

# ST. MARY'S BABE RUTH BASEBALL

**Affiliated with:**

ST. MARY'S COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

P.O. Box 653

Leonardtown, Md. 20650

**OFFICIAL BASEBALL BY-LAWS (REVISED 2007)**

Approved by the Board of Directors St. Mary's Babe Ruth Baseball and Recreation & Parks:

## **Section 1.0: General Statement**

## **Section 2.0: Game Regulations**

Section 2.1: Umpires

Section 2.2: Protest

Section 2.3: Forfeitures

Section 2.4: Players, Managers, & Coaches Conduct

Section 2.5: Tie Games

Section 2.6: Line-up/Rosters

Section 2.7: Managers Responsibilities

## **Section 3.0: League Alignment and Regulations**

Section 3.1: League Alignment

Section 3.2: Selection of Teams

Section 3.3: Player Registration

Section 3.4: Protest Committee

Section 3.5: Home Team

Section 3.6: Ineligible Players

Section 3.7: Trophies

Section 3.8: All-Stars

Section 3.9: Playoffs

Section 3.10: Tournament Teams

Section 3.11: Rescheduled Games

Section 3.12: Equipment

Section 3.13: Governing Rules

Section 3.14: Board of Directors

Section 3.15: Approvals

## **1.0 GENERAL STATEMENT:**

**1.1 :** The approved St. Mary's Babe Ruth Baseball (SMBRB) by-laws, Babe Ruth Baseball Rules and Regulations and Official Baseball Rules apply to all league activities. The ***President*** will make the final decision pertaining to the interpretation of by-laws and on **all** league matters, with the following exception;

The ***President*** **will not** make the decision on a properly filed protest submitted to the Board of Directors (see Section 2.2 and 3.4)

## **2.0 GAME REGULATIONS (ALL DIVISIONS):**

### **Section 2.1: - Umpires**

**2.1.1:** See the Official Baseball Rules for rules that apply to umpiring.

**2.1.2:** SMBRB will issue to all **Umpire** volunteers a chest protector, shin guards, and face mask are used solely for the purpose of officiating SMBRB games or any sanctioned Babe Ruth Activities.

**2.1.3: Umpires** will be paid the last day of each month. The amount will be determined by the ***Board of Directors***. The last payment will be **withheld** until all equipment issued by SMBRB is returned.

**2.1.4:** If the home ***Team Manager*** fails to postpone the game one hour before game time the **Umpire** will receive **one-half** of their scheduled payment if they report to the game location.

### **Section 2.2: - Protest**

**2.2.1:** If a **Manager** wishes to make a protest he must:

- a. Protest at the time of the alleged infraction;
- b. The game must be stopped.
- c. The **two Managers** and the **Umpire** must meet at **home plate** and the protesting manager must voice his protest at this time;
- d. The protest must be noted in both **Manager's** score books and be attested to by the **Umpire's** signature;
- e. Within twenty-four (24) hours thereafter, written protest of the alleged infraction setting forth a complete description and explanation, as well as rule citations and references, shall be submitted by the protesting ***Team Manager*** to any member of the ***Board of Directors*** along with a protest fee of \$25.00. (Note: If the protest is upheld, the fee is returned)

## **Section 2.3: - Forfeitures**

**2.3.1** The **Umpire** shall forfeit a game when a team fails to field a complete uniformed team (assuming that SMBRB has issued uniforms to all players) consisting of nine (9) players, within fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled time for commencement of the game. A uniform consists of a baseball cap, baseball pants, and a numbered team shirt. This uniform will be issued by SMBRB.

## **Section 2.4: - Players, Managers & Coaches Conduct**

**2.4.1:** See Babe Ruth Baseball Rules and Regulations and Official Baseball Rules in reference to Players, Managers, & Coaches Conduct.

**2.4.2** Any **Player, Manager, or Coach** who obviously or intentionally is abusing equipment is liable to be ejected from the game at the discretion of the **Umpire** without warning.

