



2017 High School Feeder League Rules

Background: The Kirkwood Athletic Association High School Softball Feeder League was created to provide a structured, positive and competitive softball environment for all teams and players. Our Feeder League rules are designed to promote growth in a player's softball skills, opportunity for all players to experience live game situations, and good sportsmanship. We expect participants (coaches and players) to honor the game by knowing and following the playing rules outlined below

All Feeder League grade divisions will be governed by the 2017 USA Softball rules, and the following FEEDER LEAGUE Rule exemptions listed below, in alphabetical order. These are the PLAYING rules of the game. Anything not mentioned in these KAA rules exceptions or USA Softball rules will be the judgment of the KAA Umpire-in-Chief on duty. Protests are not permitted, as the KAA UIC on decision is final.

For KAA's Code of Conduct go to at www.kwdaa.com.

Coaches

1. On offense, the base coaches must remain in their respective coaching boxes. They must make a substantial effort to avoid getting hit by a thrown and/or batted ball. They must also never assist any base runner while play is still live.
2. On defense, coaches are not allowed on playing field, while play is live.
3. Coaches may call pitches from outside the fence, close to spectator bleaches, at the umpire's discretion. This is a privilege and may be revoked should coach's behavior warrant such action.
4. Absolutely NO electronic equipment is permitted on playing field, i.e. i-Pads, i-phones, laptops, etc.

Courtesy Runner

1. If the catcher or pitcher for the batting team is on base, a courtesy runner may be used. This courtesy runner must be the last girl to make an out before the catcher or pitcher. The courtesy runner may only be used for the pitcher or catcher who last played that defensive position and may not be used for a projected substitute for those two positions.

Dugouts

1. The Home Team, which is the team listed first on the schedule, will occupy the 3rd base dugout. The exception to this rule is if this team plays back-to-back games, they will remain in the same dugout for their second game.



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Eligibility (Player)

All players must be on a KAA Roster, for insurance purposes and to confirm the player has met the eligibility requirements listed below:

Teams must be made up of players that meet these requirements

1. Reside in the specific-school district or be eligible to attend the district high school
2. Enrolled, during the fall feeder league season, in the grade level of the feeder team. Players are allowed to “play-up” on the higher-grade level team but players are not permitted to “play-down” on the lower grade team.
3. Coaches can double-roster players within the same district’s team, as long as they meet the grade level requirement. Specifically, 6/7th grade players can be rostered on the 6/7th & 8th grade team but 8th Graders can only be on the 8th grade team roster.
4. Consideration will be given for a guest player, only if a team is unable to field 9 players for a game, in order to avoid a forfeit. A guest player must have a Roster Exception Request Form approved by the League Coordinator before play begins, and be added to a supplemental team roster, or the player will be ruled ineligible and the game will be forfeited.
5. Managers/Coaches must keep a copy of their team roster and player’s birth certificates with them at all league games.
6. No player may play for a team outside of their high school boundary **without a Roster Exception Form being approved by KAA League Coordinator** prior to the start of the league. Any coach violating this rule will be directed to step down as coach of the team.
 - a. A team is allowed up to a maximum of 3 roster exemptions

Eligibility: Roster Exemption Requests and Multi- District Teams

1. In situations where a Coach is unable to assemble enough players to field a team, the Coach can submit a Roster Exemption Form, to the KAA League Coordinator, requesting an out of district player be added to their team
 - a. A team is allowed to request up to a maximum of 3-roster exemptions. In situations where a specific district has multiple feeder teams registered, a maximum of 2-roster exemptions will be permitted. Exceptions to the number of eligible exemptions will be considered for parochial schools.
 - b. If the player's geographic high school does not have a team playing in a feeder league, the League Coordinator will review the exemption request and it will be considered for approval.



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Eligibility: Roster exemptions and Multi- School District Teams *(continued)*

- c. If the player's district already has a team registered , the Roster Exception Request Form will need to be approved and signed by the Manager of the team the player is eligible to play with.
 - d. Players who are competing for their school in a state-sanctioned middle school league (MHSSAA or IHSSAA), whose season overlaps with the feeder league, will not be eligible for a roster exemption, under any circumstances.
2. In situations where one school district cannot assemble enough players to field a team, the KAA League Coordinator will approve the combining of two districts into one feeder team. This would have to be approved by the League Coordinator prior to the team registering for the league.

