



Kane County Baseball League

2026 Spring Season Rules

Updated October 1, 2025

Organization Statement

The KCBL strives to promote, facilitate and support competitive youth baseball throughout Kane County. Our mission is to foster a better baseball experience for players, families and programs while bringing communities together to enjoy the wonderful game of baseball.

Kane County Requirement

Registration is open to all travel teams and/or programs within the county. Teams or programs not based in Kane County will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for potential admittance.

How to Sign Up: Two Step Process

The Spring '26 season will follow a "two-step" registration process to allow teams and programs sufficient time to finalize their decision to join the KCBL.

1. Step One: Register (Sign Up) via KCBL Link
2. Step Two: Confirmation (Payment) by February 15th 2026

Confirming team participation may also be done verbally or via email to confirm team intent. However payment must be made prior to the start of league play in April.

Registration Fee

The cost per team for the Spring 2026 season is \$350. Each team is responsible for finalizing payment prior to the start of games in April. Programs are permitted to pay in "bulk" for all participating teams. Payments can be made via live check (address below), Zelle or through payment option link on our website:

The Kane County Baseball League
a Division of Twelve21 LLC
P.O. Box 872
St. Charles, IL 60175

All registered teams will receive a welcome email upon registration as well as paid invoice confirming successful payment.

Release Forms & Certificate of Insurance

Once registration has been confirmed, teams are required to complete the KCBL Medical Release & Waiver Form. All players must have approved waiver on file prior to the start of league play. Certificate of Insurance must be obtained which shall list the "Kane County Baseball League" as the certificate holder. COI must be on file before game play in April.

Roster Configuration

Head coaches are responsible for roster formation and confirmation before March 31st. Before league begins game play (April 15th) all teams must submit their official roster. No new players can be added to the roster without written approval via the KCBL. Each team to have no more than 15 players included on their final roster. Teams found to be using non-rostered players will automatically forfeit all games in which the player participated.

In the event a team is short players, they are eligible to bring a “call-up” from their existing program. For example, if a 12u team is short players they can ask their 11u team or 10u team for player assistance. Teams should avoid using multiple players as “call-ups” as they individuals will be added to the roster of 15.

Age Requirement by Level

8u	Must be 8 years or younger, may not turn 9 before May 1 st
9u	Must be 9 years or younger, may not turn 10 before May 1 st
10u	Must be 10 years or younger, may not turn 11 before May 1 st
11u	Must be 11 years or younger, may not turn 12 before May 1 st
12u	Must be 12 years or younger, may not turn 13 before May 1 st
13u	Must be 13 years or younger, may not turn 14 before May 1 st
14u	Must be 14 years or younger, may not turn 15 before May 1 st

Each team manager must carry copies of player birth certificates and roster confirmation.

If a player meets the age requirement and is not on a high school team but enrolled in High School, they are eligible to participate. Only players who are actively on a High School roster are deemed ineligible to play.

League Commissioner

Each level will consist of a League Commissioner who works in conjunction with the KCBL operations team and Advisory Board. The League Commissioner is tasked with ensuring consistent communication between teams, troubleshooting competition questions and supporting the end of season tournament.

2026 Age & Competition Levels

The 20256 return to league play will consist of league play for the following age groups:

- 8u, 9u, 10u, 11u, 12u, 13u & 14u

Competition levels will be determined by team self-identification (AAA/AA/A) and configured to ensure quality competition levels. However, each age level league configuration will likely be different based on the skillset of participating teams. Gold division will consist of teams marked AAA/AA while our Silver Division will consist of AA/A. KCBL Advisory board has full discretion to reassign teams based on team history and competitive balance.

Spring 2026 Game Schedule

Our season officially starts April 15th. However, if weather cooperates, teams are permitted to begin playing league games beforehand assuming field availability.

- Start of Season: April 15th
- End of Season Tournament: July 6th

As a reminder, all teams will qualify for the end of season playoffs / tournament. The end of season tournament will be hosted (7/-7/12) in St. Charles at the East Side Sports Complex.

Schedule Creation

Each team will be required to submit their home field availability. Starting March 9th, teams will be able to access the KCBL game scheduling tool to begin coordinating matchups within their respective age & competition levels.

