



## Official Xoso Coed Kickball Rules - Updated 7/6/17

### Honor Code

Xoso Coed Kickball is played on the honor system. It is important to remind yourself and your teammates that everyone in the league is here to have fun and meet new people. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Alcohol is no longer permitted at the field.

1. **This is an adult SOCIAL league - relax, have fun, and don't be too serious!**
2. **All players must be registered, paid, and at least 21 years of age.**
3. **By registering and signing the Xoso Release of Liability form, players agree that Xoso and its staff will not be held responsible or liable for any injuries occurring as the result of participation in any Xoso Activity.**

### Field

1. The field is a standard Softball Field.
2. The pitching area is located directly between 1st and 3rd base.
3. The "Bunt" Line is located approximately 20 feet in front of home plate and extends toward the 1st and 3rd base lines (20ft from the plate on either base line). Please see "Bunt" Line Rule under the "Bunt" Line Section.

### Equipment

1. All players must wear Xoso team shirts and closed-toe shoes. Sandals are prohibited.
2. The official ball is a red 10" playground ball.

### Teams

1. Team rosters generally consist of 12 – 14 members with at least 4 of each gender.
2. A maximum of 10 players on the field during play and a minimum of 6 are required (3 of each gender) to prevent starting down runs. Maximum of 6 men on the field.
3. If a team cannot field the minimum at game time they will start the game down a run for every person it is missing.
  - a. 2 females and 6 males = 1 free run
  - b. If the player(s) show up, they can join the game in progress but the penalty runs will still be assessed.
4. A team must have 2 of each gender to prevent a forfeit.
  - a. Each team will have 5 minutes from the scheduled game time to meet the 2/2 rule.
5. Only paid Xoso league members are allowed to play. NO EXCEPTIONS. Any team using a player not on their roster who did not register as a sub will forfeit their game. Subs can register at <http://www.xososports.com/page/sub-registration>

## Game Play

1. All players must kick, alternating between males and females.
2. Each team must be able to provide a written lineup if asked by the Head Umpire or the other team.
3. The "kicking" lineup may not change unless a player is removed from the game.

## Regulation Games

1. A regulation game consists of 7 innings, time permitting.
2. If the game ends in a tie, then the game is a tie. The only exception is when, time permitting, both team captains and the umpire agree to play an additional inning.
3. A game will be considered regulation if it is called off for any reason after 3 completed innings.
4. The team leading after the last full inning will be declared the winner.
5. A game may not last longer than 45 minutes unless both teams, the umpire, and the schedule permit it (i.e. no game following).
6. A game called after 30 minutes of play due to time shall be considered regulation.
7. If a game is "called" before 3 full innings, and the teams have not played at least 30 minutes, every attempt will be made to make up the game.
8. If the game is unable to be made up, it will be considered a tie.
9. **Mercy Rule:** A team losing by 12 or more runs may opt to end the game.
10. For the purposes of tiebreakers, no team shall win or achieve a differential of more than +10, even if the team won by more than 10 runs.

## Forfeits

1. Teams will be given a 5 minute grace period.
2. Teams that fail to abide by their scheduled game time will forfeit their game.
3. A team that uses a player not on their roster will forfeit their game, unless it's a paid sub that registered through the website and checked in with the head umpire.
4. A team that registered as a team that uses a player under 21 will forfeit their game.
5. Any team that fails to provide referees for any of their designated games will receive a "**Party Foul** forfeit".
  - a. "**Party Foul** Forfeits" count towards the rule below determining playoff eligibility.
6. Any team that forfeits two or more games, including **Party Foul** and game forfeits, will be ineligible for the playoffs.

## Fielding

1. The fielding positions : Pitcher, Catcher, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B, and 4 outfielders. Outfielders must be at least 15 feet behind the baselines.
2. No player may advance beyond the 1st/3rd base diagonal before the ball is kicked. If they do so, and the play results in an out, the kicker may re-kick if they'd like.
3. In the event that a team is short players, they may place defenders at any position on the field they see fit.
4. There is an 8 run limit per inning except in the last inning where there is no limit.

## Pitching / Catching

1. Pitching must be underhand. Overhand pitches will not count as a pitch.

2. There are no strikes or balls. The Head Umpire may tell the pitcher the next pitch must be a quality pitch or the kicker will be awarded 1st base if the pitcher is not giving the kicker anything to kick.
3. The pitcher must remain at or behind the pitching line until the ball is kicked.
4. The catcher must be at least three feet behind home plate until the ball is kicked.

### **Kicking**

1. All kicks must be taken at or behind home plate or a foul will be called.
2. Bunting is allowed as long as it passes the “bunt” line. See “bunt” line below.
3. There are no strike outs or walks, but a 3rd foul will result in an out. Kickers can wait for “their” pitch, but the head umpire has authority to tell the kicker they need to kick the next “kickable” pitch or be declared out if the kicker is delaying.

