

UNION COUNTY CAL RIPKEN LEAGUE

SPRING 2025 LOCAL RULES- COACH PITCH ROOKIE DIVISION

Pitching / Adult Pitcher Rules

- Adult Pitcher must pitch from 35 feet and have one foot in contact with the rubber when the ball is pitched
- There will be a 16 ft. round circle that is 8 ft. from the pitching rubber. The player playing the position of pitcher must have one foot inside the pitching circle and be positioned behind the Adult Pitcher. The player pitcher is not allowed to come out of the circle until the ball is batted.
- The Adult Pitcher must throw overhanded, but can be on one knee if they choose to do so, as long as contact to the rubber.
- The Adult Pitcher must throw a "FLAT PITCH". No lobs to the hitter's bat. **Umpire may rule "No Pitch"**.
- The Adult Pitcher can only instruct the batter while in the box, they **CANNOT instruct the base runners at all once the on base**. PENALTY: The Adult Pitcher will be restricted to the dugout & cannot return as the Adult Pitcher for the remainder of the game.
- The same adult must pitch to the players for the entire inning. Teams may only switch Adult Pitchers at the start of a new inning.
- Once the ball is put into play, the Adult Pitcher must avoid interference by moving to the nearest sideline until all play is dead. Interference or obstruction may be called for violation of rule. Continued violations will result in the coach being restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game.
- A batted ball that hits the Adult Pitcher is a "DEAD BALL" and the umpire shall rule "NO PITCH". All runners will return to the base at the time of the pitch and batter will resume the at-bat.

General Rules

- **All games will be a maximum of 6 innings or 1 hour & 30 min in length and no new inning shall start after 1 hour and 20 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).**
- 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 either: three outs are recorded; or run limit is reached. **Maximum run limit of 5 runs can be scored per inning, maximum of 9 runs in 6th inning only.** (Exception- HR over Fence)
- Batting lineup will include entire roster (League minimum of 8 players to start a game with 9th player able to enter at any time, although if no 9th player is inserted, the at bat is ruled an out). **10 Position players are allowed with free substitution in the field (does not affect batting order). If 10 players are in the field, 4 players must be in the designated outfield area or grass. They should be equally spaced in the outfield with no player directly behind 2nd base.**
- 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. (At these young ages, player restroom breaks should be considered legitimate delays at the discretion of the umpire)
- Late players may be added to the end of the batting rotation before the lineup goes one time thru. Players arriving after this point may not be added. There will be a continuous batting order.
- No player can sit defensively for 2 consecutive innings. Any coach found in violation of this will be warned. If it happens more than once in a season, the coach will be suspended 1 game.

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- To encourage infielders to throw to first base we will abide by a one base overthrow rule when there are no other base runners on base. Ball will be considered an overthrow if ball that is overthrown travels further than the Coaches box (umpire discretion). The ball remains live, and the runner may only advance to 2B, no further. He may be tagged out at 2B. If a runner is on base and the throw is made to first it is a live ball without restrictions, regardless of overthrow.
- 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 Rookie or T-Ball 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 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

- All batters will receive a maximum of 5 pitches unless the 5th pitch is fouled off, or “DECLARED UN-HITTABLE” by the umpire (this ruling may only happen ONCE per batter (even if swung at) and is based solely on umpire judgement with no appealing). Then an additional pitch will be delivered until ball is: put in play; or fouled off; or missed swinging or not.
- All bats in Cal Ripken must bear the USABat Marking. Maximum diameter is 2-5/8" No BBCOR bats allowed. Wood 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.**
- No head first sliding into any advancing base. Any base runner that head first slides into a base will be called out. However, runners may go back head first to previous held base only.
- **NO Stealing allowed.** Runners may not leave base until batted ball is put in play. A runner that leaves early will be declared out and the pitch is called “NO PITCH” and ball is dead. No runners can advance or score.
- There are no halfway lines between bases. Trailing runners will be sent back to the last base touched when umpire calls time (UMPIRES are instructed to direct all runners to immediately return to their last base the moment the ball is in the control of the defensive team inside the pitcher’s circle; or the lead runner has stopped advancing to the next base; or a dead ball by rule). Runners either make the bag or they don’t. Runners “dancing around” the base to draw a throw are considered NOT trying to advance and should return to last base touched. *Umpires and teams are strongly encouraged to maintain the pace of the game.*
- **No Bunting / No Fake Bunting**
- **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”.

Catcher

- **CATCHER’S MUST BE PROPERLY EQUIPPED PER OFFICIAL BABE RUTH/CAL RIPKEN RULES.**

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- 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.

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.**

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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.*