



Nampa Babe Ruth Softball Rules

Other than the exceptions noted below, the 2026 Babe Ruth Softball Rules and Regulations will be followed.

- **First Aid Kit:** All Coaches shall have a first aid kit to include: emergency phone numbers, ice pack, band-aids, gauze pads (large size), extra shirt and pants...etc. Other suggested items: rubber gloves, Ziploc bags, CPR mask. Assume all body fluid are contaminated and protect yourself and others accordingly.
- **Field:** Home team shall occupy the third base side of the field and the visiting team shall occupy the first base side. Both teams will use Game Changer to score the game in divisions 8U-14U
- **Game Time:** All scheduled games shall start promptly at the scheduled time and time starts with the first warmup pitch (**See Page 49**). Review each specific division for time rules for no new inning. There is NO hard stop after no new inning, the last inning will be completed.
- **Game Balls:** Home team will furnish two new or "like new" game balls to the umpire during the pre-game warm-up. Game balls will be returned to the coach at the end of the game.
- **Inning Pitch Count:** Coaches must be able to provide proof of how many innings their pitchers have pitched per week. One pitch thrown in an inning will count as a full inning pitched.
- **Drop 3rd Strike:** The batter becomes a runner when-
 - (a) She hits a fair ball;
 - (b) The Third strike called by the umpire is not caught, providing
 - (1) first base is unoccupied, or (2) first base is occupied with two outs.When a batter becomes a base runner on a third strike not caught by the catcher and starts for the dugout, or her position, and then realizes her situation and attempts then to reach first base, she is not out unless she or first base are tagged before she reaches first base. If, however, she actually reaches the dugout or dugout steps, she may not then attempt to go to first base and shall be out.
- **Mandatory Minimum Play Rule** - If a team cannot field a team of nine players, they may pick up no more than three players from within their NBR division. Every participant shall play a minimum of six defensive outs and 1 at-bat during each game. While this is a league minimum, each coach is **expected to exceed this rule and play everyone equally as much as possible**. When total Innings of a Game Allows, failure to meet the minimum play requirements shall be subject to protest by the opposing team and could result in a forfeit.
- **Bench:** Players shall confine themselves to their team's benches unless actually participating in the play or preparing to enter the game, or coaching 1st/3d base. No one except players, coaches, trainers, or bat girls shall occupy a bench during a game (**See Rule 3.16**).
- **Equipment:** All players shall use a protective helmet with a mask or shield on deck, at bat, and while on the bases and by players in the coaches' box. This includes any player retrieving bats (**See Rule 1.16a**). Pitcher, corner infielders (1st/3d) are required to wear an approved fielder's face mask. **Facemasks are strongly recommended for all players (See Rule 1.16c)**. The catcher or anyone acting as the catcher shall wear a catcher's mask while warming up the pitcher at home plate.
- **On-Deck Circles:** The on-deck batter may only occupy the on-deck circle to the rear of the current batter, regardless of which bench/dugout her team occupies.
- **10-Run Rule:** 10-Run Rule: Any Babe Ruth Softball local league game may be terminated once becoming regulation if one team is ahead by 10 or more runs and has had equal time to bat or the home team is leading after the 3rd inning, will be in effect for all divisions
- **Umpires:** Nampa Babe Ruth League will make its best effort to provide one umpire to call the plate for all 8/10/12/14/16U league games. If an umpire is not available, the manager or a coach may umpire. Field umpires are not provided by the league; however, the visiting team can provide their own volunteer field umpire for the game. Only the Umpire or the director may call the game due to weather once the game has started.
- Lineup cards will be given to Ump In Divisions 8U-16U





Nampa Babe Ruth Softball Rules

Other than the exceptions noted below, the 2026 Babe Ruth Softball Rules and Regulations will be followed.

6U Rule Exceptions:

- Players will use 10-inch softballs.
- All batters will be pitched three pitches from their coach at 25-30 feet from the batter.
- If the batter is unable to make contact with the ball, off of the coach, a tee will be brought out for the player to take three additional swings. If contact is still not made, the batter is out.
- All rostered players present for the game shall bat in order, whether playing defensively or not.
- When playing offense, a helmet must be worn at all times.
- An inning is over when twelve batters have batted or three outs have been made, whichever comes first. The twelfth batter of the inning, once reaching first base safely, must continue to circle the bases until she is either tagged out or scored, either of which will end the inning.
- No base stealing or leading off permitted.
- Twelve players are on the field at any one time, including a catcher.
- Each player present must play a minimum of two innings defensively.
- A coach may be stationed beyond the infielders to provide instruction to all defensive players.
- ALL infielders are required to wear a fielding mask, outfield is optional but highly encouraged to wear them and is strongly recommended.
- One hour time limit for games
- Coaches act as the umpires for the games





Nampa Babe Ruth Softball Rules

Other than the exceptions noted below, the 2026 Babe Ruth Softball Rules and Regulations will be followed.

