

# **KICKBALL**

## **Official Rules of the Game**

### **KICKBALL AT A GLANCE**

Kickball is a simple game consisting of two teams, bases, and a big red ball. Played like softball, the object is to score more runs than the opposing team. In short, kickball plays with 10 fielders, 7 innings, 2 base coaches, no bouncies, no head shots, one base on an overthrow, force outs, no ghost men, and bunting is allowed so get a good catcher on your team. The following rules will govern all kickball games. For the enjoyment of all, proper respect and civility is required of all participants toward one another. Fighting is not allowed or tolerated.

### **PLAYING FIELD AND EQUIPMENT**

#### **1. THE PLAYING FIELD**

1.01 The Head Referee will designate a safe field suitable for play in accordance with the following provisions which equal the dimensions of a softball field:

- a. the kickball diamond is a square with equal sides of 70 feet.
- c. the pitching strip is in the center of the diamond, 42 feet 5 1/8 inches or about 14 paces from home plate, and directly aligned with the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> base diagonal;
- d. the pitching mounds extends 12 feet from the center of the pitching strip (see Rule 8.02);
- e. the sidelines are the fences on the outside of and parallel to the foul lines, the area between the foul lines and the sidelines is the sideline area (see Rule 14.03);
- g. the kicking box is a rectangle with a 4 foot width aligned with the front of home plate and extends back 10 feet from the front of the plate. The area directly forward from the kicking box is fair territory. The kicker is not required to start in the kicking box. The kicker is not required to start in the kicking box, however the kick must occur within the kicking box (see Rule 9.02b).

1.02 The strike zone is a three-dimensional irregular pentagon based on the shape of home plate and is one (1) foot in height. The front of the zone aligns with the front of home plate. The sides of the zone extend one (1) foot to either side of the plate. The back edges of the zone are one (1) foot from the back sides of the plate. The strike zone may not be marked by cones or other raised objects.

1.03 All participants must respect and obey all rules and regulations pertaining to the field used for play during all kickball games. Alcohol is prohibited on the field unless expressly permitted by field regulations.

1.04 Any ball touched by a player or Referee wholly or partly in fair territory is automatically in play. A participant jumping from fair territory is in fair territory while in the air. A participant jumping from foul territory is in foul territory while in the air.

1.05 Upon notification to the head referee of any improper field set up, the field layout shall be corrected before the beginning of the next play. Protest based on field set up will not be considered.

1.06 – Optional Extra Base- The orange bag is the Extra Base.

a. The Extra Base is only available for runners traveling from home plate (see Rule 10.06).

b. Fielders trying to make an out on first base must touch the base in fair territory (the First Base). Runners hindered by a fielder touching the base in foul territory (the Extra Base), will be safe.

c. Runners not attempting to advance to second base must touch the Extra Base in a run through.

- d. Once a runner has reached first base safely the runner must start the next play on the First Base. Any runner standing on or touching the Extra Base at the beginning of the next play will be out.
- e. If no fielder is on first base, and/or the runner is attempting to advance to second base, the runner may touch the First Base.
- f. No additional base may be used at any other base.

## **2. EQUIPMENT**

- 2.01 While participating in kickball, players must properly wear athletic clothing designated for their use. Teams with players who fail to abide by this rule forfeit that game.
- 2.02 Athletic shoes are required. Metal cleats are not allowed.
- 2.03 Players may wear protective equipment providing it does not offer the wearer an unfair performance advantage. Any equipment deemed by the Referee as a performance enhancement must be removed of the player will be removed from play.
- 2.04 The official kickball is the red Kickball with a pressure of 1.5 pounds per square inch. No other ball is approved for use in kickball games. Do not over or under inflate the ball.
- 2.05 The uniform is an extension of the player.

