

RULES AND REGULATIONS

**AS ADOPTED
BY THE**



ASSOCIATION

2023

K-18 Officers

FOUNDER

A.A. Zeigler, Lucas, Kansas
President of Association for 32 Years (1949-1981)

STATE COMMISSIONER

David Urban - Lucas, Kansas

Mobile: 785-658-5497

(Term Expires 2027)

ASSISTANT STATE COMMISSIONER

John Walz - Ellis, Kansas

Mobile: 785-737-3042

(Term Expires 2026)

History and Information at web site
www.k18baseball.com

REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS

WEST REGION

Rudy Perez

1223 4th Street
Arapahoe, NE 68922
785-871-1768

Jayhawk, Shocker, Wild Cat Leagues
(Term Expires 2027)

EAST REGION

Derrick Hittle

Concordia, Kansas 66901
Mobile: (785) 262-1302
Twin Lakes, Republican Valley &
City of Concordia
(Term Expires 2024)

Forward

The K-18 Baseball Association was organized in the Spring of 1949 with the following listed teams entries as charter members: Ada, Bennington, Beverly, Lincoln, Lucas, Minneapolis, Paradise, Sylvan Grove, Tescott and Vesper. The goal of this Association is to make organized baseball available to every child, ages 12 to 15, inclusive, in the State of Kansas.

First and above all, this program stresses sportsmanship, citizenship, cooperation, and character development. Second is the development of baseball players and providing children of this age group with a supervised summer sports program, thereby defeating the forces of juvenile delinquency.

The officers of this Association feel that a service club, church, or other organization can provide no greater benefit to the youth of its community than to undertake the sponsorship for a team entry in one of the Association's component Leagues. The players will be grateful!

RULES & REGULATIONS

1.00 - Association Organization and Subdivision

- 1.01** This organization shall be known as the K-18 Baseball Association and shall be composed of not less than four teams not more than 10 teams in each League. Regional Commissioners determine changes in Leagues because of the number of Teams.
- 1.02A** The officials of this Association shall be a State Commissioner who shall be elected for a four year term on even numbered years at the Annual Meeting of this Association along with two Assistant State Commissioners and two Regional Commissioners, one of whom shall be elected for a four-year term at each Annual Meeting of this Association beginning 1981. Each year thereafter a Regional Commissioner shall be elected for a four year term. The State Commissioner shall have the authority to appoint a Secretary-Treasurer if he deems it necessary. State Commissioner(s) shall have the authority to appoint a Regional Commissioner to complete an unexpired term of a Regional Commissioner which is being vacated for any reason. A new Regional Commissioner will then serve until completion of that unexpired term, and then stand for re-election.
- B** The Association shall be divided into Two Regions, and a Commissioner shall be elected from each of the two Regions.
- C** Each Regional Commissioner is given the responsibility of selecting a site for the Regional Tournament in his or her Region, of setting up the Tournament with the assistance of the local sponsor, and of being on

hand for the Tournament.

State Commissioners are responsible for running the State Tournament (setting dates, place, rules, etc.)

Every effort shall be made to hold the State Tournament in Lucas which is a central site. Changing the site of the State Tournament from Lucas shall take a 3/4 majority vote from the Commissioners and shall be ratified by a 3/4 majority vote of State Association member team. Exception would be unable to host at Lucas due to field not capable of being used, Commissioner's would select an alternative site.

- D** All questions of rules interpretation, registration of players, of final determination of league standings, of eligibility of players and teams for tournament play, and of entry and annual fees payments shall be first directed to the Commissioner of the appropriate Region rather than the State Commissioner.
- E** Each Regional Commissioner is given the responsibility of operating his or her Region, handling all matters pertaining to Association business with the Leagues and Teams in his or her Region.
- F** In all matters the Regional Commissioners can call on the State Commissioner and Assistant State Commissioners for consultation before rendering a final decision if he or she deems it appropriate or necessary.
- G** Each Regional Commissioner, in his or her Region, is to instruct the League Recorders as to why timely reports of registration, submission of entry forms, annual fees, game reports, etc. are absolutely essential for successful operation of the Association, and how responsible League Recorders can handle local problems. The League Recorders can and must provide the basic backbone of the Association. The Leagues

must be made to understand that they must elect responsible people to this position.

