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RULE BOOK AND REGULATIONS  
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# Table of Contents

<b>Article I.</b>	<b>THE PLAYING FIELD.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Article II.</b>	<b>EQUIPMENT.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Article III.</b>	<b>REFEREES.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Article IV.</b>	<b>PLAYER ELIGIBILITY .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Article V.</b>	<b>TEAMS.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Article VI.</b>	<b>BASE COACHES .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Article VII.</b>	<b>REGULATION GAMES .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Article VIII.</b>	<b>PITCHING, CATCHING AND FIELDING.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Article IX.</b>	<b>KICKING.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Article X.</b>	<b>RUNNING AND SCORING .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Article XI.</b>	<b>STRIKES .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Article XII.</b>	<b>BALLS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Article XIII.</b>	<b>FAIRS AND FOULS .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Article XIV.</b>	<b>OUTS .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Article XV.</b>	<b>BALL IN PLAY .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Article XVI.</b>	<b>INJURY AND SUBSTITUTIONS.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Article XVII.</b>	<b>REGISTRATION .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Article XVIII.</b>	<b>BASIC REGULATIONS OF OAKLAND YARD ATHLETICS .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Article XIX.</b>	<b>MANAGER/COACH RESPONSIBILITIES.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Article XX.</b>	<b>ROSTERS .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Article XXI.</b>	<b>TIME RESTRICTIONS.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Article XXII.</b>	<b>MERCY RULE .....</b>	<b>12</b>

Oakland Yard Athletics Kickball program uses  
“KICKBALL: Official Rules of the Game” as amended by these rules and procedures. Any incident or situation not covered in this booklet will be ruled on by Oakland Yard Athletics (OYA) according to accepted kickball rules and OYA judgement. OYA and its Officers, Management, Employees, Advertisers, Umpires, Referees, are not responsible for injuries suffered by players and/or spectators while at Oakland Yard Athletics.

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## **OYA KICKBALL AT A GLANCE**

WAKA Kickball - The World Adult Kickball Association is the preeminent adult kickball organization and the world governing body of kickball. Kickball is a simple game consisting of two teams, bases, and a big red ball. Played like baseball, the object is to score more runs than the opposing team. In short, games are played with 10 fielders, 7 innings, 2 base coaches, bouncies, no head shots, forced outs, no ghost men, bunting is allowed so get a good catcher on your team, and there is a 2-homerun limit per inning per team. The following rules will govern all kickball games. For the enjoyment of all, proper respect and civility is required of all participants toward one another. Fighting is not allowed or tolerated.

## Article I. THE PLAYING FIELD

Section 1.01 The field shall be established on any safe terrain suitable for play in accordance with the following provisions, which equal the dimensions of a softball field (see Diagram 2):

- (a) The kickball diamond is a square with equal sides of 60 feet or about 20 paces with a base at each corner;
- (b) The distance from home plate to second base and from first base to third base is 84 feet 10 1/4 inches or about 28 paces. The distance between any base and home plate shall be measured from the back corner of each;
- (c) The pitching strip is in the center of the diamond, 42 feet 5 1/8 inches or about 14 paces from home plate, and directly aligned with the 1st-3rd base diagonal;
- (d) The pitching mound extends 12 feet from the center of the pitching strip (see Rule 8.02);
- (e) The sidelines are lines 10 feet on the outside of and parallel to the foul lines, the area between the foul lines and the sidelines is the sideline area (see Rule 1.07);
- (f) When available, cones are placed: at the outside corner of first, second, and third base, and not touching the base; on the foul lines 30 feet or about 10 paces behind first and third base; and on the sidelines 10' from home plate;
- (g) The kicking box is a rectangle with the front of the box aligned with the front of home plate and the back of the box aligned with the sideline cones behind home plate. Lines extending forward from the sideline cones perpendicular to the front of home plate make up the sides of the kicking box. The area directly forward of the kicking box is fair territory (see Diagram 2B). The kicker is not required to start in the kicking box, however the kick must occur within the kicking box (see Rule 9.02b).
- (h) The foul lines are fair territory.

Section 1.02 The strike zone is a three-dimensional irregular pentagon based on the shape of home plate and is one (1) foot in height. The front of the zone aligns with the front of home plate. The sides of the zone extend one (1) foot to either side of the plate. The back edges of the zone are one (1) foot from the back sides of the plate (see Diagram 4). The strike zone may not be marked by cones or other raised objects.

Section 1.03 All participants must respect and obey all rules and regulations pertaining to the field used for games.