## **OFFICIALS**

### **3. REFEREES**

- 3.01 Games must be officiated by at least one participant, the Head Referee. When available at least two participants referee each game: a Head Referee, and a First Base Referee. The Head Referee governs all game play and issues all final rulings, and has final authority on equipment issues. Other Referees may assist these official when available.
- 3.02 The Head Referee must recite something to the following previous to any game:  
“Every player must be officially registered to participate. I am the Head Referee and will issue all final rulings if necessary. Only the Captain and Co-Captain may dispute a call- please raise your hands. Rules to keep in mind include: the pitcher and all fielders must stay behind the pitching strip line until the ball is kicked; the catcher must play behind the kicker; once the pitcher has the ball in control and on the mound, runners must have made a decision to advance or retreat to their last occupied base; and all fielders must stay out of the baseline- fielders may have their foot on the base, but must lean out of the baseline. Are there any questions?”
- 3.03 Referees have jurisdiction over play and may:
  - a. call a time out;
  - b. call off a game due to darkness, rain, or other cause at the referee’s discretion;
  - c. penalize a player, including game ejection or facility ejection for any reason. This includes but is not limited to un-sportsman like conduct, fighting, delay of game and excessive verbal abuse. Ejected participants must leave the field area and may not return to the game.
- 3.04 Referees have jurisdiction over play and must:
  - a. cancel the game if lightning is threatening;
- 3.05 Referees will be designated and furnished for games as provided for by Midwest
- 3.06 The Head Referee must ensure that the team captains exchange their written scorebook kicking orders.
- 3.07 Referees may make rulings on any points not specifically covered in the rules (at the time of occurrence), but the ruling shall not be deemed as a precedent for future rulings.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

### **4. PLAYER ELGIBILITY**

4.01 All participants must meet the following requirements:

- a. must be 16 years of age or older by the date of the first game;
- b. must be adequately and currently health insured against any injury that may arise from kickball play;
- c. must be properly registered with Midwest Sports Complex including but not limited to full completion of the registration process , and including the provisions noted in Rule 7.05 (see Rule 7.05);

4.02 A player may only sign up for one team per division, but may sign up for multiple divisions per season.

### **5. TEAMS**

5.01 Each division must have at least four (4) and no more than sixteen (16) teams.

5.02 Each Team:

- a. should have at least eight (4) female and eight (8) male players, to avoid potential forfeits;
- b. must field at least eight (2) females and no more than eleven (11) players, and the 11<sup>th</sup> player must play the position catcher;
- c. may only field one pitcher and one catcher at any time during the game (see Rule 8.07).
- d. may have additional players placed on their team by league, and have no more than twenty-six (26) players.

5.03 Each team shall have one Captain and one Co-Captain who are jointly responsible for the team. The Team Captains must ensure that:

- a. all team members present must kick in the written scorebook order, but do not have to field.
- b. only the Captain and Co-Captain may dispute calls with the Head Referee. A team Captain may raise protest with the Referee for blatant rule infraction, but will accept the Head Referee's final ruling. Midwest will consider the protest beyond the Head Referee's final ruling. The division will consider protest beyond the Head Referee at its discretion.

5.04 The team Captain will designate a score keeper who will record game statistics in a scorebook.

5.05 Exchange of Kicking Order:

- a. the team Captains or assigned team members will exchange their team written scorebook kicking orders prior to the start of the game;
- b. any eligible player that shows up to a game after that game has begun must be added to the end of the written scorebook kicking order;
- c. refusal to provide the written scorebook kicking order when requested by the opposing team or any referee will result in a forfeit of that game'
- d. a clam of improper kicking order must be made to the Head Referee who will make the final determination. Such a claim must contain two parts; 1) that the written scorebook kicking order was exchanged in accordance with 5.05a; 2) that the claim is made on the field no later than 15 minutes after completion of the game.

### **6. BASE COACHES**

6.01 Two members of the team at kick must coach first and third base. The base coaches must assist in retrieving foul balls and may switch with other team members to remain in the proper written scorebook kicking order.

