

Surry County



League Constitution and By-Laws

REV B; Revised 3/6/2023

Surry County Cal Ripken League

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Surry County Cal Ripken League

<u>Rookies</u>
Beulah Royals
Beulah Twins
Copeland Dodgers
Dobson Yankees
Dobson Angels
Franklin Cardinals
Mountain Park Orioles
White Plains Braves

<u>Minors</u>	
Beulah Royals	Mount Airy Reds
Copeland Dodgers	Mount Airy White Sox
Dobson Yankees	Elkin Indians
Dobson Tigers	Elkin Mariners
Salem Fork Giants	Mountain Park Orioles
Franklin Cardinals	White Plains Braves
Franklin Cubs	White Plains Pirates
	White Plains Red Sox

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<u>Majors</u>
Beulah Royals
Beulah Twins
Franklin Marlins
Mount Airy Reds
White Plains Braves
Salem Fork Giants
Dobson Yankees
Copeland Mets

Surry County Cal Ripken League

Constitution and By-Laws

2023 Board of Directors

President Matt Swift
Vice President – Anthony Kiger
Treasurer/Secretary – Scott Lester
Board Member – Danny Lyons
Board Member – Tommy Belton

Majors Representatives

Anthony Kiger
Danny Lyons

Minors Representatives

Scott Lester
Tommy Belton

Purpose

The purpose of the Surry County Cal Ripken League program shall be to provide an opportunity for youth to develop in leadership, sportsmanship, character and citizenship; to acquire knowledge of the fundamentals of baseball; to develop skills in the game of baseball; and to provide an organized baseball recreation program for physical development.

Surry County Cal Ripken League

I. Organization

A. Objectives

The objectives of the League are to:

1. Develop sportsmanship – both in winning and losing.
2. Promote healthful interest in activities of a worthwhile nature.
3. Develop character and physical fitness.
4. Develop self-reliance, courtesy, kindness, loyalty, honesty, cooperation, and initiative through supervised baseball activities.

B. Board of Directors

This League shall be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of a Commissioner / President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer/Secretary (combined role) and two (2) representatives for divisions within the League (total of five (5) members).

1. The Managers of the League shall elect the Board of Directors for a two (2) year term. The Managers have the option of re-electing any Board of Director and/or the League Commissioner for additional consecutive or non-consecutive two (2) year term(s).
 - a. The League Commissioner and two (2) Directors shall be elected on odd numbered years, while the two (2) remaining Directors will be elected on even numbered years.
 - b. The election of the League Commissioner and Directors will occur prior to the beginning of their service on January 1st of their first (1st) service year.
 - c. The Commissioner and all Directors shall serve until a new Commissioner and Directors are elected regardless of the length of continuous service.
2. The Managers of the League teams shall meet at least one (1) time each year with the Board of Directors. The team Manager of each Major/Minor League combination as listed in Member Teams shall have one (1) vote on all business matters. League and Board of Directors meetings will be called by the League Commissioner.

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3. The Board of Directors shall **recruit, approve or dismiss managers and coaches** as the Board of Directors deems necessary.
4. Amendments to this Constitution must receive a majority favorable vote of a quorum of fifty percent (50%) of the teams thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of the season, or by a favorable vote by all (100%) of the League teams at any time.
5. All teams must be notified by the League Office at least ten (10) days prior to any meeting where changes in this Constitution are to be considered. Should a situation arise where a formal meeting cannot convene within ten (10) days, League members shall be sent notification via electronic mail of the proposed change requesting their vote be returned via the same format.
6. Any rule not specifically covered in this document will be governed by the *Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules and Regulations and Official Playing Rules for the Cal Ripken Division*.
7. In case questions or disputes arise that are not covered specifically by this Constitution and By-Laws nor covered by the playing rules of the *Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules and Regulations and Official Playing Rules for the Cal Ripken Division*. **The decision of the Board of Directors of the Surry County Cal Ripken League shall be final.**

C. Finances

1. All league fees and sanction fees must be paid by teams as their rosters are submitted. All games played before payment will be forfeited.
2. All credits and/or debts of any kind held by teams and payable by the League must be submitted to the League Treasurer before September 1st of the current season or they become the responsibility of the team.
3. League fees will be determined, yearly, at the preseason League meetings.
4. The League Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all monies received. He shall deposit all monies in the name of and to the credit of the Surry County Cal Ripken League. He shall disburse all monies under the direction of the League Commissioner.

