

*Revised Date: October 2nd, 2023*



**“Real Fun for Real people. Come Kick It.”**

***[www.EchoAthletics.org](http://www.EchoAthletics.org)***

**Updates and Maintained Rules @ [www.EchoAthletics.org](http://www.EchoAthletics.org) Rules may be changed without notice.**

# **Official ECHO Athletics Kickball Rules**

## ***A) Teams***

- i. **3 or more males** than females is ***not permitted***. The ***minimum*** number of players on the field is 7. The ***maximum*** number of players on the field is 10. **Team rosters shall contain a maximum of 24 players**
  - ◆ ***MAXIMUM LIMIT of Each Gender on Team Roster = 12 Males AND 12 Females - All Girls Teams welcome.***
- ii. **Rosters must be submitted on Week 1**, if teams wish to add players to their Roster they must meet with the Commissioner/League Coordinator and sign the Roster/Waiver.
- iii. All players present for a game must be placed in the kicking order.
- iv. Fielding teams are required to play catcher and pitcher.
- v. Teams must vacate fields and dugouts within 5 minutes of the conclusion of their scheduled game time.
- vi. All players must be registered with the League to play with the team. Unregistered substitutes are not permitted. Any team found to be playing with an unregistered player will forfeit the game.
- vii. Due to injury, Umpires may use their discretion to determine whether to assign a(n) out per inning or remove from the line-up.
  - ◆ ***Injuries during the Playoffs - Pitch runners can ONLY be used if the injured player sits out the rest of the game AND the next game. (If you are too injured to run - you are too injured to play)***
- viii. ***Safety Bases must be used at all times*** -- Warnings will be given until Week 3, after which umpires may use their discretion to determine whether to assign a(n) out or issue a warning.
- ix. ***Late Registration:*** Teams may add players to the roster up through the ***5th scheduled match of Season Play*** with the team captain & commissioner's approval. The league fee shall ***not be*** prorated for the remainder of the season. **All players** must be formally registered with the League, read and signed Team Roster/Waiver, and paid in full prior to playing 1<sup>st</sup> scheduled game.
- x. All players must be 18 years or older.
- xi. Divisions
  - ◆ Champions of the Recess Division will graduate to the Playground Division after winning.

- ◆ Teams will be bumped Up and Down Divisions during the Season as seen fit by the commissioner.

### ***B) Playoffs/Championship Play***

- (a) Highest Seeded Team receives home-field advantage in the FIRST GAME of the FIRST ROUND of the Playoffs, every following game (including Championship) teams must play Rock, Paper, Scissors to decide Home-Away.

### ***C) Officials***

- i. Each game shall be officiated by a League-assigned Umpire.
- ii. Umpires are responsible for:
  - (a) Setting Up and Tearing down the Field
  - (b) Keeping game time.
  - (c) Keeping score.
  - (d) Enforcing all game rules.
  - (e) Tracking all counts and outs.
- iii. ***Team Captains are the only individuals*** involved in ***Any/All*** deliberations or conferences between Teams and Umpires.
- iv. Umpires shall eject a player from the game if that player engages in unsportsmanlike conduct. An ejected player must leave the field and facility immediately; failure to do so may result in removal from the league. Players/parties may be ejected from the game & forced to forfeit their game at the discretion of the Umpire and Commissioner.

### ***D) Field***

- i. Games may be played on any flat grassy area with sufficient space for an infield and outfield or a formal baseball diamond. The distance between bases shall be 60 feet.
- ii. First & Home Plate shall include a safety base; overruns at 1<sup>st</sup> (First) must be made on the safety base.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Base(wo)man and Catcher must make ***all*** plays on the ball using primary 1<sup>st</sup> base and home plate, while runners must use the safety bases to avoid collisions. 1<sup>st</sup> Base(wo)men and Catchers who make a play on the ball using the safety bases will result in the base-runner being called safe. Base-runners using primary base will be called out at the ***umpire's discretion***.
    - (a) To help avoid collisions ***all*** plays at Home Plate the safety base must be used at ***all*** times and ***all*** plays are force-outs ***after the runner*** has

advanced *half the distance* toward Home Plate. Base-runners using primary base will be called out at the *umpire's discretion*.

