

**K-18 SOFTBALL  
RULES SUPPLEMENT**



**2026**



**State Commissioner**  
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(Term Expires 2027)

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**Regional Commissioner**  
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First organizational meeting for the Girls' K-18 Association was held in Lucas, Kansas, at the K-18 Cafe, February 16, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

2020 (COVID-19) Charter Member teams: Norton, Ellis, Rooks County, Quinter, Ness City, Phillipsburg, Trego County, and Osborne

**National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) is the official code used by the organization. Below are adaptations to the federation code specific to K-18. Adopted 02/16/2020; last update 04/28/2021.**

**RULE 1: Field and Equipment**

1. NFHS approved 12", 47-core yellow softball will be used (*Appr. 02/16/2020*)
2. It is mandatory for all infielders and pitchers to wear a NFHS approved facemask in all K-18 games (*Appr. 02/16/2020*)
3. Recommended field distance is 185'-235' (*Appr. 04/09/2020*)
4. NO alcohol or tobacco products are allowed in the dugout or fan area. (*Appr. 02/20/2022*) Violation of this rule will result in a forfeiture of the game. (*2024*)

**RULE 2: Definitions**

1. K-18 Supplement Rule:
  - a. Codes are established during K-18 association meetings. A rule is established by the member communities in attendance at the meeting. Only one vote per community will be counted. A simple majority can establish a rule code
2. Game Length Regular Season (*Appr. 04/28/2021*)
  - a. Regular season 5-inning games
    - i. Seven runs scored max per inning (*Appr. 02/*

20/2022)

**ii.** If the game is finished before the 75-minute time, (due to run rule) the game continues, but the score at the run rule end of the game is recorded as the official score and play continues until the time limit is reached (drop-dead 75 minutes if official game is completed) (*Appr. 02/20/2022*)

**iii.** Run rules apply:

1. 15 after 3
2. 8 after 4

**3.** Post-Season (*Appr. 04/28/2021*):

**a.** Post-season 5-inning games

**i.** No time limits

**ii.** 7 runs scored max per inning (*Appr. 02/20/2022*):

**iii.** Run rules apply:

1. 15 after 3
2. 8 after 4

**b.** Higher Seed will be the home team in Game #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, and #6.

**c.** Consolation game and Championship games the higher seed will call the flip of a coin for the home team designation. If they are the same seed their winning percentage will determine who gets to make the call.

**d.** The home dugout is on the 3rd base side of the field.

**e.** Teams do not have to play every player on their roster during post season games, but always keep in mind, (Kids First). (*Appr. 02/20/2022*)

**f. Criteria for tie breakers in tournament seeding:**  
(*Appr. 02/20/2022*):

**i. Season record percentage**

**ii. Head to head**

**iii. Coin flip**

**RULE 3: Players, Substitutions, and Coaches**

- 1. Age Limit of Players (*Appr. 02/14/2021*):**
  - a. Grades: 8th throughout-going seniors.**
  - b. Age they were as of January 1 current school year.**
  
- 2. Roster Limit (*Appr. 02/14/2021*):**
  - a. 22 players max on roster**
  - b. If a community has 23 or more players, a second team must be entered**
  
- 3. Neighboring Town Rule (*Appr. 02/16/2020*):**
  - a. Teams will be formed through their local rec department following school district boundaries. Teams with no rec commission must be approved by K-18 regional commissioner (*Appr. 02/16/2020*)**
  - b. Teams must have an open registration that allows all players in the school district a spot on a roster.**
  - c. A K-18 team using a full roster is only allowed to play in two non-K-18-sanctioned tournaments in a season. Restrictions start with first playing date of the K-18 League through finish of the K-18 post-season.**
  - d. All players should have an address inside the school district 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.

**i.** Clarification - player lives in a different town than rec, but goes to school in the rec community. Player needs to play for team she attends school.

**e.** Transferring to another team requires a signed waiver from the manager of the team from which the player 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.

**f.** The transfers must be approved by the regional commissioner before the player is allowed to play on another team.

**g.** Communities have a deadline of April 30 to form teams. No player transfers allowed until April 30 and no transfers after June 15.

**h.** Any player desiring to transfer from one team entry to another after June 15 must obtain a written and signed release by the manager of the team from which she is transferring, and such release shall be certified by association commissioners before the player shall be eligible to play in any subsequent games. The State Commissioner shall notify the League Recorder of such change.

**4.** All players on the roster and present must participate in at least one of the two games in both offense and defense each night. (*Appr. 02/16/2020*)

**5.** A player must participate in 50% of league night's to be eligible to play on post-season roster (*Appr. 02/16/2020*)

**a.** Exception; if injured and not playing in games during the time of injury. If a player is injured she will be given credit of being on the team if she is attending practices and attending games.

