

NORTH BRUNSWICK BASEBALL & SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

Local Rules & Regulations

Coaches Manual

Amended April 1, 2013

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SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

This document contains the general rules and policies that govern how North Brunswick Baseball and Softball Association [hereinafter named as “NBBSA”] manage its baseball and softball programs. It will assist Managers, Coaches and Parents/Guardians and will cover various topics that should be of interest to all adults who volunteer their time and efforts to the youth of our league. Included are rules of conduct that must be adhered to at all times. These rules are being documented in this fashion to avoid conflict should problems arise.

This document is one of several documents are available to all Managers and Coaches and also include: The Official Babe Ruth Rules and Regulations for the appropriate Division, the NBBSA By-Laws, and Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. Clinic Materials.

We as Managers, Coaches, Parents/Guardians and Spectators must always remember that children and young adults are extremely impressionable. They will learn from the examples that adults set for them through actions and words. If we can provide a quality experience for all involved, our goals would be achieved.

We welcome any suggestions you may have regarding this publication.

The rules and procedures contained herein, collectively known as “local rules,” take precedence over the Rules and Regulations published by Babe Ruth Baseball, Inc. This document may be amended by a majority vote of a quorum of the NBBSA Board of Directors in accordance with the League By-Laws.

This document will be reviewed annually, prior to the start of the regular baseball and softball season. It will be distributed to all Board Members, Managers, Coaches and Umpires.

In the event that a situation arises that is not covered or stipulated herein, and which requires action prior to a regular meeting of the Board of Directors, an interim rule may be adopted and implemented by the majority vote of the Executive Board. The Rules Committee must evaluate the interim rule and present it to the Board of Directors at the next scheduled Board Meeting with recommendations for adoption and/or change.

SECTION 2 - NBBSA OVERVIEW

➤..... Objective

The objective of the NBBSA shall be to implant firmly in the boys and girls of our program, the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and a respect for authority. In this way, they may be well-adjusted, stronger and happier boys and girls, to grow to be decent, healthy, trustworthy adults.

To achieve this objective, the NBBSA will provide a supervised program of competitive baseball and softball. Playing rules will be based upon the organization under with NBBSA Board of Director's chooses to be charged with, plus local rules stipulated in later in this document. Directors, Officers, and all NBBSA Members shall bear in mind the *type of leadership* extended to boys and girls is of *prime importance* and that stressing of exceptional athletic skills or winning games is secondary to the prime objective.

SECTION 3 – CODE OF CONDUCT, PARK & BATTING CAGE RULES

Managers, Coaches, Players, Parents or Spectators should set an example of sportsmanship for children to follow. Team play should be emphasized. Parents will make sure their children show respect for all players, coaches, officials and spectators. Parents and spectators will comply with the decisions of league officials and observe all league rules, policy and procedures.

Abusive Language, Profanity, Discourtesy or rudeness, Verbal, physical or visual harassment, Bullying or taking unfair advantage of anyone at any league function is strictly prohibited and will result immediate ejection from the game area by the Umpire or League Official. Violators are subject to review by the Disciplinary Committee.

The possession/use of alcohol or illegal drugs at any practice, game, league function or on any North Brunswick Township property is strictly prohibited. Managers and Coaches should avoid drinking prior to practices or games. The use of any alcohol or other illicit substance at a practice or game will result in immediate ejection from the practice or game area and are grounds for suspension or ejection from the league. In addition, violations will be reported to the appropriate Civil Authorities.

Tobacco of any type will not be permitted on the playing field or in the dugouts.

Bringing dangerous or unauthorized materials such as firearms, weapons or similar items to any practice, game, and league function or on any North Brunswick Township property is strictly prohibited. Violations are grounds for suspension or ejection from the league. In addition, violations will be reported to the appropriate Civil Authorities.

Managers, Coaches, Players, Parents or Spectators *WILL NOT* criticize the umpire and *WILL NOT* call plays before the umpire makes their call. Parents and Spectators will not question an umpire's call. Umpires are instructed to give one warning. Subsequent violations will result in immediate ejection from the game area (i.e., at a minimum, the ejected individual must sit in their car).

Players shall display good sportsmanship and team play at all times. Players will be respectful and courteous to coaches, umpires, players, parents and spectators. The throwing of a bat, helmet, or any other piece of equipment is strictly prohibited.

During practice or games, players may not wear jewelry or other items judged dangerous by the Umpire, Manager or Coach. Refusal to remove such items will result in the player being removed from the field and subject to review by the Disciplinary Committee.

Every spectator at a game or practice must take personal responsibility for their own safety and the safety of their children. Foul balls or errant balls thrown may go into the spectator area, the midway or by the snack shack area. Fencing prevents some balls from leaving the playing area but not all. Pay close attention for foul balls and keep children away from the dugouts and from behind home plate. No climbing on fences are allowed. NBBSA is not responsible for parked vehicles being hit by foul or home run balls.

Park Rules

- No Alcoholic Beverages
- No Smoking
- No Pets
- No unattended children
- No profanity
- No scooters, skate boards, or bikes around Baseball and Softball Complex & the Snack Shacks
- Place all litter in appropriate trash cans
- No outside food may be brought in to the Baseball and Softball Complex
- Please obey all snack shack rules
- For your safety and the safety of others, we are asking you not to enter that snack shack unless you are working a shift. If you need assistance with something, please ask someone working the window.