- iii. The field shall be bounded by a sideline measuring 10 feet from the foul line. No player/spectator shall reside within the sidelines except for those actively playing, the game officials, and a 1st and 3rd base coach. **ALL** Players/spectators must be touching the fence at all times if not remaining in their team's dugout. Players/Teams outside of their dugout will be subject to an interference call, at the umpire's discretion, on 'playable' foul balls, resulting in Out(s) and/or bases being granted to the kicking team.
- iv. All plays shall be declared dead once the pitcher is on, or in the vicinity of, the pitcher's mound/plate & raises a hand or is on the pitcher's mound/plate & begins to reset for the next play. Pitchers must not make a play on a runner.

### ***E) Equipment***

- i. All playing equipment shall be provided by the League
- ii. Players must wear their League-appropriate t-shirts of the appropriate color for their team. Teams are **strongly encouraged** to participate in Weekly Themes, but not required!
- iii. Steel cleats *are NOT allowed*.

### ***F) Game Clock***

- i. Each game shall be completed in no more than 7 innings or 50 minutes, whichever comes first.
- ii. Any inning being played after 50 minutes shall be the last inning of the game; no new inning may begin after 55 minutes.
- iii. Any inning in progress shall end immediately, and both teams shall vacate the field when:
  - (a) The clock has passed 50 minutes with the home team leading in the bottom of the inning (the home team wins), or;
  - (b) The clock has passed 55 minutes in a Playoff game; the score shall revert to the score at the previous full inning, with the team leading at the end of the previous full inning declared the winner.
  - (c) In the event of a tied score after the final inning during a Regular season play game, the game shall be recorded as a tie. IT HAPPENS, FOLKS!

### ***G) Game Start***

- i. Umpires conduct a ***Rock, Paper, Scissors match*** between captains to determine the "home team," a.k.a. who shall have a choice to either kick first or field first.

Sports(wo)man-like Conduct mantra must be recited for both coaches to hear and agree upon before the game begins.

### ***H) Sports(wo)manlike Conduct***

*" You need your opponent because, without him or her, there is no game. Acknowledging that your opponent holds the same deep-rooted aspirations and expectations to have fun while competing recreationally as you do. True Sportsmanship flourishes when one player practices it rather than when hundreds try to teach it."*

- i. Yellow and Red cards are means to discipline players for misconduct during the game. Cards may be given verbally.
  - (a) **Yellow card** – To caution players, to punish milder forms of misconduct than red cards. Two Yellow cards in one game, players receive automatic red cards.
  - (b) **Red card** – Flagrant acts of misconduct, resulting in the player's dismissal from the facility entirely.

***Umpires reserve the right to eject players from the game, failure to leave the facility may result in removal from the league. Unsportsmanlike conduct is unacceptable and may result in a player/team suspension, with no refund.***

- ii. Fighting, abusive language, and personal attacks on individuals are not tolerated. People who infringe on other people's rights to have fun will be asked to leave.
- iii. Umpires are responsible for all verbal calls related to gameplay: *fair, foul, out, I got it, safe*. Calls made by teams/players may result in yellow/red cards being given due to unsportsmanlike conduct.
- iv. Any person(s) asked to leave a game must leave the facility entirely within 5 minutes. If the ejected person(s) does not leave the facility within 5 minutes, the team with which the ejected person(s) plays/is affiliated will forfeit the game, regardless of the score at the time of ejection. The score shall be 5-0 in favor of the team that does not have the ejected player.
- v. Any person(s) asked to leave a game will automatically be suspended from the league for a minimum of 1 game. If any person(s) is suspended 2 times during a season, the person(s) will be ejected from the league indefinitely.
- vi. Any person(s) who is asked to leave a game during the final week of the regular season will be suspended from ALL playoff games.
- vii. Any person(s) who intentionally abuses any piece of league property/equipment

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will automatically be asked to leave the game. The aforementioned person(s) will also be monetarily responsible for any equipment replacements and be subject to suspension details as stated above.

### ***I) Scoring | The 3-1-0 Points System***

- i. Teams are awarded **three** points for a victory, **one** for a draw, and **none** for a loss. Teams progress based on points accumulated during Season play.
- ii. SEEDING TIEBREAKER SEQUENCE:
  - ◆ H2H Record (overall) among the tied teams
  - ◆ If these teams have not all played each other and for an equal amount of times then the H2H tiebreaker is invalid. The tiebreaking process proceeds to Points For.
  - ◆ Points For - Most points wins. If a tie remains, the process proceeds to Points Against
  - ◆ Points Against - LEAST points wins\*. If a tie remains, the process proceeds to a Coin Flip.

