



2024 ED BAILEY BASEBALL LEAGUE BYLAWS

For updated schedules, standings, and other league documents, please visit:

www.KnoxvilleAthletics.com

Weather Info Line: **865-215-4636**

X (Twitter): **@knoxathletics**

KPRD Ed Bailey Baseball League is governed by the rules of Major League Baseball (MLB). Key rules and regulations are listed in this document. Local rules are included, such as deadlines, park rules, etc.

SECTION I - TEAMS AND ROSTERS

- A. AGE REQUIREMENT.** Adult leagues are open to anyone 17 years of age or older as of May 1st of the current year.
- B. TEAM ENTRY FEE.** Each team must pay an entry fee of \$980 to join the league. Teams withdrawing before the registration deadline will be charged a \$50 service fee. Teams withdrawing after the registration deadline will receive no refund.
- C. TEAM ROSTER.** Each team manager must give a roster to the Field Supervisor before playing the first game. This copy becomes the OFFICIAL ROSTER and will be kept at the field in the possession of the Field Supervisor. Each player's name will be typed or printed on the roster along with his/her signature, phone number, and email address. A player shall not officially be a member of the team until all of these documents are in the hands of the Field Supervisor. Players may be added to the roster until July 1st. On this date, the roster will be FINAL.
- D. ADDING/RELEASING PLAYERS.** Only the team manager is allowed to add or release players. The team manager will coordinate adding or releasing players with the Field Supervisor.
- E. PLAYING ON MULTIPLE TEAMS.** No player may play on more than one team in the KPRD program. In case someone signs with two teams in preseason, he/she will be considered a member of the team with which he/she appears in a league game first. Any player found playing with two teams may be suspended for the remainder of the year or forced to play on the first team which he/she competed for based on scorebook documentation.

SECTION II - LEAGUE PLAY

- A. START DATE.** Regular season play will begin the week of **May 20**.
- B. GAMES PER SEASON.** Each team will have 10 regular season games scheduled with a double elimination tournament. At least 2 games rained out will be rescheduled. Makeup games will not be rescheduled.
- C. BALL.** Teams shall provide 2 balls (1 new, 1 in good condition) to the umpire before the game begins

- D. GRACE PERIOD.** A grace period of fifteen (15) minutes will be added to the starting time of the 6PM game only. The game will be forfeited after the grace period elapsed. Game time is forfeit time on all other games providing the previous game has ended.
- E. LENGTH OF GAMES / MERCY RULE.** All games will be scheduled for seven innings, but if one team has a 15 run lead at the end of three innings or 12 run lead after four innings, or 8 after 5 innings the game will be stopped. The team having the lead will be declared the winner.
- F. TIME LIMIT / TIEBREAKER RULE.** ALL games have a two hour time limit (no new inning will start after 120 minutes). The fifteen-minute grace period will count on the time limit. In the event of a game ending in a tie, one inning will be played under the International Tie Breaker Rule.

International Tie Breaker Rule: In League Play, after the last inning of play, whether by time limit or completion of 7 innings, the visiting team in the top half of the inning shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on 2nd base. The home team in their half inning will follow the same procedure for one inning. Games can end in a tie during league play, but play will follow this process until there is a winner in City Tournament play.

G. MINIMUM TO START / CONTINUE GAME.

- a. Teams will be allowed to start a game with eight players. When it comes to the empty spot in the batting order, an automatic out will be declared. If a ninth player arrives after the game has begun, he/she may enter the game at that time. In tournament play, teams must have 9 players present to start the game.
 - b. If a team begins play with the required number of player that team may continue a game with one less player than is currently in the batting order whenever a player leaves a game for any reason other than ejection.
 - c. In no circumstance may a team bat less than 8 players.
 - d. If a player must leave the game and no sub is available as a batter or runner, he will be declared "out".
 - e. When the player who has left the game is scheduled to bat, an out will be declared for each turn at bat. An inning or game can end with an automatic "out".
 - f. In the event that one team must forfeit due to lack of players, umpires/officials/referees shall not officiate a scrimmage.
- H. LINEUPS DUE.** All lineups are due to the scorekeeper **10 minutes prior to scheduled game time** but changes can be made in the lineup until game time. Lineups are to include first and last names and jersey numbers. If at game time the lineup has not been given to the official scorer, the clock will start, and the game will not begin until the line-up has been submitted.
- I. JERSEYS / PROHIBITED ITEMS.** All players must wear like uniforms (i.e. jerseys of same color, team name, numbers on back) beginning at the first game (No T-shirts with marker numbers). Plastic visors, bandanna, handkerchiefs cannot be worn.
- J. GAME PERSONNEL.** 2 umpires and a Field Supervisor will be scheduled for each game.
- a. In the event that one team must forfeit due to lack of players, umpires/officials/referees shall not officiate a scrimmage.

