

**ONALASKA PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
**CO-REC KICKBALL – Wednesday Nights**  
**2023 LEAGUE RULES (As of 6-11-24)**

**A. Player Eligibility Requirements**

1. All participants must complete and sign the Player Waiver, Release of Liability & Indemnification Agreement before they will be allowed to participate in the league.
2. All user fees must be paid before an individual will be allowed to participate.
3. All participants must be at least 18 years of age **and** out of high school.

**B. Team Roster Requirements**

1. Teams can have an unlimited number of players on a roster.
2. Teams are not limited to the number of non-residents on the roster.
3. Each team roster on file at the park and recreation department must consist of a minimum of ten (10) players. (5 men and 5 women)
4. A complete “Player Waiver, Release of Liability & Indemnification Agreement” (**this is team roster**) must be submitted to the Recreation Department by **September 4, 2024, or at your first game.**
5. Players can be added to the roster as the season is played out. However, the rosters shall be frozen **once playoffs begin**, unless special circumstances arise (i.e. a team cannot field a team due to injuries, illnesses or work related issue). **Please let the park and rec office know prior to the night’s games if you have a special circumstance.**
6. All players must be on the team’s official Player Waiver Agreement 24 hours prior to taking part in a game. The Player Waiver, Release of Liability & Indemnification Agreement are on file in the Recreation Office.
7. Any player who knowingly falsifies the Player Waiver, Release of Liability & Indemnification Agreement will be suspended from the program he/she is participating in for a three (3) week period. Any further falsification of player contracts by any member of the same team will result in the suspension of all individuals on said team for a three (3) year period from any activity sponsored by the Onalaska Park and Recreation Department.

**C. Game Requirements**

1. League play begins Wednesday, September 4, 2024.
2. Teams must give a twenty-four (24) hour notice prior to the scheduled game if they are unable to field a team. Games will be ruled a forfeit by the team which is unable to field a team. The Park and Recreation Department must be notified.
3. All team managers must fill in the line up card containing the full names of all players participating in each game, prior to the start of each game.
4. One umpire will be provided for each game. The umpire will keep the inning scorecard up to date at all times. In the event an umpire does not arrive for the game, managers have the option to either call the game or select a substitute umpire. Both managers must agree to this before the start of the game.
5. A game called off by the umpire after four (4) full innings shall be considered a regulation game. The game score at the end of the last full inning shall determine the winner. Regulation games that are called off that end in a tie shall be marked as a tie.
6. Players, managers, coaches or any person on the bench are asked to refrain from consuming any alcoholic beverages during the game in any part of the play area. No beverages of any kind are allowed **on the field**. The umpires and league administrators will monitor the behavior of the players, managers, coaches or any person on the bench. Individuals may be automatically ejected from the game if their behavior is unsportsmanlike or endangers the safety of others. The umpire has the right to refuse a player from playing or may disqualify a player if he feels the player is intoxicated and may cause harm to himself or another individual.
7. **Profanity / Foul Language Rule** – The use of any profanity will not be tolerated at any volume level or under any circumstances. If a player uses profanity while on the kicking team, that player will be automatically ruled out and the next kicker will also be ruled out. If the player using profanity is already the third out, the first kicker up in the next inning will be ruled out as well. If the player using profanity is in the field, the first kicker on their team when that team comes up to kick, will be instantly ruled out and will not kick.
8. **Start of the Game:**
  - A. **A team MUST have a minimum of 6 players to start a game in order to avoid a forfeit (3 women, 3 men).** If a team has less than 6 players, a game can be played but the team with less than 6 players will forfeit. If a team forfeits, the score will be ruled a 7 – 0 win for the opposing team.
  - B. Home team will be the team listed first on the schedule.
  - C. Teams may start with a maximum of 10 players in the field (5 women, 5 men).

