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Babe Ruth League, Inc.

A Non-Profit Tax-Exempt Organization for 4 to 18 Year Old Players
Website: www.baberuthleague.org
International Headquarters: 1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619
Phone: 609-695-1434 Fax: 609-695-2505



TO: Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth Baseball Commissioners

**FROM: Robert P. Faherty, Jr.
Vice President/Commissioner**

DATE: October 13, 2016

RE: Policy/Rule Clarifications

Listed below are a few items that we will be sharing with our leagues via the Babe Ruth League website, for which we would like to provide clarification for the 2017 season and beyond.

- You may hear that some national youth baseball programs are opting to eliminate players by changing their age determination date and doing away with certain age divisions. Please be advised that there will be no change to Babe Ruth League's age determination date for Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth Baseball for 2017 and beyond.
- Babe Ruth League will not have any changes to its current bat requirements for the 2017 season. However, please be advised that new bat standards and testing will be put into place beginning with the 2018 season. Inventory for the 2018 season is anticipated to be in stores as of September 1, 2017. If you are approached by any families, parents or players, we ask that you tell them to be cautious with their purchases for 2017. With the exception of BBCOR bats, no other bats will be grandfathered for the 2018 season. Please visit www.baberuthleague.org for the latest updates.

- **Babe Ruth League is working on new pitching limitations for tournament play for Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth Baseball. As soon as this information is finalized, we will advise you accordingly.**

As always, we appreciate the time and resources you devote to the Babe Ruth League program. We look forward to another successful season in 2017.

RPF/tc



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TO: Babe Ruth League Membership
FROM: Steven Tellefsen, President/CEO
DATE: October 14, 2016
RE: Implementation of USABat Standard



Implementation of USABat Standard Begins on January 1, 2018.

USA Baseball, the national governing body for the sport of baseball in the U.S., in conjunction with participating national member organizations (NMOs) announced the decision to adopt a new method for measuring bat performance in the testing of youth bats. Informed by the research of leading scientists on the USA Baseball Bat Study Committee, and supported by its NMOs, -- including the American Amateur Baseball Congress (AABC), Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), Babe Ruth Baseball/Cal Ripken Baseball, Dixie Youth Baseball, Little League Baseball and PONY Baseball -- USA Baseball has concluded that recent advancements in science, engineering, technology, and the materials available to fabricate non-wood bats, now allow the manufacturers to construct youth bats that can perform at a wood-like level through the entire range of lengths and weights of youth bats.

The new USA Baseball bat standard (USABat), which will apply to bats that are classified below the NCAA and NFHS level of play, will be implemented on **January 1, 2018**, allowing the bat manufacturers sufficient time to bring these bats to the marketplace.

The Cal Ripken Division of Babe Ruth League, Inc. have approved the use of the 2 5/8 inch barrel bats for local league play and tournament play beginning in January 2018 and coinciding with the new USA Bat standard.

Similar to the NCAA and NFHS BBCOR standard, which helped to eliminate discrepancies with different length bats and thus provide a more direct measure of bat performance, the new USA Baseball bat standard will allow youth baseball organizations in the United States to reach their goal of establishing a wood-like standard, a standard that will provide for the long-term integrity of the game.

It is important to note there will be no immediate change to youth baseball organizations' bat rules. All bats, currently accepted for the respective leagues, remain permissible through December 31, 2017. Each participating national member organization will incorporate the new standard into their rules for the 2018 season and will begin, with this announcement, to inform their membership of the USABat standard.

Frequently Asked Questions about the USABat standard:

Which national member organizations are implementing this new standard?

To date, the following organizations are participating (in alphabetical order): American Amateur Baseball Congress (AABC), Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), Babe Ruth Baseball/Cal Ripken Baseball, Dixie Youth Baseball, Little League Baseball and PONY Baseball.

Why the change to a wood-like standard?

USA Baseball's national member organizations believe that a wood-like performance standard will best provide for the long-term integrity of the game. The new standard will not have a drop-weight limit, so young players can use bats made with light-weight materials.

Why not just use wood bats?

Wood is a scarce resource. The new bats will be designed to perform much like wood, where its performance will be limited to the highest performing wood.

How is the USABat standard different from the BBCOR standard used by the NCAA and NFHS?

Both the USA Baseball and NCAA bat performance tests are based on the coefficient of restitution from a bat-ball impact. The scale of results is different, however, since they use different test balls and test speeds. The testing difference is necessary to address the

various levels of play in the respective age groups.

Why is USA Baseball involved?

The national member organizations asked USA Baseball as the national governing body to take the lead in this process to establish a new standard. Many other national governing bodies set and enforce standards for the equipment in their respective sports. To that end, USA Baseball established a Bat Study Committee of leading scientists and conducted theoretical modeling, field testing and lab testing. The committee shared its findings with the national member organizations, who then endorsed the new USABat standard.

Who were the scientists on the USA Baseball Bat Study Committee?

Alan Nathan, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Physics at the University of Illinois

Dan Russell, Ph.D. Professor of Acoustics at Penn State University

Glenn Fleisig, Ph.D. Research Director of American Sports Medicine Institute

Why wait until 2018?

The implementation date of 2018 will allow bat manufacturers sufficient time to conduct the appropriate research, design, testing, manufacturing and shipping needed to get new bats into retail outlets. This date also allows the participating national member organizations adequate time to educate their memberships of the USABat standard.

Is my current bat good for league play?

Yes. Current league-approved bats can be used through December 31, 2017.

Is safety the reason for the change?

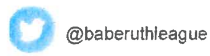
No. Youth baseball continues to be one of the safest of all sports for youth participants.

How will I know which bat to buy?

All new bats that bear the USABat licensing mark will be permissible for play in the leagues and tournaments of the participating youth baseball organizations.

When can I buy the new bat?

It is the intention of the bat manufacturers to make the new bats available in the fall of 2017, in sufficient time for the 2018 season.



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USA Baseball Bat Standard Change

- **Effective January 1, 2018 – Little League Baseball, Pony Baseball, Dixie, Babe Ruth, and AABC will be governed under one umbrella bat standard of USA Baseball**
- **USABB will mandate a new Youth BBCOR standard for all age levels.**
 - The goal is to be “Wood-like”
 - No grandfathering. All bats must be stamped with the new USA Baseball stamp
- **USSSA (travel ball) will NOT be following suit**
- **Max barrel diameter changes to 2 5/8” for all players 14 & Under**
- **Retail start sell date – 9/1/2017**

