



1. Time Limit/Game Length:
 - 1.1. The umpire shall serve as time keeper during all games.
 - 1.2. No new inning shall begin after the time limit has passed.
 - 1.3. If an inning starts within the time limit, it must be finished to the extent the outcome of the game may be affected.
 - 1.4. Time Limit – 1 hour 45 minutes during the week
 - 1.5. If time permits, regulation games will be 6 innings per game
2. Cal Ripken / Babe Ruth Rules shall be used at all times, except in any circumstances when said rules are in direct conflict with posted Palm Beach Gardens Baseball Rules. In such case, Gardens Rules shall supersede Cal Ripken / Babe Ruth Rules.
 - 2.1. Any protest situation must be resolved before continuation of play.
 - 2.2. Umpire shall be informed of nature of protest and Board Member on Duty (BMOD) shall be sought to rule on protest.
 - 2.3. BMOD is permitted to seek advice of other board members or officials as he or she determines is necessary to resolve the protest, including by telephone conference.
 - 2.4. Only Rules in question may be protested. Judgment calls can never be protested. Game time will be suspended during protest.
3. All games will be played to time limit or maximum innings are reached.
4. Scorekeeper: **An I-Pad will be used to keep the score. Scorekeepers will sign them out from the concession stand and return them after the game.**
5. Weather Decisions:
 - 5.1. On field conditions while practice and/or games are being played. Halting a game or completion of a game shall be made by the following people in order of availability:
 - o City of Palm Beach Gardens
 - o Baseball President
 - o Board Member on Duty
 - o Head Umpire
 - o Manager – May pull players from field only if both managers agree; however, managers MAY NOT postpone, reschedule or cancel a game.NOTE: Manager may cancel their practice at any time.

6. Games halted by weather will be considered complete regulation games if at least:
 - 6.1. 3 1/2 innings complete if home team ahead (Visitors must bat 4 times)
 - 6.2. 4 innings complete if the home team is behind (Both teams have batted 4 times).
 - 6.3. All halted regular season games shall be considered suspended games unless they are considered completed games per above.
 - 6.4. All halted playoff games shall be considered suspended games and shall be played out until time limit or inning limit has been reached.
 - 6.5. Rules for Suspended Games shall apply
7. Batting Order
 - 7.1. The batting order shall be the entire roster in attendance at the game. (i.e. the entire team must be in order with no substitutions).
 - 7.2. Late arrivals shall be added to the end of the batting order.
 - 7.3. Players will be alternated in the field each inning so that no child is to be off the field for two consecutive innings unless injured.
8. A team's at bat will end when the 3rd out is made or when the Eighth (8th) run has crossed the plate, whichever occurs first.
9. Pitching will be according to P.B.G. Baseball Rules. Refer to Pitching Rules.
10. No fake attempt to bunt and swing (Butcher Boy). If, at the umpire's discretion the play occurred, the batter is out and the ball/play is dead.
11. No head first slides into any base. Head first slides into a base will result in runner being called out and ball/play is dead. Players may slide head first back to a base.
12. Players must slide into any base to avoid contact. (Avoiding contact is umpire discretion) No slide, as determined by the umpire, will result in the runner being called out, ball / play is dead. Attempting to hurdle a fielder making a tag is not a slide and the player will be called out.
13. Courtesy Runner Rule:
 - 13.1. Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken rules do not permit courtesy runners for pitcher and catcher.
 - 13.2. However, if a player is injured during the game and cannot run, and the player reaches base safely, the batter last out shall take his/her place on base as a runner.
 - 13.3. In such case, the rule below shall apply. If a player has an injury which occurred prior to the start of the game such that he/she is too injured to be able to run the bases, said player should not be permitted to participate in the game.

