

Where the PLAYER comes first.





Where the PLAYER comes first.



It's for the love of the game.

They play on diamond cut-outs in the middle of grassy fields. They play on manicured carpets of green, glistening under the lights. They play between the chalk lines in municipal parks surrounded by oak trees.

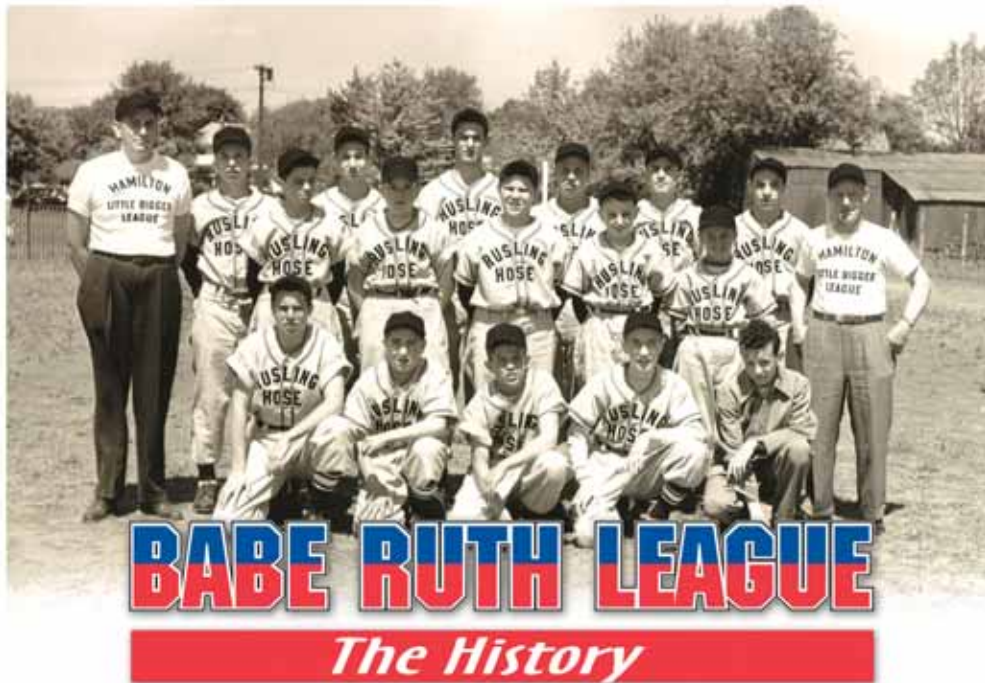
It's a new season and the smells are everywhere. The smell of freshly mowed fields. The new game jersey and the fresh cap. The equipment bag and the broken-in catcher's mitt.

It's time to think again. Think of what it will be like to get the big hit, throw the perfect pitch or make that great catch. Think about how good that uniform is going to look in action. Think about new teammates... and old ones, too.

Babe Ruth League players play the game they love in ballparks all over the land. And over 1 million dedicated Babe Ruth League volunteers teach the game. And in the process, they also teach about respect, teamwork and dedication—the groundwork for becoming good citizens and neighbors.

Babe Ruth League volunteers are given the flexibility to craft a program within Babe Ruth League rules and regulations to meet the specific needs of the players in their own local league. Babe Ruth League works alongside these dedicated local volunteers to guide the local league in providing a memorable and rewarding experience for its players.

***Come take a look at Babe Ruth League...
where the PLAYER comes first.***



The year was 1951. Local businessman Marius D. Bonacci leads a group of 10 dedicated community members in discussions based around developing a baseball program for boys between the ages of 13 and 15. When the group finally emerges from the Yardville Hotel in Hamilton, New Jersey, they have set in place the groundwork for what would soon be known as “Little Bigger League.”

On May 14 of that same year, the first 10-team Little Bigger League plays its very first game between Homedell Civic Association and the White Horse Fire Company at Switlik Park. More games soon follow.

So inspired was League President Willard Carson Jr. by the competitive spirit of the young players and the enthusiastic crowds, he submits an article to the *Sporting News*, seeking interested parties to join baseball leagues for this age group. Within a year, 98 municipalities across the country have responded to that article and the new league is on its way to becoming a national organization.

In 1954, Claire Ruth—the widow of Babe Ruth—hears of the merits of the new organization and its tremendous growth, and meets with the League’s administrators. She subsequently authorizes the organization to change its name to Babe Ruth League.

“Babe was a man who loved children and baseball,” she says. “He could receive no greater tribute than to have a youth baseball program named after him.”

With that, Babe Ruth League, Inc. quickly gains national, and then international, recognition.

Today, Babe Ruth League, Inc. ranks as the premier amateur baseball and softball program in the world. From that first 10-team league in Hamilton Township, New Jersey, it has grown to a combined size of over one million players on over 56,000 teams in more than 9,000 leagues.



The continuing success of the baseball and softball programs is due to the tireless efforts of the many volunteers and the countless hours they contribute. Every volunteer—from the local league manager to the chairperson of the 17-member international board—is dedicated to the good character development of our young athletes and the continued development of their baseball skills.

1951 Babe Ruth League forms in Hamilton Township, a suburb of Trenton, New Jersey, to provide wholesome amateur baseball for age 13, 14 and 15 players. **1952** Babe Ruth League holds its first baseball World Series

for the 13-15 Division in Trenton, New Jersey. **1958** First World Series outside the United States takes place in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. **1961** Babe Ruth League institutes the Host Family program at the World Series competition.

1966 Babe Ruth League recognizes the need for an older division and forms the 16-18 Division. **1968** Babe Ruth League holds its first World Series for the 16-18 Division in Morristown, New Jersey. **1974** Babe Ruth

League, in order to provide greater participation for younger players, forms the Babe Ruth Prep League limited to age 13 players. **1980** Babe Ruth League holds its first World Series for the 13-year-old players

in Jamestown, New York. **1982** Babe Ruth Baseball institutes its Bambino Division for players ages 4 to 12. **1982** National Umpires Association founded to better serve Babe Ruth leagues nationally and internationally.

