



**Unified Government Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas
Parks and Recreation**

2009 Youth T-Ball/Softball Rules and General Information

Purpose

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas Parks and Recreation Youth Sports Programs are non-competitive with the emphasis on basics, fundamentals, and sportsmanship. The idea is to provide knowledge of the game that will stay with them later on in life and to provide youth with encouragement so they will learn how to compete, not to destroy one's confidence to participate in athletics.

All games will be governed by A.S.A. rules, with exception to where Parks and Recreation has added or modified the rules.

Uniforms

All participants will be given a team t-shirt. Shorts or baseball pants may be worn. Cleats with rubber soles or tennis shoes are recommended. Absolutely no metal cleats will be permitted. No one is allowed to play without shoes.

Rainout Number 913-573-8398

In case of inclement weather, please call our rainout line. The rainout line will be updated daily by 4 p.m.; we will notify the team's contact person as soon as a decision is made. We will update the line as needed to inform you of changes.

Rainout Dates

Rainouts will be played at the end of the schedule in the order of the rainout. If more rainouts occur than rainout dates, schedules will be revised to accommodate and create multiple games on those dates.

Awards

There will be **no** participation awards given.

Practice Times

**To reserve a field, please call Shelly @ 913-573-8329 or
Jim @ 913-573-8330.**

Practice times and locations available to the youth kickball program are:

City Park #2

Regan Park

Kensington Park

Eisenhower #1 and #2

The above listed parks are subject to availability and during league play there is a possibility of them not being available. A permit will need to be obtained to secure these locations for the duration of the summer softball season.

Team and Player Conduct

Sponsors, coaches, players, parents, and spectators all play an important part in providing wholesome, active recreation for all concerned. Smoking on the field, profanity, gestures of poor sportsmanship, and general bad behavior will not be tolerated on or off the field. We have a zero tolerance policy on unsportsmanlike conduct, and will not hesitate to eject any coach, player, or fan that is in violation of this rule.

There are laws governing alcoholic beverages in all Unified Government ballparks and any person in violation of this law are subject to prosecution.

In accordance with the youth gaining a good sense of good sportsmanship, we expect each coach and player to shake hands at the conclusion of each game. If a player or coach opts not to shake hands or does so in an aggressive manner, they will be penalized the following week and not be allowed to coach or play.

**As a coach of the team, you assume responsibility for the
conduct of your players, coaches, and fans.**

Eligibility

Any youth that has not reached his/her 6th birthday on or before September 1, 2009 is eligible to play in the T-Ball Division.

Any youth that has not reached his/her 9th birthday on or before September 1, 2009 is eligible to play in the 6-8 age division.

Any youth that has not reached his/her 13th birthday on or before September 1, 2009 is eligible to play in the 9-12 age division.

Any youth that has not reached his/her 16th birthday on or before September 1, 2009 is eligible to play in the 13-15 age division.

Team Roster and Contracts

All youth teams will be limited to 20 players on each team. The coach must turn in for each player a completed contract and entry fee. The contract must include the signature of his/her parents or legal guardian. A contract is not valid until entry fee is received and receipt number recorded on contract by a parks and recreation representative. **No team will be allowed to play until all players have turned in contracts and entry fees have been paid in full.**

Time Limits

1. Game time is forfeit time. No grace periods will be allowed.
2. There will be a one (1) hour time limit or seven (7) innings whichever comes first on all games, exceptions:
 - T Ball age division will only play for forty-five (45) minutes or 3 full innings, whichever comes first.
3. The umpire will be the official timer and his/her decision on the time limit is final.
4. The umpire will call the game at the end of five (5) innings if one team is leading the other with a 10-run spread.
5. There will be no warm-up between games. Game time starts when the umpire notifies the home team to take the field.
6. For the 6-8 age division:
 - If five (5) runs are scored in one inning, the inning is over.
 - No new inning will begin after one (1) hour. If the game is tied after this last inning is over, the game will be declared a tie.
7. For the 9-12 and above age divisions:
 - If eight (8) runs are scored in one inning, the inning is over.
 - Any new inning that begins after the time limit has expired (due to a tie) will begin the tie breaker innings. The first batter will be automatically awarded second base, and the batting order will then continue until three outs or eight runs have been scored. The same will occur for the other team, with a maximum of two (2) innings being played after the time limit has expired. If no score for either team at the end of the tie breaker innings, the game will be declared a tie.

Umpire Authority and Responsibilities

When the game begins, the umpire is in full authority. Umpires will umpire all forfeited games with the following requirements:

1. All players participating in the forfeited game must be registered on the roster of the two teams involved.
2. The game will be terminated after thirty (30) minutes.
3. If at any time the umpires feel that the players or coaches are making a farce of the game, the game will be terminated.
4. The player's benches are for the players and coaches only. Spectators should be in the bleachers. Umpires are to enforce these rules.

General Information

- Any player who participates with one (1) team in any league game is ineligible to compete with any other team during the season in the same league, with or without the consent of the coach.
- Each team must secure a coach that must be present before a team will be allowed to participate in league play. If a coach is ejected from a game for any reason, an assistant coach or parent will be allowed to coach until the return of the coach.
- A team must field a minimum of eight players to start a game. There will be no offensive penalty for playing short.
- No bunts or stealing bases. No lead offs from any given base.
- Each player must play one full inning of defense.
- The umpire will be the official time keeper.
- Game time is forfeit time. No grace periods will be allowed.
- Metal-spiked shoes will not be allowed (**NO EXCEPTIONS**). Violation of this rule is an automatic out and player must change shoes if he/she continues to play. No one is allowed to play without shoes.
- All age divisions will have ten (10) players on the field. One (1) pitcher, one (1) catcher, four (4) infielders, and four (4) outfielders.

