



## 12-15 Girls

### Playing the Game

- A minimum of 8 players are required to start the game. A team will forfeit if 8 players are not present by game start time. If the game is played by only 8 players, the team must take an out at the 9th batting position. If, during the first inning of play, a player arrives late the player will be added in the 9<sup>th</sup> batting position where previously the automatic out was recorded.
  - Late player additions to the roster may not be made after the completion of the first inning. Any late player additions made during the first inning will be placed at the end of the batting order.
- The batting order shall be followed throughout the game unless substitutions are made. In that case, the substitute shall take the place of the replaced batter in the batting order.
- A maximum of (9) NINE players are allowed on defense at any given time.
  - All players must play a minimum of 6 defensive outs and must not sit out more than two consecutive innings.
- Changes in defensive positions may be freely made for those players already on the starting roster and on the field. Any substitutions of players who have not been in the game must be reported to the head umpire and book keeper first.
- A maximum of 3 coaches shall be present for each team with 2 coaches on the field and one remaining in the dug-out.
  - No person shall be permitted on the field or in the dug-outs except players, coaches, umpires and league officials.
- Batters, on deck batters and base runners must wear a Babe Ruth approved protective helmet with full face shield at all times.
  - A batter, on deck batter or runner may not remove their protective helmet until they have reached the dug-out. If the protective helmet is removed before the player reaches the dug-out the umpire will give the offensive team 1 warning and then each offense thereafter will result in an out issued to the team.
- The "infield fly rule" is in effect and will be called by the umpire.
- A five run rule per half inning will be observed. If the offense scores 5 runs then the half inning is declared over by the umpire. From the 5<sup>th</sup> inning on an inning will consist of 3 outs with no run limit rule during this time.



- A 10 run rule is in effect after the 4<sup>th</sup> inning of play.
- A 15 run rule is in effect after the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning of play.
- Game length shall be one hour and thirty minutes or 5 innings, whichever comes first. The umpire will announce last inning after 1 hour and 15 minutes has passed since the start of the game. The inning being played at the time of this announcement will be finished and 1 additional inning will be played. The final announced inning will be the open run inning even if it is not the 5th inning. A game shall be considered complete upon the completion of the 3rd inning (in the event of inclement weather).

### **Pitching**

- Pitching distance shall be 40 feet. There is no restriction on the speed of the pitch. The strike zone shall be batter's armpits to the tops of the knees when the ball crosses the plate. Arguing balls and strikes will be not tolerated.
- Pitching Limits: No innings or games pitched limits apply. A player may enter, leave and then re-enter the pitchers position during the course of the game.
- Pitching Changes: Pitcher must pitch to the first batter, or any substitute batter, until that batter is put out or safely reached base before a pitching change can be made.
- A walk shall be issued upon the completion of 4 pitches which are declared balls by the umpire. An "intentional walk" cannot be issued by the defensive coach.
- The pitcher cannot drop, roll or bounce the ball while in the pitching position in order to prevent the batter from striking it.
- A coach is allowed to make only two trips to the pitcher in one inning. Upon the second trip, the pitcher must be replaced with another player.
- Pitchers warming up must be accompanied by a catcher with a mask and a third player to face the field of play to protect against foul balls. The third player must wear a helmet.
- At the start of each inning the pitcher will be allowed one minute or 5 pitches (whichever comes first) for a warm-up period. No balls other than the game ball will be allowed on the field once the game begins.

### **Batting**

- The batter must have both feet inside the batter's box and may not overstep the lines of the batter box until the ball has been hit and put into play.
- An extra hitter may be used in the batting lineup. The tenth extra hitter must be identified on the team's starting roster by the designation of "EH". The use of the "EH" hitter is not



mandatory and its use is the discretion of the teams coach. If an "EH" is designated at the beginning of the game then it cannot be eliminated during the course of the game.

- A foul ball on third strike will result in the batter continuing their at bat unless the ball is caught in the air in foul territory.
- Batters will be allowed to bunt at any time during any at bat. A foul tip during a bunt attempt on 3<sup>rd</sup> strike will result in the batter being out even if the ball is not caught in the air in foul territory.
- A batter will be permitted to attempt first base on a dropped third strike by the catcher; the batter is considered "out" if they turn towards their dugout and make no attempt to go to first base, or are thrown out at first base by the catcher.

