

Local Rules/Bylaws of The Franklin Simpson Rookie League (8U)

INTRODUCTION

The Franklin Simpson Rookie League is a division of Franklin Simpson Babe Ruth League, Inc., which is a non-stock corporation, established to conduct Cal Ripken (Babe Ruth) Baseball in Simpson County, Kentucky. The management of the Rookie League shall be comprised of a minimum of 6 members and maximum of 11 members.

PURPOSE

To offer a healthy environment in which to achieve the primary objection of teaching the fundamentals of the game, sportsmanship, fair play and teamwork. Above all else, it must be fun. *Seventy percent of kids playing sports drop out by the age of 13 because it ceased being fun and their needs were not being met.*

DIVISION OF RULES/BYLAWS

CODE OF ETHICS FOR PARENTS, PLAYERS, & COACHES

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CODE OF ETHICS FOR PARENTS, PLAYERS, & COACHES

PARENTS

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice or other youth sports event.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- I will provide support for the coaches and officials working with my child to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all.
- I will remember that the game is for children and not for adults.
- I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.
- I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
- I will promise to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience within my personal constraints by assisting with coaching, being a respectful fan, providing transportation or whatever I can do.

PLAYERS

- I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at every game and practice.
- I will attend every practice and game that is reasonably possible and notify my coach if I cannot.
- I will expect to receive a fair and equal amount of playing time.
- I will do my very best to listen and learn from my coaches.
- I will treat my coaches with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or abilities and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
- I deserve to have fun during my sports experience and will alert parents or coaches if it stops being FUN!
- I will encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity because it is important to me.
- I will do my very best in school.
- I will remember that sports are an opportunity to learn and have fun.

COACHES

- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my player ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I will remember to treat each player as an individual, remembering the large spread of emotional and physical development for the age group.
- I will do my very best to provide a safe playing situation for my players.
- I promise to review and practice the necessary first-aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players.
- I will do my very best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.
- I will lead, by example, in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.
- I will ensure that I am knowledgeable in the rules of the games and that I will teach these rules to my players.
- I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills that I teach.
- I will remember that I am a youth coach, and that the game is for children and not the adults.

NOTE: All parents, players, and coaches must also abide by the rules, regulations, and code of ethics of the Franklin Simpson Parks and Recreation Administration.

1.00 LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION

1.01 Five or more members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. The act of the majority of the Directors present at a called meeting at which a quorum is present be the act of the Board.

1.02 The Board may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its meeting and management and operations of the League, as it seems fit.

1.03 LEAGUE OFFICERS:

President – Presides at League meetings and assumes full responsibilities of the operation of the League.

The President receives all mail, supplies and other communications from Babe Ruth League. The President must see to it that the League personnel are properly verified on phases of rules, regulations and policies of Rookie League baseball.

Vice President – Presides in the absence of the President; works with other officers.

Secretary / Treasurer – Sign checks, keeps League financial records and dispenses funds as approved by the President. Will also take minutes of meetings.

- 1.04** All Rookie League rules and regulations shall be in effect for each game. Local league rules shall supersede Babe Ruth rules and regulations.
- 1.05** All players must have paid their registration fee by designated date and have satisfied age requirements before participating in any game. Beginning players will not be permitted to participate until a valid birth certificate is presented to validate their League age.
- 1.06** Any officer of the Board shall have the authority to have undesirable persons removed from the field and spectator area.
- 1.07** No person or team shall have a fund-raiser to raise funds for their team or the League without the consent of the Board.

2.00 **PLAYERS**

2.01 Age requirements for 7-8-Year-Old:

- **7-8-Year-Old “Coach Pitch” Division:** The “League Age” of the player is his or her age on or before May 1st, of the current season. Children ages 6 thru 8 are eligible in this division. 6 year olds must pass assessment or has a parent coach to play up to Rookie League.