6.02 Base coaches may not physically assist runners while the ball is in play (see Rule 14.02h).

## **GAME PLAY**

### **7. REGULATION GAMES**

7.01 Regulation games last five (5) full innings or 60 minutes, whichever comes first.

- a. In the event of a tie score at the end of the game, the game shall be marked as a tie.
- b. If a team is winning after the top of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning and is set to kick in the bottom of the inning, the game ends and will be marked as a regulation game.

7.02 A game that is called off by the Referee (see Rule 3.04) after three full innings of play shall be considered a regulation game. The game score at the end of the last full inning shall determine the winner. Regulation games called off that end in a tie shall be marked as a tie.

7.03 A game that is called off by the Referee for any reason before three (3) full innings of play shall not be considered a regulation game and a new game may be rescheduled.

7.04 Teams must have at least seven (7) men and two (2) women present and ready to play at the scheduled game time. Teams will be granted a 10 minute grace period for that day's first scheduled game (s), and a 5 minute grace period for any subsequent scheduled game(s). The game clock will still start at the games scheduled star time. Failure to abide by this rule results in a forfeit. (see Rule 5.02c)

7.05 A team playing a non-registered person, an improperly registered person, or a person not registered on that team, division, and season, will forfeit that game (see Rule 4.01c).

- a. Protests to this infraction must be claimed during the game, and must put \$20 down to Midwest. If team wins protest \$20 remains with protesting team otherwise the \$20 goes to Midwest. If such an infraction is claimed during the game, the team accused of the infraction bears the burden of proof. The team with the burden can win the case by proving with government issued photo ID or the protested individual and a copy of the teams paper roster. Midwest will have the paper roster on file.

7.06 Game protests may not be made after the end of the game.

7.07 Any game may be ended at the discretion of the losing team, if losing by 12 or more runs at the end of any inning. This will be marked as a regulation game.

### **8. PITCHING AND CATCHING**

8.01 Bouncies are allowed ( See Rule 12.02).

8.02 The pitcher must start the act of pitching within the pitching mound and have at least one foot on or directly behind the pitching strip when releasing the ball (see Rules 1.01d and 15.01). A team's first infraction of this rule will result in a Pitcher Position Warning to the team that caused the infraction. The second and each subsequent Pitcher Position infraction by a team during the game will result in the kicker being awarded first base regardless of the outcome of the kick.

8.03 No player may field forward the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> base diagonal other than the catcher until the ball is kicked, and no player may advance forward the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> base diagonal until the ball is kicked. No part of the pitcher's front foot may be in front of or across the front edge of the pitching strip until the ball is kicked. A team's first infraction of this rule will result in a Fielder Encroachment Warning to the team that caused the infraction. The second and each subsequent Fielder Encroachment infraction by a team during the game will result in the kicker being awarded first base regardless of the outcome of the kick.

8.04 The catcher must field behind the kicker, within or directly behind the kicking box, and may not cross home plate nor be positioned forward of the kicker before the ball is kicked. A team's first infraction of this rule will result in a Catcher Encroachment Warning to the team that caused the infractions. The second and each subsequent Catcher Encroachment infraction by a team during the game will result in the kicker being awarded first base regardless of the outcome of the kick.

8.05 Balls must be pitched by hand. There are no restrictions on pitching style.

## **9. KICKING**

9.01 All kicks must be made by foot or leg, below the knee (see Rule 13.02 e). Any ball touched by the foot or leg below the knee is a kick.

9.02 All kicks must occur:

- a. at or behind home plate. The kicker may step on home plate to kick, however, no part of the planted foot may be in front of or cross the front edge of the home plate (see Rule 13.02c).
- b. within the kicking box (see Rule 13.02g). The kicker must have at least a portion of the plant foot within the kicking box (see Rule 1.01g). The kicker may line up outside of the kicking box.

