

# Appendix B - Common Playing Rules

The following rules apply to all Divisions.

## 1. COVID-19 Protocol

KNLL follows the District COVID-19 Protocol: <http://d9ump.org/umpireFiles/D9CovidRules.pdf>. This may supersede rules published in this document. For example, this document specifies the Home team shall two (2) new baseballs or softballs to the Plate Umpire at the start of the game. The District COVID-19 Protocol instead states that the defensive team shall provide and handle the baseballs or softballs for their half-inning.

It is the responsibility of all participants to read and follow the District COVID-19 Protocol.

## 2. League Options

The LLOR allows the local league to adopt options to its published rules. **NOTE:** Interlock or interleague rules may supersede these rules and options. Teams should review the playing rules before the game.

### 2.1. Baseball and Softball Regulation VII (h) and Rule 4.10 (c) (2) - Time Limit

Games shall have a time limit from the scheduled start of the game. See the appropriate appendices for the time limit of each division. Any inning which has been started prior to the time limit expiring will be completed. No new inning will begin once the time limit has expired.

In the event a field is scheduled for use following a game, it may be necessary to vacate the field before an inning can be completed. In this event, an appropriate hard-stop time limit may be adopted and communicated at the plate meeting. The recommended hard-stop time limit is 2 hours 15 minutes.

### 2.2. Baseball and Softball 1.01, 4.04, 4.16, 4.17 & 6.05 - Eight Players

KNLL adopts the Local League Option to start and play games with only eight (8) players for certain divisions. See the appropriate appendices for more information.

### 2.3. Baseball and Softball 3.04 and 7.14 (b) - Courtesy Runner

KNLL adopts the Local League Option to permit a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner is permitted for the catcher and/or pitcher of record when there are two (2) outs. The courtesy runner must be the player in the batting order who made the last out.

### 2.4. Baseball and Softball 4.10 (e) - Fifteen (15) and Ten (10) Run Rule

KNLL follows the rule as published for those divisions that keep score.

### 2.5. Baseball and Softball 6.02 (c) - Batter Must Remain in the Box

KNLL adopts the Local League Option for those divisions that use umpires.

*After entering the batter's box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot throughout the at bat.*

## 2.6. Majors Baseball and Softball 6.05 (b) (2) - Third Strike Not Caught

KNLL follows the rule as published.

## 2.7. Majors Softball 7.08 (a) (5) (a) - Leaving Early

KNLL follows the rule as published.

## 2.8. Baseball and Softball 9.01 (d) - Stealing and Relaying of Signs

KNLL adopts the Local League Option for those divisions that use umpires:

*The stealing and relaying of signs to alert the batter of pitch selection and/or location is unsportsmanlike behavior. If, in the judgement of the umpire, this behavior is occurring, the team manager and those responsible including any player(s) and/or coach(es) shall be warned after the first offense. Those responsible including any player(s), coach(es), and/or manager shall be ejected from the game for a team's subsequent offense.*

## 2.9. Baseball and Softball 9.04 (a) - Plate Umpire

KNLL follows the current guidance of the District and will position the Plate Umpire behind the pitcher. This guidance may be updated during the season at which time the Plate Umpire shall stand behind the catcher. KNLL will notify the league in such an event.

# 3. Mandatory Play

Every eligible player present at the start of a game shall play a minimum of two (2) defensive innings at an infield position.

No player may sit out for more than one (1) defensive inning until each player has sat out for at least one (1) inning. No player may sit out in excess of one (1) defensive inning more than any other player.

The Penalty and Notes as detailed under **LLOR Regulation IV – The Players (i)** apply to this rule.

## 3.1. Exception - Baseball Major Division and Below

If the starting pitcher, or the pitcher in relief of an injured starting pitcher, would need to be removed from the mound to satisfy this rule (*i.e.* all other players have sat for one (1) defensive inning and the pitcher has not sat out for at least one (1) defensive inning), said pitcher may remain as pitcher. When said pitcher is removed from the mound, that player shall sit out the next defensive inning. If said pitcher finishes the game and did not satisfy this rule, during the next game that player shall sit out the first defensive inning and then an additional defensive inning (for a total of two (2) defensive innings) before any other player may sit out for more than one (1) defensive inning, but otherwise no penalty applies.

## 3.2. Exception - Baseball Intermediate Division and Above

If the starting pitcher, or the pitcher in relief of an injured starting pitcher, can return to the mound under **LLOR Regulation VI – Pitchers (b)** but would become ineligible to return to the mound to satisfy this rule (*i.e.* all other players have sat for one (1) defensive inning and said player has not sat out for at least one (1) defensive inning), said player may remain in the game. When said player cannot return to the mound, that player shall sit out the next defensive inning. If said player finishes the game and did not satisfy this rule, during the next game that player shall sit out the first defensive inning and then an additional defensive inning (for a total of two (2) defensive innings) before any other player may sit out for more than one (1) defensive inning, but otherwise no

penalty applies.

### 3.3. Exception - Softball

If the starting pitcher, or the pitcher in relief of an injured starting pitcher, can return to the mound under **LLOR Regulation VI – Pitchers (c)** but would become ineligible to return to the mound to satisfy this rule (*i.e.* all other players have sat for one (1) defensive inning and said player has not sat out for at least one (1) defensive inning), said player may remain in the game. When said player cannot return to the mound, that player shall sit out the next defensive inning. If said player finishes the game and did not satisfy this rule, during the next game that player shall sit out the first defensive inning and then an additional defensive inning (for a total of two (2) defensive innings) before any other player may sit out for more than one (1) defensive inning, but otherwise no penalty applies.

## 4. Continuous Batting Order

Teams shall use the continuous batting order. All eligible players must appear in the line-up. Players who arrive after the start of the game shall be added to the end of the line-up. Players who are removed from the game due to injury, illness, prior commitment or similar are removed from the line-up. If said player later returns, they shall resume their original position in the line-up. Players who are ejected from the game are removed from the line-up and are not eligible to return.

## 5. Interleague and Interlock Playing Rules Amendments

If KNLL interlocks with another team to field a team or KNLL is scheduled to play games against another league, the appropriate VP and Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) are empowered to negotiate playing rules with that league(s). Further, they may amend the following playing rules for consistency across all games. Such playing rules will be forwarded to the District for approval and then shared with the Board and the league.