Batting Cage Rules

- Youth ages 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult
- Adults are responsible for the actions of the youths in the batting cage
- All hitters must wear a helmet in the cages. This includes batting practice and soft toss.
- Appropriate foot wear must be worn. (no open toe shoes)
- There is to be only one hitter in the cage at a time
- Coaches pitching batting practice must stand behind the L-screens. This is for their protection.
- No player is to be swinging a bat outside the cages unless they are being supervised by a coach
- No soft-toss on the side of the cages or against the cage nets
- Hitting drills conducted outside the cages must be supervised by a coach
- No food or drinks are allowed in the cages

Batting Cage Rules (continued)

- Teams with scheduled games have priority use of the cages. Use otherwise is on a first-come, first serve basis. If people are waiting to use the batting cages, use is limited to 30 minutes.
- All users are expected to keep the batting cages clean and free of litter at all times
- No hanging, climbing or pulling on the nets
- All users of the batting cages understand they use the facility at their own risk. The North Brunswick Baseball & Softball Association and the Township of North Brunswick are not liable for any personal injury or equipment damage sustained in or around the batting cages.

SECTION 4 – LEAGUE STRUCTURE

➤…… Charting Organization

The NBBSA Board of Directors may be chartered by a national or local organization, at its discretion.

The Official Playing Rules and Regulation of the Charting Organization shall be binding on NBBSA. Local Rules of NBBSA may be adopted, providing that such Local Rules do not conflict with the Official Playing Rules and Regulations of the Charting Organization.

- o NBBSA has chosen Babe Ruth as our Charting Organization.

➤…… Board of Directors Meetings

Regular meetings of the membership shall be held one evening per month in at least eleven of the twelve months of a year [presently, the second Wednesday of each month]. These meetings shall conduct the on-going business of NBBSA. Meetings are open to all NBBSA Members and guests; however, voting shall be limited to Board Members with voting privileges, as provided by the By-Laws. On occasion, a meeting

may carry over to a second evening during the month or scheduled for another given day.

An Annual Meeting will be held during September in each year for the purpose of electing Officers, Board of Directors and for receiving the Treasurer's Report for the year-to-date and any other business that may come before The Board at this meeting.

This meeting will be held the same evening as and will precede September's regularly scheduled meeting.

➤..... **Players**

Any boy or girl, meeting the requirements as set forth in *The Official Regulations and Rules of the Charting Organization*, and who resides within the geographical boundaries of the NBBSA, as recognized by The Charting Organization, shall be eligible for participation.

➤..... **Baseball Division Structure**

The suggested League structures are as follows. Based on the actual number of players registered, The Executive Board may approve changes:

- o T-Ball League – Ages 4, first year 5's & some first year 6's
- o Double A League – Ages second year 5's, 6 and 7
- o Triple A League – Ages 8, 9 and 10
- o Major League – Ages 10, 11 and 12
- o Senior League – Ages 13, 14 and 15

A player's age is determined by how old he/she is on April 30 of that year.

T-Ball League Objective – The T-Ball League is designed to provide the basics of baseball. The fundamentals of the game (hitting, rules, fielding, etc.) are taught. Games are instructional in nature. No score will be kept and no league standings maintained. By the end of the season, a player will be familiar with hitting, play rules and all defensive positions, except pitcher and catcher. *The main objective of this league is to show our youth how to have fun playing baseball.*

Double A League Objective – The Double A League is an instruction league. The Manager/Coach will pitch at the beginning of the season and then player's ages 7 will be introduced as pitchers. Pitchers will then pitch as well as Managers and Coaches. Teams are assigned by school street address. Competition is kept to a minimum. Players are rotated throughout the various positions during the game. No league standings are kept. *The main objective of this league is to show our youth how to have fun playing baseball.*

Triple A League Objective – The Triple A League is a competitive league. Players will be drafted to teams under a blind draft format. The Triple A League should also be instructional as this is the player's first experience in a competitive league. Players should be rotated in defensive positions as much as possible. Records are maintained and playoffs are scheduled. *The main objective of this league is to show our youth how to have fun playing baseball.*

Major League Objective – The Major League is the highest division on the youth field and is a competitive league. Players will be drafted to teams under a guided draft format. Players should be developing skills in a few selected positions. Records are

maintained and playoffs are scheduled at the end of the regular season. *The main objective of this league is to show our youth how to have fun playing baseball.*

Senior League Objective – The Senior League is played on a regulation size field. Official Baseball Rules are observed. Players broaden their skills and prepare to play at a scholastic team level. This league does not conflict with school teams, allowing players to participate on both teams. Players will try out and be drafted to teams. Players should be developing skills in a few selected positions. Records are maintained and playoffs are scheduled at the end of the regular season. *The main objective of this league is to show our youth how to have fun playing baseball.*

➤…… **Softball Division Structure**

The suggested League structures are as follows. Based on the actual number of players registered, The Executive Board may approve changes:

- o Rookie League – Ages 5 and 6
- o Triple A League – Ages 7, 8 and 9
- o Major League – Ages 10, 11 and 12
- o Senior League – Ages 13, 14 and 15

A player's age is determined by how old she/he is on January 1st of that season's year.

