

SUWANNEE

Parks & Recreation

Live Oak, FL



2018 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, March 5th and we will begin playing games on Monday, April 2nd.

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 1st

SOFTBALL AGE CUTOFF: A player's age will be determined as of January 1st

IT STARTS IN
PARKS

Coaching. Connecting. Community.



Coaches Meeting:

All coaches participating in the Babe Ruth program must attend the Coaches Meeting scheduled for Monday, February 26th 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. 27th @ 6 pm, Field 2

Minor League: Thursday, March 1st @ 6 pm, Field 2

Major League: Friday, March 2nd @ 6 pm, Field 3

Senior League: Monday, April 2nd @ 6 pm, Field 1

8U Softball: Tuesday, February 27th @ 6 pm, Field 5

10U Softball: Thursday, March 1st @ 6 pm, Field 5

12U Softball: Friday, March 2nd @ 6 pm, Field 4

14U Softball: Monday, April 2nd @ 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

(386) 590-0930

www.suwanneeparks.com

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 25th 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, March 5th. 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 Monday, April 2nd. 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. 27th – 6 pm, Field 2

Minor League Draft

Thursday, Mar. 1st – 6 pm, Field 2

Major League Draft

Friday, Mar. 2nd – 6 pm, Field 3

Senior League Draft

Monday, April 2nd – 6 pm, Field 1

8U Softball Draft

Monday, Feb. 27th – 6 pm, Field 5

10U Softball Draft

Thursday, Mar. 1st – 6 pm, Field 5

12U Softball Draft

Friday, Mar. 2nd – 6 pm, Field 4

14U Softball Draft

Monday, April 2nd – 6 pm, Field 4

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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 21st and will be posted under the “Schedules” link on our web site, 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 7th. 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

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

Important Bat Information:

The new USA Baseball bat standard (USABat), which will apply to bats that are classified below the NCAA and NFHS level of play, will be implemented on January 1, 2018, allowing the bat manufacturers sufficient time to bring these bats to the marketplace.

The Cal Ripken Division of Babe Ruth League, Inc. have approved the use of the 2 5/8 inch barrel bats for local league play and tournament play beginning in January 2018 and coinciding with the new USA Bat standard.

Similar to the NCAA and NFHS BBCOR standard, which helped to eliminate discrepancies with different length bats and thus provide a more direct measure of bat performance, the new USA Baseball bat standard will allow youth baseball organizations in the United States to reach their goal of establishing a wood-like standard, a standard that will provide for the long-term integrity of the game.

It is important to note there will be no immediate change to youth baseball organizations' bat rules. All bats, currently accepted for the respective leagues, remain permissible through December 31, 2017. Each participating national member organization will incorporate the new standard into their rules for the 2018 season and will begin, with this announcement, to inform their membership of the USABat standard.

Frequently Asked Questions about the USABat standard:

Which national member organizations are implementing this new standard?

To date, the following organizations are participating (in alphabetical order): American Amateur Baseball Congress (AABC), Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), Babe Ruth Baseball/Cal Ripken Baseball, Dixie Youth Baseball, Little League Baseball and PONY Baseball.

Why the change to a wood-like standard?

USA Baseball's national member organizations believe that a wood-like performance standard will best provide for the long-term integrity of the game. The new standard will not have a drop-weight limit, so young players can use bats made with light-weight materials.

Why not just use wood bats?

Wood is a scarce resource. The new bats will be designed to perform much like wood, where its performance will be limited to the highest performing wood.

How is the USABat standard different from the BBCOR standard used by the NCAA and NFHS?

Both the USA Baseball and NCAA bat performance tests are based on the coefficient of restitution from a bat-ball impact. The scale of results is different, however, since they use different test balls and test speeds. The testing difference is necessary to address the various levels of play in the respective age groups.

Why is USA Baseball involved?

The national member organizations asked USA Baseball as the national governing body to take the lead in this process to establish a new standard. Many other national governing bodies set and enforce standards for the equipment in their respective sports. To that end, USA Baseball established a Bat Study Committee of leading scientists and conducted theoretical modeling,

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field testing and lab testing. The committee shared its findings with the national member organizations, who then endorsed the new USABat standard.

Who were the scientists on the USA Baseball Bat Study Committee?

Alan Nathan, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Physics at the University of Illinois

Dan Russell, Ph.D. Professor of Acoustics at Penn State University

Glenn Fleisig, Ph.D. Research Director of American Sports Medicine Institute

Why wait until 2018?

The implementation date of 2018 will allow bat manufacturers sufficient time to conduct the appropriate research, design, testing, manufacturing and shipping needed to get new bats into retail outlets. This date also allows the participating national member organizations adequate time to educate their memberships of the USABat standard.

Is my current bat good for league play?

Yes. Current league-approved bats can be used through December 31, 2017.

Is safety the reason for the change?

No. Youth baseball continues to be one of the safest of all sports for youth participants.

How will I know which bat to buy?

All new bats that bear the USABat licensing mark will be permissible for play in the leagues and tournaments of the participating youth baseball organizations.

When can I buy the new bat?

It is the intention of the bat manufacturers to make the new bats available in the fall of 2017, in sufficient time for the 2018 season.

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 25th:

8U Softball – 6:00 pm, Field 2

10U Softball – 6:00 pm, Field 4

12U Softball – 6:00 pm, Field 5

Wednesday, May 2nd:

Rookie Ball – 6:00 pm – Field 4

Minor League – 6:00 pm – Field 2

Major League – 6:00 pm – Field 3

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