation has an influence in the final outcome of the game, the Commissioner or Director shall give his ruling within 48 hours of receiving notice. He shall refer to the Stafford Baseball League Procedures for guidance.
- T. Sliding headfirst into home plate is prohibited; NO EXCEPTIONS.
- U. If a runner attempting to reach **any base including home plate** intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player he will be called out on the play and ejected from the game. Sliding into any base including home plate is required whenever a play at the base is being made (whether a play is being made is at the discretion of the umpire based on the proximity of the play to the time the runner contacts the base or plate). If the umpire believes there was an issue of safety based on the proximity of the play, the runner will be called out. If in doubt, players should slide into the base. *See the Babe Ruth Baseball/Softball CONTACT RULE (ALL DIVISIONS) – If a runner attempting to reach home plate intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player in the area of home plate, he will be called out on the play and ejected from the game.*

V. Pitching Limitations:

1. 8U – no pitching limit; machine used
2. 10U – 8 innings per week, Monday to Sunday
3. 12U – 10 innings per week, Monday to Sunday
4. 14U – 12 innings per week, Monday to Sunday
5. 16U – Unlimited

W. Pitching/Base Distances/Game Length/Run Limit

	8U Machine	10UFP	12UFP	14-18UFP
Pitching Distance	35'	35'	40'	43'
Base Distance	60'	60'	60'	60'
Time Limit ¹	75 min	90 min	90 min	90 min
Run Limit ²	5	5	5	5
Infield Fly	No	No	Yes	Yes
Innings	6	6	6	7
Regulation Game	3 ½ or 4	3 ½ or 4	3 ½ or 4	4 ½ or 5

❖ Notes:

1. No inning may start after the time limit has expired; the inning in progress will be completed unless the home team is ahead, in which case the game will end.
2. This is the run limit per each half inning

15.7.1 8U Girl's Machine Pitch Softball

- A. In the 8U divisions any player that does not wear a mouthpiece or a faceguard will not be allowed to play on the infield.
- B. No player in the 8U Division shall play only outfield positions for the entire game. Failure to have the required safety equipment (i.e. mouthpiece or faceguard) will limit that player as a catcher on the infield.
- C. 8U teams may play with 10 players (4 outfielders). The outfielders must be positioned so that they are not playing on the dirt area that distinguishes the infield from the outfield.
- D. Sling Shot Pitch, the machine will be fed by the offensive coach or manager and each batter is allowed 5 pitches. If the batter on the fifth pitch fouls the ball, she may continue her time at bat until she hits the ball into play or is put out.
- E. There must be a player that occupies the catcher's position. No exceptions. Coaches need to instruct all players, including catchers at this level how to play the position for the next level of play.

- F. No slap hitting or show of fake bunt will be allowed in the 8U Division. If a child shows a fake bunt and pulls back and attempts to connect with a slap hit, it will be an automatic out.
- G. There is no stealing permitted in the 8U division.
- H. The batter is not permitted to advance to first base on a dropped third strike.
- I. The infield fly rule is not in effect for the 8U division.

15.7.2 10U Girl's Fastpitch Softball

- A. In the 10U division, any player that does not wear a mouthpiece or a faceguard will not be allowed to play on the infield.
- B. No player in the 10U Division shall play only outfield positions for the entire game. Failure to have the required safety equipment (i.e. mouthpiece or faceguard) will limit that player as a catcher on the infield.
- C. 10U teams may play with 10 players (4 outfielders). The outfielders must be positioned so that they are not playing on the dirt area that distinguishes the infield from the outfield.
- D. A runner is allowed to steal all bases excluding home plate. There is no stealing of home plate (to include no advancing to home on a passed ball). A runner on 3rd base can only advance by being forced via base on balls, a batted ball, or a thrown ball to a base in an effort to make a play; NO EXCEPTIONS.
- E. The batter is not permitted to advance to first base on a dropped third strike. Other base runners may advance with liability to be put out from 1st to 2nd and/or from 2nd to 3rd.
- F. The infield fly rule is not in effect for the 10U division.

15.7.3 12U Girl's Fastpitch Softball

- A. In the 12U division, any player that does not wear a mouthpiece or a faceguard will not be allowed to play on the infield.
- B. No player in the 12U Division shall play only outfield positions for the entire game. Failure to have the required safety equipment (i.e. mouthpiece or faceguard) will limit that player as a catcher on the infield.
- C. 12U teams may play with 10 players (4 outfielders). The outfielders must be positioned so that they are not playing on the dirt area that distinguishes the infield from the outfield.

