Florida Babe Ruth Softball

2024 6U Softball T-BALL Tournament Rules for district and state tournament

Modified 01/20/25

1. Batting

A. All batters will hit the ball from a batting tee. The tee should be adjusted to such a height that the batter will be able to swing level. The tee must be adjusted by the umpire.

B. All rostered players present for the game shall bat in order, whether playing defensively or not. If a batter becomes ill or injured during the game, the spot in the batting order will be skipped without penalty. The injured or sick player cannot re-enter the game.

C. Bunting is NOT allowed.

D. All rostered players in attendance will bat in the offensive half of the inning. An inning is over when one of these has occurred:

- three outs have been made by the defensive team
- four runs have been scored
- all batters have batted
- Note: In a situation where a 5th or more runs have scored, they will not be counted (4 runs maximum per inning)

E. Protective headgear (left and right ear cover batting helmets with face mask) must be worn on deck, at bat, and while a base runner by players at all games.

F. Once the batter has entered the batter's box, the batter will not be allowed to take practice swings or to line up the ball. The penalty for either action will be a called strike.

G. Three complete misses of the ball while batting constitutes a strikeout. A foul ball or practice swing will be counted as a strike. If the batter hits a foul ball on the third strike, she will continue to bat. Only a complete miss of the ball and the tee or a practice swing or "line up" on the third strike will be a strikeout.

H. If a batter hits part of the ball and part of the batting tee it will be the judgement of the umpire if the ball will be considered fair. If a batter hits all rubber (the tee) it is a foul ball.

I. No stealing or leading off is permitted. Runners may advance upon the batter's contact with the ball. If a runner leaves the base prior to the batter contacting the ball, the runner will be called out.

J. In the umpire's judgement, when the lead runner stops or abandons her effort to advance, the play is completed and time will be called. Once play has been stopped, no other runners may advance beyond the last base touched.

K. All overthrown balls will be considered live and the runner(s) can advance until they have stopped or abandoned the effort to advance to the next base. Balls entering dead ball areas will be dead and runner(s) will be awarded bases as specified by Rule 7.00.

2. Fielding

A. Ten players are on the field at any one time, including a catcher. There will be four outfielders that must remain 10 feet behind the baseline.. One player is placed on the pitching rubber assuming the defensive position of the pitcher. The catcher takes a position to the first or third base side behind home plate. Catcher must be in full catcher's gear including catcher's mask. 2nd and SS base must remain within 5 feet of the baseline and 1st and 3rd must remain 30 feet away from home plate until the ball is hit

B. The pitcher must be in contact with the pitching rubber until the batter makes contact with the ball. If, in the judgment of the umpire, the defensive player is not in the correct position, the offensive team can take the results of the play or bat again.

C. All Defensive Coaches MUST remain in the dugout with gates closed. Penalty is removal from the game.

D. All players required to wear a facemask.

3. Game

A. A regulation game is six innings or 1 hr 15 min time limit ***finish the Inning if necessary***.

- Game will be terminated after three innings if one team is ahead by 12 or more runs and the teams have had equal times at bat or if the home team is leading.
- Game will be terminated after four or five innings if one team is ahead by 10 or more runs and the teams have had equal times at bat or if the home team is leading.
- Note: Game will be terminated for safety reasons once trailing team cannot mathematically catch up.

B. A regulation tournament 11" softball will be used. The -softballs as specified in Babe Ruth Softball Rule 1.09 are to be used for all Babe Ruth Softball tournament competition.

C. Bats must conform to the specifications in the Babe Ruth Softball (Rule 1.10) rule book. T-ball bats may be used if approved by the tournament director and UIC.

D. The base path distance is 60 feet.

E. Courtesy runner will be available for catcher only at any time during the inning and must be the person who was last put out on the offensive team.