Rookie League Division – The Rookie League Division is designed to provide the basis of softball. Teams are assigned by neighborhood. The league will begin in clinic fashion and transgress into game format. The Manager/Coach will pitch the entire game. The fundamentals of the game (hitting, rules, fielding, etc.) are taught. Players are rotated

throughout the various positions during the season. The games are instructional and are not scored. No league standings are kept.

Minor League Division – The Minor League Division is an instruction league. Teams are assigned by neighborhood. The Manager/Coach may pitch at the beginning of the season and then players will be introduced as pitchers. Pitchers will then pitch as well as Managers and Coaches. Players should be rotated in defensive positions as much as possible. Records are maintained, but no playoffs are scheduled.

Major League Division – The Major League Division is a competitive league. Players will be drafted to teams under a blind draft format. It is suggested that some rotation of positions occur. Records are maintained and playoffs are scheduled at the end of the regular season.

Senior League Division – The Senior League Division is a highly competitive league. Players will be drafted to teams under a guided draft format. Players should be developing skills in a few selected positions. Records are maintained and playoffs are scheduled at the end of the regular season.

SECTION 5 – LEAGUE DIRECTOR

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Attend Monthly Board of Directors Meetings

- Communicate regularly with Managers

- Re-schedule rain make-ups

- Collect injury reports from Manager and forward to the VP of Baseball or Softball and Player Agent.
- Keep record of Umpire ejections and automatic suspensions and ensure suspensions are served; Report all ejections and suspensions to VP of Baseball or Softball
- Keep League Standings for Competitive Leagues
- Collect Player Evaluations Forms before end of season (except T-Ball, Rookie, and Double A players ages 5-6)
- Coordinate All Star Day Event for Baseball (like events for Softball)

SECTION 6 – EQUIPMENT MANAGER

ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES

- Maintain accurate and up to date equipment inventories and records
- Ensure effective control, security and maintenance of all equipment
- Inspect all equipment at the start and completion of each season and remove equipment from inventory that is damaged
- Provide Vice President with recommendations for purchase of new and replacement equipment
- Ensure equipment is issued only to authorized users and is returned to stock at end of season

- Coordinate repairs to damaged equipment in an effective and timely fashion

SECTION 7 – MANAGERS and COACHES

ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES

➤..... External Perspective

The youth baseball/softball manager must be a leader. All managers must recognize that they hold a position of trust and responsibility in a program that deals with a sensitive and formative period of a youngster's development. It is required that the manager has understanding, patience and capacity to work with youngsters. The manager should be able to inspire respect. Above all else, *managers must realize that they are helping to shape the physical, mental and emotional development of young people.*

The youth baseball/softball manager must be something more than a coach. Knowledge of the game is essential, but is not the only badge of a youth baseball/softball manager or coach.

While an adult with training and background in the game is a desirable candidate for manager or coach, League screening committees should look for other important qualities in an individual.

The late Dr. Arthur A. Esslinger, who was Dean of the School of Health and Physical Education, University of Oregon and a member of The Board of Directors of Little League Baseball, is the author of an outstanding article, "*Little League's Greatest Challenge.*"

According to Dr. Esslinger, the heart of Little League is what happens between the manager and the player. It is the manager, more than any other individual, who controls the situation in which the players may be benefited. Improving the level of leadership in this vital area must be a continuing effort.

Youngsters of youth baseball and softball age are strongly influenced by adults whose ideals and aspirations are similar to their own. The Manager and player share a common interest in the game, a desire to excel and determination to win. *Youngsters often idolize their managers, not because the adult is the most successful coach or mentor, but because the manager is a source of inspiration.*

Managers must be adults who are sensitive to the mental and physical limitations of children of youth baseball and softball age and who recognize that the game is a vehicle of training and enjoyment, not an end in itself. It has been stated many times that the program of youth baseball can only be as good as the quality of leadership in the managing personnel.

➤..... **General Responsibilities**

- o Reflect an understanding of the age group they supervise.
- o Are aware that they are an example to those with whom they work.
- o Demonstrate that they have an appreciation of the philosophy of Youth Baseball and Softball and cooperate with others in making the program of mutual benefit to all youngsters.

- o Show, by way of example, that they respect the judgment and the position of authority of the Umpire and to instill in their players a respect for the authority of adult leaders in The League.
- o Exercise their leadership role adequately, but leave the ball game in the hands of the players.
- o Within the regulations of their own league, provide an opportunity for each youngster to participate.
- o Encourage their players at every opportunity. Familiarize themselves with the home background of the youngsters and their families.
- o Instill a desire to win and improve, striving to impart as much baseball and softball knowledge as possible to each player.
- o Encourage good health habits, good grooming and care of their uniform.
- o Are instrumental in shaping acceptable behavior patterns whether the team wins or loses.
- o Know the playing Rules and Regulations of your Division and be able to interpret them correctly. Play by the rules of the game.
- o Are cautious and use sound, reasonable judgment in protest situations.
- o Have had an opportunity to participate in a preparatory training program concerning their responsibilities before being assigned to their position.
- o Have knowledge of first aid and safety.