### ***J) Pitching & Fielding***

- Pitchers shall roll the ball, staying on or behind the pitcher's plate until the ball is kicked.
- **ALL** Pitches in **Recreational Divisions** must be thrown underhand (*the ball is released with the hand below the elbow, at a 90-degree angle.*)
- The pitch must pass within the 1-foot strike zone around and above the home plate.
- Pitches must have bounced twice or be rolling on the ground when crossing the plate.
- The plane of the catcher's chest must remain behind the plane of the Kicker's back until the ball is kicked.
- **BUNT ZONE** – No defensive player, including the pitcher, may cross the invisible encroachment line between 1st and 3rd base prior to the ball being kicked. The first violation of encroachment of the invisible line will result in the team being warned and a re-kick, if necessary. The second violation, and thereafter, will result in the kicker choosing the option of re-kicking or being awarded first base.
- Attempts on Foul Balls are permitted, ANY error on a foul ball during the attempt to play the ball results in a **dead ball** and results in a strike.

- ◆ The position of the fielder when the ball is touched determines fair or foul. If the fielder pushes a ball in fair territory into foul territory, it's still a fair ball. Vice versa, If the fielder pushes a ball located in foul territory into fair territory, it's a foul ball.

### ***NO Infield Fly Rule BUT***

Defenses are prevented from intentionally misfielding pop flies to execute a double or triple play at the ***umpire's discretion***. Intentional drops will result in the kicker being out and base runners being safe at current bases.

### ***K) Kicking***

- The kicker's body is considered the bat, thus the kicker should not throw the live ball back to the Pitcher.
- ALL*** Teams must provide a Kicking Order prior to the ending of the 1st of the inning (starting Week 3.)
- Alternating genders in the kicking line-up ***is required***. In the event that a team exhausts their female kickers for alternating genders in the kicking lineup, the Females must kick again alternating with the remaining Males.
- For example, if a team has 3 Females and 6 Males the Lineup would appear as is below

Male #1
Female #1
Male #2
Female #2
Male #3
Female #3
Male #4
Female #1
Male #5
Female #2

- v. All players present must be included in the kicking lineup but not all players must field.
- vi. 3 strikes is an out and is called when:
  - (a) The ball crosses the strike zone without being kicked.
  - (b) The kicker swings at it but misses the ball.
  - (c) The ball is kicked foul.
- vii. Fouls are **always** counted as strikes, including on a 2-strike count, and are called when:
  - (a) The ball lands or is touched in foul territory.
  - (b) The ball lands inside the foul line but rolls outside the foul line before reaching the 1st or 3rd bases. A ball that lands on or past the 1st or 3rd bases but rolls into foul territory **shall be considered fair**.
  - (c) Contact the ball behind home plate with any part of the body above the knee.
  - (d) The kicker kicks the ball with any part of the foot planted outside the kicking box, **including** in front of the home plate.
  - (e) The kicker makes a "double-kick", i.e. kicks or contacts the ball after the initial kick.
- ii. 4 balls allow the kicker to advance to first base as is called when:
  - (a) the Ball fails to pass through the 1-foot strike zone around home plate.
  - (b) The bottom of the ball bounces above the kicker's knee.

## ***L) Running***

- i. Stealing bases and leading off bases is **illegal**. Teams leading off the base prior to the hit shall be warned once before being called out.
- ii. Base runners **are subject to** the rules for tagging on all pop flies. A tag-up is required to advance or stay on a base until a kicked then caught ball is **first touched by a fielder**. Runners may advance after a tag-up. If a runner fails to tag up as required the play may remain live until the runner is tagged out by the defense or returns to their primary base.
- iii. Sliding at 1<sup>st</sup> (first) base is illegal. A player who **intentionally** slides at first base shall be called out. Runners must use the safety base.
- iv. **ALL** plays at Home Plate are **forced outs after the runner** has advanced half the distance toward the safety base at Home Plate.
  - A runner is out when:
    - (a) Fielder catches a fly ball.
    - (b) Gets 3 strikes.



