



2016 RULES AND REGULATIONS

The mission of League 42 is to introduce baseball to the youth of Wichita who may not have had a chance to experience the game.

The League 42 Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization. Donations may be sent to P.O. Box 20051, Wichita, KS, 67208. League play will start in May 2016 for ages 5-6 (tee ball), 7-8 (machine pitch), 9-11 and 12-14 (regular baseball with minor alterations) year old age groups. We ask that our players be those who otherwise would not get an introduction to baseball. We will provide equipment to those league players who require assistance. Leading up to league play, we will offer individual instruction and specialized clinics. We are also working with the City of Wichita to upgrade facilities at McAdams Park, which is where we call home.

The league is run by volunteers from the top down. The only paid positions are that of the Umpire in Chief and the Umpires that work the games.

The following pages are designed to allow our players, coaches parents and fans the best opportunity to become familiar with the game of baseball while making adjustments for each level to keep everyone safe and keep the playing field even for all. The Official Baseball Rules as published by the Commissioner of Baseball and available at http://mlb.mlb.com/mlb/official_info/official_rules/official_rules.jsp will govern play for the League except where the following rules will take precedent. General rules and rules established for the area used for practice and play are for the safety and enjoyment of our players, parents and fans. Only the ordinances of the City of Wichita and established policies of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Wichita shall supersede these rules.

GENERAL LEAGUE RULES

SECTION 1 - GENERAL CONDUCT

- A) All players, parents and coaches are required to read and agree to the Code of Conduct for League 42. Any direct violation of this Code of Conduct will result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from League activities.
- B) Any League Board Member, Umpire or Coach of their own team may cite a player for misconduct which occurs before, during or after a game or practice. The penalty for misconduct may be anything deemed reasonable up to and including suspending the offending person from involvement for no more than the next game that they would normally participate. The citation may be appealed to the League within 18 hours after the imposition of the suspension. The person may continue to participate while the appeal is being heard. The representative that brings the appeal to the Board may not vote on the appeal if a member of the Board. The Board must meet within 72 hours of the appeal. This process does not nullify the power of an umpire to remove a player from a game while in progress.
- C) Occurrence of the following may result in indefinite suspension or other disciplinary actions as deemed appropriate by a member of the Board of Directors or Umpire in Chief:
 - a. The use of any tobacco product, alcoholic beverage or profanity on the playing field by players, coaches or umpires.
 - b. Harsh disagreement with game officials by coaches, players or spectators.
 - c. Harsh oral or any physical abuse of another person by players, coaches, umpires or spectators.
 - d. Any other unsportsmanlike conduct that may adversely reflect on the League.
- D) Fake Tag: Any fake tag may be ruled as obstruction by the umpire if in his/her opinion it impedes the progress of the runner.
- E) No person playing on or representing the opposition shall call the pitcher by name or by position while they are in contact with the pitching rubber.
- F) The "Hey batter batter" chant or other verbal attempt to distract the hitter will not be allowed.
- G) Penalties for misconduct as defined above (other than those items which have a specified penalty) by players, coaches or fans may include expulsion from the game and or the premises.
- H) Forfeiture of the game shall only be levied after a clear warning that the offending action must cease or forfeiture of the game shall follow, delivered by the Director on Duty or the Umpire in Chief. Forfeiture due to the extreme nature of the penalty shall be used only when all other reasonable efforts and penalties have been exhausted.
- I) The league will not tolerate violence of any kind. Any act of violence or threat of violence will be cause for an individual to be barred from further League participation. This rule applies to all players, coaches and spectators.

