STAFFORD BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC.

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

2026 Rules

&

Procedures

www.StaffordBaseball.org

2024-2025 LEAGUE OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President	Michael Bouchard
Vice President	Chris Cline
Secretary	Heather Fletcher
Treasurer	Paul Spellman
Baseball Director at Large	Bryan Combs
Softball Director at Large	Chad Lamb
Director of Operations	Open
General Affairs Director(s)	Pamala Bouchard Paul Santay

Communications/Public Affairs	**Chrissi Plasterer**
World Series Director	**Pamala Bouchard**

League Commissioners

Babe Ruth Commissioner	**James Brandt**
Prep Commissioner	**Brian Duy**
Majors Commissioner	**Open**
Minors Commissioner	**Matt and Tiffany Watts**
Rookies Commissioner	**Kevin Broadbent**

Quickball Commissioner	**Eric Barton**
Softball JR Commissioner	**Ricky Moyer**
Softball SR Commissioner	**Samantha DiCola**

Other Commissioners

Commissioner of Umpires	**Roy Ruiz**
Commissioner of Equipment	**Open**
Commissioner of Volunteers	**Heather Fletcher**
Coordinator of Safety	**Mark Doyle**

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0. LEAGUE BYLAWS

- This section is reserved for the SBL Bylaws. The approved league bylaws may only be amended by the provisions set forth within the bylaws. Therefore, this section is exempt from annual League rules and procedures amendments. The bylaws are provided herein as a guide to keep these rules and procedures in concert with the League bylaws.

- Amendments to these rules and procedures may not conflict with the league bylaws. When a rule or procedure is found to be in conflict with the league bylaws, the league bylaws will always take precedence.

BYLAWS OF STAFFORD BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC

A Virginia Non-Stock Corporation

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of the entity shall be "Stafford Baseball League, Inc." References herein to "Stafford Baseball", "SBL, Inc." or "The Corporation" are intended to refer to said entity. The entity may, upon approval of the Board of Directors use alternate names as may be permitted by the filing of a Fictitious Name certificate or request duly filed with such governmental entity permitted to receive the same.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

SECTION 1: PURPOSE: The purpose of Stafford Baseball is to build the interest and unite the residents of Stafford County, Virginia in Baseball and/or Softball and to teach the youth of the County sportsmanship, good health habits, character, develop athletic skills, encourage teamwork, encourage social well-being and team spirit by promoting participation of Stafford County residents and youth in the games of Baseball and Softball. The Directors of the Corporation shall be permitted to undertake any effort or create such rules and procedures which are not strictly prohibited herein, and which are not in violation of the criminal laws of the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or the County of Stafford, Virginia.

SECTION 2: PHILOSOPHY:

A. The ideals of fair play, good sportsmanship, honesty and civility will be encouraged in the activities of Stafford Baseball. Activities shall include, but not be limited to, instruction and teaching of the fundamentals of baseball and softball. Healthy and civil competition are to be promoted, but not at the expense of the other purposes and philosophies of Stafford Baseball.
B. The Corporation shall develop policies and procedures to effectuate its purpose and philosophies which shall be generally available to the public in such for and manner as deemed reasonable by the Corporation as determined by the Chairman and/or the Secretary of the Corporation.
C. Stafford Baseball shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin or gender in its membership, selection of directors, commissioners, appointees, coaches or team membership.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING OF MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP: Active Members shall include:

A. The Board of Directors of the Corporation.
B. The Individuals who, since the last Annual Meeting, have served as Directors, Commissioners, and Ratified Volunteers of Stafford Baseball.
C. The parent or legal guardian who completed the registration process and agreed to the terms for any child or children registered with the corporation to participate as members of baseball or softball teams as may be formed by the Rules and Procedures of Stafford Baseball League, Inc., who are current in the payment of any and all registration fees, or who have satisfied all registration and other fees as may be required by the Rules and

Procedures of Stafford Baseball League in either or both of the preceding two seasons, as defined by the Rules and Procedures of Stafford Baseball League, Inc. and are considered as members in good standing as defined by the Rules and Procedures of Stafford Baseball League, Inc.

SECTION 2: HONORARY MEMBERSHIP: Any adult who has distinguished themselves in an unusual or praiseworthy manner may be elected to honorary membership status by a vote of no less than two-thirds (2/3) of the Board of Directors. Honorary Members shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Corporation, and participate in Stafford Baseball activities. Honorary Members, unless they otherwise qualify to do so as a result of also qualifying to Active Membership, shall not vote or hold elective office in the Corporation, and shall have no interest in the funds or property of Stafford Baseball League, Inc. Honorary Members may, upon majority vote of the Board of Directors, serve in any capacity not otherwise prohibited in this provision.

SECTION 3: EXCLUSIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP: Any individual who would otherwise qualify as a part of Active Membership, or Honorary Membership, shall be excluded from membership and any Voting as defined below, upon suspension from participation in Stafford Baseball League, whether the same is by temporary action as permitted herein for the term of such temporary action/immediate suspension, or as a result of suspension or expulsion after formal disciplinary proceeding as defined herein or by the Rules and Procedures of Stafford Baseball League, Inc. Such individuals shall not be permitted to hold elective office, vote in any matter of business, or serve in any volunteer or appointed position with Stafford Baseball during the term of such suspension or until such suspension/expulsion is lifted pursuant to these Bylaws or any Rules and Procedures of Stafford Baseball League, Inc.

SECTION 4: VOTING:

A. WHO MAY VOTE: All Active Members, as defined in Section 1, above, but excluding those as defined in Section 3, above, shall be entitled to a single vote in election of Directors of the Corporation for each such position as requires election at any Annual or Special Meeting called for the purposes of election of members of the Board of Directors. Such individuals shall also be entitled to one vote in any and all business of the Corporation which requires vote by the Membership. In the event of a tie in the votes of the membership, regardless of the subject, The Chairman of the Board of Directors shall be permitted to cast an additional vote to break any such tie. Only those active members present for the meeting where a vote of the active membership is required may vote, and no vote shall be cast by proxy or electronic means, unless specifically permitted by these Bylaws or the Rules and Procedures of Stafford Baseball League, Inc.
B. DUES AND FEES REQUIREMENT: All Active Members must comply with the provisions relating to payment of Dues and Fees as indicated in Section 1(C), above. Upon request made to the Chairman of the Board of Directors, deserving parents or guardians who are unable to pay all dues and fees, if they would otherwise qualify for Active Membership, may request that the requirement of payment of Dues and Fees be waived to permit their active participation and voting. The Chairman of the Board of Directors shall have authority to approve or deny the request, at his or her discretion.
C. RESIDENCY: No individual, who would otherwise qualify for membership in the Corporation shall be excluded on the sole basis that they do not reside in Stafford County, Virginia.

SECTION 5: SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION OF MEMBERS: Youth participants, Parents or Guardians of Youth Participants, volunteers, coaches, appointed officials and Members may be suspended or expelled from the Corporation or participation and/or presence at events relating to the Corporation, to promote the health, safety, and welfare of other individuals or for violations of these Bylaws or the Rules and Procedures of Stafford Baseball League, Inc. During the term of the suspension, or after expulsion until the expulsion is lifted by the Board of Directors, the individual or individuals suspended or expelled may not participate in, or be present for, any activity relating to Stafford Baseball League, Inc.

A. TEMPORARY SUSPENSIONS: Youth participants, parents or guardians of youth participants, volunteers, coaches and members may be temporarily suspended by the Director of the respective league where the youth participates, or coach participates, on a temporary basis, not to exceed 90 days. Said Temporary Suspension may lifted by the Director who issued the suspension, or by two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. Commissioners or other appointed officials may be suspended by the Chairman of Board of Directors on a temporary basis, not to exceed 90 days.
B. EXTENSION OF SUSPENSIONS: Said Temporary Suspension may be extended, prior to the end of the temporary suspension, upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors to do so, after notice to the individual or individuals suspended, and a right to make a statement in opposition to the suspension. No suspension shall be for a period in excess of five years. Said vote may occur at any regular, annual or special meeting of the Board of Directors.
C. EXPULSION: The Board of Directors may, upon notice to the individuals who is the subject of the expulsion, and the right to make a statement in opposition to the Expulsion, upon two-thirds (2/3) vote, expel any individual who has engaged in behavior that they determine is contrary to the health, safety and welfare of participants or volunteers of any Stafford Baseball program, violates any applicable criminal law, or has been the subject of more than one suspension (whether temporary or extended).
D. ADDITIONAL RULES AND PROCEEDURES: The Board of Directors may provide for additional Rules and Procedures for the suspension or expulsion of individuals as they deem appropriate, so long as the same do not conflict with the provisions of this section, and the subsections contained herein.

ARTICLE IV – ORGANIZATION, BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

SECTION 1: ORGANIZATION: Final Authority for all matters not otherwise prescribed herein shall lie with the Board of Directors of the Corporation. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the implementation, policy making and decision making for the Corporation, but may delegate the same as set out herein, or by vote of the Board. The Board shall, at minimum consist of seven (7) members, and shall have the all executive and legislative authority of the Corporation except as designated herein, or by any Rules and Procedures adopted by the Board.

SECTION 2: BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The Board of Directors shall consist of seven (7) members. The members of the Board shall include a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and three (3) "At Large" Directors. All members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the Active Members of the Corporation as Defined in Article II, above. The election of Directors shall be as defined in Article IV, Section 2, Subsection 6, below. A quorum for any meeting of the Board of Directors shall be no less than

four (4) members, and all decisions of the Board unless otherwise required by these Bylaws, shall be by majority vote.

A. CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENT: The Board shall include a Chairman of Board of Directors/President, who shall be directly elected by the Active Membership, and who shall serve for a one-year term. Said Chairman/President may be elected for successive terms, without limit. The duties of the Chairman/President shall include, but not be limited to, the following

   a. Represent and/or delegate another to represent the Corporation in any and all dealings with the Safford County, Virginia Government.
   b. Sign contracts on behalf of the Corporation as approved by the Board of Directors, or for such contracts that he is permitted to do so on behalf of the Corporation as are permitted by resolution or by the Rules and Procedures of Stafford Baseball League, Inc.
   c. Assist the Treasurer in the development and presentation of a yearly budget for approval by the Board of Directors
   d. Make appointments of League Commissioners and General Affairs Directors, subject to approval of the Board of Directors.
   e. Appoint such other officials and commissioners which may be required from time to time.
   f. Conduct (and/or delegate another to conduct) the day-to-day affairs of the Corporation.
   g. Call for and preside over meetings of the Board of Directors, the Annual Meeting of the Corporation, Special or other Regular Meetings of the Corporation and meetings of the Membership of the Corporation.
   h. With the advance approval of the Board of Directors enter into associations with such other organizations promoting goals similar to that of the Corporation, so long as the same does not divest the Board of Directors of ultimate authority over the organization, or divest the Membership of their voting rights as defined in these Bylaws.
   i. In any vote where the result is a tie in the amounts of votes received, the Chairman/President shall break said tie by casting a vote or additional vote, if necessary.
   j. Represent, or designate someone to represent the Corporation at all meetings with other entities wherein the Corporation has voting authority.
   k. Vote on all matters coming before the Board of Directors.
   l. Such other duties as may be set out by resolution of the Board of Directors, or by the Rules and Procedures of Stafford Baseball League, Inc.