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5. The Surry County Cal Ripken League will furnish, through collection of fees and appropriate fundraisers, the following;
 - a. Required annual registration fee per team for Charter in the Babe Ruth League, Inc.; registration may vary year-to-year;
 - b. Required group accident insurance and commercial general liability insurance;
 - c. Baseballs for County Tournaments;
 - d. One-half (1/2) the fee for Umpires for County Tournaments not to exceed \$27.50 per game;
 - e. Trophies for first (1st) and second (2nd) place team members in the Division and County Tournaments; and
 - f. Monetary aid to a team traveling outside North Carolina to participate in All Star Tournaments not to exceed the amount of \$1000 per season and at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

D. Insurance

1. Accident and liability insurance will be provided by the Surry County Cal Ripken League for all participants in League and tournament play.
2. The League accident insurance policy shall cover managers, coaches, team candidates and team members during tryouts, practices and actual game play. The League liability insurance will cover members of the Board of Directors, Division Representatives, League Officers and the managers and coaches of the teams.

E. Records

All League records shall be kept at the office of the League Secretary.

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II. League

A. League Schedule

1. The Board of Directors shall prepare the regular season schedule. The schedule shall provide for a minimum of ten (10) games for the Major League Division and a minimum of ten (10) games for the Minor League Division.
2. Night games played under adequate artificial lights are permissible.
3. Each team must play a schedule of at least one (1) game per week. A team may not play more than three (3) games per week in regular season play.
4. No game may be rescheduled unless both team Managers and the Division Representative agreed on the rescheduled date.
5. All rained out games during the regular season will be suspended at the completion of the last pitch thrown unless the game can be declared a complete game as defined by the *Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules and Regulations and Official Playing Rules*.
 - a. All suspended games will be played on the first (1st) Monday evening or first (1st) available day after the suspension, weather permitting, at the same location.
6. Rescheduled Major League games will have priority over Minor League games.

B. League Boundaries

1. The league boundaries shall consist of that area within the Dobson, Mountain Park, Beulah, Lowgap, White Plains, Copeland, Westfield, Shoals, Franklin, Mt Airy (Reeves), Flat Rock and Elkin Elementary School Districts. Expansion of School Districts for player drafting purposes must be approved by the League Commissioner.

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III. Players

A. Eligible Players

1. Any player whose 13th birthday falls on or after May 1st of the current year is eligible to compete in Surry County Cal Ripken League play. A player must have a minimum league age of 7. Age for league purposes means "league age" which is that age prior to May 1st of the season in question.
2. Each candidate must present acceptable proof of age to his/her Manager or the League before being accepted as a member.
3. For any child to participate in any of the activities of the Surry County Cal Ripken League, he/she must reside within the League boundaries.
4. A member is an individual whose name has been submitted to the League Office on the team roster. A candidate is one trying for membership.
5. Teams are composed of members and candidates according to the elementary school districts and expansion boundaries. Candidates must reside or attend school in the elementary school or middle school district that their respective team serves.
6. **The Manager may dismiss a team member** when the member's behavior becomes such that the Manager feels it is detrimental to the well being of the team and/or contrary to the objectives as established by the Surry County Cal Ripken League. Once a player is expelled by one (1) team, he/she may not play for any other team within the League.

