

Important Information

Contact Tournament

Director Tony Bina @

701-741-9266

Immediately

to insure your spot in the

Midwest Plains

12 year-old Regional.

Tony will direct you to

Hotel coordinators.

We wish you all safe

travels and welcome you

to our community

2023

MIDWEST PLAINS - REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

CAL RIPKEN



12-Year-Old

Grand Forks, North Dakota

JULY 18th – 22nd, 2023

PLAYER / HOST GUIDE

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BABE RUTH BASEBALL

Sportsmanship Code

Develop a strong, clean, healthy body, mind and soul.

Demonstrate a strong urge for sportsman-like conduct.

Build an understanding of and respect for the RULES.

Display courage in defeat, tolerance, and modesty in victory.

Exhibit control over emotions and speech.

Establish a spirit of cooperation and team play.

And you will grow into real, true CITIZENS.



WELCOME

Greetings from Visit Greater Grand Forks!

On behalf of the cities of Grand Forks, ND and East Grand Forks, MN, welcome to the land of all things Grand! We are both honored and thrilled to welcome players, coaches, and parents of the Cal Ripken Midwest Plains Region 12-Year-Old Tournament to our community.

When visiting Greater Grand Forks, you're guaranteed to find a variety of awesome accommodations, dining, shopping and entertainment options to choose from. Whether it be savoring a chocolate covered potato chip from the legendary Widman's Candy Shop, playing around at Northern Air Action Park, picking out a homerun hitting bat at Scheels Sports, biking on our scenic Greenway trails, kayaking the Red or enjoying a delicious dinner at one of many restaurants ready to serve up a feast to your family, hopefully the time spent here will leave a lasting impression that brings you back again and again.

As our name implies, welcoming visitors to the community is what we specialize in. The #1 goal of each and every member of the Visit Greater Grand Forks team is to provide the information and support needed to make your tournament successful and memorable for all involved. If at any time there is a way we can assist in making your experience even more of a grand slam success, please let us know.

For additional information on all there is to see and do in Grand Forks and East Grand Forks, as well as finding deals and discounts at several local businesses, check out our comprehensive website at www.visitgrandforks.com. We also invite you to follow Visit Greater Grand Forks on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Sincerely,
Julie Rygg
Executive Director



Welcome Players, Coaches and Parents,

On behalf of the Tournament Committee, we want to welcome you to the Cal Ripken Midwest Plains Region 12- Year-Old Tournament. It is our pleasure to host the tournament this year. We hope that coaches, players, and parents enjoy our facilities, hospitality, and your stay in Grand Forks.

To the players, enjoy the opportunity to showcase your talents and skills, play fair, respect the officials, and have fun. To the parents and coaching staff, enjoy the competition, keep expectations realistic and encourage teams to cheer on the players as they work hard and enjoy the game.

A very special thank you to all the volunteers! Without you this tournament would not be possible. To all the tournament sponsors, an enormous Thank You! Your generosity is greatly appreciated. We hope everyone enjoys their stay here in Grand Forks and comes away with memories to last a lifetime.

Thank you,
Midwest Plains Region Tournament Committee



Whether it be power shopping at big box retailers or browsing through unique boutiques. Dining at a 5-star restaurant or on a café patio overlooking Downtown. Enjoying a local music festival in Town Square or national concert tour at Alerus Center. Strolling through an awesome art gallery or on a scenic Greenway trail. Oaring up to kayak the Red or sticking around to experience University of North Dakota Hockey at the Ralph. Greater Grand Forks is a vibrant, thriving community surrounded by rich, beautiful farm country. It's a place that feels warm even in winter...where you'll find plenty to see and do, in addition to meeting some of the coolest people around. We invite you to come see firsthand why two Forks equals twice the fun!



WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THIS GRAND LAND?

GRAND FORKS, ND + EAST GRAND FORKS, MN

// Ideally situated on the North Dakota/Minnesota border, at the intersection of Interstate 29 and Highway 2, Greater Grand Forks is easily accessible from the Twin Cities, Duluth and Fargo, and only 145 miles from Winnipeg, MB, Canada. This makes us a perfect destination for your overnight and day trips! When making Greater Grand Forks your home base, the beautiful Pembina River Gorge and International Peace Gardens, numerous lakes and state parks, several casinos and much more are just a short, scenic drive away. We are also on the way to/from many major national and international events and attractions.