B. VICE-CHAIRMAN/VICE PRESIDENT: The board shall include a Vice-Chairman/Vice President of the Board of Directors, who shall be directly elected by the Active Membership, and who shall serve for a one-year term. Said Vice-Chairman/Vice President may be elected for successive terms, without limit. The Duties of the Vice-Chairman/Vice President shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

a. In the absence of the Chairman/President at any meeting of the corporation, the Vice-Chairman/Vice President shall assume the duties of the Chairman/President for such meeting.
b. Upon the death or disability of the Chairman/President, shall assume the duties of the Chairman/President until the next election.
c. Vote upon any matter coming before the Board of Directors.
d. Such other duties as may be set out by resolution of the Board of Directors, as assigned by the Chairman/President or as set out in the Rules and Procedures of Stafford Baseball League, Inc.

C. SECRETARY: The Board shall include a Secretary of the Board of Directors, who shall be directly elected by the Active Membership, and who shall serve for a one-year term. Said Secretary may be elected to successive terms, without limit. The duties of the Secretary shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
a. Receive and produce the correspondence of the Corporation.
b. Provide Notice of any meeting in the fashion required herein or as set out the Rules and Procedures of Stafford Baseball, Inc.
c. Record Minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors and other Meetings of the Corporation or its Membership, or designate another to so, if not able to attend.
d. Keep a record of the Minutes of the Corporation and Keep a record of the Documents of the Corporation.
e. Vote on any matter coming before the Board of Directors.
f. Such other duties as may be set out by resolution of the Board of Directors, as assigned by the Chairman/President or as set out in the Rules and Procedures of Stafford Baseball League, Inc.

D. TREASURER: The Board shall include a Treasurer of the Board of Directors, who shall be directly elected by the Active Membership, and who shall serve for a one-year term. Said Treasurer may be elected to successive terms, without limit. The Duties of the Treasurer shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
a. Keep detailed records of the accounts of the Corporation.
b. Make payment on all legitimate expenses of the Corporation; to the extent funds are available for the same.
c. Collect the debts, fees and dues of the corporation.
d. Prepare a balance sheet and expense statement of the Corporation, no less than on a quarterly basis, or at such other times as requested by the Chairman/President or by request of a majority of the Board of Directors.
e. Prepare an Annual budget for the Corporation with the assistance of the Chairman/President.
f. File, or secure the services of an appropriate professional to file, such tax returns of the corporation as may be required by law.
g. Vote on any matter coming before the Board of Directors.
h. Such other duties as may be set out by resolution of the Board of Directors, as assigned by the Chairman/President or as set out in the Rules and Procedures of Stafford Baseball League, Inc.

E. AT LARGE DIRECTORS: The Board shall include three (3) At Large Directors, who shall be directly elected by the Active Membership, and who shall serve staggered two year (2 Year) terms. Said At Large Directors may be elected to successive terms, without limit. The duties of the At Large Directors shall include, but not be limited to:
   a. Advising the chairman on the day to day operations of the Corporation.
   b. Voting on any matter coming before the Board of Directors.
   c. Such other duties as may be set out by resolution of the Board of Directors, as assigned by the Chairman/President or as set out in the Rules and Procedures of Stafford Baseball League, Inc.

F. REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS: Any Member of the Board of Directors may be removed or suspended from office and relieved of their duties by a vote of 5 of 7 members of the Board of Directors which shall take immediate effect and remain in effect until overturned or the end of the next Annual Meeting, whichever occurs first. Such Removal or Suspension action may be appealed to a vote of the Active Membership, which shall be held at a Special Meeting within thirty (30) days of the removal or suspension action by the Board of Directors, and the Removal or Suspension action of the Board may be overturned by a Vote of a simple majority of the Members present and voting. Upon petition of no less than one hundred (100) members of the Active Membership of the Corporation, for the removal of any Director, the Chairman shall call a special meeting of the Active Membership to consider such petition within 60 days of Receipt of the Petition, which shall be filed with the Chairman or the Secretary of the Corporation. Removal of a Director by petition of the active membership shall require the vote of two-thirds of the Active Membership present. For purposes of a Petition for Removal of a Director presented by the Active Membership, such meeting shall require a quorum of no less than 100 Active Members.

SECTION 3: <u>OTHER OFFICERS</u>: The Corporation shall have such other officers as designated herein to effectuate the goals of the Corporation, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

A. GENERAL AFFAIRS DIRECTORS: The Chairman/President, shall appoint, subject to approval of the Board of Directors two General Affairs Directors, who shall not, solely as a result of their appointment as a General Affairs Director, be voting Members of the Board of Directors, but shall instead be volunteer assistants to the league. The General Affairs Directors shall be appointed for a term not to exceed the length of the Chairman/President who appointed them, and shall serve at the pleasure and discretion of the Chairman/President. The General Affairs Directors shall assist in the day to day operations of the Corporation in such fashion as deemed necessary by the Chairman/President and shall have such authorities and duties as are not otherwise delegated to another Director, officer or appointee as set out herein. In the event of a vacancy in any position within the Corporation, the General Affairs Directors may be appointed to the vacated position and shall have the rights duties and authorities of the vacancy appointment and their duties as a General Affairs Director. The General Affairs Directors shall also have such duties as may be set out by resolution of the Board of Directors, as assigned by the Chairman/President or as set out in the Rules and Procedures of Stafford Baseball, Inc.

B. DIVISION COMMISSIONERS: The Chairman shall appoint, subject to approval of the Board of Directors, Division Commissioners, who shall be responsible for the administration of sub-

leagues of Youth Baseball and Softball leagues. Division Commissioners shall serve a term of up to one-year, concurrent with the term of the Chairman, and may be appointed to successive terms, without limitation. Said Division Commissioners shall be responsible for ensuring the fair administration of programs, organization of teams within their age and sport purview, the enforcement of Rules and Procedures of Stafford Baseball League, Inc. for the teams under their supervision, and, on a temporary basis, such decisions as may be necessary. Division Commissioners shall also have such duties as may be set out by resolution of the Board of Directors, as assigned by the Chairman or as set out in the Rules and Procedures of Stafford Baseball, Inc. The initial Division Commissioners shall include:

a. T-Ball Division Commissioner
b. Rookie League Division Commissioner
c. Minor League Division Commissioner
d. Major League Division Commissioner
e. Senior League Division Commissioner
f. Juniors Softball Division Commissioner
g. Such other Division Commissioners as the Board, upon a majority vote create to accommodate organizational needs of Stafford Baseball League, Inc.

The Board of Directors may also appoint subsidiary Assistant Commissioners to assist the Division Commissioners, in consultation with the Division Commissioners. Any such Assistant Commissioners shall be appointed for a term up to one-year which shall be concurrent with the term of the Chairman/President of the Board of Directors, and me appointed to successive terms, without limitation. Such Assistant Commissioners shall execute that portion of the Duties of the Division Commissioners as assigned, or as set out by the Rules and Procedures of Stafford Baseball League, Inc.

C. OTHER OFFICERS: The Chairman/President of the Board, may appoint such additional officers or committees as may best serve the Corporation, whose duties shall be as set out by resolution of the Board of Directors, as assigned by the Chairman/President or as set out in the Rules and Procedures of Stafford Baseball League, Inc. These other officers serve at the pleasure of the Chairman or may be removed upon simple majority vote of the Board of Directors.

D. REMOVAL OR SUSPENSION OF OTHER OFFICERS: Removal or Suspension of any officer, other than General Affairs Directors, shall require the majority Vote of the Board of Directors. In the event of a violation of any applicable criminal law in the course of the Corporations activities by any officer, the Chairman may temporarily suspend such officer until the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 4: VACANCIES: Should a vacancy occur in the position of Chairman/President, the Vice Chairman/Vice President shall become Chairman/President. Should a Vacancy occur in any other position described in this Article, it shall be filled by appointment of the Chairman/President. Such Appointment shall be temporary in nature, and shall not exceed 90 days or the end of the current term of the Chairman/President, whichever comes first. Any such temporary Appointment may be extended by vote of the Board of Directors until the next Annual Membership Meeting.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

SECTION 1: ANNUAL MEETING: The Annual Meeting of the Membership of Stafford Baseball League, Inc. shall be held in September of Each year. The date shall be selected by the Chairman/President in consultation with the Secretary of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer will present and annual report to the membership that has been approved by the Board of Directors at a prior meeting, which shall be made a part of the minutes of the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting shall include the election of the all members of the Board of Directors whose terms are concluding. Election of each Member of the Board of Directors shall require a simple Majority of the Active Membership present and voting. Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be posted to any internet website maintained by the Corporation at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting, and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in Stafford County Virginia on at least two occasions no less than ten (10) but no more than sixty (60) days prior to the date and time of the Annual Meeting. The Board may approve additional notices and terms of the annual meeting, in their discretion. The Chairman/President will preside over the meeting until its conclusion, with exception of that portion of the meeting dedicated directly to the election of the Chairman/President, which shall be presided over by the At Large Director whose term is not concluding at the Annual Meeting. All Directors terms are deemed to end as of the conclusion of the applicable annual meeting one-year after their election. The Board of Directors may present such other business at the annual meeting as deemed appropriate by the Chairman/President or a majority of the Board of Directors. A Quorum for purposes of the Annual Meeting shall require that no less than twelve (12) individuals of the Active Membership be present at the commencement of the meeting.

SECTION 2: MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held on an as needed basis but in no event less than two (2) times per year. The Meetings shall be open to all Active or Honorary Members. Notice of any such meeting shall be posted to any internet website maintained by the Corporation at least 72 hours in advance of the Meeting, which shall include the time and location of the meeting. The Board, or the Secretary on behalf of the Board may approve additional notices of any meeting, in their discretion. The Board may vote to go into Private Executive Session, upon a simple majority vote of the Board to discuss any matter relating to personnel matters, legal matters, or which relate to any matter that involves proprietary information or information which is required to be confidential by any entity with which the Corporation has an agreement or ongoing relationship. The Board may not vote on any matter, other than those relating to personnel issues, in Private Executive Session. For purposes of the Meetings of the Board of Directors, the presence of three or more members shall constitute a quorum. In instances where a vote is required, the only cases when active general members shall vote is during the Annual Meeting and as outlined in Article III, 4, (A).

SECTION 3: SPECIAL MEETINGS: The Board of Directors may call for a Special meeting of the Membership for any reason set out herein, as set out in the Rules and Procedures of Stafford Baseball League, Inc., or upon a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors for the consideration of items which shall be delineated in a notice to the Active Membership. Notice of Special Meetings shall be posted to any internet website maintained by the Corporation at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting, and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in Stafford County Virginia on at least one occasion no less than ten (10) but no more than sixty (60) days prior to the date and time of the Special Meeting. Such notice shall include a statement regarding the purpose of the Special Meeting. The Board may approve additional notices of the Special Meeting, in their discretion. Unless

otherwise required herein, a quorum for purposes of a Special Meeting shall require that no less than twelve (12) individuals of the Active Membership be present at the commencement of the meeting.

