



PBGYAA Baseball – Major Division

The Major Division will play by Cal Ripken Tournament Rules, except for any circumstances where said rules are in direct conflict with posted Palm Beach Gardens Baseball Rules. In such cases, Palm Beach Gardens Rules shall supersede Cal Ripken / Babe Ruth Rules.

Complete Cal Ripken Baseball Rules can be viewed here: [Babe Ruth League Rules](#). Hard copies of the most current year's rulebook may be obtained from the PBG Baseball League Office.

Each year there are additional rules clarifications published by Babe Ruth League. The 2024 updates can be viewed here: [BRL 2024 Rules Update](#)

Palm Beach Gardens Supplemental Rules

General Rules

1. Time Limit/Game Length:
 - 1.1. Time Limit: Subject to the below and to the Mercy Rule, the time limit is 1 hour 45 minutes
 - 1.2. **On weekdays:** - No new inning shall begin after the 1 hour, 35-minute mark has passed. If an inning starts within the 1 hour, 35-minute time limit, it must be finished to the extent the outcome of the game may be affected.
 - 1.3. **On weekends** - No new inning shall begin after the 1 hour, 45-minute time limit has passed. 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. If time permits, regulation games will consist of 6 innings
2. Protesting / Rules Clarification and Interpretation-
 - 2.1. Any protest situation must be resolved before continuation of play.

- 2.2. Umpire shall be informed of the 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. Mercy Rule:

- 3.1. The game will end via 10 run mercy rule when one team leads by 10 or more runs at the end of 4 innings or later, or 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead.
- 3.2. The team that is behind must complete at least 4 full innings at bat.
- 3.3. If the visiting team takes a 10+ run lead in the top of the 4th, 5th, or 6th inning the home team shall have the opportunity to finish the inning in an attempt to catch up.
- 3.4. The game will end immediately if the home team takes a 10 run lead in the 4th.
- 3.5. There is a 9 run mercy rule after 5 innings (can't score more than 8 runs per inning).
- 3.6. In the event of the mercy rule being declared by the umpire, the game will be officially completed and the final score should be recorded in GameChanger.
- 3.7. Play can continue as a scrimmage if: 1) there is still time available until the designated time limit is reached, and 2) both managers agree.
- 3.8. 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.
- 3.9. The umpire will leave the field once the game is declared complete.

4. Weather Decisions: On field conditions, practice / games being played, halting a game or completion of a game shall be made by the following people in order of availability:

- 4.1. City of Palm Beach Gardens -> Baseball President -> Board Member on Duty -> Head Umpire/UIC -> 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)
- 4.2. Games halted by weather will be considered complete regulation games if at least:
 - 4.2.1. 3 ½ innings complete if home team ahead (Visitors must bat 4 times)
 - 4.2.2. 4 innings complete if home team behind (Both teams have batted 4 times)
 - 4.2.3. All halted regular season games shall be considered suspended games unless they are considered completed games per above.
 - 4.2.4. All halted playoff games shall be considered suspended games and shall be played out until time limit or inning limit has been reached.
 - 4.2.5. Rules for Suspended Games shall apply

5. Scorekeeper: The home team is responsible for recording the official book. The "official book" of record must be entered by team staff in GameChanger in the "PBGYAA Majors XXYY" League tile. Should the home team fail to properly score a game, the league administrator may manually enter the final score as a forfeit in the visitors favor.

Playing Rules

Coaches

6. Only 4 certified coaches are allowed on the field at one time. All coaches must be Babe Ruth certified, complete background checks with the city of Palm Beach Gardens and complete coaching applications on file with the baseball league. All coaches must wear matching shirts issued by the league for the current season. Coaches must also have ID badges that are required to be visibly worn on their person to be on the field.

Defense

7. The defense shall field 9 players on the field at one time. A maximum of six (6) players including the catcher are allowed to play in the infield as follows: 1B, 2B, SS, 3B, P and C. Three (3) players are to be positioned in the outfield: LF, CF, RF. Players will be alternated in the field each inning so that no player is off the field for two (2) consecutive innings unless injured.
8. Catchers must have proper catchers' equipment (including protective cup). NOCSAE approved catcher equipment is provided by the league. Catchers must use a catcher's mitt.
9. All pitching signs must be delivered to the pitcher through the catcher (but the coach is allowed to deliver signs to the catcher in between pitches). First offense will result in a warning to the managers. Every offense after the first will result in a ball being called.
10. Balks will be called in every game. First balk to a pitcher will be a warning. Next balk and all others will be called and enforced per Babe Ruth Rulebook. One warning per team per game.
11. 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.
12. No coaches will be allowed in the outfield during defensive play. All coaches must remain between the two (2) dugout gates and no more than arms-length away from the dugout.
13. Managers are highly encouraged to rotate players to different positions during the game. The defensive team is allowed one (1) timeout per inning.
14. While cheering is encouraged, heckling, taunting or harassing the opposing team's pitcher during play will not be tolerated. Any intentional attempt to distract the pitcher by any member of the opposing team will result in a warning for the first violation and every offense thereafter will result in a strike being called.