1984 Babe Ruth League holds its first Bambino Division (ages 4 to 12) World Series in Shelbyville, Indiana. **1984** Babe Ruth Softball, designed for girls ages 4 to 18, makes its debut.



A five-member executive staff, assisted by regional service representatives, maintains Babe Ruth's International Headquarters at 1770 Brunswick Pike in the suburban Trenton community of Lawrenceville, New Jersey.

Local leagues are independent within the guidelines provided by the Babe Ruth League International Board. The Babe Ruth International Board is the governing body while Babe Ruth League Headquarters is the administrative and promotional center.

It is in the Babe Ruth 13-15 Division, started in 1951, where the players first get their baseball feet wet under regulations and rules on regulation sized diamonds. Each chartered league is eligible to enter teams in tournament competition. District champions enter statewide competition with that successful league qualifying for one of eight regional tournaments. The 13-15 Division's first World Series was held in 1952.

The next step in the baseball ladder for young players is the 16-18 Division, which began in 1966 and grew with remarkable success. Teams follow a similar path as their 13-15 Division counterparts with the 16-18 Year-Old World Series, first held in 1968, highlighting the campaign. (Major League Baseball teams have paid particular attention to the players in this age division.)

Added to the program in 1974 was the 13-Year-Old Prep League. The first 13-Year-Old World Series was held in Jamestown, New York in 1980. In 1982, Babe Ruth Baseball added yet a third division to its

program, the Bambino Division (now Cal Ripken), and expanded it to all areas of the program. It was a huge success as the division tripled in size from the number of teams that participated in a test pilot program in 1981.

Starting in 1983, each of the eight Babe Ruth Baseball regions offered Bambino (now Cal Ripken) tournament competition up to the regional level of play, with the first World Series held the following year in Shelbyville, Indiana.

In 1994, Babe Ruth Baseball organized its first World Series for age 16-Year-Old players. Carmel, Indiana, was the host of the first age 16-Year-Old World Series.

Babe Ruth League added another dimension to its program in 1984: the Softball Divisions designed for girls. This division is open to Babe Ruth League's current age groupings 4 to 18. The Softball Division was organized because Babe Ruth League recognized a need for girls' softball on a competitive level and a desire for affiliation with an established national program.

The Babe Ruth Baseball/Softball program, above all, strives to develop better citizenship through proper supervision of regulation competitive baseball/softball. In adopting rules, in establishing standards and in all planning, our primary consideration is the welfare and continued development of the participants.

"Baseball was eternal and youth always had a special place reserved in The Babe's heart. Babe Ruth Baseball/Softball would have made him very proud." —Claire Ruth



1989 Carl Yastrzemski becomes Baseball Hall of Fame inductee—the first Babe Ruth League graduate to attain this honor. **1990** Joe Morgan and Jim Palmer, Babe Ruth League graduates, become Baseball Hall of Fame inductees.

1991 Rod Carew, Babe Ruth League graduate, becomes Baseball Hall of Fame inductee. **1997** Babe Ruth League, Inc. opens office in Pfafftown, North Carolina. **1999** Babe Ruth Baseball holds its first 14-Year-Old World Series

in Clifton Park, New York. **1999** Babe Ruth Softball holds its first 12 & Under World Series in Jamestown, New York. **1999** Babe Ruth Softball holds its first 16 & Under World Series in Dare County, North Carolina. **1999** George Brett and

Nolan Ryan, Babe Ruth League graduates, become Baseball Hall of Fame inductees. **2000** Bambino Division for players ages 5 to 12 renamed Cal Ripken Baseball, a Division of Babe Ruth League, Inc. **2001** Babe Ruth Baseball

holds its first 10-Year-Old World Series. **2001** 50th Anniversary of Babe Ruth League, Inc. **2002** Babe Ruth teams participate in "T-Ball on the South Lawn" at the White House. President George W. Bush initiated the program and

appointed Cal Ripken, Jr. as T-Ball Commissioner. **2007** Babe Ruth Baseball held its first Cal Ripken 70' World Series in Aberdeen, Maryland. **2007** Cal Ripken, Jr., a Babe Ruth League graduate, inducted into Baseball Hall of Fame.



BABE RUTH LEAGUE

The Divisions

Babe Ruth League serves over 1 million players ages 4-18 through Babe Ruth Baseball, Cal Ripken Baseball and Babe Ruth Softball—with leagues in 6 countries and all 50 States! The Bambino Buddy-Ball Division encompasses players ages 5-20. Following are brief descriptions of what each division has to offer:

Bambino Buddy-Ball

Ages 5-20



Babe Ruth League believes that every child should have the opportunity to participate in baseball or softball. The Bambino Buddy-Ball League helps to make that dream a reality for physically and/or mentally challenged ballplayers.

With the help of a special “buddy” to swing a bat, round the bases or catch a ball, ballplayers are able to experience the thrills of the game.

The Bambino Buddy-Ball League is designed to foster confidence and self-esteem, make memories and have fun. An emotionally rewarding experience for all, “buddies” achieve satisfaction from their involvement while the athletes benefit from the opportunity to participate in organized sports, physical fitness, and social events and outings.