ARTICLE VI - GENERAL PROGRAM RULES

SECTION 1: PROCEDURES: Registration, league information, team makeup, managers, coaching, schedules, uniforms, required player participation in each game, league boundaries, discipline of players, managers and coaches, and all other procedural rules, regulations or requirements shall be accordance with SBL, Inc., League Procedures or House Rules, as applicable.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1: Subject to the provisions of Section 3 below, proposed amendments to the By-Laws or Articles of Incorporation must be submitted in writing to the Secretary and approved by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors at least 30 days prior to the annual or special membership meetings. The amendments then shall be submitted to the membership for a simple majority vote.

SECTION 2: If not approved by the Board of Directors, upon petition of one hundred (100) or more members, the proposed amendments must be submitted to the membership for a vote at the next annual or special membership meeting.

SECTION 3: Changes to the proposed amendments may be submitted to the Board of Directors at the annual or special membership meeting by any member of the SBL, Inc. If the Board of Directors deem such proposed change to be in the best interest of the Corporation, in its sole discretion, and approved such change by two-thirds (2/3) vote, such change shall be presented to the general membership for approval by a simple majority vote of the membership present so long as the general membership waives, by simple majority vote, the notice requirement of Article IV, Section 4.

ARTICLE VIII – EXECUTION

SECTION 1: This document supersedes all previous versions of the Stafford Baseball League, Inc., or the Corporation Bylaws and the terms herein are not contingent upon the elected terms of the sitting Executive Committee and will remain in effect until canceled through action of the Executive Committee as approved by the active general membership. However, all current (valid) contracts, agreements, penalties (e.g. suspension and expulsions), elections, etc. that pre-date this document and were rendered in accordance with the Rules and Procedures of Stafford Baseball League, Inc. will remain in effect unless amended by the Executive Committee.

Approval by the Board of Directors on: 7 APR 2016

Secretary of the Board of Directors

Adopted by vote of the active member on: 8 SEP 2016

Secretary of the Board of Directors

1. 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/softball, 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/softball.

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 bylaws, for the purpose of electing a Board of Directors (BOD). The newly elected board shall take office immediately following the election. The SBL BOD shall set forth *Rules* and *Procedures* to govern the youth baseball/softball program for SBL. Such rules and procedures may be changed to reflect the league's current programs. The league's *Rules* and *Procedures* shall never be in conflict with the SBL bylaws. Changes to *Rules* 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 *Rules* and *Procedures* shall be presented at the next general assembly meeting for deliberation, debate, or as provided for in the league's bylaws 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.

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 Section 13 of these procedures.

1.3.1. Parents/Guardians

Parents/Guardians are responsible for transporting their child/children to and from practices, games, or team/league events. Parents/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/Guardians shall support and help with team/league events, to include assistance

with field maintenance/cleanup, 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/Guardians are responsible for inspecting all personally owned equipment (batting helmets, bats, gloves, catchers gear) before each and every practice or game.

1.3.2. Managers/Coaches

Managers/Coaches are presented by their Baseball/Softball Directors and ratified and appointed by the SBL BOD for each season. Managers/Coaches are volunteers who agree to hold practices and 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 league commissioners in day-to-day operations of their division and its interests to include general membership meetings. Managers/Coaches shall bring questions or complaints regarding the league to their league commissioner. The SBL BOD or the league's bylaws may define more specific duties further in these procedures. If a Manager/Coach is not ratified, the SBL Secretary will send a notification letter stating the ineligibility for this position, which may also extend to the position of parent volunteer/volunteer, and will be specified in the letter (email will suffice). This ineligibility will apply to on the field, dugout, and sideline activities during practices and games.

1.3.3. League Officers

League officers, and their responsibilities, are defined by the corporation's bylaws (see section 0 of these procedures). League officers consist of the board of directors, league commissioners, two general affairs directors, and other officers. It is the responsibility of all league officers to abide by, and enforce, the bylaws and these rules and procedures.

The Executive Board of Directors (Executive Board) shall consist of the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, the Operations Director, the Treasurer, the Baseball Director, and the Softball Director.

In addition to appointing other officers in accordance with the bylaws, the President shall appoint the following:

A. ***Commissioner of Umpires***: Shall be appointed by the league President. The league's Commissioner of Umpires 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 league meetings as necessary. They shall assist other BOD members with administrative duties as defined further in these procedures by the SBL BOD or the league's bylaws. 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 Commissioner of Umpires shall enforce those directives as determined by the SBL BOD. All umpire pay is to be approved by the Commissioner of Umpires under the supervision of the SBL BOD and their annual budget. The Commissioner of Umpires shall bring questions or complaints regarding the league to the league Vice President or BOD. The SBL BOD or the league's bylaws may define more specific duties further in these procedures.

B. ***Commissioner of Volunteers:*** Shall be appointed by the league President. The Board must ratify this appointment. The Commissioner of Volunteers will organize and monitor the SBL volunteer program. The Commissioner of Volunteers will report to the board at monthly meetings as to the progress and needs of the program. The SBL BOD or the league's bylaws may define more specific duties further in these procedures.

C. ***Commissioner of Equipment:*** Shall be appointed by the league President. The league's Commissioner of Equipment shall give monthly equipment reports and shall attend league meetings as necessary. The Commissioner of Equipment shall assist other BOD members with administrative duties as defined further in these procedures by the SBL BOD or the league's bylaws.

   Once the season is over the Commissioner of Equipment shall make the necessary arrangements through the league commissioners for equipment return. The Commissioner of Equipment shall operate and run the league equipment facilities and track current inventory, which shall be reported to the league President. The Commissioner of Equipment shall bring questions or complaints regarding the league to the league Vice President. The SBL BOD or the league's bylaws may define more specific duties further in these procedures.

1.3.4. Executive Board

League officers, and their responsibilities, are defined by the corporation's bylaws (see section 0 of these procedures). League officers consist of the board of directors, league commissioners, two general affairs directors, and other officers. It is the responsibility of all league officers to abide by, and enforce, the bylaws and these rules and procedures. In

addition to appointing other officers in accordance with the bylaws, the President shall appoint the following:

1.4. Programs

SBL shall host a spring season and fall season. Each season shall be governed under the jurisdiction of 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 programs.
Age Eligibility: SBL will follow Babe Ruth League Rules regarding age eligibility as published annually in the BRL rule books (see http://www.baberuthleague.org). For fall season, SBL will use the age eligibility for the following spring season.

1.5. Leagues and Divisions

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

1.5.1. Quickball

This program is recommended for four (4), five (5), and six (6) year-olds. This division will provide an added level of instructional experience. The league Commissioner will place players on teams based on league defined boundaries. No umpires will be used and no score will be kept. There will be no end of the season tournament.

1.5.2. The Babe Ruth Leagues

The Babe Ruth Leagues include all programs for players ages 13 to18 years old. Based on seasonal registration numbers they can be divided into any variation of the following leagues:

A. **Prep:** This league will be composed of 13-year-old players. SBL reserves the right to modify divisions based on registration numbers per age group.

B. **Junior Babe Ruth League:** This league will be comprised of 13 to16-year-old players. SBL reserves the right to modify divisions based on registration numbers per age group.

C. **Senior Babe Ruth League:** This league will be comprised of 16 to18-year-old players. SBL reserves the right to modify divisions based on registration numbers per age group.

1.5.3. The Cal Ripken Leagues:

A. ***"AA" Divisions:*** If registration numbers allow, the *"AA" divisions* may exist in spring and fall and are organized as a county-wide geographic division within the Cal Ripken Leagues to provide an opportunity for players with advanced skills to play more competitive recreational baseball. The "AA" division may be subdivided into separate leagues for AA Rookies, AA Minors, and AA Major League. "AA" division teams will play a cross-county, regular season schedule. The "AA" Cal Ripken League (CRL) 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 drafted by the coaches through tryouts each year. Players not selected for this division will be placed in the corresponding "A" Division League drafts and are encouraged to attend those tryouts as they occur (see section 6).

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. Nine players are placed defensively in the field. Players attend an assessment and will be drafted onto teams. Umpires are used, score is kept, and there is postseason play or tournaments.

C. ***Minor League:*** This program is recommended for nine (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 division, players pitch. However, only nine players are placed in the field defensively. Players attend an assessment and will be drafted onto teams. Umpires are used, score is kept, and there is postseason play or tournaments.

D. ***Rookie League:*** This program is recommended for six (6), seven (7), and eight (8)-year-olds. The division will provide an instructional level of experience using pitching machines (when available) or coach pitch for hitting. The league commissioner will place players on teams based on league defined boundaries. No umpires will be used and no score will be kept (except for "AA" division games). For "A" division, there will be no end of the season tournament.

1.5.4. Stafford Softball League

Stafford Softball League is the Girl's Fast Pitch Softball Division of SBL. The Stafford Softball League may be comprised of programs ranging from 8U to 18U, depending on registration numbers. Softball is not offered for girls below the age of six (6) (Quickball is offered for this age group).

A. ***"AA" Divisions:*** If registration numbers allow, the "AA" division may be created in the spring and/or fall seasons. "AA" divisions are organized as county-wide geographic divisions within each of the Stafford Softball League levels to provide an opportunity for players with advanced skills to play more competitive recreational softball. Teams will play a cross-county, regular season schedule. The "AA" softball leagues may be scheduled to play against each other in their respective divisions as well as other softball 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 corresponding "A" Division League drafts and are encouraged to attend those assessments as they occur. Stafford Softball League will be divided into Junior and Senior Softball Divisions, with a commissioner governing over each.

1.5.5. The Junior Leagues

The Junior Leagues will be governed by a single commissioner and is composed of any leagues formed by Stafford Baseball League players aged 10 and under. Based on registration numbers, Junior Leagues will be comprised of the following:

A. **8U Softball League:** This program is for six (6), seven (7), and eight (8) -year-old girls. The league will provide an instructional level of experience using a pitching machine (when available) or coach pitch for hitting. The Junior League Commissioner will place players on to teams based on league defined boundaries. A maximum of ten players may be placed in the field defensively. No umpires will be used and no score will be kept unless playing under AA rules. There will be no end of season tournament.

B. **10U Softball League**: This program is recommended for nine (9) and 10-year-old girls. 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 10U-league level that players first experience post-season tournament competition. In the 10U-league, players pitch. All players present for the game bat, whether playing defensively or not. A maximum of nine players may be placed in the field defensively. Players attend an assessment and are drafted onto teams.

1.5.6. The Senior Leagues

The Senior Leagues will be governed by a single commissioner and is composed of any leagues formed by Babe Ruth league aged 12 and over. Based on registration numbers, Senior Softball Leagues will be comprised of the following:

A. **12U Softball League**: This program is recommended for 11 and 12-year-old girls. The 12U league is a more competitive level of fast pitch softball, with an emphasis on instruction and fun. In the 12U league all players present for the game bat, whether playing defensively or not. A maximum of nine players are placed in the field defensively. Players attend an assessment and are drafted onto teams. There is a postseason tournament.