Section 1.04 Any player or Referee wholly or partly in fair territory is an extension of fair territory. Any live base runner outside the kicking box is fair, even when wholly in foul territory. A player jumping from fair territory is in fair territory while in the air. A player in foul territory does not extend foul territory by jumping or reaching into fair territory.

Section 1.05 Upon notification to the Referee of any improper field set up, the field layout shall be corrected before the beginning of the next play. Protest based on field set up will not be considered.

Section 1.06 Sideline area. Prior to the kick, no participants (or spectators) may be in the sideline area (see Rule 1.01e and Diagram 2) except for the kicker, the catcher, Referees and designated base coaches (see Rule 6.01). After the kick, fielders and base runners in the process of playing the game may also occupy the sideline area. The first infraction of this rule will result in a warning to the team that caused the infraction. The second and each subsequent infraction will result in an out for the next kicker in the written kicking order on the team that caused the infraction.

Section 1.07 Any concrete areas are considered out of play. Any ball entering these areas is considered a dead ball and play stops.

## Article II. EQUIPMENT

Section 2.01 While participating, players must properly wear the official athletic clothing designated for their use.

Section 2.02 Athletic shoes are required. Metal cleats are not allowed. Plastic baseball cleats or turf shoes are permitted.

Section 2.03 Players may wear protective equipment providing it does not offer the wearer an unfair performance advantage. Any equipment deemed by the Head Referee (see Rule 3.01) as a performance enhancement must be removed or the player will be removed from play.

Section 2.04 The official kickball is the red WAKA Logo Kickball, measuring 10 inches in diameter when properly inflated to a pressure of 1.5 pounds per square inch.

Section 2.05 All player attire is an extension of the player.

Section 2.06 **Numbered team jerseys are required.**

## Article III. REFEREES

Section 3.01 Games must be officiated by at least one authorized official, the Referee. The Referee governs all game play and issues all final rulings, and has final authority on equipment issues. Other Referees may assist these officials when available.

Section 3.02 Prior to each game, the Referee must conduct a meeting with the Captains of each team, to address any ground rules in effect, **to ensure the exchange of team lineups** (see Rule 4.01), and to identify the designated Captains who will be authorized to discuss calls with the Referees during the game (see Rule 5.03).

Section 3.03 Referees have jurisdiction over play and may:

- (a) Call a time out;
- (b) Call off a game due to darkness, weather, time limit or other cause at the Referee's discretion;
- (c) Penalize a player, including game ejection, for any reason. This includes but is not limited to un-sportsman like conduct, fighting, delay of game and excessive verbal abuse. Ejected participants must leave the field area and may not return to the game and will also be suspended for the team's subsequent scheduled game.

Section 3.04 Referees have jurisdiction over play and must keep a record of the final game score.

Section 3.05 Referees may make rulings on any points not specifically covered in the rules (at the time of occurrence), but the ruling shall not be deemed as a precedent for future rulings.

## Article IV. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Section 4.01 **All participating players must appear on written lineups, reflecting that game's kicking order, to be submitted to the referee before play begins. The referee will ensure that teams receive their opponent's written lineup.**

Section 4.02 A claim of improper kicking order must be made to the Referee who will make the final determination. Such a claim must contain two parts: 1) that the written kicking order was exchanged in accordance with 5.05a; 2) that the claim is made on the field no sooner than the first pitch thrown to the accused "wrong" kicker, and no later than the first pitch thrown to the subsequent kicker. The burden of proof rests with the accused team. Any resulting play is nullified by a finding of improper kicking order, with an out recorded for the "wrong" kicker (see Rule 14.02i).

## Article V. TEAMS

Section 5.01 Each game shall have two (2) participating teams: the Away team, which kicks first each inning, and the Home team, which kicks last each inning. The team listed first on the schedule is the home team.

Section 5.02 While fielding, each team must field no more than ten (10) players, which must include one pitcher and one catcher at any time during the game.

Section 5.03 For a given game, each team shall have one Captain who is responsible for the team. The Captains may discuss calls with the Referee, but must accept the Referee's final ruling. Other players besides the Captains that dispute calls with the Referees are subject to ejection from the game (see Rule 3.03c).

Section 5.04 A minimum of 4 players must be female in the kicking order and on the field. Kicking order must reflect this ratio by having no more than 2 male kickers in a row.

Section 5.05 One possible example: M-M-F-M-M-F-M-F-M-F with 10 players kicking.

Section 5.06 If the team only has 3 girls, only 5 guys are allowed.  $4/10 = 40\%$  female. Ratio cannot be less than 40% female.

