

# City of Stockton Adult Sports Kickball Rules



*For questions regarding general Adult Sports regulations, call us at (209) 937-5544*

## **PLAYERS, ROSTERS, EQUIPMENT, THE OFFICIALS, TIME, PLAYING FIELD**

### **PLAYERS AND TEAM ROSTERS**

1. The most important rule – Have fun, kickball is about having fun and being social.
2. No more than 20 players are allowed on a team roster. Players must have played in at least one regular season game to be eligible to play in playoffs.
3. 8 of the 20 roster spots must be filled prior to the end of the first week of the season.
4. A maximum of 9 players are allowed on the field at one time. A minimum of 6 players are required to start or finish a game.
5. Kicking Order can be as long as you want it to be, but once a player kicks that player can only be removed from the kicking order in case of injury. If a player leaves the batting order for any other reason, an out will be recorded in that vacant spot.
6. Teams may borrow other players from other teams, if and only if, the team does not have enough players to fill a full starting lineup. Teams may borrow enough players to complete a full starting lineup, but not to exceed the 2 maximum players allowed.
7. Players may be required to present government issued identification to prove eligibility.

### **SUBSTITUTIONS:**

Substitutions must be made during stoppage of play/timeout situations only. Unlimited substitution is allowed when the ball is not in play. The substituting team must notify the umpire of the substitution.

### **PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT**

#### **Illegal Equipment**

1. Metal spike cleats
2. Exposed jewelry

### **THE OFFICIALS**

1. The officials' authority and jurisdiction begins when they are in or directly around the playing area directly before, during and directly after a match.
2. The umpire shall have the authority to penalize rule breaking during play and during stoppages of play.
3. The umpire's decision shall be final (not appealable) so far as the result of the game is concerned.
4. The umpire has authority to rule promptly, in the spirit of good sportsmanship, on any situation not specifically covered in the rules. The umpire's decisions are final in all matters pertaining to the game.
5. Team representatives, including players, substitutes, replaced players, coaches, trainers, spectators, and other persons affiliated with the team are subject to the rules of the game and shall be governed by decisions of the officials assigned to the game.

### **THE LENGTH OF THE MATCH**

1. Games will consist of seven (7) innings or a 55-minute time limit. No new inning shall begin 55 minutes after the game begins, but the current inning will be finished, unless the score is tied.
2. An inning has officially started when the last kicker is put out of the previous inning.
3. A game can be considered final after 5 innings are played.
4. The length of the game may be shortened at the discretion of the officials with approval by the supervisor

### **THE FIELD OF PLAY**

The games shall be played on a full softball at the Louis Park Softball Complex.

#### **Bases and pitching plate**

- Bases will be set at 60 feet.
- The pitching rubber will be set at 43 feet from home plate.

#### **Fair and Foul**

- The foul lines shall extend indefinitely from the outer edge of home plate to the out edges of 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base and into the outfield. Any ball touching the foul line shall be considered fair and in play.

## THE BALL

Games will be played with balls provided by the Adult Sports Office. The umpire shall decide the legality of any ball. The teams are responsible for retrieving the ball and having it ready for each play.

# PLAYING RULES

## SCORING AND WINNING

A team cannot go up by more than 8 runs per inning. After the 8<sup>th</sup> run is scored, that half-inning will be over. The 7<sup>th</sup> inning is a free inning and infinite number of runs can be scored.

## TIES

At the end of seven innings or if time expires, the International Rule will apply; if a tie is not broken after two innings, game will stay tied. Playoffs must determine a winner so game will continue.

## PITCHING

1. Teams will pitch to themselves. Each batter will have four pitches to put the ball in play. If they do not put the ball in play on the fourth pitch, they will be called out. All other applicable rules above apply.
2. The pitcher must have at least one foot on or directly behind the pitching plate when the ball is released.
3. Pitchers may not interfere with a kicked ball. If the umpire determines that the pitcher either intentionally interfered with or did not attempt to get out of the way of a kicked ball, the batter will be called out and runners must return to their original base.

## KICKING

1. Intentional bunting is not allowed and will result in an out.
2. It is up to the discretion of the umpire whether a kick was an intentional bunt.
3. When the kicker contacts the ball, his plant foot must be touching or be behind the front plane of front of the batter's box. If a player kicks the ball in front of home plate, it will result in a team warning for the first incident. The next incident will result in the batter being called out.

## FIELDING

1. **Fielders may not intentionally throw the ball at a runner.** All outs must be recorded by either force plays or tags. **Any fielder that throws at a runner will be warned. Multiple occurrences can result in an ejection.**
2. Fielders that interfere with or obstruct a runner shall be called for obstruction, awarding the base to that runner.

## RUNNING

1. **No sliding. Any sliding will result in an out.**
2. Neither leading off a base, nor stealing a base is allowed. A runner may advance once the ball is kicked. A runner off the base when the ball is pitched is out. The pitch will be redone.
3. Runners may not advance past the base they are trying for once the ball is in the infield and the defensive players are attempting to return the ball to the pitcher.
4. Runners may tag-up on caught fly balls. That is runners must retouch or stay on a base until a kicked and then caught ball is first touched by a fielder. After a tag-up a runner may advance. A runner failing to tag-up as required is an out.
5. Runners traveling from home plate may overrun first base and may only be tagged out if actively attempting to advance to second base. Runners cannot overrun 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
6. If the ball is overthrown into foul territory by the fielding team, runners may only advance 1 base. Runners can be put out attempting to advance to this base.
7. Running past or touching another runner is not allowed. The passing runner is out.

