

PLAY Baltimore

Kickball Rules

Rules Subject to Change

Field

The field is a standard Softball Field, but may be slightly bigger or smaller.
The pitching area is located directly between 1st and 3rd base.
The "Bunt" Line is located approximately 20 feet in front of home plate and extends toward the 1st and 3rd base lines. Please see "Bunt" Line Rule under the "Bunt" Line Section.

Equipment

All players must wear Play Baltimore team shirts.
The official ball is a red 10" playground ball, which is provided by Play Baltimore

No metal spikes (duh) or boots. Some sort of athletic shoes must be worn.

Teams

Team rosters shall consist of 12 – 20 members. A maximum of 10 players on the field during play and a minimum of 8 players is required. A full team consists of 10 players-6 men and 4 women. No more than 6 males on the field. A minimum of 3 females must be on the field. If a team cannot field the minimum at game time the game will be a forfeit unless alternate agreements are made by team captains.

Substitutions

A team may substitute a male for a male and a female for a female as much as possible when fielding. These changes can be made frequently and without notifying the official. When a player is removed from the lineup, they are no longer allowed to bat in the game. Once a kicker is removed from the game they are still allowed to play in the field.

Please notify the official of lineup changes when removing a player.

Lineups & Attendance

Assuming a full team of 10 players, there must be 4 females on the field. The batting order would be:

M, F, M, F, M, F, M, F, M, M.

If a team is short, they can play with 8 players, 3 of which must be females. The batting order would be:

M, F, M, F, M, F, M, F.

One girl would bat twice. If a team is taking advantage of this rule by consistently only having the minimum with their best female player batting twice on a regular basis, the official can choose the 2nd girl to be kicking twice in the lineup.

Bottom line=If you are short a girl and have another girl bat twice that is fine, but don't sit out a player to use this rule as a strategy or you will be penalized. Make sure your players are playing- this is a fun league.

You can bat as many players that you want as long as there are no more than 2 extra guys versus a girl (for example, 14 batters, 6 girls, 8 guys).

A team can use another player of another team with the consent of the other team captain only. The game will count as played with this consent.

All players must be registered with Play Baltimore. No non-registered players are allowed to play in the league.

Game Play

All players will bat alternating between males and females except for the last spot in the order with 10 players then there are 2 males batting consecutively.

The kicking order cannot change unless due to injury where the player is simply removed from the lineup. See lineups & attendance for exact order.

Regulation Games (Updated May 5th, 2008)

A regulation game consists of 9 innings, time permitting. If the game ends in a tie, then the game is a tie. The only exception is when, time permitting, both team captains and the umpire agree to play an additional inning.

Fielding

The defense consists of a Pitcher, Catcher, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B, and 4 outfielders. Outfielders must stay at least 10 feet away from the infield dirt until the ball is kicked.

No player may advance beyond the 1st/3rd base diagonal before the ball is kicked.

If any player (except the catcher) advances beyond the 1st/3rd base diagonal before the ball is kicked the pitch is considered a ball or if the ball is kicked, and the fielder makes a play on the runner, the kicker is safe.

In the event that a team is short players, they may place defenders at any position on the field they see fit. Each team must have a catcher at all times.

No official length of game. As many innings will be played as possible time permitting.

Scoring

There is a 10 run limit per inning except in the last inning where no limit exists. There are no mercy rules, but an official is allowed to call the game if he feels that is best for the players involved. Teams are welcome to continuing playing after a called game.

Infield Fly Rule

An official reserves the right to call an infield fly rule on any ball. An infield fly rule generally is called with less than 2 outs and runners on 1st or 1st and 2nd or 1st, 2nd and 3rd on balls that are considered to be an "easy" catch. The player potentially catching the ball is taken into account. Runners cannot tag up on an infield fly.

Pitching / Catching

Pitching must be underhand.