- (c) The base is tagged on a forced run.
- (d) A runner is tagged by a fielder in possession of the ball.
- (e) Comes in contact with the ball, except when thrown by a fielder at the head (unless sliding).
- (f) A runner is off base when the ball is kicked.
- v. A runner's baseline is established when the tag attempt occurs and is a straight line from the runner to the base to which he/she is attempting to reach. Any runner is out when running more than three feet away from his/her baseline to avoid being tagged unless such action is to avoid interference with a fielder fielding a batted ball.
- vi. The baseline belongs to the runner if the ball *is not* there. If a fielder is daydreaming on the baseline and a runner runs into him, then it's certainly obstruction. However, the runner not only should but **MUST** get out of the baseline if a fielder is trying to field the ball there. Otherwise, the runner (not the fielder) will get called for interference and be out.

***COMMON INCORRECT BASELINE BELIEFS:***

- (a) The baseline is defined as a straight line between the bases (with 3 feet allowed to either side)
- (b) The baseline belongs to the runners and runners are automatically out if they run out of the baseline.
- (c) If there's a collision with a fielder and the runner is on the line, it is obstruction and the runner is awarded the next base
- vii. A runner that is tagged in the head by a ball shall be considered safe at their intended base unless that player was sliding or intentionally placed their head in the path of the ball.
- viii. In the event of an overthrow into an out-of-play *area* in an attempt to make a play, the runner may advance only as far as the base they are running toward plus the next base. This is a restriction on the advance of the runner; runners are ***NOT automatically*** awarded the base.
- ix. Pinch running due to injury is permitted at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base provided the pinch runner is the last out at bat and of the same gender. Pinch running at kick is not permitted.

***M) Mercy Rule***

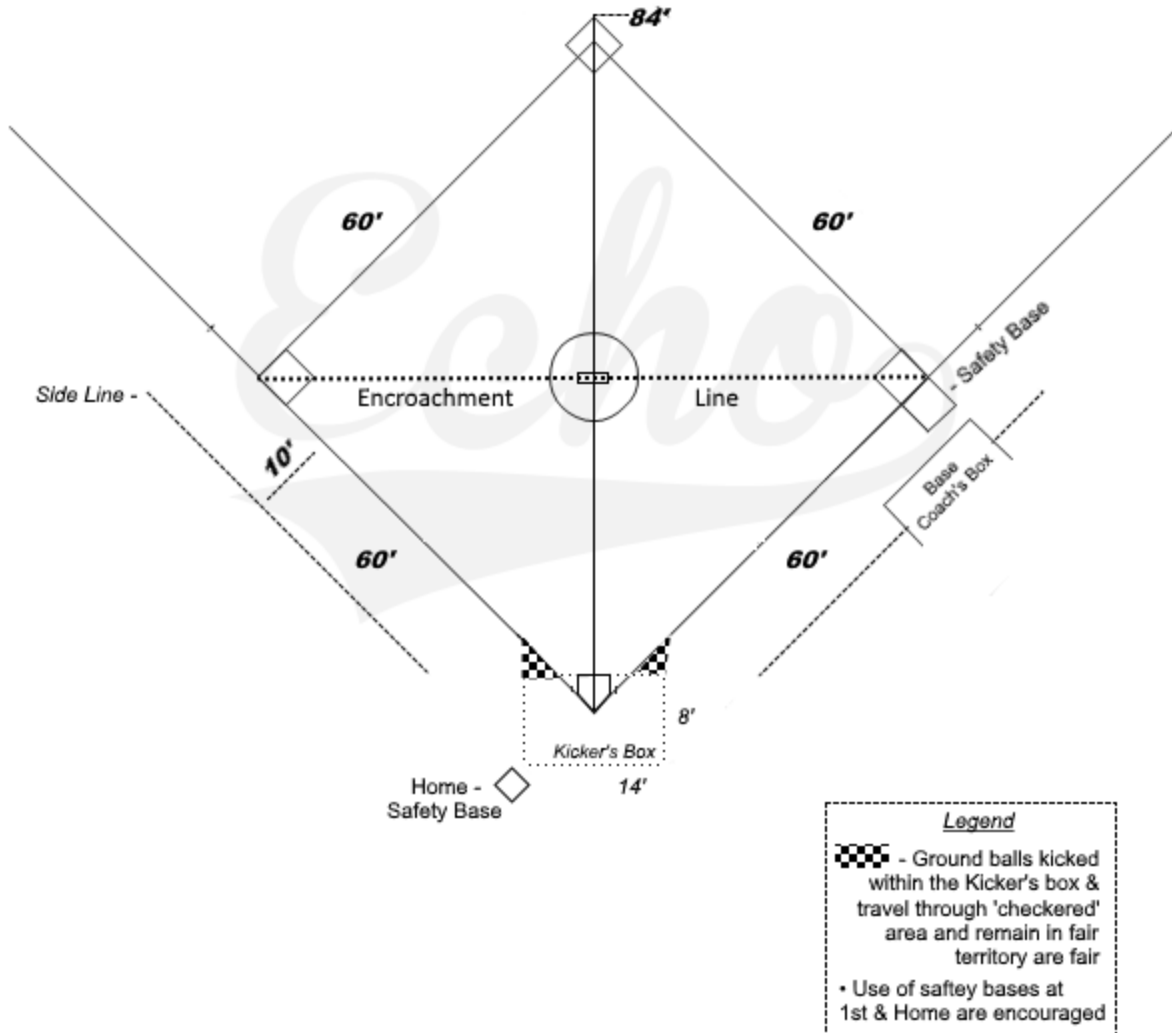
- i. The mercy rule advances the inning; it does not end the game.* The inning shall advance when a team scores **10** runs in any inning when leading by **10** or more

