



BABE RUTH / CAL RIPKEN LEAGUE COMES TO WESTERN PA.



Ingomar / Franklin Park Athletic Association establishes a BABE RUTH LEAGUE

During the fall, a committee was put together to consider options for IFPAA to affiliate with a national youth baseball organization. The committee, after weighing all of the factors and options around affiliations with various national youth baseball organizations, recommended at the November 15 board meeting that IFPAA establish affiliation with the Babe Ruth League, and create the Western Region for Babe Ruth/ Cal Ripken Baseball. Everyone involved felt that Babe Ruth League was the best possible fit for IFPAA and our community, and the recommendation was approved unanimously.

Some of the tremendous benefits that swayed our decision were:

1. Flexibility to offer the widest range of programs to meet the needs and desires of our community.
2. Opportunity to be the founding organization for Cal Ripken /Babe Ruth in Western Pennsylvania.
3. Great programs for coaches and a focus on coach development.
4. Be part of a national organization that puts the Player first, not the organization.
5. Opportunity for state, regional and/or national World Series tournaments at all levels (see the details below), with seeds in the State Tournament, and realistic opportunities for advancement.
6. Be part of the fastest growing, most forward thinking youth baseball organization.
7. Opportunity to participate in the Cal Ripken World Series, played in a replica of Camden Yards in Aberdeen, MD. This tournament was nationally televised on Fox Sports in 2012.

For those who are not familiar with the Babe Ruth League (baberruthleague.org). Here are some key facts:

- Babe Ruth League has been in existence since 1951.
- It serves over one million players, ages 4 – 18 through Babe Ruth Baseball, Cal Ripken Baseball and Babe Ruth Softball, along with Bambino Buddy-Ball for physically/mentally challenged ballplayers.
- Leagues are in existence in six countries and 50 states. There are currently 72 leagues in Pennsylvania.
- The Mid-Atlantic region has more than 2,000 teams.

IFPAA will design our own programs at the local levels and our offerings for the upcoming year will remain largely unchanged. IFPAA teams will represent Western Pa. directly in the state championships. Winners will be entered into the Mid-Atlantic playoffs and will proceed to World Series for Age 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.

The following page has a rundown of the State/ Regional/ National World Series paths available.

We are very excited about our new affiliation. For more information on Babe Ruth League, check out www.baberuthleague.com , or find the link on our web-site at www.ifpaa.org.

The links below provide a brief history of the Babe Ruth League and “Player Comes First” page.

<http://archive.baberuthleague.org/resources/news/pdfs/abouttheprogram1.pdf>

http://archive.baberuthleague.org/images/brl_inquiry_kit.pdf

Look for more information on this affiliation and many other exciting developments in the weeks and months to come.

State/ Regional/ World Series Paths available in the Babe Ruth/ Cal Ripken League

Cal Ripken Baseball Division (12 and under)

Ages 11 – 12 Major/70 – 50’ pitching and 70’ bases

Tournaments: District through World Series - (Aberdeen, MD) – T.V. Coverage)

Ages 11 – 12 Major/60 – 46’ pitching and 60’bases

Tournaments: District through World Series - (Winchester, MA) – T.V. Coverage)

Age 11 – State and Regional Tournaments

Ages 9 – 10 Minor: Age 10 - World Series - Bentonville, ARK

Age 9 - State and Regional Tournaments

Ages 7 – 8 Rookie: Age 8 - State and Regional Tournaments

Ages 4 – 6 T-Ball: Hitting and Fielding Fundamentals - no tournaments

Babe Ruth League (13 and up)

Ages 13 – 15 (Kitsap, WA, Murray UT, Van Buren, AR)

Age 13 has a separate World Series Tournament

Ages 16 – 18 (Weimer, TX)

Age 16 has a separate World Series Tournament

Babe Ruth Softball – Ages 12U, 16U and 18U



THE SPORTSMANSHIP CODE OF BABE RUTH LEAGUE

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

Develop a strong urge for sportsman-like conduct.

Develop understanding of and respect for the RULES.

Develop courage in defeat, tolerance and modesty in victory.

Develop control over emotions and speech.

Develop spirit of cooperation and team play.

Develop into real, true CITIZENS.