QR CODES // The QR codes are for quick access to our web pages. To use them grab your phone or tablet, open the camera, point the camera at the QR code and tap the banner that appears.
VisitGrandForks.com



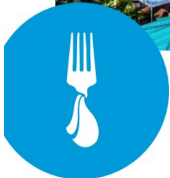
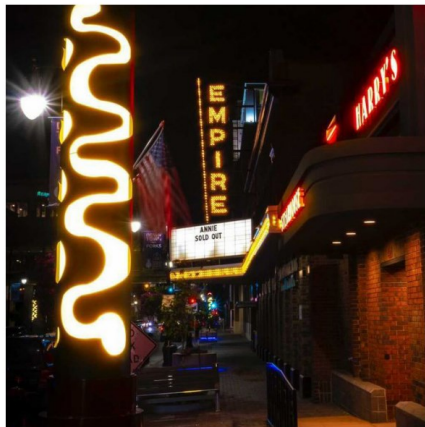
VIDEOS // Watch videos about the Greater Grand Forks area, events and attractions!
youtube.com/user/VisitGrandForks/videos



PHOTOS // Get a better glimpse of Greater Grand Forks by checking out our photos on Flickr!
flickr.com/photos/simplygrand/



DISCOVER THE FORKS // Get ideas here: visitgrandforks.com/blog/



WANT MORE INFO? PLEASE CONTACT

Stephanie Bernstrom, Director of Sports & Events / stephanie@visitgrandforks.com

701-746-0444 (phone) or 800-866-4566 (toll free) / 4251 Gateway Drive, Grand Forks, ND 58203

FOLLOW US    @VisitGreaterGrandForks  VisitGrandForks.com

OFFICIAL VISITORS GUIDE //

For all things Greater Grand Forks, check out our Visitors Guide!
This is where you will find things to do, places to stay, dine, shop and play!
s3.amazonaws.com/grandforks/craft/files/Visit-Greater-Grand-Forks-OVG_Full-Guide.pdf



12-year-old MWP Schedule of Events

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

Team Check-ins July 18, 2023

Location: Scheels Sports Complex at the conclusion of team practice

Team Practice

Location: Scheels Sports Complex

Team	Start Time	End Time	Complex	Field
Grand Forks, ND (Host)	1:15pm	2:15pm	Scheels Sports Complex	1
East Grand Forks, MN (Invite)	1:15pm	2:15pm	Scheels Sports Complex	2
Colorado Champion	2:30pm	3:30pm	Scheels Sports Complex	1
Colorado Invite	2:30pm	3:30pm	Scheels Sports Complex	2
Waite Park, MN (Invite)	2:30pm	3:30pm	Scheels Sports Complex	3
Minnesota Champion	2:30pm	3:30pm	Scheels Sports Complex	4
North Dakota East #1	3:45pm	4:45pm	Scheels Sports Complex	1
North Dakota East #2	3:45pm	4:45pm	Scheels Sports Complex	2
North Dakota West #1	3:45pm	4:45pm	Scheels Sports Complex	3
North Dakota West #2	3:45pm	4:45pm	Scheels Sports Complex	4

Team Check-ins July 18, 2023

Location: Scheels Sports Complex at the conclusion of team practice

Team	Start Time	End Time
Grand Forks, ND (Host)	2:15pm	2:45pm
East Grand Forks, MN (Invite)	2:15pm	2:45pm
Colorado Champion	3:30pm	4:00pm
Colorado Invite	3:30pm	4:00pm
Waite Park, MN (Invite)	3:30pm	4:00pm
Minnesota Champion	3:30pm	4:00pm
North Dakota East #1	4:45pm	5:15pm
North Dakota East #2	4:45pm	5:15pm
North Dakota West #1	4:45pm	5:15pm
North Dakota West #2	4:45pm	5:15pm

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

Team Picnic

Scheels Sports Complex 6:00pm

Grand Forks Youth Baseball welcomes all players, coaches, and family members to a picnic at the Scheels Sports Complex on Tuesday evening. Starting at 6:00 pm GF Baseball will have food and drinks available for all players and coaches. Family members are welcome.

Opening Ceremonies

Scheels Sports Complex 7:00pm

The specifics of opening ceremonies will be discussed during the team check in. There will be a team challenge following the opening ceremonies

Wednesday July 19, 2023

Coaches Breakfast

Location: C'mon Inn 3051 32nd Ave S Grand Forks Time: 7:00am

All Officials, Coaches, Managers, Umpire-in-Chief, and tournament committee members are REQUIRED to attend. The meeting time Wednesday, July 19, 7:00am.

Pool Play begins

Scheels Sports Complex
Time: TBD

Thursday July 20, 2023

Pool Play resumes
Scheels Sports Complex
Time: TBD

Friday July 21, 2023

Bracket Play

Saturday July 22, 2023

Championship day



2023 12-year-old Midwest Plains Regional Tournament Schedule

Scheel's Sports Complex

4301 South 20th Street, Grand Forks, ND 58201

AMERICAN POOL
American #1
American #2
American #3
American #4
American #5



NATIONAL POOL
National #1
National #2
National #3
National #4
National #5

Date	FD	Time	Home Team	Away Team	Game #
Wednesday, July 19, 2023	1	9:30am	American #1	American #2	1
Wednesday, July 19, 2023	4	9:45am	National #1	National #2	2
Wednesday, July 19, 2023	1	11:45am	American #3	American #4	3
Wednesday, July 19, 2023	4	12:00pm	National #3	National #4	4
Wednesday, July 19, 2023	1	2:00pm	American #5	American #1	5
Wednesday, July 19, 2023	4	2:15pm	National #5	National #1	6
Wednesday, July 19, 2023	1	4:15pm	American #2	American #3	7
Wednesday, July 19, 2023	4	4:30pm	National #2	National #3	8
Wednesday, July 19, 2023	1	6:30pm	American #4	American #5	9
Wednesday, July 19, 2023	4	6:45pm	National #4	National #5	10

