

KVPD 2024 League Constitution



Kankakee Valley
PARK DISTRICT

Rule 1 – Code of Conduct

- ✓ The Kankakee Valley Park District is committed to provide a safe, clean, and fun environment for all participants and guests. By doing so, participants are required to act appropriately and are to be respectful of others at all times when using Kankakee Valley Park District facilities.
- ✓ The following guidelines are designed to provide safe and enjoyable environment for all users. Patrons shall:
 - Show respect to all users and facility staff/supervisors
 - Take direction from facility staff/supervisors
 - Refrain from using abusive or foul language
 - Abstain from causing bodily harm to self, others patrons, or facility staff/supervisors.
 - Refrain from damaging the equipment, supplies, and facilities.
 - A written or verbal warning will be given to patrons if the Code of Conduct rules have been violated. If there is a second occurrence patrons will be withdrawn from the program or facility without a refund.

The purpose of our leagues is to provide for both men and women a quality, competitive, slow-pitch softball league that offers well-balanced divisions, promotes good sportsmanship, stimulates growth, and increases interest in the sport of softball at River Road Sports Complex.

Rule 2 – Scheduling

- ✓ The Kankakee Valley Park District will schedule all league games. When the schedule is released, it will be viewable on www.teamsideline.com/kankakee. Schedules will be available 24/7, and standings will be updated at the end of each night. Email messages, text messages, and rain dates can be directly sent from the scheduling program. To access team sideline, you can search the URL address above or go to our website www.kvpd.com, Kankakee Valley Park District tab; Adult Athletics. This page has a link to Team Sideline to view schedules, standings, and tournament brackets. Here are the following rainout days for makeup games. The end of the season tournament can possibly start on a makeup day if necessary.

Rule 3 – Entry Fees/Memberships

- ✓ Each team seeking membership will complete a Kankakee Valley Park District League registration form, pay the league fee in full and complete a signed team roster before being included on the league schedule.
- ✓ All KVPD teams will be sanctioned with the NSA and managers will receive an NSA rulebook and scorebook.
- ✓ The league fee must be paid in full and rosters turned in BEFORE participating in any game. Teams will forfeit games until entire entry fee is paid. If a refund is requested before the schedule has been made, a \$50 administrative fee will be subtracted from the registration fee. NO REFUNDS will be allowed once the schedule has been made.

Rule 4 – League Roster

- ✓ Each league team must submit a printed official Kankakee Valley Park District League Roster/Waiver signed by every player and manager and returned to KVPD staff before the first game. Teams will forfeit games until roster has been turned in. Umpires will not start games until KVPD staff has team rosters.
- ✓ Rosters can be accessed only by the KVPD staff. Team managers are NOT allowed to view other team rosters AT ANY TIME.
- ✓ KVPD will be doing random roster checks to verify all team members are legal, during the regular season as well as during tournament play. All players must have a picture ID with them at each game.
- ✓ All rosters are final once they have been turned in to the main office. If a player must be added to fill in for an injured player, work schedule changes, or another situation arises, the team manager must contact the Site Supervisor/KVPD staff prior to game. Player can only be added to keep your team from forfeiting, but should not have played on another team. You will be able to sign rosters at River Road. If you have extra players that you want to be added to your roster, add them before the roster is turned in.
- ✓ Rosters are frozen after the second week of the season and are frozen from the final game of the season through the playoffs.

- ✓ All hand writing on roster must be legible or that player will be considered illegal player and will not be able to participate.
- ✓ **Players can only play on one team per night. If you play on more than one team your team will forfeit if another team protest.**
- ✓ A player has to play minimum of (2) games in the regular season to qualify for playoff roster. Scorebooks must be kept with all player information.
- ✓ If a player is found participating in a game without signing the roster, that player will not be allowed to play the rest of the 2024 season.

Rule 5 – Playing Rules

Age Requirement

- ✓ Participants must be 16 years or older to play in this league. Persons less than 18 years must have written parental/guardian permission prior to participating.

Uniforms

- ✓ Teams are encouraged to wear the same color shirt, but it is not mandatory. If teams have numbers, they can be printed, tape, or written using a marker.