8U Rule Exceptions:

- Games shall begin promptly and will continue until six innings have been completed (See Rule 0.02.8) or the time limit for no new inning which is one-hour thirty-minutes is reached. There will be no hard stop until the last inning will be completed.
- Teams may play games with as few as 7 players. Vacant spot(s) in the batting order will result in an automatic out each time a vacant spot(s) is due to bat. Player(s) arriving late can be inserted into the batting order at any time.
- For pitching consistency, every effort should be made to use 11-inch softballs for the 8U division.
- If a team scores six runs in one inning, they will take the field and the defensive team will come to bat unless it's the sixth inning.
- A maximum of 10 defensive players will be allowed on defense at one time. If used, the additional defender must be positioned in the outfield. Since all players are in the batting order, free substitution is allowed. No player is allowed to sit out on defense more than one inning per game unless a special situation occurs.
- A maximum of two defensive coaches will be allowed in the field.
- Pitching distance is from 30 feet.
- In 8u pitching will be as follows, pitching will be a player/coach combo. The player will pitch and after the 4th ball the coach will be called in to finish the at bat (the at bat cannot end on a walk). Coaches must pitch with at least one foot in contact with the pitcher's plate. If a coach is hit by a ball while pitching, the ball is considered a live ball with play continuing. Pitchers are permitted 5 warmups in their first inning and only 3 for every inning after.
- Use of a batting tee during games is **prohibited**.
- **No walks will be allowed**. Each batter will either hit the ball or strike out. (Hit by pitch Batter may choose to take a base or finish at bat.)
- No base stealing is allowed.
- After the ball is live, the base runner can advance ONE base on an overthrow except if they occupy 3rd base. The ball is no longer live when the ball is in control inside the pitching circle.
- At a minimum, the outfield players' positions are required to have their feet in the grass.
- Sliding is **ALLOWED**
- No Infield fly





Nampa Babe Ruth Softball Rules

Other than the exceptions noted below, the 2026 Babe Ruth Softball Rules and Regulations will be followed.

10U Rule Exceptions:

- Games shall begin promptly and will continue until six innings have been completed (**See Rule 0.02.8**) or the time limit for no new inning which is one-hour thirty-minutes is reached. There will be no hard stop until the last inning will be completed.
- Teams may play games with as few as 7 players. Any vacant spot(s) in the batting order will result in an automatic out each time a vacant spot(s) is due to bat. Any player(s) arriving late can be inserted into the batting order at any time.
- Player pitch only, there is no coach pitch option. Pitchers are limited to 9 innings per week (Mon-Sun). If a pitcher delivers one pitch in an inning, she shall be charged for one inning pitched (**See Rule 0.06.1&2**). Pitching distance is from 35 feet. Pitchers are permitted 5 warmups in their first inning and only 3 for every inning after.
- Each team may field up to ten defensive players at a time. If used, the additional defender must be positioned in the outfield.
- The batting order shall consist of all rostered players present at each game. Free defensive substitution will be allowed unless otherwise prohibited by rule (e.g., if a starting pitcher is removed from the game defensively, they may re-enter as the pitcher, unless removed as pitcher due to a second trip to the mound in the same inning).
- Base runners are allowed to leave base when a pitched ball is released by the pitcher. The penalty for leaving the base before a pitch is released will be an automatic out (**See Rule 7.12**).
- When stealing home AND there is a play being made at home an effort needs to be made to slide.
- If a team scores six runs in one inning, they will take the field and the defensive team will come to bat unless it's the sixth inning.
- When a ball hits a batter from the pitch the batter must have made an attempt to avoid contact with the ball in order for it to be considered a walk (this is to be decided by the umpire). If that ball first hits the ground outside of the batter's box from a pitch it is considered a dead ball and will not be a walk. If the ball hits the ground inside the batter's box and then strikes the player it is live and considered a walk at the umpire's discretion.
- Drop 3rd Strike is in effect in this division.
- No Infield Fly





Nampa Babe Ruth Softball Rules

Other than the exceptions noted below, the 2026 Babe Ruth Softball Rules and Regulations will be followed.

