

# SUWANNEE

Parks & Recreation

Live Oak, FL



## 2017 Babe Ruth Program Information

Dear Baseball, Softball and Tee Ball Participants:

We thank you for registering your child to participate in our Babe Ruth Baseball, Softball & Tee Ball Program this year. We strive to make your family's experience an enjoyable one. We hope that your participation in our program will instill a passion for the game of baseball and softball in you and your child. Please review the information in this packet and feel free to contact us with any questions you may have. We can be reached by telephone between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, at (386) 362-3004.

Please note that practices will begin on Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> and we will begin playing games on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.

We offer nine divisions of play in our Babe Ruth program:

BASEBALL		SOFTBALL	
Tee Ball (Coed)	5 & 6 year olds	8U Softball	7 & 8 year olds
Rookie Ball	7 & 8 year olds	10U Softball	9 & 10 year olds
Minor League	9 & 10 year olds	12U Softball	11 & 12 year olds
Major League	11 & 12 year olds	14U Softball	13 & 14 year olds
Senior League	13 to 15 year olds		

*BASEBALL AGE CUTOFF: A player's age will be determined as of May 1<sup>st</sup>*

*SOFTBALL AGE CUTOFF: A player's age will be determined as of January 1<sup>st</sup>*

IT STARTS IN  
**PARKS**



### **Coaches Meeting:**

All coaches participating in the Babe Ruth program must attend the Coaches Meeting scheduled for Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Passenger Depot located at 210 North Ohio Avenue. To get to the Passenger Depot, take Ohio Avenue (US 129) north from downtown, cross the railroad tracks and turn right on Haines Street. The parking lot will be on the right.

### **Player Drafts:**

All Suwannee County Babe Ruth teams (with the exception of Tee Ball teams) will be formed through a player draft. Coaches' children will be drafted to the team their parent is coaching. Siblings in the same age division will be teamed together unless otherwise specified. Each coach is allowed a maximum of two assistant coaches. Please arrive early to your scheduled player draft and have your child dressed ready to participate, including cleats, glove, and appropriate baseball/softball clothing. Player drafts are scheduled for the following dates and times:

Rookie 7 & 8 Year Olds: Tuesday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6 pm, Field 2

Minor League: Thursday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 6 pm, Field 2

Major League: Friday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm, Field 3

Senior League: Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 6 pm, Field 1

8U Softball: Tuesday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6 pm, Field 5

10U Softball: Thursday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 6 pm, Field 5

12U Softball: Friday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm, Field 4

14U Softball: Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 6 pm, Field 4

## Volunteers Needed!

Do you have a passion for baseball?

Do you enjoy coaching and working with children?

Do you want to make a difference in your community?

We depend on the support of our volunteers to make our programs successful.

Ask us about becoming a volunteer youth baseball/softball coach.

## Sponsors Needed!

We rely upon the support of our community in order to continue providing high quality recreational opportunities for local children.

If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring our Babe Ruth Baseball & Softball Program, please contact us.

## Contact Us

Suwannee Parks & Recreation

1201 Silas Drive

Live Oak, FL 32064

(386) 362-3004

Rec Coordinator – Alan Gibson

Your coach will contact you within 48 hours after your draft to inform you of your practice schedule.

### **Tee Ball Teams:**

Please note that there is no player draft for Tee Ball. Teams in this age division will be formed by Suwannee Parks & Recreation staff. Tee Ball players that participated last year may opt to return to the same team or be assigned to a different team. Please note that not all coaches from the previous year will be returning, so by returning to the same team you may not necessarily be with the same coach. We will attempt to balance Tee Ball teams by age and gender. Your Tee Ball coach will contact you by February 25<sup>th</sup> to inform you of your scheduled practice times.

### **Necessary Equipment:**

All participants must furnish their own glove and practice uniform (baseball/softball pants, socks, cleats and cap). We encourage participants to provide their own batting helmet, but Suwannee Parks & Recreation will provide helmets if necessary. All participants that will be playing the catcher position are required to wear a protective cup. Players may wear cleats, but cleats must be made of rubber or plastic (Senior League and 14U Softball players are permitted to wear metal cleats).

### **Practices:**

Practices are scheduled to begin on Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. Teams will typically practice two to three times per week until games start. Practice schedules will be posted at the Concession Stand. Check with your coach to confirm your practice dates, times and locations. Senior League and 14U Softball will begin practices in April.

### **Games:**

Games are scheduled to begin on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Teams will typically play one to two games per week. Games will be played at the First Federal Sportsplex in Live Oak.

## Player Drafts:

### **Rookie Ball –7 & 8 Year Old Draft**

Tuesday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> – 6 pm, Field 2

### **Minor League Draft**

Thursday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> – 6 pm, Field 2

### **Major League Draft**

Friday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> – 6 pm, Field 3

### **Senior League Draft**

Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6 pm, Field 1

### **8U Softball Draft**

Monday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> – 6 pm, Field 5

### **10U Softball Draft**

Thursday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> – 6 pm, Field 5

### **12U Softball Draft**

Friday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> – 6 pm, Field 4

### **14U Softball Draft**

Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6 pm, Field 4

## Contact Us

Suwannee Parks & Recreation

1201 Silas Drive

Live Oak, FL 32064

(386) 362-3004

[www.suwanneeparks.com](http://www.suwanneeparks.com)

Games will also be played in neighboring leagues including but not limited to Branford, Fort White, Jasper, Madison, Mayo and Perry. There is a \$1.00 admission fee to all games.