## COED RULES

1. Team must bat in alternating female/male order. If 2 males kick in order, an out will be awarded where the female batter should have batted.
2. There is no rule on how many females or males are required to be in the infield or outfield.
3. There is no coed walk rule.
4. Commitment lines will be used at 3<sup>rd</sup> base and home plate. All incoming runners must run through the home plate commitment line to avoid collision at home plate, thus all plays at home are force outs. If you pass the 3<sup>rd</sup> base commitment line, you are obligated to come all the way home.
5. Players cannot touch home plate or the strike mat. Violation is an out.
6. Tagging the player running home is not permitted. If tagged, the runner will be ruled safe.

## PLAYOFFS

The top 4 teams will be eligible for playoffs. To make playoffs, teams will need to have an average sportsmanship rating of 3.3 or higher. Playoff tie breakers occur in this order: Win percentage, Head-to-head wins, Average sportsmanship rating, Points scored, points allowed.

Players are required to play in at least 2 regular season games to be eligible for playoffs.

Players are required to present government issued identification to prove roster and playoff eligibility.

## DEFAULTS & FORFEITS

Teams should notify the Adult Sports Office 24 hours before their game if they know they cannot play. They can simply email the Adult Sports program at [thomas.freeman@stocktonca.gov](mailto:thomas.freeman@stocktonca.gov) stating their situation. They will receive a loss, but it won't be recorded as a forfeit. If a team forfeits with notice (default), the team will not receive a sportsmanship rating for that game. The team that does not forfeit will receive a sportsmanship rating of 4.0.

Teams that fail to provide 24-hour notice if they know they cannot play will receive a forfeit and a sportsmanship rating of 2.0.

## CONDUCT OF PLAYERS

1. **Captains are responsible for the conduct of their players and fans.** Each team's players and spectators will be held accountable for acts including abusive language, threatening remarks before, during or after any intramural contest.
2. Any participant or spectator who physically strikes another individual will be automatically suspended from further Adult Sports participation and face disciplinary action.

## SPORTSMANSHIP RATING SYSTEM

1. All participants, coaches and fans that choose to participate in the Adult Sports program with the City of Stockton are expected to display good sportsmanship and comply with the spirit and rules for each sport. The City of Stockton Adult Sports program will not tolerate profanity or any other unsportsmanlike conduct. Officials and supervisors shall make decisions on whether to warn, penalize, or eject players and/or teams for poor sportsmanship. These decisions are final.
  - Each team's players and spectators will be held accountable for acts including abusive language, threatening remarks before, during or after any Adult Sports contest.
  - Each team will receive a sportsmanship rating for each game. Team sportsmanship ratings apply to behavior before, during and after a contest.
  - After every contest, the game official will record a sportsmanship score for each team. The scoring breakdown is as follows:

5	Team members participate with outstanding sportsmanship within the established rules of the contest. No trash talking, name calling, or foul language occurs. Game officials have zero issues with team.
4	Team or individual team members play with expected sportsmanship and may occasionally voice a concern with the officials. Sportsmanship and understanding of the rules is acceptable, but could be improved.
3	Team competes without incident but display some poor sportsmanship. Spectators may have influenced their team's sportsmanship with their comments/behavior.
2	Team consistently displays poor sportsmanship, even after being warned by City of Stockton staff. Spectators may have influenced their team's sportsmanship with their comments/behavior. A forfeit also warrants a 2.0 sportsmanship rating.
1	Team had player(s) ejected from the game and/or displayed consistent poor sportsmanship throughout the contest.

2. If a team receives a sportsmanship rating of 2.0 or lower during playoffs, they will be disqualified and will not advance to the next round. All sportsmanship ratings will be reviewed during playoffs and may be changed by the Adult Sports Office.

## ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE

Alcohol and other drug use is not permitted during any City of Stockton Adults Sports activity or event. No player can consume any alcoholic beverage once your team has taken the dugout. If any player or manager leaves the area to drink alcohol or consumes alcohol in the dugout, both teams will be warned one time. A second offense will result in player and manager suspension for a minimum of eight days. Any player that has been asked to leave the contest for any reason will officially be ejected from the contest.

Any incident may be referred to City of Stockton Police. No outside alcoholic cans or bottles is allowed inside the Louis Park Softball Complex.

### **SMOKING**

There is NO SMOKING of any kind. Smoking and vaping are prohibited inside any City of Stockton athletic complex.

### **EJECTIONS**

Any participant, coach or fan that is ejected from a City of Stockton Adult Sports program is immediately ineligible from play and/or spectating further competition in all City of Stockton Adult Sports events until the Adult Sports Coordinator reinstates that player. Any person ejected from a game must leave the playing area, talk to the supervisor on duty and not cause any further disruptions to the game or approach any game officials for any reason.

It is the responsibility of the individual ejected to actively pursue reinstatement. If no attempt is made, that individual will remain suspended from that season and subsequent seasons. Suspensions are indefinite unless otherwise notified by the Coordinator.