B. **14U Softball League**: This program is recommended for 13 and 14 year old girls. In the 14U league all players present for the game bat, whether playing defensively or not. A maximum of nine players are placed in the field defensively. Players attend an assessment and are drafted onto teams. There is a postseason tournament. *SBL reserves the right to modify divisions based on registration numbers per age group.*

C. **16U Softball League**: This program is recommended for 15 and 16 year old girls. In the 16U-league all players present for the game bat in order, whether playing defensively or not. A maximum of nine players are placed in the field defensively. Players attend an assessment and are drafted onto teams. There is a postseason tournament. *SBL reserves the right to modify divisions based on registration numbers per age group.*

1.6. Geographic Divisions

If registration numbers allow, SBL will attempt to divide leagues into up to 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.

2. REGISTRATION

2.1. Responsibility

The registration for each season is the responsibility of the SBL BOD.

2.2. Fees

The BOD will set the fees annually no later than January 1st for the spring season and by June 1st 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 $50.00 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. Legal ramifications can result in the case of a bad check. Players will not be placed on an active roster unless all registration fees are paid or waived by the Executive Board.

2.3. Refunds

Refunds will be administered in accordance with the following rules:

1. The registered player is physically unable to play because of medical reasons prior to the player's first SBL activity. A note from a Medical Doctor is required; OR

2. 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; OR

3. Refunds may be otherwise considered on a case-by-case basis and waivers to the policy will be granted by the Executive Board as deemed appropriate.

If the refund request is pursuant to 2.3.1 and/or 2.3.2, it must be made in writing (e-mail is acceptable) to the Treasurer prior to the first scheduled game. Refund requests pursuant to 2.3.3 shall be communicated to the Board of Directors. Refunds will NOT be made for:

1. The league's inability to satisfy a player's special team or division request.
2. Deciding not to play.
3. Practice or game dates, field locations, times.
4. Cancellation of games and/or practices due to inclement weather.
5. Inability to continue play due to an injury sustained during an SBL activity.

Refunds will AUTOMATICALLY be given in the event the league cannot satisfy its obligation to have a league based on registration numbers (i.e., not enough players registered for a particular age group and SBL is unable to form a league for that group).

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). Refunds will be given in the manner they were paid.

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 Baseball/Softball Director.

2.5. Eligibility

All residents within the approved boundaries established by the governing headquarters of the baseball/softball organization to which 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 Baseball/Softball Director. These players will be subject to the BOD approved fees. A Baseball/Softball 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. MANAGER & COACH SELECTION

3.1. Criteria

1. ***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.

2. ***Second Priority:*** Participation in League activities, to include General Assembly meetings and fundraising efforts.

3. ***Third Priority:*** Training received commensurate with the age group that the candidate desires to coach.

4. ***Fourth Priority:*** An evaluation of last year's returning managers/coaches.

5. ***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.

6. ***Sixth Priority:*** An evaluation of managers and/or coaches moving up or down into a division.

7. ***All SBL Managers and Coaches should be certified by Babe Ruth League, Inc.*** in accordance with Babe Ruth Baseball, Inc.. and Softball rule .0.04.4. Training and certification information will be provided at the pre-season coaches meeting.

8. ***All SBL Managers,*** coaches***, and other approved volunteers must, in accordance with the*** "*Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017,"* complete an online course every 2 years pertaining to this Act. Proof of completion MUST be received prior to stepping on the field with the players.

9. All SBL Managers, coaches, and other approved volunteers must, in accordance with the Babe Ruth League Rules, register for a background check every season.

3.2. Nomination

1. Baseball/Softball Director shall submit a prioritized pool of manager and coach candidates for each respective league to the BOD.

2. Nominations shall ultimately rest on the judgment of the respective Baseball/Softball Director without specific limitation imposed by the BOD. The Baseball/Softball Director shall not be required to explain or answer why an individual was not nominated.

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

3.3. Ratification

The BOD shall review and ratify all volunteer requests (specifically manager and assistant coach selections) by majority vote or make new selections, which must also pass by a majority vote if any of the original candidates are denied. Ratification does not constitute a guarantee that a ratified volunteer will be assigned a position in the league (e.g., team manager or assistant coach).

4. PLAYER SELECTION

4.1. Team Composition

4.1.1. Responsibility

4.1.1.1 Quickball, Rookie League, and 8U Softball League (when not playing as "AA")

It is the responsibility of the League Commissioners to assign players to teams. The Baseball/Softball Director shall oversee each process. Players will be assigned to teams based on their parent's or legal guardian's declared location relative to elementary school districts 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.

4.1.1.2 Softball, Minor, Major, "AA", and BRL

It is the responsibility of the League Commissioners to ensure drafting is conducted in accordance with the rules of baseball/softball as modified by the rules and procedures of the SBL.

4.1.2. Requests for Teams/Managers

Parents are not permitted to request specific teams or managers/coaches in the leagues formed by drafts (section 6). 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 Baseball/Softball Director will approve or deny such requests for their division. A decision denying the request may not be appealed.

4.1.3. AA Tryout Waiver

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 Baseball/Softball Director provided that the waiver is requested in writing (preferably by e-mail to the director) prior to the try out. If such a waiver is granted, any team may select that player during the normal draft process as if s/he had been in attendance at the tryout. Prior to the start of the tryout, the

Baseball/Softball Director must identify any players who have been granted such a waiver to all of the managers of that 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 commissioner, and only for one of the following reasons:

(1) player moving out of the league's jurisdiction, or

(2) sickness or injury that precludes further team participation by the player for the remainder of the season, or

(3) disciplinary actions, or

(4) failure of the player to attend practice or games, or

(5) safety measures, or

(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 commissioner. 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

4.1.5.1 Quickball , 8U Softball (when not playing as "AA"), and Rookie Leagues

League Commissioners are responsible for assembling the official team rosters for their respective leagues. The Baseball/Softball Directors shall oversee this process.

4.1.5.2 Softball, Minor, Major, AA Rookie, and BRL (Prep included)

League Commissioners are responsible for assembling the official team rosters for their respective leagues following their drafts. Each League

Commissioner will review and verify their League team rosters prior to submission to the League Secretary for official approval by the League President. The Softball or Baseball Directors will resolve any conflicts in the interpretation of player assignment.

4.2. Playing Down or Up a League

4.2.1. 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 Baseball/Softball 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 Baseball/Softball Director(s) shall document the final decision.

Generally, requests to play down will be denied unless there are special circumstances. Safety is the number one criterion 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.

4.2.2. Playing Up a League

Players will not be allowed to play up 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 Baseball/Softball 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 SBL Board.

5. TRYOUTS/ASSESSMENT – SOFTBALL, AA Rookies, MINORS, MAJORS, BABE RUTH, and AAA Division

5.1. Responsibility

The League Commissioners are responsible for conducting tryouts/assessments. The intent is to give all managers within a certain division a "quick look" at the players' baseball/softball 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. In leagues in which there is a tryout, a tryout is defined as competition for a limited number of spaces on a team/division. As the league is recreational/developmental in nature, the majority of the divisions use an assessment to evaluate player's skills to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of talent.

5.2. High School Players

The drafting of any player on a high school team who registers but is not able to attend the division tryouts, will be determined prior to the draft by the Director of Baseball/Softball . The reason for this exception is that some high school coaches will not permit their players to play or participate with other baseball/softball organizations during their high school season.

5.3. Potential "AA" Division Players

All eligible players who wish to play at a higher skill level must attend tryouts for the "AA Division." No returning player is categorized as an "AA" player until the divisions are set following the draft each season. If a player is unable to attend tryouts, they may seek a wavier pursuant SBL Rule 4.1.3.

5.4. Tryout/Assessment and Team Rosters

The BOD, prior to the tryouts, will publish a tryout/assessment roster for each league by division. The BOD, as soon as practical following the conclusion of general registration, will give each League Commissioner these rosters. The League Commissioners will submit the appropriate roster to each division manager prior to the league tryouts. During tryouts, players are being evaluated on their ability to hit, field, throw and run.

6. DRAFT RULES

6.1. Responsibilities

League Commissioners are responsible for conducting their respective drafts under the supervision of the appropriate Baseball/Softball 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 or Baseball/Softball Directors for publication of computer-generated official league rosters for the League President to authenticate.

The League will determine the number of teams in each geographical division by dividing the total number of registered players by the number twelve.

6.2. Team Composition

No team shall have less than 11 players nor more than 15 without a waiver from the President.

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.

6.4. Draft Order

A. The order of drafting will be established by lottery the night of the draft. The League/Division 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. "A" divisions player draft will occur by age group, starting with the oldest age group of the division and continuing until all players in that age group are placed on a team.

D. In "AA" Divisions, drafts will be conducted in one group. The league commissioner will define the age group split requirements (based on tryout numbers) prior to the draft. At the end of the draft all teams must comply with the age group split requirements.

E. 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.

F. The draft selection process shall continue in the same sequence until all players have been selected.

G. 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 sequencing chart:

Age/Round	Red Team	Blue Team	Gray Team	Black Team	Gold Team
10 y/o, Round 1	1	2	3	4	5
9 y/o, Round 1	5	4	3	2	1

6.5. Draft Process – Single "A" and BRL

A. By lottery (pick from hat), managers draw numbers to establish draft-sequencing order.

B. The child of the manager and assistant coach will be the first available hat pick. 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. 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).

D. Prior to the draft, the league will make every effort to attempt to identify players that have participated in "All-Star/Taxi-Squad" teams in the prior season to all drafting coaches.

E. All players that attended the assessment for their age group will be drafted prior to selecting players that did not attend the assessment (hat pick). 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).

F. For Softball only. Prior to the draft, pitchers and catchers will be identified by the Director of Softball and Division Commissioner(s). Pitchers and catchers will be selected in the first two rounds. The child of the manager and assistant coach will be the first available draft selection after the first two rounds if not already selected during the first two rounds. 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.

6.6. Draft Process – Double "A"

A. Prior to the start of the draft, the Double "A" Division Commissioner or the Baseball/Softball Director will determine the number of players to be placed on each team; no less than 12 but no more than 15. The Baseball/Softball Director 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 Baseball/Softball Director. Prior to the start of the tryout, a League official 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 s/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.

E. **Siblings:** The manager drafting a sibling's brother/sister will immediately gain draft rights to the sibling, however siblings will be assessed on their individual merits, and if a sibling does not make the cut, the manager does NOT have to draft the sibling. In cases where the sibling makes the cut, the sibling(s) will be immediately added to the team count and placed on the team roster as the **FIRST** available draft position(s). 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 **ONLY** the thirty minutes immediately following the end of the draft session.

All trades are “one-for-one”.

No more than two trades from each roster are allowed once the player selection is complete, without approval from the respective Baseball/Softball Director.

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.

6.9. Late Registered Players

Players that sign up to play after the draft has been completed will be placed by the Baseball/Softball Director onto teams based on team size and/or draft order.

7. ALL-STAR PROCESS

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. All players on All-Star teams MUST be selected from SBL regular season rosters.

