



NOVATO BABE RUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who can play in Novato Babe Ruth?

A: Players who are 13-15 years of age, and reside within Marin County are eligible to play in the Novato Babe Ruth League. Your "League Age" may differ from your age during the season.

Players born between:

May 1, 1996-April 30, 1997 are considered 13 Year Olds in "League Age"

May 1, 1995-April 30, 1996 are considered 14 Year Olds in "League Age"

May 1, 1994-April 30, 1995 are considered 15 Year Olds in "League Age".

Players on their High School Baseball team (Frosh, JV, or Varsity) may join their team when their High School Baseball Season ends.

Players who are playing games with "Travel" Teams are not eligible to play in Novato Babe Ruth. Our league has concluded that the demands of the area's Travel Teams do not leave room for the commitment needed to maintain a healthy team environment we feel is a cornerstone for our Babe Ruth League. In addition, we feel playing on two teams at the same time creates a risk of injury.

Q. Why should we consider Novato Babe Ruth in this age group?

A. Novato Babe Ruth is proud of the success we have achieved in meeting our dual goals, 1.) providing a competitive league environment where High School varsity bound players may compete against other highly skilled players while sharpening their skills, and 2.) offer a developmental program for the younger players who need basic skills training and experience on the regulation size fields.

Our 2008 and 2009 13 year Old All Star Teams took the District title, and advanced to the Babe Ruth State Tournament. We have added Tournament Teams to our league to give opportunities to play in top level competitive tournaments around the Bay Area prior to the start of our regular season (see more about this exciting program below).

Our Managers and Coaches must meet the National Babe Ruth Organization Coaches Certification standards that cover baseball skills and knowledge, and effective coaching approaches for youth baseball. Teams are made up of players from the 13, 14 and 15 year old age groups. The younger players get the chance to learn the game while playing with kids they may well play with or against in High School. Older players have the opportunity to develop their skills against other High School players, and also gain team leadership experience.

Q.What are the key dates for the 2010 Season?

A. Click on the Calendar link located on our homepage to view all important dates

Q. How do I register for the 2010 Spring Season?

A. New and returning players must register for each season. On-line registration is available at novatobaberuth.org – click on the registration link on the homepage for step by step instructions. Parents have the option to pay the registration fee online using a credit card or check card, or by mailing in a check. You may also download the registration form found in the document center on our website and mail the form along with a check to our post office box. If for any reason you need registration forms mailed to you please email our league registrar at registrar@novatobaberuth.org or call the Novato Babe Ruth hotline and leave your mailing information via voicemail @ 258-4814.

Q. What are the registration fees?

A. The registration fee for the 2010 Spring Season is \$225 (a \$25 discount is offered to siblings living at the same residence).

Q. What's NEW for the 2010 Season?

A.

- 1.) **Spring Training 'inter-league' Pre-Season** – a series of practices and games (including all non-high school baseball players) that will precede our spring season that begins in May
- 2.) **Tournaments Teams** – for our 13 & 14 yr. olds (non-high school baseball players) who are interested in participating in tournaments prior to the start of our spring season in May. (additional fees apply)

Our competitive Spring Season will begin once the High School Freshman Season ends in mid-May. We have added the **Spring Training 'inter-league' Pre-Season** program to promote development time for young players who can get more focused practice and playing time in the period before the freshman players rejoin their teams. These Pre-Season teams will be formed in early March, with the emphasis on fundamentals and individual skills development on our regulation sized fields.