- K. INCLEMENT WEATHER INFOLINE.** In case of rain, information regarding game status can be obtained by calling the Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department Weather Infoline at 215-INFO (215-4636), after 4:00PM. Updates will also be on X (Twitter) @knoxathletics No news is good news.
- L. MAKE-UP GAMES.** Up to two rained out games will be made up at the discretion of KPRD Athletics and league supervisors. Wednesdays may be utilized for make-up games.
- a.** Games stopped due to inclement weather will be considered complete if 4½ innings have been completed and the home team is in the lead or if 5 innings have been completed. If 5 innings are completed, the score reverts back to the last completed inning.
 - b. Lineups for Making Up Games.** When returning to complete a game (likely from a rainout), each team shall make all efforts to return to the original lineup and batting order. If all players are not able to play in the makeup game, players not present may be replaced by those in attendance. (For example, if the players batting 6th & 8th in the lineup are not present, players present may be subbed in at these spots to allow the game to be completed).
 - c. Games completed from when suspended.** Games will be completed from the point in which the game was postponed.
- M. PLAYER/TEAM CONDUCT.** A player or entire team may be suspended at any time for unsportsmanlike conduct detrimental to the league. Please see the KPRD Physical & Verbal Abuse Policy for details related to player ejections, which begins with a 4 game suspension.
- N. PHYSICAL & VERBAL ABUSE POLICY.** Any player who starts a fight or physically or verbally abuses any participant, official, etc. in any manner will be suspended for a period of two years in all sports sponsored by KPRD.
- N. TOURNAMENTS OUTSIDE KPRD LEAGUE.** Any invitational tournaments held on city fields must be cleared through the Recreation Department and a contract signed by the person holding the tournament will be kept on file. Teams traveling out of the Knoxville District are required to have a travel permit for insurance purposes.
- O. FORFEITS.** Any team forfeiting two games without notifying the KPRD Athletics Office will be immediately dropped from the league with no refund.
- P. REFUNDS.** Any team that withdraws after the schedule is released will not receive a refund. Teams that withdraw after registering will pay a \$50 pre-season service fee.
- Q. PLAYING EQUIPMENT.** All equipment, such as helmets, bats, catcher's equipment, etc. is provided by the player(s)/team(s) and must meet NOCSAE standards
- a. Bats.** Only -3 Drop Bats will be allowed
- R. OFFENSE.**
- a. Designated Hitter (DH).** Only the pitcher may have a DH
 - i.** The Starting Pitcher can become the DH if/when replaced as pitcher.
 - b. Sliding.** A runner must slide legally or attempt to avoid a fielder who has possession of the ball and waiting to make a tag. The ball is dead and no runners shall advance. If a runner's slide or collision is flagrant, the runner shall be ejected from the game.
 - c. Speed Up Rule** will be used for pitchers and catchers. The player who recorded the last

batted out shall courtesy run for the pitcher/catcher. The next "last batted out" or a player on the bench will be used if the last batted out was made by the pitcher or catcher.

S. DEFENSE.

- a. **Pitching. There are no pitching limitations**
- b. **3 – 1 Balk.** A balk is called if a pitcher fakes a pickoff to 3rd and throws to 1st.

T. SUBSTITUTION

- a. **HS Sub Rules used.** All players may re-enter the game.

SECTION III – CITY TOURNAMENT PLAY

- A. **TOURNAMENT FORMAT.** The City tournament will be double elimination.
- B. **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY.** Players eligible to play in the post-season City Tournament must have been signed up by the roster freeze date and played in three regular season games (documented by the league scorebook).
- C. **HOME/VISITOR.** The higher seed will be designated as the home team, unless otherwise indicated on the bracket.
- D. **REQUIRED PLAYERS TO PLAY.** Team must have eight (8) players to begin the game.