7.1.1. "A" Divisions – Minor and Major Leagues

A. SBL reserves the right to determine whether an All-Star tournament will be held each spring season. Teams may be formed from each division in the spring 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 divisions. **At least one player from each regular season team will be selected to participate on the Single A All-Star team tryout for each division.**

B. Managers shall submit the names of their All-Star nominees to their League Commissioner, prior to a "Last Look" tryout. All managers shall meet and select a pool of eligible players prior to a "Last Look" demonstration of abilities. At this meeting, managers must confirm their candidates' availability for a "Last Look" tryout, All-Star practices, and All-Star games.

C. Each League/Division Commissioner will determine the criteria for assembling an All-Star team. Commissioners shall inform every manager of the criteria.

If a "Last Look" All-Star tryout is scheduled, the Commissioner shall be responsible for conducting it and shall inform every manager of the exact time and date of the "Last Look" tryout with at least two weeks' advance notice.

Each team shall be represented by their manager or a designated coach.. League Commissioners shall communicate and assist the Division Commissioners when needed.

D. If a "Last Look" tryout is held, each All-Star candidate must participate to be considered. Candidates shall wear their team jerseys at the "Last Look" tryout to aid in the recognition of candidates from other teams.

E. If a "Last Look" tryout is held, all managers (or their designated representative/coach) 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. Division Commissioners will supervise the voting selection to ensure that it is fair and without bias. Each team representative 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. Team managers or their designated coach shall attend and represent their team. Managers are permitted to vote for one member of their own regular season team, however, the team representative cannot vote for their own child/children or the child/children of a coach from their own regular season team.

G. 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 batboy/batgirl.

7.1.2. "AA" Division, Babe Ruth, and Softball – All Leagues (excluding Quickball)

A. Teams from each division shall be formed to represent SBL at the District level and above in each age group (8-year-olds through 18-year-olds) or any combination thereof permitted by Babe Ruth League, Inc.

B. All teams will be referred to by the SBL sanctioned name – "Stafford Warriors" and will use the same uniform, logo, and color scheme.

C. Selection of Teams:

All-Star Managers (Warriors/Taxi Squad) will be empowered with the responsibility of selecting players for the district All-Star teams. Teams shall have a minimum of 12 players and shall not exceed the maximum allowed by Babe Ruth Baseball and Softball Rules.

An "Open Tryout" will be announced by the BOD. At the announced tryout, an independent assessment will be made by a contingent of the league officers (minimum of one, but preferably three) who will determine the three (3) players at each level that MUST be drafted from the available player pool for each age group. All-Star Managers have full discretionary power as to whom is invited to participate on the eventual age-specific All-Star team for the remaining roster positions.

D. To assist in determining who shall be invited to participate in the All-Star team, All-Star Managers may use the players within their division to form a revolving taxi squad (See Section 15) 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 evaluations begin, the All-Star Managers have full discretionary power as to who is invited to participate on the taxi-squads. See Taxi Squad procedures contained with the SBL procedures, infra..

E. Qualifications for Selection

1. To be considered for an All-Star team, all candidates must play in at least 50% of their SBL recreational team's regular season games unless injury, illness, or family matters prevents them from doing so. If a player fails to meet the 50% requirement, the manager must submit an application to the league president for a waiver of said player. This waiver must be accompanied by supporting documentation. The completed application will be brought to the BOD by the president for review. The League President's decision shall be final.

2. 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. High School players that have received an approved waiver by the Babe Ruth State Commissioner will also be eligible.

3. Middle School Softball players that have received an approved waiver by the Babe Ruth State Commissioner will also be eligible.

F. Once the teams have been formed, All-Star Managers will notify the League Commissioner of the selections. The Baseball/Softball Director(s) 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.

G. Stafford All-Star teams that play in games/tournaments outside of the Babe Ruth tournament trail will be played under the name "Warriors."

7.1.3. All-Star status and operation at the conclusion of the season

A. Stafford All-Star teams that play in games/tournaments outside of the Babe Ruth tournament trail will be played under the name "Warriors." The manager will be selected using the criteria set forth in Section 7.2.

B. Managers will welcome, by invitation (or through announced "open" workouts, players to be evaluated for participation on Warriors teams in the off-season through

"winter workouts." Managers are encouraged to evaluate as many players as possible. Managers must keep a log at each practice for review by BOD on demand.

C. Teams may use SBL indoor facilities or approved outdoor venues to conduct winter assessments and open workouts to form their "invitation" list of players that attend winter workouts.

D. All Warrior teams will wear one of the approved uniforms during all taxi and district events.

E. Sponsorship is encouraged for each team. All monies will go directly to Stafford Baseball League for deposit and redistribution.

F. Stafford Baseball League will host several local tournaments to provide tournament exposure to SBL players. Stafford All-Star Teams/Taxi Squads are required to participate in SBL hosted tournaments in their respective Division.

7.2. All-Star Manager Selection

7.2.1. "A" Division – Minors and Majors

On a date determined by the League Commissioner, each manager will submit via email the name of his/her nomination for All-Star Manager and submit it to the Baseball Director. The League Commissioner will tally the votes and determine the manager that received the most votes to be the All-Star Manager. In the event of 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.

7.2.2. "AA", Babe Ruth, and Softball Divisions

A. SBL members who desire to manage a League All-Star team shall provide a resume of their coaching experience to the Vice President or league Secretary by the suspense date determined by the Executive Board. On or soon after the suspense date announced by the Board (and during a closed Board Session) the potential All-Star candidate applications will be reviewed and discussed. If an Executive Board member applies as a candidate for an All-Star Manager position, then that Board member will excuse themselves from the All-Star Manager deliberations for that particular division. Open session will be resumed for the vote.

B. The Executive Board shall consider the following when selecting the All-Star Manager in descending order of priority:

1. **Character.** The Manager is a representative of the ideals of SBL. The Manager must be capable of representing the league in a positive manner and must place the reputation of SBL and the All-Star team ahead and above a “win at any cost” mentality.

2. **All-Star and Managing Success.** Proven ability to develop a competitive team to meet the challenges of tournament play within a positive environment. Capable of balancing the selection of the team while considering talent, team chemistry, and character of the players selected.

3. **Effective Communications.** Capable of communicating effectively with other coaches, players, parents and the SBL Board of Directors.

C. The Executive Board will select the best candidate for the All-Star Manager within each baseball and softball division by coming to consensus. The selected All-Star Managers shall be notified by the Secretary of the league in writing (email will suffice).

D. Upon their ratification and notification, each All-Star Manager shall adhere to the BOD approved Taxi Squad Procedures herein which shall be strictly enforced and adhered to by all parties.

E. Ratification and assignment as an All-Star Manager is in effect until a new selection is made or the manager is removed by the Executive Board.

F. All-Star Managers may not coach or manage any other outside team of the same sport during their tenure as the SBL All-Star Manager without prior approval of the Executive Board.

7.3. Following elimination from the Babe Ruth League tournament trail the All-Star team may revert back to a Taxi Squad for postseason play and Fall tournaments with permission from the League President.

8. TOURNAMENTS

All teams will participate in their own respective tournaments at the end of their season. All end of season tournament champions and runners-up shall receive awards. The respective League Commissioners 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. If no tournament is completed, the regular season final standing records will determine the league champion and runner up.

A. The District All-Star Managers shall enter into league sponsored tournament play elsewhere in the region, or possibly host their own invitational tournaments.

B. All SBL in-house tournaments will be played 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. In the CRL/BRL divisions, an intentional walk may take place by announcement from the catcher or pitcher.

D. There will be no SBL time limit for Championship games when played on a weekend or Holiday. Games played during the week will follow the regular season time restrictions, unless otherwise approved by the baseball/softball Director. This will be announced by the League Commissioner prior to the start of the Championship game.

E. All League Commissioners are responsible for running each tournament within their respective divisions. The League Commissioners 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 League Commissioners. 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, field use, and the use of uniforms and equipment) unless approved by the League President.

8.2. End of Season – "In House"

A. Geographic divisions within Leagues will be pooled together in a league-wide tournament to determine the County Champions.

B. Cal Ripken "AA" Divisions will not be pooled with Cal Ripken "A" divisions and "AA" Softball Divisions will not be pooled with "A" Softball Divisions.

C. The format of the tournament shall be determined by the League Commissioner with approval of the Baseball/Softball Director.

D. Postseason standings for all age groups will be decided by the winning percentage (wins divided by the number of games played). The game scores received by a final date (to be announced by the respective Baseball/Softball 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.

E. In the event of a tie, the tiebreaker will be decided in the following order:

1. Total number of wins, then
2. Total number of losses, then
3. Head-to-head record, then
4. Runs allowed (RA), and then
5. Runs for (RF).

F. Teams will be seeded in the league wide tournament based on their regular season standing.

G. The BOD reserves the right to cancel the End-of-Season Tournament if weather or other delays beyond SBL's control continue to persist.

H. The champion and runner-up shall receive awards.

8.2.1. All "A" Divisions Cal Ripken "A" Divisions in Minor League, Major League

A. The Cal Ripken "A" Divisions for Minor League and Major League may have an in-house All-Star tournament for each division. These "A" Division All-Star teams will not advance to district level competition (Except when section 7.1.1applies).

B. All SBL in-house tournaments will be played 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 and not SBL House Rules.

C. Teams will use Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken tournament pitching rules as outlined in the respective SBL House Rules, 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.

D. When school is in session, and the Championship game is played on a school night, the championship game will be played in accordance with house rule 10.5. Otherwise, it will be played without a time limit.

E. The Baseball/Softball Director, in cooperation with their League Commissioners, shall be responsible for logistics and overall supervision of this tournament.

8.3. All-Star Season

8.3.1. Babe Ruth League, Softball League and Cal Ripken "AA" Divisions

The "AA" Cal Ripken Divisions, Softball League, 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. Postseason

Following elimination from the Babe Ruth League tournament trail, All-Star teams will revert to taxi squads. All taxi squad players must be registered for the most recent SBL season.

9. EVENT LIMITATION

9.1. School Year

During the Stafford county public school year, a maximum of three team 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.

9.2. School Vacation

There are no specific limitations on the number of baseball/softball events that can be held when Stafford Public County 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.

10. SCHEDULING

10.1. General

The regular season and its post-season tournament will generally run from March to the beginning of June with All-Star competition immediately following in June (spring season) and from the end of August until the beginning of November (fall season). General Registration will be conducted at an appropriate time to facilitate the administrative requirements necessary to conduct the overall league schedule.

10.2. Practices

A. The League Commissioners will schedule practices on fields contracted for use by the SBL. A list of fields, prepared by a member of the Executive Board, shall be given to each Commissioner identifying which fields are available for practices in their regions.

B. Teams shall be assigned official practice times by their commissioners.

C. 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.

D. Games, including rescheduled games, take precedence over any scheduled practices.

E. Commissioners shall evaluate and make these additional assignments on a weekly basis.

F. Once the field apportionment is completed, a copy will be provided by the League President to the Parks & Recreation Department to ensure field availability and access to essential services such as lights.

10.3. 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 Commissioner 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 Board of Directors.