2.02 Player Placement

- **7-8-Year-Old “Coach Pitch” Division:** The “draft” or player placement will be held as soon after the final day of signups. (1) All eligible returning players will be placed on their previous teams. (2) The applications will be divided into three age groups: 6, 7, and 8-year-old. (3) Officers in charge will determine how many players of each age group each team will need for the current year. Each team will only be allowed to have up to 5 players of any one age group at any given time. This is to allow a more even breakdown of players per team. If for some reason, there is a year in which a high number of signups in any one age group might cause age group numbers per team to run high – then the board must

decide what to do at that time. (4) “Draft” (Team Order) will be determined by the regular season and/or tournament standing (win/loss record) from the previous season. Teams will be assigned a draft position (#1 thru #11 – or how many ever teams there are in the league – with the last place team being #1 and the first-place team being #11). The coach/team who holds the #1 position will have first draft choice of available draft players and the draft will proceed in order. The coach/team who holds the last position will pick twice and then the draft will continue backwards and reversing thereafter until completed. (5) Assigned Head & Assistant Coaches must be determined and turned into the board before the draft. The board before the start of practices must approve all coaches. Head coach’s children will be a late or final round draft selection. New assistant coaches appointed to a team (with children) will automatically forfeit the team’s first draft pick. This will apply to all new head coaches and up to 3 assistant coaches per team. Each new head coach/assistant coach assigned to that team will forfeit whichever round is deemed necessary to place that player. (Reference - Rules 2.05 & 2.06)

2.03 Once a player becomes a member of a 7-8-Year-Old “Coach” Pitched Rookie League team, he shall remain a member of that team throughout his/her Rookie League career. All players are encouraged to stay with their team under this bylaw – however – if a parent, (who has not already been an assigned coach does not want their child on a certain team they cannot decide to go coach with another team to move their player to any specific team. They must inform the board and ask that their child be placed back into the draft.) The Board must review any and all exceptions.

2.04 Brothers and sisters will be placed on the same team, of either 7-8 Yr. Old unless otherwise requested by parents. That player will constitute a late to final round draft selection for the assigned team.

2.05 A player whose father, mother, guardian or head of household is a coach or assistant coach, of either 6-7-8 Yr. Old, shall automatically be assigned to the team of his father, mother, guardian or head of household. That player will constitute as an assigned draft selection for the team.

(Reference - Rule 2.02)

- 2.06** Head Coach and Assistant Coaching positions, of the 7-8 Yr. Old Division, taken because of Rule 2.05 will be deemed Assigned Coaches and their position would remain unavailable until the placed player is no longer a member of that team. Example: If a player is placed on a team because his parent, etc. is an assigned head coach or assistant coach and then the parent, etc. wants to leave, cannot coach any longer, etc. - the player will remain on that team and the assigned coaching position may not be filled for getting another player/coach combination. The team may get help from a team parent. However, the player may be placed back into the draft if the parent so desires. *The Board will review exceptions.*
- 2.07** Managers and coaches, of both divisions, may discipline players without Board approval. The discipline should be done in a constructive manner and in a way that shall not damage a child's self-esteem.
- 2.08** Any player throwing or tossing his bat or any other piece of equipment such as a helmet, glove or cap in disgust over an umpire's call will be removed from the remainder of the game. This is to prepare them for Minor and Major League where they will automatically be removed from the game. Zero tolerance.

3.00 **MANAGER/COACHES**

- 3.01** All head and assistant coaches shall be approved by the Board. Each team shall have one head coach and three assistant coaches. Each team must list all coaches when roster is set. A team may also designate one person to be a dugout person. This dugout person cannot be identified as an assigned coach for draft purposes. The dugout person is a person that is only there to assist with the team.
- 3.02** If a son is placed on a team because his father is the coach and the father and the player remains, that coaching position may not be filled for the purpose of getting another player. The team may get help from a team parent.
- 3.03** A manager must play all players both offensively and defensively for the entire game, except in the case of illness or by request of the player.
- 3.04** Any coach ejected from a game must appear before the Board before he can coach a League game again.

