

## GREAT BEND RECREATION COMMISSION ROOKIE LEAGUE RULES

1. **Player Eligibility:** This league is for boys and girls who were in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade during the current school year or whose birth date is on or between Sept. 2, 2009 and Sept. 1, 2011.
2. **Registration:** Any youth wanting to sign up for a GBRC Youth Sports program must have their parents or guardian fill out and sign a Youth Consent Form and submit the appropriate fee at the GBRC office during the designated registration period. A one-week late registration period, with an increased fee, will follow the registration deadline for each youth sports program. Teams will be formed after this week. Sign-ups will be taken after the late registration week and placed on a waiting list to be utilized if players are needed to keep teams at optimum numbers. The individual will have to pay the late fee before they will be placed on a team. Any individual signing up after the late registration week will not be guaranteed placement in the program.
3. **Teams:** No more than fifteen (14) players are allowed on a team when enrollment numbers allow. All players will play offense and defense.
4. **League Play:** Each team will play a 8-10 game season.
5. **Games:** Games will be played on weekday evenings and will start in accordance to the game schedule.
6. **Game Time:** All warm-ups must be completed by game time. A team must have seven (7) players to start a game. No automatic outs will be recorded.
7. **Game Length:** Games will be five (5) innings in length (4 ½ if home team is leading). The umpire will announce last inning after 1 hour and 15 minutes from the time the game begins. A game will be considered official after 3 innings (2 1/2 if home team is leading) if called because of time limit, inclement weather or other reasons, except when there is a tie. There will be extra innings if a tie occurs.
8. **Run Rule:** Five (5) run rule or 3 outs per inning, whichever occurs first. 15 run rule after 3 innings (2 ½ if home team is leading); 10 run rule after 4 innings (3 1/2 if home team is leading).
9. **Home Team:** The second team listed on the schedule will be the home team who occupies third base dug out.
10. **Field Dimensions:** Base length will be 60 feet. The pitching machine distance will be 35 feet.
11. **Ball Dimensions:** This league will use a Reduced Injury Factor (RIF) # 5 baseball/safesoft softball
12. **Coaches:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base coaches are allowed in their coaching boxes on offense. No more than three (3) defensive coaches may be on the field to verbally assist the defensive players.
13. **Line-ups:** Coaches will be required to turn in a line-up card that includes the player's first and last name and shirt number no later than ten (10) minutes before game time. Scorekeepers should not accept a lineup card without this information. All players present will be entered into the batting line-up and bat each time it is their turn. Every player will play three (3) innings defensively and start every game. Coaches are encouraged to give every player the opportunity to play in the infield at least four (4) games during the season. No automatic outs will be recorded.
14. **Jewelry:** No jewelry such as watches, rings, earrings, neck chains or bracelets are allowed (Exception: medical alert bracelets). Metal medical alert bracelets must be taped.
15. **Shoes:** No steel cleats are allowed in any GBRC sponsored Baseball/Softball program. Rubber molded cleats are encouraged.
16. **Equipment:** All boys are strongly encouraged to wear an athletic cup. The catcher must wear helmet, mask (with throat protector), body protector and shin guards. All boy catchers are required to wear an athletic cup.
17. **Helmets:** Batters, on deck batters, base runners and bat boys/girls are required to wear their helmets properly at all times (PENALTY: The offending team will receive one warning. A subsequent violation of the rule shall result in an out being called on the offender.)

