

Zumbro Valley Senior Babe Ruth League (14/15U) Baseball Rules

- This league is open to anyone completing the 8th or 9th grade or younger.
 - One seven inning game as an official game. If the two coaches would like to play a two 5 inning game double header instead - the first game would be the official league game with the second game as a non-league game. This should be clearly communicated prior to showing up at the field and when reporting scores.
 - Home town will supply the umpires. Umpires must be over 16 and have a knowledge of the game
 - Each team will supply 1 game ball per game. The game ball should be of sufficient quality(Wilson, Rawlings, Diamond...) No practice balls, please
 - To cancel or reschedule games, please notify the opposing coach and league commissioner
 - Rained out games need not be made up but is strongly recommended. Failure to reschedule can affect your league tournament seeding.
 - Bats rules will follow the HVL conference rules
 - 1.1. Bat size –lightest bat for 8th grade -3 BBCOR bats. Any BESR bat is illegal and should not be allowed.
 - High school rules on courtesy runners, balk, intentional walk, stealing, sliding, substitution, re-entry, DH, dropped 3rd strike.... The state of Minnesota uses the National Federation of Rules
 - <https://www.nfhs.org/activities-sports/baseball/>
 - High school rules apply for legal pitches and trips to the mound.
 - Balks will be called!
 - 9 defensive players in the field (3 outfielders)
 - During the pitcher warm-ups (at any time) the catcher must wear a protective catchers mask
 - Bases should be 90 feet if possible(discretion of the home field coach)
 - Pitching mound should be 60.5 feet (discretion of the home field coach)
 - In a 7 inning game, mercy rule is in effect if team is ahead by 15 runs after 4 innings, 10 runs after 5 innings. In a 5 inning game, 15 after 3 and 10 after 4.
 - Metal spikes are allowed.
 - Runners must slide on all close plays. Failure to slide can result in an out.
 - Courtesy runners for the pitcher or catcher would be players off of your bench. Once a courtesy runner enters the game as a regular player you can re-assign a new courtesy runner that has not yet been in the game. (covered in the courtesy runner rule)
 - No open substitution on defense, players entered in the game can change positions, starters can re-enter one time. (covered in the re-entry rule)
- If the coaches play a double header then the second game can be open substitution and bat everyone in their lineup, etc... again communicate this clearly prior to the first game and in-between games so everyone understands.

- We will be using the MSHSL pitch count guidelines for levels below Varsity. See page 5.
https://www.mshsl.org/sites/default/files/2020-08/ba_rulesandpolicies_20202021_0.pdf

| Required Days of Rest | Number of Pitches |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 0 | 1-25 |
| 1 | 26-35 |
| 2 | 36-60 |
| 3 | 61-85 |
| Daily Max | 85 |

- Once the limit is reached a pitcher may finish pitching to that batter
- One day of rest is required if pitcher pitches two straight days
- Days of rest are measured in calendar days, not 24-hour periods. If a player throws 55 pitches on Monday, they are not able to pitch on either Tuesday or Wednesday but could pitch again anytime on Thursday.
- Only pitches thrown to a batter count toward the pitch count.
- Coaches can use charts or electronic means to chart pitch counts. The pitch counts are in the best interests of the players and are in place to protect those players from overuse.

Please track pitches of both your team and the opposing team. If you notice a player getting close to his pitch count maximum please communicate this with the opposing coach as a courtesy in a non-confrontational way. If the coach leaves the player in the game beyond his max please call for time and have a conference with both the coach and the umpire and notify the league. If a coach has multiple offenses a conversation will happen between the coach and league commissioner. If necessary, parents and varsity coaches will be notified and involved. Suspension will also be considered for multiple offenders.

Schedule changes, rainouts, score reporting should be directed to Tonya Craig
zumbrovalleybaseball@gmail.com 507-330-5243

For pitch count offenses please contact Keith Meyers keith@keithmeyers.com 507-358-2003