### **“Bunt” Line**

1. The “Bunt” Line is located approximately 20 feet in front of home plate and extends toward the 1st and 3rd base lines. (20ft from the plate on either base line).
2. All kicks must reach the “Bunt” Line. Balls not reaching the “Bunt” Line are fouls.
3. A ball fielded before it touches the “Bunt” Line is a foul.

### **Running**

1. Runners must stay in the base line. If a runner leaves the baseline they are considered out.
2. Fielders must stay out of the baseline.
3. If a fielder interferes with a runner in the baseline, the runner safely advances to the base they were approaching.
4. Fielders making a play on a base must lean out of the baseline when making a play on the bag.
5. Leading or stealing is not allowed. A runner leading off a base before the ball is kicked is out.
6. There is absolutely no sliding (nor diving) at any base. It will be considered an automatic out.
7. Runners must run to the safe base at 1st and at home plate (if available). Runners going to first may choose to step on the bag if there is no play at first and they want to run to 2nd.
  - a. There will be a force out at home once the runner has crossed the halfway point (commit line). No tag outs at home.
    1. Runners may run back to 3rd base after crossing the commit line in order to “tag up”.
8. Hitting the runner in the head or neck is prohibited. If the runner is hit above the shoulders the runner will be awarded a free base (past the base in which they are approaching).
9. If a runner intentionally uses the head or neck to block the ball the runner is out.
10. All ties go to the runner.
11. Tag ups are allowed.
  - a. A runner may “Tag Up” by touching their original base after a kicked ball has been caught. They may then try to run to the next base if they choose to do so.
12. On an out of bounds ball the runner may advance to the base they were approaching plus one extra base.
  - a. Out of bounds is considered outside the fence, behind the dugout, behind the backstop, or in the street.

### **The “Ho” Run**

1. On a home run kick the kicker may opt to re-run the bases.
  - a. ONLY the kicker may re-run, not players on base when the ball was kicked.
2. If the kicker makes the turn from home towards first base the play immediately becomes a force out at 1st base.
3. If the kicker is out at any point on the 2nd lap, the original run will score but the out will count.
4. The kicker may choose to stop at any base on the re-run and play will proceed as normal.

### **Ball in Play**

1. Once the pitcher has the ball in control and on the pitchers mound the play is over.
  - a. If a runner has advanced past the halfway point, they may proceed to the base. If not, they must return to the last base they crossed.

### **Fouls**

1. A foul is:
  - a. A kick landing, or being first touched, in foul territory.
  - b. A kick that lands in fair territory but travels into foul territory before passing 1st or 3rd base except when touched by a player.
  - c. A kick made beyond home plate.
  - d. A kick that does not cross the "Bunt" Line.
  - e. A ball fielded before it crosses the "Bunt" Line.

### **Outs**

1. An out occurs when:
  - a. 3 fouls.
  - b. A runner touched by a ball at any time while not touching base.
  - c. A runner leading off a base.
  - d. A force out when a runner is forced to run.
  - e. Any kicked ball that is caught in the air.
  - f. Running to the non-safe home plate base.

### **Injuries**

1. All players must kick, but do not have to field.
2. Pinch runners will only be allowed if a player does not return to the game or to maintain the male/female kicking order if there is a limited number of one gender.
3. Pinch runners must be of the same gender if possible. If not, the opposite gender runner will take the spot furthest from scoring.

### **Officiating**

1. Xoso Coed Kickball is a player-officiated sport, and each team is responsible for designating players from their team as umpires for other games as indicated on the provided season schedule:
  - a. Teams will be scheduled by Xoso to provide TWO umpires for games in rotating fashion at 1st/3rd base. Xoso will provide a head umpire at home plate.
  - b. If a team fails to furnish TWO umpires as scheduled they will be issued a **Party-Foul** forfeit. The **Party Foul** forfeit does not count as a loss. Teams with two or more forfeits, including game forfeits, will be ineligible for the tournament or playoffs.
2. **Only team captains may dispute calls with the Officials.**
3. All decisions by Officials are final, with the head umpire having priority.