SECTION 2 – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- A) A player is classified by his or her current age PRIOR to May 1 on a yearly basis. 2016 Season age determination dates are as follows:
 - a. If born before May 1, 2011 – 5 years old
 - b. If born before May 1, 2010 – 6 years old
 - c. If born before May 1, 2009 – 7 years old
 - d. If born before May 1, 2008 – 8 years old

- e. If born before May 1, 2007 – 9 years old
 - f. If born before May 1, 2006 – 10 years old
 - g. If born before May 1, 2005 – 11 years old
 - h. If born before May 1, 2004 – 12 years old
 - i. If born before May 1, 2003 – 13 years old
 - j. If born before May 1, 2002 – 14 years old
 - k. If born after May 1, 2002 – Ineligible for league play in 2016
- B) A player will be permitted to play in the league, subject to league capacity constraints, but once he or she has submitted their name to be placed on a roster, and that roster has been created by the League, he or she MUST remain on that team for the entire season unless special permission is granted by the Board of Directors.
 - C) Players may request to play with a specified coach or other player(s). Every effort will be made to accommodate these requests, but no guarantee is made.
 - D) Teams will be assigned a minimum of 12 players to start the season. Players may be added by the Board of Directors through the season as needed to meet this minimum.
 - E) Teams in the 5/6 (Lancer) and 7/8 (Bruin) Divisions will be capped at 12 players. Teams in the 9-11 (Monarch) and 12 - 14 (Dodger) Divisions will be capped at 14.
 - F) No new player may be added to the roster after June 15th without the approval of the Board of Directors. A player may play on one (1) team and in one (1) division in the league.
 - G) Once League play has begun, no refund of player fees will be granted.
 - H) To facilitate scheduling rain-out or make-up games, any team participating in any tournament must give two week notice prior to participation. This will help eliminate rescheduling conflicts.
 - I) Use of ineligible/suspended players, coaches or spectators will result in forfeiture of the games directly involved. The League may impose additional penalties as deemed necessary.

SECTION 3 – PREGAME ACTIVITIES

- A) The first team listed on the schedule will be considered the Visitors for the game and occupy the dugout on the first base side. The second team listed on the schedule will be considered the Home team for the game and occupy the dugout on the third base side. If a team is playing back to back games on the same day, they will not be asked/required to move dugouts.
- B) Each team is allowed time for In and Out prior to the game. It is recommended that the Home team takes their time 25 minutes before the scheduled game time for no more than five (5) minutes. The Visiting team should then take the field by 15 minutes prior to game time for no more than five (5) minutes. This is the preferred order, however if one team has enough players to take their time early they should make sure that there is no delay in starting the game.
- C) Teams that play any game after the first game of the night should use the area behind the left field fence for the East field and the left field fence behind the West field for additional warm up. Teams will not be allowed to warm up/play catch in the space between the fields.
- D) Umpires will be at the field no later than ten (10) minutes prior to game time. They will conduct a quick pregame meeting with the coaches to make sure everyone understands the field ground rules.
- E) Lineup cards will be required from each team at the pregame meeting. Cards should include the first initial and last name of the player and their uniform number. There should be at least three (3) copies of the card presented to the Plate Umpire. Copies will then be distributed to the opposing team, Official Scorekeeper and a copy returned to the team. No game will start without the lineup cards being presented to the Plate Umpire.
- F) For teams participating in the second game of the day, they should follow the same schedule as in A) above starting as soon as possible after the prior game has ended.
- G) The starting time will be announced by the Umpire after the first pitch has been thrown.

SECTION 4 – STARTING THE GAME

- A) Games will start at their scheduled start time unless there are extenuating circumstances. Such delays will be determined by the Director on Duty or Umpire in Chief.
- B) Teams not having a full roster will not prevent the game from starting.
- C) Teams have two options for game line ups. The option must be declared before the start of the game.
 - a. Make a batting lineup that has every player bat, or
 - b. Make a batting lineup of nine (9) and substitute players at will.
- D) Teams will be able to make free defensive substitutions during the game, except in the case of pitchers where Official Baseball Rules will take precedence.
- E) If a team does not have nine (9) players to start, the team shall give a line up with all players that are present and fill in with players as they show up. Teams will not be penalized with outs for those spots that are not filled.