- 6.** Teams playing on competitive/traveling ball teams (i.e. USA, IFPGS, USSSA, etc.) requirements (*Appr. 04/28/2021*)
- a.** Five rostered players per K-18 team can roster with competitive/travel teams per season with no restrictions outside of the two tournaments a K-18 team can play in. These players must be designated on the K-18 roster when it is submitted.

**RULE 4: Starting and Ending Game**

- 1.** Games per week and participation in games (*Appr. 02/14/2021*)
- a.** Two nights/week of double-headers
  - b.** Two 75-minute games (5 innings each) (*Appr. 02/20/2022*)
    - i.** Clock starts with first game pitch
    - ii.** With 74.59 on the clock as the last out is made to end an inning, teams will start a new inning (*Appr. 02/20/2022*)
  - c.** Run rules apply (see Rule 2.2 and 2.3)
  - d.** First game counts toward season record; second game is considered exhibition
- 2.** Pre-game Plate Conference:
- a.** The pre-game plate conference shall take place no later than 5 minutes prior to the game and before the home team takes the field.
  - b.** Both teams shall deliver their respective line-up cards in duplicate to the plate umpire
  - c.** Suggested warm-up procedure before the start of game:
    - i.** 6:05 pm Home team take infield
    - ii.** 6:15 pm Visiting team take infield
    - iii.** 6:25 pm Clear field for pre-game plate conference
    - iv.** Est. time After conference home team take the field

v. 6:30 pm First pitch

3. Game Start Time (*Appr. 02/14/2021*):
  - a. Start time is 6:30 pm for the first game
  - b. Start time will be approximately 8:00 for second game.
  - c. 15-minute break between games (*Appr. 04/28/2021*)
  
4. In the event a team chooses not to play the second game of their own free will, the first game will also be a forfeit. (*Appr. 04/09/2020*)

**RULE 5: Dead Ball and Suspension of Play**

1. See National Federation Rule book

**RULE 6: Pitching**

1. See National Federation Rule book

**RULE 7: Batting**

1. Number of players able to bat (*Appr. 02/14/2021*):
  - a. Any of the following three options are acceptable
  - b. Coaches must declare at or before the pre-game meeting
  - c. Coaches may choose a different option for each game
  - d. Teams DO NOT have to agree; each team manager can do what is best for their club.
  
2. Options:
  - a. Adopted from Boys' K-18 Association EH 3.06
    - i. 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 re-enter a game one time but must re-enter in their original starting batting order. Non-starters cannot re-enter a game after being taken out of the game. The Extra Hitter Rule allows more players an opportunity to get playing time.

- b. Only bat a 9-person roster
- c. Bat entire roster available that night

### **RULE 8: Batter-Runner and Runner**

1. See National Federation Rule book

### **RULE 9: Scoring and Record Keeping**

1. See National Federation Rule book.
2. Score keeping with Game Changer is mandatory with the home team's game changer as the official

book. A hard copy book maybe used if game changer is down for unforeseen reasons by the home team as the official book. Results must be reported to the Regional Commissioner by noon the following day.

### **RULE 10: Game Officials**

1. Official Crew Size (*Appr. 02/14/2021*):
  - a. Two-person crews required
  - b. Preference for KSHSAA registered officials
    - i. Do the best you can to hire quality officials
2. No set payment amount, but better treatment gets better officials.
  - a. \$45-60 per game per night per official (current average of participating teams)
  - b. Consider paying mileage
  - c. Offer at least beverage and, if possible, snack or meal between and/or after games.

### **RULE 11: Association Guidelines**

1. Practice can start at a community's discretion (*Appr. 02/14/2021*)
  - a. KSHSAA restrictions for teams playing high school ball
  - b. Girls can start when their high school team is finished with their high school season.
2. Team Commitment
  - a. Commitment date is April 30 (*Appr. 02/20/2022*)
  - b. Team \$200.00 fee due on May 1 (*Appr. 02/26/2024*)
  - c. Checks written to the K-18 Association
  - d. Rosters due to Regional Commissioner on June 15 (*Appr. 02/20/2022*)

- 3.** Games starting date is June 1 (*Appr. 02/14/2021*)
- 4.** Regionals TBD at the beginning of the season
  - a.** To be held the week before Girls' K-18 State Tournament (*Appr. 02/14/2021*)
- 5.** State Championship TBD at the beginning of season
  - a.** Currently the week before the boys' state tournament (*Appr. 02/14/2021*)
- 6.** State Championship Traveling Trophy (*Appr. 02/14/2021*)
  - a.** Trophy will be presented to the winning team of the post season state championship tournament.
  - b.** Trophy will stay in that community for one year and then be presented the following year to the next winner at the tournament.
  - c.** Historical reference: Traveling trophy built and sponsored by Ezekiel Haag.
- 7.** When a Play in game is required for the state tournament it must be completed the Tuesday before the K-18 State Championship. (*Appr. 02/20/2022*)
- 8.** Metal Cleats are allowed unless prohibited by the local ballpark, most likely a turf issue. (*Appr. 02/20/2022*)