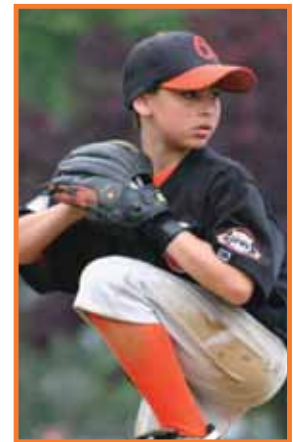
Cal Ripken Baseball Division

Ages 4-12



Keeping baseball FUN—especially in the early stages of youth baseball—is a primary concern of Babe Ruth League’s Cal Ripken Division, which is comprised of the following divisions:

- **Major/70:** Featuring a 50' pitching distance and 70' base paths, this new division is offered as an option to current league format, and still includes a tournament trail from District competition through World Series.
- **Major/60:** Currently the most popular level offered, this division is recommended for ballplayers ages 11-12. Features a 46' pitching distance and 60' base paths.
- **Minor:** Recommended for ballplayers ages 9-10. Players build and refine their fundamental skills while beginning to understand game strategy and teamwork. In most regions, participants first experience post-season tournament competition in this level.
- **Rookie:** Designed primarily for ballplayers ages 7-8, this division makes use of a pitching machine to allow for more hittable balls at the plate and more action in the field.
- **T-Ball:** Ballplayers ages 4-6 learn hitting and fielding fundamentals in a supportive team environment. Young athletes hit the ball from a batting tee which is height-adjusted for a level swing, batting in order through the line-up for the entire game.



Babe Ruth Baseball League

Ages 13-15



Founded in 1951, Babe Ruth Baseball League was created for ballplayers ages 13-15 who wished to continue their baseball playing experience beyond the age of 12. In this division, teams are eligible to enter tournament competition and move along the tournament trail culminating in a World Series.

• **13-Year-Old Prep League:** Babe Ruth League introduced this prep league—comprised of teams with only 13-year-old players—to foster more participation in the game for this age group. This league offers the 13-year-old player the assurance to play without age intimidation and the chance to participate in the 13-Year-Old World Series.



Babe Ruth Baseball League

Ages 16-18



The primary objective of the 16-18 Division is to provide a community-level program which eventually gives players the chance to compete to reach the

16-18 Year-Old World Series.

• **16-Year-Old Prep League:** The primary objective of the 16-year-old prep program is to provide players the opportunity to stay involved in organized baseball while sharpening their skills against competition in their own age group. Through its own tournament trail, players also have the chance to advance to the 16-Year-Old Regional Tournament.



Babe Ruth Softball League

Ages 12U, 16U & 18U



Since its inception in 1984, Babe Ruth Softball has grown tremendously to become a premier softball program throughout the United States and Canada—and is also the fastest growing division in Babe Ruth League, Inc.

Designed for girls ages 4-18, age divisions offered include: 6 & Under, 8 & Under, 10 & Under, 12 & Under, 14 & Under, 16 & Under and 18 & Under.

The primary emphasis of Babe Ruth Softball is on education, skill development, participation for all levels of ability and of course, having fun.

A special highlight of Babe Ruth Softball is its annual tournament trail. Tournament teams from each local league are eligible to participate in District competition with winners advancing to the State and Regional levels. Entry to the official Babe



Ruth Softball tournament trail is free. 12 & Under and 16 & Under Divisions advance to a World Series. In the 10 & Under, 14 & Under, and 18 & Under Divisions, we have a National Invitational Tournament that any Babe Ruth regular season or tournament team is welcome to sign up and participate.



For more information on the Divisions of Babe Ruth League, visit us online at:

www.baberuthleague.org



Elk Grove, California, Cal Ripken team at Major League Baseball's All Star Game Fan Fest in San Francisco.

NEW! CAL RIPKEN BASEBALL MAJOR/70 DIVISION

With today's advanced baseball and bat technology, there is a common perception that players are stronger and developing at a faster rate than 10 to 20 years ago. For this reason, coupled with the age determination date of April 30th, the Cal Ripken Major/70 Division provides a great option.

There is no change to the current Cal Ripken program. The Cal Ripken Major/70 Division, which



has a 50' pitching distance and 70' base paths, is offered as an additional option to the current league programs.

This division has a tournament trail from District competition through the World Series. Whether a league charters a Cal Ripken Major/60 Division and/or a Cal Ripken Major/70 Division, their rookie and minor teams will still use the 46' pitching distance and 60' base paths.



“ I am very excited about Babe Ruth League's new 70' program. This is a wonderful, proactive step for youth baseball and, I believe, it will have a tremendous impact on the youth game. These days many kids are bigger and stronger than when we were kids and it was necessary to provide them with an option that will allow them to take their game to the next level. The 70' program will allow its participants to make an easier jump to the 60/90 field and, for many of these talented youngsters, it will allow them to enjoy a game that is more true and a better fit for them all the way around. The growth that this will allow them to experience with every aspect of their game is immeasurable. ”

— Cal Ripken, Jr.

TOP 10 Questions

1. How do we convert our existing 60' program field to a 70' program?

Your league can convert the field by following 3 easy steps. (Go to baberruthleague.org for easy-to-read, step-by-step instructions.) No need for expensive changes to fences or moving scoreboards and bleachers. All the changes are to the infield area.

2. Do we have to move the fencing back in the outfield for the new 70' program?

NO! Keep your fencing at your traditional height and distance as you would for the 60' program. The only changes pertain to the infield.

3. What rule changes will be different from the 60' program to the 70' program?

a. Players may take leads from the bases, no longer having to wait for the ball to cross the plate.
b. Balks can be called in the 70' program where players will advance to the next base similar to the older levels of Babe Ruth Baseball.

4. Do we have to move back Home Plate for the changes?

No. Home Plate stays where it is with no change.

5. We have lights on our field. Will we have to adjust them?

NO! Your light package will be fine. However, for fields getting new lights, you may want to consult with your lighting engineer for optimal lighting of your league's playing field.

6. Is there a great deal of cost to convert a field from 60' to a 70' Program?

This depends on the existing makeup of your playing field. However, most of the work involved centers on removing the turf grass from behind the back of the infield and replacing it with traditional infield mix. Additionally, you will have to purchase the required pitching rubber base sockets depending on if you're running just a 70' program or both 60' and 70' Major programs.

7. We have a small program and Major Division, why should we change to a 70' Program?

The 70' program will offer a greater chance for players to develop more baseball skills at a younger age, and will help better prepare them for the transition to the 60/90 field of Babe Ruth and high school baseball.