10.4. Game Scheduling

A. The BOD 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 Commissioner 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. Once published, and unless otherwise coordinated, the Parks & Recreation Department can access the regular season schedule from the SBL website, and cancellations/rescheduling communications with the Parks & Recreation Department are the responsibility of the respective Baseball/Softball Directors.

B. Deconfliction – prior to the schedule being formulated, individuals who are MANAGING teams in more than one age group shall provide in writing (email will suffice) to the league commissioner, their name, and team names of each team being managed. The league commissioner will, in turn, notify the BOD member creating the schedule. Every reasonable effort will be made to deconflict, however, Managers should be aware that there is no guarantee that a schedule can be formulated without ANY conflict, especially if there are events rescheduled due to weather or other factors once the season starts.

C. The number of games a team is scheduled to play will be determined by the Executive Board. Every team in a league/division will be scheduled to play all other teams in that league/division at least once.

D. Team standings within a league will be based only on league games, which will be identified on the game schedules.

10.5. Game Length

The following rule shall compliment *Babe Ruth baseball and softball rule 4.10, Babe Ruth baseball tournament rule 11.05 subparagraph 7, Babe Ruth softball rules 11.05 subparagraph 4, 11.07 f, 0.02 subparagraph 8,* found in the “Babe Ruth Inc., Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations and Official Playing Rules,” handbook:

10.5.1. Cal Ripken League and Junior Softball Leagues

A. A **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.

B. It is considered a regulation game if four innings (3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead) have been completed. (This does not apply to games that end because of SBL time limits. That is by rule a complete game as mentioned above).

C. Double header game length will consist of two games, each with four (4) innings and a time limit of no new inning after one (1) hour and thirty minutes (each game).

D. For Coach Pitch Division, game length will consist of one hour, 30 minutes or six innings, whichever comes first. In the event of a tie, the games will continue until there is a winner.

10.5.2. Babe Ruth League and Senior Softball Leagues

A. A **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. It is considered a regulation game if five innings (4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead) have been completed. (This does not apply to games that end because of SBL time limits. That is by rule a complete game as mentioned above).

C. Double header game length will consist of two games, each with five (5) innings and a time limit of no new inning after two (2) hours (each game).

10.5.3. Extra Innings

SBL games may go into extra innings if there is a tie and the respective time limit has NOT been reached.

10.5.4. Tie Games

Regular Season

A. During the regular season, if the score is tied after the SBL time limit has been reached it will be recorded as a tie.

B. During the regular season if a score is tied after complete 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 it will be recorded as a tie.

Tournaments

A. During tournament play the game will NOT end in a tie. No tournament game can end in a tie.

B. If a tie exists at the end of complete 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.

C. In the event that a playoff game is still tied 1 hour after the official game time expires and the inning is complete, there will be a coin flip to determine the winner. Home team will have the choice to call.

International Tie-Breaking Procedure

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.

10.5.5. Suspended Games

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.

Regular Season

A. If a regular season game has reached regulation (as defined above) and is called with the scored tied, then it will be recorded as a tie.

Tournaments

A. If a tournament game has reached **regulation** (as defined above) and is called with the scored tied, then it will be a suspended game, and will be continued from its point of suspension.

B. If a tournament game has reached **regulation** (as defined above) and is called, then it will be considered a SUSPENDED GAME and MAY be continued from its point of discontinuance at the discretion of the Baseball/Softball Director. This will depend on scheduling and field availability. Otherwise, the league commissioner or baseball/softball Director MAY declare it a regulation game and revert the score BACK to the last completed inning; if the manager of one of the teams is the Baseball/Softball Director then a third-party board member will make the decision.

C. If a tournament game has **not reached regulation** (as defined above) and is called at any point after the first pitch of the game, then it will be considered a suspended game, and continued from its point of suspension.

10.6. Cancellations/Postponements

In the case of inclement or impending inclement weather Managers should check the SBL website or look for League-wide notifications (email “blast” and notification via the league Facebook® Page). If no cancellation announcement is made, all participants should proceed to the game as scheduled. The Board of Directors will immediately notify affected parties of weather-related cancellations.

10.7. 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 due to deteriorating weather or unsafe field conditions.

10.8. Game Delay without Lightning

After a thirty-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 thirty-minute delay. After a second thirty-minute delay if field conditions are deemed unplayable the umpire shall call the game. In all cases, safety should be the first consideration.

10.9. 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 lighting 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 lighting is seen at nighttime and there is a lighting detector available, and the lighting is greater than 20 miles away play may continue. If the lighting 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.*

10.10. 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. In the instance of a field evacuation, if an umpire, league official (including coaches) or Stafford County Parks & Recreation employee directs an individual (coach, player or spectator) to get in their vehicle, and they do not comply they will be assessed an automatic one-game suspension.

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 restarts 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 an 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 lighting 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.

10.11. 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 officials and will immediately report the field closure to their League Commissioner.

10.12. Rescheduling

A. There will be NO GAME CHANGES after the schedule is released, before the season starts, without permission from the Baseball/Softball Director.

B. The Baseball/Softball Directors after conferring with the Director of Operations and/or League’s Commissioner of Umpires, will coordinate games that need to be rescheduled. Managers are not to reschedule games and cannot authorize/contact umpires.

C. The league reserves the right to reschedule games as double headers on weekends. A double header (including split double headers) will be considered ONE event.

10.13. Continuing Suspended Games

A. Suspended games will be rescheduled to best accommodate the SBL schedule at the discretion of the respective Baseball/Softball Director. 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 Baseball/Softball Director and will be clearly stipulated prior to the suspended game commencing. (Regardless of the decision, no game will exceed the remaining balance of the respective SBL time limit.)

C. A suspended game that is rescheduled in a double-header format will be played prior to the regularly scheduled game.

D. A suspended game that is rescheduled in its own time slot 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 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. If necessary, players that have already been substitutes in the original game and cannot reenter by rule will be allowed to re-enter in the continued game if it is necessary to field a team for the game. No continued game will be forfeited based on the ineligibility of substitutes stemming from the personnel used in the first game and the personnel available for the continued game. In short, if 8-players are available for the continued game then the game will be completed.

11. PROTESTS

SBL is a recreational league! Protests are prohibited.

12. 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). Use of electronics in the dugout by players is prohibited.

12.1. League Expectations of Conduct

12.1.1. 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.

12.1.2. 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.

12.1.3. 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.

12.2. 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. There is no appeal to game ejections; waiving the automatic suspension (see below) is NOT at the discretion of the corresponding Baseball/Softball Director.

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 one (1) game suspension shall be imposed on managers, or coaches ejected from a game to be served during the next game played by the associated team that he was ejected from; and/or other penalties as deemed appropriate by the baseball/softball Director in accordance with provisions set forth in the official rules of Babe Ruth Baseball and Softball, Inc., Babe Ruth League, 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 appropriate by the baseball/softball Director.

12.3. Reporting Violations

All members of SBL (players, parents, coaches, fans, officials, etc.) are expected to report Code of Conduct violations in writing (e-mail is acceptable) to the appropriate Commissioner within 2 days.

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 league commissioner or Baseball/Softball Director.

C. The League Commissioner will report all violations to the Baseball/Softball Director

D. The Baseball/Softball Director will report all violations to the Vice President.

E. Umpiring officials shall report all violations to the Commissioner of Umpires who is required to notify the League Vice President.

12.4. Evidence of a Violation

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

12.5. 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 Executive Board in accordance with provisions set forth in the official rules of Babe Ruth Baseball and Softball, Inc., Babe Ruth League, or SBL, with the exception of a game ejection.

12.6. 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 Executive Board in accordance with provisions set forth in the official rules of Babe Ruth Baseball and Softball, Inc., Babe Ruth League, or SBL. The *League Commissioner* in consultation with the *Baseball/Softball 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 field 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 Executive Board, 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 Commissioner of Umpires. The Commissioner of Umpires shall be responsible for keeping track of the number of warnings an individual has received throughout a season.

D. ***Non-registered Players:*** Any manager or coach that knowingly places a non-registered player on the field will be imposed at a minimum a two-game suspension and/or other penalties as deemed appropriate by the Executive Board in accordance with provisions set forth in the official rules of Babe Ruth Baseball and Softball, Inc., Babe Ruth League, or SBL; this act is considered a major violation.

12.7. Serving a Suspension

12.7.1. 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.

12.7.2. Players

A suspended player, at the discretion of the manager with concurrence of the commissioner or Baseball/Softball 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 the dugout if the parent or guardian is present. Otherwise, the game may be suspended or forfeited by the offending team.

12.8. 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 $50.00 payment in advance. This fee will be refunded if the protested decision is reversed. At no time will any players or children under the age of 18 be present at an Appeal unless specifically asked to be present by the Appeals Committee.

B. **Appeal Process:** The appeal request must be made in writing (e-mail is acceptable) to the appropriate Baseball/Softball 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 Commissioner 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 Baseball/Softball Director.

C. If the disciplined member is a player, then the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must be present for any appeal proceedings.

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 Executive Board. The Executive Board may overturn a player dismissal from the program by two-thirds majority vote.

12.9. Appeals Committee

The Appeals Committee shall be made up of an odd number of Executive Board members (no less than three). Anyone involved in making a ruling shall be recused from the appeals process. if the decision impacts a member of the Board, that person may not be appointed to the Appeals Committee.

12.10. Manager's Right to Discipline

Managers must consult their Baseball/Softball Director and copy the Vice President to request any disciplinary actions against any player.

13. SAFETY

13.1. Coordinator of Safety

The Safety Coordinator is appointed by the League President (this position may also be assigned to another league officer). This individual acts as Stafford Baseball League's primary point of contact for the safety plan. The Safety Coordinator 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.

13.2. 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 Commissioner of Umpires, and all Baseball/Softball 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.

13.3. 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 Coordinator	Develop and implement the safety program. Program may include performing and/or providing necessary safety training, developing/monitoring audit programs (e.g.,; 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 the Safety Officer.

13.4. Accident Reporting

A. Coaches are required to report all injuries that occur during practices, games, or while the team is under his/her control to the League 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, possible accident cause, and date/time and location of the injury.

B. The league 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.

C. When to Report:

All such incidents described above must be reported to your league Commissioner within 48 hours of becoming aware of the incident.

D. How to Make the Report:

a. Reporting incidents can come in a variety of forms (phone, e-mail, 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:

b. The name and phone number of the individual involved (or of their parents)

c. The date, time, and location of the incident

d. A detailed description of the incident, including possible accident cause

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

13.5. Safety Code

A. The SBL safety code has been adopted by the Executive Board and is enforced by the Safety Officer. The Executive Board, League 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. First aid kits are to be 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. Playing 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. During practice and games, all players should be alert and watching the batter on each pitch.

L. During warm-up drills, players should be spaced so that no one is endangered by wild throws or missed catches.

M. A team coach should inspect equipment regularly (prior to a practice or game).

N. Batters must wear SBL approved protective helmets during batting practice and games. See Babe Ruth Baseball and Softball 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, s/he shall be removed from the game.