- H** In all matters the chain-of-command for questions, problems, etc. is:
First - the League Recorder
Second - the Regional Commissioner(s)
Third - the Assistant State Commissioner(s) and the State Commissioner together. All appeals should follow this chain of command until the dispute is resolved.
- I** All Commissioners and League Recorders shall be furnished by the Association an Official Association Rulebook, and a National Federation of State High School Associations Baseball Rule Book as the source materials for rules interpretation matters.
- J** All rules regarding operation of the Association shall be strictly adhered to, even at the risk of penalizing the youngsters for whom the Organization exists. This will help assure the election of more responsible individuals from the coaching level on up.
- K** The State and Regional Commissioners together, shall have the authority to suspend or remove, either temporarily or permanently, any manager, coach or assistant coach whose actions, conduct or comments about or directed toward umpires or association officials which are determined, in their judgment, to be flagrantly in violation of the principles of sportsmanship and detrimental to the Association. No authority to levy any monetary fines shall be included in this ruling.
- L** K-18 Baseball players will be required to show "proper respect" during the National Anthem, or they won't be

able to play. The K-18 Baseball Association has adopted a no-tolerance policy when it comes to players' behavior during the National Anthem before games. What does "proper respect" mean? According to the K-18 Baseball Association, a player will achieve proper respect by standing upright, facing the flag, and hat held over the heart.

- 1.03** The Annual Meeting of this association shall be called by the State Commission in January of each year, at which all general Association business shall be transacted and elections held as stated in Rules 1.02A. Each team entry shall be entitled to one vote in all Association matters. Any rules changes may be recommended to the Association officers at the Annual Meeting, and decisions of said Association officers shall govern all such rules changes.
- 1.04** Each League shall hold its own Annual Meeting on or before the 1st Sunday in April. At this meeting its members shall transact all League business and shall elect from its membership a League Recorder. The name and address of the Recorder will be sent to the Regional and State Commissioners. **EACH** team entry is entitled to **ONE** vote in all League matters. A copy of the meeting minutes or letters sent to Coaches will be sent to your Regional Commissioner and the State Commissioner.
- 1.05** An annual fee of \$100 per team is due by April 30th being postmarked no later than April 30th. (Mailed to the Regional Commissioner at the mailing address in the front of this rule book) There will be a \$20 penalty on any fee that is late.
Any team not having paid their fees by July 15th **Will Not** be eligible to play in the Regional or State Tournaments. Player Registration Roster forms are to

be sent and postmarked no later than June 15th to the Regional Commissioner.

Any team that has not paid their team fees will not be allowed to participate in the K-18 Baseball program the following season until all fees are paid. \$25.00 of the annual fee shall go to each League Recorder for the cost of phone calls, postage, etc. The State Commissioner will reimburse each League Recorder. Each League shall be responsible for the cost and printing of their own League schedules. Acceptance of new team entries and formation of Leagues and other subdivisions shall be at the discretion of Association officials, and shall be accomplished for the welfare of the Association program as a whole.

2.00 - Eligibility and Registration

2.01 Eligibility of players of all teams entries of this Association, for regular season and all tournaments, shall be as follows: A minimum of 12 years and a maximum of 15 years of age as of April 30 of the season of play. A Regional Commissioner may give special permission for 11 year olds to play, if needed to fill a team. Any changes in the age for K-18 players will be a simple majority vote of the commissioners and ratified by 3/4 majority secret ballot vote of member teams that are currently in the K-18 Association.

2.02 Each team entry may register up to 20 players up to June 15th of each year by which date copies of such registration showing registrants' full names in their own handwriting and dates of birth shall be forwarded to the Regional Commissioner and the League Recorder. No player shall register with more than one team. Any subsequent changes in the active roster, other than the transfer of a player from one team

entry to another, shall be reported to the League Recorder and his written acknowledgment received before such new player shall be eligible to play in any games. The League Recorder shall send a copy of such acknowledgment to the Association State Commission.

2.03 All players should have an address for the team that they play on. Should their school district and address be different they may play for the team in their school district provided there is no team at their home address. Transferring to another team requires a signed waiver from the manager of the team from which the players wants to transfer from. The player transferring must request to play for the nearest team, as the crow flies first and so on. The home team will need to release the player. The transfers must be approved by the regional commissioner before the player would be allowed to play on another team. Communities have a deadline of April 30th to form teams, no player transfers until April 30th and cannot transfer after June 15th.

2.03a Any player desiring to transfer from one team entry to another after June 15th must obtain a written and signed release by the Manager of the team from which he is transferring, and such release shall be certified by Association officials before the player shall be eligible to play in any subsequent game. The State Commissioner shall notify the League Recorder of such change.