8. What size bat do players use in the 70' program?

Players will use the same size bat as in the 60' program—a 2-1/4-barrel maximum (see Rule 1.10 and note).

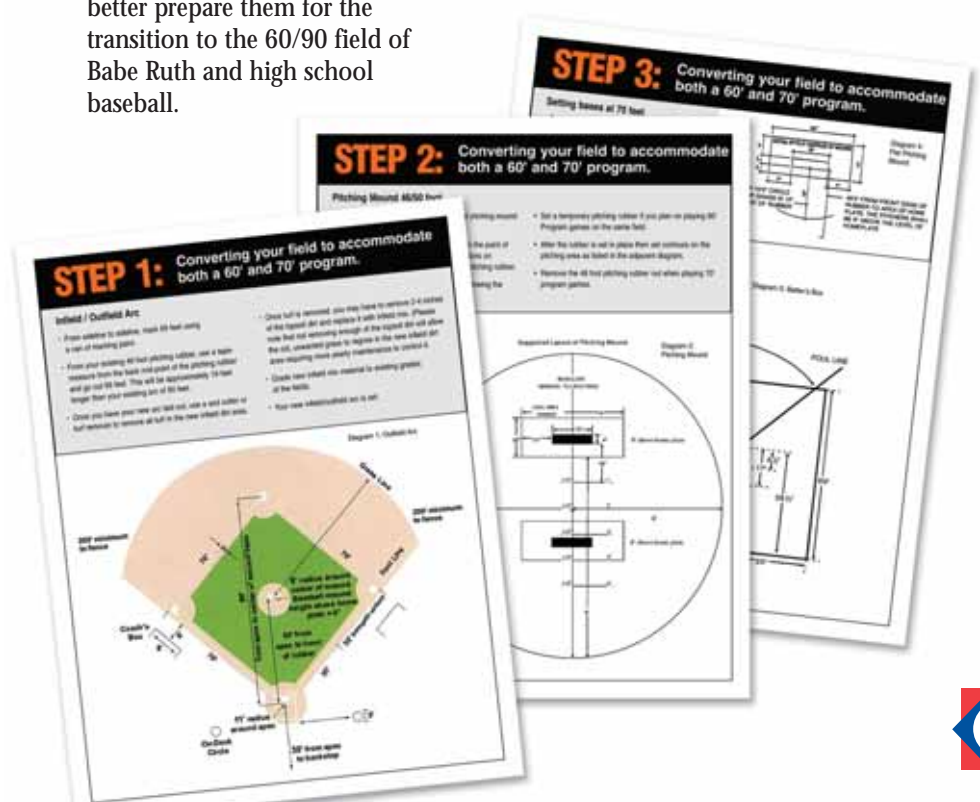
9. How do we set up bases for both programs without interfering with one another?

Your league can convert your in-ground base socket field to where it can be covered and not in the playing field area depending on whether you use the 60' or 70' bases.

10. How can our players pitch at 50' with the pitching rubber at 46'?

When building your new mound for 50', you can place a permanent rubber in the ground at the 50' mark. For games at 46', place a spiked or temporary rubber at that distance and remove it when a 50' distance is needed.

Visit our website at baberruthleague.org for easy-to-read, step-by-step instructions that you can print out.



Visit us online at:
www.baberruthleague.org

BABE RUTH LEAGUE

CHAIN OF COMMAND

The Local League Level

The foundation of the Babe Ruth program is the local league level. Each Cal Ripken Baseball, Babe Ruth Baseball, and Babe Ruth Softball league is organized within a community by a group of select people, who usually serve as a temporary Board until regular elections of officers can be held. State Commissioners help local leagues establish geographical boundaries—which are protected by Babe Ruth League, Inc.—from which to draw their players.

Babe Ruth local leagues operate with the spirit of democracy and with much autonomy. In addition, Babe Ruth League, Inc. provides materials to help leagues establish their own Constitution and By-Laws and plan meetings.

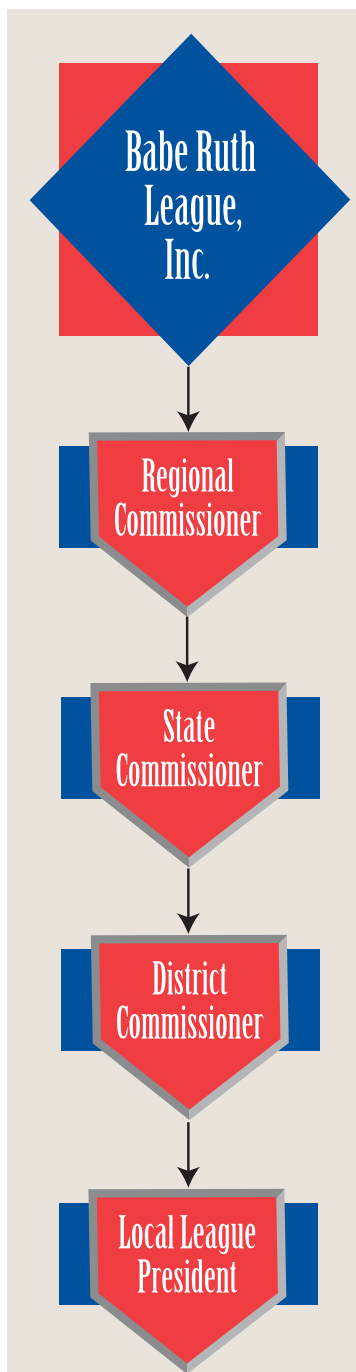
All league officers, managers, coaches, umpires and miscellaneous personnel should be volunteers from within the community and should be individuals who care about teaching the youth of their community the ideals of sportsmanship, fair play, respect for self and others and high morality.