9. All games shall be seven (7) innings or **50-minute limit** from start of game. However, once a new inning begins the inning must be completed. Games that are tied after seven (7) innings have been played **and/or** the time limit has expired will be **ruled a tie**. If there is time left, another inning will be played. **There is no minimum number of innings that must be played before the game is considered a complete game. For example, if a game last only 2 innings and the time limit expires, the game is over after 2 innings.**
10. **12, 15 Run Mercy Rule** – Game will end if a team is losing by 15 runs or more after 3 innings, or 12 runs or more after 4 innings or 3 ½ if losing team is the visitor. **Teams will not have the option to continue.** The game will be stopped.
11. The three-strike rule will be used for all games. Any combination of three (3) strikes (called, swinging and foul balls) the batter is called out. **A foul ball on the third strike is an out.**
12. If the third strike is a foul ball and is caught, runners on base may advance with the risk of being put out.
13. Four (4) balls shall constitute a walk.
14. The strike zone extends to one (1) foot on either side of home plate, and one (1) foot in height when the ball is at home plate. **There shall be no bouncies. A pitch that is bouncing higher than one foot when it is approximately 10 feet from home plate, is considered a bouncie and will be called a ball. If the umpire calls a pitch “bouncie” the kicker may kick the ball and take the outcome of the play or not kick the ball and the pitch will be ruled a “ball” in the count.**
15. **A line running from the 1<sup>st</sup> base line to the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line will be place approximately 8 feet in front of the pitching rubber. Now the Pitcher along with the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Base person and Shortstop may not be positioned in front of this line or move in front of the line until the ball is kicked or bunted. If the Pitcher, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or Shortstop runs in front of this line prior to the kick, the kicker may take the result of the play or rekick.**
16. Outfielders must remain on the outfield grass until the ball is kicked. If a players runs in front of this line prior to the kick, the kicker may take the result of the play or rekick.
17. **The catcher must field behind the kicker and may not cross home plate before the ball is kicked. Failure to abide by this rule results in a ball if the ball is not kicked, or the kicker will be ruled safe if the ball is kicked.**
18. All kicks must be made by foot and occur at or behind home plate. A kick in front of home plate results in a **foul/strike**. If it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> strike, the player will be called out.
19. After a kick and play has been made on the runner(s) or the ball, once the pitcher has control of the ball **and is within 10-15 feet of the pitching stripe**, the play ends and runners cannot advance to the next base.
20. Hitting a runner with the ball above shoulder level is not allowed. Any runner hit above the shoulders is safe and advances one base. If the runner intentionally uses the head to block the ball, and is so called by the umpire, the runner is out.
21. **Neither leading off base, nor stealing a base is allowed.** A runner off of his/her base before the ball is kicked is out.
22. There may be up to ten (10) players on the field. If a team has a player(s) ejected from a game and that team drops below six (6) players on the field, the game is instantly ruled a forfeit, and game will end, regardless of score. **A team having less than six players (must have at least 3 men and 3 women) to start a game will automatically forfeit the game and game will not be played.** Games will start at the scheduled game time or immediately after previous game had ended. Six (6) players (3 men and 3 women) must be at field by the end of the previous game or a game time, **not on the way to field.**
23. Umpires decisions are **FINAL**. No appeals/ protests allowed.
24. **Games will only be canceled in case of bad weather or poor field conditions. Individuals may call the department’s information hotline number 608-791-0833 to see if games have been canceled.** Managers will not be contacted. Rainout will be decided between 4:30pm – 6:00pm. If games are canceled or poor field conditions develop after 5:00pm please show up at site. Umpires will decide if fields are playable. Umpires decisions are final.
25. Cancelled games will be made up at the end of the season only if time allows. Cancelled games will be made up in the order (according to date) that they were cancelled.
26. Steel spikes are not allowed. If steel spikes are detected, the player must immediately remove them and put on other shoes.
27. All teams will be required to run on and off the field.
28. **Bases:**
  - A. Base distance: 60ft., pitching distance is 43 ft. from home plate.
  - B. A runner cannot leave base until there is contact between the kicker and ball of a pitched ball, otherwise he will be called out.
  - C. **Double First Base:** When using the double first base, the following will apply: a kicked ball hitting any part of the white portion is declared fair and a kicked ball hitting the colored portion is declared foul. Whenever a play is being made on the batter/runner, the fielder must use the white portion and the batter/runner use the colored portion. On extra base hits or balls hit to the outfield when there is no play being made at the double first base, the batter/runner may touch the white or colored portion of the base. Should the batter/runner return, he must use the white portion. When tagging up on a fly ball, the white portion must be used.