14. Injured Player:
 - 14.1. If a player is forced to leave the game as a result of injury or illness which occurs during the game, the player may be removed from the game and his/her position in the batting order shall be skipped without penalty or an out being declared.
 - 14.2. If the player subsequently recovers from his/her injury during the game he/she shall be permitted to resume play assuming the same spot in the batting order.
 - 14.3. The judgment as to whether or not an injury occurred during the game shall be left to the umpire.
 - 14.4. If a player is leaving the game for any reason other than injury or illness, an out shall be declared each time that player's turn in the batting order arrives.
 - 14.5. Regardless of anything to the contrary in this rule, a team's batting order must consist of at least 9 players.
 - 14.6. If after injury a team has only 8 batters, the team shall be required to take an out in the spot of the 9th player who left the order.
 - 14.7. In the event a team has less than 8 fielders, the team shall be required to forfeit the game.
 - 14.8. If a player leaves for any other reason, the BMOD will determine what the outcome on the player will be.

15. Catchers must have proper catcher's equipment (including protective cup), and must use a catcher's mitt.

16. If a game is tied at the end of the time limit or innings, the regular season game will end in a tie but a playoff game will use the Kansas City Tie Breaker.

Procedure: The game and batting order continues in regular fashion with 1 (one) exception:

The last offensive player who completed his or her at bat shall begin the team's half inning at second base. The inning is started with 0 (none) out. Should the score remain tied after the initial tiebreaker inning, a regular season game will be considered a tie and a complete game. A playoff game will repeat this procedure until a winner is declared.

17. If umpires are not available, contact the board member on duty.
18. Players shall not wear jewelry of any kind, except permitted sports break-a-way jewelry. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces should be taped to the body.
19. In the event of injury, immediate medical attention shall be given and the player if necessary, be taken to the emergency room. The manager on duty in the concession stand should be contacted as soon as possible.
20. Infield fly rule SHALL NOT apply.

21. Any player bleeding during a game shall be removed until the bleeding has stopped and a bandage applied. This player is considered injured until the bleeding has stopped.
22. Players must remain in the dugout during games. Exception: Trips to bathroom or water fountain. No player should be sitting in the stands.
23. All players on a team shall wear uniforms identical in color, time and style according to the Babe Ruth Rulebook. Players not in uniform WILL NOT be allowed to participate in the game. Players must have shirts tucked in at all times during games.
24. No metal cleats.
25. Behavior of players, managers, coaches and spectators will be according to the PBGYAA Code of Conduct.
26. Players or coaches ejected from a game will automatically sit the next game. Players or coaches must attend the next game, dressed in uniform and remain in the stands. They will not participate in any game until this requirement is met.
27. All pitching signs must be delivered to the pitcher through the catcher. First offense will result in a warning to the managers. Every offense after the first will result in a ball being called.
28. Only 4 Babe Ruth certified coaches are allowed on the field at one time. All coaches must be Babe Ruth certified, complete background checks with the city of PBG and complete coaching applications with the baseball league. All coaches must be in uniform, shirt & hat. Managers and coaches are permitted to coach 1st and 3rd base.
29. Each team will play 10 defensive players in the field.
30. All BATTERS must wear a helmet with a face mask at all times when batting, on base or on deck.
31. On deck batters are permitted in the on deck circle and must be in the circle to the back of the batter.
32. Dropped third strike rule is not in effect. Batter is out; runners may advance at their own risk.
33. Coaches may warm up pitchers. Players warming up pitchers must wear a catcher's mask. Pitchers warming up in the bullpen must be protected by a coach or by a player wearing a helmet.
34. Balks will not be called.

35. Ball Buckets – Each team is permitted 1 (one) ball bucket on the field while on defense. The bucket is for the defensive team only. It must be placed within 2 feet of the dugout fence in such a way to minimize any interference with the game. A defensive coach should be sitting on the ball bucket while it is on the field and the coach shall attempt to move the bucket if possible to minimize any interference with a live play. If no coach is sitting on the bucket it should be returned to the dugout. The ball bucket shall be considered part of the field of play and if hit by the ball, the ball shall remain live. The offensive team shall remove their bucket from the field when it is their turn at bat. The umpire shall remind the offensive team to remove the bucket if seen. There shall be no penalty for any ball hitting any bucket regardless of how it occurs.
36. No Lead-offs are permitted. Base runners are not permitted to leave their base until the ball crosses home plate. Base runners leaving early shall be subject to the Cal Ripken Delayed Dead Ball Rule.
37. Cages need to be shared. Teams on field 7 will use cage 7. Teams on field 8 will use cage 8. Home team will use the cages 45 minutes before their game for 15 minutes and the visitors will use the cages 30 minutes before their game for 15 minutes.
38. Rules for suspended games:

