



2021 Kane County Bronco League Playing Rules

General Rules

- *KCBL has the right to adjust Rules during the course of the season in the best interest of the league.*

Annual Team Registration requirements:

- A \$225 league season registration fee is required of each team for Regular Season
- 8U – 14U teams shall have a year-end tournament participation fee, Tournament formation, fee, location can be changed. Currently set for 9u through 13u - \$225, 14u - \$275
- EVERY team **shall** provide at least 8 home field nights Monday through Thursday
- EVERY team **shall** provide a certificate of insurance naming the Kane County Bronco League as an additional insured
- EVERY team **can** purchase their own copy of the 2021 Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Baseball Rules Book.
- Each Age Level shall have a Gold and Silver division or Gold Only. These divisions may be divided geographically into North, South, East, West, Central based on team's proximity to each other. Schedules may be based on the proximity of teams.

Rosters:

- The KCBL uses a May 1st cutoff birth date. This means that whatever age a player is on April 30th of the current year will be their age for the current season. For example, if a player is 12 years old as of April 30th of the current year, he is eligible for 12U or an older age group, but not 11U or younger.
- There is a **15**-player roster limit
- All Teams will have a 14-18 game season.
- All rosters **must** be submitted by April 1st (rosters are frozen at that time). No roster changes are permitted after April 1st without the **division representative's** approval
- Players cannot be rostered on 2 teams within the same age division of the KCBL.
- **“Guest” Players:** Emergency non-rostered “guest” players will only be allowed if agreed upon by the opposing manager and that team has less than 9 players from its official roster present at the game start time. **“Guest” players are not allowed to pitch, and must bat at the end of the batting order.** Guest players can be from a same age division, but not the same Gold or Silver level. Example - 14u Gold can bring a player from 14u Silver or the ages below. 13u Gold can bring a player from 13u Silver and the ages below. The Division Reps and the League they represent can agree upon special Circumstances. Regardless of Age Eligibility, a player may not play down an age/level division from which they occupy a roster spot. Example. Bobby has a May 5 Birthday and plays on the 11u Team. He is age eligible to play on the 10u team, but since Bobby holds a roster spot on the 11u team, he cannot play down with the 10u boys for KCBL league games.
- Starting on June 1, 2021 and going forward GUEST PLAYERS:
 - MUST be from your own organization. It is encouraged that you develop players from your own organization
 - CAN be rostered on In-House teams, providing there is an in-house league
 - CANNOT be rostered on ANY other baseball team outside of your organization who play in KCBL, even if they are age eligible
 - CANNOT be rostered on so called “ELITE”, “SELECT”, “PREMIER” Teams
 - MUST be approved by Division Rep
- **ANY unauthorized guest players will result in a Forfeit for KCBL Games.**

Guest Rules examples:

- Oswego Panthers 13u Gold Division team can use players from Oswego Panthers 13u Gray Silver Division Team or 12u Teams
- Oswego Panthers 13u Navy can use players form Oswego In-House Teams
- Oswego Panthers 13u Navy CANNOT borrow players from 13u Oswego Cobras

- Oswego Panthers 13u Navy CANNOT borrow players NI REDS 13u Team

Home Team Responsibilities – Regular Season:

- Notify opposing manager of game time and field directions. This information must also be provided to the Division Rep for inclusion on the KCBL Website.
- Notify opposing manager of any field changes or cancellations 2 hours before game time.
- Provide two new game balls for each home game. Type A1030 or equivalent.
- Scorebook: The Home team keeps the official scorebook in cases of ties or suspended games. It is mandatory that the home teams keep score using a paper scorebook. Tablet scorecards are not considered official in cases of any disputes, ties or suspended games.
- Must have a fully equipped first aid kit available with ice packs

Umpires:

- Where not specified under KCBL Rules, IHSA Rules will apply. Any rules in this document will supersede IHSA Rules.
- Regular Season: During the regular season the home team shall schedule and compensate a minimum of one IHSA patched umpire. Two good quality umpires 17 years of age or older will be acceptable at the 8u/9u level only.
- A “Head Umpire In-Charge” will be designated if two are present. They will have the final say in resolving **all** disputes at the field the night of the game.
- ***THE KCBL WILL NOT JUDGE ANY PROTESTS OR RESOLVE ANY GAME DISPUTES.***
- Umpires decisions on calling games due to darkness or weather (i.e., lightning is an automatic delay) are final and cannot be argued. The safety of our players is first and foremost. Games stopped due to lightning cannot be restarted in less than 30 minutes unless both coaches and umpire(s) agree. NFHS Rule 4-2-2, 4-2-3 Apply for Ending a Regulation Game.
- All local field rules regarding safety **MUST** be adhered to. All home field policies set by home team organization must be adhered to.
- If a Coach is ejected from the game, the opposing coach must report it to the KCBL Division Representative. Manager or Coach ejections will also result in a one game suspension of the first game for the KCBL Playoffs and will not be allowed on the bench or coach from the stands. Teams will lose 1 point each time a Coach is ejected from a

game. Multiple Ejections could result in coach not being allowed back for following season with any team.

