

Kicks 4 Kids Charity Kickball Tournament

Official Rules/Regulations

1. Playing Field, Equipment, and Officials

1.1. Playing Field.

- a. The kickball diamond will have equal sides, each approximately 60 feet in length, with a base at each of the four corners.
- b. The pitcher's mound will be located in the center of the diamond, approximately 42 feet from home plate and directly aligned with the first/third base diagonal.

1.2. Equipment.

- a. All games will be played with a rubber kickball. Kickballs will be provided before the start of each game.
- b. Athletic shoes are required. Metal spikes/cleats are ***not allowed*** – NO EXCEPTIONS! Bare feet, sandals, flip-flops, and the like are strictly prohibited.
- c. All participating players are required to wear an official Kicks 4 Kids Charity Kickball Tournament t-shirt in their designated team color, or shirts that are the same or a similar color.
- d. All player attire will be deemed an extension of the player.

1.3. Officials.

- a. All games will be officiated by at least one authorized official.
- b. Officials are responsible for governing all game play, for issuing all final rulings, and have final authority on any field or equipment issues.
- c. Officials reserve the right to penalize a player, up to and including ejection from the game and/or tournament, for any reason, including for unsportsmanlike conduct, blatant intoxication, fighting, delay of game, excessive verbal abuse, and/or any other offensive conduct. Any player ejected from the game for any reason must leave the field immediately and may not return to the game. Any player ejected from the tournament for any reason must leave the park immediately and may not return to the tournament for the remainder of the day's events.
- d. Officials have jurisdiction over game play and are responsible for keeping an official record of the final game score.
- e. During game play, the team captains may discuss calls with the official, but must accept the official's final ruling. Players other than the team captains that dispute calls with the official will be subject to ejection.

2. Team Eligibility

2.1. Teams.

a. All teams must submit an online roster, with a minimum number of ten (10) players. There is no maximum number of players that a roster may hold.

b. While fielding, each team must field at least seven (7) and no more than ten (10) players, which must include one pitcher and one catcher at any time during the game. If the team fields with the maximum of ten (10) players, there must be at least three (3) female players. The game can start, however, if the team meets the seven (7) player minimum, of which at least two (2) players must be female. In the event a team starts with less than the ten (10) player maximum, the team can add late arriving players up to the maximum; adding the late arriving players to the end of the lineup.

c. A five (5) minute grace period is allowed before a forfeit is declared. A forfeit will count as a loss for that team's standing in the tournament.

3. Participant Eligibility

3.1. Player Eligibility.

a. There is a minimum participation age of 18 years for the Kicks for Kids Charity Kickball Tournament.

b. All players must sign and agree to the 'Kicks for Kids Charity Kickball Tournament – 2015 Waiver and Complete Release of Liability' form before participating in the tournament.

c. Each player may only be registered to play with one team in this year's Tournament.

d. All participating players must appear on the team's written lineup, reflecting that game's kicking order. There is no requirement to alternate males and females in the kicking order. Each team's kicking order must be submitted to the official before the start of each game.

4. Game Play

4.1. Games, Generally

a. Games will last five (5) innings, or 20 minutes, whichever comes first.

b. If the 'home team' (the team kicking last each inning) already leads the game when the bottom of the final inning is reached, that team wins and the game is over. If the 'home team' takes the lead during the bottom of the final inning, that team wins and the game is over.

c. If two playoff-eligible teams are tied at the end of the third round, the team with the most accumulated runs throughout the day will participate in playoffs.

d. If two playoff teams are tied at the end of the playoff round, the team with the most runs throughout the tournament will be will participate in the championship round.

4.2. Pitching

a. Balls must be pitched underhand.

b. The pitcher must have at least one foot on the pitching mound when the pitch is thrown.

- c. While competitive pitching is allowed, curves, bounces, and excessive speed can make a 'non-kickable' pitch, which shall be determined in the official's judgment. If a pitch is determined to be 'non-kickable',
- d. A pitch will be called a 'strike' by the official when it is not kicked by the kicker and it is determined to have entered the strike zone.
- e. A count of four (4) 'balls' will advance the kicker to first base.
 - i. A 'ball' includes any of the following, as determined in the sole discretion of the official:
 - 1. A pitch outside of the strike zone where a kick is not attempted.
 - 2. A pitched ball that does not touch the ground at least twice or roll before reaching the kicker.
 - 3. A pitched ball that exceeds one (1) foot in height from the bottom of the ball when it reaches the kicker.

4.3. Kicking

- a. All kicks must be made by foot or leg, below the knee. All kicks made above the knee will be considered a 'dead ball' and count as a strike.
- b. An attempted kick missed by the kicker of a pitch that was thrown will be called a 'strike' by the official.
- c. A 'double kicked' ball, or a ball that comes into contact with the kicker twice without touching another player, is a 'dead ball'.
- d. A kicker with a count of three (3) strikes will be called out. A kicker with a count of four (4) balls will advance to first base.
- e. A kicked ball that is caught results in the kicker being called out.
- f. 'Foul balls' are counted as strikes. A kicked 'foul ball' that is caught anywhere in 'foul territory' will be an out.