Section 5.07

## Article VI. BASE COACHES

Section 6.01 Two members of the team at kick may coach first and third base, switching as needed with other team members to remain in the proper written kicking order.

Section 6.02 Base coaches may not physically assist runners while the ball is in play (see Rule 14.02h).

## Article VII. REGULATION GAMES

Section 7.01 Regulation games last seven (7) innings. There is a 60-minute time limit on all games.

- (a) In the event of a tie score at the end of the game, the game shall be marked as a tie.
- (b) If the Home team (see Rule 5.01) already leads the game when the bottom of the final inning is reached, that team wins the game instantly and the game is over.
- (c) If the Home team (see Rule 5.01) takes the lead during the bottom of the final inning, that team wins instantly and the game is over.

Section 7.02 A game that is called off by the Referee (see Rules 3.03, 3.04) after five (5) full innings of play shall be considered a regulation game. The game score at the end of the last full inning shall determine the winner. Regulation games called off that end in a tie shall be marked as a tie.

Section 7.03 A game that is called off by the Referee for any reason before five (5) full innings of play shall not be considered a regulation game and a new game may be rescheduled.

## Article VIII. PITCHING, CATCHING AND FIELDING

Section 8.01 Balls must be pitched by hand. There are no restrictions on pitching style.

Section 8.02 Proper Field Position must be maintained by all fielders while a pitch is in progress, and until the pitched ball reaches the kicker. Failure to be properly positioned will result in a Position Warning to the team that caused the infraction. The team's second and each subsequent Position infraction by that team that game will result in the kicker being awarded first base regardless of the outcome of the kick.

Section 8.03 Proper Field Position is –

- (a) Fielders: All fielders besides the catcher must remain in fair territory behind the 1st-3rd base diagonal; **One fielder (usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> baseman) may play closer than the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> diagonal in order to better field bunts.**
- (b) Pitchers:
  - (i) The pitcher must start the act of pitching with at least one foot within the pitching mound (see Rule 1.01d);

- (ii) The pitcher must have at least one foot on or directly behind the pitching strip (see Rule 1.01c) when releasing the ball;
  - (iii) No part of the pitcher's front foot may be in front of or across the front edge of the pitching strip.
- (c) Catchers:
- (i) **The catcher must be positioned within or directly behind the kicking box and behind the horizontal plane of the kicker, parallel to the front edge of home plate.**
  - (ii) The catcher may not make contact with the kicker, nor position so closely to the kicker as to restrict the kicking motion.
  - (iii) The kicker may not trigger a position violation through maneuvers judged by the referee to be deliberately tricky or unsportsmanlike.
  - (iv) All teams must field a pitcher and a catcher, a maximum of 4 infielders, and a maximum of 4 outfielders. (10 players.) Note - There is no restriction on how male or female players should be distributed throughout the field of play.

## Article IX. KICKING

Section 9.01 All kicks must be made by foot or leg, below the knee (see Rule 13.02e). Any ball touched by the foot or leg below the knee is a kick.

Section 9.02 All kicks must occur:

- (a) At or behind home plate. The kicker may step on home plate to kick, however no part of the planted foot may be in front of or cross the front edge of the home plate (see Rule 13.02g).
- (b) Within the kicking box (see Rule 1.01g). The kicker must have at least a portion of the plant foot within the kicking box during the kick (see Rule 13.02g). The kicker may line up outside of the kicking box.

## Article X. RUNNING AND SCORING

Section 10.01 Runners must stay within the baseline. Any runner outside the baseline is out (see Rule 14.02k):

- (a) Runners may choose their path from one base to the next, and may follow a natural running arc;
- (b) Runners are free to change course to avoid interference with a fielder making a play;
- (c) When attempting to avoid a ball tag, runners may move no more than 4 feet out of their established path.

Section 10.02 Obstruction. Fielders must stay out of the baseline. Fielders trying to make an out on base may have their foot on base, but must lean out of the baseline. Runners hindered by any fielder within the baseline, not making an active play for the ball, shall be safe at the base to which they were running. Runners may choose to advance beyond this base while the ball is still in play.

Section 10.03 Neither leading off base, nor stealing a base is allowed. A runner may advance once the ball is kicked. A runner off base when the ball is kicked is out (see Rule 14.02g).

Section 10.04 Hitting a runner's neck or head with the ball is not allowed, except when the runner is sliding. Any runner hit in the neck or head shall be considered safe at the base they were running toward when the ball hits the runner. If the runner intentionally uses the head or neck to block the ball, and is so called by the Referee, the runner is out.