**2.4.3:** Any **Player, Manager, or Coach** who is ejected from a game cannot participate in the next game played by that team. Any spectator asked by a game official to leave a game can be asked not to attend that team's next game. Any violation of this rule will cause a game to be forfeited.

**2.4.4: Managers and Coaches** will follow the following **code of ethics:**

**2.4.4.1:** Abide by a doctor's decision in all matters relating to player's health, injuries and ability to play.

**2.4.4.2:** Do not allow a player to enter or re-enter a game if there is any doubt as to the seriousness of an injury.

**2.4.4.3:** Never use any physical means against spectators, players, officials or other coaches

**2.4.4.4:** Do not unduly criticize players in front of other players - criticism should always be in a constructive nature

**2.4.4.5:** Refrain from using profanity to a player or in the conduct of any activities dealing with youngsters.

**2.4.4.6:** Accept the decisions of officials as being fair and called to the best ability of the official.

- 2.4.4.7:** Do not criticize the opposing team, umpires, managers, coaches, or fans by word of mouth, actions, or gestures.
- 2.4.4.8:** The consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or appearing to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs is **strictly prohibited** at all times when dealing with youngsters - No alcoholic beverages are permitted at or on the playing field or viewing areas.
- 2.4.4.9:** The game officials have the authority to forfeit the game to the opposing team if these codes are violated.  
All incidents involving managers or coaches misconduct will be reported to the **Board of Directors** and dealt with accordingly.

### **Section 2.5 - Tie Game:**

- 2.5.1:** If time permits, as determined by the umpire, the teams must play extra innings to end a tie.
- 2.5.2:** Games ending in a tie will be considered suspended games and will only be replayed in its entirety if it affects the Final regular season standings.

### **Section 2.6 - Line-up Rosters:**

- 2.6.1:** The home team scorekeeper must present his/her line-up roster to the visiting team scorekeeper and receive the visiting team's line-up roster before the game begins. This line-up **must** include each **player's last name, first initial, uniform number**. *All of this information must be recorded in each managers scorebook in order for the player to be eligible for tournament play.*
- 2.6.2:** Any information on players not eligible for a game due to injury, disciplinary action etc. must also be noted on the line-up roster **before the start of the game**.

### **Section 2.7 - Managers Responsibilities:**

- 2.7.1:** Attend all games
- 2.7.2:** **Managers** must be at least **18 years** of age and approved by the **Board of Directors** and **St. Mary's Recreation and Parks** or have games subject to forfeiture.
- 2.7.3:** **No smoking** will be allowed on the playing area (including fields and benches).
- 2.7.4:** Home team will supply **two new** baseballs to the **Umpire** at the start of each game.
- 2.7.5:** Issue equipment and uniforms supplied by SMBRB to all players on his team.

**2.7.6:** Return all SMBRB equipment and uniforms to the designated League Equipment Manger no later then **November 1st**.

**2.7.7:** Prepare the field when his team is home team.

**2.7.8: Support all league fund raising activities.**

**2.7.9:** Notify the **Umpire Coordinator**, opposing **Team Manager**, and League Commissioner one hour prior to game time of any cancellation of scheduled games.

**2.7.10:** The winning Team Manager must report final score of the game to the League Commissioner within 24 hours.

**2.7.11:** Ensure that **No practices** take place prior to the league insurance policy taking effect.

### **3.0 SMBRB League Alignment & Regulations:**

#### **3.1 - League Alignment:**

**3.1.1:** SMBRB shall be divided into six (6) leagues:

- Babe Ruth 16-19 yr.
- Babe Ruth 13-15 yr.
- Babe Ruth 13 yr.
- Cal Ripken Majors 10-12 yr.
- Cal Ripken Minors 8-11 yr.
- Cal Ripken Rookie 7-9 yr.

**3.1.2:** Each league shall have a **Commissioner** appointed by the President. The duties of the Commissioners are as follows:

**3.1.2.1:** Represent the league in matters brought to him/her by the Team Managers which requires the attention from the President and/or the Board of Directors.

