

**2011 Babe Ruth**  
**District Tournament Information (13U and 14U)**  
**3Jul2010**

**Contact Information**

Tournament Director  
and Host League President

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**Mandatory Coaches Meeting**

A mandatory pre-tournament coaches meeting will be held by conference call on Thursday, July 7 from 7 pm to 8 pm. Call in instructions will be provided to coaches no later than Wednesday, July 6. Credential books and pre-paid gate fees are due to the Tournament Director before the first game for each team.

**Team Credentials**

Team Credentials must be presented to the Tournament Director before the first game for each team. The team credentials must include the following:

- **Original** Birth Certificates or BRL Official Birth Documents (ID Cards).
- Insurance Certificate.
- Tournament Team Roster signed by League President.
- Letter of Tournament Eligibility Form.
- Consent for Treatment Form for each player.
- A 5x7 or 8x10 color team photograph with identification (i.e. labeled with names and jersey numbers).
- Coaching certification ID card or certificate for the manager and both coaches listed on the tournament team roster.

These credentials are discussed in a little more detail in the BRL Rulebook on page 23.

Team credentials should be bound to avoid loose papers. The credentials will be kept on-site until the team is eliminated from the tournament or the tournament has concluded.

**Pick up your book from the tournament director following your last game.**

## **Tournament Location**

The tournament will be held at Jim Warren Park fields 1 and 2 and at Liberty Park field 1. Maps to the parks are included in Attachment 1. Directions to the parks are provided on the maps. Street addresses for the parks are:

Jim Warren Park  
705 Boyd Mill Avenue  
Franklin, TN 37065

Liberty Park  
2080 Turning Wheel Lane  
Franklin, TN 37067

## **Tournament Format**

The tournament format will be pool play. Following pool play, the top two teams will play a championship game in the 13U tournament. All three teams in the 14U tournament will be seeded into a single elimination bracket.

The following tiebreaker system will be used in determining seeds for the single elimination bracket:

1. Overall Record.
2. Head to Head Competition.
3. Fewest Runs Allowed.
4. Run Differential with a Maximum of 10 per Game.
5. Coin Toss.

A further explanation of the tiebreaker system is presented in the 2011 BRL Rulebook on page 24.

## **Tournament Schedule**

The tournament schedule will be published separately and emailed to coaches. The schedule will also be posted on the tournament website at [www.fbcleagues.com](http://www.fbcleagues.com). Note that Babe Ruth Tournament Rules do not allow a team to play more than 2 games in a day.

## **Game Results**

Game results and other pertinent tournament information will be posted on [www.fbcleagues.com](http://www.fbcleagues.com).

## **Rainout Information**

There are several ways to learn about rainout information and game rescheduling:

1. Recorded Message at 794-4103.
2. Posted on the tournament site at [www.fbcleagues.com](http://www.fbcleagues.com).
3. Broadcast email from Tournament Director to coaches.
4. Phone call from the Tournament Director.

## **Tournament Entry (Gate) Fees**

There is no Team Entry Fee for a Babe Ruth Tournament. There is traditionally a daily admission fee, or gate fee, of \$5 for spectators. The gate fee is the sole source of revenue to cover the cost of umpires, baseballs, and incidentals.

For the District Tournament, a pre-paid gate fee will be used instead of a daily admission fee. Based on the tournament schedule and the corresponding number of games played, the gate fees are:

- Gate Fee = \$225 for 14U teams
- Gate Fee = \$300 for 13U teams

Gate fees will change if teams drop out prior to the start of the tournament, which will cause a change in the tournament schedule.

**Make checks payable to "FBC".**

### **Home Team**

Dugouts are assigned based on the schedule of games. The first team listed will assume the Home dugout and the second team listed will assume the Visitor dugout. The Home team will be determined by the flip of a coin immediately prior to each pool play game. In single elimination play, the higher seeded team will be the home team and will occupy the home team dugout.

### **Concession Stand**

Full range of concessions will be available for purchase throughout the tournament. Regular season concession prices will apply during the tournament. Concessions will open 30 minutes before the first game of the day.

### **COOLERS NOT ALLOWED**

Water jugs will be provided in the dugouts for players and coaches. **COOLERS ARE NOT PERMITTED** to be brought into the tournament complex. Exemptions will only be granted for medical reasons. Those that attempt to bring coolers into the park will be stopped. Those found with coolers in the park will be asked to remove them. If coolers are not removed upon request, the game will be stopped until the cooler is removed and/or the spectator is escorted from the park.