18. **Batters:** Batters will be given a maximum of five (5) pitches or three (3) swings to hit a ball into fair territory. If after the fifth pitch or third swing the batter has not hit into fair territory, the batter will be declared out. Batters hit by a pitch will not be awarded first base. A hit by pitch will not go toward the five pitches. A batted ball striking the pitching machine operator is a dead ball single with the batter and any base runners advancing one base only.
19. **Bat Throwing:** The batter is responsible for the bat. Any batter throwing or releasing the bat which endangers players, coaches or staff will be called out with no runners advancing.
20. **Bunting:** Bunting is not allowed; batters must attempt a full swing.
21. **Batting Out of Order:** Anytime the scorekeeper becomes aware of a player that batted out of order, the scorekeeper must bring the violation to the umpire's attention. If the error is discovered while the incorrect batter is at bat, the correct batter may legally take his/her place and assume any balls or strikes. All other batting out of order situations will be handled according to the KSHSAA Rule Book.
22. **Courtesy/Pinch Runners:** Courtesy/Pinch runners are not allowed, except in the case of an injury.
23. **Base Running:** Base runners may not steal or leave the base until the ball is hit. A base runner may not advance on any passed balls by the pitcher or catcher. A base runner or batter may not advance on a dropped third strike.
24. **Overthrows:** A runner may advance as many bases as he/she can get on an overthrow if the ball remains in play, except on an overthrow from the catcher to the pitcher. Runners may not advance on an overthrow from the catcher to the pitcher. If the ball goes into dead ball territory, the base runner may take the base he/she was advancing to plus one additional base.
25. **Slide Rule:** No crash plays will be allowed. A runner who is affecting the defense trying to make a play, must slide or be called out. Contact with the fielder while sliding is not a crash play.
26. **Infield Fly Rule:** The infield fly rule is not in effect.
27. **In-between Innings:** At the beginning of each half inning, not more than one (1) minute may be used to warm-up. In the event the catcher made the last out or stranded on base, a coach or player is encouraged to assist the catcher to follow the one (1) minute guideline.
28. **Pitching:** A pitching machine will be utilized to throw strikes to the batter. The speed will remain the same for both teams and the umpire will pitch the balls.
29. **Walks:** Walks will not be issued.
30. **Defensive Alignment:** Infielders must take regular positions on the infield and outfielders must be in the grass until the ball is hit. There will be 4 outfielders for a total of 10 defensive players.
31. **"Time":** Defensive players must stop play before the ball goes back to the pitching coach. This is done by asking for "Time". "Time" is to be called when the ball is in possession of a defensive player in the infield area and no play is being made on a runner with runners not advancing. This is a judgment call and the intent of the rule is to not allow stealing. Once "Time" has been called, the ball is to be thrown to the defensive pitcher. The defensive pitcher will then hand the ball to the pitching coach. The defensive pitcher may position themselves anywhere inside the 8-foot radius pitching circle that is not closer to home than the pitching rubber. If a player throws the ball back to the pitching coach before "Time" is called, the pitching coach will allow the ball to drop and base runners may advance until play is stopped and "Time" is called.
32. **Injured Player:** Any player who becomes ill or is injured and will not return to the line-up for the remainder of the game, will be skipped in the line-up with no automatic outs being recorded. If the player wishes to return to the game and play defense only, an automatic out must be issued each time his/her turn at bat occurs.
33. **Protests:** Protests will not be allowed except concerning player eligibility. Questions about rule interpretations or judgment calls must be settled at the time they are brought to the umpire's attention. The umpire's decision is final.
34. **Other Rules:** All other rules will be followed by the KSHSAA Baseball Rule Book.
35. **League Awards:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place medals will be awarded to the players. The tie breaker procedure for teams in league award positions will be as follows:

- a) Head to head competition
- b) If still tied, co-champions will be declared

36. **Inclement Weather:** All postponed games because of inclement weather or other reasons, will be announced on KVGB, KHOK, KZXL radio and GBRC information hotline at **793-3755 ext. 4**, not before 4:00 p.m. of the day of the postponement. Also, Face Book and [www.greatbendrec.net](http://www.greatbendrec.net) for information. Make-up games will be scheduled as soon as possible and coaches will be notified.
37. **Code of Conduct:** Players, Coaches and Spectators in the GBRC programs are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. Unsportsmanlike behavior directed toward other players, teams, officials, coaches and fans will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, obscene gestures, cheating, hitting, disrespect to officials, or other behavior deemed inappropriate. If a player, coach or spectator is ejected from a game by an official or supervisor, then that person is automatically ejected from the next two scheduled GBRC games, and all practices occurring within this time period. A player may be warned; second warning results in automatic ejection. The Sports Supervisor will notify the players and coaches of the suspension.
38. **Drugs and Alcohol:** There will be no use of drugs or alcoholic beverages on or near the game/practice field or facility premises by managers, coaches, players, officials, GBRC staff or anyone concerned with GBRC teams during games, pre-game activities, or practices. One warning may be issued; or the person in question will be asked to leave the field and face indefinite suspension from any GBRC event or program.
39. **Weapons:** Weapons of any kind are not allowed on or at any GBRC site or facility. (at the discretion of the GBRC Staff.)