2.04 Active rosters as listed with the Regional Commissioner on JUNE 15 of each year shall determine eligibility for tournament play. Any team not having submitted their active roster by June 15th **WILL NOT** be eligible to compete in the Regional or State Tournaments.

- 2.06** In all controversies involving eligibility and transfers, players and managers may have the right to appeal to the Association Officials, whose decision will be final. Any game in which a rule is violated concerning eligibility of players, may be forfeited upon the decision of the Officials.
- 2.07** Each manager, upon demand, shall furnish to the Association Officials a birth certificate for any one of his players, who is questioned by the opposing manager, under penalty of forfeiture of all games played in which questioned boy participated.
- 2.08** A player may be a member of only one K-18 Baseball Association team entry at any given time. He may not play with any other organized baseball team or league without special permission from the Regional Commissioner or State Commissioner(s), who shall have the authority to rule on the eligibility of all players. Rule 3.12 will apply.
- 2.09** For a player to be eligible to participate in post season he or she must play in at least 50% of league games unless injured and not playing in games during the time of the injury. If player is injured he or she will be given credit of being on the team if he or she is attending practice and attending games.

3.00 - Playing Rules and Regulations

- 3.01** Playing rules and regulations of this Association shall be the National Federation of State High School Association Baseball Rule Book with the exception of the rules and regulations in the Official K-18 Association Rulebook.
- 3.02** This Association shall have no regulations requiring uniforms, enclosed playing fields, or monetary fines.

3.03 The use of steel spikes for play in the K-18 Baseball Association is optional. This rule applies to all team managers, players, coaches managers, ball boys, trainers; any member of the team.

3.04 An official regular season game counting toward league standings will be a seven inning game and the first game of the double header, unless shortened or lengthened legally: by rain, darkness, tie, etc. In case a seven inning game is suspended by the Umpire, it shall be deemed an official game if five full innings have been completed and not tied, or 4 ½ innings have been completed with the home team leading. The second game of the league double header shall be a game that does not count toward league standings. It will be a three inning game where no more than 5 runs may be scored per inning. This game allows for all players to get playing time. Pitch Count Rule 3.12 is in force.

Official K-18 Regional and State Tournament games will be 7 inning games.

In case a seven inning game is suspended by the Umpire it shall be deemed an official game if five full innings have been completed and not tied, or 4 ½ innings have been completed with the home team leading.

Run Rules will be used for all K-18 Baseball seven inning league and tournament games.

A decision must be made within thirty minutes after play has been halted as to whether or not the game will continue or be suspended to a later date.

3.04a Run rules for league games, regional and state tournaments are as follows: 7 inning games, 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, 8 runs after 5 innings.

3.04b Coaches and managers competing at Regional Tournaments shall be issued passes for that tournament. Players competing shall be admitted at no charge for that tournament.

Coaches and managers competing at the State Tournaments shall be issued passes for the tournament and players shall be admitted at no charge.

3.05 Any team finding it necessary to postpone a league game for any reason other than an act of God or an accident must notify its opponent at least 12 hours before the game time or forfeit the game. Any postponed game shall be rescheduled and played at the earliest possible date, and failure of a team to cooperate in the rescheduling of a postponed game shall constitute cause for forfeiture of the game. The postponement of any League game shall be reported by the home team Manager to the League Recorder within 24 hours of game time.

3.06 An Extra Hitter (EH) will be allowed but not mandatory. The option of using an (EH) must be selected prior to the start of the game. The (EH) must be listed on the line-up card in any spot from #1 batter thru #10 batter.

The (EH) is considered a starting player and cannot be eliminated after the game has started. If a team can't play a person in the (EH) position, in which they began the game with, due to injury etc., they will take an out when the (EH) position is up to bat.

The (EH) may be swapped in the field for any defensive player. The swapped players would have to keep their same spots in the batting order. If the swapped defensive player leaves the game a replacement would have to fill his spot in batting order as an (EH) or the

open batting spot would be an out when that spot comes up to bat.

All starters including the starting (EH) may reenter a game one time but must reenter in their original starting batting order. Non-starters cannot reenter a game after being taken out of the game.

The Extra Hitter Rule allows more players an opportunity to get playing time.