SECTION IV - ARBITRATION BOARD AND PROTESTS

- A. **JURISDICTION.** The KPRD Athletics Office will settle all disputes, misinterpretations of rules, etc. arising from softball games. When a misinterpretation of a rule occurs, an Official MLB Rule book will be used except where a local rule supersedes or supplements.
- B. **STEPS TO FILE PROTEST.** To file a protest, the following steps must be followed:
 1. Protests must be made to the umpire-in-chief orally at the time they occur.
 2. A fee of \$50.00 must be given to the Field Supervisor upon filing the protest with the umpire-in-chief.
- C. **ELIGIBILITY PROTESTS.** The Field Supervisor will attempt to settle protests on eligibility at the time they occur.
 1. Protests on eligibility must be made to the umpire-in-chief orally before the end of the game and while the player in question is playing in the game.
 2. The Field Supervisor will obtain the signature from the player in question and it will be compared with the signature on the OFFICIAL TEAM ROSTER. The field supervisor can request the player in question's photo ID. The official ruling will be made at this time. If the players paper documents have not been submitted, that player will be declared ineligible. Protests must be filed with the Field Supervisor and will be settled immediately with the decision affecting only the game protested.
 3. Documents regarding only the player in question will be inspected.

SECTION V - MISCELLANEOUS

- A. **SCHEDULES.** Schedules, results, and standings will be available on the website when available.
- B. **INCLEMENT WEATHER UPDATES.** Please call 865-215-4636 after 4pm each day to check the status of games for that day. Also, updates will be posted on Twitter @knoxathletics.
- C. **STANDINGS.** League standings are based on the following order until the tie is broken: W/L Record, Runs Allowed, Runs Scored, Coin Flip. For tournament purposes, a head-to-head result will be used if teams have the same W/L Record. A forfeit is recorded as 7-0 in the standings.



Lightning Safety Policy

The following is information excerpted from information from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration pamphlet # PA200461. While no action can provide 100% protection for individuals from lightning, the following will reduce the chances of being struck by lightning significantly.

Basic facts about lightning:

- **All thunderstorms produce lightning and are dangerous.** In an average year, lightning kills more people in the U.S. than either tornadoes or hurricanes.
- **Lightning often strikes outside the area of heavy rain and may strike as far as 10 miles from any rainfall.** Many deaths from lightning occur ahead of storms because people wait too long before seeking shelter, or after storms because people return outside too soon.
- **If you hear thunder, you are in danger.** Anytime thunder is heard, the thunderstorm is close enough to pose an immediate lightning threat to your location.
- **Lightning leaves many victims with permanent disabilities.** While only a small percentage of lightning strike victims die, many survivors must learn to live with very serious, lifelong disabilities.

Avoid the Lightning threat.

- **Plan ahead.** Have a lightning safety plan. Know where people will go for safety and how much time it will take for them to get there. Have specific guidelines for suspending the event or activity so that everyone has time to reach safety. Follow the plan without exception.
- **Postpone activities.** Prior to a practice or event, check the latest forecast. If thunderstorms are forecast, consider postponing activities early to avoid being caught in a dangerous situation.
- **Monitor the weather.** Watch and listen for clues of impending danger. Look for darkening skies, flashes of lightning, or increasing winds, which may be signs of a developing or approaching thunderstorm. Listen for thunder.
- **Get to a safe place.** If you hear thunder, suspend your activity immediately and instruct everyone to get to a safe place. Substantial buildings provide the best protection. Once inside, stay off corded phones and away from any wiring or plumbing. Avoid sheds, small or open shelters, dugouts, bleachers, or grandstands. If a sturdy building is not nearby, a hard-topped metal vehicle with

the windows closed will offer good protection.

- **Stay inside.** Do not resume activities until 30 minutes have passed since the last thunder was heard.

What you should do if you can't get to a safe place.

Being outside during a thunderstorm puts you at risk of being struck by lightning. The measures listed below will reduce that risk somewhat, but are no substitute for getting to a safe place.

- **Avoid open areas and stay away from isolated tall trees, towers, or utility poles.** Lightning tends to strike the taller objects.
- **Stay away from metal bleachers, backstops, and fences.** Lightning can travel long distances through metal.
- **Spread out.** This reduces the risk of multiple lightning casualties.

If you feel your hair stand on end, lightning is about to strike.

There may be little or nothing you can do to keep from being struck by lightning. As a last desperate resort:

- **Crouch down on the balls of your feet, put your hands over your ears, and bend your head down.** Make yourself as small a target as possible and minimize your contact with the ground.
- **Do not lie flat on the ground.**

Know what to do if someone is struck by lightning.

Lightning victims do not carry an electrical charge, are safe to handle, and need immediate medical attention. Cardiac arrest is the immediate cause of death in lightning fatalities. Some deaths can be prevented if the victim immediately receives the proper first aid.

- **Call for help.** Call 9-1-1 or your local ambulance service.
- **Give first aid.** Check the victim's pulse and breathing. Begin CPR if necessary. An Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) may also be useful if one is available.
- **If possible, move the victim to a safer place.** An active thunderstorm is still dangerous. Don't let the rescuers become victims. Lightning CAN strike the same place twice.