This page is intentionally left blank.

16.0 TAXI SQUADS

Taxi Squads are those teams preparing for the possibility of *District Tournament* play. These teams play beyond the regular season play as described in our league procedures. The pre-selected All-Star Manager, at his/her discretion, shall invite different league players to participate in games and practices on a temporary basis. (It is not implied that all league players will be asked to participate on these teams.) Players that are asked to participate during the regular season are not officially rostered players on the *Taxi Squad* team. All parties involved shall understand that a player's invitation to participate shall be limited to one event. Any further participation beyond any single event is at the discretion of the All Star Manager for that team. Thus, for any player to participate in more than one event, he/she must be invited each time by the All-Star Manager. Unless specific invitation is given to each event, players shall not assume that they are participants on any date or weekend beyond the one they may be currently participating.

16.1 Purpose

- A. The purpose for any player or team to participate in an outside tournament or game which is either sanctioned or sponsored by the SBL shall be as follows:
 - 1. The player(s) or team(s) must be positively promoting the SBL at-large during all levels of competition, both on and off the field.
 - 2. It must be for the advancement of youth athletics both in Stafford County and the Stafford Baseball League Inc.
 - 3. The practices, games, and other tournaments are to further prepare teams for District or State all-star competition.
- B. The pre-selected *Taxi Squad (All-Star) Managers* shall attend as many regular season practices and games within their regular season divisions as possible. During the course of the regular season, the Managers shall, at a minimum, attend no less than one full game in which each team within their division is playing. Managers shall evaluate all players within their divisions. The managers shall invite players to practices, games or tournaments. His /Her evaluation shall be fair and without prejudice or bias. The evaluations must consider a player's skill level and abilities, team chemistry, attitude, and all-star caliber players who can be brought together as a "team" and not individuals. Managers shall not isolate or show favoritism to any one player or group of players.
- C. The intent of each *Taxi Squad* is to assemble over the course of the season, a district tournament all-star team that will represent SBL for that age group. Managers within each division shall work together to ensure the *Taxi Squads* success.

16.2 Permission to Compete

- A. Any Taxi Squads or final All-Star teams wanting to participate in any tournament must first obtain permission from the League President prior to any commitment or financial obligation, whether the tournament is funded by SBL or not. The League President's decision to grant or

deny permission to compete shall be final and not subject to appeal.

- B. Any requests for funds in excess of the approved budget shall go before the BOD for decision. The League President's decision to grant or deny permission to any *Taxi Squad* or *All-Star Tournament* team to compete shall be final, and cannot be appealed.
- C. The "AA" Director, Cal Ripken Director At-Large and Babe Ruth Director At-Large shall work together and independently to gain entry into tournaments for each *Taxi Squad* team within their respective leagues.
- D. *Taxi Squad Managers* shall also make the effort to check into tournaments and report back to their League Directors.
- E. *Taxi Squad* managers shall submit their official All Star team rosters to the league secretary upon request and by the annual deadline set by the league. No rosters will be accepted prior a deadline to be set by the President. Under no circumstances shall ANY PLAYER be officially named or personally informed of making the All Star Team until such time that the League President has signed off and submitted the official roster back to the All Star manager. Once the signed official roster is returned to the All Star Manager, players may be notified. Violation of this rule could result in the removal of the all-star manager from the team.
- F. All submitted rosters are subject to league participation verification.

16.3 Code of Conduct

- A. All players, coaches, parents, guardians, and spectators of any team supported by the SBL shall at all times conduct themselves in accordance with the Babe Ruth Leagues of America code of conduct. While on or off the field they are to be courteous, kind, respectful, and sportsmanlike. They are representatives of the SBL and the County of Stafford, and shall conduct themselves in a professional manner.
- B. Managers are responsible for the conduct of all players, coaches, parents and guardians. Managers, who knowingly allow this code of conduct to be broken, may also be held responsible and the appropriate disciplinary measures shall be enforced.
- C. SBL Code of Conduct under section 13.0 of these procedures applies to all Taxi Squads and All-Star teams including the right of the league to discipline participants.