**3.1.2.2:** Coordinate with the **Umpire Coordinator** time and location for make-up or rescheduled games.

**3.1.2.3:** Contact/notify all Team Managers within his/her league of SMBRB functions.

**3.1.2.4:** Ensure all SMBRB equipment and uniforms are **issued and returned** to the designated league **Equipment Manager**.

**3.1.2.5:** Report scores and game high-lights to the designated league **Media Representative**.

**3.1.2.6:** Determine the roster size of each All-Star team within his/her league.

**3.1.2.7:** Assign late registrants to teams with the approval of the league **President**.

### **Section 3.2- Selection of Teams:**

**3.2.1:** The **geographical areas** as defined by the **Board of Directors** are:

- 5th District, Country Lakes, and Laurel Grove
- 7th District
- Leonardtown, St. Clements Shores

**3.2.2:** A player returning to the same league will automatically be assigned to the team he/she played on the previous year, unless specifically requested otherwise in writing by the players' parent/guardian.

**3.2.3:** When there are enough players registered to form more the one (1) team from a **geographical area** within the same age division, a mandatory "**Skills Evaluation/Draft**" session will be held so that the **managers** of each team will have an opportunity to evaluate all players that have registered.

**3.2.4:** The order of the draft where required will be determined by the following:

- a: Any new team entering the league/division will have the first draft choice.( If there team has the **least** amount of players).
- b: If no new teams, the team with the **least** amount of returning players will receive first pick and the team with the most returning players will receive last pick.
- c: If teams have same amount of returning players, the final regular season standings (worst record to best) from the previous season will determine order.

**3.2.5:** The draft selection process will be as follows:

- First two rounds will go in ascending order (i.e Team 1 gets 1st pick, Team 5 gets 5th pick).
- At the beginning of the third round, teams will receive supplemental draft picks in ascending order so that team rosters will be balanced out.
- After rosters are balanced, the draft will continue in ascending order.
- \*\*After the last draft pick, managers have fifteen (15) minutes to make a trade with a drafted player only.\*\***

**3.2.6:** Children of managers will automatically be placed on his/her team. The child of a **1st assistant coach** will be placed on his/her team as a **1st round draft choice**. The child of a **2nd assistant coach** will be placed on his/her team as a **3rd round draft choice**. **If a coach's child from the previous draft is still on the team, a manager may not select a new coach until the previous coach's child is off of the team. This does not apply to new managers.**

**3.2.7: Siblings will be placed on the same team** unless specifically requested otherwise by the Parent/Guardian. After the selection of the one sibling by a team, the remaining sibling(s) automatically becomes the team's last selection in the draft.

**3.2.8:** A **Team Manager** may manage, and his children may **play outside** their geographical area. This rule **does not** apply to **assistant coaches**.

### **Section 3.3 - Player Registration:**

**3.3.1:** SMBRB registration will be held in the month of February of each year for all players. **Mail-In registrations** will be accepted for **returning player only** until January 31st of each year.

**3.3.2:** Any late registrants will be assigned by the League Commissioner with the approval of the league President.

**3.3.3:** Late registration is defined as any registration form which is received by SMBRB following the draft of that particular league.

### **Section 3.4 - Protest Committee:**

**3.4.1:** A protest committee shall consist of at least three (3) members of the Board of Directors including the President. The League Commissioners will have **no vote** on protest involving their respective league.

**3.4.2:** The protest committee shall conduct a hearing of all protests and give the protesting **Team Manager** and **Umpire** twenty-four (24) hours notice of the time and place of the hearing.

### **Section 3.5 - Home Team:**

**3.5.1:** The home team is responsible for the preparation of the field to include bases, lining the field, raking/dragging as required etc.

**3.5.2:** The home team shall allow the visiting team the use of the field for practice for **twenty (20) minutes** prior to the start of the game. The visiting team shall relinquish the field five (5) minutes before the start of the game to allow for final preparations.