O. Catchers must wear a catcher's helmet, mask, throat guard, chest protector, shin guards, and protective cup with an athletic supporter (baseball only) for all practices and games. NO EXCEPTIONS. See Babe Ruth Baseball and Softball rule 1.16: (All Divisions) BABE RUTH CATCHER'S MASK AND THROAT PROTECTOR.

P. Coaches should encourage all baseball players to wear protective cups and supporters for practices and games.

Q. During sliding practice, bases should not be strapped down or anchored.

R. At no time, should "horse play" be permitted on the playing field or in the dugout area.

S. Parents of players who wear glasses should be encouraged to provide "safety glasses."

T. **Anyone warming up a pitcher regardless of location or position, must wear a mask.** A throat protector is considered part of the mask. Coaches should conduct pre-game warm ups in such a way not to endanger spectators (i.e., playing catch, pepper, swinging bats, etc.).

U. Use of spare safety equipment in the sheds should be reported to the safety coordinator to ensure it is replenished and complete.

13.6. 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.

14. 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 and Softball 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.

14.1. 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 designated 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 reporting the game score, non- defensive starters (first and last name and jersey number; EH is a non-defensive starter and applicable pitching statistics (innings and pitches for baseball and innings for softball for each pitcher; a single pitch thrown constitutes an inning pitched) for both teams within 24 hours of the game's completion. Failure to provide within 24 hours of the game's completion could result in penalties, including forfeiture of the game.

E. 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.

F. 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.

G. 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.

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, and softball rule 8.12.

I. If injury occurs, refer to the rules as applicable and see Section 13.4. An injury report MUST be completed and submitted to the appropriate commissioner in accordance with the League Safety Program guidelines.

J. Teams will limit their practices to a maximum of 2 hours (120 minutes).

K. Parents, players, and coaches shall not make phone calls after 9 PM to other SBL members in reference to league matters.

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., hitting stick drills, hitting off a tee, etc.).

M. **TOBACCO** – Babe Ruth League Baseball and Softball rules prohibits the use of all tobacco products on all fields and dugouts. These products include smokeless tobacco, E-cigarettes, Juuls, and vapors. This rule applies to all field personnel to include Managers, coaches, and umpires. In addition to this, SBL prohibits the use of tobacco products by ANYONE within 50 feet of any part of the playing surface during any SBL sanctioned event. SBL Rules will not supersede more restrictive local/park rules.

N. 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)*

O. **Sliding headfirst into home plate is prohibited in the Junior Softball / 12U Softball / Cal Ripken Divisions and will be called out; NO EXCEPTIONS.**

P. If a runner attempting to reach any base including home plate intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player, he/she will be called out on the play and ejected from the game.

Q. A team's at bat is complete, in leagues that keep score, when three outs are recorded or the 4th run of the ½ inning is scored, whichever occurs first.

R. The last inning shall be the 6th or 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 may announce it

to both teams prior to the start of the inning. In the event the Umpire waived the four-run rule as listed above, the game shall continue under the waiver of the four-run rule for the remainder of the game.

S. Managers shall follow the pitching rules as outlined in the current Babe Ruth League, Inc., Baseball Rule Book, Rule11.05.4, and Babe Ruth Leage, Inc., Softball Rule Book, Rule 0.06.

T. A pitcher may NOT return to the pitcher's mound to pitch at any point of a game once he or she has been removed from the game as a pitcher unless they are the starting pitcher in all divisions of Softball.

U. No outside music/artificial noise makers while other SBL games are in progress at the same sports complex. One warning will be given to the offending team's manager. After one warning,

1. If the source of the music/noise is from a team (player, coach, or Manager), the penalty shall be at the discretion of the Umpire, up to and including ejection from the game.

2. If the source of the music/noise is from a spectator, the penalty shall be at the discretion of the Umpire, to include ejection from the sports complex.

V. If a player must leave a game prior to its conclusion due to an unforeseen reason, that player's position in the batting lineup shall be skipped for the remainder of the game. No out shall be recorded when that batting position is reached, and the lineup shall continue with the next eligible batter.

14.2. The Cal Ripken Leagues – Quickball League

A. Quickball 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 Quickball fun, educational, and encouraging for all players.

B. Play shall be determined by the Quickball USA Program (QuickballUSA.com).

14.3. The Cal Ripken Leagues –Rookie Leagues

A. 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.

B. Pitching Machine - The offensive team manager (or their delegate) 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. If a player is hit by a pitched ball, it is considered a “no pitch” and no base awarded.

C. If Pitching Machines are not available at a field – the coach/pitcher, or umpire (if used) 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/umpire, the ball will be declared dead, the batter will be awarded first base, and all other runners will advance one base. Pitch counts remain the same based on division. If a player is hit by a pitched ball, it is considered a “no pitch” and no base awarded.

D. Game length shall be SIX INNINGS or One hour, and thirty minutes, whichever comes first.

E. 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.

F. 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.

G. 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.

H. Use of batting helmets with face guards are recommended for all Cal Ripken Divisions.

I. 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.

J. 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.

K. 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 for which they are present. 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.

L. No base stealing is allowed. Base runners must remain on base until the ball crosses the plate. Leading off from a base is prohibited.

M. Bunting is allowed in “Coach Pitch.” However, no fake bunting is allowed. If the

batter offers to bunt, then the batter must bunt the ball or pull the bat back to take the pitch. If the batter offers to bunt, pulls the bat back, and then swings at the pitch, the batter will automatically be declared out by the umpire.

N. Outfielders. There will be four outfielders in Coach Pitch. All outfielders must remain in the grass area of the outfield. They cannot be positioned in the infield at any time.

O. In the event of a rules violation, the Manager who observes the violation should (1) If an Umpire is available, notify the Umpire and request a conference with the opposing Manager and attempt to resolve the situation; (2) If an umpire is not available, notify the opposing Manager and attempt to resolve the situation; (3) 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.

14.3.1. Single A Rookie Divisions:

A. NO SCORE WILL BE KEPT. No scorebooks should be kept by coaches or parents in the dugout.

B. Pitching machine setting for Single A division:

1. Machine should be placed at 46 feet from the plate.

2. Speed adjustment should be set on 7.

C. Each player is limited to a maximum of four (4) pitches. The batter will be considered a strikeout if the ball is not put into play after four pitches; a foul ball/tip on the fourth pitch is a “no pitch” and the batter shall continue his/her at bat. A player may utilize a Tee as needed for developmental purposes, this option is intended for players that are struggling to develop proper swing mechanics.

1. Tee may be utilized after the 4th pitch from the pitching machine.

2. Efforts should be made to have players utilize the machine first; the goal should be to eliminate tee use as soon as possible.

3. Tee should not be utilized for players who are capable of hitting from the machine.

4. Any ball hit from a tee should be considered in play under SBL house rules.

D. 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 (4 pitches) will be enforced.

E. All players present will be placed into the batting order. Eleven (11) players will be played defensively to start the game. The tenth and eleventh players must be a fourth outfielder and second pitcher. 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.

F. A team's at bat is complete when three outs are recorded or when all of its players have batted once, whichever comes first.

G. If a ball is hit into the outfield, play will cease once an outfielder has thrown the ball into the infield (whether an infielder is in possession of the ball or not). 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 halfway is recommended.

14.3.2. AA Rookie Division:

A. Score will be kept. Each team will maintain their own scorebooks and relinquish them to the league commissioner upon request.

B. Pitching machine settings will be based on the Babe Ruth League District tournament rules. This may NOT be modified by coaches on the field.

C. Each player is limited to a maximum of 4 pitches. The batter will be considered a strikeout if the ball is not put into play after four (4) pitches; a foul ball/tip on the last pitch is a “no pitch” and the batter shall continue his/her at bat. The batter will be considered a strikeout after three missed swings.

D. The offensive team coach will be responsible for operating the pitching machine. It will be the umpire’s discretion to award an extra pitch to a batter if he or she feels that the 4th pitch was UNHITTABLE because of a pitching machine malfunction. (The term “unhittable” should not be confused with a strike or strike zone).

E. One umpire will be provided.

F. All players present will be placed into the batting order. Ten players will be played defensively to start the game. The tenth player must be a fourth outfielder. 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.

G. The ball is in play in accordance with Cal Ripkin Tournament rules. With the exception of 14.1 P and Q listed above.

H. 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.

I. Every effort should be made by SBL coaches to keep Rookie baseball fun, educational, instructional and encouraging for all players in all divisions.

14.4. The Cal Ripken Leagues – Minor League

A. A line-up card (denoting position, first and last name, and jersey number; substitutes shall also be included on the line-up sheet) shall be provided to the umpires and opposing team's 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.

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 on 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.

D. 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.

E. 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.

F. 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.

G. In an effort to equitably distribute playing time, no player shall play only the minimum in two consecutive games. 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.

H. Because there is free substitution in the Minor League, no player will sit out defensively for two innings in a row. All players must play infield at least once by the start of the 4th inning.

I. Managers are required to 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 commissioner may request to review these records.

J. Players arriving after the start of the fourth inning will be inserted into the game during the next available half-inning.

K. 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.

L. Intentional walks will NOT be permitted.

M. Use of batting helmets with face guards are recommended for all Cal Ripken Divisions.

N. To score runners at third base must be batted in, walked-in, or may advance when a ball is put into play by a throw to a base (A division only). Runner may not advance on a passed ball or a ball being returned to the pitcher.

14.5. The Cal Ripken Leagues – Major League

A. A line-up card (denoting position, last name, and jersey number; substitutes shall also be included on the line-up sheet) shall be provided to the umpires and opposing team's 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. Lineup 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.

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 on 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. 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.

E. 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.

F. 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.

G. 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.

H. Because there is free substitution in the Major League, no player will sit out defensively for two innings in a row and must play infield at least once by the start of the 4th inning.

I. Managers are required to 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 commissioner may request to review these records.

J. Players arriving after the start of the fourth inning will be inserted into the game during the next available half-inning.

K. 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.

L. Pitchers may attempt to pick off a base runner during game play and each pitcher will be given one warning per game before a “Balk” is enforced. In AA division there are NO balk warnings. Tournament play – NO BALK WARNINGS.

M. The batter may attempt to advance to first base on a dropped third strike. The pitcher will be credited for the strikeout, but the catcher must throw the batter out at first base.

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-ups pitches when first assuming the mound.

O. Intentional walks are not permitted.

14.6. The Babe Ruth Leagues

A. A line-up card (denoting position, last name, and jersey number; substitutes shall also be included on the line-up sheet) shall be provided to the umpires and opposing team's 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 line-up. 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 seven (7) 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 on route to game, then the grace period may be extended, not to exceed an additional 15-minutes. If a team has less than seven players after the grace period, the game shall be a forfeit.

C. 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.

D. During the post season ONLY the Extra Hitter Rule will be in effect: 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, in the Prep league all hitters are in the line up and there is free substitution.**

E. 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.

F. 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.

G. Every player will play a minimum of 2 consecutive 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**.

H. 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.

I. Balks

1. Prep and all Babe Ruth Divisions during the regular season: Each pitcher will be given one warning per game before a “Balk” is enforced.

