



## BETH - WOOD MINOR LEAGUE 2026 "LOCAL RULES"

The following "Local" Rules supersede any applicable Rules contained in the 2026 Babe Ruth League Official Baseball Rules Book and shall govern for play in the Beth - Wood Baseball League (B - W) :

1. In minor league play, ten (10) players are allowed in the field with four (4) outfielders. These outfielders MUST be equally spaced - NO short fielders !! Once you start with 10 players in the field, you MUST also finish with 10 players in the field as well.
2. In all Leagues - sliding must be encouraged - if there is a play at any base where the ball arrives before the runner, the runner must slide or he is out, unless there is an intentional collision, where the runner will be called out and could be ejected from the game.
3. In minor league play, when either stealing or sliding into bases, a player must request and be granted time out from the umpire prior to stepping off the base (no automatic time outs).
4. In minor league play, all players bat through the order (whether starters or substitutes).
5. Every player on each Team MUST play a minimum of three (3) innings in the field and bat once in every game (based upon a full 6 inning game) ; if the game does not go the full six (6) innings, then this rule can be waived.



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6. At the start of each game, each Team MUST start with a minimum of eight (8) players and MUST finish the game with no less than eight (8) also. If the other Team has nine (9) players or more, than they shall provide a courtesy outfielder for the team with (8) players ; this outfielder shall be the player who makes the last out in the prior inning. For the team with (8) players, there will NOT be an automatic out at the ninth batting position. Any Team that starts with only seven (7) or less players MUST contact the League Commissioner / Player - Agent ahead of time for a ruling. Note that each Team MUST play only those players on their Official rosters (no substitutions from another Team or League Division will be allowed).
7. For **B - W** Pitching Regulations, refer to the attached that defines specific pitch counts and days rest required (NO exceptions will be allowed) !!
8. Once a player is removed from the pitching position, he / she cannot re-enter that position in the same game.
9. The calendar week for the **B - W** is:

<u>Start of Week</u>	<u>End of Week</u>
Monday	Sunday

10. If a courtesy runner is required, due to injury or otherwise, this runner shall be the player on that team who made the last batted out. Also, each team has the option to pinch run for their catcher should he/she be on base with two (2) outs in order to get the catcher's gear on and expedite the game.



11. In case of rainouts, these games will be NOT be canceled but made up if possible !! There will be Mandatory make-up games on Saturday during the designated time slots scheduled for practices ; no exceptions will be allowed (i.e., as Minor Teams practice at 12 Noon and 1:30 PM on Saturdays, the make-up games will be played starting at 12:30 PM on the field you were scheduled to play on the day it was rained out). Any Team failing to field at least eight (8) players **MUST** contact the League Commissioner / Player - Agent ahead of time for a ruling. The first game rained out in the week is the game to be made up ; if the second game scheduled is rained out, then that game will be canceled in its entirety and not made up. Note that if there is a 3<sup>rd</sup> game held in a specific week (on a Saturday), then any games rain out during that same week will also be canceled and not made up.

Please note that after a game has begun, it can only be stopped by the Umpires, with input from the Managers, if playing conditions so warrant due to inclement weather.

12. Incomplete Games:

a. Due to rain or darkness - a new game is NOT to be replayed if the game was canceled before completing 4 innings ; this game will be treated as a suspended game and will be completed on that next Saturday. Note that the completion of all suspended games is Mandatory for that following Saturday (no exceptions will be allowed, unless there is a game scheduled). Play will start at the exact point in time the game was suspended (i.e., same line-up, pitchers, etc.).



If the home team is ahead after 3-1/2 innings, the game is official and the home team wins (the game must complete 4 full innings if the visiting team is ahead). If the game is called due to rain or darkness after 4 full innings, the final score of the game reverts back to the last complete inning played.

b. Minors may play extra innings if the score is tied at the end of six (6) innings if time permits or the game will remain a tie.

**New Tie - Breaker Rule (Extra Innings Procedure) :**

At the start of each extra innings, a runner is placed on second base - the runner will be the last recorded batter of the previous inning. Any eligible player may be substituted for this runner and is subject to the substitution rule (3.04). This format play shall continue until 1) the visiting team has scored more total runs than the home team at the end of the completed inning or 2) the home team scores the winning run in an uncompleted inning.

13. A player can not leave the base until either the ball crosses the plate or is hit by the batter. If a player leaves early and steals a base, that player must return back to the base he originally was on. If a player leaves early and the batter gets a hit, that player can only advance one (1) base ahead of the batter; if a player leaves early and disrupts a play in the infield by a ground ball hit, the player is called automatically out and the batter is awarded first base.



14. After hitting the ball, the batter MUST drop his / her bat and not throw it. One (1) warning will be given to each Team, thereafter each batter for that Team who throws the bat will be called out, at the sole discretion of the Umpire.
15. No inning can start after 8:00 PM until June 1st, when daylight will allow the games to be extended longer (at the sole discretion of the Umpire).
16. Any pitcher who hits two (2) batters in the same inning MUST be removed from the pitching position but can remain in the game at another position ; a pitcher is allowed to hit one (1) batter per inning.
17. There will be NO intentional walks allowed in Minors. Managers / Coaches may simply instruct the umpire their pitchers to pitch around a specific batter and if a walk results, then it will be allowed. However, if it is the opinion of the plate umpire that the pitcher is intentionally walking a batter, he / she shall instruct that Team Manager to have his pitcher properly pitch to that batter and the batter will be allowed to start his count over again.
18. Mercy Rule - the game will automatically be called if a Team is ahead by 15 runs or more after the game is deemed official (if the home team is ahead by 15 runs after 3-1/2 innings, the game ends ; if the visiting team is ahead by 15 runs, the game MUST go the complete 4 innings). Once a game is called by this Mercy Rule, the game stops and is NOT to be continued, even for recreational fun.



19. An inning is over once three (3) outs are recorded or six (6) runs have scored, whichever comes first. However, this rule will be waived in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning and both Teams may score as many runs until (3) official outs have been recorded. However, once the League Playoffs begin, this 6 - run Rule will therefore be waived in its entirety.
20. Slash Bunting :
  - This is when a Batter shows intent to bunt, drawing the infielders in towards the plate. The Batter then draws his bat back and takes a full swing at the pitch. If the Batter should hit the ball while the infielders are still looking for a bunt, one of those fielders could get seriously injured.
  - We will NOT ignore the fact that this is a very dangerous play. We mandate that you NOT allow your players to attempt this maneuver. If in the Umpire's judgment, a Batter tries to slash bunt, then the ball will be automatically called dead, the Batter will be called out and the Manager could be subject to immediate ejection from the game if they instruct the batter to do so (Managers will also be subject to additional disciplinary action as deemed appropriate).
  - We also ask that you instruct your infielders to be aware of the bunt when the Batter shows such an intention, but the Player should follow the pitch to the plate rather than breaking towards the plate too early.



21. As a reminder, ALL bats MUST comply with the USA Bat Standards and MUST specifically bear the USABat licensing mark on them - NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE ALLOWED !!

**Penalty**

- a. If an illegal bat is discovered prior to the Batter completing his "at bat", the bat is simply removed from play and the "at bat" continues.
- b. Any bat discovered prior to the game that does **NOT** conform to the rule above shall be immediately removed, taken home and **NOT** allowed for use during the game as well as for the rest of the Season (Team Managers shall perform these inspections and shall be responsible for enforce this for their respective Teams).