

Interlock rules for Pinellas Co. Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken BB/SB- Spring 2026

- These rules supplement/supersede Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken rules and apply to all leagues as agreed upon by the league Presidents.
- Last recorded out can run for the catcher or pitcher in an inning, no other special base runners.
- Home team supplies game balls and supplies an official scorekeeper.
- Both teams must play the entire game to completion per established inning/time/mercy rules. Teams cannot leave a game early. Games forfeited per the rule book criteria cannot MANDATE that umpires “must stay” to allow for a scrimmage. They can of course “be asked if they would like to stay” and participate.
- Bats: Bat rules are listed at: www.baberuthleague.org/bat-rules.aspx

BASEBALL - USA Baseball marking and 2 5/8” barrel are required for all baseball. Ages 13 and up may use either USA Bat or BBCOR .50

SOFTBALL - bats must be marked “Official Softball” or “Official Fast pitch”

- Metal cleats ONLY for 15U baseball AND 14/16U softball
- Helmet with ear flaps worn on field at all times on offense, SB helmets must have facemasks.
- Mercy rule is 15 after 3, 10 after 4 for 12u and under or 15 after 4 or 10 after 5 for 14u and older (regulation). (Rule 11.05.06) // Ties are allowed in regular season.
- Warming up catchers – players must wear a helmet/mask. Coaches must wear umpire or catchers type masks, no field masks. Yes – even when standing. This applies anywhere on any of the fields. Violation is an ejection.
- Umpires will enforce quick warm ups to speed up play. Jewelry can be worn but also asked to be removed if the umpire deems it a safety risk.
- We are using mathematical elimination. Maximize reps and clock time.
- Intentional walks for baseball and softball do not require pitches be thrown. Coach instructs the plate umpire.

ALL TEAMS MUST BAT EVERYONE – this allows for free defensive substitutions.

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Pitching Limitations

- All teams are required to keep track of score, including innings pitched, score for both teams, violations, injuries, forfeits, ejections.
- These refer to regular season limitations, as tournament play is covered separately.
- Calendar week defined as Monday through, and including Sunday.
- If a player delivers one pitch in an inning he/she is charged for one inning pitched.
- **Baseball:** Refer to section 0.06 of the 2025 Baseball Rules & Regulations.
- 10U and 12U: May pitch 6 innings per calendar week in regular league play. Must have two calendar days rest between pitching assignments if he/she pitches in more than two innings in any one game.
- 15U: May pitch 7 innings per calendar week. Must have two calendar days rest between pitching assignments if he pitches in more than three innings in any one game.
- **Softball:** Refer to section 0.06 of the 2025 Softball Rules & Regulations.
- 14u/16U: No pitching restrictions.

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CAL RIPKEN & BABE RUTH BASEBALL

8U Baseball (Coach pitch)

- Pitch from 40 ft - delivered overhand at velocity that creates a flat pitch (no lob/underhand).
- 5 pitches per hitter or 3 strikes, whichever happens first. Third strike foul rules apply.
- Bunting is allowed. Foul bunt on third strike is an out.
- 5 runs/inning run rule. Pitcher CANNOT coach runners, only the batter.
- Teams MUST bat the lineup. Courtesy runner for catcher is allowed.
- One base on overthrow of 1B only. (Not automatic, can still be thrown out taking extra base)
- No dropped third strike or infield fly.
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 6 innings
- Teams can play 4 outfielders. Team CANNOT play 5 infielders. Only 1 pitchers helper.
- The Pitcher's helper must stand on mound/circle behind pitcher until the ball is hit.

10U Baseball

- 5 runs/inning run rule.
- Teams are REQUIRED to bat the lineup which allows for free defensive substitutions
- No dropped third strike or infield fly
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 6 innings
- UMPIRES: Slightly expand strike zone to encourage swinging
- Mound conferences limited to baseball rules

12U Baseball

- 5 runs/inning run rule
- Teams ARE REQUIRED to bat the lineup which allows for free defensive substitutions.
- Dropped third strike is enforced
- Infield fly rule is enforced
- Open bases apply, lead offs, stealing, etc.
- No new inning after 105 minutes or 6 innings
- UMPIRES: Slightly expand strike zone to encourage swinging
- Balk rule is enforced.
- Mound conferences limited to baseball rules

14U and up Baseball

- 7 runs/inning run rule
- Teams ARE REQUIRED to bat the lineup which allows for free defensive substitutions.
- Dropped third strike is enforced
- Infield fly rule is enforced
- Open bases apply, lead offs, steals.
- No new inning after 120 minutes or 7 innings
- Balk rule is enforced.
- Mound conferences limited to baseball rules

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BABE RUTH SOFTBALL

Per Babe Ruth SB Rules (all ages) - P/1B/3B MUST wear masks on defense.

Per FL Babe Ruth SB – ALL infielders in 8u/10U MUST wear masks on defense.

8U Softball

- 4 pitches or 3 strikes, whichever happens first. If fourth pitch is fouled, at bat continues.
- Power setting: Set at 7 for entire season with Blue or Black Louisville Slugger Machine.
- Coach pitch is an option (this involves some special rules)
- Maximum of one fair bunted ball per inning is allowed. Foul bunt on third strike is an out. NO bunting is allowed if coach pitch is elected. You must also coach pitch to EVERY batter.
- 5 runs/inning run rule.
- Teams MUST bat the lineup. One defensive coach allowed on dugout side of field.
- One base on overthrow to 1B ONLY– still liable to be thrown out going to 2B (not automatic).
- No slap bunting.
- No dropped third strike
- No infield fly.
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 6 innings
- Teams can play 4 outfielders. Team CANNOT play 5 infielders. Only 1 pitchers' helper.
- The Pitcher's helper must have both feet on/in the pitcher's circle and be behind the machine until the ball is released.

10U Softball

- 5 runs/inning run rule.
- Teams are REQUIRED to bat the lineup which allows for free defensive substitution.
- No dropped third strike
- No infield fly
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 6 innings
- Teams can only play 3 outfielders.
- UMPIRES: Slightly expand strike zone to encourage swinging
- Illegal Pitches: First illegal pitch is a warning, subsequent calls are at the umpire's discretion.
- Mound conferences limited to softball rules

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12U Softball

- 5 runs/inning run rule
- Teams are REQUIRED to bat the lineup which allows for free defensive substitutions.
- Dropped third strike is enforced
- Infield fly is enforced
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 6 innings
- Teams can only play 3 outfielders
- Illegal Pitch rules apply
- Mound conferences limited to softball rules

14/16U Softball

- 7 runs/inning run rule
- Teams are REQUIRED to bat the lineup which allows for free defensive substitution
- Dropped third strike is enforced
- Infield fly is enforced
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 7 innings
- Teams can only play 3 outfielders
- Illegal Pitch rules apply
- Mound conferences limited to softball rules

Revised 2/4/26