



Majors

Local Rules and Regulations

1. **Cal Ripken / Babe Ruth Rules** shall be used at all times, except in any circumstances when said rules are in direct conflict with posted South Orlando Babe Ruth Rules. In such a case, SOBR shall supersede Cal Ripken / Babe Ruth Rules. Any protest situation must be resolved before continuation of play. Umpires shall be informed of the nature of protest and a Board Member shall be sought to rule on protest. The Board Member is permitted to seek advice of other board members or officials as he or she determines is necessary to resolve a protest, including by telephone conference. Only Rules Questions may be protested. Judgment calls can never be protested.
2. **Time Limit/Game Length:** The official scorer (home team scorer) shall record the official start time in the scorebook according to the umpire's watch or game clock. *Visiting teams shall keep the official pitch count using the leagues pitch count sheet.* No new inning shall begin after the time limit has passed. If an inning starts within the time limit, it must be finished to the extent the outcome of the game may be affected.
 - a. Time Limit - **No new inning after 1 hour and 45 minutes.**
 - b. If time permits, regulations games will be 6 innings per game
 - c. If a game is tied, extra innings will be played if there is 15 minutes or more remaining on the game clock, otherwise the game is declared a tie.
 - d. The umpires are required to leave the field at the end of the game.
3. **Pitching Rules:** All pitchers will adhere to the following pitch counts. These pitch counts also apply to COBRA or other tournament play during the regular season.

MAJORS PITCH COUNT LIMITS				
SEASON	DAILY MAX (PITCHES IN A DAY)	REST PERIOD		
		0 DAYS	1 DAY	2 DAYS
Fall	75	1 - 40	41 - 65	66+
Spring	85	1 - 40	41 - 65	66+

4. Pitching will be according to Babe Ruth Baseball Rules and pitch count standard.
5. **Balks:** Balks will be called in every game. First balk to a pitcher will be a warning for the first two weeks of each season. Next and all others will be called and enforced per Babe Ruth Rulebook.
6. **Scoring:** When any team's 5th run of any inning is scored, the inning shall be considered over, even if the team has no outs assessed against them. No more than 5 runs per inning may be scored regardless of how many players cross the plate during the play scoring the 5th run. *In the 6th inning, the run rule is then increased to 10 runs.*

7. Official Scorebooks for the Major division will be stored in the Concession Stand and must be returned immediately after games.
8. **Mercy Rule:** The game will end via the 10 run rule when one team leads by 10 or more runs at the end of 3 ½ innings or 4 innings if the home team is behind.
 - a. 3 ½ innings complete if home team ahead (Visitors must bat 4 times)
 - b. 4 innings complete if home team behind (Both teams have batted 4 times)
9. **Weather:** Weather decisions on field condition, games being played, halting a game or completion of a game shall be made by three of the four following people according to their availability at the time.
 - a. President/Major Director
 - b. Head Umpire
 - c. Home Team Coach
 - d. Visiting Team Coach
10. Games halted by weather will be considered complete if at least:
 - a. 3 ½ innings complete if home team ahead (Visitors must bat 4 times)
 - b. 4 innings complete if home team behind (Both teams have batted 4 times)
11. Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth rules 4.10, 4.11 & 4.12 shall apply to halted games (as adjusted above for 6 inning games) All halted playoff games shall be considered suspended games.
12. **Batting:** A game must start with 9 players but can finish with no less than 8 players.
13. The batting order shall be the entire roster in attendance at the game. (i.e. the entire team must be in order with no substitutions). Late arrivals shall be added to the end of the batting order. *Players will be alternated in the field each inning so that no child is to be off the field for two consecutive innings unless injured.*
14. On deck batters are permitted in the on deck circle and must be in the circle to the back of the batter.
15. No slash bunting (i.e. faking a bunt then swinging at the pitch). Penalty is an automatic out. Runners return to base occupied at the time of the pitch.
16. **Bat Rules:** Only bats approved for play as regulated in the official Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken rule book will be allowed. **MANAGERS WILL REMOVE ALL ILLEGAL BATS FROM THEIR DUGOUT BEFORE EACH GAME.**
 - a. PENALTIES
 - i. If an illegal bat is discovered prior to a batter entering the batter's box the bat is simply removed from play and out of the dugout.
 - ii. If an illegal bat is used or brought into the batters box the batter shall be ruled out. No advancement on the bases will be allowed, and any outs during the play shall stand. This is an appeal play. The "at bat" will be considered legal once a pitch is thrown to the next batter.
 - b. If an illegal bat is used during the game the manager will receive a warning. If it is used a second time the batter and manager will be ejected.
17. If a player must leave early both coaches can agree to allow his place in the batting order to be skipped. This arrangement must be agreed upon and communicated to the umpire prior to the start of the game.
18. **Sliding/Base Running:** Players must avoid contact. (Avoiding contact is umpire discretion) If contact is made between a fielder attempting to make a tag with the ball and runner fails to slide, as determined by the umpire, this will result in the runner being called out and ball/play is dead.
19. Head first slides are permitted going to a base, **EXCEPT HOME PLATE.** Head first slide into home will result in runner being called out and ball/play is dead.
20. *Courtesy runners are allowed for the pitcher and catcher of record.* Courtesy runner for the catcher is mandatory when there are 2 outs. Exception to the mandatory with 2 outs

is if you are replacing that catcher in the defensive half of the inning. If the replacement catcher is on base with 2 outs then he must be run for. The courtesy runner will be the last batted out.