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B. Player Transfer

1. Except for reasons previously stated in this document, a player may not be transferred from one (1) team to another. Once a player is drafted or placed on a team, the player remains the property of that team for the duration of the player's eligibility.
2. Any player wishing to transfer from the team he/she is currently playing for, may only transfer to another team within his/her own drafting district. If such a move is made after the first (1st) scheduled game of the season, the player making the move must sit out the remainder of the current season and then go back into the draft within his/her drafting district. Any such move must be approved by the majority of Managers of that drafting district and the Division Representative.
3. A player may be transferred to another team provided his/her place of residence has changed and causes a change in member status from one (1) team membership school district area to another. The resident change must be reported to the Surry County Cal Ripken League immediately or before the following drafting season. If a player's residence changes from one (1) drafting district to another during or after completion of a season the player can change drafting districts before the next season only. The player shall have the option of remaining with his/her former team or being placed into the draft in the district that he/she has moved into. Once the player elects to go into the draft in his/her new drafting district, he/she forfeits the option of returning to his/her former team.
4. Once a player is enrolled in middle school he/she is eligible to transfer to another drafting district if he/she meets the following criteria:
 1. The player may only transfer to the drafting district served by the middle school he is enrolled in.
 2. The middle school the player attends must feed into a different high school than the previous drafting district the player was in.
5. A player may be transferred to another team if he/she has a sibling enrolled in a feeding middle school / high school in another drafting district than the current team.
 1. The player may only transfer to the drafting district served by the middle school/high school the sibling is enrolled in.
 2. The middle school/high school the sibling attends must be or feed into a different high school than the previous drafting district the player was in.
6. If a team fails to sign up enough players to field a team and there is no other team in the drafting district, the board of Directors will assign a drafting district for all affected players to attend. The players will be divided among the teams according to the late candidate draft covered in Section III-D-1.

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7. A player must not be released for any reason between the time the League schedule is completed until candidate sign-ups begin the following year.
8. Player Transfer Request(s) must be submitted to the League Commissioner thirty (30) days prior to the Draft date set by the League Commissioner.
9. **The League Commissioner of the Surry County Cal Ripken League shall rule on the eligibility of all players and the admissibility of any proposed player transfers.**

C. The Draft

1. The Managers of all teams shall announce or cause to be announced, preferably in the elementary schools, a date, time and place for the sign up of eligible candidates.
2. For the purpose of drafting, the following teams shall draft from a pool of candidates from their respective elementary school districts:
 - a. **Dobson:** Cardinals, Yankees, Rockford Braves, Salem Fork Giants (Old Dobson Elementary School District prior to the founding of Rockford Elementary School).
 - b. **Beulah:** Royals, Twins (Beulah Elementary School District prior to the founding of Cedar Ridge Elementary School).
 - c. **Lowgap:** Astros (Lowgap Elementary School District prior to the founding of Cedar Ridge Elementary School and Glade Creek Elementary, Alleghany County)
 - d. **White Plains:** Braves, Pirates, Red Sox
 - e. **Copeland:** Angels, Dodgers, Mets (Old Copeland Elementary School District prior to the founding of Rockford Elementary School).
 - f. **Franklin:** Cubs, Astros, Cardinals
 - g. **Mount Airy:** Reds, Rockies, White Sox (and Blue Ridge Elementary School, Patrick County, VA, western part of district according to map).
 - h. **Elkin:** Indians, Mariners, Rays (C.B. Eller Elementary School, Ronda Clingman Elementary School and Roaring River Elementary School, Wilkes County).

Note: Expansion districts will be assigned to a drafting school district by the League Commissioner.

