

Bloomington Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts (BPRCA)

Co-Ed Adult Kickball League Rules

Updated November 2020

GAME

- Games are 7 innings in length, or at the completion of an inning after 50 minutes, whichever comes first.
- At the completion of a game, teams are expected to quickly exit the dugout area in order for the next game to begin as close to on time as possible.
- No new inning will start after 50 minutes has elapsed.
- A 10-run mercy rule after 5 innings (or 4 ½ innings if home team is winning) will be in effect.
- If mercy rule ends a game, players may continue playing at discretion of site-supervisor. The official final score will be the score when the mercy rule went into effect.
- BPRCA will employ a site supervisor for each game.
- Teams are expected to officiate/umpire their own game.
- If a play is too close to call and an agreement cannot be made between teams, a friendly game of rock-paper-scissors (best of one) may be used to determine the call.
- If a decision by the site supervisor is required, that decision is final.
- Games will be played in the evenings at Pepper Ridge softball fields.
- Season will run May 21 – July 23 (*tentative*).
- Poor sportsmanship, offensive language, or verbal or physical abuse towards BPRCA personnel, opponents, teammates, or anyone in attendance will not be tolerated. Immediate ejection will take place and offender will be subject to permanent removal for a specified period from all BPRCA programs.
- BPRCA has the right to add or alter a rule at any time throughout the season that is not already expressly specified if the rule addition/alteration is for the betterment of the league.

PLAYERS

- Teams are limited to a 15-person (max) roster.
- Roster must be submitted before the first game. Rosters will be frozen at the end of the third week of play.
- Managers may add/drop players through the third week of play using the appropriate forms.
- Players must be at least 16 years of age.
- A team may field 10 players consisting of a pitcher, catcher, four infielders, and four outfielders.
- A team must always field at least four women. Teams may utilize more than four women.
- A team must have a minimum of eight (8) players to start or continue a game. Three (3) of the eight must be women, so if a team can only field 3 women, they may only play with 8 total players.
- The four outfielders must remain in the outfield grass and may not stand in the infield as teams may not play with more than six players in the infield.

BATTING

- A batter must wait for the ball to be within three feet of home plate before kicking. A chalk line will be drawn on the diamond.

- If a player is called for being completely in front of the three-foot line when kicking the ball, a team warning will be issued, and batter will be given a redo. Any further infraction of the rule by a warned team will result in an out.
- There are no 3-strike strikeouts.
- One foul ball will be allowed per at bat. If batter kicks a second foul ball, batter is out. A whiffed kick constitutes a foul ball.
- There are no walks. If a batter does not like a pitch, they should not attempt to kick it.
- No bunting. A line will be drawn across the infield between home plate and the pitching rubber. All kicks must advance completely across this line. If kick does not cross this line in fair territory (even if defense is able to stop the ball before crossing the line), play will be treated as a foul ball.

BASERUNNING

- All batters turned baserunners are out in situations similar to baseball/softball rules, such as force outs, tag outs, running out of the baseline, etc.
- Runner will also be out when they are hit by a thrown ball at or below the shoulders.
- When hit by a thrown ball, baserunner may not intentionally kick away the ball after it hits them in an attempt to advance other baserunners. If this occurs, a dead ball will be called.
- No leading off or stealing. Baserunners can begin advancement only after the ball is kicked. Runners leaving early will be returned to their base.
- Runners may not advance once the pitcher has the ball inside the pitching circle. The exception would be batters running towards first base.
- If runners are not at least halfway between bases when the pitcher has the ball inside the pitcher's circle, they must return to the previous base. If the pitcher decides to make a play on the baserunner, the baserunner may continue their attempted advancement, however, if a pitcher simply holds the ball, baserunner must return without hesitation.

DEFENSE & PITCHING

- A thrown ball that hits a runner's neck or head is illegal. Runner will automatically be called safe in this dead-ball situation. When hitting a baserunner with a thrown ball, an out will be recorded if the ball hits the runner at the shoulders or below. Runners cannot intentionally contort themselves to use their head or neck to block the ball. They will be ruled out.
- Pitchers should not attempt to spin or curve their pitch. Balls should be rolled with minimal bounce.
- Pitchers may vary the speed of their pitches.
- Pitchers may not walk batters. Batters may take as many pitches as they want. Teams should all be considerate of this rule and not take advantage of one another. A nicely rolled ball by one team should equate to the opponent doing the same.
- Pitchers must roll their pitch within the width of the batter's box.
- Pitchers must roll from the pitching rubber and cannot charge the batter upon delivering the pitch. A step or two of momentum is allowed, but actively charging towards home plate must wait until the ball is kicked.
- The catcher may not break the plane of home plate until the ball is kicked.
- Infielders cannot stand on or inside the bunt line when awaiting a kick but may encroach up to the line if desired.
- A ball stopped fully inside the bunt line is a foul ball.
- There is no infield fly rule.

LINEUP & SUBSTITUTIONS

- Free defensive substitutions will be allowed. A player starting the game on the bench may play the field the next inning and rotate in and out throughout the game.
- Batting order must remain the same throughout the game.
- Teams must alternate batting order by men and women (or by women and men), until all eligible players of one gender have batted.
- Teams can bat their entire roster/all players currently available. Teams must announce to one another their batting lineup intentions before the game.
- If teams elect to not bat their entire roster, a substitution can only be made from a player not in the original batter order. A player who is removed from the original batting order, may re-enter the game, but only in that same spot in the batting order. Once a player who was not in the original batting order is taken out, he/she cannot re-enter.

MISCELLANEOUS

- League standings will be updated weekly.
- Tiebreaker order will consist of head-head record, followed by run differential.
- **Please go over the rules with your entire team!**
- Season will consist of 7-8 regular season games in addition to a single-elimination playoff.
- We will make the attempt to reschedule one rain out game. Any other rain out has the possibility of not being rescheduled.
- If your team is looking for players, there may be some available on our Free Agent list.
- In the event of possible weather-related cancellations, please check the Bloomington Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Facebook page or call the Weather Hotline at 434-2386.
- Check out www.bloomingtonparks.org/programs/adult for game schedules, add/drop forms, and standings.
- Please contact the Athletics Manager if you know that your team will be unable to play your scheduled game time. Forfeiture of a game will result in a \$20 game forfeiture fee, though the fee will be waived if you provide the Athletics Manager at least 24 hours' notice. Fee must be paid to the BPRCA office prior to the next scheduled game. Forfeiture of three games throughout the season will result in removal from the league with no refunds being provided. ****Forfeits are no fun for all involved! Please make every attempt to fill your roster with as many dependable teammates as possible so that at least the bare minimum can be at your schedule games.*