16.4 Manager and Player Selection

- A. Managers for *Taxi Squad* teams are the same as the managers for the All-Star teams as described in section 7.0 of these procedures.
- B. Assistant Coaches are selected by the *Taxi Squad/All-Star* manager in accordance with the Babe Ruth / Cal Ripken tournament rules. These assistants are subject to the ratification of the SBL Board of Directors.
- C. Players are selected to the All-Star teams by using a taxi squad for evaluating a prospective player's ability, sportsmanship, team chemistry, and knowledge of the game. The player selection is solely at the *Taxi Squad* manager's discretion. Players are not officially named, nor shall it be implied in any way that they are members of the official All-Star team until

the League President signs the official roster.

16.5 Eligibility

- A. All All-Star eligibility must conform to Babe Ruth League, Inc. official rules. Players and coaches should keep this in mind when selecting players to participate on the Taxi Squads.
- B. *Taxi Squad* and *District Tournament Team* participants must have played in no less than 50% of their regular season games before they can be officially rostered to any district all-star team.
- C. Regular season teams wanting to form a Taxi Squad to participate in outside tournaments must first obtain permission from the League President,. These participating regular season teams may select from their existing team players, as well as any other players within their division who are not participating on any other *Taxi Squad* on the dates of their proposed event(s). This is primarily acceptable in the fall season or in the off-season to keep potential all-star candidates at a sharper level of play.

16.6 Player Participation

- A. Taxi Squad games are played by Babe Ruth League rules or the rules of the tournament in which they are participating. SBL House Rules (Section 15 of these procedures) do not apply.
- B. Scheduled *Taxi Squad* and *District All Star* events shall not be in conflict with league practices, regular season games to include “End of Season” division tournament games. Those players invited to take part in any of these outside events shall give first priority to their regular season team. Invited or officially rostered players shall be instructed by all *Taxi Squad* and *District All Star Managers* that the player’s participation with their regular season team takes precedence. In the event of scheduling conflicts, all players shall first participate with their regular season team.
- C. *During the school year Taxi Squads* and *District Tournament Teams* are restricted to three events per week. Events are defined as practices, meetings, games, or tournaments during the regular season. There are no event restrictions once the school year ends.
- D. When asked, all regular season managers will make their regular season score books available to the *Taxi Squad* manager for his/ her analysis. Team score books shall always remain in the custody of the regular season manager.

16.7 Jurisdiction

All SBL sponsored or sanctioned teams, unless otherwise noted, shall be governed under these rules and league procedures. The SBL and its Directors shall have full jurisdiction over all of these teams that play in any outside games or tournaments. In the event any of these rules or procedures is not strictly followed, the league reserves the right to approve, deny, or disqualify any player, parent, guardian, coach, or manager at any point.

16.8 League Mandated Rules

- A. Each *Taxi Squad* or *District All Star Manager* shall communicate with the regular season managers, if they intend to use one of their players to pitch in any event. The needs of a player’s regular season team shall take precedence in using any pitcher.

- B. By rule, during the regular season play, players are allowed to pitch 6 innings per calendar week in Cal Ripken, and 7 innings per calendar week in Babe Ruth. For the purpose of outside or inter-squad play for *Taxi Squads* and *District Tournament Team* participation, this rule shall be extended 3 additional innings for Cal Ripken (9 Total) and 4 innings for Babe Ruth (11 Total) for events prior to the Babe Ruth & Cal Ripken All Star tournaments. The additional innings shall only be used in Taxi Squad or All-Star events and shall be strictly monitored and enforced.
- C. After consultation with a player's regular season manager, any unused pitching eligibility from the regular season during the calendar week, shall be afford to the *Taxi Squads* or *Tournament teams*.
- D. During approved invitational tournament play, (Memorial Day weekend and pre-district tune-up tournaments held after the end of a participants "End of Season" league championship tournament) those affected pitchers will be restricted to the tournament rules as outlined in the Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken rule book. Tournament rules shall not be instituted other than these two exceptions, or as stated, the participant / player has completed their regular season.
- E. During the regular season, no player on any *Taxi squad* or *District All Star Team* shall pitch more than two innings per game (Cal Ripken) or - three innings per game (Babe Ruth) unless they have had 48 hours of rest since their last regular season pitching assignment. Furthermore, they shall follow the same pitching criteria if they are scheduled to pitch within 48 hours of their next regular season pitching assignment. (Managers must consult team Managers prior to making their pitching rotation.)

