

UNION COUNTY CAL RIPKEN LEAGUE

SPRING 2025 LOCAL RULES- MAJORS DIVISION

General Rules

- **All games will be a maximum of 6 innings or two hours (2 hrs.) in length and no new inning shall start after 1 hour and 50 minutes, but current inning must be completed (unless home team is ahead and batting). Game result will be score when the last complete inning finished, even if tied and no additional innings will be played to break ties (except during post season tournament play). Ten run rule is in effect after (4) innings of play completed (3-1/2 innings, if home team is ahead).**
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- Four complete innings (3-1/2 innings if the home team is winning) for the game to be official.
- In case of rain or ten run rule, the game must reach at least 3-1/2 innings if the home team is ahead and 4 innings if the visiting team is ahead to be considered a complete game. Incomplete games will be suspended and will resume from the point of interruption the next available day, if possible. **Suspended games should have UIC sign both team's scorebook to verify game situation.**
- Each half inning shall be complete when three outs are recorded. **THERE ARE NO RUN LIMITS IN MAJOR DIVISION GAMES.**
- **Batting lineup will include entire roster** (League minimum of 8 players to start an official game with 9th player able to enter at any time, although if no 9th player is inserted, the at bat is vacated and ruled an out). 9 Position players are allowed with free substitution in the field (does not affect batting order).
- The batting rotation shall consist of all players present for the game. Any player who does not come to bat at their regular turn shall be declared **OUT**, unless injured / sick during the current game. Once a player is declared injured/ sick they cannot re-enter the game.
- Late players may be added to the end of the batting rotation before the lineup goes one time through. Players arriving after this point may not be added to lineup, and must be inserted into the game per substitution rules. There will be a continuous batting order.
- No player can sit defensively for 2 consecutive innings. Players cannot sit for more than 2 innings per game. Any coach found in violation of this will be warned. If it happens more than once in a season, the coach may be suspended one game.
- A team must field at least eight (8) players by game time or the game will be declared a forfeit (*All home teams are strongly encouraged to do everything possible to play scheduled games*).
- **Teams that cannot field eight (8) players can use a Major or Minor division, officially-rostered, player from the same athletic association to help them avoid forfeiture of game and must follow specific procedures below.**
 - A.) This player, or players (max 2), must bat last in the batting lineup and can only play outfield positions.
 - B.) This player must also wear their normal team uniform.
 - C.) Maximum of (2) players can be picked up but cannot go above (9) total players in lineup. You can choose to play with (8) players if you only have (8) for that game. Picking up players is optional.
- Only the Local Home Commissioners may rule the field unplayable prior to the start of the game. Once the game starts, the umpire makes all determination on field playability. The decision to cancel due to weather will be made after 4pm.

Batter / Runner

- The bat MUST be stamped 'USA' and the bat barrel may not exceed 2 5/8" in diameter. Wood 2 ¼" barrel bats are allowed. If any bat in Cal Ripken Baseball, cannot be clearly identified for its make and model to determine the barrel composition, then the bat should be removed from the game.
- **Head first sliding is allowed in UCCRL MAJOR Division games.**
- **Fake / Slash Bunting – A batter is out for illegal action when the player fakes a bunt and then takes a full swing,** thus eliminating a player from fake bunting the ball. **Penalty:** Batter is out, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

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- **CONTACT RULE:** If a runner attempting to reach home plate or a base intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player, he / she will be called out on the play. The objective of this rule is to penalize the offensive team for deliberate, unwarranted, unsportsmanlike action by the runner for the obvious purpose of crashing the defensive player. Obviously, this an umpire's judgment call and cannot not be protested.
- Coaches are encouraged to teach their player's how to slide properly and to avoid contact with the defensive players. At the umpire's discretion, a runner will be called out if they purposely attempt to run over the catcher or generate unnecessarily rough play. Per Cal Ripken rules, player must "avoid contact".

The Catcher

- **CATCHER'S MUST BE PROPERLY EQUIPPED PER OFFICIAL BABE RUTH/CAL RIPKEN RULES.**
- To speed up game play, if the catcher gets on or is currently on base when one or two outs occur, he can be replaced by a pinch runner. This runner will be the player that received the last out. This will allow the catcher to get ready before the next inning begins.
- Anyone (Player or Coach) warming up a pitcher at any location shall wear a mask. A throat protector is considered part of the catcher's mask.

