



# 9v9 Kickball Rules

Updated June 16 2022

## 1. Pre-Game – Equipment, Game Time, Defaults

Play that is competitive, overly aggressive, rough and/or unsportsmanlike such as pushing, shoving, elbowing, shouldering, tripping, hacking, slashing, sliding, tackling, ball blasting, chirping, name calling, threats and intimidation, is prohibited and will not be tolerated by FCSSC. FCSSC IS FIRST-AND-FOREMOST-FOR-FUN. ANY ROUGH OR PHYSICAL PLAY WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE EXPULSION FROM THE GAME, THE LEAGUE, THE CLUB AND/OR ALL OF THE ABOVE. All players should go out of their way to avoid contact with other players and/or eliminate actions or behaviours that could jeopardize player safety. If accidental contact occurs it is expected that players will apologize for that contact, ensure everyone is alright and stop the game to seek appropriate help as required. **This rule supersedes all others!**

**Spirit of the League:** An integral part of all the sports that the Forest City Sport & Social Club offers. It is based on the primary focus of the FCSSC, which is sportsmanship and to have FUN...NOT on competitive and aggressive sport.

**Equipment/Set-Up:** FCSSC Game Coordinators will provide balls and bases for each game. In addition, FCSSC's Game Coordinator will keep score when possible (ie. Only one game running at a time). If the FCSSC Game Coordinator is unable to keep score, we ask that each team select a player to assist in keeping score.

**Game Time/Default:** Please arrive 15 minutes early so that you can start your games on time. Games are 55 minutes in length or 7 innings, whichever comes first. No new inning can start with 5 minutes left before the formal end time. Teams are comprised of nine (9) players with a minimum of three (3) women and three (3) men. A default will occur if any team cannot field a squad by 10 minutes after the official start time. A team can play with a minimum of 7 people, as long as gender rules are met. Captains may agree to waive the rules regarding gender minimum but this should be decided before the game starts. IF IT IS AGREED THAT THE GAME COUNTS, IT COUNTS!

## 2. In Game – General Rules

### General Rules:

1. A coin toss should determine the home team (except during playoffs, when the higher ranked team will have the choice to bat 1st or 2nd)
2. Each inning is played with 3 outs or when a team scores a maximum of eight (8) runs. EXCEPTION: A team has no run limit in the final inning of the game.
3. The pitcher cannot bounce the ball into home plate; it has to be rolled along the ground. Pitches that bounce one (1) foot above the ground will be a ball.
4. There is no bunting, if the kicker takes a full kick, and it does not pass the pitcher, then it is a fair kick. But intentional bunting is not allowed.
5. The team at bat provides their own pitcher. The pitcher can pitch from wherever they chose. If a hit ball touches the pitcher, the ball is declared dead and the pitch is redone. Base runners return to their previous bases and the pitch count is restored. (Pitchers should do their best to avoid making contact with a hit ball).
6. Every batter can receive a maximum of three (3) pitches. All foul balls, wild pitches, strikes and balls count as one of the three pitches. The only exception is a ball that hits the pitcher (see rule 11)
7. The batting order is two (2) men followed by one (1) woman - but teams that have more women than men can alter this format. The male order and female order must always stay the same, although the order when mixed may change depending on the male/female ratio. A team must use their full roster for kicking (i.e. players cannot only play defense), and all players must bat before a player of the same gender can kick for the second time (this may change the male/female order). If a team only has two women present, the batting order will be 2 men, woman A, 2 men, woman B, 2 men, woman A etc. The spot where woman C should have been will NOT be an automatic out. The kicking order should remain intact from inning to inning. Any players arriving after their team has batted in the first inning, will be inserted into

the bottom of the gender batting order. The first player to bat in an inning is the person following the player who recorded the last at bat from the previous inning.

8. Mercy rule: If a team is up by 15 runs or more after the 5th inning of play, the losing team has the option of calling the game or choosing to continue.
9. There are no leadoffs for base runners or stealing bases; you must wait until contact with the ball is made. Please respect this rule.
10. Runners can be tagged out; also the ball can be thrown at them. If it hits them above the shoulders, the runner is considered safe, and will be awarded one additional base in addition to the one which they were running to (ie. If a runner was hit in the head running to 2nd base, they would be granted position at third base).
11. When the ball hits the runner, the runner is out, but the play is continued.
12. No blocking runners between bases.
13. Please note kickball foul balls include the following circumstance: If the ball is kicked and lands outside the foul zone, and someone tries to catch it but drops it, it is considered a foul ball. (Refer to Rule 6 above)
14. Players are considered out by the following (i) Striking out (ii) A fly ball caught by the defense (iii) A foul out (vi) The runner being tagged by the ball (iv) A runner being hit by a thrown ball below the head.
15. No metal cleats are allowed.

**Ground Rules:** Captains should decide prior to the start of the game if they are going to play any ground rules with regards to boundaries. Please make sure that both teams are aware of these rules.

#### **Playoffs:**

- Games are 50 mins in length. During playoffs, if the game is tied after the completion of 7 innings, or the expired time, teams will utilize the following format. The team that is up to bat will start the inning by placing their 'last out' from the previous inning on 2nd base, with 2 outs. Once 3 outs have been reached, the other team will then place their 'last out' from the previous inning on 2nd base (also with 2 outs) and proceed to bat until 3 outs is reached. Teams will take turns doing this until the score is settled upon the completion of a full inning.
- No Ringers! To play on playoff nights players must have played a minimum of 2 regular season games (6-8 week season) or 3 regular season games (9-16 week season) for that team. For volleyball and dodgeball leagues, games = nights.
- A player is only allowed to play for one team in each playoff round. Players cannot sub in for another team during the same round, most particularly in a championship game. Exception: a player may sub for another team in the same league during the same play-off round IF the game is not a championship game (ie, title on the line) and the team needing a sub would default the game without the substitute player (resulting in both teams being unable to play).

### **3. Post-Game – Score Reporting & Departure**

**Score Reporting:** Captains from each team are responsible for reporting or confirming game scores within 48 hours of the completion of the game. Scores can be reported or confirmed via our website at [www.fcssc.ca](http://www.fcssc.ca).

**Departure:** Each week after your game, it is important to leave the turf in a timely manner. Teams could be playing after you and will need to get their game started on time. It is also possible that the facility could be closing upon the completion of your game and all staff and members will need to depart the building at that time.