All weather delayed or otherwise suspended games which have not reached required regulation length will be continued from the point the game was suspended.

 - 38.1. Time limitations imposed on the original game will be continued from the point the game was suspended. [No Time limit for Championship Games]
 - 38.2. All players in attendance at the time the game resumes will be allowed to play. If a rostered player was not in the lineup at the time the game was suspended, but is in attendance at the time the game is resumed, he/she shall be added to the bottom of the lineup.
 - 38.3. If a player in the lineup at the time the game was suspended is not available at the time the game is resumed, he/she shall be removed from the lineup without penalty. That player's spot in the batting order shall be skipped with no out declared.
 - 38.4. If the missing player was on base at the time the game was suspended he/she shall be replaced by the player(s) present who made the last batted out(s) in batting order.
 - 38.5. Pitching limitations for the game shall be enforced from the beginning of the game as originally played. However, weekly pitching limitations shall be reset to the current week. Both game and weekly pitching limitations, including required rest times, shall apply. Rules governing 8/9 minimum player requirements shall still apply.
39. Approved Bats - Cal Ripken Division - All non-wood bats must have the USA Bat Marking. The Barrel Maximum is 2 5/8". No BBCOR Bats are permitted in the Cal Ripken Division. For the T-Ball Division, bats must be marked with the USA Bat T-Ball Stamp.

40. Rules are subject to modification at any time by order of the PBG Baseball board of directors.

Pitching Rules - Minor League

Spring Guidelines:

1. Pitching Limitations:

Max Pitches per Game/Day	Rest Period		
75 Pitches MAX	0 Days	1 Day	2 Days
	1-40	41-65	66+

2. If the pitcher reaches the maximum pitch count limit while facing a batter, he may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely or is put out.
3. Upon 2 (two) trips to the mound by a coach in the same inning with the same pitcher - manager must remove the pitcher from the mound and the pitcher is ineligible to return as pitcher for that game.
4. Any and all pitchers that have thrown a pitch in a game are ineligible to re-enter the game as a pitcher once a subsequent pitcher on the same team has thrown a pitch in the game.
5. Pitching rules broken will result in the pitcher not being able to pitch in their next eligible game. Managers will be suspended for 1 (one) game or more based on the decision by the Baseball Board of Directors.
6. Regardless if a game was forfeited before it became a regulation game or after it became a regulation game, all pitches will count towards the pitch count.

Travel Pitching Guidelines:

PBG Travel Baseball participants are children from our league and are subject to these rules in addition to published Travel Policy Guidelines. It is recognized that we are primarily a recreational league. However, it is also acknowledged that travel play improves the level of play within our league and the skill level of our players. Here are the parameters which involve pitching:

1. Pitches per game – We will not deviate from our Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth innings per week guideline.
2. As travel games mostly occur on Sunday, in order to meet the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth requirement for proper rest whenever a recreation team and travel team play in the same week (Monday – Sunday) the recreation program managers will be asked to pitch a child for no more than 40 pitches.

3. So that each recreation manager will know what to expect each week the travel managers will be asked to announce by Monday of each week if they have games that Sunday. They will also declare from their travel roster the pitchers for the Sunday games. Recreation managers are then encouraged to impose the 40 pitch count maximum. Any pitcher not declared by the travel manager is available to pitch his full complement of pitches for the recreation team that day.
4. Pitch counts per league guidelines are in force in both recreation and travel play.
5. In the event a recreational manager uses a travel requested pitcher more than allotted pitches per game on Saturday, the rec manager is requested to send an email to the requesting travel manager or travel director.
6. During recreational playoffs, no travel requests are allowed for any pitcher with a scheduled playoff game during the requested week.