### Base-running

- Steals will be allowed when the ball leaves the pitchers hand. If the base runner leaves the occupied base before the ball has left the pitchers hand, the umpire will call the runner out, the ball will be dead and "No Pitch" will be declared. It is the umpire's discretion regarding the timing of the ball leaving the pitchers hand and the runner leaving the base. The umpire's decision will be upheld by the league.
- CONTACT RULE (play at home): If a runner attempting to reach home plate intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player in the area of home plate, she will be called out and ejected from the game. "Crashing the defensive player" will not be allowed. This is an umpire's judgment call and will be upheld by the league (per Babe Ruth 2009 rule book page 43 section 7.14). **The catcher, without the ball in her possession, has no right to block the pathway of the runner attempting to score. The base line belongs to the runner and the catcher should be there only when she is fielding a ball or when she already has the ball in her hand (per Babe Ruth 2009 rule book page 38).**

### General

- All equipment must be kept inside the dug-outs at all times.
- Babe Ruth approved protective face shields may be worn by any fielder and is encouraged by the league. This is not a requirement however and will be left to the discretion of the coaches and parents for each team.
- No equipment (including bats and helmets) shall be thrown by a player for any reason. The first offense will result in a warning to the coach and player by the umpire. The second offense will result in the player being ejected and an out issued to the team. If during batting the batter throws the bat it will result in the same actions by the umpire.



- No steel cleats allowed.
- Infield practice will not be allowed to start the game.
- The official ball is 12" Yellow R.I.F. (Reduced Injury Factor) A.S.A Softball.
- Alcohol and tobacco use are prohibited on school grounds. Firearms are strictly prohibited from being anywhere on the property. Any violators of these policies will be immediately escorted from the property.
- Good sportsmanship and a spirit of fair play will be observed by coaches, players and fans. The head coach is ultimately responsible for the behavior of players, fans and other coaches associated with his/her team. The umpire and/or league officials reserve the right to warn and/or eject the head coach based on the behavior of players, coaches or fans associated with the team. The umpire and/or league officials may also warn and/or eject coaches, players or fans if the situation warrants such action. Any ejected coach, player or fan must immediately leave the field and facilities area.
- All umpire decisions are final and will be upheld by the league.
  - Only the head coach is allowed to appeal a call with the umpire. Anyone other than the head coach attempting to appeal a call will be informed to return to the dugout immediately.
  - It is understood that this is a condensed version of the 2009 16U Rules. Any situations not covered by this hand-out should be referred to the 2009 Babe Ruth Softball Rules and Regulations manual.



## 9-11 Girls

### Playing the Game

- A minimum of 8 players are required to start the game. A team will forfeit if 8 players are not present by game start time. If the game is played by only 8 players, the team must take an out at the 9th batting position. If, during the first inning of play, a player(s) arrives late the player will be added in the 9<sup>th</sup> or final batting position where previously the automatic out was recorded.
  - Late player additions to the roster may not be made after the completion of the first inning. Any late player additions made during the first inning will be placed at the end of the batting order.
- The batting order shall be followed throughout the game, however, defensive substitutions may result in the replacement of players on the field. (Bat the line-up, substitute girls in/out on defense)
- A maximum of (10) TEN players are allowed on defense at any given time, with 4 OF.
  - All players must play a minimum of 6 defensive outs and must not sit out more than two consecutive innings.
  - Coaches must bat every player on their team (players not playing defense will bat).
- Changes in defensive positions may be freely made for those players already on the starting roster and on the field. Any substitutions of players who have not been in the game must be reported to the head umpire and book keeper first.
- A maximum of 3 coaches shall be present for each team with 2 coaches on the field and one remaining in the dug-out.
  - No person shall be permitted on the field or in the dug-outs except players, coaches, umpires and league officials.



- Batters, on deck batters and base runners must wear a Babe Ruth approved protective helmet with full face shield at all times.
  - A batter, on deck batter or runner may not remove their protective helmet until they have reached the dug-out. If the protective helmet is removed before the player reaches the dug-out the umpire will give the offensive team 1 warning and then each offense thereafter will result in an out issued to the team.
- The “infield fly rule” is in effect and will be called by the umpire.
- A five run rule per half inning will be observed. If the offense scores 5 runs then the half inning is declared over by the umpire. From the 5<sup>th</sup> inning on an inning will consist of 3 outs with no run limit rule during this time.
  - A 10 run rule is in effect after the 4<sup>th</sup> inning of play.
  - A 15 run rule is in effect after the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning of play.
- Game length shall be one hour and thirty minutes or 5 innings, whichever comes first. The umpire will announce last inning after 1 hour and 15 minutes has passed since the start of the game. The inning being played at the time of this announcement will be finished and 1 additional inning will be played. The final announced inning will be the open run inning even if it is not the 5th inning. A game shall be considered complete upon the completion of the 3rd inning (in the event of inclement weather).