Pitching Rules

- Any violation of these pitching rules is subject to protest. All confirmed pitching rule violations shall result in a forfeit by the offending team.
- Any player on a regular season team may pitch. There is no limit to the number of pitchers a team may use in a game.
- **Players, once removed from the mound may not return in the same game at the pitcher position.**
- Pitcher must pitch in consecutive innings in a game.
- All pitchers must adhere to the pitch count rest requirements before pitching in another game.
- **Official Pitch Count is the last actual pitch thrown.** Pitcher can exceed the maximum allowed pitches (75) only to finish an at-bat that started before maximum pitches are thrown

MAX - (DAY /GAME)	REQUIRED REST DAYS (PITCHES)			
	0 DAYS	1 DAYS	2 DAYS	3 DAYS
75	1-30	31-45	46-60	61+

- Calendar days of rest must be consecutive and do not begin until the following day of the last pitch thrown. Pitchers are cleared to pitch again the day after the last calendar day of rest.
- Pitches delivered in games that are suspended due to weather or stopped before coming official shall be charged against pitcher's eligibility.
- Head Coach must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the pitch count limit for their age group but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position, **except catcher. In addition, any player catching for more than 3 innings is NOT allowed to pitch in same game.** If a pitcher reaches the max number of pitches allowed while facing a batter, he may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base, is put out, or third out is made to complete the half-inning.
- **Intentional Walk Rule** – An intentional base on balls may be given by the defensive team by having its catcher or coach request the umpire to award the batter first base. This may be done before pitching to the batter or on any ball and strike count. The ball shall be declared dead before making the award and the batter will be awarded the base without further pitch thrown.
- In a game suspended by darkness, weather, or other causes and resumed the following calendar day, the pitcher at the time the game was halted may continue to the extent of his/her remaining eligibility for that game .
- **The manager has the ultimate responsibility for knowing when his/her pitcher must be removed.**

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SPRING 2025 LOCAL RULES- MAJORS DIVISION

Spring 2025 Local County Rules - ALL Divisions

- **All coaches must have passed their official background check and Abuse Prevention Training through Babe Ruth SportsEngine to be present in the dugout or on the field of play. All coaches should also have completed and passed Coaching Certification (required for all postseason play).**
- **Head Coach is responsible for their assistant coaches, players, and parents.** Coaches are to stay along their dugout fence and cannot wonder up and down the foul lines. No buckets or chairs on the field. In the event, the umpire ejects a coach, that coach will serve a one game suspension for the next game, which they must attend and sit in the stands. They will not be allowed in or around the dugouts and cannot coach at all.
- **Each team is required to have a scorekeeper whose duty is the check with the other scorekeeper after each inning to make sure they agree. Home team will be the official scorebook.** *(GAMECHANGER usage is encouraged for scoring & pitch count)*
- The home team is the official pitch count recorder for each game. Both managers and umpire must sign the scorebook when the game is completed to verify pitching records.
- Although home team is official recorder, All scorekeepers are required to enter pitch counts for both teams in the supplied pitch count forms for each game. This form will be handed in with scorebook at end of season. *(GAMECHANGER usage is encouraged for scoring & pitch count)*
- **Profanity, fighting, and unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated from anyone. Offenders will be asked to leave the park.**
- There shall be no tobacco products used by anyone on the bench or the field during games or practices.
- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the park at anytime, anywhere, which includes the parking lots. Offenders will be told to leave the park and proper authorities notified.
- **Decisions of the umpire are final. Any questions directed at umpires regarding rules should be done after asking timeout. Confrontational approaches to the umpire will not be tolerated.**
- Any appeal of pitch counts or pitcher eligibility will be told to umpires, and game will continue to play under appeal. Determination of the appeal will be handled by commissioners after the conclusion of game and proper investigation done.
- Home team is responsible for preparing the field of play before the game begins. Which includes chalking the batters' box, foul line from home plate to the foul poles (if needed) prior to game start.
- **Home team is responsible for providing two game balls.**
- **Both teams are responsible for cleaning their dugouts and placing all trash from the dugout, around the dugout, and the stands into the proper trash containers before leaving.**
- All players must be in official uniform; issued jersey, pants, and hat. Rubber or molded cleats are recommended but are optional. **NO** metal cleats allowed by players or coaches.

****THE ABOVE LOCAL RULES WILL BE USED AND ENFORCED IN ALL GAMES INVOLVING ANY UCCRL TEAMS AGAINST ANY OTHER LEAGUE ASSOCIATION DURING LOCAL LEAGUE REGULAR SEASON PLAY.**

ANY SITUATION(S) NOT COVERED IN THESE LOCAL RULES WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY FOLLOWING THE OFFICIAL BABE RUTH RULE BOOK.

- *Unless addressed here within, play shall be by Cal Ripken Rules, then official baseball rules as published by the National Baseball Congress, INC.*