### **Popup Tents**

Each field has adequate green space along the fence in which a team may set up tents for shade.

### **Baseballs**

The tournament host will provide baseballs for all games.

### **Umpires**

The Franklin Baseball Club (FBC) will provide at least two umpires for all tournament games.

### **Trophies**

The tournament champion and the runner-up will receive medals or trophies as provided by the District Commissioner.

### **Advancing to the State Tournament**

The top 2 teams in the District Tournament will advance to the Tennessee State Tournament.

## **Scorekeepers**

The home team will provide the official scorekeeper for each tournament game. Each team must complete a lineup card and turn the card into the scorekeeper prior to the start of the game. The lineup card must contain the following:

- The jersey number, first and last name, and starting position for each of the 9 starters.
- The jersey number and first and last name of all available substitutes.

## **Protests**

Judgment calls made by an umpire are not to be questioned and are not grounds for a protest. Valid protests are considered when it is believed that an umpire has misinterpreted or misapplied a rule. In this event, the offended manager must immediately approach the home plate umpire and state his assertion. If after discussing his assertion with the umpire(s) a manager believes he has grounds for a protest, the manager must announce to the home plate umpire that he wishes to protest the rule interpretation at which time play will be suspended until the Protest Committee has made a decision. Decisions of the Protest Committee will be final.

**NO PROTEST, EXCEPT ON PLAYER ELIGIBILITY,  
WILL BE CONSIDERED AFTER A GAME HAS BEEN COMPLETED.**

A violation of the tournament pitching rules (allowable innings) is not grounds for a protest. If tournament officials are made aware of a violation of the pitching rules, the game in question will be declared a forfeit.

To rule on the validity of a protest, the Tournament Director will assign a three-person protest committee. The Tournament Director, or his designee, will chair the committee. Each participant in the game under protest may be asked to appoint one non-coaching adult to the committee.

## **Pets**

Jim Warren Park and Liberty Parks are municipal parks and pets are allowed in the park. However, if a pet is threatening to spectators or disruptive to the game, the owner will be asked to remove the pet.

## **Medical Staff**

Full-time medical staff will not be on-site during the tournament. In the event of a medical emergency, find a tournament official or call 911 on your cell phone.

## **Alcoholic Beverages or Drugs**

Alcohol is prohibited in Franklin City Parks. Any illegal activities, including illegal use of alcoholic beverages or drugs of any nature, will be immediate cause for disqualification. This does not apply to the use of doctor-prescribed medication by the individual for whom it has been prescribed.

## **Coach and Player Conduct**

The District Commissioner, Umpire-in-Chief, and Tournament Director have the authority to remove any player, coach, or manager from a tournament game for actions detrimental to Babe Ruth Baseball. Any misbehavior or misconduct on or off the field could disqualify a manager, coach, player, or team from the tournament.

Any misbehavior or misconduct not only could cause your disqualification from the tournament but could also lead to the disqualification of your team. Conduct that could lead to disqualification include:

- The use of profane or indecent language.
- Fighting or other aggressive behavior toward teammates, coaches, members of other teams, umpires, tournament officials, or other tournament participants on or off the field.
- Any illegal acts.

There is always a certain level of tension in competitive sports. We do not want you to lose your competitive edge - - the desire to perform at your very best makes the game exciting for everyone. But stay under control, even if a player or fan says something that you find offensive. Keep your cool, and do not respond to provocation in any way that could lead to your disqualification. Remember, baseball games are won with hits and runs, not with words.

## **Fan Behavior**

The team manager will be held responsible for the behavior of their fans. Fans are not to enter the playing field at anytime for any reason and are to display a positive attitude to all teams, players, umpires and officials. Managers are to immediately handle problem fans if the need arises. Managers are reminded that umpires have the authority to take action against a team due to the actions of their fans.

## GENERAL TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Only managers, coaches, players, batboys, tournament officials, tournament photographers, and approved media are allowed in the dugout. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES will anyone else be allowed inside the fence during play. This includes parents, team scorekeepers, and fans.
2. During play, coaches may leave the dugout temporarily to instruct a player. However, coaches cannot station themselves (sit or stand for an extended period) outside the dugout.
3. The official scorekeeper will keep pitching records for the game.

