

Kickball Rules

Rules

Any rule or situation not expressly defined here will default to MLB rules. At the end of the day, these calls will be made by the head umpire or Aspen Recreation on-site Staff. Whatever their call is, it stands.

Basic Rules:

- 6 Innings in a GAME, or 60 minutes of play. Whichever comes first.
- 11 players in the field (including the catcher)
- Minimum of 5 females in play for the fielding team at all times
- Minimum to start a game: 6 players (3 females minimum)
- All pitches MUST be thrown underhand
- We do not keep track of Balls/Strikes
- 3 fouls is an OUT
- No leading off/stealing bases
- You can throw the ball at base-runners, but no head shots!

COVID-19 Rules Modifications

- Our Kickball will follow our Softball League COVID-19 Rules Modifications;
 - o Set of WHITE BASES for the RUNNER
 - o Set of ORANGE BASES for the FIELDER
 - o NO TAG OUTS
 - o THROWING the Kickball at the Runner is still Legal, but all outs are Force-Outs at the bases.
 - o 1st Base and 3rd Bases will feature Commitment Lines, which once-passed commit the runner to the next base/plate.
 - o Home plate will feature a Scoring Line for the runners to run through while the fielders play the plate.
 - o See our Adult Softball COVID-19 Rules Modifications for more detail.

Sportsmanship First

The first and foremost rule of the game is to have fun. We are not creating or facilitating a highly-competitive atmosphere – this League is about coming together to have fun, relax, and recreate in a safe and structured environment. Sportsmanship and Positivity by all participants are fundamental to our success in that regard.

No complaining will be tolerated during the course of a game – the only players allowed to communicate with umpires regarding calls/decisions are the Team Captains. Any abuse (verbal or otherwise) of the umpires, staff, or other players will result in immediate ejection and possible suspension. Repeat offenders will be subject to a League Ban – no exceptions.

Players should have no intentional or unwelcome physical contact with opposing players. Doing so will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct and it will be at the discretion of the umpire to issue warnings or eject offending players. A player must make the umpire aware if he or she feels any contact was unwarranted.

Trash talking is permitted as long as it is not cruel, racially motivated, hateful, or a personal attack on another player as perceived by the umpire or Aspen Recreation Staff member. The trash talking should only be good-natured and shall not be allowed to get out of hand. Threats of physical violence are in no way allowed. The team captain shall ensure that their players behave themselves.

Field of Play

Our playing fields will match the dimensions of our standard softball set-up; pitcher's rubber at 46', bases at 60'. Home Plate will feature a Commitment Line/Scoring Line set-up with runners mandated to run through the line while the fielders make the play on the bag. No tag outs allowed at home.

Equipment

Aspen Recreation will provide all necessary equipment for every game;

- Red 10" regulation size Kick Ball
- Lined/Brushed field with bases set
- Check-In and Symptoms/Temperature Check Equipment

Umpires

Games will be officiated by an Aspen Recreation trained Sports Official.

Our umpire staff are trained to call games fairly to facilitate as much enjoyment as possible; they are the final word on all game-call decisions.

Only a Team Captain/Co-Captain may dispute a rules call with the umpire. Judgement calls may not be disputed. The umpire has jurisdiction over the play and may penalize a player, including game ejection, for unsportsmanlike conduct. Ejected players may not return to the game and must vacate the premises in a timely manner.

Players

All players must be 18+ years of age.

Players may only play on the team for which they are registered – NO SHARING PLAYERS

Aspen Recreation reserves the right to suspend any player at any time for unsportsmanlike conduct, violation of any rules, for failure to pay appropriate dues or for being an inconvenience whatsoever, without any refund.

Teams

Teams are allowed 12 players to attend per game, but can have as many players registered to their roster as they would like. A team must have a minimum of 6 players to start a game – 3 of which must be female – and no more than 11 players on the field for each defensive run (6 males max). You can play without male players if you would like to – there no male-minimums for gender requirements.

- Every player present is required to be in the kicking lineup
- Kicking order must alternate Male/Female throughout the game
- Every player present is required to play at least one (1) inning in the field

If a team does not have the required minimum number of players, the game results in a forfeit. Any team that forfeits two or more games will not be allowed to participate in any playoff/tournament situations for the season.

No refunds will be given and a team dropped by the league may, at the discretion of Aspen Recreation, not be allowed to rejoin for the next season.