Section 10.05 A tag-up is a requirement to retouch or stay on a base until a kicked-then-caught ball is first touched by a fielder. After a tag-up a runner may advance. A runner failing to tag-up as required is out (see Rule 14.02f).

Section 10.06 All ties will go to the runner. Runners traveling from home plate may overrun first base, and may only be tagged out if actively attempting to advance to second base.



### Section 10.07 Base Running on Overthrows;

- (a) An overthrow is a ball thrown, kicked, or deflected into foul territory while making a defensive play toward a player or base;
- (b) A runner may advance only one base beyond the base the runner is on or running toward when the ball travels into foul territory;
- (c) One base on an overthrow is a restriction on the runner – not an automatic right for the runner to advance;
- (d) If any fielder attempts to make an out prior to returning the ball to the pitcher, runners may commence base running.

Section 10.08 Running past another runner is not allowed. The passing runner is out (see Rule 14.02j).

Section 10.09 A run scores when a runner touches home plate before the third out is made, EXCEPT that no run can score when the third out is made during a force play situation, or when the kicker is put out before touching first base. At the end of a game the team with the most runs wins.

Section 10.10 When a base is displaced during play, any runner is safe while in contact with the base's original and correct location. All displaced bases should be restored at the end of each play (see Rule 1.01b). When a base is displaced during play, any runner is safe while in contact with the base's original and correct location. All displaced bases should be restored at the end of each play (see Rule 1.01b).

Section 10.11 The white line that squares off the outfield area is the "Homerun Line." If a kicked ball crosses the homerun line without touching the ground first, it is considered a homerun. If the ball touches the ground prior to crossing the homerun line, it is a double and the kicker must stop at 2<sup>nd</sup> base. The kicker must run to first for the homerun to be valid.

## Article XI. STRIKES

Section 11.01 A count of three (3) strikes is an out.

Section 11.02 A strike is:

- (a) A pitch that is not kicked and is not called a ball per Rule 12.02, that enters any part of the strike zone
- (b) For strike-zone explanation, see Rule 1.02
- (c) An attempted kick missed by the kicker inside or outside of the strike zone (see Rule 1.02).
- (d) A ball kicked and called Foul. Exception – If there are already 2 strikes on the kicker, they get one foul kick to "waste" without being called out. A subsequent foul ball results in an out.

## Article XII. BALLS

Section 12.01 A count of four (4) balls is a walk and advances the kicker to first base.

Section 12.02 A ball is a:

- (a) Pitch outside of the strike zone as judged by the Referee where a kick is not attempted (see Rule 1.02);
- (b) Pitched ball that does not touch the ground at least twice or roll before reaching the kicking box;
- (c) A pitched ball that exceeds one foot in height from the bottom of the ball as it enters the kicking box;
- (d) A pitched ball that exceeds one foot in height from the bottom of the ball at any time while passing through the kicking box, prior to reaching the kicker;
- (e) Pitched ball that is higher than one foot at the plate.

Section 12.03 When a male player is walked on base, when he is immediately followed by a female player, she has the option to also take a base thereby advancing the male player to 2<sup>nd</sup> base, or she may choose to kick.

## **Article XIII. FAIRS AND FOULS**

### **Section 13.01 A foul ball is a:**

- (a) Kicked ball first touching the ground in foul territory (see Rule 1.01h, Diagram 3G, 3H, 3J);
- (b) Kicked ball first touching a fielder or Referee wholly in foul territory, while the ball is over foul territory (see Rule 1.04);
- (c) Kicked ball landing in fair territory, but touching the ground in foul territory on its own at any time before crossing the 1st-3rd base diagonal (see Rule 1.01h, Diagram 3I, 3K);
- (d) Kicked ball landing in fair territory, then entering foul territory before crossing the 1st-3rd base diagonal, and touching a fielder or Referee wholly in foul territory (see Rule 1.01h, Rule 1.04);
- (e) Kick made on or above the knee (see Rule 9.01);
- (f) Kicked ball touched more than once or stopped in the kicking box by the kicker;
- (g) Kicked ball first kicked outside of the kicking box (see Rule 9.02) (see Diagram 3L, 3M);
- (h) Kicked ball first touching a permanent object, such as a batting cage, wall, ceiling, light-fixture or fence.

