

# **Western North Carolina Cal Ripken Rookie**

## **(8yr old) Tournament Playing Rules**

1. Age: 8 and Under (Must have been registered with Babe Ruth League, Inc.) (players cannot turn nine (9) before May 1st)
2. Player Roster: 12-15 man roster with ten (10) players batting in order. A Fourth outfielder (refer to rule 15) B. Player is placed on either side of the pitching machine assuming the defensive position of the pitcher. (refer to rule 14) C. The catcher takes his normal position in full gear.
3. Game Length: Six (6) innings. Each batter will receive a maximum of five (5) pitches. If the ball has not been hit into play, the batter is out. A. If the batter fouls the 5th pitch, batter will receive pitches as long as batter continues to foul the pitch. B. The inning is over when three (3) outs are made. C. The batter is out if he swings three (3) times and misses the ball. D. NO BUNTING. PENALTY - dead ball, strike is called on the batter and base runners return to original base. (Bunt or bunt attempt with 2 strikes, batter will be called out.) E. Slashing, (fake bunting) is not allowed. PENALTY – dead ball, strike on the batter. F. No intentional walks.
4. Field dimensions: Standard Cal Ripken Division base length of sixty (60) ft.
5. Pitching Machine: The pitching machine is placed at 46 feet with the pitching machine spring set on setting #10. (One notch more than the 7yr old division.) \*The Louisville Slugger Portable Pitching Machine will be utilized in WNC Tournament play.
6. Umpire will feed the machine. Machine can be checked before your team bats. You cannot adjust the machine during play, (unless umpire judgment).
7. Dead Ball: A. The ball will be declared dead when the defensive team stops the lead runner or the lead runner abandons the effort to advance. B. The ball is declared dead when a player is injured and, in the umpire's judgment, is unable to continue playing.
8. The infield fly rule will NOT be in effect.
9. Baseballs: Must be Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken approved baseballs.
10. Ten Run Rule will be in effect after four (4) innings. (Tournament only)
11. Umpires: Two (2) umpires will be on the field at all times; one (1) behind the batter and one (1) in the field.
12. Base Stealing is NOT permitted.
13. The pitching machine, when hit by a live ball, is considered an umpire and governed by the rule book. See rule 5.09
14. The defensive player designated "pitcher" shall be positioned within a 10 foot circle, behind the front of the pitching machine, at the time the ball is released. (Refer to rule 2. B.)
15. The 4th outfielder shall be positioned in the outfield at the time the pitch is released. The outfield being defined as, "the outfield grass or a minimum of 12 feet behind the bases and their respective paths."  
(Refer to rule 2. A)
16. All teams must start a game with a minimum of (ten) 10 players, but will be allowed to complete a game with nine (9). The missing starter in the batting line up will be called out at his turn at bat. Failure to be able to field nine (9) players will result in a forfeit as covered in the Babe Ruth / Cal Ripken Rules.

**CREDENTIALS REQUIRED: See All Star Check List for details**