

LYNDON RECREATION RULES

ROOKIE BASEBALL

2025

Field Dimensions

Pitching Rubber 46'

Bases 60'

Official KHSAA baseball rules will apply, except as follows:

- 1) Unlimited substitution on defense is allowed at all times.
- 2) The game will be played with 10 players on defense.
 - a. When 10 players are being utilized on defense, at least 4 players must be positioned in the outfield grass until the ball leaves the pitching machine.
 - b. In the event 10 players are not available, the game can be played with 7 players.
 - c. A forfeit will be declared if a team does not have at least 7 players on the field within five minutes after the official starting time, or becomes unable to field 7 players at any time during the game.
- 3) Each game is scheduled for 70 minutes or five innings, whichever comes first.
 - a. Any inning started prior to the time limit will be completed.
 - b. A new inning is considered to have started the instant that the previous inning is concluded.
- 4) Each team will bat until 3 outs are made or 6 runs are scored, whichever comes first.
 - a. No more than 6 runs can be scored during each team's turn at bat. (If a team trails by more than 6 runs at the expiration of the time limit while an inning is in progress, they will be allowed to complete their turn at bat even though it is impossible for them to tie the score or win the game.)
- 5) If either team leads by 15 or more runs after 4 full innings or 10 or more runs after 5 innings, the game will be called and ruled a complete game.
- 6) A batter is not eligible to run on a dropped third strike.
- 7) The infield fly rule does not apply.
- 8) The ball will be pitched by a pitching machine, operated by a coach of the offensive team.
- 9) The batter shall receive a maximum of 5 pitches to get a hit, strike out or be put out, unless the final pitch results in an uncaught foul ball on a full swing.
 - a. If the batter does not hit the ball on the fifth pitch, or bunts foul on the final pitch, he will be declared out.

- b. If a batter is hit by a pitch, he is not entitled to first base and the pitch is counted against the five pitch total.
- 10) A batted ball which strikes the pitching machine without first touching a defensive player shall become instantly dead. The batter shall be awarded first base. Other runners shall advance only if forced to advance due to the batter being awarded first base.
 - 11) A thrown ball which strikes the pitching machine during an attempted play is a live ball and remains in play.
 - 12) Adjustments to the machine can be made at any time with the approval of the umpire and then after the adjustment, the hitter will not receive a “test” pitch with the first pitch after the adjustment is approved, is live.
 - 13) The defensive team shall position a player immediately to either side of the pitching machine, even with or slightly behind the pitching rubber.
 - 14) The catcher must be in the normal catching position, immediately behind the plate.
 - 15) A batter may use any regulation baseball bat.
 - 16) If a runner leaves a base before the pitched ball reaches home plate, the runner shall be called out, there is no pitch, and the ball is dead.
 - 17) There will be a 12-foot radius circle around the pitching machine.
 - a. When the ball is held overhead (in the glove or bare hand) by the **designated pitcher** within the circle, with no play being attempted, time shall be called by the umpire. Any runner who has reached the thirty-foot hash mark when time is called will be awarded the next base.
 - b. Any runner who has not reached the hash mark will be sent back to the previous base.
 - c. If, in the judgment of the umpire, a defensive player attempts to throw the ball to a player within the circle and the ball either hits the pitching machine or comes to rest beneath the machine, time shall be called. Runners will be awarded the next base or sent back depending on whether they had reached the hash mark when time was called.
 - d. This rule does not apply to stealing situations.
 - 18) Stealing is permitted of second base only, even if the ball is overthrown during the steal.
 - 19) When the pitcher has possession of the ball within a twelve-foot radius of the pitching machine, a runner on first must immediately attempt to advance or return to first base. Any failure on the part of the runner to comply with this rule shall result in a warning by the umpire to both the runner and his manager and any subsequent violations by members of that team shall result in the offending runner being called out.