2023 12 year-old Midwest Plains Regional Tournament Schedule

Scheel's Sports Complex

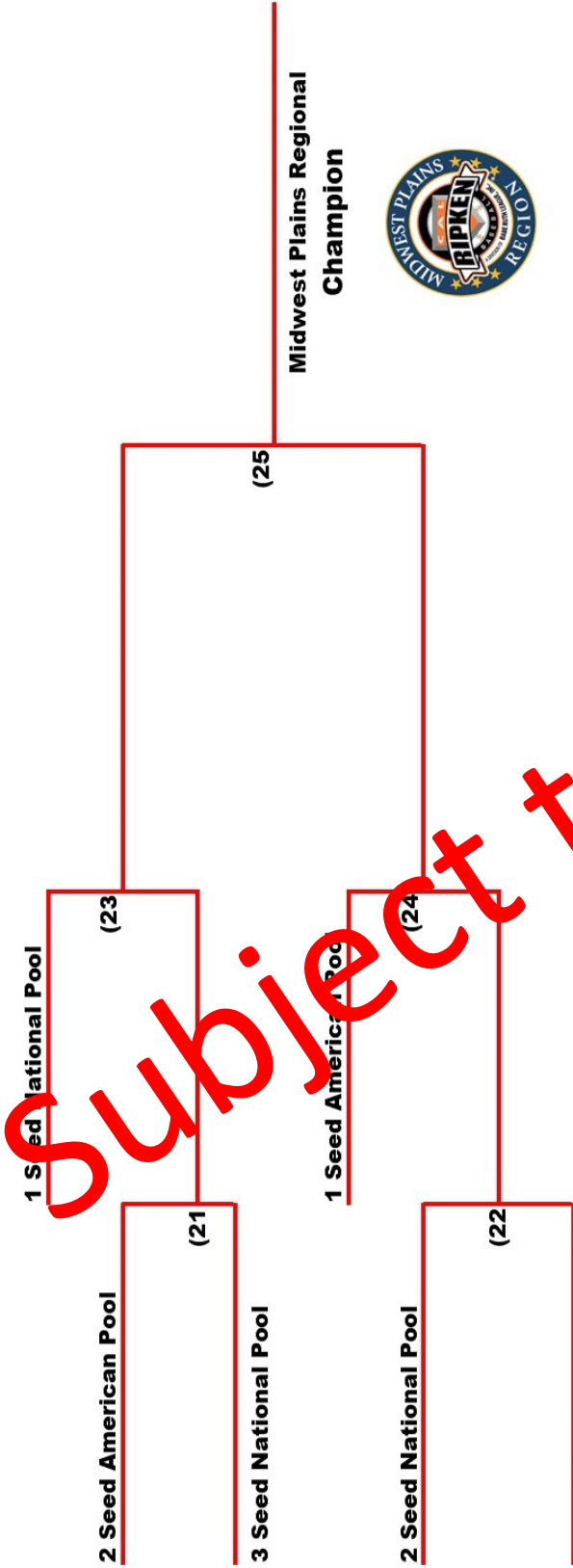
4301 South 20th Street, Grand Forks, ND 58201



AMERICAN POOL	
American #1	
American #2	
American #3	
American #4	
American #5	

NATIONAL POOL	
National #1	
National #2	
National #3	
National #4	
National #5	

Date	FD	Time	Home Team	Away Team	Game #
Thursday, July 20, 2023	1	9:30am	American #1	American #3	11
Thursday, July 20, 2023	4	9:45am	National #1	National #3	12
Thursday, July 20, 2023	1	11:45am	American #5	American #2	13
Thursday, July 20, 2023	4	12:00pm	National #5	National #2	14
Thursday, July 20, 2023	1	2:00pm	American #4	American #1	15
Thursday, July 20, 2023	4	2:15pm	National #4	National #1	16
Thursday, July 20, 2023	1	4:15pm	American #3	American #5	17
Thursday, July 20, 2023	4	4:30pm	National #3	National #5	18
Thursday, July 20, 2023	1	6:30pm	American #2	American #4	19
Thursday, July 20, 2023	4	6:45pm	National #2	National #4	20