### **Section 13.02 A fair ball is a:**

- (a) Kicked ball landing and remaining in fair territory (see Rule 1.04) (see Diagram 3C, 3D, 3E);
- (b) Kicked ball landing in fair territory then traveling into foul territory beyond the 1st-3rd base diagonal (see Diagram 3A, 3B, 3F).
- (c) Kicked ball first touching a player or Referee in fair territory (see Rule 1.04);
- (d) Kicked ball landing in fair territory, then touched by a participant in fair territory before touching the ground in foul territory (see Rule 1.04);
- (e) Kicked ball that touches a runner before touching the ground in foul territory (see Rule 1.04);
- (f) Kicked ball that touches the kicker once outside the kicking box before touching the ground in foul territory (see Rule 1.04);

## **Article XIV. OUTS**

### **Section 14.01 A count of three (3) outs by a team completes the team's half of the inning.**

### **Section 14.02 An out is:**

- (a) A count of three (3) strikes, including foul balls called as strikes;
- (b) Any kicked ball (fair or foul) that is caught by a fielder. Any part of the ball may incidentally touch the ground during the act of catching and still be ruled an out if the fielder first displays full control of the ball and maintains control after touching the ground;
- (c) A Force Out, being the tag by any part of a fielder's body of a base to which a runner is forced to run, before the runner arrives at the base, while the fielder has control of the ball. The ball may be touching the ground if the fielder displays full control of the ball while simultaneously tagging the base;
- (d) A runner touched by the ball or who touches the ball at any time while not on base while the ball is in play;
- (e) A kicker or runner that interferes with the ball (see Rules 15.02b and c);
- (f) A tag of a base by any part of a fielder's body, while the fielder has control of the ball (see Rule 14.02c), before the runner originating at that base can tag-up as required due to a caught ball (see Rule 10.05);
- (g) A runner off base when the ball is kicked (see Rule 10.03);
- (h) A runner physically assisted by a team member during play (see Rule 6.02);
- (i) Any kicker that does not kick in the proper kicking line up (see Rule 4.02);
- (j) A runner that passes another runner (see Rule 10.08);

- (k) A runner outside of the baseline (see Rule 10.01);
- (l) A runner who misses a base, as called by a Referee upon the conclusion of the play;
- (m) A runner who fails to properly tag up on a caught ball, as called by a Referee upon the conclusion of the play;
- (n) A runner touched by the ball while on a base they are forced to vacate by the kicker becoming a runner;
- (o) A player improperly occupying the sideline area after their team has been issued a warning (see Rule 1.07).

## **Article XV. BALL IN PLAY**

**Section 15.01** Once the pitcher has the ball in control and retains possession on the mound, the play ends. Runners who are off base at this time and in forward motion may advance only one base. Runners who are off base at this time and not in forward motion must return to the base from which they were running.

**Section 15.02** Interference is:

- (a) When any non-fielder or non-permanent object except a Referee or a runner, touches or is touched by a ball in play in fair territory. This interference causes the play to end, and runners shall proceed to the base to which they were headed;
- (b) When any runner on or off base intentionally touches a ball, or hinders a fielder. This interference causes the play to end, the runner to be out, and any other runners shall return to the base from which they came, unless forced to advance (see Rule 14.02e);
- (c) When any kicker intentionally touches a pitched ball by hand or arm before the pitch is called a Ball or Strike, or intentionally touches a kicked ball to render it foul. This interference causes the play to end, the kicker to be out, and any runners shall return to the base from which they came (see Rule 14.02e).

**Section 15.03** During any play where a ball is popped or deflates significantly, that play shall be replayed with a properly inflated ball.

## **Article XVI. INJURY AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

**Section 16.01** In cases of injury or illness, a time-out may be requested for participant removal and replacement with a teammate as a substitute. If the participant later returns to play, the participant must be inserted in the same written kicking order position previously held.

**Section 16.02** If a player is ejected, injured, or becomes ill and cannot continue, the written kicking order will continue in the same formation, less the removed player. There is no “automatic out” when the removed player’s spot in the order is reached.

**Section 16.03** Injured players who do not kick shall not play in the game.

**Section 16.04** Any player removed from the game for injury or illness must be noted on both team written kicking orders and mentioned to the Referee.

**Section 16.05** The pitcher and the catcher positions may only be replaced once per inning each, unless injury forces another substitution.

**Section 16.06** Only runners who are injured while traveling to a base, and who successfully make it to a base, may be substituted. There are no other allowable runner substitutions. A runner may be substituted no more than twice during the game. Upon the second substitution, the player will be removed from the game and no longer be allowed to participate. The only exception to this rule is for players who have medical conditions that may preclude them from running (such as asthma) and these must be identified to the referee at the start of the game.

## **Article XVII. REGISTRATION**

**Section 17.01** A deposit is required to hold your spot. This deposit is non-refundable unless OYA cancels your league for any reason.

