



Willamette Valley Babe Ruth Charter Guidelines



Overview

Several different ways of chartering teams have been attempted in order to balance the competitive level of various leagues within Willamette Valley Babe Ruth. This document is designed to give local areas a standardized guideline for setting team rosters within their local areas.

Guideline

Top to bottom: When developing a roster, local areas will give first consideration to establishing their teams in a top to bottom fashion. In other words, if a local area has adequate, age appropriate players, as defined by Team Composition, then a team will be required to charter in the upper division.

Example: Area (A) is deciding whether or not to roster a single team between National and American, **and that area has five 14-year-old players;** Area (A) must roster a team at National team.

Age Appropriate: The second consideration for establishing a roster will be by establishing a roster that is age appropriate.

Example: Area (A) is deciding whether or not to roster a single team between National and American, **and has four, or fewer 14-year-old players;** Area (A) may roster as an American team as the majority age for the team is 13 years old.

Variances: Careful consideration will be given when deciding whether or not to award a variance by the Executive Board. Variances will be considered in one of three ways:

Team: Should Area (A) decide to charter a younger team in an upper division, the Executive Board shall approve such a variance. **Note: Once a team has been chartered at an upper lever, that decision will become final. Any request mid-season to drop a team down to a lower lever midseason will be denied.**

Player: Player variances will be handled on a case by case basis. Only one of two variances shall be considered by the Executive Board:

- A. Area requests for a player(s) to participate on an upper level team: If an area believes that a younger player is good enough to participate on a team at an upper level, or a team can only charter a team at the upper level, the Executive Board shall approve such a variance.
- B. Area requests for a player(s) to participate on a lower level team: On rare occasions, a circumstance may exist where a single player may need to be placed on a lower level team (**Note: this should only occur when a potential player has not developed physically, or if he would be the fifth player on a lower level team unable to compete at the upper level**). Should the Executive Board approve such a variance, that player will be added to the team roster. **Note: The player added to the roster will not be eligible**



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for All Star consideration. Should the Executive Board deny such a variance, the local area will move the top player from the team being chartered at the lower level and place that player at the next highest level roster, and the lower level player will be added to the lower level roster, or the area will keep the existing roster intact and release the player to the player pool.

League/Team Formation Meeting

General: Babe Ruth National Guidelines require that in order to charter a team, an area must have twelve (12) available players. **Areas that do not have twelve eligible players to form a team must request a league variance in order to be considered for league play at any level (Note: When requesting such a variance, an area, at minimum, should have eleven available players to that roster). Variances will be heard on a case by case basis.**

Dual Roster of Players: Areas **may not dual roster a player at a level unless the twelve player minimum has been met.** The intent of the Dual Roster rule **is so that a player can maintain their eligibility for All Stars** at a different (or lower) level while participating on a different (or higher) level team. The Dual Roster rule **is not intended** for an area to fill out a roster at a different (or lower) level due to a lack of eligible players. Note: **A player that has been placed on a Dual Roster for All Star purposes must participate in ½ of all league games at the level they are requesting all-star consideration.**

Roster Size: At the War Meeting, as each level is being filled, each area will be required to reveal the number of players, and age of those players at the time a specific team is being established. Variance requests (if any) will be heard and decided on at that time.

Team Composition

National: National teams will consist of a minimum of 12 players and a maximum of 15 players ages 13-15 years old (National/League Charter Guidelines apply). **A maximum of five 15-year-old players may participate at this level.** Consideration may be given for 12-year-old players of appropriate skill level with the approval of a League Variance. Note: **Players ages 13 and 14 years old, which participate in this division, may be considered for 13U and 14U All Star competition.**

American: American teams will consist of a minimum of 12 players and a maximum of 15 players ages 13-15 years old (National/League Charter Guidelines apply). **A maximum of four 14-year-old players may participate at this level.** Consideration may be given for 12-year-old players of appropriate skill level with the approval of a League Variance. Note: **American is chartered as a 13-15 Prep league. However, this division is designed for skill appropriate 13-14-year-old players.** Variance requests for 15-year-old players participating in this division will be handled on a case by case basis.

Majors: Majors teams will consist of a minimum of 12 players and a maximum of 15 players ages 11-12 years old (National/League Charter Guidelines apply). **A maximum of eight 12-year-old players may participate at this level.** Consideration may be given for 10-year-old players of



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appropriate skill level with the approval of a League Variance. **Note: Players ages 10, 11 and twelve 12 years old, which participate in this division, may be considered for 10U, 11U and 12U All Star competition at their respective All Star levels.**

Major Minor: Major Minor teams will consist of a minimum of 12 players and a maximum of 15 players ages 10, 11 and 12 years old (National/League Charter Guidelines apply). **A maximum of six 12-year-old players are allowed to participate at this level.** By league definition, this division is considered a developmental league, and players from this division would not be eligible for All Star competition.

AAA: AAA teams will consist of a minimum of 12 players and a maximum of 15 players ages 9, 10 and 11-years-old (National/League Charter Guidelines apply). **A maximum of four developmental 11-year-old players are allowed to participate at this level.** Consideration may be given for nine-year-old players of appropriate skill level with the approval of a League Variance). **Note: Only players ages nine and ten-year-old, which participate in this division, may be considered for 9U and 10U All Star competition.**

AA:

- **For an area to be eligible to participate in the AA Division,** an area must have a team in both the AAA division and the Rookie Major division.
- AA teams will consist of a minimum of 12 players and a maximum of 15 players ages 8, 9 and 10 years old (National/League Charter Guidelines apply). **A maximum of six 10-year-old players are allowed to participate at this level.** Consideration may be given for eight-year-old players of appropriate skill level with the approval of a League Variance. **Note: Only players age nine-year-old, which participate in this division, may be considered for 9U All Star competition.**

Rookies:

- The Rookie Division will be divided into two divisions: Rookie Major and Rookie Minor.
- Teams will consist of a minimum of 12 players and a maximum of 15 players' ages 7 and 8 years old (Rookie Minor) and ages 8 and 9 years old (Rookie Major). (National/League Charter Guidelines apply).
- Consideration may be given for players of appropriate skill level with the approval of a League Variance on a case by case basis.

Tee Ball: Players age 5-6 years old are eligible to play Tee Ball.