runs. In other words, the mercy rule applies only to teams that are in the lead by **10** runs; it does NOT apply to teams that are behind, thereby giving that team an opportunity to catch up. The mercy rule shall be called and the inning advanced immediately upon scoring the 10th run.

## ***N) Forfeits***

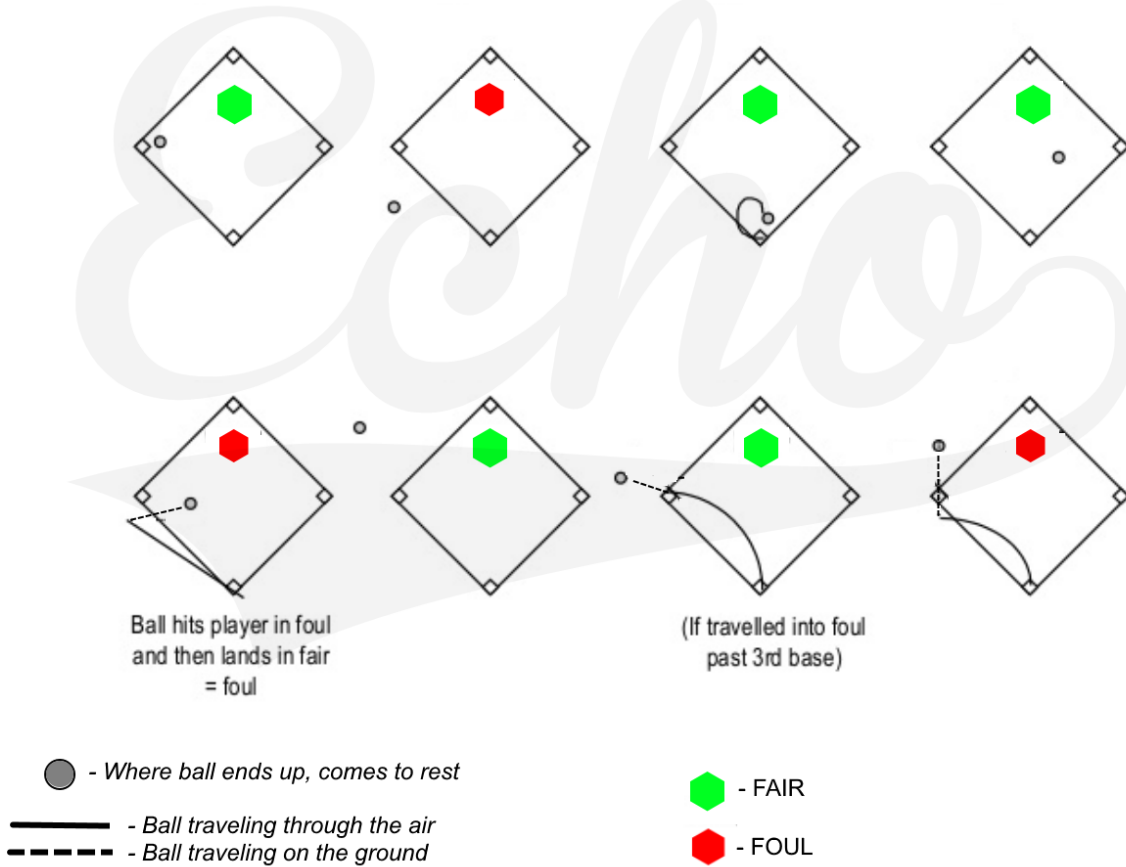
- i. Grace Period = Up to 15 minutes max. after posted game time, does count against the game time and the 50-min game time will be shortened. If neither team is ready to play as the grace period time expires, both teams shall forfeit.
- ii. Teams must be ready to play and meet game-start requirements before the grace period time expires. Any team not ready to play at this time shall forfeit, and the opposing team shall take a default win (3 points in standings) and receive 4 Runs in their Runs For column (equal to a grand slam). ***Forfeits result in paying BOTH Teams Umpire fees (\$40.) Teams will forfeit by default until all Forfeit Fees are paid.***
- iii. Any team found to be playing with a player not registered with the League or team shall forfeit the game.
- iv. Alcohol is permitted at certain fields (Alga Norte Community Park) but ***can only be consumed after*** games. No glass bottles of any sort may be present at the park/fields before, during, or after a game. Referees and field supervisors are instructed to review the sidelines, dugouts, and field for any glass beverages and if found they are instructed to delay the start of the game until all glass is removed from the premises. The delayed time does count against the game time and the game will be shortened. ***Drinking on the field or dugout before or during games can and may result in a Team Forfeit.***
  - ***ALL alcohol brought to be consumed AFTER a team's games must be stored outside of the baseball field, including dugouts. ie. Behind the fence of your team's dugout, on the bleachers, or with league officials on-site.***