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3. The following teams shall draw candidates from their own elementary school districts without the necessity of a draft:
 - a. **Mountain Park Orioles** (Mountain View Elementary School, Mulberry Elementary School, Traphill Elementary School and Bridges Academy, Wilkes County).
 - b. **Westfield Orioles** - including the part of the Pilot Mountain Elementary School district east of Main Street also to include Blue Ridge Elementary School, Patrick County, VA, eastern part of district according to map.
 - c. **Shoals Indians** - including the part of the Pilot Mountain Elementary School district west of Main Street.
 - d. **Flat Rock Royals**.
 - e. **Cana Tigers** – (Carroll County Virginia. NOTE: Any overflow of players from the district will be placed in another drafting district as determined by the board.)
4. Teams may elect to conduct their draft at the actual candidate sign up or may obtain sign up cards from the prospective candidates and draft the players at a later meeting called by the Managers within that drafting district. The Division Representative should be present for the actual draft.
5. At the actual draft, the team with the worst record in the regular minor league season (not including non-division games) the previous year (see note) may select one candidate or his/her choice from those present or from the candidates. After that the team with the next worse record may select one candidate from his/her choice from those present or from the candidates. This continues in a cycle until all candidates in the pool of candidates are depleted.
Note: in the event of a new team within a drafting district, the new team shall receive the first draft pick (Ex: drafting district usually has one team in a league, but due to number of sign-ups must now have two)
6. If one (1) team has more candidates than they can accommodate and another team has less, the Board of Directors may assign the candidates to one (1) of the other teams within the drafting district.

D. Late Candidate Registration

1. In areas of this League where two (2) or more teams draft together, a second (2nd) draft will be held for all late candidates. Players will be assigned according to the last pick from the first (1st) draft. The selection will follow from the oldest candidate and working to the youngest.
2. Any other candidate who may request admission into the League during the last two (2) weeks prior to the first (1st) game of the season shall be handled in a like manner by the Division Representative. This candidate may not take part in any practice with any team prior to the first (1st) day of the season when the Division Representative shall determine which team the player will go to.

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3. No candidates will be accepted into the Surry County Cal Ripken Baseball League after the start of the regular season without permission of the League Commissioner.

E. Player Designation

1. Any player listed on a Minor League roster with a league age of 11 or 12 years must be approved by the Board prior to the start of the season.
2. Any player listed on a Minor League roster with a league age of 11 or 12 years may not catch or pitch in any regular season game and will not be eligible for All Star play.
3. Any player listed on a Major League roster may not participate in any Minor League team game.
4. Any player listed on a Minor League roster with a league age of 11 or 12 years must bat behind all 9 & 10 years olds. If roster batting, they still must be at the end of the lineup.
5. Any player listed on a Minor or Major League Roster must play in at least 50% of games within a season to be eligible to play in the end-of-season tournaments.

IV. Eligible Managers and Coaches

Any Manager or Coach listed on a roster with a Surry County Cal Ripken team, may also coach any team affiliated with his/her team (Major or Minor).

Note: Only a total of four (4), Manager or Coaches, may be in the dugout during the course of a game (i.e. one (1) Manager and (3) coaches).

V. Teams

A. Rosters

Team rosters will be retained in the office of the League Secretary for a minimum of four (4) years. The League will furnish each team with a copy of the team rosters of the teams it opposes within its division before the start of the regular season.

B. Uniforms

Surry County Cal Ripken League uniforms will be worn only during scheduled League or tournament games. Uniforms may be worn to other team functions.

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C. Game Balls

The home team shall furnish the game balls. New balls are preferred; however one (1) new ball and one (1) used ball in good condition will be acceptable.

D. Reporting Pitching/Scores

1. Beginning in 2022, the League adopted GameChanger as the official scoring app in place of paper books and pitching report forms (**See Section V-F3**)
2. At the conclusion of a game, BOTH scorekeepers (home and away) must “End Game” at the end of regulation (time limit, innings, or slaughter rule). GameChanger automatically keeps track of pitches.
3. Both teams during gameplay MUST use GameChanger scoring app (iOS & Android). The HOME team is the official book. Access must be granted to a Surry County Cal Ripken representative to the electronic book(s). (**See Section V-F3**).
4. If there is a discrepancy in pitch counts, please submit an email or call a Board member ASAP.
5. We **ALSO** recommend a coach or parent keeping up with pitch count using [THIS SHEET](#) during gameplay as a backup in case GameChanger fails (it is technology). There is also a slight lag between live play and the app. Using this sheet should prevent accidental over-pitching.