**Pitching changes must be announced to the scorekeeper and home plate umpire.**

4. A pitching log will be kept for the tournament and will be posted in a prominent and visible location near the concession stand. A Tournament Official will post game scores and pitching records at the completion of each game.
5. A player that shows up late to a game is still eligible to participate in that game. Upon arrival, the player becomes an eligible substitute player so long as he is listed on the tournament roster.
6. Adjacent to the fields at Jim Warren Park is a practice facility available for pre-game warm ups. The facility has 2 batting cages, 4 soft toss stations, and 3 pitching mounds. Usage of this facility for pre-game warm-ups will be assigned as follows:
  - The second team listed on the schedule, who will be occupying the Visitor dugout, will have the stations corresponding to their field number for 30 minutes beginning 1 hour and 15 minutes prior to the published game time.
  - The first team listed on the schedule, who will be occupying the Home dugout, will have the stations corresponding to their field number for 30 minutes beginning 45 minutes prior to the published game time.

Portable soft-toss nets are located around each field for use before and during games.

7. Adjacent to the field at Liberty Park is a practice facility available for pre-game warm ups. The facility has 2 batting cages with built-in soft toss stations. Usage of this facility for pre-game warm-ups is the same as for Jim Warren Park above. Portable soft-toss nets are located around the field for use before and during games.

**Due to recent storm damage, the batting cages may not be available for use.**

8. Prior to each game, teams will be allowed 5 minutes for on-field pre-game warm ups. The team in the Visitor dugout will take the field at 10 minutes before game time.
9. Games will be scheduled every 2 ½ hours. When games end early due to run-rule, the following game may begin early. Teams must be on the premises and be ready to begin play 15 minutes prior to the published start time.
10. The "forfeit time" will be the published game time.
11. Teams are to immediately depart the fields and dugouts upon the conclusion of games. This includes removing all equipment and trash. No team is to conduct a post meeting with their players within the fenced playing field.

## A REVIEW OF BABE RUTH TOURNAMENT RULES

The tournament will be governed by the *2011 Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules and Regulations and Official Playing Rules* (2011 Rulebook) unless otherwise superseded by the aforementioned General Tournament Rules. The following overview of Babe Ruth tournament rules is provided for the benefit of the participating teams. As appropriate, the associated page number from the 2011 Rulebook is provided.

1. Players and coaches must wear uniforms identical in color, trim, and style. Uniform numbers must be at least 6-inches in height and each uniform must have a unique number. (page 35)

**Note that for the District Tournament, Coaches may substitute coach's shorts or Khakis shorts for baseball pants. However, coaches must comply with the official uniform rules at the Tennessee State Tournament.**

2. Uniforms must bear the Babe Ruth patch on the left sleeve. (page 19)
3. The maximum bat diameter is 2 5/8 inches for metal bats and 2 3/4 for wood bats. (page 17)
4. Composite barrel bats are prohibited with certain exceptions. While not in the rulebook, this issue was addressed by Babe Ruth Headquarters in 2010 for Babe Ruth League and Tournament play. Refer to the Babe Ruth League, Inc. website for more information.

In summary, the rule on composite bats is as follows:

*The only COMPOSITE BARREL bats that will be permitted in the 13-15 Baseball Division are those that have been BESR (Bat Exit Speed Ration) and ABI (Accelerated Break-In) tested and approved and are found listed at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org). These are the only approved COMPOSITE BARREL bats, and they are all -3 bats. Bats in the same make and model with a minus or drop greater than -3 are not allowed.*

*Further, the Babe Ruth Baseball 13-15 Division will allow ALL aluminum/alloy 2 5/8 inch barrel bats and ALL COMPOSITE HANDLE (only) aluminum/alloy barrel bats in any minus or drop. For example, if it is not a COMPOSITE BARREL bat, then -8, -9, -10, etc. bats are allowed. ALL BBCOR -3 High School approved bats are allowed in the Babe Ruth Baseball 13-15 Division.*

*A listing of approved composite barrel bats is provided by NHFS at <http://www.nfhs.org/content.aspx?id=4155&terms=composite+bats>*

Penalty for the use of any illegal bat is as follows:

- *If an illegal bat is discovered prior to a batter completing his "at bat" the bat is simply removed from play and the "at bat" continues.*
- *A player who uses an illegal bat or non-conforming barrel dimension and hits a fair ball will be ruled out. No advancement on the bases will be allowed, and any outs during the play shall stand. This is an appeal play. The "at bat" will be considered legal once a pitch is thrown to the next batter.*