Date	GM	Time	Teams	FD
Friday, July 21, 2023	21	10:00am	2 Seed American Pool vs 3 Seed National Pool	1
Friday, July 21, 2023	22	12:15pm	2 Seed National Pool vs 3 Seed American Pool	1
Friday, July 21, 2023	23	2:30pm	1 Seed National Pool vs Game 21 Winner	1
Friday, July 21, 2023	24	4:45pm	1 Seed American Pool vs Game 22 Winner	1
Saturday, July 22, 2023	25	12:00pm	Winner of 23 vs Winner of 24	1

* Indicates Home Team
 For Championship Game, higher seed is home team
 If seeds are equal, coin toss

2023 MIDWEST PLAINS

Babe Ruth - Cal Ripken

12-Year Old

REGIONAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Grand Forks, North Dakota

JULY 18th - 22nd, 2023



TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS

All Team managers will be required to furnish their appropriate contact information to the Tournament Director upon Check-in. The purpose of this requirement is to facilitate quick and accurate communication but with the advent of cell phones, as long as adequate cell phone numbers have been provided to the Tournament Officials, the team managers will not be required to all stay at one hotel.

PLAYER HOUSING / HOST FAMILIES

Not applicable for this tournament.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Rooms have been secured and set aside for some participants but **will not** be released to the individual teams until the appropriate information has been provided to the **Tournament Director**. This is a very busy time in our area for hotel space and by requiring this procedure we will be able to assure that you have a room reserved. The Team Manager or designee must confirm to the Tournament Director as soon as possible how many rooms that you require and if there are any special requirements for any of your team members. Payment of the rooms is the responsibility of each team but rest assured there are rooms reserved for each team.

TOURNAMENT LOCATION

All tournament games will be played at Scheel's Complex in Grand Forks, ND. There will be ample parking at the park for everyone. No alcoholic beverages are allowed in our ball field area.

TOURNAMENT BANQUET (REQUIRED EVENT)

A picnic will be held for all players, coaches, officials free of charge at the . It will begin at 6:00pm on Tuesday, July 18.

All team members will be required to wear their team jerseys in order to promote team unity and representation. This is a sponsored event provided by the Grand Forks Cal Ripken League and there will be no charge as long as you have an affiliation with one of the teams participating.

Families are welcome to attend.

COACHES/OFFICIALS RULES MEETING (REQUIRED EVENT)

All managers, coaches, umpires and officials are required to be at a **Rules Meeting** to be held at TBD.

This is a mandatory meeting for all teams and a representative from each team must be present. All other coaches are more than welcome to be present. The tournament's chain of events along with rules clarifications, etc. will be discussed at this time.

TOURNAMENT PHOTOS

TBD

OPENING CEREMONIES (REQUIRED EVENT)

The opening ceremonies for the 2023 Cal Ripken 12-year old Midwest Plains Regional Invitational Tournament will begin at approximately 7:00pm at Scheel's Complex, following the picnic.

It is **mandatory** that all players, managers and coaches be present for the Opening Ceremony. All team members **must** be in full uniform. Each member should assemble with his/her team following the meal at Scheels Complex. The Opening Ceremony will be discussed in greater detail at check-in.

Tournament Information cont'd

ADMISSION TO GAMES

All players, coaches, parents and fans attending the Regional Tournament should be familiar with the Babe Ruth policy regarding

admission charges into all tournament games. A one time Admittance fee of \$450 will be paid by each team and is due during team check in's. This fee will cover all that attend the tournament. Any questions can be directed to the tournament directors.

BAT BOY'S / GIRLS

If you do not have a bat boy/girl for your team and would like one, you may request one through the Tournament Director. All bat boys/girls will be required to wear a protective helmet at all times and remain in the dugout until time is called. There will be no exception to this rule.

OFFICIAL'S HEADQUARTERS

There will be a tournament official to assist with any questions or problems as they may arise.

BABE RUTH BASEBALL POLICIES

Babe Ruth rules and regulations will be adhered to during the Midwest Plains Regional Tournament at all times. This includes pitching limitations, the ten-run rule and substitutions for an injured player. (unless noted elsewhere)

Unsportsmanlike behavior **will not** be tolerated and could jeopardize the opportunity for a player or team to proceed in the tournament. A protest committee shall be in force during each game of the tournament.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Local training personnel will be provided by Altru Health Services and will be on hand throughout the tournament. They will be available for any pre-game medical needs, as well as care and treatment of all injuries as they occur.

TOURNAMENT CONTACT

Please direct all questions to the Tournament Director, Bruce Dahlin @ 218-766-4328 or Tony Bina @ 701-741-9266
Updates and additional information can also be found on our Facebook page, **2023 12U Midwest Plains Regional Baseball Tournaments**

Clothing Order

Tournament T-shirts can be ordered on the following link. The link is now open and the deadline to order will be Monday, July 17 in order to have shirts printed in time to be picked up at the tournament. Please share this link with your coaches and families. This link can also be found on the tournament Facebook page.

https://www.storessimple.com/apexapparelnD/groupproducts.php?prodgroup_id=24466&prodgroupbypass=true

Tournament Programs

Each team will receive 20 tournament programs at team check in. There will be a link available at the tournament for a digital program.