**Section 17.02** If OYA cancels your league, your deposit will be refunded.

Section 17.03 The balance of your team fee must be paid before your first game. If your balance is not paid in full by your start day we reserve the right to replace your team with no refund of your deposit.

## **Article XVIII. BASIC REGULATIONS OF OAKLAND YARD ATHLETICS**

Section 18.01 NO OUTSIDE ALCHOLIC BEVERAGES as required by the State of Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

Section 18.02 Absolutely NO SMOKING is allowed anywhere in the dome.

Section 18.03 No fighting. Fighting will result in immediate ejection from the dome and may result from ejection from the league.

Section 18.04 NO FOUL LANGUAGE will be tolerated. It will result in ejection from the dome and may result in ejection from the league. Teams are responsible for the conduct of their fans.

Section 18.05 No pets allowed in the dome.

Section 18.06 If a player is obviously intoxicated or under the influence of drugs during a game, the umpire and/or OYA staff has the right to eject that player.

Section 18.07 You must be 18 years or older to be eligible to play.

Section 18.08 No glass of any kind is allowed on the turf areas.

## **Article XIX. MANAGER/COACH RESPONSIBILITIES**

Section 19.01 A manager is responsible for the conduct of his team's players and coaches before, during and after a game while at OYA. Teams are also responsible for their fans before, during, and after a game while at OYA.

Section 19.02 Each individual team is required to submit a written kicking order to the referee and keep a record of the team line-up, score and actual start time. Please be sure to verify score with the opposing team after each half inning. If a problem arises, please take care of it before the game resumes.

Section 19.03 Managers are responsible for the eligibility of their players and for the validation of the official Team Roster, as well as the submission of score and stats sheets to the appropriate OYA employee after each game.

Section 19.04 Team schedules, standings, rulebooks are available on our website at [www.oaklandyard.com](http://www.oaklandyard.com)

## **Article XX. ROSTERS**

Section 20.01 Individual players assume all risk associated with playing kickball, and hold harmless Oakland Yard Athletics, LLC and its staff and agents.

Section 20.02 OYA advises that you carry a full roster with plenty of extra players. For playoffs, individual players are permitted to participate with only one team throughout the course of the tournament.

## **Article XXI. TIME RESTRICTIONS**

Section 21.01 Ten (10) minutes after the scheduled game time is also the forfeit time.

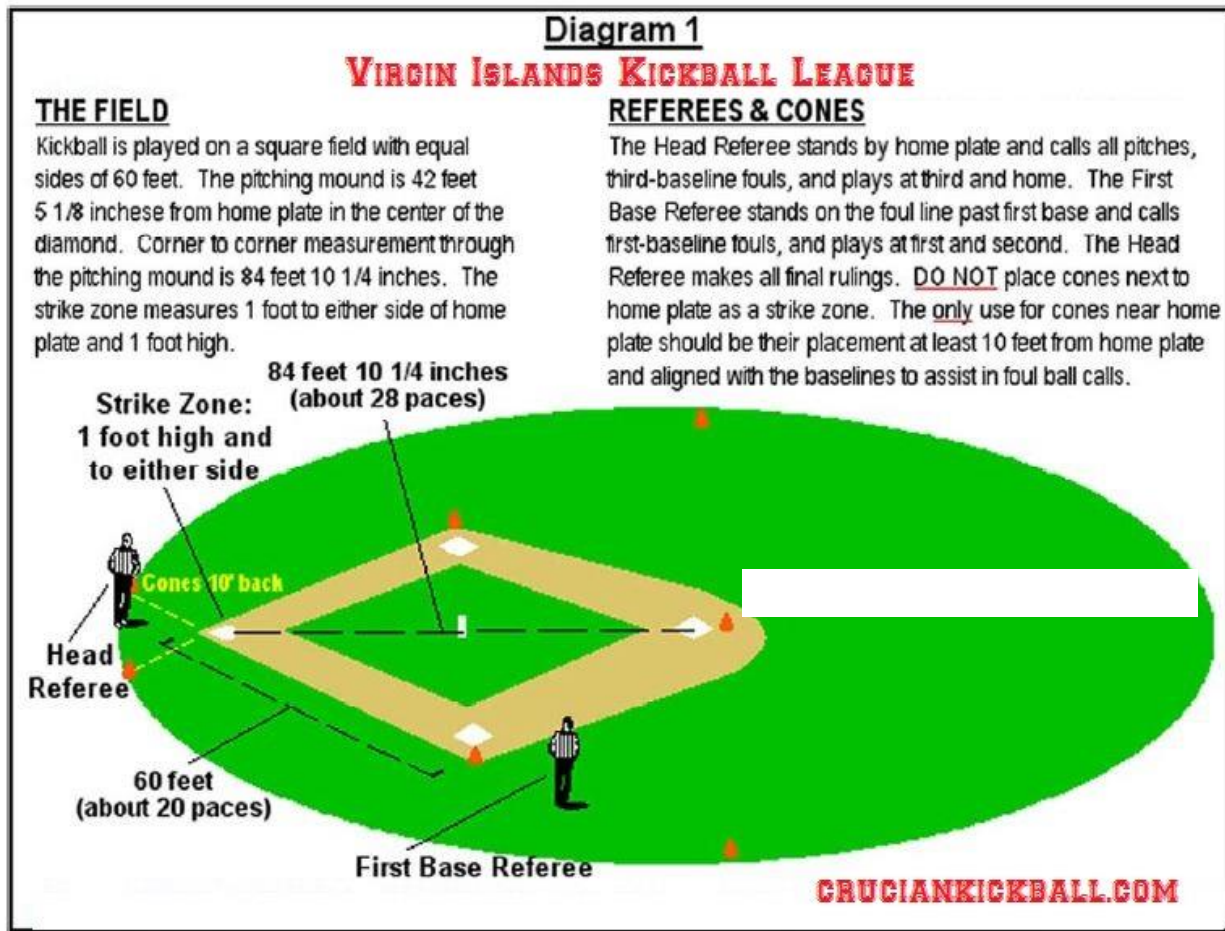
Section 21.02 There is a 60-minute time limit on all games.