The District Level

District Commissioner's Role

A District is an established area within a state that can consist of between five to ten leagues. A District Commissioner is a volunteer who operates the Babe Ruth program within each district according to the Babe Ruth Rules and Regulations, State's Constitution and By-Laws and its policies.

The District Commissioner assists the local leagues whenever needed. He/she holds several meetings per year to keep his/her leagues updated on the special programs as well as possible policy and rule changes. The District Commissioner serves as the local league's liaison with the State Commissioner.



The State Level

State Commissioner's Role

The District Commissioner reports to the State Commissioner. Depending on its size and population of leagues, a state organization may consist of an entire state or a portion of a state. State Commissioners are volunteers who operate the Babe Ruth program within each state organization according to the Babe Ruth Rules and Regulations as well as any applicable State-level by-laws and policies.

The State Commissioner is responsible for:

- Assisting local league officials when needed or requested by District Commissioners.
- Holding elections for District Commissioners elected by the local leagues within the respective district.
- Holding several meetings per year, including an election meeting where each District Commissioner votes for the State Commissioner; a meeting devoted to league eligibility for tournament play, as well as a complete review of all Babe Ruth Rules and Regulations for local league and tournament play; and meetings to review the special programs offered by Babe Ruth International Headquarters to address any District concerns and review possible policy and rule changes.
- Operating State Tournaments and working through his/her District Commissioners to make certain all leagues are eligible for tournament play.
- Presenting to the Regional Commissioner (the next level) for review all District concerns within his/her state in order that the state's recommendations are presented properly to Babe Ruth International Headquarters.

The Regional Level

Regional Commissioner's Role

The State Commissioner reports to the Regional Commissioner, of which there are eight. A regional organization consists of several states. A Regional Commissioner operates the Babe Ruth program within each region according to the Babe Ruth Rules and Regulations and the program's policies and procedures.

The Regional Commissioner is responsible for:

- Assisting local league officials when needed or requested by District or State Commissioners.
- Holding one or two workshops per year where the operations of the region and the Babe Ruth program are reviewed thoroughly.
- Operating and administering the Regional Tournaments in conjunction with his/her Assistant Regional Commissioners.
- Presenting to Babe Ruth International Headquarters (the next level) for review any regional concerns and subsequent action.

International Headquarters

Elected by the Board of Directors is the President/CEO of Babe Ruth League, Inc. who leads the program's operation and administration. Full-time staff members (including the President/CEO) work with the program's

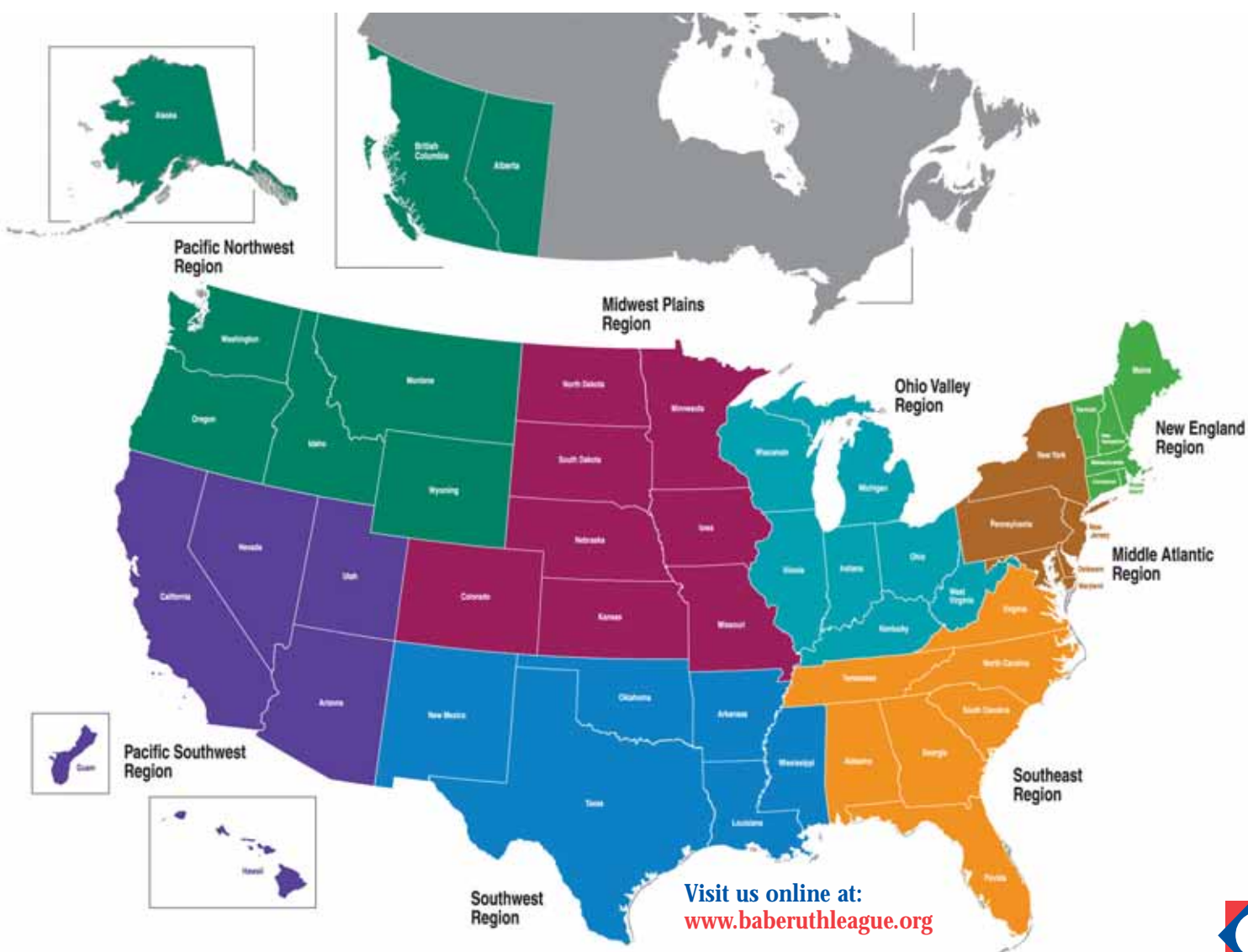
volunteer network of over one million individuals to provide the very best educational, sports experience possible for participants.