Taken from NOAA PA200461



RULES OF CONDUCT

Recreational sports are provided by the Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department for the enjoyment of Knoxvilleians. Games are meant to be fun and played in a spirit of competition.

Actions that endanger, embarrass, or detract from the goals of recreational sports sponsored by the Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department will not be tolerated. These simple common-sense rules will be enforced:

***FANS:** Fans are urged to come to games and cheer for their teams. Encourage your players. Insulting or abusing players on other teams or game officials will not be allowed.

***PLAYERS:** Players can encourage and cheer for their teammates. Players will not be allowed to verbally abuse or physically threaten game officials.

***COACHES:** Coaches are the authority figures for their teams and they have a responsibility to help keep order among players and fans. Coaches are allowed to question an official's calls, but under no circumstances are coaches permitted to verbally abuse or threaten or physically strike an umpire.

***OFFICIALS:** An official's responsibility is to call games to the best of his or her ability and to maintain order at all times. An official is the final authority at the facility. Officials are not to use their authority to intimidate or treat players and coaches unfairly.

Any incident that violates any of these aforementioned rules is to be reported to the gym supervisor immediately. Players, coaches, and fans are not to verbally abuse or physically threaten officials before, during, or after a game. An official is instructed to report any incident immediately if he or she has been treated unfairly.

Any violation of these rules will result in ejection or suspension of the offending party from league participation. The goal of recreational sports is to have fun. People who conduct themselves in a disrespectful manner take the fun out of the program for everyone else.

Thank you for your help in making our program more enjoyable for everyone.



UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT POLICY FOR YOUTH & ADULT ATHLETICS

The City of Knoxville Parks & Recreation Department (KPRD) strives to promote the benefits of participating in team sports, such as team work, physical conditioning, sportsmanship, character-building, and social development. Unsportsmanlike conduct which undermines the good in sports will not be tolerated. Examples of unsportsmanlike conduct included, but are not limited to, fighting/physical altercations, verbal abuse and/or harassing comments, and moral/ethical decisions that go against league rules or endanger the safety of any individuals.

Definitions of Potential Incidents

- **Unsportsmanlike Conduct** – Conduct unbecoming to a sportsman, such as fairness, courteous relations and acceptance of results. Any incident not defined below may result in penalties consistent with others as outlined in this policy.
 - **Fighting / Physical Altercations** – A hostile encounter with another party or parties, resulting in a physical struggle or contact, will be defined as a “fight”.
 - **Verbal Abuse** – The intentional act of insulting another individual through oral measures with the aim of offending, use of abusive language, tormenting others, and baiting of individuals.
 - **Use of Racial and/or Gender Epithets** – Any use of racial or gender epithets used in reference to an individual’s race, color, gender, or sexual orientation.

Definitions of Individuals Involved:

- **Leader/Coach** – an individual who holds any supervisory position, including but not limited to coaches, assistant coaches, program officials, program supervisors, and league commissioners
- **Participant** – an individual, other than a leader or fan/spectator, who takes an active part in the sporting activity that KPRD sponsors
- **Fans/Spectators** – an individual who participates in a sporting activity by demonstrating support without taking a leadership or participant role in that particular event.

Examples of Punishments (may be increased depending on specifics of incident):

- Ejection from a game (or incident occurs following game and person is removed) – 4 game suspension
- Fighting / Physical Altercation or Threat – 1 year
- Additional incidents at any time –
 - 1 year (if a 4 game suspension)
 - 2 years (or lifetime) if original punishment was 1 year or longer

Process Following Incident:

- **Immediately following incident** - Any person(s) ejected or asked to leave a facility/property shall leave immediately. The game shall not continue until the person(s) has been removed. Failure to comply with leaving may result in forfeiture of game and league staff contacting the Knoxville Police Department. Individuals in violation of this policy will be notified, if at all possible, by phone call, email, or letter.
- **Appeal Process** – Individuals may request an appeal hearing to further discuss incidents. The individual must request an appeal hearing with the Athletics Coordinator within 7 days of being notified of the punishment. The decision of the appeal hearing shall be final and not subject to further review. The initial punishment remains in effect
- **Serving Punishment** – Any punishment levied applies to all City of Knoxville athletics programs. If individual is a coach, he/she must turn in their ID badge until approved to coach again. Failure to comply with punishment shall result in immediate ejection, in addition to the punishment timeframe, and may result in the person being added to KPRD's No Trespassing List. Depending on the situation, the game may also be forfeited.