## **Article XXII. MERCY RULE**

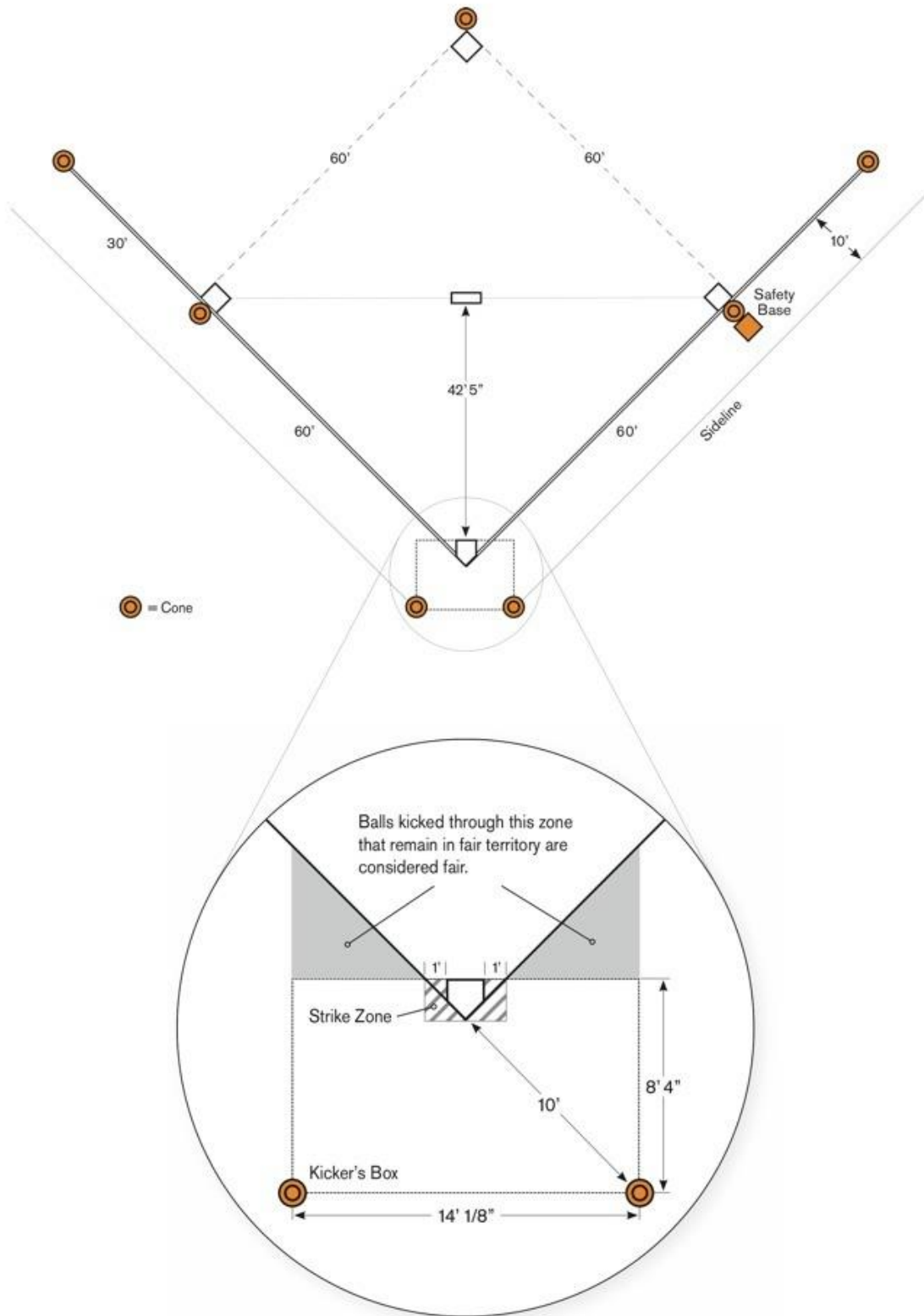
Section 22.01 The following situations will result in the Mercy Rule being employed and the game is considered complete.