- *Any bat discovered prior to the game that does not conform to the above rule shall be directed to be removed immediately and not be allowed for use during the game.*
5. Games will consist of 7 innings with no time limit. If a game is halted for any reason, it will resume at the point of discontinuance. (page 25)
  6. A 10-run rule is in effect after 4 ½ innings. (page 26)
  7. Forfeit games will be assigned the score of 7 to 0. (page 41)
  8. Special reentry rules are in effect. (page 11 and 20)
  9. Players shall not wear jewelry, with certain exceptions. (page 18)
  10. All field personnel (players, coaches, managers, bat boys, and umpires) are prohibited from using tobacco of any kind. (page 19)
  11. Tournament rosters must contain at least 12, but no more than 15, players and no more than 3 coaches (a manager and two coaches). (page 22)
  12. Only players, substitutes, a manager, two coaches, and a bat boy/girl shall occupy the bench during a game. (page 49)
  13. Bat Boys do not have to be on the tournament roster. Bat boys must be of age similar to, or younger than, the age as the players. A bat boy that is older than the players will be deemed by tournament officials as an additional, and illegal, coach.  
  
Bat Boys must be in baseball uniform but it is ok if they don't match rest of team. For example, a regular season uniform is ok even if it is a different color scheme just as long as he/she is in a baseball uniform. Bat boys must wear a batting helmet at all times when outside the dugout. (page 17)
  14. Any player that enters a game must be listed on the tournament roster in the team credentials. Use of a player not listed on the tournament roster or otherwise deemed ineligible will result in a forfeit of the last game played (completed game). (page 23)
  15. The pitching limitation is 7 innings in two consecutive tournament games. There is no required rest period for tournament play. (page 25)
  16. One pitch in an inning constitutes an inning pitched. (page 25)
  17. A pitcher may return to the mound as a pitcher so long as he wasn't removed from the mound due to the second visit in an inning. (page 25)
  18. Any player, manager, or coach warming up a pitcher at home plate must wear a mask. (page 17, 37)
  19. A catcher must be equipped with a helmet that covers the ears, a mask, throat protector (considered part of the mask), and a protective cup. (page 37)

20. Babe Ruth has a “Contact Rule” which says that if a runner intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player at home plate, the runner will be called out and ejected from the game. (page 19, 63)

21. Regardless of local league rules, Babe Ruth Tournament Rules:

- Do not require a player to slide at home plate.
- Do not prohibit head-first slides.
- Do not require a substitute to enter the game.
- Do not require playing time for players.
- Do not allow courtesy runners.
- Do not allow designated hitters.
- Do not allow intentional walks; i.e. four balls must be pitched to a batter to walk the batter.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**1. Question**

Must coach's jerseys have a number on the back?

**Answer**

By rule, coaches are supposed to have numbers on their jerseys. However, for the District Tournament this rule will not be enforced.

**2. Question**

Is a pitcher allowed to pitch 7 innings over a rolling two day period?

**Answer**

No. The 7 innings is over a two game period. The limitation is a rolling 2-game period.

**3. Question**

If a player pitches 7 innings in one game or day, does he have to rest for 48 hours before he can pitch again?

**Answer**

No. There is no rest period. The limitation is simply the 7-innings over a rolling 2-game period.

**4. Question**

Does the pitching reset after pool play so that everybody has full availability when single elimination begins?

**Answer**

No.

**5. Question**

Does one pitch in an inning by a pitcher constitute an entire inning regardless of whether he records an out or not?

**Answer**

Yes, one pitch thrown is an inning pitched.

**6. Question**

A pitcher may reenter the game or inning at pitcher as long as he was not removed on the 2 visit in an inning, right?

**Answer**

Correct.

**7. Question**

Is it correct that the starting pitcher can return once to the mound in the same game but no other pitcher can return to the mound?

**Answer**

Incorrect. Any pitcher can return to the mound so long as they are not removed from the mound on the "second trip" to the mound in an inning.

**8. Question**

Does a pitcher have to stay in the lineup to be eligible to return to the mound?

**Answer**

No. A pitcher could be substituted for and go to the bench to rest and then be reinserted into the lineup later in the game and still be eligible to return to the mound so long as he was not removed from the mound on a 2<sup>nd</sup> visit in an inning.