12U Rule Exceptions:

- Games shall begin promptly and will continue until six innings have been completed (**See Rule 0.02.8**) or the time limit for no new inning which is one-hour thirty minutes is reached. There will be no hard stop until the last inning will be completed.
- Not less than 8 players only if due to absence, injury, or illness. A team cannot elect to play with less than 9 players if any eligible player(s) are available at a game. When a team starts a game with 8 players, the 9th spot in the batting order will result in an automatic out each time that position is due to bat, until that spot in the batting order is occupied by an eligible player. If a 9th player arrives at any time after the game begins, that player shall be added to the batting order in the 9th spot and placed in the field on defense. If a reduction to 8 players occurs due to absence, injury, or illness of eligible player(s) after a game begins, the vacated spot in the batting order will result in an automatic out each time the vacated position is due to bat.
- Pitchers are limited to 9 innings per week (Mon-Sun). If a pitcher delivers one pitch in an inning, she shall be charged for one inning pitched (**See Rule 0.06.1&2**). Pitching distance is from 40 feet. Pitchers are permitted 5 warmups in their first inning and only 3 for every inning after.
- The batting order shall consist of all rostered players present at each game.
- Base runners are allowed to leave base when a pitched ball is released by the pitcher. The penalty for leaving the base before a pitch is released will be an automatic out (**See Rule 7.12**).
- Players are allowed to steal 2nd base on a walk if the ball is not in control by the pitcher or inside the pitching circle. When stealing home AND there is a play being made at home an effort needs to be made to slide.
- If a team scores six runs in one inning, they will take the field and the defensive team will come to bat unless it's the sixth inning.
- When a ball hits a batter from the pitch the batter must have made an attempt to avoid contact with the ball in order for it to be considered a walk (this is to be decided by the umpire). If that ball first hits the ground outside of the batter's box from a pitch it is considered a dead ball and will not be a walk. If the ball hits the ground inside the batter's box and then strikes the player it is live and considered a walk at the umpire's discretion.
- Drop 3rd strike is in effect in this division
- Each team may field up to nine defensive players at a time.





Nampa Babe Ruth Softball Rules

Other than the exceptions noted below, the 2026 Babe Ruth Softball Rules and Regulations will be followed.

14/16U Rule Exceptions

- Games shall begin promptly and will continue until seven innings have been completed (**See Rule 0.02.8**) or the time limit for no new inning which is one-hour thirty minutes is reached. There will be no hard stop until the last inning will be completed.
- Not less than 8 players only if due to absence, injury, or illness. A team cannot elect to play with less than 9 players if any eligible player(s) are available at a game. When a team starts a game with 8 players, the 9th spot in the batting order will result in an automatic out each time that position is due to bat, until that spot in the batting order is occupied by an eligible player. If a 9th player arrives at any time after the game begins, that player shall be added to the batting order in the 9th spot and placed in the field on defense. If a reduction to 8 players occurs due to absence, injury, or illness of eligible player(s) after a game begins, the vacated spot in the batting order will result in an automatic out each time the vacated position is due to bat.
- Pitchers are limited to 12 innings per week (Mon-Sun). If a pitcher delivers one pitch in an inning, she shall be charged for one inning pitched (**See Rule 0.06.1.b,2,&3**). Pitching distance is from 43 feet. Since most leagues in the district have predominantly 14U teams, the age of the pitchers appearing in a game should be discussed between opposing team managers during a pre-game conference to reach a mutual agreement regarding how many innings a dominant pitcher over the age of 14 will pitch in a game. Pitchers are permitted 5 warmups in their first inning and only 3 for every inning after.
- The batting order shall consist of all rostered players present at each game.
- Base runners are allowed to leave base when a pitched ball is released by the pitcher. The penalty for leaving the base before a pitch is released will be an automatic out (**See Rule 7.12**).
- Players are allowed to steal 2nd base on a walk if the ball is not in control by the pitcher or inside the pitching circle. When stealing home AND there is a play being made at home an effort needs to be made to slide.
- No Inning Run Rule
- When a ball hits a batter from the pitch the batter must have made an attempt to avoid contact with the ball in order for it to be considered a walk (this is to be decided by the umpire). If that ball first hits the ground outside of the batter's box from a pitch it is considered a dead ball and will not be a walk. If the ball hits the ground inside the batter's box and then strikes the player it is live and considered a walk at the umpire's discretion.
- Drop 3rd Strikes are in effect in this division.
- Each team may field up to nine defensive players at a time.
- 10 run rule will be in effect after 4 innings