9.03 Bunting is allowed.

## **10. RUNNING AND SCORING**

10.01 Runners must stay within the base line.

10.02 Fielders must stay out of the base line. Fielders trying to make an out on base may have their foot on base, but must lean out of the baseline. Runners hindered by any fielder within the base line, not making an active play for the ball, shall be safe at the base to which they were running.

10.03 Neither leading off base, nor stealing a base is allowed. A runner may advance once the ball is kicked. A runner off of his/her base when the ball is kicked is out. (see Rule 1.02e)

10.04 Hitting a runner's neck or head with the ball is not allowed, except when the runner is sliding. Any runner hit in the neck or head is safe, and advances to the base they were running toward when the ball hits the runner. If the runner intentionally uses the head or neck to block the ball, and is so called by the Referee, the runner is out.

10.05 A tag-up is a requirement to retouch or stay on a base until a kicked then caught ball is first touched by a fielder. After a tag-up a runner may advance. A runner failing to tag-up as required is out (see Rule 14.02f).

10.06 All ties will go to the runner. Runners may overrun first base, and may only be tagged out if actively attempting to advance to second base.

10.07 Base Running on Overthrows:

- a. an overthrow is a ball thrown, kicked, or deflected into foul territory while making a defensive play toward a player or base;
- b. a runner may advance only one base beyond the base the runner is on or running toward when the ball travels into foul territory;
- c. one base on an overthrow remaining inside the playing field is a restriction on the runner- not an automatic right for the runner to advance; An overthrow traveling outside the confines of the fencing shall result in runners being awarded the base being run to and one additional base.
- d. if any fielder attempts to make an out prior to returning the ball to the pitcher, runners may commence base running.

10.08 Running past another runner is not allowed. The passing runner is out (see Rule 14.02).

10.09 A run scores when a runner touches home plate before the third out is made, EXCEPT that no run can score when the third out is made during a force play situation, or when the kicker is put out before touching first base. At the end of a game the team with the most runs wins.

## **11. STRIKES**

11.01 A count of three (3) strikes is an out.

11.02 A strike is:

- a. pitch that is not kicked and is not called a ball per Rule 12.02, that enters any part of the strike zone (see Rule 1.02);
- b. an attempted kick missed by the kicker inside or outside the strike zone (see Rule 1.02).

11.03 Foul balls count as strikes however kickers are allowed a courtesy foul.

## **12. BALLS**

12.01 A count of four (4) balls advances the kicker to first base.

12.02 A ball is:

- a. a pitch outside of the strike zone as judged by the Referee where a kick is not attempted (see Rule 1.02);
- b. a pitched ball that does not touch the ground at least twice or roll before reaching the kicking box;
- c. a pitched ball that exceeds one foot in height from the bottom of the ball during the last bounce prior to reaching the kicking box;
- d. a pitched ball, prior to reaching the kicker, that exceeds one foot in height from the bottom of the ball immediately after passing through the strike zone;
- e. a pitched ball that is higher than one foot at the plate.

## **13. FAIRS AND FOULS**

13.01 If the strike count already has accumulated 2 strikes the batter will be allowed a courtesy foul. This means the individual can kick one foul ball and not be considered out.

13.02 A foul ball is:

- a. a kicked ball landing in foul territory
- b. a kicked ball touched in foul territory
- c. a kicked ball landing in fair territory, but touching foul territory on its own at any time before reaching first or third base
- d. a kicked ball whose direction is altered by contact with any object other than the ground in foul territory, and called as such;
- e. a kick made on or above the knee (see Rule 9.01);
- f. a kicked ball touched more than once or stopped in the kicking box by the kicker;
- g. a kicked ball kicked outside of the kicking box

13.03 A fair ball is:

- a. a kicked ball landing and remaining in fair territory (see Rule 1.04)
- b. a kicked ball landing in fair territory then traveling into foul territory beyond the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> baseline