**9. Question**

If I pull my pitcher off the mound on the 1<sup>st</sup> visit in an inning, can he return to the mound in the same inning in the event his replacement gets injured or simply can't perform?

**Answer**

Yes. A pitcher can return to the mound in the same inning. However, care should be taken. The rulebook says that a pitcher may assume a position other than pitcher only once in the same inning. (rulebook page 46)

**10. Question**

I am not required to dress every player nor am I required to play every player on my roster, right?

**Answer**

Correct, just because a player is on the roster doesn't mean he has to dress out.

**11. Question**

I just want to make sure I am not required to substitute if a player dresses. My preference is to sub if I dress him, but I just want to make sure I am not required.

**Answer**

Correct. Players that dress do not have to play. Therefore, a substitute does not have to be inserted into the game.

**12. Question**

It is my understanding that a starter can return to the game, but he has to back into his original position in the lineup and bat in his original spot in the order.

**Answer**

Correct. A batter cannot occupy more than one place in the batting order. Therefore, a starter reentered must reenter for the player who substituted for him.

**13. Question**

Does the catcher have to have a throat protector on the catcher's mask?

**Answer**

Yes. On page 37 of the rulebook, it states the throat protector is required equipment for a catcher. However, modern catcher's masks that have an elongated taper to the bottom of the mask are considered to have a built-in throat protector.

**14. Question**

Does the coach warming up a catcher between innings have to wear a mask?

**Answer**

Yes. However, the pitcher can warm up by throwing with another player or coach who does not assume the catchers position.

**15. Question**

Does the catcher have to wear a cup?

**Answer**

Yes. A protective cup is part of the required equipment for a catcher.

**16. Question**

How will the seeds be determined for single elimination?

**Answer**

The Babe Ruth tie-breaker system will be applied as necessary to determine seeding.

**17. Question**

Is coach certification required?

**Answer**

Yes, for the manager and coaches.

**18. Question**

Can we use an extra hitter (EH)?

**Answer**

No. You must play 9 and bat 9.

**19. Question**

I heard that uniforms can't incorporate a baseball in the artwork. Is that right?

**Answer**

Correct. The image of a baseball on the jersey is prohibited. If anybody has uniforms that contain a baseball, send a picture of the jersey to the tournament director in advance of the tournament for a ruling. Clarification provided in Questions 20 through 22.

**20. Question**

Our team has a jersey with a baseball as a back drop but the ball is about the size of a basketball. Will that be OK since it can't be mistaken for a real baseball due its size?

**Answer**

Yes that will be OK for the State Tournament but that jersey will not be acceptable at the Regional.

**21. Question**

Our players have two different pants but the coaches only have one. Can the coaches be in different color pants than the players?

**Answer**

Yes, so long as the coaches all match each other and the pant color is one of the colors in the player's uniform color scheme.

**22. Question**

What about minor differences in the pants between players or between players and coaches?

**Answer**

The intent is that the team be dressed like a baseball team. If some players have elastic in the legs of the pants and others wear non-elastic pants, that's ok. If players have piping down the leg of the pant but the coaches don't, that's ok.

**23. Question**

Courtesy runners aren't allowed even for a pitcher or catcher?

**Answer**

Correct.

**24. Question**

Does the runner have to slide at home plate?

**Answer**

No.

**25. Question**

In other tournaments we have played there was a rule against the practice of “slashing”, where the batter fakes a bunt then pulls back and swings. Is slashing against the rules?

**Answer**

No. The rulebook does not address “slashing”. It is a practice that is despised by those concerned about player safety, but it is not against the rules.

**26. Question**

What is the penalty if a defensive player is over zealous at tagging a runner? Maybe the first baseman slaps the runner in the head intentionally or the catcher tackles the runner coming home.

**Answer**

This is completely an umpire judgment call. If the umpire believes a defensive player is intentionally trying to harm an offensive player, a warning will be given and if behavior continues, the defensive player will be removed from the game.

**27. Question**

If a coach yells to the mound for the pitcher to swap positions with another player, does that constitute a “visit” to the mound?

**Answer**

Yes.

**28. Question**

If a coach talks to the catcher and the catcher goes to the mound to relay the coach’s instructions, does that constitute a trip to the mound?

**Answer**

Yes.

