



KIMBERTON YOUTH ATHLETIC LEAGUE
Rules of Play
Softball – 16U Division (Ages 13 – 16)



****For 2021 we will be playing against teams outside of KYAL.
For “away” games we will follow home team rules.**

I. BATTING:

- A. All rostered players present for the game shall bat in order, whether playing defensively or not.
- B. Players in this division will be permitted to bunt. Slapping is Allowed.
- C. A player that squares to bunt has two options:
 - 1. Bunt the offered pitch
 - 2. Pull the bat back and take the offered pitch. Any player that squares to bunt, pulls back and swings at the pitch, will be ruled out and the play called dead. No runners may advance.
- D. Batters must wear approved protective headgear with face guard while at bat and as a base runner.. Deliberate refusal to obtain and wear approved protected headgear while at bat or while on base will result in ejection from the game.
- E. Dropped third strike rule is in effect for this division.

II. BASE RUNNING

- A. Runners may lead off and steal on the pitcher’s release.
- B. Stealing of Home is allowed
- C. In the event that a player does leave the base early, she will be warned once and then called out the next time.
- D. An overthrow by a defensive player at any base allows the base runner the opportunity to advance at their discretion.
- E. Head first sliding is not permitted. A base runner attempting to slide into a base head-first will be called out immediately, no exceptions. Runners may dive back to a base.
- F. Use of approved protective headgear while on base is a requirement.
- G. In order to prevent injuries and protect the defensive player attempting to make a play on a base runner, contact with the defensive player must be avoided by sliding and/or veering off to one side. If the base runner does not slide or make a valid effort to avoid contact with the defensive player, then the base runner will be called out immediately. Contact is defined as; if the base runner remains on their feet and makes any type of contact with the defensive player holding the ball or while in the process of getting the ball, to apply a tag.
- H. **If contact is made, the umpire must warn both benches and must make a determination as the intent and severity of the contact. If in the judgment of the umpire, the act is determined to be flagrant, the base runner will be ejected from the game immediately. If the act is determined to be at the instruction of the manager or coach, the manager and coach will be ejected from the game immediately. Such an occurrence must be brought to the attention of the Executive Board of KYAL. The Executive Board will determine further suspension and or removal from the league.**

III. GAME

- A. This division will have playoffs. At the end of the regular season teams will be seeded and a playoff will be conducted.
- B. Starting time for all games will be as scheduled.
- C. Games are limited to two, (2), hours on weekdays.
- D. A regulation game is seven, (7), innings. Even in the event of a tie after regulation, no extra innings are played.
- E. Infield fly rule is in effect.
- F. The offensive team will only be permitted to score a maximum of five, (5), runs in any one-half inning. In the event the fifth, (5th), run scores and the ball is still in play, play will continue until the play is over. If more than five, (5), runs are scored, (i.e. 6 or 7), only five, (5) runs will count.

- G. During the final inning, either at an hour and thirty (30) minutes or the sixth (6th) inning, there is no limitation on runs scored.
- H. When a team is leading by 10 runs, they must pull their starting pitcher. If the run differential closes by 5 runs, the starting pitcher may re-enter the game.
- I. Runs scored during uncompleted innings will not count. The final score will be that of the last complete inning.
- J. The home team will be responsible for the official scorebook. The scorebook should be legible with first initial and full last name.
- K. The official scorebook must be available upon request of the Softball Commissioner, League President, Vice President or any member of the Executive Board.
- L. Players must be in complete uniforms.
- M. The mercy rule will be in effect for this division.
 - 1. 4 innings - 10 runs or more.
 - 2. 5 innings - 8 runs or more.
 - 3. Coaches may agree to continue playing if time allows, however the official final score will be recorded prior to this decision.

