

KITCHENER FASTBALL LEAGUE CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS

Revised April 2017

A. ORGANIZATION AND PURPOSE

1. The league shall be known as the "KITCHENER FASTBALL LEAGUE" (KFL)
2. The purpose of the league is to join together competitive teams in a spirit of sportsmanship.
3. Teams seeking membership and those existing teams shall agree to abide by and comply with the context of this constitution and by-laws.
4. Any team wishing to amend this document shall submit in writing, proposed changes to the Executive at the first league meeting of that playing year. The Executive will distribute all proposed changes to all team representatives at the second spring meeting, to be voted on by the general membership.

B. RELATIONSHIP TO THE CITY OF KITCHENER

1. The league will operate within the rules and regulations of the City of Kitchener Community Services department, but will self govern by these by-laws.

C. KITCHENER FASTBALL LEAGUE EXECUTIVE

1. i) The Executive Committee shall consist of:
PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
TREASURER
DIRECTOR OF LEAGUE RELATIONS
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
(voted and updated March 2016)
- ii) The Executive will be elected by a majority vote at the last meeting of the year.
- iii) In that it is impossible to foresee every eventuality, the executive is empowered to make rulings in the best interest of the league, keeping in mind the spirit and aims of its creation without violating this constitution and the by-laws unless the majority of the teams affected agree.
- iv) A simple majority of the executive committee shall constitute a quorum and shall have full power to transact league business.

2. EXECUTIVE DUTIES (voted and updated March 2016)

i) PRESIDENT:

- Shall preside over all league and executive meetings
- Shall call two league meetings prior to May 1 each year, one league meeting at the conclusion of the season, and any additional meetings at any other time deemed necessary
- Shall interpret and enforce the constitution and its by-laws
- Shall ensure executive members uphold their respective duties
- Shall chair all protests, appeals, and requests for playoff exemptions, unless there is a conflict of interest (Note: In the case of a conflict of interest, protests and appeals should be chaired by the first executive member without a conflict of interest, in the following order: Vice President, Director of League Relations, Director of Communications, Treasurer)
- Shall inform all teams and the executive of suspended or ineligible players, and ensure players serve their suspensions
- Shall collect fines resulting from player ejections and failure of teams to attend mandatory league meetings
- Shall handle all regular season and playoff scheduling, including the annual application for field usage with the City of Kitchener
- Shall act as a liaison with the City of Kitchener, including reporting all rainouts and cancelled games (including unnecessary if-needed playoff games)
- Shall act as the primary point of contact for team representatives and for teams interested in joining the league
- Shall form subcommittees for specific projects, as needed, and liaise with any such subcommittees on behalf of the league

ii) VICE PRESIDENT:

- Shall act in the capacity of the President in his absence
- Shall collect and maintain accurate records of all team rosters
- Shall keep accurate and up-to-date data on games played
- Shall act as the primary point of contact for team representatives to report all scores and game information, ensuring they are posted to the website in a timely manner
- Shall interpret and enforce the constitution and its by-laws
- Shall perform duties as assigned by the President

iii) TREASURER:

- Shall transact all financial business of the league
- Shall keep an accurate record of all league monies received and disbursed
- Shall coordinate the procurement of the league's insurance policy
- Shall present a financial statement at the first league meeting and at any other times as requested by the executive
- Shall evaluate opportunities for sponsorship, grants, and other avenues for reducing league costs
- Shall interpret and enforce the constitution and its by-laws
- Shall perform duties as assigned by the President

iv) DIRECTOR OF LEAGUE RELATIONS:

- Shall act as the league's liaison with the Umpire's Association
- Shall maintain records of incident reports
- Shall act as the league's representative with Kitchener Fastball Promotions (KFP), becoming a de facto member of the KFP Board and ensuring the KFL is represented at all KFP meetings
- Shall act as the league's liaison for the Ontario Challenge Cup
- Shall organize the voting and logistics for any All Star or showcase games outside of league play
- Shall interpret and enforce the constitution and its by-laws
- Shall perform duties as assigned by the President

v) DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS:

- Shall oversee updates to the website (aside from Game Results), including bulk-loading of the annual Schedule page, adding new teams and removing defunct teams at the start of each year, annual updates to the History and FAQ pages, loading the Playoff Schedule each year, and periodic updates to the News page
- Shall oversee the maintenance of the KFL Free Agents listing
- Shall monitor use of the KFL's social media accounts
- Shall act as the league's liaison with any media outlets
- Shall interpret and enforce the constitution and its by-laws
- Shall perform duties as assigned by the President

D. ENTRY FEE

1. The league entry fee and any additional fees will be determined at the second league meeting in the spring.
2. All fees are to be paid as prescribed prior to the second week of seasonal play.