- Player ejections will also result in a one game suspension of the first Playoff game for the KCBL Playoffs.

League Standings:

- Winning team needs to enter the score in SportsEngine. Although it is traditionally the responsibility of the winning team, either team may enter the final score within 24 hours of the completion of the game. If you are having trouble scoring a game please email the division rep the score and seek assistance how to score the game via computer or smartphone.
- Standings will be based on winning percentage. In the event of all teams in a division, the KCBL and Division Rep can alter the seeding to promote competition.
- Teams are encouraged the play of all games. Forfeits are scored as 7-0. Division Rep can make final decision.
- All teams are responsible for rescheduling rained out and cancelled games within 2 weeks of the cancellation. The KCBL encourages you NOT to wait until the last week of the season. Both teams should work together to get the game rescheduled and played within a reasonable timeframe.
- If Team A is not communicating or reluctant to play, points may be awarded to Team B as a forfeit. To avoid this problem, contact the division representative for further assistance.
- Teams must play a minimum number of games to be eligible for playoffs:
18 or more Games Scheduled - 14 games played
14-16 Games Scheduled - 12 games played
13 and below - must play all games
- League standings will be posted on the KCBL website.
- Standings tiebreakers shall be determined in the following order: ***Under Review for 2021.***
 1. total wins
 2. head to head competition
 3. record within division
 4. Division Rep Review

Game and Playing Rules:

1. "OFFICIAL GAME STATUS" ALL AGES

- a. Game Length 8U-11U: Games will be six (6) innings in length. A game is considered an official game once four (4) innings have been completed. If the home team is leading after 3 1/2 innings the game is considered official. Extra innings are allowed.
- b. Game Length 12U-14U: Games will be seven (7) innings in length. A game is considered an official game once five (5) innings have been completed. If the home team is leading after 4 1/2 innings the game is considered official. Extra innings are allowed.
- c. If game is tied after regulation length for age group, then the teams shall play 1 extra full inning to possibly determine a winner, weather and darkness permitting. If a Game is still tied after 8 complete innings, teams can play an inning with "California Rules" if Darkness is not an issue. California Rules: Last batted out on 2nd base; all batters start their at bat with 1 ball and 1 strike, and batting teams starts with 1 out.
- d. A game that ends in a tie and despite reasonable attempts to reschedule cannot be completed, will be declared a tie.
- e. If teams start a game, and they have played less than 1 complete inning and any condition arises to cancel the game, then the game will be rescheduled and replayed in its entirety as a NEW game. START OVER at 0-0.
- f. If teams start a game and they have pitched 1 (one) pitch during the top of the 2nd inning and any condition arises to cancel the game before it is deemed an Official Game, THEN the game is ruled a SUSPENDED GAME. The teams will finish playing the game at a later date until it becomes an OFFICIAL game using the same players and batting order that was in place at the time the game was suspended. Suspended games shall be picked up at the point where the game was called – same players on base, count, etc. Each team will use the exact same line-up as the original game. A pitcher who had pitched previously and was taken out of the line-up as a pitcher cannot pitch again. If players who were in the suspended game are not available for the continued game, their spot in the batting line-up will be "moved up" (your 3rd hitter in the line-up is not available – your 4th batter is now up after the 2nd batter – no penalty). If players were not available for the suspended game and show up for the continued game, they will be allowed to bat at the end of the batting order and be allowed to pitch in the continued game.
- g. If the 2 teams have another game scheduled later in the season, they MUST complete the SUSPENDED 1st game prior to starting the 2nd game. Even though the teams may play a double header and that 2nd game may not be completed that day, the suspended game must be played first.
- h. Games that are rained out or not completed due to inclement weather, darkness or for any reason whatsoever shall be re-scheduled and played before the end of the regular

season. Failure to reschedule and complete league games may result in forfeiture of the game and elimination from the league playoffs.

2. A continuous batting order will be used, and all players present at the game are required to bat in order. Line-ups shall be exchanged between the teams prior to the game starting.

3. Free substitution is allowed with re-entry to all field positions, except that pitchers are not allowed to reenter a second time in the pitching position.

4. If players arrive late or leave early, they will still be allowed to play provided the scorekeeper of the opposing team is notified at the time of appearance/disappearance. Players arriving late are inserted as the last batter in the order. Players leaving early will not count as an out in the order, unless the total number of players on a team drops to 8, at which time an out will be called in the position vacated. If a team neglects to notify the opposing scorekeeper of the changes prior to the start of the game or an inning, an out will be called.

