

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

1.00 LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION

2.00 PLAYERS

3.00 MANAGING/COACHES

4.00 SCHEDULING

5.00 CONDUCT OF GAMES

6.00 PERSONAL CONDUCT AND PENALTIES

7.00 MISCELLANEOUS

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 A simple majority of 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 –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 – 7-8-Year-Old “Rookie League”

- **League Age Determination** A player’s “League Age” is their age as of May 1 of the current season.
- **Eligibility** Players who are 6, 7, or 8 years old on or before May 1 are eligible to participate in the 7-8-Year-Old Coach Pitch Division.
- **Participation by 6-Year-Olds** Six-year-old players may participate in this division only if they meet one of the following requirements:
 - They successfully pass a player assessment conducted by the league, **or**
 - Their parent or guardian signs a waiver acknowledging the player is playing up in age division, **or**
 - A parent or guardian is serving as a coach on the team (Head Coach or Assistant Coach).
 - These provisions ensure that younger players are placed appropriately and safely while maintaining competitive balance within the division.

2.02 Player Placement and Draft – 7-8-Year-Old “Coach Pitch” Division

- **Draft Process and Timing** The player draft (or placement process) will occur promptly after the conclusion of player registration. All eligible players will be placed into the draft pool each year and redrafted, except for children of assigned coaches (see below).
- **Coach Assignments and Limits** Prior to the draft, each team must designate its Head Coach and up to two Assistant Coaches. These assigned coaches' children will be placed directly on their team (see Sections 2.04 and 2.05). After the draft, a team may add one additional Assistant Coach and one Dugout Helper. Each team is limited to:
 - 1 Head Coach
 - 3 Assistant Coaches
 - 1 Dugout Helper

All coaches must be approved by the Parks Board before practices begin or rosters are finalized.

- **Age Group Distribution** Registered players will be grouped by age: 6-year-olds, 7-year-olds, and 8-year-olds. The Board (or designated officers) will determine the target number of players per age group for each team to promote balanced rosters. No team may roster more than 5 players from any single age group at any time. In years with unusually high registration in one age group, the Board will review and decide on any necessary adjustments to maintain fairness.
- **Draft Method** The draft order and player assignments will be generated randomly using a computer program to ensure impartiality and fairness for all teams. Assigned Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches must be submitted to the Board prior to the draft.

2.03 Siblings Brothers and sisters will be placed on the same team unless the parents or guardians specifically request otherwise.

2.04 Children of Coaches A player whose parent, guardian, or head of household serves as a Head Coach or Assistant Coach in the 7-8-Year-Old Coach Pitch Division will be automatically assigned to that coach's team.

2.05 Assigned Coach Status (Effective Spring 2026) Starting with the Spring 2026 season (when annual redrafting began), any individual who serves as a Head Coach or Assistant Coach becomes an “Assigned Coach” for purposes of player placement.

- If a player is placed on a team because their parent/guardian is an Assigned Coach, the player remains on that team even if the coach later steps down, is unable to continue, or leaves the role. The vacated coaching position will not be used to claim an additional coach’s child.
- At the parent’s or guardian’s request, the Board may approve returning the player to the draft pool.
- The Board will review and decide on any exception requests.

2.06 Discipline by Coaches Managers and coaches may discipline players as needed, without requiring Board approval. Discipline must be constructive, age-appropriate, and administered in a manner that does not harm the child’s self-esteem or emotional well-being.

2.07 Zero-Tolerance Equipment Rule Any player who throws or tosses a bat, helmet, glove, cap, or other equipment in frustration or disgust (including in protest of an umpire’s call) will be immediately removed from the remainder of that game. This policy aligns with rules in higher divisions (such as Minor and Major League) and will be enforced with zero tolerance.

2.08 Player Safety – Medical Devices, Braces, Slings, and Injuries

- **General Safety Principle** The health and safety of all players is the top priority. Any player with an injury, medical device, or condition that could affect their ability to participate safely or pose a risk to themselves or others must receive proper evaluation before returning to practices or games.
- **Casts, Splints, and Hard Devices** Players are not permitted to participate in practices or games while wearing a cast, splint, or any hard/unyielding medical device (including on the arm, wrist, hand, leg, or elsewhere).
 - This includes devices on the glove hand/arm or throwing arm.
 - The player must remain in the dugout (as a non-participant) until the cast or splint is removed and cleared by a medical professional.

- **Braces and Soft Supports** Soft, padded braces (such as knee, elbow, or ankle braces) that are unaltered from the manufacturer's design are generally permitted, provided they do not pose a hazard.
 - The Head Coach, in consultation with the Board if needed, will determine if the brace is safe and appropriate.
 - Hard or rigid braces must be padded with at least ½-inch closed-cell, slow-recovery foam (or equivalent) if allowed, and still subject to approval.
 - Any brace deemed unsafe by the umpire, coach, or Board must be removed or modified before participation.
- **Slings and Arm/Shoulder Immobilizers** Players wearing a sling or any device that restricts arm/shoulder movement are not permitted to participate in practices or games.
 - This is to prevent further injury and ensure full, safe participation.
 - The player may attend as a spectator or dugout supporter but cannot take the field.
- **Injured Players and Return to Play** Any player recovering from an injury must provide written clearance from a licensed medical professional (e.g., doctor or physician's assistant) stating that the player is medically cleared to resume full participation without restrictions.
 - Clearance must be submitted to the Board or designated officer before the player returns to practices or games.
 - Coaches and the Board reserve the right to limit participation (e.g., no pitching, no catching) if concerns remain about safety or readiness.
- **Medical Alert Items** Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are permitted and encouraged when needed. They may be worn visibly or taped to the body.

3.00 MANAGER/COACHES

- 3.01** All head and assistant coaches shall be approved by the Board. Each team can consist of have one head coach and three assistant coaches. Each team must list all coaches once 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** 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.
- 3.03** Any coach ejected from a game must appear before the Board before he can coach a League game again.
- 3.04** 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 5.21 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 or up to 10 games.
- 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. No games will be played on Wednesday or Sunday. 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. If a player can not bat for any reason they will be recorded as an out at the players spot in the lineup. No exemptions.

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 foot circle shall be considered a foul ball. A batted ball that travels out of the 5 foot 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 of 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 play eight (8) or more players on offense and defense within ten-minute grace period of the game start time 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 or official of the park present. Umpires will be neutral coaches to umpire bases (1 from away team and 1 from home team of the other game scheduled that day). Home plate umpire will be a paid certified umpire approved by the Parks Board. 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.

5.23 Equipment Requirements – Bats and Batting Helmets

- All bats must bear the USA Baseball certification mark on the barrel. This ensures the bat meets approved youth performance and safety standards.
 - No other certifications (e.g., USSSA, BPF 1.15) are permitted.
 - The Board or umpires will inspect bats before use; non-compliant bats will not be allowed in practices or games.
- Batting Helmets - All batters and base runners must wear a batting helmet that include either:
 - A full face mask (e.g., attached cage or guard), or
 - A chin guard securely fastened. Helmets must be free of cracks, damage, or missing padding. Non-compliant helmets will not be permitted.

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.

2026 ROOKIE LEAGUE BOARD MEMBERS

Wes Graves / Kelly Gregory – Co- Presidents

Karen Stanley – Member

Leslie Alford – Member