

2026 Western Kansas 4th-6th Grade Baseball League Rules

1. Participants in Northwest Kansas Rec League programs shall register in the town which coincides with the school district where they attend school or in the town in which they are residing during the summer (for Baseball and Softball). If that town does not offer that particular program, or does not have enough players to form a team, the player must request, from their Home team, to play for the nearest town who does have a team first (as the crow flies), then the next closest town, etc. Waivers allowing players to transfer to play in another town will not be granted if the player's local town offers a team for them to play on.
2. Players must be in 4th-6th grade to play baseball. A player's grade is determined by current school year (2025-2026).
3. The Coach is responsible for the sportsmanship of the team.
4. League game times will be 6:30 pm unless agreed by the league or team managers. Pitching distance is to be *50 feet off a mound*. Bases are to be 70 ft. apart. From the center of second base to home base is to be *99 ft.* Standard size home plate and pitching rubber will be used.
5. Coaches must submit their game line-up to the official scorekeeper at least 10 minutes before the start of each game on a paper line-up card, which shall include the jersey number of each player
6. Game night will consist of 2 games with only the first game counting toward the team record. Game format is as follows:
 - Game clock starts with first pitch of the game. A new inning begins as soon as the final out of the inning is made.
 - Scoring Rules: Teams are limited to 5 runs per inning
 - Game 1: Teams are allowed 10 runs in the final inning, whether it's the 5th inning or not. When game time reaches 50 minutes, the current inning will be finished and only one additional inning will be played. If the home team is down by 11 runs at any time during the final inning the game is over. Games will be a maximum of 5 innings.
 - Game 2: Teams are limited to 5 runs per inning for ALL innings. When game time reaches 50 minutes, the current inning will be finished and the game is over. Games will be a maximum of 4 innings. The home team will always get to bat in the final inning, regardless of the score.
 - At least 3 innings must be played to be considered an official game.
 - First game only: Will allow one extra inning to break tie. The extra inning will begin with a runner on second base and 1 out. The runner at second base will be the player in the batting order immediately preceding the leadoff batter of the inning (or a substitute for that player). Each batter starts with a 1-1 count and there is a 10-run limit. Tie stands if not broken in one inning.
 - In case of rain or any act of God, scores will revert to the last full inning after 3 innings have been played. A decision must be made within 30 minutes by the head umpire, in case of an act of God, whether the game is to continue or not.
7. Equipment: No steel spikes or metal tipped cleats will be allowed in any league or tournament game. Batter's helmets must be used by all batters and base runners. Helmets must be a kind that protects the ears, temples, and top of the head. Caps or helmets must be worn at all times while playing a game. Shirt tails must be kept tucked in while playing a game. Each player must wear a uniform identical in color and style. Uniform numbers are required and must be a contrasting color to the uniform color. The number must be visible at all times. All balls must be approved by Little League. The catcher shall wear a mask with an attached throat protector and protective helmet during warm-ups and game play.

8. **Re-entry rule:** Any of the starting or substitute players may be withdrawn and re-entered once during a game, providing that they occupy the same position in the batting order. The original player and the substitute(s) cannot be in the lineup at the same time. **EXCEPTION: Injury re-entry rule** - In case of an injury, if no substitute is left on the bench, a replaced player may again enter the game for the injured player.

9. **Batting:** Any of the following 3 options are acceptable. Coaches must declare at the pre-game meeting and may choose a different option for each game. Teams do not have to select the same option as the other team (teams can do what is best for their club).

i. Bat a 9-person roster

ii. Use an Extra Hitter (EH), which allows a 10th batter

iii. Bat entire roster

*If a player leaves the game due to injury/illness, an out will NOT be charged to the team when their position comes up to bat, as long as there are at least 9 batters remaining (options ii. and iii. only).

10. If less than 9 players are used after the contest has started, the open spot in the batting order will be an automatic out. The maximum number of players that play in the field is 9. A team may use an Extra Hitter (EH) to allow 10 players to bat. If the team uses the EH, they can enter the game as a position player at any time but the batting order does not change. If a team starts the game with an EH, they must end the game with an EH. In case of an injury with no substitute, the team may drop the EH without taking an out.

11. A pitcher may pitch only 5 innings per day. One out constitutes 1/3 of an inning.

12. The second charged conference in an inning shall result in the removal of the pitcher from the pitching position only, not necessarily removal from the game. If a pitcher is replaced on defense, the substitute must pitch to the batter currently at bat, or any substitute for that batter, until such is out, reaches base or the third out is recorded. If said pitcher (the substitute) is incapacitated this rule is ignored.

13. The head coach may verbally request an intentional walk to the batter upon notifying the home plate umpire.

14. **Crash Rule:** If in the judgment of the umpire the crash is intentional, the runner is declared out. If not, play will continue. Rules concerning obstruction are covered in the official rule books.

15. Use of any form of tobacco by a player, coach, manager or umpire while on the playing field is prohibited. Any violation of the rule causes the individual to be removed from the game. For the purpose of this rule, dugouts, player bench and bull pens will be considered part of the playing field.

16. The 2026 NFHS/KSHSAA Official baseball rule book will apply if there is no league rule covering the play or situation.

17. A timer showing the elapsed time of the game must be displayed for each game so that it is visible to both teams and umpires at all times.