Regulation Games

- A full regulation game shall consist of 6 innings OR be 60 minutes long, whichever comes first.
- Following the completion of 6 innings, the final score will be logged, but teams will be allowed to finish their 60 minute period if both teams so choose.
- The AWAY team will get first at-kick.
- HOME/AWAY teams will be determined by one game of “Rock-Paper-Scissors” (overseen by the umpire) prior to the game (except in playoff/tournament play where teams are seeded).
- If a game is called due to weather, the final score is logged as a complete game if 4 or more innings have been completed.
- If a game is called due to weather before the game begins, or before 4 innings are completed, the game is counted as a “No-Fault-Forfeit” (0-0 Tie) as we will not be able to reschedule games this season.
- Games CAN end in a tie.
- In playoff/tournament play, a tied game after six innings goes into a seventh (7th) inning.
 - o After the 7th inning, if the game is still tied;
 - 8th inning begins with a runner (last out from the prior inning) on 2nd base, and the kicker with a 2-Foul count, 2-Out count.
 - This structure continues until the game can be completed without a tie.

Pitching/Catching

- The pitcher must plant their foot on the pitching strip as they wind-up to pitch.
- All pitches must be thrown UNDERHANDED at a reasonable speed – no overhand/sidearm pitches.
- When pitching, the ball must not be spun laterally.
- The ball must cross the plate within a foot on either side.
- The ball may not be more than 1 foot off the ground as it crosses the plate.
- The pitcher must stay behind the pitching strip until the ball is kicked.
- Infractions on any of these rules results in an ILLEGAL pitch called by the umpire.
 - o Umpire will call ILLEGAL pitches as they occur, which result in a re-pitch.
 - o If an illegal pitch is kicked by the play at-kick, they have consented to playing that ball as it stands.
- All infielders must stay behind the imagined line stretching from first to third base until the ball is kicked. Failure to do so results in the kicker having the option to take a free base (“walk”) or re-pitch.
- The catcher may field up to the plane of the home plate before the ball is kicked, however the catcher shall not interfere with the kicker in any way. Failure to abide by this rule results in an optional free base or re-pitch for the kicker.

Kicking

- All kicks must be made by the foot.
- All contact BELOW the knee is considered a kick.

- Anything hit at the knee or above is considered a FOUL.
- All kicks must occur at or behind home plate.
- Both feet must be on or behind home plate at the time the ball is kicked.
- If one or more feet are in front of home plate at the time the ball is kicked, the player will be warned by the umpire.
 - o A second warning results in a FOUL
- Bunting is NOT allowed.
 - o A bunt is defined as a kick that intentionally does not travel further than first or third base, OR at the ref's discretion.
- Any fair-kicked ball that travels outside of a reasonable area of play will result in a ground rule double. This doesn't pertain to the unlikely event of a home run kick; rather it pertains to fair balls that then bounce outside the field of play and are potentially more difficult to retrieve.

Running

- Runners must stay within the base line.
- Runners unfairly hindered by any fielder within the base line shall be safe at the base to which they were running.
- Leading-off and Stealing bases are NOT allowed.
- A runner may only move off his/her base after the ball has been kicked, and you cannot pass the runner in front of you, nor can you pick up the runner in front of you and carry them. Either of those examples would result in an out – runner must remain in their order of entrance to play and round the bases on their own accord/of their own ability.
- Hitting a runner with the ball above shoulder-height on their person is NOT allowed.
- Any runner hit above the shoulders is ruled SAFE and advances one base from where they last established position.
 - o If the runner intentionally uses his or her head to block the ball, the runner is OUT.
 - o If the runner is ducking/diving/sliding (or any other attempt to dodge the ball) and is hit in the head because of this, the runner is OUT.
- There is "tagging-up" – the player on base must return to their original base if the ball is caught.

Fouls

A FOUL is considered;

- A kick that lands out of bounds – the foul is determined by where the ball lands, not how it travels, to get there. Remember that if such a kick is caught on the fly, it is still an out.
- A kick landing in-bounds, but travels out of bounds on its own before passing the first (1st) or third (3rd) bases – any ball touched by an in-bounds fielder is automatically in play.
- A ball that is tipped while being kicked but continues to travel behind the kicker – but if such a kick is caught on the fly it is still an out.
- A kicker touching (or kicking) the ball twice while ahead of home plate (in foul territory) – but if such a kick is caught on the fly it is an OUT.
- Any foul that hits a tree or other outside object is a dead ball and is not eligible to be caught for an out – the ball remains a FOUL.
- Three (3) FOULS equal an OUT for the kicker.

Outs

An OUT is considered;

- A count of three (3) fouls for the kicker.
- A runner touched by the ball (below the shoulders) at any time while not on base.
- Any kicked ball (fair or foul) that is caught before it hits the ground ("on the fly").
- A FORCE-OUT at a base to which the runner is forced/committed to run.
- Kicking out of order.
- A runner leading off the base or stealing.
- A count of three (3) outs completes the team's half of the inning.

Ball In-Play

Once the pitcher has the ball in control and is within 5 feet of the pitching rubber, the play ends and the umpires call Time.