PLAYER INSTRUCTIONS

Officials of Babe Ruth Baseball and the hardworking hosts of the Grand Forks Cal Ripken League have made extensive efforts to make certain that your tournament stay will be a pleasant and rewarding one. Therefore, we expect you to cooperate with the following regulations pertaining to your actions during the Midwest Plains Regional Tournament.

APPEARANCE

As champions of your state or invitees, we expect your dress to be neat. You may, of course, dress informally and comfortably. We expect press coverage during the entire tournament, therefore, you are a true representative of your community and dress neatly at all times.

ASSISTANCE

We want every participant to thoroughly enjoy the entire tournament. If you need any information or assistance, contact your Team Manager or coach immediately. He or she in turn, may rely upon the aid of the Babe Ruth officials, when necessary.

AWARDS

First and second finishers in the Regional Tournament will receive individual awards along with team trophies for their accomplishments. A Sportsmanship Award will be presented to the team that best exemplifies the Cal Ripken Sportsmanship Code. Each participant in the Midwest Plains Regional Tournament will receive a Certificate of Participation. The first place team of the Midwest Plains Regional Tournament will advance to the Cal Ripken World Series in Branson, Missouri.

CONCESSIONS / SOUVENIRS

Two separate concession stands will be in operation throughout the tournament with many food, candy and beverage items available for you. **NO FOOD OR DRINK WILL BE ALLOWED INSIDE THE FAN AREA AT ANY TIME.**

CONDUCT

Your conduct must be above desirable both on and off the field during your stay here. Any misbehavior or misconduct not only could cause your disqualification from the Midwest Plains Regional Tournament, but may also disqualify your team.

CONTACT / EMERGENCIES

For all questions and/or inquiries feel free to contact the Tournament Director at any time. Please involve your team manager in all discussions as he or she is the first line of contact on your team. Tournament Directors - Bruce Dahlin or Tony Bina

CURFEW

This will be at the individual team, manager and/or parent's discretion for this tournament as the Babe Ruth Hosting program is not in affect.

Player Instructions cont'd

HEADQUARTERS

The Tournament Headquarters will be off limits to all players.

HOST TEAM

Members of the host team are to be treated and subject to the same regulations as all the other state champion teams participating in the Midwest Plains Regional Tournament.

PRACTICE SCHEDULE

We have additional ball fields available for usage as your team requires. These fields will be available on a first come, first served basis; taking into consideration the designated times of each team's scheduled games. Several of these fields have batting cages available also. All practices **MUST** be scheduled through the Tournament Director.

SCHEDULES

Follow your team schedule at all times. Be at practice sessions, Regional Tournament games and other events on time. Be sure to check with your team manager and the Tournament Director whenever you may have to deviate from the listed functions.

TEAM CHECK-IN AND CHECK-OUT

All teams are required to arrive / check in at the Scheel's Complez according to the schedule in this booklet. Teams will check in

after their scheduled practice. **YOU MUST ARRIVE AND CHECK IN AS A TEAM**. Cal Ripken officials along with local officials will be present to check in all of the teams and help you to get acclimated to the Tournament's events. Consent to be absent from this requirement can come only from the Midwest Plains Regional Commissioner.

UMPIRES

The umpires for the Midwest Plains Regional Tournament have had many years of experience umpiring high school, collegiate and/or Cal Ripken baseball games. They are here to make this tournament the best possible experience for all; so we expect all players, coaches and fans to treat them accordingly. Two umpires will be assigned to all tournament games.