5. In cases where batting out of order occurs, an out will be called and the next batter up will resume the batting order. Missed batters will be missed until their next legal at bat according to the lineup.

6. The suggested game time start in April is 5:30pm unless lights are available. Beginning May 1st game times shall be set to 6pm. It is suggested that 8pm or later starts should be avoided during the school year.

7. Games may start when both teams have a minimum of 8 players present. If only 8 players are present for a team, that team must take an out for the ninth position in their batting order. If no more than 7 players are present after 15 minutes past the designated start time, the team with 7 players or less will have to forfeit, and it will be considered an official game with a 1-0 score.

8. The required field dimensions shall be as follows:

- 8U 40' mound and 60' bases
- 9U: 44' mound and 65' bases
- 10U: 46' mound and 65' bases
- 11U: 50' mound and 70' bases
- 12U: 50' mound and 70' bases
- 13U: 54' mound and 80' bases
- 14U: 60' mound and 90' bases

9. Bat Restrictions:

- 8U – 13U: USSSA 1.15 BPF stamp or USA Stamped bat
- 14U: Bat use is restricted to -5 bat w/ USSSA 1.15 BPF stamp, -3 BBCOR or wood bat

10. Rubber/Molded Cleats at 8U – 12U. Metal spikes ARE allowed at 13U and 14U, but are not allowed at turf fields or fields using a turf covered mound.

11. Mercy Rule: 12 runs after 4 innings, or 3 1/2 if home team is ahead, and 10 after 5, or 4 ½ if the home team is ahead. 8u inning rule is 6 runs each inning, Unlimited runs in 6th inning.

12. Dropped third strike and infield fly rules apply at 10U – 14U.

13. Fake Tag: A fake tag is considered obstruction, Section 22-2. A fielder cannot fake a tag and block the base without the ball, he will be warned once and normal obstruction base awards will apply. If the fielder fakes a tag a second time resulting in obstruction, he will be ejected from the game.

14. Fake Bunting/Slashing (pulling back and swinging away) is not allowed. The 1st offense shall result in a verbal warning to both teams and managers. A second offense for either team will result in that team's manager being ejected. Bunting is allowed at all age levels.

15. Base Running: Lead-offs are allowed at ages 10U- 14U. A base runner may steal any base, including home prior to or any time after a ball is pitched. Delayed steals and the stealing of home are also allowed. Courtesy runners: See Rule # 18 below. At the 8u & 9u levels, stealing occurs after the ball crosses home plate and there will be no lead-offs.

16. Base Running at 8u & 9U – Additional Rules

1. No Lead Offs
2. Can get off the base after the pitched ball reaches the front of the plate
3. Delayed Steals are not allowed
4. No Dropped 3rd Strike
5. No Infield Fly
6. Bunting is allowed
7. Can't steal home on passed ball or wild pitch
8. Can't steal home if he is stealing 3rd and a wild throw goes into left field
9. Base runner can advance to 3rd if successfully advances to 2nd during the same play

17. Sliding/Avoiding Contact: Runners must avoid contact. NFHS Section 2-32-1, SLIDE - slide if contact is imminent, except when running to first base.

8-4-2b - runner is out if he does not legally slide and causes illegal contact and/or alters the actions of a fielder in the immediate act of making a play, or on a force play does not slide in a direct line between the bases.

Runners are not required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide, the slide must be legal.

18. Speed-Up-Rule: Managers have the option of pinch running for the Catcher for the next inning at any time. A courtesy runner for the Catcher is mandatory with two outs in the inning. A courtesy runner for pitchers is discretionary with 2 outs. The pinch runner must be the last batted out and may only run once that inning. The catcher and pitcher being replaced must be the player who will be taking that position in the next inning. Also, the pitcher must pitch to at least 1 batter (i.e., for 1 complete at bat) and the catcher must catch for at least 1 defensive out. However, if the game proceeds to extra innings, only the pitcher and catcher of record (i.e., the prior

defensive inning) may be replaced with the last batted out. A violation of any of these rules may result in game forfeiture, suspension or removal from the game.

19. Balks: Balks will be called as follows:

- 8U, 9U: no Balks
- 10U, 11U, 12U: one balk warning will be given to each pitcher
- 13U & 14U: balks will be called without any warning.

20. If a pitched ball touches the ground prior to the plate it shall be considered a ball no matter where it crosses home plate, provided the batter does not swing at it. If the batter swings and misses it for a third strike, it will be considered a dropped third strike, even if the catcher catches it cleanly after the swing – all dropped third strike rules will apply at the appropriate age level. In the event a ball bounces and then hits the batter, the continuation rule shall apply, and it shall be considered a hits batsman unless the batter swings at the ball and is then hit. Please reference the IHSA rules for clarification.

