



# KIMBERTON YOUTH ATHLETIC LEAGUE

## 2021 Rules of Play

### Softball – 8U division (ages 8 and under)



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

#### BATTING/PITCHING

- All rostered players present for the game shall bat in order, whether playing defensively or not.
- Bunting will not be allowed.
- PITCHING: machine pitch will be used during games. There will be no walks.
- Maximum of 5 pitches per batter
- Strikes will be called; 3 swinging strikes are an out.
- “No pitch” will be called if the pitch is unhittable and the batter does not swing.
- Batters must wear approved protective headgear with face guard while at bat and on base.
- 3 outs will be enforced.
- To help speed up the game, an empty bucket will be at home plate and a full bucket of balls will be at the pitching machine. A coach behind home plate will assist the catcher collecting balls in the bucket. Buckets get swapped as needed.

#### BASE RUNNING

- There will be no stealing
- There will be a limit of 5 runs maximum scored per inning per team.
- The Play is declared over by the umpire and play stops when either:
  - The ball enters the pitching circle and is **controlled by the pitcher**
  - The lead runner stops their advancement on a base or returns to the previous base due to a defensive player having the ball in front of the base runner.
  - If a base runner is more than ½ way to their next bag, when the umpire declares the Play is over, then the runner may go to that next bag.
  - If the base runner is not more than ½ way, when the umpire declares the Play is over, then they must go back to the previous bag.

#### FIELDING

- A fielding coach may be in play to assist players with understanding their position. This coach may not physically assist or move a player.
- If the batted ball hits the machine: “dead ball”. Batter gets 1st base and all runners advance, only if they are forced. If the ball hits a player or pitching coach prior to hitting pitching machine, then it is a “live ball” and play continues until defensive team is able to stop regular play
- Ten (10) players in the field at a time, including pitcher’s helper. This player may stand next to the pitching machine, but not in front of it. If the designated pitcher touches the ball it is in play.
- Eleven (11) players may be in the field if the team has exactly 11 players. (No one should sit on the bench alone)
- Each player is expected to play at least 4 defensive innings, not playing more than 2 innings in the same position.
- Outfielders shall play at the edge of the grass.
- Catchers may wear their batters’ helmet with a face guard, with approval from the parent. Either for hygienic reasons or for a better fit.
- Free substitutions are allowed.
- No player shall be removed in defensive half inning unless injured or sick.

#### GAME

- No championship game will be played, or trophies awarded, by KYAL, for this division. This is an instructional division designed to teach the game and sportsmanship.
- Starting time for all games will be as scheduled.
- Games are limited to one, (1), hour and thirty, (30), minutes. Finish the inning.
- A regulation game is six (6) innings.
- Coaches will act as umpires.
- Players must be in complete uniforms.
- Throwing of equipment will not be tolerated.

#### 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 decides 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.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

- Team managers are responsible for the conduct of their fans.

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