## **Pitching**

- Pitching distance shall be 35 feet (Babe Ruth Rule Book, p. 52, “Pitching Distance”). There is no restriction on the speed of the pitch. The strike zone shall be batter’s armpits to the tops of the knees when the ball crosses the plate. Arguing balls and strikes will be not tolerated.
- Pitching Limits: A pitcher may pitch in no more than 10 innings per calendar week (Babe Ruth Rule Book, p. 7, section 0.06) If a pitcher delivers (1) pitch in an inning she shall be charged for (1) inning.
  - There are no mandatory days of rest.
- Pitching Changes: Pitcher must pitch to the first batter, or any substitute batter, until that batter is put out or safely reached base before a pitching change can be made.
- A walk shall be issued upon the completion of 4 pitches which are declared balls by the umpire. An “intentional walk” cannot be issued by the defensive coach.
- The pitcher cannot drop, roll or bounce the ball while in the pitching position in order to prevent the batter from striking it.



- A coach is allowed to make only two trips to the pitcher in one inning. Upon the second trip, the pitcher must be replaced with another player.
- Pitchers warming up must be accompanied by a catcher with a mask and a third player to face the field of play to protect against foul balls. The third player must wear a helmet.
- At the start of each inning the pitcher will be allowed one minute or 5 pitches (whichever comes first) for a warm-up period. No balls other than the game ball will be allowed on the field once the game begins.

### **Batting**

- The batter must have both feet inside the batter's box and may not overstep the lines of the batter box until the ball has been hit and put into play.
- A foul ball on third strike will result in the batter continuing their at bat unless the ball is caught in the air in foul territory.
- Batters will be allowed to bunt at any time during any at bat. A foul tip during a bunt attempt on 3<sup>rd</sup> strike will result in the batter being out even if the ball is not caught in the air in foul territory.
- A batter will **not** be permitted to attempt first base on a dropped third strike by the catcher; the batter is considered "out" after strike 3.

### **Base-running**

- Steals will be allowed once the pitched ball has reached the batter. If the base runner leaves the occupied base before the ball has reached the batter, the umpire will call the runner out, the ball will be dead and "No Pitch" will be declared. It is the umpire's discretion regarding the timing of the ball has reached the batter and the runner leaving the base. The umpire's decision will be upheld by the league.
- **CONTACT RULE (play at home):** If a runner attempting to reach home plate intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player in the area of home plate, she will be called out and ejected from the game. "Crashing the defensive player" will not be allowed. This is an umpire's judgment call and will be upheld by the league (per Babe Ruth 2009 rule book page 43 section 7.14). **The catcher, without the ball in her possession, has no right to block the pathway of the runner attempting to score. The base line belongs to the runner and the catcher should be there only when she is fielding a ball or when she already has the ball in her hand (per Babe Ruth 2009 rule book page 38).**

### **General**



- All equipment must be kept inside the dug-outs at all times.
- Babe Ruth approved protective face shields may be worn by any fielder and is encouraged by the league. This is not a requirement however and will be left to the discretion of the coaches and parents for each team.
- No equipment (including bats and helmets) shall be thrown by a player for any reason. The first offense will result in a warning to the coach and player by the umpire. The second offense will result in the player being ejected and an out issued to the team. If during batting the batter throws the bat it will result in the same actions by the umpire.
- No steel cleats allowed.
- Infield practice will not be allowed to start the game.
- The official ball is 11" Yellow R.I.F. (Reduced Injury Factor) A.S.A Softball.
- Alcohol and tobacco use are prohibited on school grounds. Firearms are strictly prohibited from being anywhere on the property. Any violators of these policies will be immediately escorted from the property.
- Good sportsmanship and a spirit of fair play will be observed by coaches, players and fans. The head coach is ultimately responsible for the behavior of players, fans and other coaches associated with his/her team. The umpire and/or league officials reserve the right to warn and/or eject the head coach based on the behavior of players, coaches or fans associated with the team. The umpire and/or league officials may also warn and/or eject coaches, players or fans if the situation warrants such action. Any ejected coach, player or fan must immediately leave the field and facilities area.
- All umpire decisions are final and will be upheld by the league.
  - Only the head coach is allowed to appeal a call with the umpire. Anyone other than the head coach attempting to appeal a call will be informed to return to the dugout immediately.
  - It is understood that this is a condensed version of the 2009 12U Rules. Any situations not covered by this hand-out should be referred to the 2009 Babe Ruth Softball Rules and Regulations manual.