Offense

15. Offensive coaches may coach 1st and 3rd base. The offensive team is allowed one (1) timeout per inning (not including trips to the mound which are discussed below). The umpire will provide the game balls.
16. The batting order shall be the entire roster in attendance at the game. (i.e. the entire team must be in the order with no substitutions). Late arrivals shall be added to the end of the batting order.
17. All batters must wear a helmet at all times when batting, on base or on deck. On deck batters are permitted in the on deck circle and must be in the circle to the back of the batter.
18. The offensive 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.
19. 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.
20. If a batter throws the bat during his swing, the umpire must immediately give the player a warning. If the bat is thrown with malicious intent, the batter will be called out. In the event of a second offense (warning has been issued to said player), the player will be ejected from the game.
21. Head first slides are permitted into any base EXCEPT home. Head first slides into home will result in the runner being called out and ball/play is dead.
22. 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 player will be called out.
23. It is interference by a batter or a runner who has just been put out, or by any runner who has just scored, when they hinder or impede any following play being made on a runner. Such runner shall be declared out for the interference of his teammate. The baseline belongs to the runner, and a defensive player (fielder/catcher) must not block home plate without possession of the ball. Obstruction is called in the umpire's discretion if a fielder impedes the runner.
24. Dropped third strike by the catcher is a live ball according to Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Rule 6.09(b).
25. Approved Bats – bats must be marked with the USA Baseball Stamp
 - a. If an illegal bat is discovered prior to a batter completing his "at bat", the bat is simply removed from play and the "at bat" continues.
 - b. A player who uses an illegal bat and hits a fair or foul ball will be ruled out and the play will be called dead. No advancement on the bases will be allowed.

- c. No BBCOR Bats are permitted in the Cal Ripken Division.

General Playing Rules

- 22. Infield Fly rule shall apply.
- 23. Courtesy Runner/Speed Up Rule: A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher of record (the player who occupied the position last) when there are two (2) outs recorded. The last batted out is the only player that may run for the catcher.
- 24. 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.
- 25. All players on a team shall wear league issued jerseys and hats. Jerseys must be tucked in at all times.
- 26. Players must remain in the dugout during games. Exception: Trips to bathroom or water fountain. No player should be sitting in the stands.
- 27. No metal cleats are allowed.
- 28. 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.
- 29. Teams must be able to field a minimum of 8 players for a game to be played; provided, however, if a team's batting order only consists of 8 players, the team shall be required to take an out in the spot of the 9th batter. Should a team only have 7 or fewer players, the game will be forfeited.
- 30. Injured Player:
 - 30.1 In the event of injury, immediate medical attention shall be given and the player, if necessary, be taken to the emergency room. The board member on duty should be contacted as soon as possible. Game time shall be suspended while treating an injured player.
 - 30.2 Any player bleeding during a game shall be removed until the bleeding has stopped and a bandage applied. The player is considered injured until the bleeding has stopped.

30.3 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. 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.

30.4 The judgment as to whether or not an injury occurred during the game shall be left to the umpire.

30.5 Regardless of anything to the contrary in this rule, a team's batting order must consist of at least 9 players. If, after injury or otherwise, a team only has 8 batters, the team shall be required to take an out in the spot of the 9th batter who left the order. In the event a team has less than 8 fielders, the team shall be required to forfeit the game.

30.6 If a player leaves for any other reason, the BMOD will determine what the outcome on the player will be.

31. Behavior of players, managers, coaches and spectators will be according to the PBGYAA Code of Conduct.

32. Players or coaches ejected from a game will automatically sit out the next game. Players or coaches must attend the next game dressed in uniform and sit in the stands. They will not participate in any game until this requirement is met.

33. If a game is tied at the end of the time limit or innings, the regular season game will end in a tie. Should the game be a playoff game, the Kansas City Tie Breaker will be used.

33.1 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) outs. A playoff game will repeat this procedure until a winner is declared.

34. Rules for suspended games:

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

34.2. Time limitations imposed on the original game will continue from the point the game was suspended. [No Time limit for Championship Games]

34.3. 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. 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. 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.

35. Rules are subject to modification at any time by order of the Palm Beach Gardens Baseball Board of Directors. Violations of any rules shall be subject to warning for the first offense per game, an out for the second offense per game, and a forfeit and/or ejection for all other offenses, as applicable, and all as subject to the umpire’s discretion.

Pitching Rules - Major League

Spring Guidelines:

1. Pitching Limitations:

Max Pitches per Game/Day	Rest Period		
	0 Days	1 Day	2 Days
75 Pitches MAX	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 two (2) trips to the mound by a coach in the same inning with the same pitcher, the 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.

Select Pitching Guidelines:

PBG Select Baseball participants are children from our league and are subject to these rules in addition to published Select 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. In order to meet the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth requirement for proper rest whenever a recreation team and Select team play in the same week (Monday – Sunday), the recreation program managers cannot pitch a child more than 40 pitches per game if that child will be pitching in a Select game that same week.
3. So that each recreation manager will know what to expect each week, the Select managers will be asked to announce by Monday of each week if they have games that week. They will also declare from their Select roster the pitchers for the upcoming games that week. Recreation managers shall abide by the 40-pitch count maximum. Any pitcher not declared by the Select 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 Select pitcher for a Saturday game, the rec manager is requested to send an email to the player's Select manager or travel director advising of the player's pitch count for that game.
6. During recreational playoffs, no Select requests are allowed for any pitcher with a scheduled playoff game during the requested week. The recreational playoff games will take priority.