E. The Playing Field

1. The distance between the bases for all Major League games shall be 70 feet and the distance from the back point of home plate to the front of the pitching plate shall be 50 feet.
2. The distance between the bases for all Minor League games shall be 60 feet and the distance from the back point of home plate to the front of the pitching plate shall be 46 feet.
3. See the Cal Ripken Division Field Layout in the *Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules and Regulations and Official Playing Rules* for all other field dimensions.

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F. The Official Scorekeeper

1. Home teams shall provide the official scorekeeper, who shall keep all records, as well as pitches, by each individual pitcher. His/her records shall be official in the event of a question concerning the eligibility of a pitcher.
2. Official scorekeepers cannot be in the dugout during a game unless listed as a Manager or Coach on the team roster.
3. Every team in the League ***MUST*** use the Game Changer App (iOS & Android) as an official book. The usage of a paper book is permitted, but the official book must be the GameChanger App.
4. At the conclusion of each game, the opposing coach should review the official scorebook/pitch count and confirm its accuracy. If there is a major discrepancy, contact a League Representative immediately via text or email.

G. Umpires

1. **All umpires shall be sanctioned with Babe Ruth unless both Managers agree prior to the beginning of the game on non-sanctioned umpires.** It is required that two (2) umpires work each regular season Minor & Major League game. *The field umpire for Minors may be unsanctioned*, however the Chief behind-the-plate umpire is required to be sanctioned.
2. It is required that two (2) approved umpires work each tournament game. Umpires shall be approved by the director of the tournament.
3. Home teams are responsible for furnishing umpires for their regular season games.
4. No umpire will be allowed to officiate a game in which any immediate family member is involved.
5. Surry County Cal Ripken League is not responsible for the selection of umpires used in regular season games.

H. Sponsors

1. Teams in the Surry County Cal Ripken League may be sponsored by those organizations or business firms whose activities or products are not detrimental to the welfare of the community youth.
2. Any such sponsorship must be pre-approved by the Surry County Cal Ripken League Board of Directors.

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VI. Game Regulations

A. *Playing Rules*

The Surry County Cal Ripken League will follow the playing rules in the *Babe*

Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules and Regulations and Official Playing Rules for the Cal Ripken Division with the following exceptions.

1. A team may field eight (8) players to avoid a forfeit. An out will be recorded for each appearance in the batting order while a player is missing for the 9th position of the batting order.

2. **Batting Order**

- Teams can bat a 9-player lineup, a 10-player lineup using an extra hitter (EH), or roster bat all present uniformed players. Teams with only 9 or 10 players at the start of the game can not choose to roster bat and must elect to play either a 9 or 10 player lineup. Batting order cannot be changed once the game has started.
- If a team chooses to roster bat, then all players other than the 9 defensive position players are extra hitters and can move freely in defensive positions.
- For teams that are not roster batting, the starting players can withdraw and re-enter once, provided that they re-enter in their original position in the batting lineup.
- If roster batting, player(s) arriving after the game has started are added to the bottom of the batting lineup. If batting 9, or 10 with an EH, players arriving after the game has started are added to the lineup as legal substitutes provided they are listed on the lineup card.
- For **Minor** teams roster batting any 11 or 12 year old player on the roster must be placed behind all 9 and 10 year old players in the batting order.
- If a team chooses to roster bat and loses a player to illness or injury no out will be recorded for the injured/ill player's at bat. The player will be skipped in the lineup and must be reported to the umpire and opposing team. Once a player has left the game due to illness or injury, they may not return to the game. NOTE: In the event of multiple injuries/illness that cause a roster batting team to drop below 9 players an automatic out will be recorded for the 9th position in the order.

