NBR League Rules

I. Team Formation: Teams placement is at the sole discretion of the NBR Board of directors. The purpose of this is to create competitive balance throughout the Non-Travel Team league and to formulate teams that best represent the NBR and the community when forming Travel or competitive teams. The NBR may adjust the selection process as is necessary to achieve these goals.

II. Practice Fields & Times: The TTCC is responsible for assigning practice fields and times to each division. The TTCC may choose the method it sees fit in the assignment of fields including designating or restricting specified fields for certain teams or by use of a random selection lottery at the annual Coaches Meeting. All Field availability will be determined by the TTCC. Every effort will be made to minimize conflicts and assign practice times consistent with what is requested, but no guarantees will be made.

III. Equipment: The TTCC Representative, along with the Equipment Manager, will coordinate the distribution of equipment.

- **A.** Each team is provided a set of equipment. The set includes:
  1. Up to five batting helmets,
  2. a full set of catcher's equipment (chest protector, shin guards, mask with throat guard, and a catcher mitt),
  3. practice baseballs/softballs
  4. game baseballs/softballs
  5. up three bats
  6. An equipment bag.
- **B.** It is the Manager's responsibility to double check the condition and safety of the equipment and make any changes necessary through the Equipment Manager. The Manager shall also be responsible for taking care of the equipment and returning it at the end of each season in good condition (other than normal wear and tear) regardless of whether the manager is returning next season. All Baseballs/softballs should also be returned (as these will be next year's practice balls).
- **C.** A dozen or more new baseballs/softballs will be provided to each team to be used during scheduled games (2 per game). These should be returned at the end of the season, as these will become next year's practice balls.

IV. Coaching Clinics: Each season, the Board will try to arrange a clinic that will be held for all managers and coaches to assist them with learning the proper methods for instructing players to improve their skills. One member of the coaching staff from each team is required and all are expected to attend. They may also be required to take additional training as deemed necessary by the League President or Board of Directors.

V. Regular Season

- **A. Uniforms:** The current practice is to use Professional league names. In spring, a complete uniform set consisting of a baseball/softball jersey, hat/visor, and pants/shorts are issued to each player. Each team is issued three jerseys and hats for the coaching staff. The league permits player's names to be added to the back on the jerseys. The cost will be the responsibility of the team. The coach/manager names will be at their personal cost; the league will not provide this. Players must wear the uniform assigned. If a player chooses to replace any part of the uniform assigned, the Board must approve it. All members of the team must wear the same uniforms.

B. Game Play: As in accordance with the By-Laws, all players are place in the batting order and batting order is maintained throughout the game (except Major & Babe Ruth Baseball). Positional line ups can be changed at the end of any inning with free substitution. All Managers should make sure that all players do not sit on the bench more than one inning at a time and no more than three innings per game. Failure to follow these criteria will result in disciplinary action including but not limited to suspension or game forfeiture. Except as noted in the By-Laws and as otherwise stated in the NBR League Rules, play will be according to the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Rules as appropriate by age division. Additional local rules for each can be found in the NBR Local Rules section below

C. Game Schedules: The Board of Directors (or designee) of the league will be responsible for preparing the game schedule. During the regular season, each team will play 12 games (depending on division, weather and field availability). No games may be rescheduled without the advance approval of the League. Every effort will be made to reschedule games canceled due to weather conditions. The League will be responsible for determining when the game will be made up.

D. Game Preparation: Home team is responsible for providing game balls. (2 new each game)**.** Each team is allowed 10 minutes for infield practice prior to the start of the game. The visiting team should take their infield practice 20 minutes prior to game time while the home team should take infield 10 minutes prior to game time. If there is less than 20 minutes to take infield, each team should reduce their infield time proportionately and equally. Game time limits are summarized in rules for each division in appropriate appendix noted above.

1. Hitting against the fence with baseballs is prohibited; however, the use of wiffle balls or soft foam balls is acceptable.

2. Home team is responsible for doing the official the scorebook. The league will provide scorebooks. Managers will be asked to validate innings pitched, final score, and innings played etc at the conclusion of the game. Home team should report the game scores and highlights if possible, to the TTCC so they can update the website and send press releases when possible. The visiting team is responsible for running the scoreboards if possible.

VI. Umpires:

A. Umpire Guidelines

1. **<u>10U, 12U, 16U Minor & Major Leagues:</u>** One paid league certified umpire will be assigned for all games played in the Minor and Major Baseball and Softball divisions (plus one field umpire if available). Two umpires will be used for Prep and Babe Ruth divisions. The Umpire Chief will be responsible for scheduling and compensating the umpires.

2. **<u>8U & Rookie Leagues:</u>** Managers will be required to umpire coach pitch games as a condition of being allowed to manage in the coach pitch division. Managers can delegate this responsibility to their assistant coaches. The Manager/umpire will be responsible for being at the scheduled game at least 10 minutes prior to the start time. The Manager/umpire will be responsible for knowing applicable Babe Ruth baseball rules as well as Newfound Babe Ruth local rules. (Refer to Appendix as noted above) While umpiring, the manager is expected to be fair, objective and unbiased in making calls.