- 3.05** Once the game starts, and during live play, defensive coaches shall not be within the baselines, except for a player injury or time has been called and play suspended. Violations shall result in defensive interference. (Note: See Rule 5.20 for defensive coach positioning.)

4.00 SCHEDULING

- 4.01** Pre-season practice time will be made available at the coaches meeting following sign-ups, usually within 2-3 days. Practice time will be determined in an equitable manner based on time available and the number of teams. Pre-season practices will be scheduled Monday through Friday.
- 4.02** Game schedules and picture schedules will be made available at the final coaches meeting. Each team will play all teams in the league at least one time per season.
- 4.03** Games not started may be called for poor conditions by the League President or other available Board members. The home plate umpire who shall consult with the League President or other Board members, if he desires will call games in progress for rain or poor conditions. Called games will automatically be rescheduled at the next available time. In the event of many rainouts, which make rescheduling impractical, some games may be cancelled per Board approval.

5.00 CONDUCT OF GAMES

- 5.01 7-8-Year-Old Division:** A regular game shall consist of up to 5 innings or a 1-hour game time limit except in the case of a tie, in which extra innings may be used to determine the winner. If the game after 5 innings is tied the maximum score each team can score per inning increases from (7) to (10) runs during extra innings. Home Team(s) shall always get their last bat of an inning unless the visitor team is ahead by 8+ runs. No new inning shall be started once the 1-hour time limit has been reached. The time limit for each game will begin after the first pitch of the first inning.

- 5.02 7-8-Year-Old Division:** The defensive team will field a “normal” infield of six positions, with the pitcher located on or behind the chalk line located at the pitcher’s plate in the middle of the infield. The pitcher may play anywhere behind that area to the front of second base. A maximum of two defensive players will be allowed to play inside the baseline. The offensive team will bat all players on the team’s game lineup turned into the press box. (Reference Rule 5.15)
- 5.03 7-8-Year-Old Division:** The maximum number of runs scored by team per inning is seven (7). If the game after 5 innings is tied the maximum score each team can score per inning increases from (7) to (10) runs during extra innings.
- 5.04 7-8-Year-Old Division:** Each batter shall get 6 pitches (excluding foul balls). The home plate umpire should keep the pitching coach informed of the count. The player will either put the baseball into play or will be called out on a swinging third strike or if the batter takes the 6th pitch.
- 5.05 7-8-Year-Old Division:** Foul balls or foul tips are considered a “no pitch” and do not count as one of the 6 pitches.
- 5.06 7-8-Year-Old Division:** A foul pop-up that clears the batter’s head is playable. Ones that do not clear the batter's head are unplayable.
- 5.07 7-8-Year-Old Division:** A batted ball not clearing a 5 feet circle shall be considered a foul ball. A batted ball that travels out of the 5 feet circle and rolls back will be considered a foul ball. That if a batted ball hits home plate first and rolls past the 5 foot circle it will be considered a FAIR ball.
- 5.08 7-8 Year-Old Division:** The pitcher/coach may pitch from any point determined by two lines (one line will be placed approximately 18 feet from home plate and the other line will extend across the pitcher’s

plate); also, he/she must stand on a straight (imaginary) line that extends from home plate to second base. The pitcher/coach must leave fair territory after the ball is hit and shall not interfere with the play.