GENERAL TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES

1. CAL RIPKEN BASEBALL rules and regulations will be adhered to during the Midwest Plains Regional tournament at all times.. Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated, and could jeopardize the opportunity for a player or team to proceed in the tournament.
 2. Sportsmanship will be stressed at all times. Judgment calls by the umpires will not be questioned. If there is a question concerning a rule, it will be discussed in a courteous manner. Protests will be handled as prescribed in the Babe Ruth Rule Book. Players, managers, coaches and fans will not be allowed to talk to the Protest Committee during protest deliberation unless so asked by the committee.
 3. Smoking, chewing of tobacco or drinking of alcoholic beverages by any player, manager, coach or fan will not be allowed on the field, in the dugouts or in the seating areas. Teams that allow players to drink beverages or eat food in the dugouts are responsible for cleaning up any debris from such activities immediately after each game. Please be aware that by city ordinance no alcoholic beverages are to be consumed in the complex unless authorized by permit.
 4. The players, a manager, two coaches and a bat person are the only individuals allowed in the dugout area during a game. Any other necessary personnel to be in the dugout will only be allowed with the permission of the Tournament Director. The area between the dugout and the gate to the field or bullpen is considered a part of the dugout.
 5. Managers, coaches and players are to remain in the dugout at all times except when participating in the game or time is called. Player-coaches are to wear helmets if required to be on the field.
 6. Teams are not to verbally, or in any way, harass opposing pitchers, hitters or defensive players. Encourage your own players and do not make remarks to the opposition. Players should be advised not to argue with the umpires. Your manager will handle all disputes with the umpire.
- ENCOURAGE POSITIVE PLAY AT ALL TIMES!**
7. Catchers are required to wear masks and helmets during warm-ups both before and during the game. All catchers are to wear protective cups as required. Only players or coaches may warm up the pitchers. A back-up catcher is to be ready to warm up the pitcher if the catcher is not ready after the end of an inning. Pitchers will be allowed eight (8) pitches between innings and teams have one and one half minutes to be ready to play between innings. An additional player, with a helmet on, should be assigned to protect any pitcher warming up while play is going on.
 8. No equipment is to be left laying on the field while the game is in progress. It must be in the dugout area.
 9. The Home team will be assigned to the third base dugout. First round home teams have already been determined. See tournament pairings. If pool play is used the home team will be pre-determined ahead of time and available at the time of the tournament.
 10. In the case of an injury, the game will be stopped at the earliest possible time. Do not come on to the field until time is out and the umpire signals you to do so.
 11. Make sure your team knows how to appeal plays.
 12. Teams will be allowed a scheduled 15 minute infield/outfield warm-up on a separate field prior to your game. Your players may warm up in the outfield during field preparations, but they must warm up perpendicular to the foul lines so as not to throw the ball toward the ground crew working on the field.
 13. Players will be introduced before their first game with the starters introduced first, followed by the reserves, coaches and managers. Players should line up according to the schedule provided to the managers at their initial meeting. Managers are asked to shake hands at or near home plate before the start of each game.
 14. Make sure players, along with the managers and coaches, shake hands following each contest.
 15. Managers are to have their lineup cards ready thirty (30) minutes prior to the game with a list of the starting players' first and last names, uniform numbers and position. All reserves with first and last names along with uniform numbers are to be listed on the lineup card as well. Blank copies are available in the scorer's booth. Copies are to be distributed accordingly to all parties as soon as possible.
 16. Opening ceremonies will take place on Tuesday, July 18 at approximately 7:00pm. After you arrive for check-in, your coaches will be informed of the final plans for the Opening Ceremony and the procedures to follow. After the Opening Ceremonies are completed, leave the field in an orderly fashion.

17. The National Anthem will be performed once each day at a pre-determined time along with the reading of the Sportsman ship Code of Babe Ruth



NOTES

GAME CONDUCT *

1. Umpires will enforce all rules and regulations covered in the Official Baseball Rules and the Babe Ruth Rules and Regulations. The umpires for the Regional tournament have had many years of umpiring experience. They are here to make this tournament the best possible experience for all. Players, coaches, and fans are expected to treat them accordingly. Three umpires will be used for each game.
2. The game(s) will be kept moving at all times. No unnecessary delays or mound conferences will be allowed.
3. ANYONE – Players, managers or coaches acting in an un-sportsmanlike manner – shall be removed from the playing field and facilities immediately. Fans may also be asked to leave the premises should an umpire or tournament official deem necessary.
4. ONLY THE MANAGER (no coaches or players) shall discuss any plays of a controversial nature. The Umpire in Chief shall be fully informed of the identity of each team manager.
5. Managers, coaches and players shall wear uniforms consistent with Babe Ruth All-Star or League Champions teams. No coaching shorts or player's shorts, no ragged shirt tails, etc. will be permitted. Shirt tails must be tucked in at all times. The Regional Commissioner or his designee will have final approval of all uniforms worn by the players, coaches or managers. All players, coaches and manager's uniforms must have the Cal Ripken patch on the left shoulder and at least a six (6) inch number on the back of each shirt. No number may be duplicated. Absolutely no player, coach or manager will be allowed on the playing field who is not in proper uniform without a Cal Ripken patch and a number on their uniform. Babe Ruth approved caps with the designated patch will be allowed for this tournament in lieu of the patches on the shirts.
6. Protective headgear must be worn at bat and on the bases at all times. A mask and throat protector must be worn by any player warming up a pitcher. Protective headgear must be worn by any batboy / batgirl or ball retriever. Bat boys/girls shall be prompt in delivering the discarded bats to their proper places at all times.
7. Equipment – hats, gloves, balls, etc. – shall be stacked neatly in their proper places at all times.
8. Discarding bats and protective headgear in such a way as to cause possible injury to another player or spectator shall be deemed unsportsmanlike.
9. Only players, coaches, team managers and bat persons shall be allowed in the dugout. **NO ONE ELSE IS ALLOWED!**
10. Only Babe Ruth approved bats will be allowed for tournament play. If you bat DOES NOT have the USA label on it, it will NOT be allowed for use.
11. It is expected that every player, coach, manager and spectator will conduct him / herself in an exemplary manner while representing their team, community and the Babe Ruth Baseball program. In doing this, we agree to abide by the:
 - Sportsmanship Code of Babe Ruth Baseball
 - Rules and Regulations of Babe Ruth Baseball, and
 - The Official Baseball Rules as published by the National Baseball Congress.

