



## OFFICIAL RULES

### FIELD:

- The kickball diamond is a square with equal sides of 60 feet.
- The distance from home plate to second base, and from first base to third base is 84 feet 10 1/4 inches.
- The center of the pitching area is in the center of the diamond, 42 feet 5 1/8 inches and directly aligned with the first base/third base diagonal. (*First/Third Base Diagonal is marked with a dotted line.*) There will be a box behind the pitcher's strip that designates the 'area of control'. This box will measure 9 feet wide by 9 feet deep.
- The strike zone extends to 1 foot on either side of home plate, and 1 foot high. There will be a box around the plate (1 foot on all sides) which marks the strike zone. If any part of the ball falls within the zone or hits the line, then it is a strike.

### TEAMS:

- Teams shall consist of a maximum of 10 players on the field and a minimum of 8 players with at least 4 women on the field at all times. If you don't have enough women you must play short and will get an automatic out when that position is reached in the batting order. If you play with fewer than 10 players but have at least 4 women you do not have to take an automatic out. One of the players must be catcher. There is no maximum to the number of players on your team roster.
- All players can kick but no more than 2 MEN can kick in a row. Women can re-kick if necessary, after the minimum of four women have kicked (or automatic outs have been received for missing women).
- The kicking order cannot change but you can change the fielders as long as you keep 4 women in the field.
- Only players who are paid league members may play in a game. You must play in at least three regular season game to play in the playoffs.
- All players must be at least 21 years of age and wear their official league-issued shirts to play in a game and receive the drink specials afterwards. Kickball shirts must be worn on *top* of any jackets or sweatshirts. All players must have signed the official Kickball waiver form.
- The official batting order must be provided to the umpire before the start of the game. The kicking team must keep an official scorecard.
- Once official batting order is submitted it can't be changed.
- Players that arrive after the start of the game and after all other players on the kicking team have already kicked once may only be used as substitutes for players of the same gender.

- All players in the “bench area” must maintain adequate distance from the field to avoid interference in the game. Players/teams who fail to comply may be penalized. This is a judgement call by the official.
- Coaches must sign a code of conduct and verify that all members of their team have read and understand the rules.
- No metal spikes are allowed
- Your team is found using a player who is NOT on the roster, it is an automatic forfeit for your team.
- KLOO will conduct random roster checks throughout the season to verify player eligibility.
- Only one player on a roster may play in two divisions.

### **REGULATION GAMES:**

- Games will last for 7 innings, with the game being official after 4 innings (3 ½ if the home team leads). Umpires will determine when 50 minutes is close and will finish the current inning (the game will be shortened if necessary).
- Unlike baseball, there are no extra innings; the game can end in a tie. (If there is time remaining and both coaches and **the umpire agree** to play extra innings, they may be played.)
- Any team that is not ready to take the field at the scheduled kick off time shall forfeit the match. (A 10 minute grace period may be granted based upon league directors discretion)
- There is a limit of nine runs per inning except for the last inning.
- If a team leads by ten runs or more after 5 innings the game will be declared over.

### **PITCHING/CATCHING:**

- If the ball is bouncing higher than 1 foot off the ground (as measured from the bottom of the ball) when it reaches the plate then it is a ball; however, the kicker does have the option of kicking it if he/she wishes.
  - If the pitch crosses the line around the plate, it is a strike.
- The pitcher must stay inside the pitching area on the mound until the ball is kicked. If the pitcher crosses outside of the pitching area, or on the line, an illegal pitch will be called. The kicker does have the option of kicking it if he/she so chooses, and takes the result of that play.
- No fielder may advance forward the 1st-3rd base diagonal until the ball is kicked, however anyone can field a bunt.
  - If a pitcher or fielder makes an out by illegally advancing beyond the 1st-3rd base diagonal, the runner will be declared safe.
  - Runners must return to their original bases unless they are forced to advance.
- The catcher must be positioned at least 3 feet from the kicker and behind the plate until the ball is kicked. The catcher cannot interfere with the kicker.
  - If the catcher interferes with the kicker and it is called by the umpire, the kicker will receive base. This is a judgment call by the umpire.
  - The fielding team cannot change catchers during an inning (except in cases of injury)
- The count begins at 1 ball, 1 strike.
- Pitching must be underhand only.

### **KICKING:**

- All kicks must be made by foot (below the knee).
- All kicks must be taken at or behind the home plate (determined by the position of the plant foot) or an illegal kick will be called and the kicker will be declared out (no runners can advance).