21. Pitchers are not allowed to wear white long-sleeved t-shirts, jackets of any kind, batting or fielding gloves (including sticking out of the back pockets), and no jewelry of any kind including armbands or necklaces when pitching from the mound.

22. Pitching limits: One (1) or more pitches thrown in an inning (warm-ups do not count between innings) will constitute an inning pitched. The following pitching limits apply:

- 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U: 2 innings
- 12U: 3 innings
- 13U: 4 innings or 70 pitches, whichever comes first
 - Pitcher will be allowed to finish pitching to batter if he reaches 70 pitches during an at bat.
- 14U: 4 innings

23. Pitching Restrictions:

8U – 12U: **No breaking balls of any kind**, including safety curves, slip pitch, cutters, knuckle curves and etcetera are permitted. Only the umpire will deem a ball a breaking pitch. One warning will be given. On subsequent breaking balls, the pitch will be deemed an illegal pitch, the pitch will be called a “ball” and the pitcher will be removed from the mound.

**In 2020, more than a few teams (11u) were throwing breaking balls and knowingly violating the rules. This will not be tolerated. Arm safety will be our first priority.

13U – 14U: No pitch restrictions

24. Any pitcher hitting 3 (three) batters in one inning or three (3) batters in one game shall be removed from the pitching position immediately following the 3rd hit by pitch. Player will be allowed to reenter the game in a different position.

25. Coaches are allowed one visit with each pitcher during an inning after the first official pitch of an inning is thrown by that pitcher (warm-ups do not count). Upon the second visit in an inning, the pitcher must be replaced. A visit will not be charged in health concern cases (potential injury, diabetes food/drink visit, etc.), however, coaches are expected to be reasonable in this instance, and not abuse the allowance – safety of our players still comes first. Visits will not be charged for umpire explanations of any rules.

26. If a player or coach from the batting team is ejected, a one-time automatic out will be called on the team batting in the half inning at the time the ejection occurs. If a team is in the field when their player or coach is ejected, a one-time automatic out will be called at the beginning of the next half inning when the team goes in to bat. (Note that only one out will be called related to the ejection). Additional outs will not be called when a previously ejected player's position comes up in the batting order. It will be skipped as if the player had left early for other reasons.

27. **Chanting Rule:** (1) Singing songs in the dugout will not be allowed; (2) the defensive team (in the field or dugout) is only allowed to shout words of encouragement to their defensive teammates between pitches. They are not allowed to make any noise once the pitcher begins his wind-up or stretch; (3) the offensive team (in the dugout or at bat) are only allowed to shout words of encouragement to their offensive teammates between pitches. They are not allowed to make any noise once the pitcher begins his wind-up or stretch.

28. Fog horns, cow bells or other related loud noise devices will not be allowed. Managers will be asked to talk to their fans as needed. The playing of music before games and between innings is allowed UNLESS the umpire or opposing team objects to the same. Please be mindful of song selections and avoid any songs with offensive language or profanity.

29. Coaches and equipment are not allowed to be in the playing field while play is going on. Sitting on buckets or standing outside the dugouts is prohibited. Stay in the dugout. Umpires will issue one warning and then eject them.

30. Schedule Changes - Coaches, please do not send game time and date changes after the final schedule has been release. It is up to both Managers to keep track of game date changes. Notify the date change when you send the score to your division rep. The schedule we send is a starting point of number of games, times and location.

[Kane County Bronco League Representatives 2021 See Website for additional contact info:](#)

10u/11u/14u All – Gary Tickle (Oswego Panthers)

12u All – Mike Warner (Wheatland Ducks) – mwarner1144@gmail.com

9u All – Shaun Currer (Oswego Panthers)

2014 additions / changes – Gary Tickle

Playing Rules

Added 8U

Added 8U Field Dimensions 40/60

Added 8U to the Bat Restrictions

2015 Changes

Changed 11u from 46-48 to 48-50 feet

2016 Changes

Rosters – Guest Players, Example of Guest Players playing up.

League Standings – Scoring will be done by winning team via Sport Ngin.

Added 13u to 4 inning Pitch limit.

2017 Changes

Changed sliding rule to Avoid Contact per IHSA/NFHS Rules

Changed pitching from “curve” to “breaking”

Elaborate on Fake Tag as Obstruction.

2018 Changes

Rule 24 - Changed to 3 total over the time they are pitching

2021 Changes

11u Changed Pitching to 2 innings per pitcher

Changed Game Length to 6 innings

Official Game Length Changed to 3.5

13u Added pitch count of 70 pitches of Maximum 4 innings

Abandoned Points system to use winning percentage

2021 Changes

Added knuckle curves to pitching restrictions

Updated division reps