### **Section 3.6 - Ineligible Player:**

**3.6.1:** Players who have **not paid** their registration fees will not be put on a roster.

### **Section 3.7 - Trophies & Awards:**

**3.7.1: Trophies** will be awarded as follows:

- a. Individual trophies for **All-Stars**
- b. Individual trophies for **League Champions**
- c. Individual trophies for **Playoff Champions/Runner-ups**

**3.7.2:** The **Board of Directors** will determine a budgeted dollar amount to be spent for trophies each year.

### **Section 3.8 - All Stars:**

**3.8.1: The Board of Directors** will furnish additional guidelines/rules to the All-Star games as necessary.

### **Section 3.9 - Playoffs:**

**3.9.1:** Each division will have **one (1) League Champion**. This will be the team with the best **overall league record** at the end of the regular season. If there is a **tie**, the tie will be broken by Head to Head, run differential, and coin toss will be the final tie breaker.

**3.9.2:** Each division will have **one (1) Tournament Champion**. This will be determined by a end of the year **League Championship Tournament** with all teams in the league participating. It will be a double elimination tournament. Home team will be the higher seeded team until the championship finals. The undefeated team will be home for the first game. The home team will be the higher seeded team if a second championship game is necessary.

**3.9.3:** All Rules and regulations governing regular season play apply during League Championship playoff games. Playoff games must be regulation in length. Any incomplete regulation game will be considered a suspended game.

### **Section 3.10 - Tournament Team:**

**3.10.1:** The **Tournament Team Manager** will be selected by the **Board of Directors**, with all managers receiving consideration. The **Tournament Team Manager** will choose two (2) other **Managers** as assistant coaches. If not enough interest is shown from managers you may choose coaches with **Board Approval**.

**3.10.2:** Each **Team Manager** shall submit a list of recommend players from their team to the Tournament Team Manager .

**3.10.3:** All SMBRB players are eligible for a **Tournament Team tryout**. The Tournament Team manager will have the **final decision** relative to the players selected for the Tournament Team.

**3.10.4:** Players who elected to play in an **advanced aged league** during the regular season and meets the age requirements for an **appropriate aged Tournament Team** may play on that Tournament Team.

**3.10.5:** Any SMBRB teams entering other tournament play outside of the Babe Ruth sanctioned All-Star tournament must have the approval of the **Board of Directors**.

### **Section 3.11 - Rescheduled Games:**

**3.11.1:** Teams have two weeks to reschedule games. Any game rescheduled by the **League Commissioner (s)** is final. Any team not complying will receive an automatic forfeiture.

**3.11.2:** The **League Commissioner** has the right to reschedule any game due to lack of Umpires.

### **Section 3.12 - Equipment:**

**3.12.1:** Each SMBRB player shall be furnished a baseball hat, shirt, pants, and socks. The players may keep the hat and socks. The remainder of the uniform must be returned to the **Team Manager** when requested.

### **Section 3.13 - Governing Rules:**

**3.13.1:** Except as notified herein, all baseball competition shall be governed by the **Babe Ruth Baseball Rules and Regulations** applying to each particular league and the current edition of **Official Baseball Rules** (Copies of both will be provided to each **Team Manager**.)

**3.13.2:** If there are two (2) outs and the offensive team's catcher is a base runner, it will be the manager's option to replace the catcher with a courtesy runner.

### **3.13.3: Babe Ruth 13 -15 League:**

#### **PITCHING:**

- A. A pitcher may not pitch more than seven (7) innings per week in any regular or post season game.
- B. A pitcher must have two (2) days of rest between pitching assignments in which a player pitches in more than four (4) innings. Each game in which a pitcher pitches is considered an assignment regardless of the number of pitches thrown.

**Example:** A player pitching in more than four (4) innings on Saturday cannot pitch again until Tuesday.

- C. Games in which an ineligible pitcher has been used as specified above shall be declared a forfeit.
- D. Any thirteen (13) year old in this league must abide by the 13 yr. old pitching rules.***

#### **GAME COMPETITION:**

A game shall consist of seven (7) innings

An official game shall consist of Five (5) innings. 4 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead.