- Males must kick the ball past the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> baseline. The ball must stay beyond the line to be fair.
  - Any kick that does not reach this line will be considered a foul unless the ball is fielded before it reaches this line, then it is in play and considered fair.
- Females must kick the ball past a line that is 10 feet from the plate. The ball must stay beyond the line to be fair.
  - If the ball is fielded before it reaches this line, it is in play and considered fair.
- Kickers may not stop the ball with their foot and then kick it.
- Double-Kicks
  - If a player double-kicks the ball accidentally and the ball is still in the kicker's box, the kick is considered a foul, and therefore, a strike.
  - If a player double-kicks the ball accidentally and the ball is in fair territory, the kicker is out.

## **RUNNING:**

- Runners must stay within the base line.
- Fielders must stay out of the base line unless they are attempting to tag the runner or catch the kicked ball.
- Fielders trying to make an out on base may have their foot on base (except for first), but must lean out of the baseline.
- If a fielder attempts to physically obstruct a runner from advancing, the runner may advance as many bases as they would have potentially earned had they been able to run unobstructed. This is a judgment call by the official.
- There will be an extra first base placed next to first base. The extra base is for the fielder to tag and an out will be called when the fielder tags this base and not the regular base. The fielder may not interfere in any way with the runner tagging first base.
- It is the responsibility of the runner to avoid a collision. Please save yourself and your opponents from injury by paying attention. Ties go to the runner...there's no need to take out the baseman.
  - Pursuant to the ASA Rule, when a defensive player has the ball and the runner remains upright and crashes into the defensive player, it is considered a "crash". If the act is determined to be flagrant, the offender shall be ejected.
- Neither leading off base, nor stealing a base is allowed.
  - A runner leading off base before the ball is kicked is out.
- Hitting a runner with the ball above shoulder level is not allowed and the runner is safe and advances one (1) base except for the following situations:
  - If the runner intentionally uses the head to block the ball, and is so called by the official scorer, in which case the runner is out.
  - If the runner is ducking, diving or sliding (i.e. attempting to dodge the ball) and is hit in the head because of this is an out. It is the umpire's judgment.
  - If the runner intentionally hits or kicks the ball after being tagged out, the ball is dead and all runners must return to their original bases.
- When a runner is hit with the ball above shoulder level, other runners on base are permitted to advance to the base to which they were running, but do not receive additional bases unless forced.
- The runner may leave base as soon as a fly ball is touched by a member of the fielding team. (See softball rules for further clarification, if needed.)
- All ties will go to the runner.
- On an overthrow, all players advance as far as they can get even if the ball is out of bounds.
  - Certain fields may have out of bounds areas. Please consult the umpire for details.

- When two runners are on the same base at the same time, the fielder has the choice of tagging either runner with the ball. The runner who is tagged is out and the other runner is safe and may stay on the base.

#### **FOULS:**

- A foul will count as a strike even on the third strike.
- A foul is:
  - Kick landing out of bounds;
  - A kick landing in bounds, but traveling out of bounds on its own before reaching first or third base (any ball touching a fielder in fair territory is automatically in play).
  - A kick that does not meet the minimum kick requirement (1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> base diagonal for males, 10 foot line for females).

#### **OUTS:**

- A count of three (3) outs by a team completes the team's half of the inning.
- An out is:
  - Count of three (3) strikes;
  - A runner touched by the ball at ANY time while not on base;
  - A runner who is on the same base with another runner and is tagged with the ball;
  - Any kicked ball (fair or foul) that is caught;
  - A ball tag on a base to which a runner is forced to run;
  - A runner leading off base before a ball is kicked.
- Hitting the base with the ball does NOT count as an out. The fielder must hit the runner with the ball or maintain control of the ball on the base on a forced run.

#### **BALL IN PLAY:**

- Once a member of the fielding team has the ball in control and is inside the pitching box, the play is over. Play will resume once the next pitch is thrown.

#### **PLAY-OFFS:**

- Play-Offs are single-elimination.
- Play-Off format and number of teams to be determined later in the season. (It will always be more than 50% of teams in each division).
- Any player ejected from a Play-Off game will be suspended for the remainder of the play-offs.
- Players must play in at least three regular season games in order to be eligible for the playoffs.
- In the event of a tie at the end of regulation (7 Innings), the last kicker who was up in the line-up will advance to second base, and the kicking order will proceed as specified for each extra inning played.
- Teams will advance from each division into the next higher division based upon playoff results. For overall league totals of 20 teams or less, the top 2 will advance and the last place team will have the option to stay in the current division or drop down one division. For overall league totals of 21 or greater, the top 4 will advance and the bottom 2 will have the option to drop down one division. For teams that try to circumvent this, you must have less than 7 original players from the last time playing on the roster and notify the league director/s of your intent. League directors reserve the right to grant or deny requests to balance out divisions.

