

Babe Ruth Travel Coaching Guidelines

The objective of the following coaching guidelines is to establish expectations for coaches, parents, and players. The guidelines are focused on aspects of the Babe Ruth Travel Program that have created conflict in the past. These guidelines should be communicated to coaches, parents, and players at the beginning of each season.

The objectives of the Niskayuna Baseball League, documented in the league constitution, are as follows.

A. The objective of NISKAYUNA BASEBALL, LTD. shall be to implant firmly in the youth of the community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, and respect for authority, so that they may be well-adjusted, stronger, and happier children and will grow to be decent, healthy and trustworthy adults.

B. This objective will be achieved by providing supervised baseball games. The supervisors shall recognize that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill and the winning of games are secondary, and the molding of future adults is of primary importance.

The following rules and guidelines have been established to help ensure that these goals are achieved.

Playing Time

- 1) Every player should play in a minimum of 50% of the available innings, averaged over a 4-game period (offense and defense). Coaches are not required to adhere to this rule if a player misses one or more games or practices within the 4-game period. However, coaches shall not use this exception to sit player following an illness, injury, or family emergency,
- 2) Every player must sit a minimum of 4 innings over a 4-game period (offense and defense).
- 3) The playing time guidelines do not apply to end of season tournament play. During this time, the coaches are allowed more flexibility in assigning playing time. "End of season Tournament play" is considered the ENY State Babe Ruth Tournament the Mid-Atlantic Babe Ruth Tournament, or the Babe Ruth World Series. Other "tournaments" shall be considered regular season games.
- 4) If a player and/or parent feel that playing time guidelines are not being met, they are encouraged to discuss this with the team Manager or GM of Babe Ruth. The team scorebook or *Game Changer* statistics will be reviewed and shared with the parent/player to determine whether the playing time guidelines are being met.
- 5) If playing time is found to be in conflict with the aforementioned guidelines, the NBL board will work with the Manager to rectify this as soon as possible, in future games, to balance the playing time back to the required average levels.

Team Selection

- 1) The selection of players for each team will be made jointly by the team coach(es) and one or more Niskayuna Baseball League Board Members that are selected by the league Executive Board. The selection of players will be made within one week of the team tryouts.

Practice

- 1) Weather permitting, each team is expected to practice or play in games a minimum of 4 days each week.
- 2) Coaches are encouraged to develop practice plans with the goal of teaching fundamental and advanced skills, while maximizing the number of repetitions for each player.
- 3) Coaches are expected to give all players an equal number of repetitions in practices.

Competition

- 1) Player competition for positions in the field and playing time is encouraged.
- 2) Players should be given the opportunity to compete for positions in the field. If a player requests the opportunity to compete for a position, the coach will encourage this competition by giving the player an opportunity for defensive repetitions in practice.

Dispute Resolution

- 1) A progressive approach shall be used to resolve any disputes and/or complaints between coaches and parents.
 - Step 1: The coach should strive to resolve any issues directly with the player and/or parent through direct communication, telephone conversations, or email correspondence. Coaches and parents should avoid having these conversations immediately after games.
 - Step 2: If the dispute cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of either the coach or parent, the issue should be elevated to GM of Babe Ruth Travel Baseball for resolution.
 - Step 3: The Niskayuna Baseball League Executive Board will intervene to resolve disputes that cannot be resolved through Steps 1 and 2. The Executive Board will be responsible for implementation of any disciplinary action that may be warranted if either coaches or parents are found to have behaved in a manner that is in violation of the coaching guidelines or code of conduct provided in the Niskayuna Baseball League Handbook.
- 2) In the event of a dispute that cannot be directly resolved by the coach and parents/player, the GM of Babe Ruth Travel Baseball and/or Executive Committee Members will interview all parties involved in a dispute, in addition to third party witnesses, before implementing action to resolve the dispute.
- 3) If either the GM of Babe Ruth Travel Baseball and/or a member of the Executive Committee are directly involved with a dispute that is under investigation, they will be recused from the dispute resolution process.