The International Headquarters for the administration of Babe Ruth League, Inc. is located in Mercer County, New Jersey. Babe Ruth League International Complex—a 30-acre facility consisting of four regulation-size diamonds, one of which is part of a 3,000-seat stadium, is located in Newark, Ohio. In addition to camps, training workshops, local league games and various state tournaments, the complex plays host to the Babe Ruth 16-18 World Series, as well as several invitational and showcase tournaments.

As part of Headquarters' continuing goal to provide the best service possible to the leagues, each region has a service representative with a dedicated toll-free number allowing the league to communicate with Headquarters and its staff.

The Board of Directors

At the top of the chain of command is the Babe Ruth League International Board of Directors, including the President/CEO who directs the affairs and policies of Babe Ruth League, Inc. The eight baseball Commissioners serve as Board Members, along with eight "at-large" members.



Visit us online at:
www.baberuthleague.org



BABE RUTH LEAGUE

Scholarships, Awards & Grants

Scholarship Opportunities

Babe Ruth League, Inc. realizes society's youth is the future of our nation. Children and young adults are our most valuable resource, and we must aim high for their benefit. Education is quite different for everyone, yet a struggle well worth fighting for. While we focus primarily on the economic benefits of education that are so important to children and their parents today, we should be clear from the outset that economics isn't the only reason students deserve a solid academic grounding. Day-to-day life also has become more complicated and, as adults, we are called on to make responsible decisions that require a high level of understanding and judgment.



It is for these reasons that we established the Babe Ruth League, Inc. College Scholarship Fund and the Jaime Horn Memorial Softball Scholarship Fund, which provide financial assistance to former Babe Ruth Baseball and Softball players. For further information, please visit www.baberuthleague.org to download and print one or both of the scholarship applications to be completed and returned to Babe Ruth Headquarters.

Awards

It is important to recognize our players and volunteers for a job well done. Such acknowledgment reassures a person's sense of accomplishment. Babe Ruth League, Inc. is proud to offer various avenues by which to honor our many participants and volunteers, including:

- *Miscellaneous certificates* the league can personalize to acknowledge achievement, appreciation, and graduation.
- A *unique pin program* offered by Spikes Trophies, the official awards supplier of Babe Ruth League, Inc. There are many different designs from which to choose—Champion, Runner-Up, All-Star, Umpire, Scorekeeper, Defense, Coach, Participant, Home Run, Team Mom and many more. You also can create your own pin or have the artists at Spikes assist you with a design.

In addition, Spikes offers a huge line of *trophies, plaques and awards* that feature the licensed trademarks of Babe Ruth League, Inc. These top-of-the-line awards are affordably priced, so that every



league can acknowledge and honor all of their players (not just the participants that make the tournament team), as well as the individuals and organizations that make their program a success.

- **Tournament honors** - Through the generosity of its corporate sponsors, Babe Ruth League, Inc., is proud to offer numerous complimentary awards, from participant awards to trophies and plaques for special honors, championship teams and runners-up to acknowledge the lucky participants who travel the sanctioned Babe Ruth tournament trail. To honor the “cream of our crop” who make it to World Series level of play, we provide:

- World Series Participation Plaques
- All-Defensive Awards—miniature replicas of the Rawlings Gold Glove.
- All-World-Series Team Awards—a full-size bat with gold engraving.
- Most Outstanding Player Award
- Batting Champion—A full-size bat mounted on an engraved walnut panel.
- Sportsmanship Award
- Ronald Tellefsen Player of the Game Pin—Awarded to two Babe Ruth World Series players from each World Series game.
- **Volunteer of the Year Award** - One of the greatest volunteers the Babe Ruth League organization has ever known was former Hall of Fame Yankee great, Vernon “Lefty” Gomez. Lefty was a 25-year member of the Babe Ruth Board of Directors until his untimely death on February 17, 1989. In honor of Lefty and his selfless volunteerism, Babe Ruth League, Inc. established the the Vernon “Lefty” Gomez Volunteer of the Year Award to pay tribute to our outstanding volunteers for baseball and softball.

- **Scorekeeper of the Year Award** - Scorekeepers also are volunteers who play one of the most important roles in baseball and softball. Babe Ruth League, Inc. established the “Scorekeeper of the Year” Award to acknowledge their contribution and enthusiasm. We look for the scorekeeper who demonstrates an organized and knowledgeable approach to keeping the official score; displays persistent attention to their scorekeeping responsibilities; is objective and possesses all traits associated with excellence; and, in general, goes above and beyond the call of duty.

Grants

Musco Lighting, the “Official Lighting Company” of Babe Ruth League, Inc., proudly awards four \$15,000 grants each year for league use toward the purchase of a new MUSCO lighting system or the upgrade of an existing lighting system.

Visit us online at:

www.baberuthleague.org



Babe Ruth League National Umpires Association

Babe Ruth League, Inc. established the Baseball and Softball National Umpires Associations to assist the local leagues affiliated with the program to educate men and women on the rules and mechanics of the game and improve the quality of umpiring in their games. It has always been the intent of Babe Ruth League, Inc. to improve the quality of umpiring in youth leagues through innovative teaching, educational programs, and superior educational resources.

Babe Ruth Headquarters continually educates all National Umpire's Association members through instructional clinics, videos, and the periodic newsletter, *UMPIREGRAM*, which includes informative articles and offers valuable tips and advice for the amateur umpire.

Every league president should appoint an Umpire-in-Chief to coordinate and supervise the league's umpires. By having your umpires join the National Umpires Association, you are assured they will have a thorough knowledge of the rules of Babe Ruth League, Inc. and how to apply them on the field.