16.9 Obligation

The SBL has gone to great lengths to set up this *Taxi Squad* and *District All Star Team* structure. We are committed to assembling sound and competitive Tournament teams. This is a big responsibility, one that will require a large commitment of a manager's time and efforts. Managers will be responsible for coordinating and informing all the parties involved.

It is expected that all Managers respect the feelings of all the players within their division. Managers are given a great deal of latitude and must not imply or represent to anyone, something that you are not going to fulfill. We as parents may support and run this league, but this is the players' league and most of these kids are of an impressionable age. Care should be taken when dealing with their emotions.

16.9.1 League Finance

At the discretion of the league's Board of Directors, the SBL may elect to allot a small game and tournament budget for each *Taxi Squad*. This team budget shall be for the purpose of paying tournament entry fees and umpire cost for games. No budgeted money will be released or allocated without the league President's prior approval. Any additional financial responsibility beyond the allotted team budget shall be the responsibility of the *Taxi Squad* or *District Tournament Team* and its participants. The League Directors shall account for any allotted funds and provide receipts to the league Treasurer for accountability. These funds shall not be used for travel, entertainment, meals, or any other expense other than tournament fees and umpire costs.

16.9.2 Coaches and Managers

All *Taxi Squad* and *District Tournament Team Managers*, prior to being nominated, shall commit to

being available and present for all team events. At a minimum they shall practice or have a team meeting at least one time per week. The Managers and Coaches shall be available for the week and weekend of Memorial Day, the last two weeks of June and the first two or three weeks of July for tournament competition. Should a manager or coach be unable to attend, they must give prior notification to the Director. The League Director may approve or deny continuing the event. This is a prerequisite to all *Taxi Squad Managers and Coaches*. Failure to uphold any of these conditions may result in the removal of the Manager or Coaches from the team. Managers shall identify these dates to all prospective players and confirm their availability prior to placing them on the official team roster.

16.9.3 Players

Players who are invited by the *Taxi Squad Manager* to attend practices, games, or tournaments shall indicate to the manager their ability to meet the obligation. If they accept, they will be required to attend the event and adhere to all the above listed rules, and league procedures. Every prospective all-star team player must make a commitment to be available for all practices the last two weeks of June for possible pre-invitational tournaments, and the first two or three weeks of July for tournament play.

It is recommended that no officially rostered All Star team player participate in any other individual team sporting events or other baseball league outside of the SBL during the last two weeks of June and the first two or three weeks of July. This time period is contingent upon the team's advancement in the All Star tournament. This time frame is the main preparation period for the District Tournaments. To be successful, all team efforts must be focused and applied toward these tournaments. Furthermore, once the official rosters have been submitted to Babe Ruth headquarters, teams cannot pick-up additional players if one were to be injured. Activity that may result in personal injury or adversely affect the All-Star team are strongly discouraged during this time to insure the teams' success.

This page is intentionally left blank.

17.0 UMPIRES

17.1 Director of Umpires

- A. The Director of Umpires shall serve as the manager over all umpires employed by SBL. The Director of Umpires is a member of the Board of Directors as outlined in section 1 of these procedures.
- B. The Director of Umpires is defined in section 1.3 F of these procedures. He shall serve on the Board of Directors under the terms set forth in that section is shall supervise all other umpires and associated umpire functions for SBL.

17.2 Regional Umpire Coordinators

The Director of Umpires may appoint Regional Umpire Coordinators to assist in his administrative duties. The Director of Umpires may task these coordinators to assist with scheduling, supervision of umpires in their regions, inventory of equipment and any other duties as assigned. Regional Umpire Coordinators may be paid for administrative duties at the discretion of the Director of Umpires. These funds will come from the Director of Umpire's budget as approved by the BOD.

17.3 Umpires

17.3.1 Responsibilities

- A. Shall follow the chain of command for clarifications by going through their Regional Umpire Coordinator, who in-turn shall go to the Director of Umpires as needed, who in-turn shall go to the Vice President as needed.
- B. Shall be in uniform as directed by the Director of Umpires. Shirttails shall be tucked in and the overall appearance of the umpire shall be neat and clean cut.
- C. Shall follow the umpire code of conduct as outlined by Babe Ruth League rulebook.
- D. Shall understand, adhere and enforce all Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth Leagues rules and regulations and SBL Rules and Procedures in games which they are umpiring.
- E. Must attend umpiring clinics or other training as directed by the Director of Umpires.
- F. Must pick up and return all SBL equipment when requested by a superior.
- G. Shall not make rule interpretations other than what the rulebook says you can and cannot do. With respect to SBL's House Rules, when a violation occurs, Umpire(s) shall call time and enforce the rule as it is stated. SBL has a set of minimum standards for participation and other rules, which are designed to promote player interest and protect the health and well being of all players. Specifically, umpires shall:
 - A. Shall immediately call time out and substitute the proper player(s) when a player participation or a pitching violation is identified. The violation shall be noted in both score books before continuing the game. The umpire shall notify the Regional Umpire Coordinator immediately following the game, who in-turn shall immediately contact the league Director for corrective or disciplinary action, as appropriate.