IV. FIELDING

- A. A maximum of nine (9) defensive players may be on the field at any time.
 - 1. A minimum of eight (8) players must be present to start a game. Failure to have eight (8) players present, no later than ten (10) minutes past the scheduled starting time will result in a forfeit.
 - 2. The game may continue with (no less than) eight (8) players, if during the game one player due to injury or illness is unable to continue to play.
- B. No player can sit more than 2 innings. **Substitutions must be made by the third, (3rd), defensive inning.**
- C. Players may play in the same position for all innings. Limitations remain on Pitchers (Refer to V:A)
- D. No player shall be removed from the game during a defensive half of the inning for any reason other than sickness or injury.
- E. If a player is not present to be entered into the game by the defensive half of the third inning, the player will not be eligible to play in that game. No penalty will be assessed. F. Any player neglected must play the entire next game. Failure to comply will result in the following action taken against the manager or his appointee:
 - 1. First offense, a three-game suspension.
 - 2. Second offense, dismissal of the manager or his appointee.
 - 3. Both penalties will carry over to the next year if committed at the end of the season.

V. PITCHING

- A. The maximum number of innings a pitcher can pitch is seven (7) innings in any two consecutive games. An inning pitched is defined as: any inning in which one, (1), pitch is delivered to a batter during game play.
- B. Pitching in any game which is not considered an official game will not be charged to the pitcher.
- C. Two, (2), hit batters in one (1), inning or three (3), hit batters in one (1), game requires that the pitcher must be removed from pitching.
- D. The pitching distance is forty-three (43) feet.
- E. A 12" softball will be used in this division.

VI. EQUIPMENT

- A. Throwing of equipment is extremely dangerous and damaging to equipment and cannot be condoned. The throwing action will be an umpire's judgment call. The penalties will be as follows:
 - 1. Throwing or the bat while at bat: First time, Batter gets a warning. Anytime thereafter; the Batter is called out, dead ball rule applies
 - 2. Throwing of the batting helmets: First time, Batter gets a warning. Anytime thereafter, automatic ejection, no exception.
 - 3. Throwing of any equipment by other players, coaches or managers in any area will result in immediate ejection.
- B. Any player preparing to play the position of catcher is required to wear approved protective headgear, catcher's mask, chest protector, and shin guards. If a player refuses to wear the above referenced protective equipment, they will not be permitted to play the position of catcher.

- C. Any player warming up a pitcher is required to wear the approved protective equipment listed above.
- D. This division requires that all players who want to play the infield wear protective face masks. We highly encourage outfielders to wear them as well.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Team managers are responsible for the conduct of their fans.
- B. The Visiting team is responsible to supply an umpire.
- C. The Home team is responsible for providing someone to work in the snackbar.
- D. The Home team is responsible for preparing the field
 - 1. Proper placement of pitching rubber
 - 2. Dragging and lining of field
 - 3. Placing the bases
- E. The Visiting team is responsible for closing the field:
 - 1. Dragging the field
 - 2. Bases removed and plugs replaced. Shed closed and locked.
- F. Shoes with metal cleats are not permitted.
- G. The umpire at his discretion can eject any person other than the manager who argues with the umpire immediately.
- H. All ejections/suspensions will be off the KYAL premises.
- I. Any ejection constitutes an automatic one game suspension. The Executive Board can assess additional time after review.
- J. A team wishing to reschedule a game must do so 7 days prior to its original scheduled date. All requests must be in writing and approved by both teams. All requests will be given to either the League President or Softball Commissioner.
- K. A game failing to reach the regulation minimum limit of 4-1/2 to 5 innings played is not a regulation game and must be replayed as a new game. If it is declared "No Game" by the umpire, no records are kept. Innings pitched will not count.
- L. No protest shall ever be permitted on a "Judgment Decision" by an umpire. All protests will be handled immediately by the protest person in charge before play resumes. Both teams must accept his/her decision.
- M. Only the manager will hold discussions with an umpire. Anybody else who entered in a discussion with an umpire may be ejected from the game. The umpire's discretion will apply. The ejection will result in a one game suspension.
- N. The official league Score Book will be the responsibility of the home team. The Score Book will be kept in the home team's dugout at all times. Failure to maintain the Score Book will be subject to a one game suspension of the Manager. The score book will be used to determine a player's eligibility for Tournament Play.
- O. **Concussion Protocol-** In the event that there is a possible concussion, both managers will get together to determine if the player should be taken out of the game. If one of the two coaches decide that the player should be taken out of the game, that player will sit out for one inning. After that one inning the coaches will determine if the player should return to play.
- P. Picking order for the Draft will be determined by the Executive Board

*** These rules are changes to the Babe Ruth Rules. If a rule is not mentioned in this document, then Babe Ruth Rules apply.

Revised January 2021