- 3.07** The team Sponsor or Manager shall be responsible for their players and coaches eligibility, conduct and ABOVE ALL, SPORTSMANSHIP.
- 3.08** The Scorekeeper for each team shall forward a copy of the box score, including pitchers pitch count, to the League Recorder by noon of the next day after the completion of games.
- 3.09** Any unregistered umpire must be approved by the Managers of both teams, after which he shall possess all the authority of a registered umpire for that game.
UMPIRES SHOULD EMPHASIZE SPORTSMANSHIP AND FAIR PLAY IN ALL MATTERS UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION.
- 3.10** Decisions resulting from an umpire's judgement may not be appealed. Decisions involving conformance to rules may be appealed in writing by team managers to the Regional Commissioner and/or the State Commissioner within 24 hours after the completion of ball game. A protest shall not constitute cause for withdrawing a team from an unfinished game, and such a withdrawal shall be cause for game forfeiture.
- 3.11** The K-18 Baseball Association season shall be offi-

cially opened on May 1 of each year.

- 3.12 PITCHING RULE:** A pitcher may not pitch more than eighty-five pitches in seventy-two hours. Any pitcher who exceeds the pitching limitations shall be subject to the penalties contained in the NFHS Baseball Rulebook as an illegal and/or ineligible player.

A pitcher who reaches eighty-five (85) pitches in seventy two (72) hours in the leagues season games or one hundred-five (105) pitches in a Regional or State Tournament games in seventy two (72) hours must be removed as a pitcher when any one of the following occurs.

Batter who is being pitched to when eight-five (85) pitches or one hundred-five (105) pitches is reached makes an out or gets on base in any manner.

Opposing team being pitched to makes the third out of the inning.

Violation of this rule will result in a forfeit. It is a forfeit when either umpire deems that a team has not removed their pitcher before the pitch count rule was violated or a team has violated the pitch count of the 72-hour rule.

Four Pitch walk. No pitches will be thrown and will not be counted against pitch count. Coach or catcher will signal umpire for “no pitch.”

- 3.13** This rule limits the number of trips to a pitcher during any one inning. **One** visit per pitcher per inning is allowed. A second visit to the same pitcher in the

same inning will result in that pitcher being replaced as pitcher, but he may go on to another position. He may **not** return in that inning as pitcher.

A pitcher replaced prior to the 2nd visit may return as pitcher after one batter has been struck out, walked, or otherwise completed his at-bat.

A conference is **not** charged to the new pitcher when the old pitcher is replaced.

A removed pitcher under the 2nd visit rule may return to pitch in another inning providing he has not left the game under a substitute rule and if he had not exceeded the pitch count rule. Refer to 3.12.

If a current pitcher or previous pitcher is replaced in the game and removed from play under the free substitution rule, he is precluded from returning to that game as a pitcher.

3.14

A hitter may be (not mandatory) designated for any one starting player (not just pitchers) and all subsequent substitutes for that player in the game. A starting defensive player cannot be listed as the designated hitter in the starting lineup. A designated hitter for said player shall be selected prior to the start of the game, and his name shall be included on the lineup cards presented to the umpire-in-chief and to the official scorer. A team forfeits the use of a designated hitter if it fails to declare a designated hitter prior to the game. If a pinch hitter or pinch runner for the designated hitter is used, that player becomes the new designated hitter. The player who was the designated hitter may re-enter as the designated hitter under the re-entry rule. A designated hitter and the player for whom he is batting are locked into the batting order. No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the

batting rotation. The role of the designated hitter is terminated for the remainder of the game when:

- a. the defensive player, or any previous defensive player for whom the designated hitter batted, subsequently bats, pinch-hits or pinch-runs for the designated hitter; or
- b. the designated hitter or any previous designated hitter assumes a defensive position.

3.15 Courtesy runners can be used as part of high school baseball game speed up rules. Most states use this option, so umpires must know the rules regarding courtesy runners.

A courtesy runner is someone who is not batting in the game and can be used to run for the pitcher or catcher. This allows the pitcher and/or catcher to get back on defense more quickly when the half-inning ends. The courtesy runner remains a regular substitute who can come into the game as a fielder or batter.

Here are the rules regarding a courtesy runner:

- The same courtesy runner cannot run for the pitcher and the catcher. A courtesy runner runs for the position, not the player. Thus if a pitcher is moved to the catching position and then gets on base, he must have a different courtesy runner as catcher than he did as pitcher.
- Any player who has played in the game cannot be a courtesy runner.
- If a player participates as a courtesy runner in a given inning, he cannot go into the game as a batter in the same half inning.

- If a player bats for the pitcher or catcher, that player is not allowed a courtesy runner if he reaches base.
- A courtesy runner can be replaced on base by an other courtesy runner.

The plate umpire must record any courtesy runner's participation.