4. Any player who commits the following infractions shall be declared out at the Officials' discretion:
  - a. No player shall use abusive language.
  - b. No player shall engage in any unsportsmanlike conduct.
  - c. No player shall argue with a Xoso staff member or Official.
  - d. No player shall intentionally throw at any player's head.
5. Any player who breaks the above rules twice in one match shall be ejected.
6. Any player ejected twice in a season shall be removed from the league.
7. Before each game the Head Umpire should remind both teams that fielders should remain behind the 1st-3rd diagonal until the ball is kicked, the kicker must kick at or behind home plate, play ends when the pitcher has the ball on the mound, and that there are no lead offs or sliding.
8. Umpires have complete authority and may:
  - a. call a time out;
  - b. call off a game because of weather or other reasons;
  - c. penalize or eject a player, including game ejection, for any reason.
  - d. ejected players must leave the field for the duration of the day in question.
9. Official Duties
  - a. The official will be responsible for:
    - i. Starting games
      1. Keeping time
      2. Recording each win and loss
      3. Enforcing the honor system
      4. Enforcing all penalties
      5. Managing the game
      6. Turning in the final score
      7. Call any game after 45 minutes.
      8. Umpires may make rulings at their discretion at the time of the play. These rulings will not necessarily become part of Xoso's official kickball rules.

### **Sportsmanship and Cards**

1. Any player or team may be removed from the league for the remainder of the season, and denied registration for subsequent seasons due to unsportsmanlike conduct at the complete discretion of Xoso if it is in the best interest of the league.
2. Officials and Xoso staff members may give **YELLOW** and **RED** cards at their discretion for unsportsmanlike conduct without prior warning.
  - a. Games will be whistled to a stop to issue the card.
  - b. Suspensions as a result of YELLOW/RED cards may be reviewed by Xoso staff members who may alter or amend punishment as they deem necessary.
3. **Warnings, Yellow Cards, and Red Cards**
  - a. **Warning:** No suspension, but if conduct is repeated there should be a card given.
  - b. **Yellow Card:** Player must sit out the remainder of the current GAME. The team shall play minus one player for the remainder of the game.
  - c. **Red Card:** The player in question shall be ejected from the remainder of the current GAME and the following GAME. The team shall play minus one player for the date the player received the card. The following week the team may play full strength but without the player

- in question. The player must leave the premises. Two Red Cards for any player in a season shall prevent that player from participating in or registering for any Xoso league for one year.
- d. 2 Yellow Cards = 1 Red Card
    - i. A player receiving two Yellow Cards on the same day (before, during, or after a game) will result in a Red Card and immediate ejection from the game, and facility.
  4. If a **Yellow** or **Red Card** results in a team's inability to meet the 2/2 gender requirements to play in a game it shall count as a forfeit for said team. If it prevents the offending team from meeting the 3/3 gender requirement the offending team will begin down a run as stated earlier.
    - a. The forfeited game or match shall count as suspension time served for the offending player.
    - b. If the opposing team must forfeit it shall also count as suspension time served.
  5. **Some Causes for Cards**
    - a. Drug and alcohol use on or near the playing court/field.
    - b. Arguing calls, especially by non-captains with other players, referees, or Xoso staff members.
    - c. Unsportsmanlike communication between opposing teams, both verbal and non-verbal:
      - i. Arguing, yelling, pointing, questioning, misleading or confusing the other team with incorrect rules, swearing and other foul language.
        1. Warnings should be given to BOTH teams at first.
      - ii. Moving in an intentional or threatening manner, physical abuse or posturing shall result in an immediate RED CARD.
    - d. Foul language or behavior directed towards referees, spectators, players, or Xoso staff members.
    - e. Intentionally throwing a ball at a referee, Xoso staff member, or spectator.
    - f. Intoxication

### **Protests and Disputes**

1. Protests and disputes must be filed on paper with the Xoso staff member on site or by email on the day in question.
2. Team captains may dispute the final score of a match or the receipt of a Yellow or Red Card for a team member by explaining in detail their reasoning.
  - a. Disputes based on referees judgement calls (safe, out, etc.) will not be heard.
  - b. Only rules explicitly outlined in this document shall have grounds for reversal.
  - c. The initial ruling shall be considered accurate, and the burden of proof shall rest with the captain filing the protest.
3. The Xoso staff shall consider all protests and may request additional information/perspectives from other players and witnesses in the interest of making the proper determination and ruling on the protest.

### **Playoffs**

After 40 minutes of play, each team will start the next inning with a runner on both second and third base. The runners may be of any gender. Please note that if the kicking team chooses to start with a male on 3rd base, a male may still lead off kicking in that inning. If it is tied after this inning, the outcome of the game will be decided by rock, paper, scissors to avoid having games play indefinitely due to ties. If time allows, the championship game will play additional innings before the rock, paper, scissors comes into play.

All other playoff scenarios that occur will be treated on a case-by-case basis by the Sports Director. The Sports Director has the final say on any disputes and will treat each situation in the fairest and most logical way.

Please email Xoso at [disputes@xososports.com](mailto:disputes@xososports.com) if you have any questions about these rules.

**These rules may be modified as needed to make the league more fun for everyone.**