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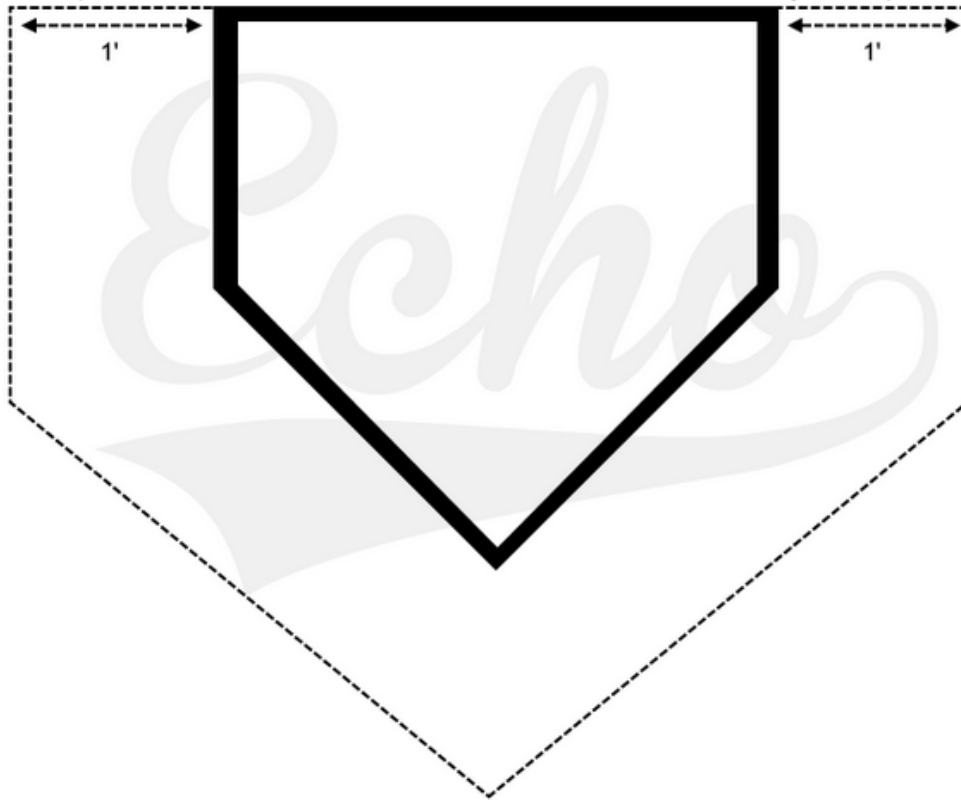
### Fair and Foul Ball Diagrams



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### **Kickball Strike Zone**

*Pitches must pass within the 1-foot strike zone around & above the home plate.  
Top of the ball must be below the kicker's knee when crossing home plate*



(Not to Scale)