Our **Tournaments Teams** – for our 13 & 14 yr. olds will be available during the pre-season via try-out as an alternative for the more skilled players. Tournament teams will play against All Star and Travel teams from other areas in tournaments around the greater bay area, including perhaps Elk Grove and Cupertino. We are planning on four or five tournaments during the pre-season. Get the fun and competition of the “Travel Team” experience focused in a few weeks, then play with your local Novato Babe Ruth teams during May and June. Our Tournament Teams are not for everyone – players are selected from a competitive tryout, they must be able to go to tournaments outside Marin, and expense sharing is expected. Tournament formats may include double and triple headers. This may be fun for some, yet too demanding for others. Our approved Managers and Coaches will be directing these teams. No standings will be kept, and in-game instruction will be encouraged. Practice for players will begin March 12, and practices and games (9 or 10 games) will continue until May 8. Once the Spring Training inter-league Pre-Season period ends, the players will re-assemble into their Spring Teams for the competitive season.

Q. How are All Star Teams Selected?

A: The National Babe Ruth League offers District Tournaments for our 13, 14, and 15 year old ‘All Stars’ that will take place at the end of our spring season. A competitive tryout will be held near the end of the season, and players will be evaluated by our league managers and coaches

using a process aimed at selecting the best players for these ‘All Star’ teams who will play in the district tournament(s). Novato Babe Ruth has been very successful in All Star tournaments and have advanced to state level tournaments. All Star teams may compete through August so please keep this potential commitment in mind. A player may opt to “play up” – that is a 13 may try out for the 14 and under team, or a 14 may tryout for the 15 and under team.

Q. We are not sure we can make the commitment needed for Pre-Season Tournament Team participation. Can my player still make the end of season All Star Team, and play in the District Tournament?

A. We understand the demands of out of town tournaments during the school year may not be for everyone. There will be competitive tryouts for each age group ‘All Star’ team conducted near the end of the competitive Spring Season. League managers will select 13, 14 and 15 year old All Star teams from among players who tryout for these teams. We give all players in the league the opportunity to be selected to the All Star teams our league sends to Babe Ruth District Tournaments. Players who were selected to the Pre-Season Tournament Teams are in no way guaranteed All Star roster spots.

Q. How is my player assigned to a team?

A. New Players to the league for 2010 will tryout in front of our Spring Season managers on March 6. Managers will then draft players to fill out their 2010 roster. This will result in the formation of the 2010 Spring Season Teams. Players remain with their teams until their Babe Ruth Eligibility ends. Players who are playing High School baseball for 2010 are not allowed by high school rule to play in our league until their High School Season ends (May 15 or 16). Before that date, our league will run a Spring Training ‘inter-league’ Pre-Season program made up of teams formed by combining players from those Spring Season teams who are not restricted by this rule. At the end of the Spring Training ‘inter-league’ Pre-Season, players begin practice with their spring season team.

Q. Is there a minimum play rule?

A. Yes, all players must play at least 6 defensive outs, and get one at bat. Though we are a competitive league, we encourage our managers to get all their players enough playing time to allow improvement in the field and at bat. Tournament Teams and District All Star Teams do not have a minimum play rule.

Q. What is expected of parents?

A. First, and foremost, the kids appreciate positive support at games and managers need your help in getting the players to game and practices in a timely manner. We ask that you have a look at our key dates, and try to schedule family activities with these in mind.

We are a volunteer organization that depends on our parents to lend a hand in field preparation/maintenance, fund raising activities, and taking their turn with our Snack Shack. Each team will hold a parents meeting early in the season to outline particular needs. Please do as much as you can.

Q.What is expected of Managers and Coaches?

A. Managers are appointed each year, and are reviewed before approved for a following season. Managers have a lot of autonomy in running their teams. We require that all players receive quality baseball instruction, and that our Managers and Coaches to encourage, and be role models for sportsmanship, the responsibilities of being a teammate, and giving their best effort.

Q.Who can I talk to if I have questions or concerns?

A. First line of communication about a team or player issue should be to your Team Manager. Come to your Team's parent meetings, and ask questions. If you feel you need further discussion or clarification, contact the Players' agent, the Managers' rep, or the Registrar. Check our website for contact information. General questions can be directed to the league's phone number – 415-258-4814, and we will be sure someone with the information will get back to you.