



Babe Ruth League, Inc.

A Non-Profit Tax-Exempt Organization for 4 to 18 Year Old Players
Website: www.baberuthleague.org
International Headquarters: 1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619
Phone: 609-695-1434 Fax: 609-695-2505



To: Babe Ruth League Softball Commissioners and League Presidents
From: Jess Cusimano, National Softball Commissioner
Date: January 28, 2020
Re: 2020 Softball Pitcher Rule Change

The International Board of Directors has approved the following rule changes/clarifications beginning with the 2020 season. (This change is not reflected in the 2020 Babe Ruth League, Inc. Softball Rules and Regulations Rule Book.)

Current Pitching Rule:

8.01: “The pitcher shall take a position with both feet firmly on the ground and with both feet in contact with, but not off to the side of the pitcher’s plate.”

8.02: “In the act of delivering the ball, the pitcher shall not take more than one step, which must be forward, toward the batter, and simultaneous with the delivery of the ball to the batter—The pivot foot must remain in contact with, or push off and drag away from, the pitcher’s plate prior to the front foot touching the ground, as long as the pivot foot maintains contact with the ground.”

Addition to the current pitching rules for the 2020 Season:

Pitcher’s Foot Placement:

The new addition will eliminate the requirement that a pitcher must have part of her pivot foot on top of the pitchers plate. Now, the pivot foot must only start in contact with the plate. This addition will also allow the pitcher to start with the non-pivot “stride” foot in contact with or behind the plate, and allows the pitcher to step back with the stride foot off of the plate; provided the stepback begins prior to the official start of the pitch, the separating of the hands.

With the new rule addition, Pitchers will have the choice to either continue with the current rule or to comply with the new addition. Both will be accepted as legal play and will not result in an illegal pitch scenario.

In closing, we again thank you for the time you invest for the benefit of your young athletes. Babe Ruth League, Inc. has always been a volunteer-driven organization. The phenomenal success we enjoy is a direct reflection of your ever-increasing dedication and enthusiasm.