BABE RUTH LEAGUE COACHING EDUCATION PROGRAM

Powered by Ripken Baseball

www.BabeRuthCoaching.org

There is no one single action that can have more of a positive impact on our players than improving the quality and knowledge of our managers and coaches. It is a fact that managers and coaches are the ones who spend the most time interacting with our participants and the ones who can make a child's experience in youth sports fun and memorable. Therefore, it is very important for youth coaches to be properly trained to focus more on the child's baseball and softball experience and less on winning games.

With this in mind, the Babe Ruth League/Ripken Baseball Coaching Certification Program was developed. Under the program, all baseball and softball coaches must complete coaching education before July 2008.

The Babe Ruth League/Ripken Baseball Coaching Certification Program consists of the coaching certification online courses Coaching Youth Baseball: *The Ripken Way for Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Baseball Coaches* and Coaching Youth Softball: *The Ripken Way for Babe Ruth Softball Coaches*. Babe Ruth League, Inc. and Ripken Baseball, Inc. exclusively endorse these online courses, which are being provided by the American Sport Education Program.

Coaches who complete the course with a score of 80% or better will receive the Babe Ruth League/Ripken Baseball Coaching Certification Program certification for baseball or softball and will be able to print a certificate of completion and wallet card from the website.

Visit us online at: www.baberuthleague.org



Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Babe Ruth League Ripken Baseball Coaching Education Program

What is the Babe Ruth League Coaching Education Program requirement?

The requirement is that all baseball and softball coaches affiliated with either organization must become certified by July 2008.

What are the online courses being offered through ASEP?

Coaching Youth Baseball:
The Ripken Way for Babe Ruth Baseball Coaches
Coaching Youth Softball:
The Ripken Way for Babe Ruth Softball Coaches

How much does the course cost?

The courses are \$19.95 each. The certification will be good for three years (breaking down to \$6.65 per year), making it affordable for each coach to pay for their own online program.

How do I purchase the course?

Visit... www.BabeRuthCoaching.org, click on "For coaches" link under "Quick Clicks" section of the home page, and follow the prompts. You will need a Visa or Mastercard credit or debit card to make the purchase through the website.

What is the format of the course?

The courses are PDF-based courses, meaning course takers do not receive any ancillary course materials (no book, CD, or video) in the mail. All course content is delivered electronically through the course.

How long is the certification valid?

By taking the ASEP course, coaches are certified for three years. At the end of three years, coaches will need to renew their certification by participating in a to-be-developed course.

How long does the course take to complete?

Coaches should expect to spend two to three hours going through the online course. Careful reading of the PDF book and other materials found within the course will require additional time (well spent!).

Visit us online at:
www.baberuthleague.org

Can someone not affiliated with Babe Ruth League or Ripken Baseball take the course?

Yes, but we would recommend the coach consult his or her organization to ensure that the Babe Ruth/Ripken version will satisfy the coaching education requirements of the non-affiliated organization. If a person is taking the course for his or her own professional development and not to satisfy a requirement, the coach would simply select "Other" from the drop-down menu during the registration process.

Will coaches receive a certificate of course completion?

Coaches will have the ability to print a certificate of completion and wallet card directly from the site. However, we will not be mailing certificates.

Will there be a National Coaches Registry for the site?

Yes, there will be an National Coaches Registry, but it will not be open to the public. Only administrators will have access to the registry to run reports for their individual leagues.

What are the technical requirements for viewing the course?

Go to...
www.BabeRuthCoaching.org/techSupport.cfm
for a detailed listing of technical requirements.



BABE RUTH LEAGUE

League Insurance Plans

The approved insurance plans of Babe Ruth League, Inc. have been specifically designed for our baseball and softball program. Administered through K&K Insurance Group and placed with A-rated carriers, the approved plans offer premier group accident insurance, commercial general liability insurance, and D&O (directors and officers) liability insurance. These coverages are second to none and are available to chartered member leagues at extremely attractive rates.

- All member leagues are required to carry both group accident insurance and commercial general liability insurance which includes coverage for the player participants.
- All policy periods run from February 1 to February 1 of the following year provided the coverage is purchased prior to February 1st. For new leagues, a 13-month policy beginning January 1 is available at no additional charge.
- Coverage goes into effect the date after the postmark when insurance payment is mailed to Babe Ruth League, Inc. Note: Accident insurance may be bound effective by calling your Service Representative.
- Coverage for leagues with dual affiliation with other programs.
- No additional charge for Fall Ball provided the number of teams is the same as during the season.

Accident Insurance

Provides \$250,000 of primary coverage for all rostered players and all league volunteers while participating in regularly approved baseball and softball activities of the league. This includes sign ups, practices, season and tournament competition as well as pick up games and invitational tournaments which are non-Babe Ruth activities provided they are sanctioned by the local league. There is \$100,000 of coverage provided for injuries which occur during league supervised group travel. Claims are paid for up to 52 weeks from date of injury. There is a \$100 deductible per person. See brochure for more details.

Liability Insurance

Provides choice of purchasing either a \$1 million or a \$2 million insurance plan to those leagues which have obtained a group accident insurance policy with limits of \$250,000 per person. Coverage is written on an "occurrence" basis which is preferred over a "claims made" basis. Policy limit applies per occurrence, with no maximum policy period limit. There is no

deductible. Additional insureds may be added at no additional cost. Owners of fields being used are "automatically" insured as additional insureds. Coverage is provided for all rostered players and all league volunteers while acting within the scope of their duties as such. Coverage includes abuse/molestation claims and does not exclude player vs. player or volunteer vs. volunteer claims. Coverage is provided for cost of investigation and defense against claims, even if they are groundless. See brochure for details.