### **Game Schedules:**

Game schedules will be available starting March 21<sup>st</sup> and will be posted under the “Schedules” link on our web site, [www.suwanneeparks.com](http://www.suwanneeparks.com). Hard copies of game schedules will also be distributed to participants once they are available. Please note that Senior League and 14U Softball games will not begin until late April or the first of May.

### **Uniforms:**

All participants will receive a team uniform as part of their registration fee. Team uniforms consist of a jersey, pants, cap and socks. Please do not practice in your team uniform! Uniforms will be available the week before your first scheduled game.

### **Team and Individual Pictures:**

Team and individual pictures are tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. Pictures will be taken in the Rotary Centennial Pavilion, which is the concrete block, screened pavilion located on the southeast corner of the First Federal Sportsplex. Picture packets and schedules will be distributed the week before picture day. Check with your coach or at the Concession Stand for picture schedules.

### **Trophies:**

All players in the Tee Ball, Rookie Ball and 8U Softball divisions will receive a personalized trophy at the conclusion of the season. Trophies for all other age divisions will be awarded to the teams that finish in first and second place in the playoff tournament.

### **Inclement Weather Information:**

Stay connected during inclement weather by joining RainedOut™ to receive updates on weather related cancellations and delays. Simply text SPRBASEBALL to 84483

Suwannee Parks & Recreation

1201 Silas Drive

Live Oak, FL 32064

(386) 362-3004

[www.suwanneeparks.com](http://www.suwanneeparks.com)

to begin receiving text message updates (standard text messaging rates may apply) or visit [www.rainedout.com](http://www.rainedout.com) to sign up for email alerts.

### **Important Bat Information:**

#### *Tee Ball, Rookie Ball, Minor League, Major League:*

The bat may not exceed 33" in length, and the bat barrel may not exceed 2 ¼" in diameter. Only 2 ¼" barrel non-wood bats marked BPF 1.15 will be allowed. Wood bats are allowed.

#### *Senior League:*

The bat may not exceed 34" in length, and the bat barrel may not exceed 2 5/8" in diameter. All aluminum/alloy barrel bats and all composite handle (only) aluminum/alloy barrel bats are allowed. Only composite barrel bats certified and marked BBCOR .50 will be allowed. Wood barrel bats conforming to the specifications of Official Baseball Rule 1.10 are allowed.

#### *Softball Division:*

The bat shall not be more than 34" in length, and not more than 2 ¼" in diameter at its largest part. The bat shall not weigh more than 38 ounces. The bat shall be marked "OFFICIAL SOFTBALL" or "OFFICIAL FASTPITCH" by the manufacturer.

### **Non-Compliant Bats:**

Nike Bat Model #Aero CX2-BTO636 (light grey)  
CX2-BTO573 (dark grey) and CX2-BTO598 (blue)  
Marucci CAT-52 33-inch model  
CAT-52 34-inch model, and Black 33-inch and 34-inch models  
Reebok Vector-TLS 33-inch model  
Louisville Slugger TPX Dynasty -12, (black/red/grey)  
Louisville Slugger (Hillerich & Bradsby)  
TPX Dynasty bat (Model - YB12D -- (black/red/grey)  
Mattingly Sports, Inc., Balistk (blue)

Below is a link where you can go to see all non-compliant bats for Babe Ruth.

<http://www.baberuthleague.org/bat-rules.aspx>

## Contact Us

Suwannee Parks & Recreation

1201 Silas Drive

Live Oak, FL 32064

(386) 362-3004

[www.suwanneeparks.com](http://www.suwanneeparks.com)

Babe Ruth League Softball has been advised that Louisville Slugger is recalling the entire current line of the OneX fastpitch softball bat (all lengths and weights) from the market. Effective immediately and until notified otherwise, these bats are no longer approved for play.

**All Star Information:**

The Suwannee County Babe Ruth League will hold open tryouts for All Star teams. All players registered in the Babe Ruth Program are eligible to try out for their respective All Star team. All Star teams will practice on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Tryout dates are as follows:

*Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>:*

8U Softball – 6:00 pm, Field 2

10U Softball – 6:00 pm, Field 4

12U Softball – 6:00 pm, Field 5

*Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>:*

Rookie Ball – 6:00 pm – Field 4

Minor League – 6:00 pm – Field 2

Major League – 6:00 pm – Field 3

*Senior League and 14U Softball All Star tryouts – TBA*

Participants selected to join an All Star team will be responsible for covering the cost of their team uniform as well as travel to and from tournament sites and any necessary accommodations.

Suwannee Parks & Recreation

1201 Silas Drive

Live Oak, FL 32064

(386) 362-3004

[www.suwanneeparks.com](http://www.suwanneeparks.com)