Shoes/Spikes

- ✓ Players cannot wear metal spikes
- ✓ Players can wear tennis shoes or rubber cleats

Home and Away Team

- ✓ Regular season: Team Sideline identifies the home teams and away teams
- ✓ Playoffs: A coin flip will take place to determine the home and away teams. The higher seed will call the flip
- ✓ “If Needed” Championship Games: If an “If Needed” Championship game is required, the two teams will switch who is Home and who is Away. (Example: If a team is Home in the First “Championship Game, they will switch to become the Away team for the “If Needed” Championship Game)

Playoff Seeding

- ✓ Teams will be separated into a lower and upper division depending on their regular season record
- ✓ If two or more teams have the same record going into the playoffs, teams will be seeded on the following criteria:
 - Winning Percentage
 - Head to Group
 - Head to Group Differential
 - Common Opponents
 - Strength of Schedule
 - Total Runs Differential
 - Lowest Number of Forfeits
 - Coin Toss

Grace Period

- ✓ Teams will be given a 5-minute grace period to get from field to field

Forfeits

- ✓ All Men’s teams must have nine (9) players to start a game.
- ✓ If a Men’s team has 8 players at any time, then the game is considered a forfeit
 - If a team loses a player during a game due to injury, having to leave or any others reason. The team will just take an out for that player in the batting order.

- ✓ If both Men's teams do not have nine (9) players at game time, both teams will forfeit.
- ✓ A team that forfeits two games will receive a written warning. Further forfeits may lead to the team being dropped from the schedule.
- ✓ **Any team using a player that is not on the team roster will forfeit the game if the opposing team does an eligibility protest.**
- ✓ If a player wants to be removed from a roster due to any circumstance, they may be allowed to switch to another team's roster **One (1) Time per Season**. The player must contact the league director and fill out a release form for any switch to be official. All Switches have to be 2 weeks prior to the start of postseason play. Release form will be signed by the captain of new team and the player being added. Any changes are final and cannot be reverted back.
- ✓ If a team knows they will be taking the forfeit before the game starts, they must email adenton@kvpd.com or call (815) 939-1311

Player Conduct

- ✓ Players, coaches, managers or other team members will not make disparaging or insulting remarks to/or about opposing players, officials or spectators; or commit other acts that could be considered unsportsmanlike conduct.
- ✓ Any language spoken that is offensive in nature will be considered to be unsportsmanlike conduct and subject the offender to suspension or expulsion from the league.
- ✓ Any bat throwing or fighting, deemed as dangerous by the umpire(s), will be considered to be unsportsmanlike and subject the offender to suspension or expulsion from the league.
- ✓ Upon ejection from a game, the player, coach, manager, or spectator must immediately leave the grounds for the remainder of the day/night.
- ✓ If necessary, police will be called and the situation will be handled according to the City's guidelines and procedures.

Ejections/Suspensions

- ✓ 1st time: Player will not finish the current game. If it's the first game of the night, they will not play the next game.
- ✓ 2nd time: Player will not finish current game. If it's the first game of the night, they will not play the next game or at all the following week.
- ✓ 3rd time: Player will be done for the remainder of the league.

Eligibility Protests

- ✓ Eligibility protests may be made at any time prior to the end of the game and are encouraged. Eligibility protests should be made as soon as the ineligible player is discovered. It is very difficult to prove ineligibility if the player has left the field. Therefore, we encourage teams to contact the Site Supervisor immediately. The requesting team must also follow the rules for a protest.
- ✓ If you're playing a team and you feel the team has illegal players playing, you can protest. If the other team is found at fault, they **WILL FORFEIT GAMES IF PLAYERS ARE ILLEGAL**.

