Eastern Division Tournament Workshop
Wilson County Agriculture Complex
May 14, 2016


Welcome and Introductions: Tom called the meeting to order at 1:11 pm. Everyone was welcomed. The website at ncbrl.org was reviewed. Ray recommended that a “request link” be established so that if incorrect information is found it can be corrected. District Commissioners should use the self-populating brackets for the tournaments.

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed. They were published on the website under documents. Motion was made by John Bunting and seconded by Jimmy Davis to accept the minutes as written. Motion carried.

Champions Fund for 2017: Any team that wins the state and goes to a regional tournaments will receive t-shirts this year. Next year these shirts can be purchased by those teams at cost for the players.

New Rule for Host Teams – NC Procedures:

The International Board of Directors has approved the following rule changes beginning with the 2016 season. These changes will be reflected in the 2016 Babe Ruth League, Inc. Rules and Regulations.

- **Cal Ripken Division – Fake Bunt – Slash Bunt** — A batter is out for illegal action when the player fakes a bunt and then takes a full swing, thus eliminating a player from fake bunting the ball. **Penalty:** batter is out, the ball is dead, no runners may advance.

- **Cal Ripken Baseball, Babe Ruth 13-15 Baseball, and Babe Ruth 16-18 Baseball** — Rule 11.06 Paragraph 7 (NOTE) – A Cal Ripken Baseball (all divisions) host league, a Babe Ruth 13-15 Baseball (all divisions) host league, and a Babe Ruth Baseball 16-18 host league is given the option of having one or two tournament teams – one team as the host team and one team to compete through the regular tournament competition bracket. At no time is it permissible for a player, manager or coach to appear on more than one tournament team roster in the same season.

- **Tournament Team Administration Fee** — Beginning with the 2016 season, Babe Ruth League will implement a Tournament Team Administration Fee to help offset the cost of the Official Tournament Trail leading the Cal Ripken Baseball World Series, Babe Ruth Baseball World Series, and Babe Ruth Softball World Series. Babe Ruth League continues to offer a first-class, positive and memorable experience for all players, coaches, families and local league officials. Please note the following fees:

  **TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION FEES**

  **Cal Ripken Baseball Division**

  10-Year-Old Tournament Team - $25
  12-Year-Old Tournament Team Major 60 - $25
  12-Year-Old Tournament Team Major 70 - $25

  **Babe Ruth Baseball Division**
13-Year-Old Tournament Team - $25
14-Year-Old Tournament Team - $25
13-15-Year-Old Tournament Team - $25
16-18-Year-Old Tournament Team - $75

Babe Ruth Softball Division
  8U Tournament Team - $25
  10U Tournament Team - $25
  12U Tournament Team - $25
  14U Tournament Team - $25
  16U Tournament Team - $25

- Cal Ripken Baseball and Babe Ruth Baseball — Any Cal Ripken Baseball or Babe Ruth Baseball League may elect to use a pitch count during local league games. For more information on Pitch Counts, please visit www.baberuthleague.org and click on the “Pitch Smart” link. Not used in North Carolina Tournament play.

- CLARIFICATION - Cal Ripken Baseball, Babe Ruth Baseball, and Babe Ruth Softball — Rule 11.05, Paragraph 10 - All protests concerning player eligibility must be presented in writing from the protesting League President with clear indication of proof for the protest.

- CLARIFICATION - Cal Ripken Baseball, Babe Ruth Baseball, and Babe Ruth Softball — Rule 0.01, Paragraph 5 (b.) – With the State Commissioner’s approval, if the physical location of the school where a player attends classes during the traditional academic year is within the boundaries of an established league, the player is permitted to participate in the established league. (Note: This excludes home schools, cyber schools, sports-related schools, sports academies, or after school where a student participates outside of the primary school in which the player is enrolled.) A player is only eligible to participate in one Cal Ripken Baseball; Babe Ruth Baseball; or Babe Ruth Softball League.

- CLARIFICATION - Babe Ruth Baseball, Cal Ripken Baseball, and Babe Ruth Softball - ALCOHOL/TOBACCO (All Divisions) – Babe Ruth League prohibits the use of all alcohol and tobacco products on all fields and dugouts for both local league and tournament competition. These products include smokeless tobacco, E-cigarettes, vapors, and all related alcohol products.