- a. Penalty: Violation of this rule after a second warning from the umpire will result in the coach being restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game.
21. **NO STRAIGHT STEAL OF HOME.** The runner will be declared automatically out and for a suicide squeeze the batter will be declared out. **Safety squeezes are allowed. Runners must stop their lead off until contact is made with the ball.**
22. **Offense Coaching:** Managers and coaches are permitted to coach 1st and 3rd base. Players are also allowed should the manager choose to do so. Players must wear a helmet when coaching a base.
23. **Defensive Coaching:** A coach may remain outside the dugout when their team is on defense. Coaches must remain within the parameters of the dugout. Coaches are allowed to sit on buckets while outside the dugout and their team is on defense. When their team is on offense only base coaches are allowed outside the dugout and buckets will be placed in the dugout. Bucket rules will be enforced and are as follows:
 - a. If a live ball hits a coach or bucket while their team is on defense the ball becomes dead immediately and 2 bases will be awarded to all runners from the last base touched safely at the time of the throw.
 - b. If a defensive player runs into his coach or the bucket while attempting to field a live ball no interference will be called.
 - c. To avoid possible injury coaches must vacate an area where their player is attempting to make a play and must take the bucket with them.
24. Coaches may warm up pitchers. Players warming up pitchers must wear a mask.
25. *Coaches must wear a face mask when warming up the pitcher in a squatting position.*
26. Infield Fly rule shall apply.
27. **Catchers:**
 - a. Catchers must have proper catcher's equipment (including protective cup).
 - b. **All pitching signs must be delivered to the pitcher only through the catcher.** First offense will result in a warning to the manager. Each offense after the first will result in a balk being called.
28. **Dropped third strike by the catcher is a live ball according to Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Rule 6.09(b).**
29. **Injury:** In the event of injury, immediate medical attention shall be given, and the player shall be taken to the emergency room if necessary. Major Director and League President shall be contacted immediately. Coaches should always have Consent for Treatment forms on hand for each player.
 - a. Any player bleeding during a game shall be removed until the bleeding has stopped and a bandage applied.
30. If a player is injured and must be removed from the game no penalty will be assessed. The injured player may return to the game if he is healthy to do so.
31. When a player is injured and cannot run, the last batted out shall take his place.
32. Players must remain in the dugout during games.
 - a. Exception: Trips to bathroom or water fountain – one at a time.
33. **Call up players (Borrowed from Minors):**
 - a. Coaches will identify the players to the umpire at the plate meeting.
 - b. Must bat last in the order.
 - c. Can only play in the outfield unless more than 3 players are needed to field 9 positions.
 - d. Must wear the uniform shirt of their original team so that the umpires throughout the game can identify them.

- e. May never pitch.
 - f. **Penalty:** If batting anywhere but last in the order it will be the same penalty as batting out of order. The coach will then be given the opportunity to make the adjustment to the batting order for the call up player(s) only.
34. **Dress Code:** The league furnishes each player with a hat, shirt, and socks. Uniform shirts will be tucked in and hats worn with bills facing forward.
- a. Per Babe Ruth rule 1.1, all players shall wear a uniform of like color, trim, and style. SOBR has waived this rule in rare instances to allow players to play. Abuse of this exception to the uniform rule will be brought to the attention of the BOD. Players shall make every attempt to play in uniform, including replacing lost uniform at players' expense. Dress code rule does not apply to call up players (see call up player section guidelines below).
 - b. No metal cleats.
 - c. Players shall not wear jewelry.
35. **Ejection:**
- a. If a coach is ejected, they must immediately leave the premises including the parking lot and cannot be in attendance for the next suspended game.
 - b. If a batter is ejected or if he leaves without previous notice he will be an out when his turn to bat comes up.
 - c. Suspension can last more than 1 game, depending on the severity as determined by the UIC & Board of Directors.
36. **Behavior of players, managers, coaches and spectators will be according to the SOBR Code of Conduct.**
37. **Team Responsibilities:**
- a. Home team keeps the official score in the Leagues score book. All scorebooks must have Last names, First Initial & numbers.
 - b. Visiting team keeps the official pitch count using the leagues pitch count sheets.
 - c. Both teams are responsible for collecting foul balls & returning them to game play.
 - d. Both teams are responsible for chalking the field.
 - e. Both teams are responsible for raking the pitchers mound and batters box after every game.
 - f. Field equipment must be returned to the shed behind the batting cages.