Age Divisions

All Divisions will be age based. Each of the ages will have their own unique set of guidelines, but will all fall under the same playing rules.

T-Ball (4-5 ages) Co-Ed

- Pitching distance: 30 feet
- Base distance: 35 feet
- Game Format
- No score or standing will be kept
- Batting tee will be placed on home plate
- A hitting arc will be marked 10 feet from the back of home plate from foul line to foul line.
- Completed game shall be three (3) innings, or time expires whichever comes first.
- One offensive coach shall take a position in the home plate area but out of fair territory and will be responsible for the removal of the tee and bat from obstruction of play after a batted ball. This coach will **NOT** permit the batter to take a batting position until the catcher places the ball on the tee and is at safe distance and appropriate position from home plate.
- Two additional offensive coaches may be used to coach; one at 1st and one at 3rd base.
- Up to two (2) defensive coaches are permitted on the field in either fair or foul territory but beyond the baselines. These coaches may not touch a ball in play or physically assist the defensive player in any way.

- There are no strikeouts or walks. Each player will remain at home plate until he/she hits the ball past the hitting arc.
- Play stops when the pitcher is within the four (4) foot pitching radius with possession of the ball. Runners advancing illegally shall be returned to their proper base.
- Two partial swings (practice swings) will be allowed.
- A ball hit within the hitting arc that is touched by a defensive player while the ball is still in motion is a live ball.
- After one verbal warning a player may at the umpires discretion be declared out for throwing the bat.
- Base runners will only be allowed to advance one base beyond their intended base when an overthrow occurs by the defensive team.

6-8 age Coach Pitch (Co-Ed)

- Pitching distance: 30 feet
- Base distance: 45 feet
- Game format
- Coach will pitch to their own team.
- Score will be kept. Standing will not be kept.
- Each batter will receive four (4) pitches, if they fail to hit the ball in fair play they are out.
- Three (3) outs constitutes an inning, however, in the event that three (3) outs does not occur and all team members present have batted or 5 runs have scored, the inning is then over.
- The pitching coach may not coach from the pitcher's circle. If a coach violates this rule, he will need to be replaced with another coach to pitch.
- If a batted ball strikes the pitching coach it becomes a dead ball, the batter advances to 1st base and all other base runners advance one base if forced.

9-12 age Kid Pitch (modified)

- Divided into girls and boys separate leagues
- Pitching distance: 40 feet
- Base distance: 55 feet
- Game format
- Score will be kept. Standing will not be kept.
- Eight (8) runs or three (3) outs will constitute a ½ full inning.
- The pitcher must have control of the ball at the pitcher's mound to stop the play.
- Pitching
 - Pitcher must start with both feet on the pitcher's mound.
 - Pitcher shall not use a windmill, side-arm, or sling-shot motion. The pitcher's elbow must remain locked until release of the pitch. There will be no crow hopping or leaping.
 - A league delivery shall be a ball which is delivered to the batter with an underhand motion.

In the act of delivering the ball:

1. The pitcher's first step must be forward.
2. The release of the ball must be on the first forward swing of the pitching arm past the hip and the release must have a complete and smooth follow through with no abrupt stop of the arm near the hip.
3. The ball must not be outside the pitcher's wrist at the top of the backswing and during the complete forward delivery.
4. On the forward swing of the pitching arm the elbow must be locked at the point of release and the driving hip must be squared with home plate when the ball is released.
5. He/she may take the ball behind the back on the backswing.
6. The pitcher's palm may be pointing downward upon delivery.

13-15 age (Co-ed)

- Pitching distance: 40 feet
- Base distance: 65 feet
- A team must consist of at least five (5) girls and five (5) boys.
- For a game to begin, you must have four (4) girls, and four (4) boys. A team can not have more boys than girls to begin a game.
- Pitcher and catcher must be one (1) boy and one (1) girl, the infield must consist of two (2) boys and two (2) girls, and the outfield must be two (2) boys and two (2) girls. The players can play at any position as long as the boy/girl ratio is kept. If an extra hitter is used, there must be both a boy and girl.
- The batting order must be boy then a girl.
- The coed walking rule is **not** in effect. If a boy walks, the girl must receive pitches.
- All rules for 9-12 age division apply to this age division.

Any occurrence or instance which is no covered by these rules shall be judged by the umpire according to the A.S.A. Softball Rules and will be added and modified accordingly.

UNIFIED GOVERNMENT PARKS AND RECREATION DOES NOT EXCLUDE ANYONE FROM PARTICIPATION IN, DENY ANYONE THE BENEFITS OF, OR OTHERWISE SUBJECT ANYONE TO DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE OF THE PERSON'S RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, OR HANDICAP. IF ANYONE BELIEVES HE OR SHE HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN OR HANDICAP, HE OR SHE MAY FILE A COMPLAINT ALLEGING DISCRIMINATION WITH THE PARKS AND RECREATION OFFICE, 5033 STATE AVE., KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66102; UNIFIED GOVERNMENT HUMAN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, 5TH FLOOR, MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING, 701 N 7TH STREET, KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101; OR THE OFFICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240.