➤..... **Application – How to Become a Manager or Coach**

Any adult with an interest in coaching youth baseball or softball may apply for a manager or coach position with NBBSA. Checking the appropriate box on the Registration Form or written notice to NBBSA, P.O. Box 7805, North Brunswick, New Jersey 08902 prior to the registration deadline will insure consideration for the position applied for.

Before a Manager or Coach is deemed “eligible,” he / she must have completed the “The Rutgers Sports Awareness for Educating Today’s Youth Clinic.” This Certification provides immunity from liability in certain situations. The League requires a copy of the Certification Card and the original MUST be worn at all League functions where the Manager/Coach is in that capacity.

The applicant will also provide The League with necessary information to complete a Meagan’s Law screening. This screening will identify past actions that may be grounds for rejection the application.

A majority vote by a quorum at any Board of Directors Meeting will be authority to act as a Manager or Coach for the assigned division. NBBSA does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, color or religious affiliation.

➤..... **Pre-Season Responsibilities**

o **Coach’s Clinics**

All Managers and Coaches must attend any mandatory coaches meetings and clinics.

o **SAFETY Certification, If Necessary**

o **Tryouts and Draft**

All Managers and Coaches must attend any Tryouts. Only Managers will attend and participate in the Draft.

o **Equipment and Fundraising Pick-Up**

NBBSA provides the following equipment for players in the league: bats, baseballs, softballs, bases, batting helmets, catcher's mitts, catchers mask, catcher's chest protector and catchers shin guards. Players must provide their own gloves and mitts, batting gloves, protective cups, footwear [metal cleats are not permitted], safety glasses (optional), batting helmet with face guard (optional) and batters chest protectors (optional).

Equipment will be distributed to each team Manager prior to the start of the season. Dates and times for distribution will be at the discretion of The League's Equipment Manager. A \$150 Work Bond check will serve as deposit for equipment. The check must be dated June 1, of that year and will be returned to the Manager after the equipment and player evaluation forms are returned.

NBBSA has chosen Candy as our fundraiser. All parents who have elected to sell candy must pick up their case(s) at the place, date and time to be determined by The Board of Directors. A check in the amount of \$104.00 must be collected from each family who has elected to sell candy as part of their registration fee.

o **Uniforms**

Uniforms will be picked up by each Manager at Community Park prior to the start of the season. Dates and times for distribution will be at the discretion of The League.

NOTE: If a player's family has failed to complete their registration, that player will not receive their uniform.

➤..... **Practices**

It is important that each team participate in as many practices as possible. Each year, The League will provide a pre-season practice schedule. The schedule generally provides for two to three practices for each team. These opportunities must be taken advantage of.

If a team is not able to use an assigned field at the designated time, you should notify The League Director so that another team can use the field. You may also call the League Director to schedule additional practice times. Managers should plan each practice in advance. Planning insures control, saves time and guarantees that the desired skills are practiced. It is expected that each practice, especially in cold weather, include warm-up exercises.

Managers and Coaches must maintain complete control of their players during all practices and games. Insure that pitchers only throw to a catcher who is in full equipment. It is the Manager's responsibility to insure all Coaches have been approved as Coaches and have completed all required prerequisites. All Managers and Coaches **MUST** wear an endorsed SAFETY card while participating in a league sanctioned practice or game.

An example of a planned practice would be:

6:00 – 6:10... warm-up exercises and drills

6:10 – 6:30... batting split squads drills [soft toss, pepper, “T”, bunting]

6:30 – 6:50... fielding split squad drills [grounders, fly balls, relays]

6:50 – 6:55... water break

6:55 – 7:25... batting practice [pitchers and catchers on the side]

7:25 – 7:30... pack equipment; review what was covered and general announcements

➤..... **Regular Season**

Unresolved issues during games – Umpire or Manager, Coach, Player or Spectator must contact the League Director within 48-hours of game completion to discuss.

➤..... **Post Season**

o Equipment Return

Upon completion of the season, the Manager should arrange to return the equipment to the Equipment Manager. Allowing for normal wear and tear, the equipment must be returned as it was received. Any Manager’s failure to return equipment will be grounds for disqualification as a Manager or Coach as deemed by The League.

- o Player Evaluations – All Divisions except T-Ball and Rookie

In order to promote parity among the teams and evaluate the results of our program, Managers are required to assess their players' abilities. The included Player Evaluation Form must be completed and turned in to the respective League Director prior to the play-off round/end of regular season. Failure to complete the form may result in the Manager becoming ineligible to return the following season. Managers are requested to give objective, impartial ratings to their players. Under no circumstances are players to be allowed to see their ratings.

SECTION 8 – TEAM PARENTS

ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assist the manager with any duties assigned
- Email Parents - Keep parents informed of what's going on (league activities, when practices/games are scheduled, how early they need to show up before a game, etc.)
- Distribute uniforms given to Manager
- Coordinate the making of the team banner for Opening Day (display at games)
- Coordinate Snack Schedule (T-Ball and Rookie Softball only)
- Help assure dugouts are cleaned up after each practice/game
- Hand out Picture Day Schedule given to Manager and Order Form (remind parents what time to arrive and where to meet, remind parents that all players need to be present for team picture even if they are not taking individual pictures)
- Hand out Festival Schedule given to Manager (ensure everyone knows their scheduled time and send reminder emails)

SECTION 9 - BASEBALL DIVISION RULES

➤..... Specifics

- o Will be distributed to Managers at Coaches Meeting

➤..... Draft Procedures

- o T-Ball & Double A

Teams will be assigned by school street address as best as possible. Coaches and players based on age will be distributed evenly

- o Baseball Major and Triple A Leagues

Teams will be selected yearly. Each team will have a maximum of fifteen (15) players, except the Major League, which is a maximum of twelve (12) players. Also, per Babe Ruth Rules, all 12-year-olds must play in the Major League and the number of 12-year-olds per team will be determined by the Player Agent at the draft.