#### **EQUIPMENT:**

Shoes with **metal cleats** or spikes **are permitted**.

#### **PLAYER PARTICIPATION:**

Each player present must play a minimum of **two (2) defensive innings**. **There will be a consecutive batting order.**

### **3.13.4: Babe Ruth 13 League:**

#### **PITCHING:**

- A. A pitcher may not pitch more than seven (7) innings per week (not to exceed four (4) innings per game) in any regular or post season game.
- B. A pitcher must have two (2) days of rest between pitching assignments in which a player pitches in more than three (3) innings. Each game in which a pitcher pitches is considered an assignment regardless of the number of pitches thrown.

**Example:** A player pitching in more than three (3) innings on Saturday cannot pitch again until Tuesday.

- C. Games in which an ineligible pitcher has been used as specified above shall be declared a forfeit.

#### **GAME COMPETITION:**

A game shall consist of seven (7) innings

An official game shall consist of Five (5) innings. 4 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead.

**EQUIPMENT:**

Shoes with **metal cleats** or spikes **are permitted**.

**PLAYER PARTICIPATION:**

Each player present must play a minimum of **three (3) defensive innings**. **There will be a consecutive batting order. This rule may not apply in interleague play.**

**3.13.5: Cal Ripken Majors 10-12 league:**

**PITCHING:**

- A Pitcher may pitch a **maximum** of six (6) innings per week. (not to exceed four (4) innings per game) in any regular or post season game.
- B. A pitcher must have two (2) days of rest between pitching assignments in which a player pitches in more than two(2) innings. Each game in which a pitcher pitches is considered an assignment.  
**Example:** A player pitching in more than two (2) innings on Saturday cannot pitch again until Tuesday.
- C. Games in which an ineligible pitcher has been used as specified above shall be declared a forfeit.
- D. Any pitcher may leave the mound and return as a pitcher once.
- E. Each pitcher will be given **one warning** before a balk is called by the umpire.

**GAME COMPETITION:**

A game shall consist of six (6) innings

An official game shall consist of Four (4) innings. 3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead.

No team may score more than seven (7) runs in one inning.

**EQUIPMENT:**

Shoes with **metal cleats** or spikes **are not permitted**.

**PLAYER PARTICIPATION:**

Each player present must play a minimum of **three (3) defensive innings** (does not have to be consecutive). There will be a consecutive batting order.

**BASE RUNNING/STEALING:**

The batter **cannot advance** to first base on a 3rd strike.

Runners may **steal all bases** including home plate.

Runners **may** take a lead

### **3.13.6: Cal Ripken Minors 8 -11 League:**

#### **PITCHING:**

- A. A pitcher may pitch a **maximum** of six (6) innings per week. (not to exceed three (3) innings per game) in any regular or post season game.
- B. A pitcher must have two (2) days of rest between pitching assignments in which a player pitches in more than two(2) innings. Each game in which a pitcher pitches is considered an assignment regardless of the number of pitches thrown.  
**Example:** A player pitching in more than two (2) innings on Saturday cannot pitch again until Tuesday.
- C. Games in which an ineligible pitcher has been used as specified above shall be declared a **forfeit**.
- D. Any pitcher may leave the mound and return as a pitcher once.
- E. **The minor division may pitch one (1) eleven year old for a maximum of two(2) innings per game.**

#### **EQUIPMENT:**

Shoes with **metal cleats** or spikes are **not permitted**.

#### **GAME COMPETITION:**

A game shall consist of six (6) innings

An official game shall consist of Four (4) innings. 3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead.

No team may score more than five (5) runs in one inning.

The batter is out whether the third strike is caught or not caught by the catcher.

The infield fly rule is eliminated.

#### **PLAYER PARTICIPATION:**

-Each player present must play a minimum of **three (3) defensive innings** (does not have to be consecutive). There will be a consecutive batting order.

-The minor program uses four (4) outfielders.

#### **BASE RUNNING/STEALING:**

Runners may **steal all bases** including home plate.