Updated 8/17/22

New Rules and Clarifications to Existing Rules

Coach Pitch - OPTIONAL

In an effort to provide a better baseball experience, teams will have the option to go to coach pitch should there not be enough pitchers of adequate skill available. Rules of Play will be similar to that of the Rookie Division that most all players and coaches are familiar with.

1. All pitching rules as outlined are relevant, EXCEPT beginning at the top of the 4th inning, the game will move to COACH PITCH. The batting team will provide an adult pitcher, comprised of a coach who is approved to be on the field. If the batting team cannot provide an adult pitcher, the defensive team can provide an adult pitcher. No kids will be permitted to pitch during this time.
2. Hitters will get 5 pitches or three swings. A foul tip or ball on the sixth pitch or 3rd swing will result in additional pitches until a ball is put in play or the hitter strikes out. There are no walks or free bases awarded to a batter hit by a pitch and there will be no called third strikes. The umpire will solely rule if the pitch "counts"
3. The adult pitcher must pitch from a position 40' from home plate. The adult pitcher may not issue instructions to baserunners. The adult pitcher may issue instructions to the then current hitter between pitches.

4. The defense will position someone playing "pitcher." The adult pitcher must make a diligent effort to avoid balls in play, get out of the way and not obstruct defensive players.
5. If a batter hits the pitch and the ball hits the COACH PITCHER, the play will be called dead and the pitch will not count. The batter will resume his/her position at the plate and will continue his/her at bat with the count as it was before the play. Base runners may not advance on the play and must return to the base they occupied prior to the coach/pitcher being hit. If it is deemed a coach pitcher intentionally interferes with the batted ball, the batter will be ruled out and all runners return to the base occupied at the time of pitch.

Baserunners

1. No lead offs. Runners may leave their base once the ball has crossed the plate but until then a base runner must remain in physical contact with the base until the ball crosses the plate.
2. Stealing- Runners may steal only after the ball has crossed the plate.
3. Defensive players shall not block an offensive player's running lane, base, or home plate.
4. Defensive players shall not obstruct a base runner from touching/sliding safely into home plate (e.g., catchers shall not block home plate with their shin guards). The umpires will interpret, and reward home plate as deemed appropriate. Baserunners attempting to reach home plate who intentionally and maliciously run into a defensive player will be ejected.
5. **There will be no stealing beginning top of the 4th Inning / during COACH PITCH.**

Other:

1. No infield fly rule - with lots of pop-ups at this level to the IF, let's have the kids gain this experience + it's no longer the rule in the officially updated Cal Ripken rules
2. Umpires will call time, not players, when they feel the base runners are not trying to advance.
3. Games using an ineligible pitcher shall result in forfeit
4. At any time, the umpire has the right to remove a pitcher he deems unsafe.
5. There are no balks in Minors
6. If there are two outs, a manager has the option to pinch run for any player scheduled to play the position of catcher or pitcher the following inning, in an effort to speed up the pace of play. In such case, the most recent batter to have made an out must be the substitute runner.

7. Bunting: a) While using a kid pitcher, batters are permitted to bunt. A batter may NOT show a bunt and pull back and swing away. Doing so will result in a dead ball and the batter being called out and all runners return to the base occupied at the time of pitch. b) While using a coach pitcher, batters are NOT permitted to bunt. PENALTY: Batter shall be called back to the plate, the swing shall count as a foul-strike, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

Mercy Rule Addendum

1. Mercy Rule – no change to what constitutes mercy rule as outlined above, however once the mercy rule has been invoked and the game has officially concluded within the time limitation, the managers, unless mutually agree otherwise, are encouraged to continue game play as an exhibition to provide valuable experience. The game final is official and the scoreboards are to be turned off and play will continue as an exhibition up until the regular time limit.