The Player Agent, assisted by the Vice President(s) and the respective League Director(s) will administer the team selection process. The President will oversee the process. The approved Managers will be the only other individuals in the room during the draft.

Special Note: Due to the annual registration numbers, The Executive Board reserves the right to modify the age groups eligible for each league's draft. Specifically 10-year-olds may be eligible for the Major League.

Draft Process: A serpentine method will be used (assuming a six-team league, Rounds 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 go to Team 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and Rounds 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 go to Team 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1).

For Triple A, the draft will operate under a Blind Draft format. Managers will not know in advance which team they will have; this helps to ensure parity. Once the teams are selected, a Managers name will be randomly selected. Continuing the example above, the first name chosen gets Team 1, while the sixth name chosen gets Team 6.

For Majors & Seniors, Managers will draft players at will. The draft will continue until each team has a maximum roster of twelve (12) players. There will be time limit on all draft choices.

Trading – For Triple A, based on the Manager’s assignment, their child will automatically be traded for a player in the same round. The President, Vice President and Player Agent will determine if any trades will be allowed in any division. In any instance, trades are for players within the same round.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ONLY – The selection of an alternate player has been discontinued.

SECTION 10 – SOFTBALL DIVISION RULES

➤…… Specifics

- o Will be distributed to Managers at Coaches Meeting

➤…… Draft Procedures

- Rookie will follow T-Ball and Double A team selection process above. Minors, Majors and Seniors will follow Baseball Majors & Seniors draft above.

SECTION 11 – LOCAL RULES FOR BASEBALL and SOFTBALL

➤..... Batting Circle / Warm-Up Area

Only one player at a time is allowed in the batting circle. In addition, one of the four coaches from the bench area must be present at the batting circle whenever their team has a player warming up. Their objective is to prevent injuries to the player or any spectators.

➤..... Bench Area

Only roster players, the Manager and Coaches are allowed in the bench area.

➤..... Cancellations

Games can only be cancelled due to unavailability of the fields, usually weather related, unless approved at a regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting.

Unless cancelled by The League Director, a game is considered scheduled and teams are responsible to field a sufficient number of players to play the game.

A visit to www.nbbsa.com after 3:00 p.m. will provide field conditions. The Parks and Recreation Department along with NBBSA has the authority to deem a field unplayable. It is advisable to review the website to obtain field condition for weekend play.

Managers, through mutual agreement, may cancel a game due to adverse weather or field conditions prior to 5:00 p.m. on the day of the game or one hour before game time

on weekends. If an agreement is not reached by the prescribed time, it is in the hands of the Umpire-in-Chief.

If a game is cancelled for any reason, the Home Team Manager will call the League Director and specify the time of the game, teams involved and the reason for cancellation. The Home Team Manager must notify the League Director immediately upon cancellation.

The League Director must reschedule the game. No game can be rescheduled without the approval of the League Director or his/her designee.

➤..... Catcher Speed-Up Rule

If a player is scheduled to be the catcher in the next inning and he/she is on base with two (2) outs, he/she may be replaced by the player who made the last out so he/she may suit up for the next inning. The catcher must immediately suit up. Managers/Coaches may warm up pitchers on the field until the catcher is ready.

➤..... Dugout

Home Team always has first base dugout – no exceptions.

➤..... Field Equipment

The Home Team Manager is responsible for picking up the bases and any field equipment and returning it and securing it. At no time should the equipment boxes be left unlocked while unattended.

➤..... Forfeits

Except for T-Ball, Double A and Rookie Divisions, a game is a forfeit if a team does not have enough players or is not prepared to play a game 15 minutes after the scheduled start time.

- o A minimum of eight (8) players in the Triple A, Minor and Major League Divisions are required to play an official game.
- o A minimum of nine (9) players are required during playoff games.
- o A minimum of seven (7) players are required to play an official game in the Senior League Division.

In the event a team in the Triple A, Minor or Major League Division has eight (8) players, the opposing team will provide a player for defensive purposes only.

If the opposing team has ten (10) or more players, then a player who is on the bench will play the field. If the team has nine (9) or eight (8) players, then the defensive player will be the one who made the last out in the previous inning. This player cannot play pitcher or catcher. When the player's turn at bat occurs, a substitution will be made. In the first inning, the last batter in the order will be the one chosen for the field. Innings played for the opposing team will not be included in the three (3) inning playing time requirement. A team must borrow players from the other team; a team may not field less than nine (9) players defensively.

The Home Team Manager may elect to relinquish home team status and bat first while awaiting arrival of not more than one player to complete minimum requirement. If player does not arrive prior to last player's batting position or start of bottom half of the inning, the game is forfeited.

