

Kickball Tournament Rules

Conduct

All players, team captain, coaches, and spectators must display good sportsmanship. This event is intended to be a recreational and social event with neighbors across the city. Being competitive is okay, but please be cognizant of the fact that the primary goal is to have fun and enjoy yourselves!

Players

Each team is made up of a minimum of 8 and up to 11 players are allowed on the field at a time, with a minimum of 4 females playing at all times. Additional players may substitute during the game. All players are eligible to (and must) bat. The mandatory fielding positions are behind home plate and on the pitcher's mound. Each player must sign the Official Waiver & Release of Liability. The minimum age of a player is 12 years old. A parent or guardian must sign for anyone under 18 years of age.

Coed rule

A team consists of 8 to 11 people on the field. Each team must play at least 4 females at all times.

Equipment

Kick balls will be provided and used. No metal cleats.

Playing Field

Caswell Park Ball Fields, 620 Winona Street. The rain back-up will be at Christenberry Recreation Center, 931 Oglewood Avenue.

Field Dimensions

There will be a standard baseball diamond with standard dimensions (60 feet between bases). The pitcher's mounds will be marked by the City of Knoxville Parks & Recreation staff on the day of the tournament. If moved indoors, field dimensions will be adjusted based on space available.

Length of game

Games will be scheduled for 40 minutes or will consist of seven (7) innings, whichever comes first. The last inning must begin before the 35th minute to ensure the completion of the inning.

Grace period

A grace period of 10 minutes will be allowed only if one team does not have a minimum of 8 players present including 4 females. The grace period will not reduce the 40 minute game time. Failure to field a legal team after 10 minutes will be a forfeit.

Mercy Rule

All games will be scheduled for seven innings, but if one team has a 20 run lead at the end of 4 innings, 15 run lead after 5 innings, or 10 run lead after 6 innings the game will be stopped. The team with the lead will be declared the winner. Teams may scrimmage or practice on the field as remaining time allows.

Pitching / Rolling

- The pitcher shall roll the ball at a reasonable speed and must keep at least one foot on or behind the pitcher's plate until the ball is kicked.
- The pitch must pass within a 1-foot strike zone around and above the home plate.
- The pitch must have bounced twice or be rolling on the ground when crossing the plate
- No defensive player may cross the invisible line between 1st base and 3rd base prior to the ball being kicked
- The catcher must remain behind the kicker and directly in or behind the kicking box until the kicker makes contact with the ball. The catcher may not stand in front of the kicker, to the side of the kicking box, or so closely to the kicker as to interfere with his or her ability to kick, until contact is made with the ball.

Kicking

- There must be at least 4 females in the kicking order.
- There is no alternating gender requirement in the kicking order
- All players present must be included in the kicking lineup
- The kicker must stay within the kicker's box which is a 10-foot extension of the foul lines from home plate.
- All kicks must go beyond the 15 foot line (if ball is touched by defense before it crosses 15 foot line the ball is "foul").
- A 3rd strike results in an "out". A strike is called when:
 - The ball crosses the strike zone without being kicked
 - The kicker swings at but misses the ball
 - The ball is kicked foul
- Fouls are counted as strikes. A player with 2 strikes shall be called "out" if he/she fouls the ball.
- On the 4th "Ball" a player (male or female) will advance to 2nd base. A "ball" is called when:
 - The ball fails to pass through the 1-foot strike zone around home plate
 - The ball bounces more than 1-foot above strike zone
 - The ball bounces fewer than twice prior to crossing the strike zone
- After the game begins, the batting order cannot change. Every time your team bats out of order it is considered an out.

Foul Territory

- The ball lands or is touched in foul territory
- The ball lands inside the foul line but rolls outside the foul line before reaching the 1st base or 3rd base lines. A ball that lands past the 1st or 3rd base lines but rolls into foul territory shall be considered fair.
- Contacts the ball behind home plate with any part of the body above the knee
- The kicker kicks the ball with any part of the foot planted outside the kicking box, including in front of home plate.
- The kicker makes a "double-kick" (kick or contact the ball after the initial kick while still behind home plate)

Fair Territory

If the ball is kicked in the triangular area between the kicker's box and foul lines, it is considered a "fair" ball if the ball is fielded when inside the foul lines.

Runner/Ball contact

- Fielders may throw the ball at runners.
- Any ball thrown by a fielder that makes contact with a runner between bases is an out.
- Base runners in contact with a base that are hit with a batted or thrown ball will be safe.
- Runners must be hit below the neck.
- Malicious acts are strictly prohibited as this is a fun, social, recreational event. A player will be ejected from the game and facility should this occur.
- Players may not steal bases.
- Players may not lead off. A player who leaves the base prior to the kick shall be called "out".
- A runner is out when:
 - The fielder catches a fly ball
 - The kicker gets 3 strikes
 - The base is tagged on a forced run
 - The runner is tagged with or struck with the ball, except when struck in the head (unless sliding)
 - The runner is off base when the ball is kicked

Fielding

- The fielders/defenders are prohibited from blocking any base, and must allow base runners room to touch any of the bases.
- A runner that is tagged or struck in the head shall be considered safe and advance to their intended base unless that player was sliding or intentionally placed their head in the path of the ball.

Base running

- Stealing bases is not permitted. Base runners cannot leave their base until the pitched ball has reached home plate.
- Sliding is illegal. If a player slides, he/she will be called "out".
- A safety base will be used at first base. The runner shall use this base on their way from the kicker's box if there will be a play at first.

Player decorum

- In the event of a disputed play only the team captain or coach may talk to the field supervisor or tournament director. It is the duty of the team captain/coach to enforce this rule.
- Any player, team captain, coach, or spectator may be ejected for poor sportsmanship, during the game. Anyone ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or participating in deliberate violations of rules (such as threats, violence, intoxication etc.) will be suspended from further play and must then immediately leave the park premises or facilities.
- A player may be ejected from a game without warning for inappropriate language, abusive language, or taunting.

Prohibited

- Alcohol is prohibited at the park and all facilities. This applies to players, substitute players, coaches, fans, spectators, or anyone else at the facility.
- No smoking or vaping at Caswell Park except in designated areas beyond the fences. No smoking or vaping in recreation centers. This applies to any and all persons entering the ball field area.
- Absolutely no glass containers of any kind are allowed inside the complex or on the field.

Special Situations

In the event a situation arises that is not covered in writing, the team captains will be consulted and a ruling will be decided by consensus. If a consensus cannot be made, the decision of the Field Supervisor or Tournament Director will be considered final.

Children

Parents must accompany children at all times. No minors are allowed to roam freely throughout the complex or the dugouts. The City of Knoxville is not responsible for any unaccompanied children.

Park Rules

The City of Knoxville Parks and Recreation rules and regulations must be followed at all times. Failure to abide by these rules will result in expulsion from the park.