D&O Liability Insurance

This coverage is optional and is available only to those leagues that have purchased both the Babe Ruth League, Inc. approved group accident and commercial general liability insurance policies. This policy provides \$1 million of coverage to protect a league's board of directors and officers for wrongful acts or errors and omissions resulting in lawsuits from such things as discrimination, wrongful dismissal and other wrongful acts for which the league may be accused. This is a claims made policy which includes a \$500 deductible.

Recap

The coverage offered through Babe Ruth League, Inc. for its chartered member leagues is superior in that it allows for more freedom of activities while covering players, volunteers, umpires, etc. that are involved with the league.



BABE RUTH LEAGUE

Fundraising & Fall Ball

Fundraising

Babe Ruth League, Inc. realizes that it takes considerable funds to operate a successful local league program. Listed below are some of our power-hitting fundraising programs:

- **adidas® Fund Raiser**

Leagues are able to purchase an adidas t-shirt with the Babe Ruth Baseball, Babe Ruth Softball or Cal Ripken Baseball design silk-screened on the left chest at a very reasonable rate. The leagues may then sell the shirts at a higher price to generate valuable income.

- **Hershey® Fund Raising Program**

Hershey is the “Official Candy of Babe Ruth League, Inc.” Research shows that candy is one of the most successful fundraisers. Each league is able to purchase Hershey’s® Fund Raising assortment carriers featuring America’s favorite brands including Reese’s® Peanut Butter Cups, Reese’s Fast Break®, S’mores®, Twizzlers®, Kit Kat®, Hershey’s®, Hershey’s® with

Almonds, and Caramello®. A designated Hershey® Distributor or Headquarters Service Representative is available to each league to discuss the options available for generating revenue through Hershey’s® Fund Raising. Hershey® also offers additional incentives for the local teams and players that participate in your league program.

- **For further fundraising programs, contact Babe Ruth League Headquarters.**



Babe Ruth League Fall Ball

When you join the Babe Ruth program, you’ll learn quickly that the fun never stops! Many of our leagues take the opportunity to offer to the players in their league a “fall” program. Fall programs may begin immediately following the regular season or in the autumn. They are considered an extension of the current season.

Fall ball is a great time to introduce players to trying new field positions. It also offers an opportunity for more skills training and, in general, provides a fun atmosphere for the players to participate.

We also allow our 13-15 baseball leagues and 16U softball leagues to include new players or graduating 12-year-olds that will be new to their division for the following season. The 16-18 baseball and 18U softball divisions would follow suit.

Babe Ruth League, Inc. does not charge an additional charter registration fee for the baseball and softball teams participating in fall programs. As for insurance, if the

league has the coverage offered through Babe Ruth League, Inc., there is no additional charge as long as the number of teams participating in the fall program is not greater than the number which participated during the regular season. Fall Ball Rosters are submitted to headquarters prior to the start of play.



BABE RUTH LEAGUE

Tournament Trail

The Babe Ruth League, Inc.'s tournament trail is a win-win experience! We offer an exciting and challenging post-season tournament trail for all of our age divisions.

Babe Ruth League, Inc. offers nine real World Series: Softball 12U, Softball 16U, Cal Ripken Baseball 10-Year-Old, Cal Ripken Baseball Major/60, Cal Ripken Baseball Major/70, 13-Year-Old Baseball, 14-Year-Old Baseball, 13-15 Baseball and 16-18 Baseball World Series.

What is a Babe Ruth League World Series?

It is a World Series where you have to earn your way in to play. You can't buy your way in!

Players first participate in a full local league schedule. At the end of the season, the league selects its best fifteen (or eighteen) players to its tournament team. The tournament trail starts with District competition, with the winner going to the State tournament. The State champion then goes to the Regional tournament, and the Regional champion earns the honor of advancing to the World Series.

In addition, Babe Ruth League is pleased to provide another dimension to the Softball tournament trail—three national invitational tournaments for 10U, 14U and 18U participants.

There is NO participation fee to play in official Babe Ruth tournament-trail tournaments. We count on our local leagues to play host to all levels of tournament play, including the World Series. By hosting a



tournament, the local league benefits in numerous ways: by bringing in revenue, by uniting their community and by competing in the tournament as the "host team".

When post-season tournament play requires overnight accommodations, our highly-successful Host Family Program welcomes the teams. Our Host Parents are happy to open up their hearts and homes to the tournament players. During the tournament, the Host Parents take on full responsibility for the players staying with them. They provide room and board, transportation to and from practices, games and events as well as facilitate new social and cultural experiences for the participants. They are there to root for their visiting guests and their teams. They are there to encourage them if they strike out, miss a catch or lose a game. The only disadvantage for the players and their host parents is having to say good-bye when the tournament is over. In fact, we have found that many players and host parents often write and/or visit each other after the event is over.

Babe Ruth League, Inc. is about the kids and in making dreams come true. For some kids, the hours spent on the baseball or softball diamond participating in local league or tournament play will be one of the most memorable experiences they ever have. That is why we work very hard to provide them with a playing experience second to none!

The Sportsmanship Code of Babe Ruth League

Develop a strong, clean, healthy body, mind and soul.
Develop a strong urge for sportsman-like conduct.
Develop understanding of and respect for the RULES.
Develop courage in defeat, tolerance and modesty in victory.
Develop control over emotions and speech.
Develop spirit of cooperation and team play.
Develop into real, true CITIZENS.

Mission Statement of Babe Ruth League, Inc.

The Babe Ruth Baseball/Softball program, using regulation competitive baseball and softball rules, teaches skills, mental and physical development, a respect for the rules of the game, and basic ideals of sportsmanship and fair play.

In all aspects, Babe Ruth League, Inc. is committed to providing our participants the very best educational sports experience possible.

It is our fundamental belief that every child with a desire to play baseball or softball be afforded that opportunity.



1770 Brunswick Pike, Trenton, New Jersey 08638

www.baberuthleague.org

Contact Our International Headquarters toll-free: 1-800-880-3142.