If the game is forfeited, the Managers can (upon mutual agreement) swap players to allow the children to play a “practice game.” League Rules govern play and the umpires must stay and umpire the entire “practice game.” Nine (9) players on each side must be used defensively to play. The “practice game” will end two (2) hours after the scheduled start time, regardless of the situation.

➤..... Game Card

Except for T-Ball, Double A and Rookie League Divisions, umpires will be assigned by NBBSA. All pitching changes must be announced to the Umpire-in-Chief and opposing Manager. Each Manager will receive a scorebook and keep record of the game, list of pitchers and innings pitched. .

➤..... Game Score

Except for T-Ball, Double A, and Rookie League Divisions, both Managers will call or e-mail the Division League Director or his/her assignee immediately following the end of the game and report the date, teams, final score, pitchers and number of innings pitched within 48 hours of the conclusion of that game so that the website standings remain current and accurate.

➤..... Game Time Limits

Except for T-Ball and Rookie, each game has a two-hour time limit. No new inning may start after the two-hour time limit has expired. This applies to all regular season games.

ALL PLAYOFF GAMES WILL BE COMPLETED TO CONCLUSION.

➤..... Obstruction

When a defensive player, who does not have the ball, fakes a tag on a runner, obstruction will be called. Repeated violations may result in disqualification of that player and/or forfeiture of the team.

➤..... Pitching

Pitching regulations shall follow Babe Ruth Rule 0.06 and Local League Pitching Rule Interpretations.

- o The following exception to the Babe Ruth pitching rule was adopted by The Board of Directors on 11/11/99 and will be followed in all divisions:

A pitcher removed as a pitcher for any reason may not return as a pitcher for the remainder of the game.” NOTE: See Division Home League Rules for specific modifications for each Division.

➤..... Player Contact

Players must slide to avoid contact on a close play. Violators of this rule risk being called out by the Umpire. Special attention must be given to the Babe Ruth Contact Rule.

➤..... Player Injuries

All injuries must be reported via the Injury Report Form included at the back of this manual to the League Director, Vice President and Player Agent within twenty-four (24) hours of the injury by the player’s Manager.

➤..... Player Re-Entry

Except for the pitcher, free substitution is allowed in all Divisions.

➤..... Playing Equipment

Metal cleats are not permitted throughout The League. Batting doughnuts of any type are not permitted. All Male Players must wear an approved hard, protective cup. Players must wear their entire League issued uniform at all times during game play. In cold or inclement weather, a jacket may be worn over the uniform. Players catching, batting, coaching and running must wear helmets at all times. Only one (1) batter is permitted "On Deck" at a time, wearing a helmet at all times.

➤..... Playing Time

Players must play at least three (3) innings of each game. A complete inning consists of six (6) outs, three defensive outs and three offensive outs. When the Home Team is leading or scores the winning run in the last half of the last inning, the inning is considered complete. All provisions of this rule still apply. Violations of this rule must be reported to the League Director and may result in forfeiture.

➤..... Protests

Protests of NBBSA sanctioned games are discouraged, but permitted subject to the following:

- o Protests are not permitted in any of the non-competitive leagues.
- o Protests are only permitted for rule violations. Judgment calls, such as balls/strikes and safe/out cannot be protested. In the event that there is no rule covering a game

situation that arises, the decision of the Umpire(s) will be final and the situation will be brought to the attention of The Rules Committee for review and recommendation.

- o Manager(s) must issue protest notices to the Umpire-in-Chief and opposing Manager immediately at the time of the disputed decision and before the next pitched ball to the batter or next play.
- o Written report setting forth all the facts of the protest must be filed with The League President within forty-eight (48) hours of the date of the protest.
- o League President shall appoint three (3) members of The Rules Committee to serve on the Protest Committee.
- o Before a decision is made by The Protest Committee or League President, a clarification and interpretation of the rules may be secured in writing (letter, fax or e-mail) from Babe Ruth Headquarters.
- o The final decision on the protest will rest with The League President and his appointed committee

➤..... Sliding

Head-first sliding is only allowed when a player is going BACK to a base.

➤..... Interaction with the Umpire

Only the Manager may confer with the Umpire during a game. Remember, only rules interpretations can be discussed, not judgment calls.

SECTION 12 - BASEBALL ALL-STAR GAMES

Exception: T-Ball and Double A League Divisions.

Each Division will participate in an All Star Game. The League Director will determine what format will be used for the game. Careful consideration must be given to insure each All Star Team is balanced. Teams will be formed based on the current standings. It is recommended that in a 6-team league, the 1st, 4th and 6th place teams make up the Home All Star Team and the 2nd, 3rd and 5th place teams make up the Visiting All Star Team. The League Director will also determine the number of representatives from each team.

The games will be scheduled during All Start Weekend. No other games may be scheduled at this time. The games will be scheduled for nine (9) innings. The manager of the team with the highest winning percentage will be the manager of the All Star Team that his team is associated with. The Manager must have a prepared game matrix prior to the start of the game. Equal playing time must be given to all participants. All pitchers must pitch at least one (1) inning in the All Star Game. No pitcher may pitch more than two (2) innings in the All Star Game. Innings pitched in the All Star Game will not be charged as the innings pitched per week.

At the mid-season point, the Manager will distribute voting ballots to all team players. All rostered players must appear on the ballot.