29. Runner **must** avoid contact with fielders. Any runner that intentionally or unnecessarily collides with a fielder shall be called out. No roll slides allowed at any base. A runner does not necessarily need to slide at home plate, but needs to avoid contact and cannot run over the catcher.
30. Fielders/Catchers cannot obstruct a runner unless in possession of the ball and attempting to make a putout, or in position and have a reasonable chance to receive a thrown ball. (Umpires discretion)
31. Runners must stay within the baseline. The baseline is considered to be approximately 3 feet on either side of the line between the bases.
32. **Bunting is allowed.**
33. **Kicking Order:** All players present at the start of the game **must be in** the kicking order. **You can never have two men kick in consecutive order at any time during the course of the game. If there are more men than women, the women will rotate down in the order to kick in between the men. If there are more women than men, the extra women will kick consecutively at the end of the kicking order.**
- A. Once a game begins, the number of positions in the kicking order remains constant for the whole game, with the following exceptions: teams which begin play with eight (8), or nine (9) players may add late coming players to their line-ups in the ninth and tenth batting positions and said players may enter the field of play.
  - B. Late coming players may be added until the completion of the **second** inning. After the last out of the **second** inning, late coming players cannot be added.
  - C. **If managers list all of their players in the batting order and a player is injured, no penalty will be assessed when they come up to kick. If it is a women that gets injured, then the manager must roll his women down positions in the lineup so no two men kick consecutively. It is the umpire's decision whether a player is injured. If a player is ejected, an out will be assessed each time that player was to kick after the ejection.**
34. **Player Positioning In the field** – Teams can have up to 10 players in the field. **Teams can never have more men in the field than women.**
- Players must start each pitch in a normal position on the field. For example, a shortstop must be playing in the relatively normal shortstop position between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, a 2<sup>nd</sup> baseman must be in a relatively normal second baseman position between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, a left fielder must be in a normal left fielder position, etc.
- A. **With 10 players or more:** (Must play with 5 women) –
    - 1 woman is catcher or pitcher, 1 man is catcher or pitcher
    - 2 women on the infield, 2 men on the infield
    - 2 women in the outfield, 2 men in the outfield
  - B. **With 9 players:** (Must play with 5 women) –
    - 1 woman is catcher or pitcher, 1 man is catcher or pitcher
    - 2 women on the infield, 2 men on the infield
    - 2 women in the outfield, 1 man in the outfield
  - C. **With 8 Players:** (Must play with 4 women) –
    - 1 woman is catcher or pitcher, 1 man is catcher or pitcher
    - 2 women on the infield, 2 men on the infield
    - 1 woman in the outfield, 1 man in the outfield
35. **Walk Rule:** Any walk to a male kicker will result in a two base award. The next kicker (a female) will bat. Exception: with two outs, the female kicker has the option to walk to 1<sup>st</sup> base or kick.
36. **A courtesy runner** may be utilized only for an injured base runner. **The courtesy runner can be any player of the same gender. The courtesy runner cannot be the same player for each injured runner and the same injured player must have a different courtesy runner each time on base.**
37. **Pitching:** Pitchers must pitch the ball at a moderate pace and must make sure the kicker is ready for the pitch. Balls that are pitched excessively fast may be ruled illegal (this will be a judgment call at the umpire's discretion). Winding up to pitch, using excessive force on the pitch and body language are signs of pitching too fast. Curveballs are legal. Also, the pitcher must have one foot on the pitching stripe and on foot behind the pitching strip when releasing the ball. **The pitcher may move up in front of this line after the ball is released.**
38. **Infield Fly:** There is no infield fly rule.

D. **Umpires**

1. Umpires jurisdiction begins when he/she arrives at site and ends when he/she leaves the site.
2. Umpires have final jurisdiction over the following;
  - A. Cancellation of game at site.
  - B. Removal / ejection at site of player, forfeits of games.
  - C. Official game time.
  - D. Regulation ball.
  - E. All judgement calls (balls/ strikes, safe/ out.

E. **Equipment**

1. The park and recreation department will supply all equipment necessary for regular game play.
2. The ball will be a 10” rubber ball.
3. Players must wear some type of athletic shoe. **No steel cleats allowed.**

F. **League Standings**

1. Standings are based on winning percentage.
2. If teams have the same winning percentage, the tiebreaker will be head to head winner. If teams split head to head games or there is more than two teams tied (i.e. 3 teams with the same record), the tiebreaker will be the least total runs given up in the games played against the opponents with the same winning percentage.
3. **Forfeits:** If a team forfeits, the score will be ruled a 7 – 0 win for the opposing team.

G. **Player Conduct**

1. Player and managers will conduct themselves decently at all times. There will be no swearing or foul language used to embarrass the umpire, fans or other players. Abuse of this rule may result in the termination of the game. (umpire’s discretion)
2. Foul language/swearing directed toward an umpire will not be tolerated. The player/person/teams involved will be immediately ejected from the game and required to leave the park. If ejected parties do not leave the park, the game will be stopped and officially ruled a forfeit.
3. A team, player or players who persist to make the game a “farce/joke” through deliberate actions deemed inappropriate for adult play (game delays, pranks, lack of hustle, throwing of equipment etc…) may be ejected from the game.
4. Players who have repeated violations of the rules and fail to exhibit a spirit of fair play and sportsmanship will be banished from the league for the remainder of the season. Any players ejected from a game must leave the park for the remainder of the day/night and will serve a suspension.
5. Any player ejected during the last game of the season shall serve the suspension at the beginning of the following year.
6. **Players ejected from a game shall be suspended from league play for two games (next scheduled played games). Players being ejected from 2 games during the course of the season shall be suspended from the league for the remainder of the year.**
7. Players may be suspended from play for un-sportsman like conduct displayed after the game is completed.
8. Any player who physically attacks/strikes or attempts to strike a game official or umpire, will automatically be barred from further play in this league or any other league sponsored by the Recreation Department, for a 2 to 5 year period from time/date of the incident. The Park and Recreation Department will establish a penalty period. This includes but not limited to: spitting, hitting umpire with bill of cap or other equipment, tapping umpire with finger, pushing, kicking or throwing dirt at a umpire. A repeated offense after suspension is served will result in player/players being barred permanently from this league or any other league sponsored by the Onalaska Park and Recreation Department.
9. The Park and Recreation Department also reserves the right to make decisions that it deems necessary to maintain the integrity of the program.