- CLARIFICATION - Babe Ruth Baseball, Cal Ripken Baseball, and Babe Ruth Softball – Rule 11.04, Documents – NOTE – These documents must stay in possession of the Tournament Director during each tournament level. These same documents shall accompany the team as they advance in tournament competition. Failure to produce the required documentation can result in the disqualification and elimination of a player, team or league from tournament play.

Southeast Region rules:

* 9-Year-olds and 11-Year-olds (Major60 and Major70, as applicable) Tournament Pitching – Pitchers that pitch six (6) innings in a game must have one calendar day rest; a pitcher that pitches six (6) innings in two (2) successive days or games must have one calendar day rest. This rule applies to Area, District, State, and the Southeast Regional tournaments.

* 13-15 Baseball Division – UPDATED 01/11/16: League age 16-year-old players will not be eligible for 13-15 tournament competition. However, Babe Ruth League will permit the 16-year-old player to participate as a rostered player in both a 13-15 and 16-18 league that fall within the geographical boundaries in which the player resides, thereby allowing the 16-year-old player to participate in 16-18 tournament competition for 2016 if they meet all eligibility requirements.

* 16-18 Baseball Division, 12U Softball Division, and 16U Softball Division - A local league option (for tournament trail age groups), a fourth (4th) coach will be allowed on the tournament roster. If the team qualifies to advance to a World Series, the fourth coach (who should be predetermined when the roster is created) is responsible for his or her transportation, lodging, meals, and any other miscellaneous expenses.
Area/District Tournament Schedules, Host, Team Registration: Jimmy Sanders discussed when the Cal Ripken area tournaments can be held. There was a discussion about how many teams and when this information will be available. Cutoff date for teams is June 1. A date was selected for the area tournament meeting in Wilmington for June 4, 2016 at 9AM. District Commissioners should attend the meeting.

Softball cutoff for teams is June 17, 2016. The meeting is June 19, 2016 in Wilson, NC. Pairings will be ready to post on June 19, 2016.

Babe Ruth Baseball cutoff for teams is June 30, 2016. Two teams per district will be allowed to go to the State Tournament. If you have more than 2 teams in your district, you must have a District Tournament.

Adjustments were made to the Tournament schedule. It can be found on the website at ncbrl.org. T-ball state tournament will be in Matthews, NC. Team participation form will be available next week on the website.

All state tournaments will hopefully begin on a Friday.

Website training will be held at the area tournament pairings meetings. Ray stated that his company would create a video on how to post the scores. This video will be linked on the website. Updates for the scores will be done through Google Sheets.

Tournament Workshop:

*Contract: Tom reviewed the contract for the host. The umpire fee rates are included in the contract.

*Procedures: Procedures noted on the contract were reviewed.

*Umpires: Tom and Mickey are working on the umpires for the tournaments. District Commissioners are asked to send Mickey a list of recommended approved umpires to use for the state tournaments. Send that list in by June 1, 2016.

Umpires for softball are secured.

*Discussion: Ray suggested to send contract and invoice to each host prior to the start of the tournament. Fifty percent should be paid at the Tournament workshop and the remaining 50% at the tournament meeting prior to play. If the District Commissioner needs an invoice to give to the host league, contact the Treasurer.

There was a discussion about the enforcement of the rule to fine a team that forfeits without notifying the host tournament director. Mickey made the motion to fine South Granville and Fuquay-Varina each $200 if they recharter with Babe Ruth Softball next year for forfeiting a game and not notifying the tournament director. It was seconded by John Bunting. The motion carried unanimously.

It was reviewed for baseball that 7 and 8 year olds can go straight to the State Tournament, but all others must go to the Area Tournament to qualify for the State Tournament. District commissioners may also hold a district tournament but to qualify for the state, a team must go to the area.

Protest Committee items were discussed. If the Protest Committee makes the wrong ruling, you cannot
change their ruling.

All tournaments must have an opening ceremony. You may penalize the coach for not showing up or being belligerent about the ceremony. It is suggested as a penalty, as a last resort, to have the coach sit out the next game.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 4:47 pm.