3. **<u>T-Ball Division</u>:** T-Ball managers and coaches (or parents) are expected to umpire their own games. Each manager needs to agree prior to the start of the game, who is to act as the umpire. It is recommended that each team designate one person to alternate as the umpire each inning to ensure an equitable process.

B. Umpire Responsibilities: The umpire is responsible for:

1. Ensuring the game is played within the rules of the game
2. Making accurate judgment calls (to the best of his ability)
3. Keeping the game moving so it may be completed within the allocated time.
4. Helpful Hints:
   - **a.** There will be numerous close calls during a game--call the game as you see it,
   - **b.** Get in good position to make the call (get close),
   - **c.** Show your confidence which will reduce the amount of second guessing among fans, coaches and players (be loud)
   - **d.** Don't rush your call, be sure of your decision,
   - **e.** If wrong, move quickly to correct it,
   - **f.** Don't engage in discussion with parents about your calls,
   - **g.** Explain close calls to managers and
   - **h.** Know the rules. (Refer to Appendix as noted above and the Babe Ruth Official Rule Book)

VII. Opening Day Activities: Opening day activities (spring season only) may include team/individual picture taking, BBQ fund-raiser, raffles, games and much more. Managers are required to coordinate these activities with parents and players to increase awareness and encourage participation.

VIII. Placements (Non Tournament Teams)

A. Placements will take place prior to the start of the season and will be based on an evaluation process/tryout prior to the start of the season.

B. The NBR Board will select a Placement Committee that shall

1. Consist of qualified evaluators selected by the NBR with the assistance of the TTCC, Player Representative and Coaching Coordinator.
2. Consist of as many evaluators as possible at each evaluation station so as to give a fair and impartial evaluation of each player

C. The TTCC, Coaching Coordinator & Player Representative are responsible for overseeing the skills sessions used in evaluations. Stations used in evaluations will be run by independent volunteers and not the evaluators themselves. Evaluators may however request specific drills or to re-look at certain players as they deem necessary. Placement Committee Evaluators should:

1. Designate and rate all known pitching candidates
2. Identify and rate all potential pitching candidates
3. Identify and rate all catching candidates

D. The NBR Board will select a Team Selection Committee. The Team Selection Committee shall include the TTCC, Coaching Coordinator and any other members that the NBR Board feels necessary. The Team Selection Committee shall:

1. Distribute pitching as evenly as possible so that each team has as equal a pitching staff as possible.
2. Distribute Catching in balance with pitching so that the strongest catchers are placed with the weakest pitching staffs in as much as the strength of staffs is readily identifiable.
3. Randomly distribute the remaining players based on their numerical evaluation starting with the highest rated player going to the "weakest" pitching staff and continuing to the "strongest" pitching staff (If not readily identifiable then by random selection). The

selection process will continue in reverse order for each round until all players are placed. For example, in a 4 team league the order would be 4,3,2,1,1,2,3,4,4,3,2,1 and so forth until all players are drawn.

E. The NBR Board & TTCC have final approval on all teams, team managers and assistant coaches.

F. The NBR Board & TTCC reserve the right to adjust teams during the season in order to achieve the goal of competitively balanced teams.

IX. NBR Local Rules

A. We follow Cal Ripken league rules for baseball (including T-Ball). We follow adapted guidelines from USA Softball & Babe Ruth Softball for softball.

B. Each league may have local league rules established by TTCC & NBR and may vary depending on outside leagues and other factors. Local rules will be published for all to view yearly.

X. Invitational or Post Season (Tournament Trail)

A. 10U, 12U, 16U Minor & Major Leagues Travel Teams

1. **Travel Teams Eligibility:** No team may participate in Post Season or Invitational play without permission of the NBR Board of Directors.

   a. At the conclusion of the regular spring season, the league may participate in post-season tournament play, also known as "Tournament Trail". Participation at this level gives certain players with advanced skills the opportunity to compete against similar skilled players from other leagues. It is also an opportunity to showcase our league and the talented children that we have. All involved (players, managers, coaches, and fans) are acting as 'Ambassadors" for NBR and are expected to act accordingly. This should be considered as an honor and a great opportunity to represent NBR, and our community. Given the competitive nature of "Tournament Trail", only a relative few will be given the opportunity to participate on the teams. The following procedure will be followed to ensure a fair process is used to determine which players and managers will be selected to represent the league.

   b. The cost to participate will mainly be the responsibility of the players and coaching staff selected. As in the past, the league will fund a portion of the cost (when it is able to do so financially). Funding amounts will be determined by the Board of Directors (on a season by season basis) and will be subject to available funds. Any Sponsorships, donations, etc… accepted to support NBR Tournament Teams will be applied to the league funds for Tournament and shared by all teams. It is NOT allowed for a single team to accept any funds for only their team on behalf of the league. However, if a parent on a particular Tournament Team wishes to provide all of the kids on that team with a gift or pay their hotel bill, etc… that is acceptable. In that situation, it would NOT be considered as a donation to the league and thus, no receipts or league recognition of the gift would be provided.