Inappropriate behavior, as defined by these resources, reflects poorly upon the entire program and is unacceptable. It is our belief that good sportsmanship is developed at the local league level.

As a result of concern over and discussion of this issue at the 10/27/2003 Fall Meeting of the Midwest Plains Regional Board of Directors, the following policy was developed in order to assist Leagues and Tournament Committees to foster and monitor the spirit of Babe Ruth Baseball:

“During tournament play, if an individual is ejected the manager of that team may also be ejected and neither may be eligible to participate in any capacity for the next contest as well. If ejected for a second time, he / she may be sent home at once and not allowed to participate at the next tournament level should the team win the championship. If problems of any form continue, the team will be declared out of the tournament.

*** These decisions are not subject to discussion or to appeal**

TEAM INFORMATION

1. All games shall be six (6) innings, unless the home team is leading at the end of 5 and one half innings of play. In the event a game is called before completion, the game will be resumed from the point of discontinuance. All decisions in regard to re-scheduling will be made by the Regional Commissioner and the Tournament Director.
2. All players, except the Host Team, shall be bound according to the Host Family Plan of Babe Ruth Baseball. (Not applicable for this tournament.)
3. Host families will provide lodging, three meals per day, transportation when necessary and launder the player's uniforms as needed. (Not applicable for this tournament.)
4. Managers and coaches will not have their room and board provided. These expenses are absorbed by their local leagues. However, assistance in securing reservations are available through the Tournament Directors.
5. Each player, coach and manager on the same team shall wear a different number on their uniform. The regular Cal Ripken shoulder emblem shall be worn on the left sleeve. The shoulder emblem and uniform number are mandatory. The approved Babe Ruth cap with the emblem on it is allowed in place of the shoulder emblem.
6. Upon elimination from the 2023 Midwest Plains Regional Tournament, arrangements for the team check-out will be established between the Regional Commissioner and the team manager. This departure time shall remove all liabilities associated with this tournament from the Midwest Plains Commissioner, the Host Families and the Tournament Committee.
7. The Midwest Plains Regional Commissioner or designee, shall have the authority to remove any player, coach, manager or fan for actions detrimental to Babe Ruth Baseball. Any misbehavior or misconduct on or off the field could cause the disqualification of a manager, coach, player or the entire team from the tournament. Refer to the rules pertaining to conduct during tournament play on page 19 of this booklet.
8. The tournament is under the jurisdiction of the Midwest Plains Regional Commissioner, or their designated representative and the Tournament Director. The Tournament Protest Committee shall have final authority in all protest and matters not covered by the Official Baseball Rules and Regulations.
9. At least one (1) manager or coach from each team will be required in attendance at all meetings called by the Tournament Director or the Regional Commissioner. Preferably, the entire staff should be in attendance whenever possible to avoid confusion or discrepancies.
10. All teams are to arrive as a complete group and will depart as a complete group. There will be no exceptions, unless there has been prior approval given by the Midwest Plains Regional Commissioner or designee. All requests must be completely documented and with sound judgment having been used for such request and submitted through the respective State Commissioner.
11. The Midwest Plains Regional Tournament is a celebration of the State Champions representing the (8) eight states which make up our region. Since every team is a representative of their home state, we plan to incorporate a state flag into the tournament ceremonies. During the tournament and possibly during other activities, these flags will be displayed.

CAL RIPKEN, JR.

One of the all-time great shortstops, Cal Ripken, Jr.'s other achievements are somewhat overshadowed by his consecutive games played record. Baseball's tallest full-time shortstop (6'4"), he combined power and defense in a way rivaled by few of his predecessors. A hometown hero who played his entire career for the Baltimore Orioles, he started 17 consecutive All-Star games, hit more home runs than any shortstop in history and owns the highest single-season fielding percentage for a shortstop.

Born and raised in nearby Havre de Grace, MD, Ripken was originally drafted as a pitcher, but made it to the big leagues for good as a third baseman in 1982. Moved to short by manager Earl Weaver on July 1, he finished the campaign as AL Rookie of the Year, hitting .264 with 28 HR and 93 RBI. He also began a streak of consecutive innings played that hit 8,243 over 904 games before ending Sept. 14, 1987, and a consecutive games played streak which would last almost eleven more years.