E. FINES AND EJECTIONS

1. Any team that forfeits a game for ANY reason will be fined \$55 which must be paid to an Executive member BEFORE their next game.
2. Any team that withdraws from the season before completion, will have no refund of monies paid.
3. Any player, coach, manager or any other team member who is ejected from a game, with an incident report received by the league executive from the home plate umpire from the game in question; is subject to the following penalties;

i) First reporting, a fine of \$25, plus a one game suspension along with ejection from the current game.

ii) Second reporting, a fine of \$50, plus a two game suspension along with ejection from the current game.

iii) Third reporting, a fine of \$75 plus suspension from the remainder of the current season as well as post season play. The player will also be called before the Executive before re-instatement for the next season.

iv) If the report filed with the Executive by the Umpires, reports that, in their judgement, a flagrant infraction has occurred (e.g. running the catcher, intentional hit-by-pitch), further penalties may be imposed by the Executive following consultation with the Umpires and teams involved.

v) Any abuse by an individual after an ejection may carry further fines and suspensions if so deemed by the executive.

vi) Any team using an illegal or ineligible player will lose all points and wins accumulated while that player was on the roster, whether he played or not. The team will be fined \$55 for each game forfeited.

vii) Teams will be notified of suspensions and fines by a member of the Executive with suspensions to be served commencing immediately.

viii) There is zero tolerance with ejections. Once ejected, the player is to leave the playing field immediately.

4. The ejected player is responsible for the payment of all fines and is ineligible to play until all fines have been paid to an Executive member. If the suspended player participates in any capacity i.e. coach, etc. while under suspension, the team will be penalized by forfeiting any game in which he participates. Being a spectator at the game(s) in which the player has been suspended is allowed.

5. All teams will ensure that they have a minimum of one team representative at each league meeting. The President shall call the roll at each meeting and teams not represented shall be fined \$25.

F. POSTPONEMENT OR ALTERATION OF SEASON/PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

1. No one including members of the Executive other than the President has the authority to alter the schedules. These alterations include but are not limited to cancelling games, adding games, swapping game dates, times or parks.

2. The City of Kitchener may cancel games due to park conditions up to 5 p.m. The President will be responsible for postponing games due to inclement weather or lack of umpires after 5 p.m. and will notify the teams involved.

G. LEAGUE ELIGIBILITY

1. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS (updated April 2010)

There are no players considered ineligible for play in the KFL. However, any players that play at the senior level (ISC) cannot pitch for a team in the KFL. They can be on a roster (and must be identified as a senior player) and can play any other position.

Any senior player that does not pitch for his senior team, would be eligible to pitch for their KFL team.

The executive is empowered to address this item as needed including situations that abuse the spirit of the rule.

2. AGE LIMIT

Player's must have reached the age of 18 by May 1 of the current season. Exceptions must be requested in writing (email to the Executive) and accepted by the Executive prior to the players first game.

3. MEN'S LEAGUE

The KFL is a men's fastball league. Female players interested in playing will be put in contact with all female fastball leagues in the area.

H. DESIGNATED PLAYER

1. The designated player rule will follow the Softball Canada Association rule book.

I. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

1. The President will accept only written (including email) protests within 48 hours of the incident. The 48 hours means 2 working days.

2. Both umpires must be informed of the protest at the time of the infraction. Failure to do so will result in the protest NOT being allowed.

3. A fee of \$25 (paid to an Executive member with the same 48 hours of the written protest) must accompany all protests, which will be returned if the protest is upheld.

4. The President shall provide a copy to the team against which the protest is filed. That team shall have 24 hours to submit a written defence, following this time the Executive will make its ruling.

