

Montgomery County 16U Softball League

Playing Rules

Babe Ruth Softball: All rules will come from the official Babe Ruth Softball rulebook besides the provisions listed.

Age: Girls ages 13, 14, 15, and 16 as of January 1 of the current year are eligible to play. No girl may play for more than one team in Independence, Coffeyville, or any other league game that is not sanctioned by IRC. The Sports Directors must approve any variance.

Team: A regulation game requires 9 players. If a team is short of players, they may play with a minimum of 7 although they will be required to take an automatic out in their batting line-up. When playing with 7 or 8 players a full infield must still be used.

Pitching: The pitching distance is 43 feet. Each pitcher is allowed 5 warm-up pitches per inning. Each pitcher is allowed a maximum of 14 innings per calendar week, Sunday-Saturday. A delivery of a single pitch constitutes having pitched an inning. The Sports Director may alter pitching regulations for special circumstances. A pitcher may leave the pitching position and return as a pitcher one time per game. However, should a pitcher be removed from the lineup the league substitution rule must be followed.

Playing Equipment: Players are allowed to wear metal cleats. All catchers must wear mask with helmet and throat guard, shin guards, and chest protector. Batters, base runners, and the batter on deck are required to wear helmets. Any batter stepping into the box without a helmet will be out.

Game Length: Seven innings or 1 hour and 40 minute time limit. If after 5 innings or thereafter, a team has a 10-run lead the game will be called in favor of the leading team. After 1 hour and 40 minutes has elapsed from the initial starting time no new inning may begin. The scorekeeper is also the official timer. For the second game, the time limit will begin approximately 15 minutes after the conclusion of the first game. However, the timing of the second game will never begin before one hour and thirty minutes has been allowed for the first game.

Batting: Each team should bat 10 players, if the coach desires they may bat everyone present in the batting order, but this is at the coach's discretion. One team will bat until they have made three outs.

Run Rule: We will play 10 after 5 innings.

Stealing: All stealing of bases is allowed, and we will play the dropped third strike rule.

Slide Rule: We do not have a slide rule but there is a "collision rule." Runners must avoid contact with the fielders, or use a proper slide. If a runner runs over a defensive person attempting a tag they will be automatically out. Also excessive running out of the base line to avoid a tag will also be called out.

Playing Requirements: All girls will play a minimum of two full innings (6 outs at field) and take a complete turn at bat for each game of 5 innings or more or will forfeit. For any game ending in run rule, all players must take at least one turn at bat and play one inning at field. For each game a coach is to submit to the scorer the team's entire roster along with the starting lineup, which will contain at least 7 defenders. To aid coaches in complying with the participation rule all players may leave the lineup and re-enter the lineup one time in any position in the batting order after one full inning has passed. A pitcher may leave the pitching position and return as a pitcher one time per game. However, should a pitcher be removed from the lineup the league substitution rule must also be followed.

BAT REGULATIONS: MARKED AS "OFFICIAL SOFTBALL" OR "OFFICIAL FASTPITCH".