2. Tournaments: No Warnings are given in any of these leagues.

J. 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.

14.7. The Girl’s Fast Pitch Softball Leagues

A. A line-up card (denoting position, name, and jersey number shall be provided to the umpires and opposing team’s 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 defensive starters. 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. Lineup 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 changes must be reported to the Umpire-in-Chief.

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 may re-enter 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 seven 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 she is on route to game, then the grace period may be extended, not to exceed an additional 15-minutes. If a team has less than seven 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 7 players, they must finish the game with 7 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 7) or the game will be declared a forfeit.

D. 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 after four (4) innings.

E. Any player who does not start in a game will be a defensive starter in the next game 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, if requested.

F. 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.

G. Because there is free substitution in the Girls Softball Leagues, NO PLAYER SHALL SIT OUT DEFENSIVELY MORE THAN TWO (2) INNINGS IN A ROW, unless requested by the player due to injury or illness.

H. Players arriving after the start of the fourth inning will be inserted into the game during the next available half-inning.

I. The defensive team shall not 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. This rule applies to a defensive set-up for a hitter at the time the ball is pitched. It does not apply to an attempted pickoff play (e.g., Centerfielder sneaks into 2nd base in an attempt to pickoff a base runner).

J. 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. This will apply for pitchers and catchers for the upcoming inning. The courtesy runner must be the player who made the last recorded out. If no recorded out, then the last batter in

the lineup. The same courtesy runner may not run for both the catcher and pitcher in the same inning.

K. All managers and coaches must remain professional at all times.

First and third base coaches will remain in their respective boxes and will not walk or pace up or down the first/third base lines

All coaches are responsible for controlling 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.

L. 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 Commissioner of Umpires/Vice-President via the Umpire-in-Chief. The Commissioner of Umpires in turn shall notify the appropriate League Commissioner 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 League Commissioner shall give his or her ruling within 48 hours of receiving notice. He or she shall refer to the Stafford Baseball League Procedures for guidance.

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

	8U Machine	10U	12U	14U/16U/18U
Pitching Distance	35'	35'	40'	43'

Base Distance	60’	60’	60’	60’
Time Limit	1 hr. 30 min	1 hr. 45 min	1 hr. 45 min	1 hr. 45 min
Run Limit[1]	4	4	4	4
Dropped 3rd Strike	N/A	NO	YES	YES
Infield Fly	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Innings	6	6	6	7
Regulation Game	3 ½ or 4	3 ½ or 4	3 ½ or 4	3 ½ or 4

1. Run limit applies only through 3 full innings.

P. A batter is out for illegal action when the player shows bunt and then takes a full swing. Penalty: Batter is out, the ball is dead, no runners may advance.

Q. Any softball division that has an All-Star team, must play by Babe Ruth League State rules.

14.7.1. 8U Girl’s Machine Pitch Softball

A. A Complete game is defined as six (6) innings of play or expiration of time limit prior to the start of the next inning, whichever occurs first.

No new inning will begin after ONE HOUR and THIRTY MINUTES from the beginning of the game.

B. Pitching Machine - Games will be played with the use of a pitching machine with the settings determined and preset by the commissioner or league director. The pitched ball should have a relatively flat trajectory. This may NOT be modified by coaches on the field without consultation and permission of the league commissioner.

C. The offensive team manager/coach shall be responsible for feeding the balls into the machine.

The coach/pitcher shall remain standing and pitch with a Windmill motion from the pitching rubber.

If the batted ball hits the pitching machine or the offensive team coach/pitcher, the ball will be declared dead, the batter will be awarded first base, and all other dead ball rules will apply.

During defensive innings, coaches are permitted to be on the field to assist with instruction.

D. Each player is limited to a maximum of four pitches. The batter will be considered a strikeout if the ball is not put into play after four pitches; a foul ball/tip on the four pitch is a “no pitch” and the batter shall continue his/her at bat. It will be the coach’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).

E. 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, unless the player does NOT have the required safety equipment (i.e., faceguard).

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.

F. Any player that does not wear a faceguard will not be allowed to play on the infield, with the exception of the catchers’ position in which the catcher's gear will be worn.

G. Ten (10) players may play in the field at one time, but seven (7) are required to play the game.

H. A maximum of six (6) players can be positioned in the infield prior to the pitch. A player may play next to a Coach Pitcher just inside the pitching circle. A maximum of four (4) outfielders must be positioned so that they are outside the seventy-foot arc that distinguishes the infield from the outfield.

I. No player will be permitted to set up in a defensive position forward of the pitching machine.

J. Base stealing and leading off is not allowed in the 8U league. A base runner must maintain contact with the base until the pitched ball reaches the plate.

K. Play is stopped with the first attempt from a fielder to return the ball to the pitcher or when a defensive play has been made resulting from a ball being put into play. When play is stopped, managers will determine the placement of the runners to the best of his/her judgment. Any runner beyond halfway to the next base is awarded that base, any player who has not reached halfway must return to the prior base.

L. Managers/Coaches are jointly responsible for performing the duties of umpire in the event the game starts without any umpire(s).

M There are no intentional walks in the 8U league.

14.7.2. 10U Girl's FastPitch Softball

A. A Complete game is defined as six (6) innings of play or expiration of time limit prior to the start of the next inning, whichever occurs first.

No new inning will begin 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 the last regulation inning, 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 her 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.

B. No player shall play any one position more than two innings per game except for eligible pitchers and catchers. Catchers may catch 3 innings. Pitchers may play up to the eligible inning limit.

C. Every player must be rotated and play both infield and outfield every game except for pitchers and catchers with eligible innings pursuant to Rule 14.7.2.B. 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. Failure to have the required safety equipment (i.e., faceguard) will limit that player as a catcher on the infield or outfield.

D. Any player that does not wear a faceguard will not be allowed to play on the infield, with the exception of the catchers' position in which the catcher's gear will be worn.

E. Any player who does not start a game will be a defensive starter in the next game she attends. Rainouts, forfeits or postponed games do not count as a defensive start unless an official game is declared. Coaches must keep track of all game lineups throughout the season to comply with minimum playing requirements. If a player is not present at the start of the game, the player forfeits their right to a defensive start.

F. Nine (9) players may play in the field at one time, but seven (7) are required to play the game.

G. A maximum of six (6) players can be positioned in the infield prior to the pitch. A maximum of three (3) outfielders must be positioned so that they are outside the seventy-foot arc that distinguishes the infield from the outfield.

H. Intentional walks will NOT be permitted.

I. Players are allowed to steal any base once the ball is released from the pitcher's hand.

14.7.3. 12U Girl's FastPitch Softball

A. A Complete game is defined as six (6) innings of play or expiration of time limit prior to the start of the next inning, whichever occurs first. No new inning will begin 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 the last regulation inning, 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 her 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.

B. Any player that does not wear a faceguard will not be allowed to play on the infield, with the exception of the catchers' position in which the catcher's gear will be worn.

C. No player 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 or outfield.

D. Intentional walks are allowed and must be accomplished by the pitcher throwing four called balls. Teams must pitch around each batter if they so choose.

14.7.4. 14U/16U/18U Girl's FastPitch Softball

A. Completed game is defined as seven (7) innings of play or expiration of time limit prior to the start of the next inning, whichever occurs first. No new inning will begin 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 the last regulation inning, 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 her 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.

B. Intentional walks are allowed and must be accomplished by the pitcher throwing four called balls.

C. Any player that does not wear a faceguard will not be allowed to play on the infield, with the exception of the catchers’ position in which the catcher's gear will be worn.

D. No player in the 14/16U/18U 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.

15. 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. All Taxi Squad teams will be referred to by the SBL sanctioned name – "Stafford Warriors"– and will use the same uniform, logo and color scheme. 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.

15.1. 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 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. 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, and attitude; and All-Star caliber players who can be brought together as a "team" and not play as individuals. Managers shall not isolate or show favoritism to any one player or group of players.

C. FALL TAXI SEASON – It is recommended managers conduct an open assessment at the beginning of the fall season as players "age up."

D. 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.

15.2. Permission to Compete

A. Any Taxi Squads or final All-Star teams wanting to participate in any tournament must first obtain permission from the SBL Board prior to any commitment or financial obligation.

B. Budgeted funds provided by SBL must be used exclusively for game fees, and will not be used to purchase team equipment, additional uniforms, etc.

C. Additional, un-budgeted funds secured by the team may be used at their discretion, but must be accounted for by the Treasurer.

D. Any requests for funds in excess of the approved budget shall be at the discretion of the SBL Board. The board'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.

E. Managers shall submit their official All-Star team rosters to the league president by the predetermined deadline. 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. All submitted rosters are subject to league participation verification.

15.3. Eligibility

A. 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 Team* participants must have played in no less than 50% of their team's recreational regular season games before they can be officially rostered to any district All-Star team during the spring/summer.

C. *Taxi Squad Team* participants must be actively involved with their team's fall recreational regular season games to be eligible to participate on the fall Taxi Squad Team. High School players may receive waivers to this rule.

15.4. 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. *During the school year Taxi Squads* 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.

C. 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. Commissioner of Umpires

The duties of the Commissioner of Umpires are defined in section 1.3.3 A of these procedures. He shall serve on the Board of Directors under the terms set forth in Section 1 of these procedures and shall supervise all other umpires and associated umpire functions for SBL.

16.1. Regional Umpire Coordinators

The Commissioner of Umpires may appoint Regional Umpire Coordinators to assist in his administrative duties. The Commissioner 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 Commissioner of Umpires. These funds will come from the Commissioner of Umpire's budget as approved by the BOD.

16.2. Umpires

16.2.1. Responsibilities

A. Shall follow the chain of command for clarifications by going through their Regional Umpire Coordinator, who in-turn shall go to the Commissioner of Umpires as needed, who in-turn shall go to the Vice President as needed.

B. Shall be in uniform as directed by the Commissioner 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 to 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 Commissioner of Umpires.

F. Shall not make rule interpretations outside of 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:

1. 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 Commissioner for corrective or disciplinary action, as appropriate.

2. 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 Commissioner.

3. 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.

16.2.2. Requirements

A. The minimum age to become an umpire is 15 years old. 15-year-old umpires may ONLY work Minor League (Field Umpire Only), AA Rookie, and Juniors Softball games until they have a minimum of 10 games experience. After they have achieved a minimum of 10 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. Plate and field umpires for Prep and Babe Ruth League games must be Babe Ruth League Nationally Certified Umpires.

C. 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 as published in the most recent Babe Ruth League Rule book, as well as the SBL rules in this document.

D. No umpire will be scheduled to officiate games in which they have a member of their immediate family either coaching or playing. In the event of a no show, and both coaches agree, any certified umpire can officiate the game.

E. 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.

F. 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 umpire arrives on the field.

G. The scheduling of Umpires shall be conducted by the Commissioner of Umpires who shall use the scheduling software provided by the Board of Directors.

H. Umpires will be paid if games are forfeited because of an inadequate number of players on any given team.

I. If the senior umpire training a new umpire during a game sees that the umpire-in-training may have made the wrong call, he or she 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.

J. Prior to the start of any season, all umpires must attend mandatory training of rules/procedures facilitated by a member of the Executive Board.

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