5. The Executive will rule on all protests and the decision will be final.

J. STANDINGS

1. League standings will be decided on a point basis;
2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie

2. Tie breakers for positions in the standings will be as follows;
 - i) most wins
 - ii) best head-to-head record
 - iii) most head-to-head runs scored
 - iv) total season runs scored

K. ROSTERS AND LINE UP CARDS

1. There is no limit on the number of players a team may consider to be on its roster.
2. Each team should submit a roster containing each players name, address, phone number and signature to the Vice President before their first league game.
3. Each team must submit a roster with all players signatures, in ink, before June 1st of the current year. Failure to comply will result in action taken by the Executive.
4. If, for some reason, a player appears on multiple rosters in the month of May, the Executive will contact the player prior to June 1 and determine which team the players will be officially rostered with for the year. All games played for any other team will not count towards that players playoff eligibilty.
5. Insurance is purchased yearly for all registered players and coaches. Therefore it is imperative that all rosters are completed on time and correctly.
6. In order to substantiate the team roster each game, a line-up card must be completed prior to each game and submitted to the home plate umpire. The umpire will sign each line up card at the completion of the game, document the score then place into the KFL deposit box. The umpires can and will officially start (even if the first pitch has not been thrown) and then hold up games with the time limit clock ticking in order to receive correctly filled out line-up cards.
7. The line up cards will be collected in a timely manner by the Executive and transferred into the record books. These books will be the final reference for determining playoff eligibility for all players.
8. Any line up cards that cannot be clearly read and understood by the Executive will not be recorded into the record books and any players on that card will not receive credit for appearing in that game. Proper line up cards require full first and last names (not initials or only first or last) to be written clearly and neatly.
9. (voted and updated April 2010)
Game sheets are required to be handed in within 24 hours after the end of the game. Any game sheets not handed in within that time frame will not be counted towards the winning teams playoff eligibility. The losing team will be contacted and given sufficient time to submit at photocopy or reasonable variation of their scorebook.

L. PLAYOFFS

1. A SIDE

- i) The top 8 teams in the standings at the end of the regular season will advance to the A side playoffs. They will be seeded one through eight accordingly.

ii) The first round of the A side playoffs will consist of a best two out of three series with the higher seed having the home field advantage in game one and if necessary, game three and the lower seed having home field advantage in game two.

iii) The second round of the A side playoffs will consist of the highest seed advancing from the first round playing against the lowest seed advancing. The remaining two teams will play each other. Both series are a best two out of three with the home games being decided in the same manner as the first round.

iv) The final round of the A side playoffs will be a best three out of five series with the home games being decided in the same manner as the first round.

2. B SIDE

i) The remaining teams (finishing ninth or lower) will play in a round robin tournament which is to be considered the B side playoffs.

ii) Each team will play the other teams one time each.

iii) The two teams with the most points (as determined by wins, losses and ties) will have a one game playoff to determine the B side champion.

3. ELIGIBILITY

i) Players will be considered eligible for playoff games if they are recorded as playing in one third (round up to nearest whole number) of their teams regular season games.

ii) Any players listed on a game sheet for a game that gets started and then rained out will still get a recorded game played to count towards playoff eligibility. It is important to still submit completed line up cards for these games.

iii) Teams can request a recount on a players recorded games and a written (emailed) list of each game and the attendance recorded of the player in question.

iv) Exemptions can be applied for in writing (email) to the President. This must be done prior to playoff games starting. The President will confer with the Executive and will inform the team in question of the Executives response. All decisions are final. Only significant injuries and long term absences will impact the possible decision.

4. TIME LIMITS

i) The regular season time limit applies to all playoff game (including both A and B side, see SECTION M, ARTICLE 4) except for the final series of the A side. There is no time limit on the games in that series.

M. GAME PLAY

1. The official playing rules of Softball Canada apply except where amended by the KFL (examples include illegal equipment, the two-out catcher rule, illegal pitches, and the international rule).

2. The HOME team will occupy the third base bench.

3. i) 5 full innings or 4-1/2 if the home team is ahead will constitute a complete game.

ii) During the regular and post seasons, a MERCY RULE of a 10 RUN difference any time after 5 complete innings (including during the home half of an inning) exists. If the visiting team goes ahead by 10 runs the home team will have its last bat (the inning shall be completed).