13.04 All fair and foul balls are in play unless specifically mentioned in section 15.

## **14. OUTS**

14.01 A count of three (3) outs by a team completes the team's half of the inning.

14.02 An out is:

- a. account of three (3) strikes or four (4) fouls;
- b. any kicked ball (fair or foul) that is caught by a fielder;
- c. a ball tag on a base to which a runner is forced to run, before the runner arrives at the base;
- d. a runner touched by the ball or who touches the ball at any time while not on base while the ball is in play (see Rule 15.02b);
- e. a kicker that intentionally hits the ball with their hand or arm (see Rule 15.02c);
- f. a ball tag of a runner on base, in which the runner does not tag-up as required when a ball is caught (see Rule 10.05);
- g. a runner off of his/her base when the ball is kicked;
- h. a runner physically assisted by a team member during play (see Rule 6.02);
- i. any kicker that does not kick in the proper kicking line up (see Rule 5.05);
- j. a runner that passes another runner (see Rule 10.08).

14.03 Sideline area. Prior to the kick, no participants (or spectators) may be in the sideline area except for the kicker, the catcher, referees and designated base coaches. After the kick, fielders and base runners in the process of playing the game may also occupy the sideline area. (see Rule 1.01e). The first infraction of this rule will result in a warning to the team that caused the infraction. The second and each subsequent infraction will result in an out for the next kicker in the written scorebook kicking order on the team that caused the infraction.

## **15. BALL IN PLAY**

15.01 Once the pitcher has the ball in control and retains possession on the mound Runners who are off base at this time and in forward motion must decide to return to the base from which they were running or advance to the next base. Failure to do so will result in this runner being Out.

15.02 Interference is:

- a. when any non fielder or non permanent object except a referee, touches or is touched by a ball in play in fair territory. This interference causes the play to end, and runners shall proceed to the base to which they were headed.
- b. when any runner on or off base intentionally touches a ball. This interference causes the play to end, the runner to be out, and any other runners shall return to the base from which they came, unless forced to advance. (see Rule 14.02d).
- c. when any kicker intentionally hits the ball with their hand or arm. This interference causes the play to end, the kicker to be out, and any other runners shall return to the base from which they came (See Rule 14.02e).

15.03 During any play where a ball is popped or deflates significantly, that play shall be rplayed with a properly inflated ball.

## **16. GHOST MEN**

16.01 Ghost men are not allowed.

## **17. INJURY AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

17.01 In cases of injury or illness, a time-out may be requested for participant removal and replacement with a substitute of the same sex. If the participant later returns to play, the participant must be inserted in the same written scorebook kicking order position previously held.

17.02 If a player is ejected, injured, or becomes ill and cannot continue, the written scorebook kicking order will continue in the same formation, less the removed player.

17.03 Injured players who do not kick shall not play in the game.

17.04 Any player removed from the game for injury or illness must be noted on both team written scorebook kicking orders and mentioned to the Head Referee.

17.05 The pitcher and the catcher positions may only be replaced once per inning unless injury forces another substitution.

17.06 Only runners who are injured while traveling to a base, and who successfully make it to a base, may be substituted. All runner substitutions must be of the same sex. There are no other allowable runner substitutions. A runner may be substituted no more than twice during the game. Upon the second substitution, the player will be removed from the game and no longer be allowed to participate.

## **OTHER**

### **18. OTHER**

18.01 The spirit of these rules is to ensure a fun environment and participant enjoyment. All games are to be played in a sportsmanlike manner. If necessary, Midwest Sports Complex will address any inconsistencies, discrepancies, and misunderstandings in accordance with the spirit of these rules. These rules are subject to change without notice.

18.02 Midwest Sports Complex must approve all affiliates, partnerships, sponsorships, advertisers and division bars.

18.03 Division tournaments are regulated by Midwest Sports Complex Tournament Guidelines found at [midwestsportscomplex.com](http://midwestsportscomplex.com).