### **SPECIAL JV LEAGUE RULES** *(for those who were picked last in elementary school)*

- **The pitcher cannot spin the ball.**
- **No sidearm pitching allowed.**
- **The pitcher is allowed only one step on his pitching motion.**
- **You will receive one warning for illegal pitching. If the pitcher is called for a pitching violation a second time, the pitcher will not be allowed to pitch for the remainder of the game.**

#### **Play-Offs**

- **Playoffs are not guaranteed.**

### **SOCIAL DIVISION**

- **This division is for fun.**
- **There will be no cash prize awarded.**
- **The pitching and game format will follow JV rules.**

### **OTHER RULES:**

- All games will be officiated by certified Umpires.
- Foul language is not allowed. This is a judgment call by the umpires.
- Kickball reserves the right to move teams up or down from their respective divisions to preserve balanced play within the league.
- No bottles on the field. Teams must follow any official park rules
- Teams that forfeit a game and do not provide notification by phone by 5pm the day before the game will be charged the forfeit fine. The fine is \$25.
- Fighting is strictly prohibited. Any player that is caught fighting during a game will be ejected from the Kickball League of Ohio forever.
- Coaches are responsible for keeping track of their batting order, inning and score in their scorebooks. If there is a dispute over the batting order, inning or score, we use the books to make the final decision.
- Coaches are responsible for checking their game results every week. Incorrect results must be reported to KLOO within one week.
- Coaches and Co-Coaches are the only people who are allowed to discuss rules/calls with the umpires.
- ***Coaches are responsible for controlling their team. We are adults...please act like it.***
- Pinch runners are only allowed if the runner was injured during the game/during the play. If a player was injured previously (prior to game), and is in need of a pinch runner, they should not be playing.
- Ejections
  - If a player is ejected from a regular season game, he/she will not be allowed to play in the next scheduled game.
  - If a player is ejected from more than one game in a season, that player will be ejected from the league for the season.
  - If a player is ejected from a play-off game, he/she will not be allowed to play for the remainder of the play-offs.
- If a rule is not otherwise stated here standard softball rules hold.
  - If a male kicker is intentionally walked to get to a female kicker, the male kicker advances to second base. The female kicker must kick unless there are two outs, and then she has the choice to kick or take first base.
- There is NO Infield Fly Rule.

- If a fielder intentionally drops the ball, it may be declared unsportsmanlike conduct and the kicker will be awarded first base. Other runners will advance, if forced. This is a judgment call by the umpire.
- There are no errors.  
Yelling of otherwise making attempts to distract fielders from catching the ball will be considered “verbal interference”.
- The official game umpires have the final ruling; however, league commissioners or coaches may be consulted concerning the official rules. Umpires may make judgment calls, where appropriate.
- Some fields will have out of bounds areas. The refs will declare these areas before the start of each game. If the ball enters one of these areas, the ball is dead and play will stop. Extra bases may be awarded depending on the particular field. Check with your field leader for explanation if needed.
- *We encourage all members to enjoy our sponsor bars*
- ***As always, Kickball and its sponsors encourage responsible drinking.***

## **KICKBALL LEAGUE OF OHIO PLAYER CONDUCT**

The Kickball league of Ohio is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable experience for all League members before, during, and after kickball games. We want all players participating in our games to enjoy the experience in a responsible fashion. When attending or participating in a game, you are required to refrain from the following behaviors:

- Behavior that is unruly, disruptive, or illegal in nature
- Intoxication or other signs of alcohol impairment that results in irresponsible behavior.
- Foul or abusive language or obscene gestures
- Interference with the progress of the game (including throwing objects onto the field).
- Failing to follow instructions of league and park personnel.
- Verbal or physical harassment of opposing team players and fans.

Kickball League of Ohio members are responsible for their conduct as well as the conduct of their guests. League staff will promptly intervene to ensure that everyone can enjoy the kickball games free from the above behavior. Anyone who violates these provisions will be subject to ejection from the game, field, or league without refund and may possibly be banned from future play in the Kickball League of Ohio.