The players must be instructed to vote for the players they feel will best represent the team in the All Star Game. The voting criteria will be to select the player that displays:

- “Sportsmanship, teamwork, respect for others, desire to improve their skills, cooperation, respect for those in authority (to include Managers, Coaches, Umpires and peer groups).”

- Players can vote for themselves.

- The team manager will tally the votes, report the team selections to the team and will forward the result to the League Director, *along with the ballots*.

- o In order for us to maintain credibility, we must all follow this process. Failure to comply with this rule will result in an investigation by The Rules Committee and possible disqualification as Manager.

SECTION 13 – PLAYOFFS

Final standings will be based on the teams winning percentage. The first round will be single elimination; the next round may be single or double elimination. At the discretion of the League director, the first (1st) and second (2nd) place teams make take a bye in the first (1st) round of playoffs. The Championship Round must be double elimination. The Championship Round must conclude before the end of the school schedule. Pitching days of rest will be observed throughout the playoff rounds. A new pitching calendar week will begin after each playoff round.

If a Division has an even amount of teams, the first (1st) place team will play the last place team in the first round, and the rest of the Vision will follow form. If a Division has an odd amount of teams, the first place team will take a bye in the first round.

PLEASE NOTE: No time limit rule applies in all division playoff games. All games are to be played to conclusion.

SECTION 14 – TRAVEL TEAM(S)

TRAVEL MANAGERS & ASSISTANT COACHES

- Travel Managers must be approved annually by the Board of Directors. The presence of Fifty Percent (50%) of the voting members of the Board of Directors will constitute a quorum.
- Travel Managers must manage a team during the in-house season.
- Travel Managers may select Assistant Coaches approved by the Board of Directors. Assistant Coaches must coach on a team during the in-house season.

TRAVEL PLAYERS

- Baseball is designed to be a program for all children, regardless of talent or ability. Travel Baseball is available only to a small percentage of children who, through try-outs and exposure to the coaching staff, are chosen as the best candidates to represent NBBSA in games against teams from surrounding areas.

While it would seem obvious that the best baseball players would make the Travel Team, this is not always the case. The selection process involves the evaluation of many tangibles and intangibles. Some of these include:

- **Baseball talent and ability:** Obviously the primary criteria for selection to a Travel Team.
- **Eligibility:** Any player trying out for a Travel team must be enrolled, and be an active participant, in the NBBSA in-house season.

- **Coach ability:** If a child has shown an inability to follow direction, lacks focus, or has been a behavioral problem, they might not be selected, even if they are one of the best players in the division. Conversely, a child who shows a strong willingness to learn and improve, but is not one of the top 12 players, might be selected.

- **Sportsmanship:** A child who has exhibited a lack of sportsmanship towards his/her teammates, opponents, coaches or parents may be excluded from consideration. Additionally, if a parent has exhibited a lack of sportsmanship toward players, coaches, other parents or umpires, their child may be excluded from consideration.

- **Commitment:** If a child has shown prior disregard for practice and/or game dates they might not be selected, even if they are one of the best players in the division.

- **Availability:** Travel Baseball is primarily a summer program but has grown to spring and fall. If a child's family goes away for one or more weeks during the summer, they might not be selected.

- **Determination of Eligibility:**
Travel Teams must be made up of players of a specific age as defined by Babe Ruth regardless of the in-house division they have played in.

Try-Outs:

Travel Team try-outs will take place in the Fall. Generally, there will be at least 2 try-out dates. Try-Outs are open to all age appropriate players within the program,

however, we suggest to coaches and parents that they be realistic about a player's chances of making a Travel Team, to avoid the disappointment of failing to make a team.

During try-outs, players will be observed by the Travel Coach, and potentially several other coaches who may or may not be associated with the same division. Parents or legal guardians only will be invited to attend and view the try-out from an area designated at the field. Try-outs require good concentration. Communication with the children who are trying-out is prohibited as the safety of the children involved is our primary concern.

Secondary Team:

It is the goal of NBBSA to provide playing opportunities for all children that wish to play Travel baseball. Where there are a sufficient number of players trying out whom meet the selection criteria, who have not been selected for the primary Travel Team, NBBSA will consider supporting a secondary team. The decision to field a secondary team will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors. No players who are selected for the primary Travel Team are permitted to play for the secondary team.

Selection:

Players will be selected to the Travel Team by the Travel Manager, from the candidates who attended try-outs. The selection of players for the Travel Team will be based on the results of the try-out, and the evaluation of the selection criteria described above. 12 players are the maximum allowed on any travel team, unless there are special circumstances approved by the board.

Travel Fees:

Travel Fees will be communicated to the parents of all selected Travel players. Fees are due by date determined by the Vice President and Player Agent, or player will forfeit his/her position on the Travel Team. Exceptions and/or alternate arrangements will be made where a financial hardship exists.

TRAVEL SEASONS:

The Travel Program is divided into three (3) seasons: Spring, Summer, and Fall.

Spring Travel Season

The Spring Travel season begins the same time as the in-house season. Travel games do not conflict with in-house games. In-house practices and games take precedence over travel practices and games.

Summer Travel Season:

The Summer Travel season begins almost immediately after the completion of the in-house season, usually right after the school year ends.