- 5.09** If a batted ball hits or touches a coach within fair territory – the play will be signaled as a dead ball. The play will be replayed.
- 5.10** There is no stealing allowed in either division.
- 5.11** If a batter slings the bat, the player and coach will receive a warning. If the same player during the game slings the bat again, or it strikes a player or umpire, the batter will be called “out”.
- 5.12** A batter shall not be allowed to bunt and may not take a half swing or swing bunt. If, in the umpire’s judgment, the batter does not take a full swing, the batter will be called back, and a strike called against the player. If this occurs on the third strike, the batter shall be called out. The umpire should warn the batter and allow the coach to instruct the batter on proper techniques for batting. If the batter attempts to bunt, take a half swing or swinging bunt a second time, the player shall be called out.
- 5.13** For the defensive team to suspend play, the runner(s) must be put out or the lead runner’s forward progress stopped. At the umpire’s discretion, once the offensive team’s runner(s) makes no attempt to advance, “time” will be called and play suspended. If at any time an umpire deems a player’s health is in jeopardy, play may be suspended by calling time to assess the player as necessary. Any action which occurred during live play prior to “time” being called will be awarded to the offensive team at the umpire’s discretion.
- 5.14** During suspended time, the ball will be considered dead. While the ball is dead, no runner may be put out, no bases may be run, or no runs scored except those actions, which were occurring prior to the umpire calling time, which shall be awarded at the umpire’s discretion.
- 5.15** A head-first slide will not be allowed while running to first base. First offense will result in a warning, second offense and beyond will result in the batter being called out. A head-first slide will also not be allowed while the runner is moving forward. This does not apply if the runner is returning to a base in a rundown or pick-off situation.

- 5.16** The on-deck circle is not permitted. The on-deck batter must remain in the dugout until it is his/her turn to hit.
- 5.17** Game lineups shall be turned in to scorer's box fifteen minutes prior to the start of the game. Coaches should also provide the opposing team with a copy of their game lineup. **NOTE:** Any player showing up after the start of a game will be allowed to be added to the lineup. This player will bat in the last designated spot on the game line-up.
- 5.18** Any team that cannot field eight (8) or more players within ten-minute grace period shall forfeit the game.
- 5.19** No one but the scorekeeper, assistants to the scorekeeper and League Officials are allowed in the press box/scorer's stand.
- 5.20** Each Rookie League game shall have a Board member present. Umpires will be neutral coaches (2 from away team will be on first and third. 1 from home team will be the home plate umpire.) The decision of the home plate umpire is final.
- 5.21** On defense, two (2) coaches shall be allowed outside of the dugout. One of these coaches shall be in foul territory in the outfield opposite of the team's dugout to provide coaching assistance to those players on that side of the field. The second of these shall be in front of the dugout and make all attempts to not interfere with play. No persons without a coach's application filled out and under the age of 18 shall be allowed in the dugout except the players.
- 5.22** Failure of your team coaches duties to umpire will result in the following game for your team to start with a 4-0 deficit with the 4 runs not counting toward opposing teams inning run limit.

6:00 PERSONAL CONDUCT AND PENALTIES

- **CONDUCT OF ALL MANAGERS, COACHES, SPECTATORS, AND PLAYERS ARE SUBJECT TO THE FRANKLIN-SIMPSON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S CODE OF ETHICS.**
- **A COACH, MANAGER, PLAYER, SPECTATOR OR UMPIRE SHALL NOT:**

- 6.01** Curse (malicious or otherwise) a manager, coach, player, umpire or official of the Franklin-Simpson Rookie League.
- 6.02** Push, hit, strike or threaten a manager, coach, player, umpire, or official.
- 6.03** Throw player equipment (such as bats, helmets, gloves, or a ball) in a malicious manner.
- 6.04** Be drinking or under the influence of drugs, controlled substance or alcohol while on the park premises, before, during, or after an event.
- 6.05** Act in an irrational manner; make a public spectacle or nuisance of one's self before, during, or after a schedule event on park premise.
- 6.06** Shall not instigate or contribute to any infractions listed in rules one through five.

7.00 MISCELLANEOUS

- 7.01** "Protests" shall not be allowed.
- 7.02** "Appeal": A manager or head coach may ask the base umpire to appeal to the home plate umpire for help with a call. Should the manager or head coach appeal to the home plate umpire, the appeal is void. This is designed to assist a base umpire if he thinks he may have made a mistake. All coaches should remember that Rookie League ages are 6, 7, and 8 years of age and we are not professional umpires.

2025 ROOKIE LEAGUE BOARD MEMBERS

Wes Graves / Kelly Gregory – Co- Presidents

Ryan Frye - Vice President

Dylan Richardson – Secretary/Treasurer

Trent Coffee – Member

Karen Stanley – Member

Leslie Alford – Member