

## Important Reminders Regarding TN Cal Ripken District and State Tournaments (For 2026 Cal Ripken Tournament Trail)

### Edwin Warner Park Rules and Policies

**Park Address**→All games will be played at the Edwin Warner Baseball Fields. The address is 2547 Old Hickory Blvd., Nashville, TN. 37221. The entrance to the fields is from Vaughn Road and is directly across the street from 50 Vaughn Road.

**Coach Check-in**→Each team must present your official Cal Ripken notebook upon arrival at the Main Gate. You will then be given your coaches credentials and team cooler tag (see below for details). Coaches MUST display and wear your Coaches Badge upon entry to the park and at all times. Each team will be issued four badges. Additional team personnel beyond those four will need to purchase tickets.

**Batting Cage Rules**→There are three batting cages near the Warner Park Concession stand. Cages are on a first-come/first-served basis, but cooperation among the teams is encouraged. Each team should limit activity to one cage and should not monopolize a cage if another team is waiting. In addition, Fields 1 and 2 are available for additional team warm-up/practice/hitting.

**One Team Cooler Per Team**→Each team can bring-in one appropriately-sized cooler of water, sports drinks, cooling towels, etc. for the use of the team and coaches only. This cooler must be kept inside the dugout during the game. The coach will be issued one cooler tag to be attached to the cooler.

**No Outside Food or Drink**→As is the case with most ballparks, the host league relies on proceeds from the concession stand to help keep the fields nice. The concession stand will be open approximately an hour prior to the first game and will remain open until all games are completed each day. This concession stand receives high marks for both the hot and cold food and a variety of beverages. Coaches are asked to notify your team parents about this policy.

**Pets** → NO Pets are allowed inside the fenced areas at Edwin Warner Park except service animals.

**Daily Admission**→ Admission will be \$10 per day for Adults, and \$5 for students 6-18, Senior Adults 65 and over, and active-duty military personnel. Under 6 is free. Wristbands for each day will be issued and must be worn at all times. Cash is preferred at all gates. Credit Cards will be accepted for a \$1.00 per wristband convenience fee.

**Team Readiness to Play**→Other than the first game of the day, teams should be ready to play 45 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time. Teams playing back-to-back will be granted up-to 15 minutes between games, if needed. Should a game run late, the umpires will consult with the tournament management and adjusted start time will be announced.

**Scoreboard Operator**→Game management will ask for a volunteer from one of the teams to be the electronic scoreboard operator. That person is asked to return the controller to the side door of the concessions stand (grill side) immediately following the game.

**Dugout Cleanliness**→Each team is asked to quickly and fully clean-up their dugout following each game. Vacating the dugout quickly will also help us keep games running smoothly and on-time. Warner Park

has to adhere to the Metro Parks “lights out” curfew of 10 p.m., so cooperation by teams to keep the games on-schedule is appreciated.

**Tournament Director**→Scott Tygard, League President of the West Nashville Sports League, will serve as Tournament Director. Doug Strong, Tennessee Babe Ruth Commissioner, will be on-site some of the time and will be in consultation with tournament management, as needed.

### **For All Teams in All Age Groups**

1. All teams should submit their Cal Ripken notebook to the Tournament Director prior to playing first game of the tournament. Notebooks will be checked by Cal Ripken personnel during the tournament.
2. Official Scorebook—Unless the tournament is designating official scorer for games, the Home Team is responsible for keeping the official scorebook. Each team is encouraged to keep an official scorebook (for both teams) and scores should be checked with each other each half-inning. All substitutions should go through the plate umpire, who will notify score keepers.
3. Pool Play Games **can** end in a tie, if the time limit has been exhausted.
4. In case a game goes to extra innings, the International Rule (starting the extra inning with runner at second base) is **NOT** in effect.
5. Courtesy Runners—Courtesy Runner is allowed for the catcher. Courtesy runner must come from substitutes **who have not yet entered the game**. Once all substitutes have entered the game (taken a spot in the batting order), there are no more courtesy runners.
6. Batting Minimum, or Using the Extra Player—A team may choose to bat the minimum number of players (either 9 or 10, depending on the age group), or may use the EP (Extra Player). If using the EP, those players in the batting order may switch “in” or “out” defensively without changing their spot in the batting order or status as being in the line-up.
7. Determination of Pool Play Standing for Advancement into Bracket Play—If there is a tie in the Pool Play standings (win/loss record), tie will be broken and seeding determined in accordance with the 2026 Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Rule Book (pages 79-80).
8. Possible Mis-Application of a Rule—In the event that a manager/head coach feels that a rule has been mis-applied, a protest must be lodged prior to the next pitch being made or runner being retired. Play (and time clock) will be stopped and the protest will be settled before play (and time clock) resumes.
9. Home Team—For games in Pool Play, home team is listed second on the schedule (think of it as Team 1 AT Team 2). For Bracket play, the higher seed has the option of batting first or second. If both teams are the same seed, a coin toss is used to determine home team.
10. Run Rules—In addition to Time Limits, there are run rules that end games (20 runs difference after 2 innings, 15 runs difference after 3 innings, and 10 runs difference after four innings (or later). (Note—in 6 year-olds, it is 20 after 3, 15 after 4, etc. because they have limited runs per inning that necessitates.)
11. Coaches, when their team is on defense, must remain in the dugout. When their team is hitting, the 1B and 3B coaches are the only ones that should be out of the dugout, and must remain in the designated coaches boxes or coach box area, if not marked. (Exception—For the 6 year-olds, 7 year-olds, and 8 year-olds, please refer to Special Rules for those Age Groups.)
12. All bats must be in accordance with Official Cal Ripken rules (wooden bats okay, but all others must have official USA stamp on the handle just above the grip).
13. Manager and Coaches must be in proper uniform (Cal Ripken specifications) to take their place inside the field-of-play.

14. Local Park Rules **do not** take precedent over Cal Ripken Rules. For example, some parks might have a rule that players cannot advance to home on a wild pitch or pass ball. Since that is not a Cal Ripken rule, the local rule cannot prevail.
15. Walk-up music is allowed, but not during live game action, or loud enough to interfere with adjacent fields. Tournament Director has authority to warn violaters and to discontinue music, if necessary.

**For Teams in 6 year-olds, 7 year-olds, and 8 year-olds**

1. Special Rules for these Age Groups are found on the Tennessee Babe Ruth Website.
2. There are Time Limits for these games: No new inning shall start after 90 minutes, unless in bracket play with the score tied.
3. Ten players are required to start a game in these age groups. See above section on “Batting the Minimum or Using the Extra Player”.

**For Teams in 9 year-olds, 10 year-olds, 11 year-olds, and 12 year olds**

1. Official Pitch Count—Refer to the section on Pitch Counts in the 2026 Official Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Rule Book (page 76). Reminder—The pitch count is a DAILY total, not a PER GAME total.
2. Keeping of the Official Pitch-Count—Whether the official count is done by the Base Umpire or other Designated Pitch-Count person, pitch counts should be compared and cross-checked with both coaches/team designated representative each half-inning. Please remember that the position of the State Cal Ripken Commissioners is one of “preventing a team from violating rather than trying to catch a team violating.”
3. In the event of extreme heat, the State Commissioner may authorize that courtesy runners may also be used for the pitcher. Please note that the case for all use of Courtesy Runners is that it applies to the current catcher (or pitcher, if applicable) and not the one that a coach projects to be playing that position once the team goes back to the field.
4. Time Limits (no new inning to start beyond, except extra-innings for Bracket Games) are as follows: 9 year-olds and 10 year-olds→105 minutes; and 11 year-olds and 12 year-olds→120 minutes.