



2019 GKABL Rule Change Summary

Last Updated: February 9, 2019

Rule 9: The District Playoffs Director Role

- Added 1.1 "In the event the host league cannot complete a playoff game, the District Playoff Director has the authority to move the game(s) to another facility."
- Added 1.2 "Only the District Playoff Director has the ability to cancel the playoffs for a division."

Rule 14: Baseball Age Divisions

- Section 1: Updated Atom I to Atom I Machine Pitch.
- Section 7: Updated Juvenile to Midget III. Also updated references throughout the entire document.

Rule 15: Softball Age Divisions

- Section 1: Updated Pixie I to Pixie I Machine Pitch.

Rule 20: Regular Season Schedule Creation

- Section 7: Removed the rule that Pixie I can be scheduled against Pixie II due to machine pitch.
- Section 10: Added "A Team in the Midget I Age Division may be scheduled to play teams in the Midget II Age Division if there is an insufficient number of teams in either Age Division to produce a viable schedule and if approved by the District Council by simple majority."
- Section 11: Added "A Team in the Midget II Age Division may be scheduled to play teams in the Midget III Age Division if there is an insufficient number of teams in either Age Division to produce a viable schedule and if approved by the District Council by simple majority."

Rule 25: Official Game Balls

- Section 4 & 8: Added for machine pitch divisions "only 9 inch Jugs Softies shall be used"
- Section 5 & 9: Added "II" to Atom and Pixie division ball rules for kid pitch.
- Section 13: Updated to read that the host league shall furnish two new game balls.

Rule 26: Field Configuration

- Section 3 & 8: Added for the Machine Pitch age divisions, "A 7-foot chalk circle will be prepared around the pitching circle for equipment and machine operation."
- Section 4: Updated pitching distance for Midget from 52 feet to 54 feet.
- Section 12: Updated base distances for Midget from 75 feet to 80 feet.

Rule 27: Minimum Number of Players

- Section 2: Added "In the event there are only 8 eligible players, the 9th batting position will not result in an out."



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Rule 31: Required Playing Equipment

- Section 7: Added “Markworst C-Flap is allowed on batting helmets for all age divisions.”

Rule 33: Ending a Game

- Section 4: Added “No game may be resumed at a later date.”

Rule 36: Machine Pitch Division Special Rules – Added this entire rule

- Section 1: The pitching machine speed, height, and other settings must be set prior to the beginning of the game as agreed upon by the coaches and umpire. Once the game has started, the machine may only be adjusted between innings with the approval of both managers and umpire. In extreme cases, the umpire may approve an adjustment during an inning.
- Section 2: The Team Manager, a Team Coach, or designee shall pitch to his or her team.
- Section 3: A batter shall be called out when 3 swinging strikes have been made or 5 total pitches. If the 5th pitch results in a foul ball, an additional pitch will be rewarded until a batter does not make contact.
- Section 4: No walks will be awarded to a batter.
- Section 5: The pitcher position shall play outside the chalked machine circle either in line with or behind the pitching machine.
- Section 6: If a batted ball makes contact with any equipment in the circle, the coach or comes to a complete stop within the circle, the ball shall be declared dead, the pitch will not be counted against the batter and all runners must return to the base they were on prior to the pitch. If a batted ball passes through the circle without coming into contact with any equipment or the coach, the ball is playable.

Rule 37: Atom Age Division Special Rules

- Section 3: Removed language regarding pick offs since no lead offs are allowed.
- Section 4: Updated “no stealing” to “no leadoffs or stealing”

Rule 38: Pixie Age Division Special Rules

- Section 3 (New): Updated “no stealing” to “no leadoffs or stealing”
- Section 3 (Previous): This section was removed. “The catcher must return the ball to the pitcher after each pitch and no pick offs by the catcher are allowed.”

Rule 41: The Runner

- Section 6: Updated from “the runner may be substituted” to “the runner must be substituted” in reference to the catcher with two outs.

Rule 43: Defense

- Section 3 (Previous): “Unless the catcher (or other defensive player covering home plate) is in possession of the ball, the catcher (or other defensive player covering home plate) cannot block the pathway of the runner as he/she is attempting to score. If, in the judgement of the umpire, the catcher (or other defensive player covering home plate) without possession of the ball blocks the pathway of the runner, the umpire shall call or signal the runner safe.



Notwithstanding the above, it shall not be considered a violation of this rule if the catcher (or other defensive player covering home plate) blocks the pathway of the runner in order to field a throw, and the umpire determines that the catcher (or other defensive player covering home plate) could not have fielded the ball without blocking the pathway of the runner and that contact with the runner was unavoidable.”

- Section 3 (New): “The catcher (or other defensive player covering home plate) cannot block the pathway of the runner as he/she is attempting to score.”
- Section 3.1: Added “For the first offense per team, the umpire shall call or signal the runner safe and the team shall receive a warning.”
- Section 3.2: Added “For the second offense, the defensive player shall be ejected from the game.”

Rule 44: Defensive Playing Requirements

- Section 1: Added “Pixie, Petite and Chic” to “each registered and roster player shall play no less than 3 at bats in 3 innings in each Association game unless the game is shorten and called an official game by a provision of these rules.”

Rule 45: Pitching

- Section 3: Added “A pitched ball that touches the ground is not a dead ball.”
- Section 3.1: Added “For divisions that allow stealing, runners may attempt to advance.”
- Section 3.2: Added “For divisions with drop third strike, if the third strike touches the ground before reaching the catcher, the batter may attempt to reach first base if first base is unoccupied or there are two outs.”
- Section 3.3: Added “If the ball hits the batter, the batter is awarded first base.”

Rule 55: District Playoffs – Single Elimination Bracket Format

- Section 6.4 & 6.5: Corrected 6-team bracket

Rule 57: District Playoff – Results

- Section 3, 4, and 5: Updated to state “For pool format only”
- Section 6: Updated to state “For bracket format only”

Rule 58: District Playoffs – Team Disqualification

- Section 1: Updated to state “For pool format only”

General – Updated 2018 Rules Committee

General – Rule numbers and Table of Contents were updated to reflect new rules being added. References to 2018 have been updated to 2019.