In 1983 Ripken emphatically defied the sophomore jinx. Batting .318 with 27 HR and 102 RBI while leading the AL in hits (211), doubles (47), and runs scored (121), he became the first player to win Rookie of the Year and Most Valuable Player awards in consecutive seasons. Completing a storybook year, he recorded the final putout in the 1983 World Series as the Orioles defeated the Philadelphia Phillies.

Ripken had his doubters, many of whom found it hard to reconcile the images of a great-fielding shortstop and a heavy hitter. Steadily improving his defensive game, Ripken led the league in assists in 1983, 1984, 1986 and 1987; putouts in 1985; and double plays in 1983 and 1985. In 1984 Ripken set the A.L. single season record for assists by a shortstop with 583. But Ripken also led all major league shortstops in home runs, RBI, runs scored, and slugging percentage each year from 1983 to 1986. He was the American League's top All-Star vote getter in 1985 and 1986. In 1987 Junior was managed by his father, Cal Sr., and joined in the Baltimore infield by younger brother Billy at second base.

Over the years, every time Ripken's hitting performance declined, The Streak was cited as a drain on his strength and stamina. His father ended his consecutive innings streak in 1987, sitting him at the ends of several games whose outcomes were foregone conclusions. Ripken stemmed the decline and temporarily silenced the critics with his 1991 MVP season. The year was highlighted by a stellar performance at the All-Star game. After awing the assembled All-Stars and fans with 12 home runs in 22 swings during the home run derby, Ripken proved his groove was no fluke the next day as he belted a three run homer and won the game MVP honors.

Meanwhile, Ripken's consecutive-games streak continued to climb among the all-time leaders. He finally passed Lou Gehrig's record 2,130 on September 6, 1995 in Baltimore's Camden Yards. When the game became official after the bottom of the fifth, Ripken took a spontaneous lap around the stadium to shake hands with his adoring fans. Both before and after Ripken broke Gehrig's record, some seized upon The Streak to criticize Ripken as a goal-oriented rather than team-oriented player. In 1996, the issue arose again when manager Davey Johnson expressed a desire to move Ripken to third base so that Manny Alexander could be tried at shortstop. Ripken's thinly restrained dissatisfaction with the proposal wasn't as compelling as his shrinking range and weakening arm, though, and Johnson made the move on July 15, ending Ripken's streak of consecutive starts at shortstop at 2,216 games but the experiment was abandoned after six games.

In 1997, the Orioles acquired shortstop Mike Bordick and moved Ripken to third base permanently, a switch he seemed more willing to accept. Although he could no longer put up the big numbers he had earlier in his career, Ripken had a solid season both offensively and defensively at his new position. The switch made the Orioles a better defensive team all around, and they ended up winning their first American League title since 1983.

Diminishing power numbers in 1998 reopened the debate about whether a day off would benefit Ripken. On September 20th he settled the matter for himself, informing manager Ray Miller shortly before game-time that he wouldn't be playing that night. When young prospect Ryan Minor trotted out to third base to start the game, few people understood what was happening. After the first out, however, the visiting Yankees gave Ripken a standing ovation from the top of the dugout steps, and the Camden Yards fans quickly followed suit. 53 outs later, baseball's longest consecutive streak officially ended at 2,632.

The following season would prove arguably the most trying and rewarding of Ripken's long career. Less than two weeks before Opening Day, Cal Sr. succumbed to lung cancer. Burdened by his father's death and lingering back problems, Cal began the year in miserable form and when he went on the disabled list for the first time in his career, the whispers that he should retire grew steadily louder.

Following his return from the disabled list, however, a rejuvenated Cal silenced his critics by embarking on his most productive and extended hitting tear in years. Though he played just 86 games, Ripken set career highs in batting average (.340), slugging percentage (.584) and HR frequency (1 every 18.4 AB). The highlight of Ripken's season came on June 13th at Atlanta's Turner Field, when he produced the first six-hit game in Orioles history during a nationally televised Sunday night contest. The performance saw him blast two home runs and tie a club record with 13 total bases. On September 2nd at Baltimore he launched the 400th home run of his career. After the season, Ripken joined Ernie Banks as one of two shortstops honored with a selection to Major League Baseball's All-Century team.

On April 15, 2000, Cal gets the 3,000th hit of his illustrious career. He becomes the 24th player to reach the milestone and the 7th to get 3,000 hits and 400 home runs.

Retiring after the 2001 season, Ripken is approached about managing several Major League teams, including the Orioles, but elects to devote his time to his many business and personnel ventures. Among these include his newly associated partnership with the Babe Ruth League, Inc program. During His time with Babe Ruth League, Cal has overseen the implementation of many new teaching and training programs including the "Ripken Way", which incorporates teaching the game of baseball in a fun, simple and motivational way. In 2003, Cal showcased the opening of "Ripken Field" in Aberdeen, MD where the "Cal Ripken World Series" for 12 and under teams will compete annually.