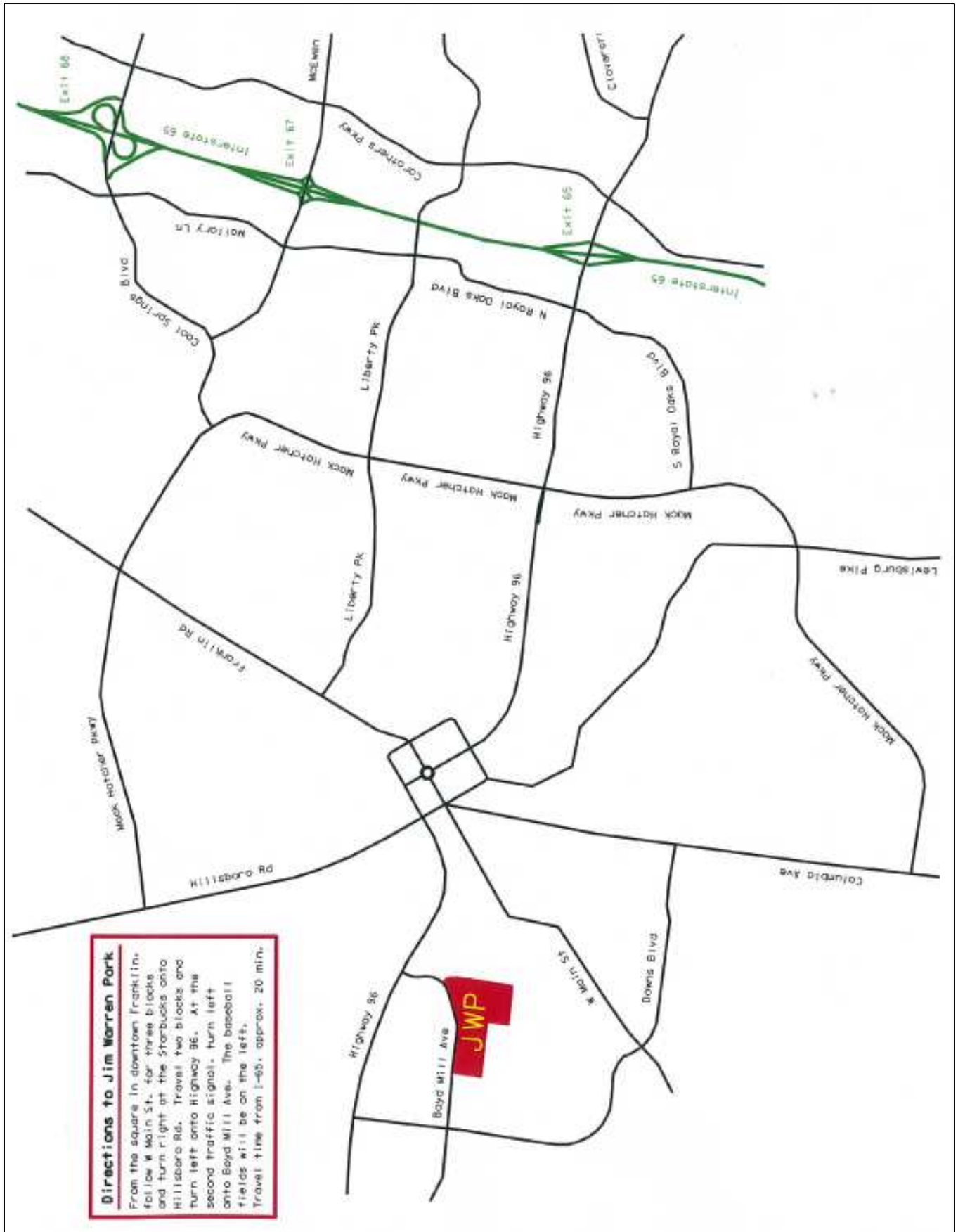
**29. Question**

If a player is on the roster but doesn’t play, do all his credentials have to be in the book?

**Answer**

No. A player will not be deemed illegal for lack of credentials unless he enters a game.

# Attachment 1 – Tournament Location Maps.



**Directions to Liberty Park**  
From Exit 67, go east on McEwen Dr.  
Turn right onto Carothers Pkwy.  
Turn left onto Liberty Pike.  
At the entrance to McKays Mill,  
travel  $\frac{3}{4}$  around the roundabout  
and exit onto Turning Wheel Lane.  
Liberty Park will be on the  
right after crossing the hill.