Protests

- ✓ In all cases the captain must notify the umpire **IMMEDIATELY** of the protest prior to the next pitch. The protesting team must inform the opposing team, the Site Supervisor and or KVPD staff of their intent to protest. The protest being made must be done before the next pitch or, if it is the last out of the game, before the umpire leaves the field. A complete written statement signed by the manager explaining in detail, the event and the rule that was violated must be submitted within 24 hours by the protesting captain to KVPD staff.
- ✓ \$75.00 in cash is payable immediately to umpire. **Protest money will only be refunded if the protest is upheld. Roster issues will be treated as a protest.**
- ✓ When a team decides to do a roster check on the opposing team, the KVPD staff will discuss with the captain on which player(s) they want to roster check. If the captain is not available then the KVPD staff will discuss with the

co-captain about the situation. Teams cannot roster check the entire roster. Teams can roster check up to 2 players per protest.

- ✓ Home team (official scorer) will mark the score book at that point and the home plate umpire will initial the score book. The umpire will then rule on the protest; if it is a roster protest, the umpire will have to consult with the Site Supervisor and or KVPD staff. The game will continue from the point where it was stopped if protest has been settled.
- ✓ If the umpire and Site Supervisor/KVPD staff cannot reach a decision on the protest, the protest is tabled and the game will continue from the point of interruption. The protest will then be ruled upon the next day by a protest committee-Site Supervisor, KVPD staff, Umpire-In-Chief and game umpire (s).
- ✓ It is the responsibility of all managers, to know the KVPD League Rules and bylaws and makes sure their team's coaches, sponsors, fans, and players understand the rules. Non-knowledge of the rules is not grounds for protest or excuse for breaking them.
- ✓ If a team does not 9 players to start the game, then there will be a 7-minute grace period where we will allow their team players to get to the facility or find a replacement. If by the end of the 7 minutes there still is not enough players to start the game then the game will be considered a forfeit. This will not count against the one-hour game time limit.

Extra Player Rule

- ✓ The "Extra Player" is an optional player. Teams are not required to use an EP. You may use two EP's (have a total of 12 batters) If a team uses an EP, it must follow these guidelines:
 - EP must be in the lineup at the beginning of the game.
 - EP must remain in the same batting position the entire game.
 - EP may play any of the ten (10) defensive positions at any time in the game.
- ✓ The "extra player" may only enter the game at the end of a half inning. When he/she enters into the game, he/she must assume the last batting spot in the order.
- ✓ No out to be taken for missing an "extra player"

Co-Ed Modifications

- ✓ A team must have a minimum of ten (10) players to start the game (4 females and 6 males)
- ✓ If a player gets injured and is unable to finish the game then the game can continue the team will just take an out for that player in the batting order.
- ✓ A full team is 6 males and 4 females. More females than males, at any given time is allowed.
- ✓ The batting order cannot have more than 3 males in a row. Example of batting order.
 - Male
 - Female
 - Male
 - Male
 - Female
 - Male
 - Male
 - Female
 - Male
 - Female
- ✓ Placement of female fielders will be (at minimum): 1 female in the infield. 1 female in the outfield. Teams must have 4 females in the field of play at all times. A female can be a pitcher or catcher (Not required to have a female at either position)

Walks

- ✓ Should the Male batter walk with another Male batter succeeding him in the batting order the Male batter who was walked will only be awarded **One (1) base.**
- ✓ Should a Female batter succeed the walked Male batter in the batting order, the Male batter would be awarded **two (2) bases.**

The Count

- ✓ In all leagues/divisions, batters will start with a 1 and 1 count
- ✓ If a batter hits a ball foul with two (2) strikes, he/she is out.

Mercy Rule: Please see table below

Number of Runs	Innings Completed
15 runs	3 innings
12 runs	4 innings
10 runs	5 innings

Time Limit

- ✓ A one-hour time limit will be given for all Men's & Co-ed Leagues.
- ✓ No new inning may start after one hour. If the game is tied at the end of 7 innings or at the end of the time limit, two additional innings will be played, if a winner has still not been determined, the game will end as a tie. (This does not guarantee two additional innings, but a two-inning max to break tie).
- ✓ During the postseason tournament: Men's & Co-ed will be given a 1-hour time limit. No new inning will start after the 60-minute mark; except for the Championship game(s) which will have no time limit. If the game is tied after the time limit additional innings will be played until there is a winner.
- ✓ Umpires watch is the official time

Home Run Rules: Please see table below

League	Home Run Rule
Coed	1 and 1
Men's Recreational	2 and 1

If players/teams exceed home run limit, the ball is dead, the player hitting the homerun is ruled out and base runners return to original base. (See NSA rulebook for more info on the 1 up).