SECTION 5 – WEATHER DELAYS AND GAME POSTPONEMENTS

- A. In the event that the fields are unplayable, notification will be made to the coaches as soon as possible. The League website, Facebook page and Twitter account will be updated as soon as possible to help with player and parent notification. Do not assume that since it is raining where you are, it is raining at the fields and games will not be played. No update means that games are still being played as scheduled. No news means that games are scheduled to be played.
- B. The decision to place games under suspension due to rain or lightning shall be that of the Umpire in Chief or the Board Member(s) on site and not directly involved in a scheduled game that day. A minimum delay of 20 minutes will be put in place if a game has started before any postponement is announced. This delay will not affect the time limit for the game. If games have not reached a point where they can be declared as official as defined by the respective age rules, the game shall be suspended and picked up where the game left off when it is rescheduled.
- C. Every attempt will be made to reschedule any games as soon as possible. As a general rule the game will be rescheduled on the second Saturday following the rain out.
- D. Play will resume for such game at the exact point where play was suspended in the original game. In a suspended or continued game because of a rain-out, a player not there at the regular league game, but comes to the rain-out game is eligible to play, according to regular lineup rules. If a player was present at the league game and not present at the rainout game — his place in the batting roster will not be called an out when his place comes up in the batting order.

SECTION 6 – REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- A) All players will be provided a uniform that includes a shirt and hat. These must be worn when taking a defensive position on the field and play begins. Shirts must be tucked in at all times.
- B) Catchers – Full catchers gear is required, including a full catchers helmet (skull caps are not allowed at any age), chest protector and shin/leg guards. A protective cup is recommended for all ages. Catchers are not required to wear the team hat while in the catcher's position.
- C) Anyone under the age of 18 that warms up a catcher is required to wear protective head gear.
- D) The batter, baserunner(s), on deck hitter and any player used as a base coach will be required to wear a double ear flap batting helmet while on the field.
- E) Any player that deliberately removes their batting helmet while the ball is in action shall be declared out. This shall be considered a timing play if there are two (2) outs.
- F) No metal spikes are allowed in the league. Any player discovered to have these on will not be allowed to participate until they have changed shoes.

- G) Bats should be inspected on a regular basis by the coaches to make sure there are no cracks, breaks or flat spots on them. If any are found they should be removed from the area and given to a member of the Board as soon as possible. Umpires also have the authority to remove a bat from play due to safety issues.

SECTION 7 – ACTIVITIES DURING THE GAME

- A) Each team may have only one (1) offensive conference in any given inning. Umpires will caution the coach if a second one is called for and if the coach persists the umpire may call for the pitcher to pitch and call each pitch a strike until the batter steps back into the box. All runners are at peril to be put out during this time. If the coach continues to abuse this rule they will be subject to ejection.
- B) No equipment shall be left on the field during play. The only exception is equipment in the on deck circle used by the on deck batter.
- C) Any player or coach who is bleeding or has an open wound shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered. If medical care or treatment can be administered in a reasonable amount of time, the individual would not have to leave the game and time can be added back to the game clock at the umpire's discretion. The length of time that is considered reasonable is up to the umpire. If there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before that individual participates in the game again.
- D) Players are not to wear jewelry on the field of play. Umpires and coaches should make sure the player removes this as soon as it is discovered. If the jewelry is a form of medical alert, it should be taped down or secured in some manner to reduce the risk of injury.
- E) Lineup changes that affect the batting order shall be reported to the Plate Umpire prior to the change being made. The Plate Umpire will then notify the Official Scorekeeper and the opposing team of the change.
- F) Players changing defensive positions (SS to 2B as an example) do not need to be reported to the Plate Umpire.
- G) All Pitching changes must be reported to the Plate Umpire at the time of the change and before a pitch is thrown. The Plate Umpire will then report the change to the Official Scorekeeper and the opposing team. Failure to report the change will result in the pitcher being removed from the mound and being ineligible to pitch in the current game.
- H) No formal protests will be allowed. Any questions regarding rules applications will be settled by the umpire(s) on the field with the assistance of the Director on Duty and the Umpire in Chief. Any time taken to settle the question will be added back onto the game limit.