Equipment

1. Metal Spikes are permitted in the 8th grade division, but not for the 6/7th grade division
2. Bats must be marked "Official Softball" by the manufacturer, and must be on the Official ASA /USA Softball Legal Bat List. If the words "Official Softball" cannot be read due to wear and tear on the bat, the bat will be declared legal by the umpire if it legal in all other aspects.
3. Helmets must have approved/acceptable Facemasks and Chinstraps must be worn during the game.
4. Softballs must be a (.47 COR / 375 Comp) and can have any approval stamp: NCAA, USA Softball, USSSA, USFA, FASA, NFHS.
5. KAA will supply 1 new (or like new) softball ball for every game
6. In the event of a serious injury, bat & ball will be confiscated by the umpire, and sent off for analysis. Failure to allow umpire to do this will result in immediate ejection of head coach and further discipline from KAA.

Forfeits

1. Forfeits are not acceptable. If a team has a conflict, the Coach is responsible for finding another team to swap games with. Your division coordinator can assist if necessary, and **MUST** approve all game swaps. Lack of effort to avoid a forfeit may result in discipline and/or fines.

Home Team

1. The first listed team on the league schedule is the home team.



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Injury Outs

1. If a player is injured and unable to continue playing in the field and batting, her spot in the batting order will **not** be an automatic out. If this injury drops the number of players below 7 for any team, game is a forfeit and that team is declared the losing team.

Minimum Players

1. A minimum of 7 players is necessary to start, continue, and conclude a game. There will **not** be any “automatic outs” assessed. Should a team fall below 7 players for any reason during a game, they shall forfeit the game and be declared the losing team.

On-Deck Batter

1. The player must remain in the on-deck circle outside of their respective dugout, and far down the foul line away from the batter.

Pitching Limits

1. The 6th/7th grade division will Pitch from 40'
2. The 8th grade division will pitch from 43'

Rained Out Games

1. If a game is called due to weather or other KAA circumstances, the game will be considered a rained out or lost game. This is **not** applicable if the time limit was fully utilized and/or 4 innings have been completed.

KAA Roster & League Pass

1. Every team will need to complete and submit a signed KAA roster prior to the first game of the feeder league season.
2. Teams will only be permitted to play their first game once their Roster is submitted and they receive a ‘Feeder League Pass’ that is to be handed into the game’s umpire, during ground rules of their first league game.
This will be strictly enforced again this year.



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Roster batting and Free Substitution

1. A team must bat roster during league play.
2. If a player becomes injured, or has to leave the game, the lineup will be condensed with that spot in the order skipped. An out will not be taken in this situation.
3. Free defensive substitutions are permitted during league play.
4. Coaches are encouraged to bat roster during the end of season tournament, however if a Coach chooses not to, they will adhere to the official USA Softball batting and substitution rules and regulations.

Run Rule Limits – The following run rule limits will be in effect:

1. 6th/7th Grade Division: There will be a 7 run per inning limit for each team. Run-ahead rule (mercy rule) is 10 runs after 5 innings.
2. 8th Grade Division - No run rule per inning. Run-ahead rule (mercy rule) is as follows.. 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, and 8 runs after 5 innings.

Scorekeeping

1. The Home Team is the official scorekeeper of the game. Batting lineups shall be given to opposing team prior to start of game.
 - a. Both teams must keep a “Hard Copy” scorebook. Failure to do so will result in the team that is keeping a “Hard Copy” becoming the “official” scorekeeping team and any questions/challenges will be decided accordingly.

Time Limits

1. Game time limits are 1 hour 15 minutes and teams will finish the inning. When the time limit expires, the inning in progress will be completed. No new inning can begin after the expiration of the time limit. There drop dead time limit of 1 hour 25 minutes and the score will revert to the last completed inning if necessary.
2. A game is considered completed at the end of 7 innings or when the time limit is entirely utilized. Tied games are permitted.

Warm-Up Pitches

1. Pitchers are allowed 5 pitches in their 1st appearance in a game and 3 per inning thereafter.



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- a. Pitchers removed from the pitching position and returning to that position, in the same inning, will not be allowed any warm-up pitches.