The strike zone extends 1 foot on either side of home plate and 1 foot high. The ball must bounce at least 3 times before it reaches the plate to be considered a strike. Otherwise, it is a

ball. (Kickers may choose to kick a ball even if it is a ball) If the third bounce lands on home plate, it will be considered a strike.

The pitcher must stay behind the pitching line until the ball is kicked.

The catcher must be at least 3 feet behind home plate and out of the way of the kicker until the ball is kicked.

Intentional Walks to Females

If a male is walked, a female has choice to walk or take an at bat. Exception to this rule is when the bases are loaded.

Kicking

All batters start with a 1-1 count. Fouls balls on two strikes are considered an out.

All kicks must be made by foot.

All kicks must be taken at or behind home plate or a foul will be called.

Bunting is allowed as long as it passes the "bunt" line. See "bunt" line below.

"Bunt" Line

The "Bunt" Line is located at the pitching rubber and extends toward the 1st and 3rd base lines.

All kicks must cross the "Bunt" Line.

Balls not crossing the "Bunt" Line are fouls.

A ball cannot be fielded before the bunt line. The official can award first base to any ball fielded before the bunt line.

A pop up hit before the bunt line cannot be caught unless the ball is outside of the normal "fair" territory.

Running

Runners must stay in the base line. If a runner leaves the baseline they are considered out.

Fielders must stay out of the baseline.

If a fielder interferes with a runner in the baseline, the runner safely advances to the base they were approaching.

Fielders making a play on a base must lean out of the baseline when making a play on the bag.

Leading or stealing is not allowed. A runner leading off a base before the ball is kicked is out.

There is absolutely no sliding at any base. Sliding is an automatic out. Diving toward the base is also considered sliding.

Runners may not slide at home plate. This is an automatic out and possible ejection from the game.

A player may kick the ball to advance the ball or get a ball into the infield.

Balls Thrown Above the Shoulders

Hitting the runner in the head or neck is prohibited. If the runner is hit above the shoulders the runner is safe. If a runner intentionally uses the head or neck to block the ball the runner is out. Any player that is thought to be intentionally throwing at a player's head, will be automatically ejected from the game.

Tag ups are allowed. All ties go to the runner.

The official will let the runner advance one base for any ball deemed out of play or unsafe to field.

Fouls

Every foul is considered a strike

A foul is:

- A kick landing in foul territory
- A kick that lands in fair territory but travels into foul territory before passing 1st or 3rd base except when touched by a player.
- A kick made beyond home plate.
- A kick that does not cross the "Bunt" Line
- A ball that is fielded by a fielder before it crosses the bunt line if deemed unintentional. A ball cannot be fielded before the bunt line.

Balls

4 balls is a walk.

A ball is:

- A pitch outside the strike zone
- An un-kicked ball when a fielder crosses the 1st/3rd base diagonal

Outs

An out occurs when:

- 3 strikes (If a kicker kicks a foul ball when he/she has 2 strikes, the kicker is out)
- A runner touched by a ball at any time while not on base

Clarification: If the ball touches any part of the player's body, regardless of intent, the player is out. The umpire will have the final ruling on all such calls.

- A runner leading off a base
- A ball tag on a base to which a runner is forced to run
- Any kicked ball that is caught in the air
- The official calls someone out

Ball in Play

Once the pitcher has the ball in control the play is over.

Playoffs

All teams will make the playoffs. Playoff seeding will be determined by:

Team Record

Head-to-Head matchup

Coin Flip.

Please note, runs are not taken into account when calculating playoffs as to discourage teams from running up the score on other teams.

Complaints

If anyone on your team has a complaint with a call, he/she must let the captain know. The captain is the only person on the team that is allowed to approach the referee with a complaint.

Additionally, there will be no negative talking to the opposing team. A violation of either of these rules is punishable by game/match/league suspension. The referee's call is FINAL.

Sportsmanship

We are all here to have fun, so please remember that when playing. An official has the right to throw anyone out of the game or call a player out for any reason he or she determines is the right course of action. Please remember to visit our beer sponsor after the games. Special coupons will be given out to each team captain.