   c. The NBR Board of Directors will select managers. The Board of Directors has the right to veto any selection of a manager, coach or player if the Board believes that individual's behavior is not consistent with League Philosophy or Babe Ruth code of conduct. The managers within their division based on a voting process, will make the selection of players. Managers not represented at the election will forfeit their right to vote. In that event the Player Agent will represent those teams.

   d. Final determination of managers and players will take place as soon as possible

during the season to allow the manager to get organized, uniforms to get ordered and so teams can begin practicing for the tournament. To be eligible for selection, managers and players must commit prior to the selection process beginning that they are available to participate in the tournament.

e. Each Manager should state his intent/desire of managing or coaching a Tournament Team by the League Coaches Meeting, by informing a TTCC or NBR rep. He/She should state what team or teams they are interested and willing to manage.

f. The league will pay for the cost of entry fees for any NBR team at all levels, subject to available funds (as approved by Board of Directors). However, if there are gate fees, these are the responsibility of the players and their families.

g. Selection Process for Managers and Coaches

i. To be eligible to manage a Tournament team, managers must be on a team roster from that season and be in good standing as determined by the Board of Directors. They also should state their intent to the TTCC and list which teams they are interested in managing. The managers will be selected by the NBR Board of Directors based on points obtained by ranking of the applicants (similar to the process used for Manager selection). In the event that there are no managers interested in the position, coaches are welcome to apply (However, managers will be given preference). In the event of ties, the Executive Board of Directors will do a separate vote (ranking the Managers). In the case of any additional ties, the President or Commissioner will make the final decision.

ii. A Manager should decide before the voting if they can commit or not. Withdrawal of your name after the fact affects the process, could alter the outcome and will be frowned upon. A manager that declines a team after being voted as the Manager will be penalized by being ineligible to manage a Tournament team for 1 year. Each manager can select what team or teams they are interested in being a part of and may select multiple teams if they desire. Once they are awarded and accept a team, their name will be removed from subsequent ballots.

iii. Assistant Coaches - The managers selected will be free to pick his assistant coaches from the pool of managers and coaches within the division. Two official assistant coaches will be selected, although other managers and coaches will be allowed to help out at practice if asked by the Manager. The NBR Board of Directors must approve the selections. Team Managers are encouraged to give preference to other regular season Managers and Coaches.

h. Selection Process for Players

i. To be eligible for selection to the Tournament team, a player must

1. Meet the eligibility requirements as outlined in the Babe Ruth handbook,

2. Be in good standing as determined by the Board,

3. Must commit prior to the selection process beginning that they are available to participate in the tournament. The Board of Directors will be responsible for determining eligibility prior to the selection process beginning.

ii. Selection Process Phase I:

iii. Selection Process Phase II (Finals):

1. We will offer open practices for all interested players prior to team selection. Interested players should try to attend as many of these practices as possible
2. Team manager and coaches will evaluate players based on skill, attitude, commitment & other factors to determine the final roster.
3. Tournament team coaches will work with NBR & TTCC to establish the final roster.

iv. Minimum Playing Time – There is no minimum playing time at this level of competition.

v. Any player that quits the Tournament team after the voting selection process will be subject to the following:

1. 1-year ban on Tournament play for NBR (will be ineligible for any Tournament team the following year.
2. They will be required to pay for the uniform in full.
3. **Note on above:** These situations will be reviewed by NBR Board of directors on a case by case basis. If there are extenuating circumstances (i.e.: injury, illness, family death, etc…), the penalties may be waived. This penalty applies to players that quit at anytime after the voting process (i.e.: before the district tournament begins, after a team has won district and is now at the state level, etc). Players, when they commit to being available are committing through all levels of play (District, State, Regional, and World Series).

XI. Miscellaneous

A. Insurance Coverage: The league purchases insurance to cover the players, coaching staff, and league in case of accidents. The plan provides coverage for accidental injuries while participating in any regularly approved baseball activity of the league. This includes practice sessions, games, and league sponsored tournaments. In the event of an accident, please notify the league president to obtain the necessary forms to complete to file a claim.

B. Field Contracts: The league contracts with the State, Kelley Park, and Newfound Area School District to have use of the fields. Managers should be familiar with the responsibilities of the league (and thus your responsibilities) as set forth in the agreement.

C. Sponsorships: The league is highly dependent of sponsorship support. Without it, the league would not be able to operate as it does now. Managers, coaches and parents are encouraged to seek sponsors or to refer potential sponsors to one of the Board members. All sponsorship money or donations go to the Newfound Babe Ruth General fund to be used at the discretion of the Board of Directors.