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3. Pinch Running

- The LAST OUT may pinch run for pitcher or catcher to help speed the game up.
- If a player is injured and there are not any bench players, the LAST OUT may pinch run. Injured player cannot re-enter.
- Bench players may be used as pinch runners. This counts as a substitution. Starting players may be re-entered however.

4. Minor League Time Limit and Tie Rule = 2 hour time limit. Minor League games start at 6:00 p.m. No NEW inning will be started after 2 hours have passed. Official game time starts at the end of the home plate meeting.

Games can end in a tie during the regular season and will count as ½ win and ½ loss for league standings.

5. Rookie League Time Limit: No new inning to start after 1 ½ hours.

6. Major League Time Rule: There is NO time limit for Major's games. 6 innings (or 5 ½ if the home team is winning). Slaughter Rule is in effect.

7. Minor League Run Limit = Maximum of 4 runs each half inning.

8. Slaughter Rule = Any game must be terminated immediately if one team is ahead by fifteen (15) or more runs after two and one half (2 ½) or three (3) innings and each team has had equal at bats. In addition any game must be terminated immediately if one team once becoming regulation (3 ½ or 4 innings) is ahead by ten (10) or more runs and each team has had equal at bats, or the home team is leading.

9. Forfeits = If a game must be forfeited for any reason an official score will be reported as 6-0 against the team that must forfeit. (one run per inning scheduled).

10. The below pitch count limitations will apply to all regular season games.

REGULAR SEASON PITCHING REST REQUIREMENTS				
AGE	DAILY MAX / Weekly Max	REST PERIOD		
		0 Days	1 Day	2 Days
7-10	75 / 90	1-40	41-65	66+
11-12	85 / 100	1-40	41-65	66+

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- Every Monday @ 12:01 AM, **WEEKLY** pitch counts reset.
- **DAILY MAX & REST PERIODS** must be followed regardless of weekly reset:
 - Example: Makeup game played on a Saturday, player pitches 67 pitches. He CANNOT pitch on Monday although his Weekly Max reset. There has to be 2 full days of rest (Sunday & Monday).

Note: Any playing rules not specifically covered by the rules for the Cal Ripken Division will be governed by the *Official Baseball Rules* of the National Baseball Congress, Inc.

B. League Tournament(s)

1. The league will hold a Major Championship and Minor Championship Tournament. Teams wishing to host tournaments should notify the board at one of the regular scheduled meetings or by contacting one of the board members.
 - a. Major's Championship tournament will consist of a minimum of the top 6 teams. Additional teams may be added on a year to year basis.
 - b. Minor's Championship tournament will consist of a minimum of the top 6 teams. Additional teams may be added on a year to year basis.
2. Participating teams in the League Tournaments will be seeded according to their regular season final standing. In the event two (2) or more teams are tied with identical records, seeding will be determined as follows:
 - a. Won-Loss Record
 - b. Head to Head Results
 - c. Fewest Runs Allowed
 - d. If still tied after (a,b,c) a flip of a coin by the tournament director.
3. All rained out games during the Tournaments will be suspended at the completion of the last pitch thrown unless the game can be declared a complete game by the "Slaughter Rule".

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REVISIONS

DESCRIPTION	DATE
Reformatted spacing to fit page(s) better. Modernized to this century (no more mailing game reports, current system of submitting pitching reports), added Game Changer Rule, Removed helmet facemask rule, revised 11 Year-Olds rule, added no time limit to minors Added back divisions in Minors due to # of teams, changed draft to current setup	3/1/22
Added clarification to page 15 about pitching limits and reset day	4/21/22
Edited for 2023. Removed 7-8 year old pitching limitations, matched them to 9-10 year old to match State Rules	3/6/23
Clarified information. Corrected a link taking viewers to OLD pitch form. Clarified time limits for all 3 leagues.	3/21/23