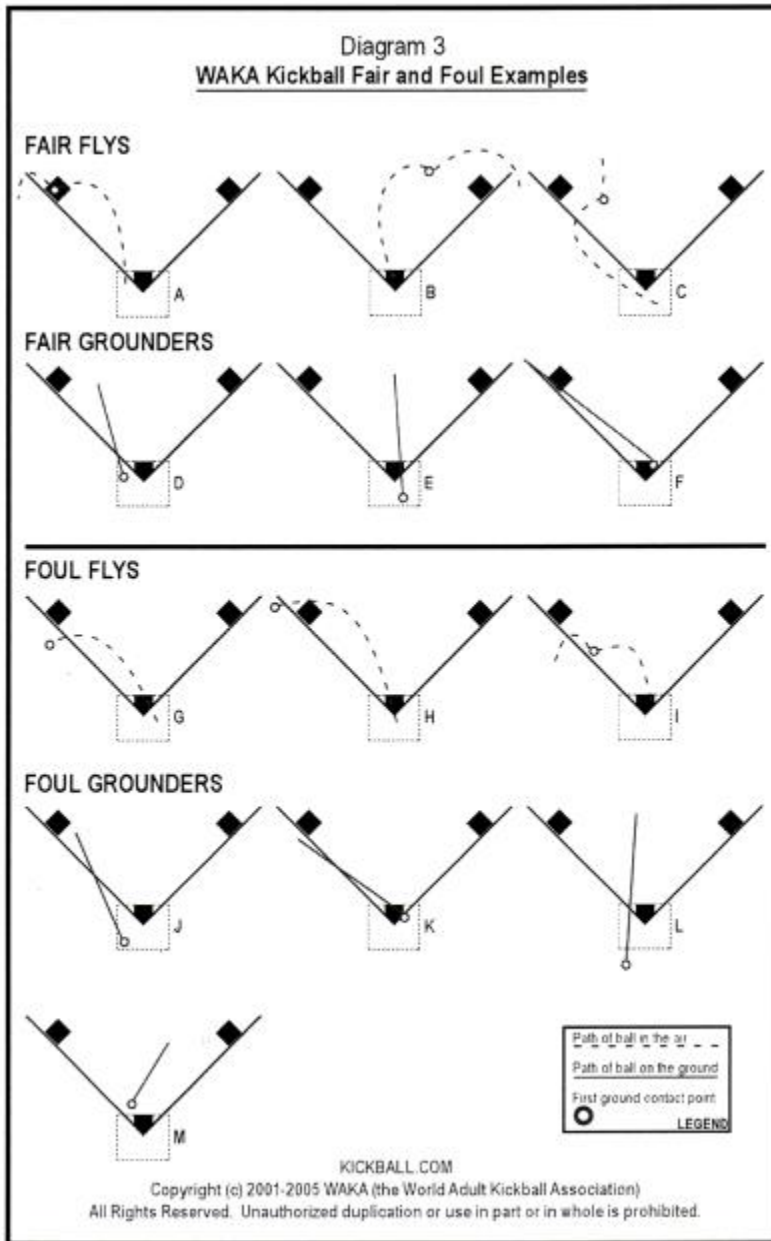
- (a) One team is ahead by 20 or more runs after 3 innings
- (b) One team is ahead by 15 or more runs after 4 innings
- (c) One team is ahead by 10 or more runs after 5 innings

(a) World Adult Kickball Association – Adult Kickball Field



(a) Diagram 2  
 (i) **WAKA Kickball Field Dimensions**





**Diagram 4**  
**WAKA Kickball Strike Zone**