Courtesy Runner

- ✓ The courtesy runner can be any player on the team roster. If the courtesy runner comes to bat while on base it is an out. Only one courtesy runner per inning.
- ✓ Coed- a Courtesy Runner of the same sex may be used once per inning for a total of two (2) courtesy runners per inning one (1) male and (1) female. The courtesy runner *must be* of the same sex.
- ✓ The Courtesy Runner (**DOES NOT**) have to be the same player each time the player in need of the courtesy runner becomes a runner (Per NSA Rulebook Page 51 Section 3)

- ✓ All Leagues will be allowed an additional courtesy runner (which is not recorded as a substitute in the lineup) to be used for the pitcher of record per inning (Per NSA Rulebook Page 25 Section 9)

Bats

- ✓ Only NSA approved bats are allowed! You can find a current list at www.playnsa.com under “approved equipment” A player and manager are responsible for knowing if their bat is approved.
- ✓ An altered bat is one whose physical structure has been altered by shaving or rolling or inserting foreign objects. Any player who is caught with an altered bat will be suspended from the league for at least one year.

The 2023 N.S.A. Rulebook will apply in absence of league rules

Rule 6 - Additional Rules

Litter

- ✓ All teams must pick up litter in and around their dugout at the end of each game. Please keep your park clean! If teams do not do so they will not be allowed to start their next game.

Alcohol

- ✓ City and Park Ordinance prohibits alcoholic beverages in all parks (this includes parking lots.) Coolers with water and Gatorade will be allowed into the complex. Team and Spectators that have coolers with outside alcohol may be subject to forfeited games, be ticketed, removed from the park, and suspended from the league indefinitely. **According to NSA rules, Alcoholic Beverages are not allowed on the field or in the dugouts.**

Blood Rule

- ✓ Any player who is bleeding must be removed from the game until the wound is bandaged and covered. If there is blood on the uniform, the uniform must be changed or disinfected before the player can re-enter the game.
- ✓ A *courtesy runner* will be allowed for an offensive player who is being tended to. The *courtesy runner* will be the player on the same team that made the last out in the current game.
- ✓ A defensive player can be substituted (*courtesy substitution*) for by an extra player on the bench or by the EP until the situation is corrected.

Additional Park Rules

- ✓ Park Ordinance prohibits vehicles from driving on grass. There is no parking in the grass along diamond 2 and 3 or along the fence and the spectator’s sitting area. Also, there is no parking behind the concession stand or on the gravel road leading to diamonds 4, 5, and 6. When parking, do not block the entrances and exits, or block other cars in, and stay out of restricted areas. Parking ticket(s) will be issued.
- ✓ No one is allowed to take batting practice by hitting balls against any fence.
- ✓ No batting practice between diamonds.
- ✓ Players must stay off the infields until game time.
- ✓ You are allowed to warm up, play catch, and take batting practice in the outfield only before game time.

Rain Outs

- ✓ Players may call Bird Park Administrative Center (815-939-1311), Monday through Friday between 8:30am-4:30pm to find out game status. Team captains will receive notice via Team Sideline or email provided at time of sign-up if games are cancelled. **No notification means games are still on.** Weather updates will also be available on our website www.kvpd.com under Facilities, and River Road Sports Complex.
- ✓ Occasionally some diamonds will be playable after rain, and some won't. If games on certain diamonds have been cancelled, this info will be on teamsideline.com/kankakee
- ✓ The game is not official if the game is played less than 4 ½ innings with the home team ahead or 5 innings with the visiting team ahead. The rules are based on the standard baseball rules.
- ✓ For Spring, Summer and Fall League: KVPD will allow up to 2 rainouts to be made up on regular game nights. After that, we will use Monday's or Fridays to make up games. All tournament play will be done on regular game days.

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