Fall Travel Season:

At the discretion of the Travel Coaching Staff, a Travel Team may play a Fall Travel schedule. Sometimes, it is the choice of the Travel Coach to take the Fall season off, and to work on fundamentals.

SECTION 15 – COMMITTEES

➤..... Rules Committee

The NBBSA Rules Committee will evaluate rules governing NBBSA programs. The President will appoint the Rules Committee annually. The Committee shall consist of not more than ten (10) people and be representative of all League interests. The Committee should be comprised of members of The Executive Board, Board of Directors and other members of The League. Voting shall be majority. All members must vote. The duties of The Rules Committee are as follows:

- o To review, on an ongoing basis, the rules and policies that currently exist.
- o To develop and make recommendations to The Board of Directors for new procedures, rules or amendments. Note: 30-day notice must be given to The Board of Directors on any proposed changes before they may be voted on.
- o To keep The Executive Board apprised of any recommendation it will propose and to seek input from The Executive Board.
- o Publish and distribute a comprehensive League Rules and Policy Handbook.
- o Monitor the rules, procedures and policies that govern league play.
- o To act in accordance with this document and fulfill any duties as herein specified.

➤..... Disciplinary Committee

The NBBSA Disciplinary Committee will review and evaluate issues and complaints as they arise. The President will appoint the Disciplinary Committee annually. The

Committee shall consist of not more than ten (10) people and be representative of all League interests. The Committee should be comprised of members of The Executive Board, Board of Directors and other members of The League. Voting shall be majority. All members must vote.

The Disciplinary Committee shall have the authority to suspend, discharge or otherwise discipline any player, coach, umpire, league officer, parent, or other person whose conduct is considered detrimental to the best interests of NBBSA. This includes but is not limited to misconduct on and off of the field, violation of the rules, refusal to leave the park following umpire ejection, refusal to participate in field maintenance, etc.

WHEN ANY MANAGER OR COACH IS EJECTED FROM ANY GAME FOR ANY REASON, THAT OCCURRENCE WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE DISCIPLINARY ACTION COMMITTEE WITHIN TEN (10) CALENDAR DAYS.

Once a formal written complaint on any individual is received by the League Officer or a Board member, the Committee shall have five (5) working days to decide what, if any, action shall be taken. If action is required, the Committee vote must be a 2/3 majority of the Committee Members or designated representatives. In the event of disciplinary procedures involving a player, that person's parents shall be invited to attend a meeting with the Full Disciplinary Committee. If a member of the Committee is charged with a rules violation, they will be prohibited from participating on the Committee for their specific hearing and may be removed from the committee regardless of the outcome of their case. The following penalties may be imposed based upon the severity of the offense:

(a) Warning - The offending person is to be advised, in writing, of the offense and further advised that repetition of the offense shall result in a more severe penalty.

(b) Suspension - The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been suspended from ALL LEAGUE ACTIVITY for a specific number of games or days.

(c) Dismissal - The offending person is to be advised in writing, that he or she has been dismissed from the league for the remainder of the current season or year.

(d) Barred - The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been barred from present and future participation within NBBSA, permanently, or for a specific number of years.

(e) Denial - The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been denied the privilege of being selected as a Manager or Assistant Coach of any PSO team for the current season.

NORTH BRUNSWICK BASEBALL & SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

Player Emergency Form

(Must Be Completed by Parent or Guardian)

Players Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Father's Name: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Address & Home Phone (if different than player):

Mother's Name: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Address & Home Phone (if different than player):

Contact if Mom & Dad are not available:

Relationship to Player & Phone Number:

Player's Physician: _____

Phone: _____

Date of Last Physical Exam: _____

Known Medical Conditions:

**IF AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SITUATION ARISES, WHICH HOSPITAL DO YOU
WISH YOUR CHILD TO BE SENT? Please Indicate:**

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON: _____

ST. PETERS: _____

OTHER: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

NORTH BRUNSWICK BASEBALL/SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

PLAYER EVALUATION FORM -

- To be completed by Manager and forwarded to League Director by May 31
- PLEASE EVALUATE EACH PLAYER ON A SCALE OF 1 – 5

[5 Being Highest] IN EACH CATEGORY

| PLAYER | THROWING | FIELDING Grounders | FIELDING Fly Balls | 40 Yard Dash | BATTING | TOTAL POINTS | PITCHING CATCHING |
|--------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------|-----------------|----------------------|
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 DIVISION _____ TEAM _____
 _____ MANAGER _____ DATE

NBBSA BABE RUTH LEAGUE ACCIDENT REPORT

(Must Be Completed by Manager)

DATE OF INJURY: _____ NAME OF INJURED: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBERS: home _____ cell: _____

NOTIFICATION MADE TO: _____ (NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN)

TIME & METHOD OF NOTIFICATION: _____ (PHONE OR IN PERSON)

TYPE OF INJURY AND HOW IT OCCURRED:

DIVISION & TEAM NAME: _____

SUBMITTED BY: _____ (Print Name)

(SIGN AND DATE)

This form must be completed and forwarded to the League Director, Vice President and Player Agent. This form will be kept on file in case a claim is made to Babe Ruth for reimbursement of medical expenses. Claims should be made within 60 days of accident. Primary coverage is personal policies and Babe Ruth is secondary.