- 3.16** Non-equipment Ejection of Player. Any player who is ejected from a game for a non-equipment issue, will sit out the remainder of the game which is in progress as well as any remaining games for that day. In addition, the player will sit out the next date of K-18 competition (7 inning game).

3.17 TIEBREAKER FOR K-18 BASEBALL

1 - The first criteria will be overall record. We will take an overall percentage of your games (wins and losses) played to figure out which team has a higher percentage. The team with the higher percentage will receive the tiebreaker. This method should make teams feel the need of scheduling make-up dates when there is harvest season or rainouts that may cause cancellations. It is the home teams responsibility to make-up cancelled dates. If the home team does not make an attempt to find available make-up game dates then they forfeit their games to the visiting team. If the visiting team cannot find a justified reason why they will not make up a cancelled game, then they will forfeit the games to the home team. If an open date cannot be found for both teams, then the games can be officially cancelled and neither will have the games implemented into their overall K-18 record.

2 - The second criteria will be head-to-head. The team that defeats an opposing team head-to-head more times than the other team will receive the tiebreaker. If for instance the Kansas City Royals played the New York Yankees in two, two-game series in a season and the Royals won four out of four games against the Yankees but both of the teams had the same overall record at the end of the season, the tiebreaker would go to the Royals since they won all four head-to-head match-ups.

3 - The third criteria will be head-to-head defensive runs given up. The team that gives up the fewest head-to-head defensive runs will receive the tiebreaker. For instance if the Kansas City Royals beat the Chicago White Sox in game one by a 10 to 8 score, and beat them in game two by a 12 to 2 score, but then the White Sox beat the Royals by 11 to 9 score in game three and beat them again by a 10 to 5 score in game four the tiebreaker would go to the Royals. The Royals would have a total of 31 defensive runs given up compared to the White Sox 36 runs given up.

4 - The fourth criteria will be given to the team that gave up the least amount of defensive runs per game for a total K-18 league season. This is the total runs given up divided by the games played. (Average of runs scored)

5 - The fifth criteria will be offensive runs scored. The team that scores more runs offensively throughout a total K-18 league season per game will receive the tiebreaker. This is the total runs scored divided by the games played. (Average of runs scored)

6 - The last criteria will be a coin flip.

4.00 - SPECIAL REGULATIONS

- 4.01** Each team entry shall retain the gate receipts from its home games, and each league must set their own admission charge.
- 4.01a** For the Regional and State Tournaments the minimum admission charges shall be: Adults \$5.00; ages 6 thru 12 \$2.00, and age 5 & under Free admission.
- 4.02** Gambling, profanity, or alcoholic beverages will not be tolerated at any game in which a team entry of this Association is a contestant. In addition, smoking and chewing tobacco by players, coaches, managers, bat boys, etc. shall not be allowed in or on the playing area, including on the benches.
- 4.03** It shall be the policy of this Association to determine a Kansas Champion of the K-18 Baseball Association by a system of tournaments to be held immediately following the regular season.

Failure of any team entry to complete tournament play as scheduled shall constitute cause for suspension from the Association.

All League games **MUST** be completed at least 48 hours before the start of the Regional Tournament. All Regional Tournaments **MUST** end at least 48 hours before the State Tournament begins.

- 4.04** Any community wishing to host a Regional Tournament and who is selected by their respective Regional Commissioner shall supply the field, field maintenance concession stand, gate keepers, scorekeeper and P.A. system with announcer.

GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING REGIONAL TOURNAMENT PLAY

Method 1. Establish your Leagues Regional Tournament representative(s) based on final League standings at the end of the regular season.

Method 2. After regular season has ended conduct League Tournaments or Sub-Regional Tournaments to select teams for the Regional Tournament.

Either method can be used or a combination of the two, but **MUST** be established at the beginning of the season. All teams must vote on the method to be used with majority ruling. Rule 1.04

If any League Tournament games are played in more than one location, the Host team should be responsible for obtaining umpires. If the tournament is held in one location, then the Regional Commissioner's shall be responsible for obtaining umpires for the entire tournament unless some other method is determined by all of the teams involved in the League.

**In Memory of A.E. Rodgers who
served as a Commissioner for
K-18 Baseball Association
and was an advocate of
Youth participation in athletics.**

**The 1st Place Team
will receive the
A.E. Rodgers K-18 Championship
Traveling Trophy
and retain possession
for one year.**

**Support K-18
"THE BOYS WILL BE GRATEFUL"**