Runners **may not** take a lead. Runners may **not leave** the base until the ball has been delivered and has reached the batter.

If the runner leaves a base before the pitch reaches the batter, that team will be given **one warning** and all runners go back. Second time runner is **out**.

Batter **may not** advance past first base after a walk.

Runners on 2<sup>nd</sup> **may not advance** after a batter is walked, unless a force.

Runners on 3<sup>rd</sup> **may advance** after a batter is walked, at own risk.

### **3.13.7 Cal Ripken Rookie 7-9 League**

#### **EQUIPMENT:**

Shoes with **metal cleats** or spikes are **not permitted**.

#### **GAME COMPETITION:**

A game shall consist of six (6) innings

An official game shall consist of Four (4) innings. 3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead.

No team may score more than five (5) runs in one inning.

The batter is out whether the third strike is caught or not caught by the catcher.

The infield fly rule is eliminated.

#### **PLAYER PARTICIPATION:**

-Each player present must play a minimum of **three (3) defensive innings** (does not have to be consecutive). There will be a consecutive batting order.

-The rookie league uses four outfielders.

-A team must have nine players to start a game.

-A player cannot play more than four (4) innings in the infield.

-Each batter gets five pitches. If the batters swings and misses on three pitches, the batter is out.

#### **BASE RUNNING:**

Runners may only advance **one base** on a passed ball.

Runners **may not** advance when infielder has control of the ball on the infield.

Runners **may not steal**.

### **Section 3.14 - Board of Directors & League Officials:**

**3.14.1: Board of Directors:** The President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer are annually elected positions. The four (4) League Commissioners are appointed by the **President**. **The Department of Recreation & Parks advisor** is a permanent position.

**3.14.2:** In the event of a manager vacancy for a particular team and there are two (2) or more interested candidates, the **Board of Directors** will make the manager selection.

**3.14.3: The Department of Recreation & Parks advisor** will preside over the annual nomination and election process for the forthcoming season at the final managers meeting of the current season to occur no later than **September 1st**. Nomination and election procedures will be furnished to all managers prior to the end of the regular playing season.

**3.14.4:** The SMBRB league *Board of Director* positions are as follows:

*President:* The league **President duties** are as follows but not limited to the following:

- a. Preside at all league meetings
- b. Assume **full responsibility** for the operation of the local league
- c. Appoint all committees and supervise the activity thereof.
- d. See his/her league adheres to rules, regulations, and policies of Babe Ruth Baseball
- e. Be sure the charter application/continuation form is submitted to Babe Ruth Baseball
- f. Be responsible for local league protest and disputes.
- g. Review finances with Treasurer and be one of "**two signatures**" required to sign checks

*Vice President:* Preside in the absence of the President and carries out such duties and assignments as may be delegated by the President.

*Treasurer:* Signs checks, dispurses league funds as approved by league officers, **reports** on the **status of league funds on a monthly basis**, keeps financial records, prepares budget and assumes the responsibility of local league finances.

*Recording Secretary:* Records the minutes of meetings. The secretary is also responsible for sending out notice of regular and special meetings, maintaining an official record of league activities, notifying all officers of election and the names of newly elected members of the Board and performing such other duties as this office may require.

Commissioner Babe Ruth 16-19 yr.  
Commissioner Babe Ruth 13-15 yr.  
Commissioner Cal Ripken Majors  
Commissioner Cal Ripken Minors  
Commissioner Cal Ripken Rookies  
St. Mary's Department of Recreation & Parks

**3.14.5:** The SMBRB league officials positions are as follows

Media Representative  
Equipment Manager  
Insurance Coordinator  
Concession Coordinator  
Clinic Coordinator

**Section 3.15 - Approvals:**

President: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Vice President: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Treasure: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Recording Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner Babe Ruth 16-19 yr. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner Babe Ruth 14-15 yr. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner Babe Ruth 13 yr. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner Cal Ripken Majors \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner Cal Ripken Minors \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner Cal Ripken Rookies \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

St. Mary's Department of Recreation & Parks \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_