4. i) All games (including playoff) are to be 7 innings in length. A time limit of one hour and 30 minutes from the time the first pitch is thrown, will exist. No new inning will be started after the 90 minutes has passed. Umpires will keep track of time and inform teams when the time is close to expiring. An announcement at the top an of inning ("this will be the last inning"), would be an appropriate warning.

ii) If a games has completed 7 innings, is tied and is under the time limit, the game shall go into extra innings and the international rule will immediately apply.

iii) In the event of rain, darkness or other unforeseen situations occurs, SECTION M, ARTICLE 3 i) will apply.

iv) in playoffs (excluding finals), play to the 1:30 time limit, at which point an international tiebreaker will be in place, regardless of whether or not the 7th inning has been played and play to a winner. (voted and updated April 2013)

5. i) There are no infield warm-ups prior to game time.

ii) There will be no infield or outfield warmup after the 1st inning of the game. (This can be adjusted at the umpires discretion, depending on weather conditions or safety concerns). Pitchers are still entitled to their warmup pitches. (voted and updated April 2014)

6. (voted and updated March 2009)

In the event of a double header and the 7pm game is cancelled due to inclement weather, the 9pm game is automatically cancelled.

7. In the event of uncontrollable circumstances, i.e. rain delay, injury, etc. the length of the game shall be extended by the length of the suspension of play at the discretion of the umpires.

8. All games are to start on time WITHOUT EXCEPTION. A team can however start and play with ONLY 8 PLAYERS with the 9th place in the batting order being an automatic out. If the 9th player arrives during the game he can be inserted at any time and bat in the 9th position. If a player(s) is/are ejected and that ejection leaves the team with only 8 players, the game will be allowed to continue (with the ejected players spot in the line up now being the recorded out). A team cannot play with 7 players and there is no 15 minute grace period to allow the 8th player to arrive.

9. (voted and updated April 2010)

The home team shall provide 1 new ball and 2 good used balls for all regular season games. In the playoffs, both teams shall provide 1 new ball. The home team will be responsible for an additional used ball, appropriate for game play. Only league approved softballs are to be used. The use of any other ball without league approval will result in:

- first offence - a \$25 fine

- second offence - a \$25 fine & forfeiture of the game only if an official protest has been lodged in the 1st inning.

10. Teams are required to wear jerseys tops of the same colour on the playing field. Any player who violates this rule will be suspended from the current game only with no fine levied. Opposing coaches can be consulted to waive this rule on a per game basis.

11. Any individuals participating in the KFL willingly accepts and assumes all risks of playing in games scheduled or arranged by league officials or Executive. Each individual freely and willingly accepts responsibility to determine whether or not the playing field, its environs, equipment involved, the umpiring, field staff and opposing team are safe and acceptable in accordance with normal standards of play.

12. With two out and the catcher on base, the last eligible player must assume the catcher's base running position. This is a mandatory rule.

13. All players, coach's and fans are responsible for their own conduct while in parks used by the KFL during times booked by the league.

14. A team has up until a pitch is thrown to the next batter to ask the umpire to check for an illegal bat. If the bat is found to be illegal, the offending player is ejected from the game immediately and ejection fines are applied (see Section E). The bat is removed from the game, any play that resulted is nullified, an out is called on the batter, and a fine will be assessed (\$25 for the first offence, \$50 for the second, and \$75 and a review of the player or team by the executive for the third).

15. (voted and updated April 2010)

Gorilla gold will be the only pitching aid allowed.

16. (voted and updated March 2012)

K-Master 120 Optic Yellow will be the only balls allowed for league play.

N. ADDITIONAL BY-LAWS

1. All teams competing in the KFL must provide the league with 2 contacts with address and phone number on the application form. A contact must be a team member listed on the roster.
2. All members of the Executive must be an active member or participant of a KFL team.
3. All league trophies presented to winning teams must be returned at the first spring meeting.
4. The league will adhere to the International Softball Congress rules on illegal pitches with the exception that an illegal pitch will constitute a ball on the batter but base runners shall not advance.
5. As per the KFL permits with the City of Kitchener, CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN PARKS OR CITY FACILITIES IS PROHIBITED WITHOUT APPROVAL AND PERMIT FROM THE CITY OF KITCHENER AND APPROPRIATE LICENCE. Failure to comply will result in expulsion from the league.

O. DISSOLVEMENT OF THE LEAGUE

1. In the event that insufficient interest is shown in continuing the league, the Executive that was in place at the end of the last season in which league play was held will be empowered to declare the league dissolved.
2. The executive will be responsible for ensuring that all financial obligations of the league have been satisfied.
3. Any surplus funds that remain are to be donated to minor sports organizations within the Region of Waterloo, at the discretion of the executive, with a minimum of 50% of disbursements to minor Fastball organizations if they exist.