4.4. Baserunning/Scoring.

- a. Runners are required to stay within the baseline. Runners must, however, change course to avoid collision with fielders, to the greatest degree practicable.
- b. All ties go to the runner. Runners may overrun first base, and may only be tagged out if actively attempting to advance to second base.
- c. Neither leading off base, nor stealing a base is possible. A runner may only advance once the ball is kicked; a runner off base when the ball is kicked is out.
- d. Hitting a runner's neck or head with the kickball is prohibited, and the runner will be called safe at the base toward which he/she was running when hit by the ball. If, however, the runner had intentionally used his/her neck or head to block the ball, as determined by the official, or the runner was sliding into the base when he/she was hit in the neck or head, the runner will be out.
- e. Tagging-up is a requirement in order for a runner to advance after a kicked ball has been caught. A runner failing to tag-up, as required, is out.
- f. An overthrow is a ball that has been thrown, kicked, or deflected into foul territory while a fielder is making a defensive play. A runner may advance only one base beyond the base the runner is on or running toward when the ball is overthrown. One base on an overthrow is a restriction on the runner. It is not an automatic right for the runner to advance. If any fielder attempts to make an out prior to returning the ball to the pitcher, a runner may commence

baserunning.

4.5. Ball in Play

a. When the pitcher has the ball in control and retains possession of the ball on the mound, the play ends. Runners who are off base at this time and in forward motion may only advance one base. Runners who are off base at this time and *not* in forward motion must return to the base from which they were running.

4.6. Outs.

- a. The kicking team gets three (3) outs per inning.
- b. An out is any of the following:
 - i. A count of three (3) strikes.
 - ii. Any kicked ball (fair or foul) that is caught by a fielder.
 - iii. A baserunner forced out. (A forced out involves the fielder touching the base or runner with the ball before the runner reaches the base that he/she has to advance to.)
 - iv. A runner touched by the ball or who touches the ball at any time while not on base while the ball is in play (or touched by the ball while on a base they are forced to leave).
 - v. A tag of a base by the fielder while the fielder has control of the ball.
 - vi. A runner off base when the ball is kicked.
 - vii. Any kicker that does not kick in the proper kicking lineup.
 - viii. A runner who misses a base, as called by the official upon conclusion of the play.
 - ix. A runner who fails to properly tag-up on a caught ball, as called by the official upon conclusion of the play.

4.7. Safety.

a. Fielders must stay out of the base line, unless attempting to tag a runner with the ball or field an incoming ball. It is the responsibility of the runner to avoid collisions with fielders who are making a play on a ball within the baseline.

b. Fielders should attempt to occupy the furthest portion of the base when there is an incoming runner.

c. Any fielder, runner, or player demonstrating blatant disregard for the safety of others is subject, within the official's discretion, to being called out and/or from being ejected from the game and/or the tournament.

4.8. Standings.

a. The referees will report the game scores to the scoring table immediately after each game.

b. Standings will be reported at the end of every game. Team standings can be viewed in the registration hub.

5. Other

5.1. Alcohol.

a. Alcohol is prohibited on the kickball diamond. The Young Professionals' Board for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is obliged to enforce the regulations

imposed by the Genesee Valley Park, and reserves the right to expel any player whose conduct jeopardizes the Board's permits and field agreements.

b. Alcoholic beverages may only be purchased at Genesee Valley Park from the provided vendors. Players and/or spectators are prohibited from bringing their own alcoholic beverages to the event.

c. Players and spectators may bring non-alcoholic beverages to the event. However, all glass containers are prohibited from the park.

5.2. Waste Disposal.

a. We have placed waste receptacles so to assist you in disposing of your garbage/beverage containers. Please dispose of all garbage/beverage containers.

5.3. "Last Chance" Reminder

a. The annual Kicks 4 Kids Charity Kickball Tournament was started by the Young Professionals Board for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (the "Center") as a fundraising event in 2014 with the hopes of raising awareness for the Center. It is our belief that the best way to do so is by fostering a tournament atmosphere of community building, fair play and good sportsmanship. While the appropriate level of competitive play is to be expected, it shall be understood that at no time should the spirit of this tournament, the Young Professionals Board, the Center, or any player, fan or supporter be made to suffer at its expense. We all have a responsibility for developing a bond of mutual respect, adhering to the rules of play/conduct, promoting the Center, and most of all, having fun. Actions such as extreme taunting, name calling, excessive profanity, dangerous aggression, or other 'win at all costs' behavior are strictly forbidden, are considered contrary to both the spirit of this Tournament and the mission of the Board, and must be avoided by all players. No exceptions.