- B. Shall maintain discipline and order during the game. Take appropriate action on unsportsmanlike conduct or language of a player(s), coach(es), parent(s), or spectator(s). Immediately deal with a problem. Report all cases which result in an ejection to your Regional Umpire Coordinator immediately following the game, who in in-turn immediately contact the league Director.
- C. Shall for all protested games indicate in both scorebooks the protested call, current inning, batter, pitch count, and number of outs. Allow the game to proceed and advise the manager to contact his or her commissioner to formally file the protest within 48 hours of the game being completed.
- H. Each umpire shall be responsible for filing their lineup cards with their Regional Umpires on a weekly basis, if possible. The cards are your pay slips, without them there is no proof that you physically umpired that game. The plate umpire will collect the lineup card from the Home and Visiting teams during the mandatory meeting that takes place prior to the start the game. The plate umpire will keep the copy from the home team; the field umpire will receive the visiting team's lineup card from the plate umpire. If you lose a line up sheet, you need to have the other umpire for that game, or the managers whose teams were playing, or some other proof showing that you in fact were the umpire for that game. Line Up cards need to be turned into the Regional Coordinator prior to the last day of each month. Furthermore, if any umpire wishes to receive monetary compensation for an SBL officially scheduled game that they were not originally scheduled for, they must notify the regional Umpire Coordinator within 24 hours of officiating the game.

17.3.2 Requirements

All umpire requirements are subject to the discretion of the Director of Umpires and the needs of the league. Unless otherwise directed by the Director of Umpires the following requirements apply.

- A. The minimum age to become an umpire is 13-years-old. 13-year-old umpires may ONLY work Minor League games until they have a minimum of 15 games experience. After they have a achieved a minimum of 15 games they may also work as the field umpire only at Major League games and ONLY if the Umpire-in-Chief is over the age of 18.
- B. 14 and 15-year-old umpires may ONLY work Major and Minor League games.
- C. Plate and field umpires for Prep and Babe Ruth League games must be over the age of age of 16 and be Babe Ruth League Nationally Certified Umpires.
- D. First year umpires (of any age) shall not work behind the plate prior to having mandatory 15 games in the field. First year umpires need to gain the experience and knowledge of proper field positioning and the pressure associated with that before they are permitted behind the plate where the potential of more pressure and scrutiny may be observed.
- E. Plate umpires are considered the Umpire-in-Chief for the game in which they are presiding. Plate umpires are expected to have read and be familiar with all of the rules in as published in the most recent Babe Ruth League Rule book, as well as the SBL rules in this document.
- F. Umpires are prohibited from officiating games in which they have a member of their immediate family either coaching or playing in the game.
- G. Umpires are prohibited from officiating games in which they are also a coach of a team in that

particular league. The only exception to this is if their team is in a different geographic division and the game schedule does not interlock the divisions. They would still be prohibited from officiating postseason play in that league, General Notes

- H. Umpires will not be paid in the event of game cancellations prior to the start of the scheduled game. Umpires will be paid if a game is called for any reason after the first pitch.
- I. Umpires will be paid if games are forfeited because of an inadequate number of players on any given team.
- J. If either umpire working a game sees that the other member of that crew might have made the wrong call, they shall call time and discuss it with that crewmember in private. Prior to the next pitch, the umpire who originally made the ruling may overturn the call.
- K. Umpires should understand that the players and their parents are the ones who are paying for your services through their registration fees. Anytime people are being charged for a service, they will expect a certain level of professionalism in return. Always try and help the players through encouragement and respect. Please show the same respect and sportsmanship towards the parents, fans and coaches.

This page is intentionally left blank.

STAFFORD BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC.
POST OFFICE BOX 2078
STAFFORD, VIRGINIA 22555
(540) 657-1634
www.staffordbaseball.org