Cancellation Process

In the event of a scheduling conflict, teams must give opponents at least 48hrs notice of any reschedule requesting the event of inclement weather or field conditions, the home team is required to inform the visiting team within two hours of first pitch if they game is to be canceled. Failure to notify an opponent may result in discipline from the league including forfeiting the game.

Rescheduling Games

In the event of a cancelled game, all parties are strongly encouraged to find an alternative date. However, missed games will not affect a team's ability to play in the end of season tournament but we want all teams to get the games they signed up for.

Field & Umpire Requirement

The home team is required to supply and compensate at least one "patched" umpire that has no affiliation with either participating team. In the event an umpire is not patched, both team managers must approve prior to the start of the game. Participating teams are strongly encouraged but not required to bring a single "home field" during league play. In the event a team participates but does not have a home field, they are still required to cover the cost of supplying the umpires. 13u & 14u levels are encourage but not required to have two umpires for each game.

Along with umpires, the home team is required to supply two baseballs for game play. Coaches must agree on game balls before the start of the game.

Inning Requirement & Official Game Status

8u-11u – games will be six (6) innings in length. A game is considered official once 3 ½ inning have been played and the home team is winning or four (4) or more innings played.

12u-14u – games will be seven (7) innings in length. A game is considered official once 4 ½ innings have been played and the home team is winning or five (5) or more innings played.

Time Restriction

Due to field restrictions, access to lights and general availability games will be limited to the following time parameters:

- 8u-10u = 1hr & 30mins | 11u-12u = 1hr & 40mins | 13u-14u = 1hr & 50mins

No new inning can start after a time limit has been reached. If the score is tied, the game ends in a tie otherwise the current score is the final result.

Extra Innings

Games that conclude, within the allotted time restriction period, in a tie are permitted to go into extra innings. The extra inning (for example the 7th inning for a 9u game) will begin with one out and a runner on second base. Each inning will continue this way until the game has been decided or the time limit is reached.

Temperature Limitations

Due to extreme weather – 45 < or 100 > - (feels like temp) teams should find an alternative date to play their games – based on the joint decision of coaches from both teams. The KCBL asks participating teams to work together to effectively manage potentially dangerous weather conditions for all those involved. In addition, the KCBL will default to team and program restriction if another policy exists however, we ask for proactive communication so teams can reschedule any missed games due to extreme weather conditions.

Official Scoring & Reporting

The home team is responsible for keeping the “official book” for each game and communicating the score at the conclusion of each inning with the umpire and visiting team. The home team is responsible for reporting the final score, regardless of outcome to the KCBL within 24hrs.

Game Day Rules

Games will be played using the IHSA rules unless otherwise noted. Each team is required to review and confirm prior to the start of a game with the umpire and opposing team. Full baseball rules (i.e lead offs, infield fly, dropped third strikes, balks) are applied for ages 10u – 14u.

Please see below for special 8u & 9u game day rules.

8u & 9u Specific Rules

The following modified game day rules apply to all 8u and 9u games:

- No Lead Offs
 - Steals only permitted after the ball crosses home plate (umpire discretion)
 - No delayed steals
 - No stealing of home on a passed ball, or wild pitch or overthrow to outfield
 - Base runner can advance to 3rd on a steal of 2nd base on bad throw or error.
 - No dropped 3rd strike.
 - No balks or infield fly.
 - Bunting is allowed.
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Continuous Batting Order

Teams will bat a continuous lineup and be allowed free defensive substitutions to encourage player participation. If a player is injured and must leave the game, their spot in the order is skipped and no out will be recorded however they cannot return. Late arriving players are eligible to join the game prior to the conclusion of the 2nd inning. No player can join a game at the start of the 3rd inning or later.

Runners for Pitcher or Catcher Only

Substitute runners are encouraged for any players scheduled to pitch or catch the following inning. The replacement runner must be the last recorded out. In the event of an injury, the last recorded out may run in their place however the injured player is not eligible to return to the field for a minimum of one inning.

Avoid Contact Reminder

Runners should slide and otherwise avoid attempt to avoid contact at any base where the defensive player has or is about to receive the ball. Umpire discretion will permit the runner being called out in the event contact was not avoided when deemed possible.

No Fake Bunts or Slashing

Batters who show bunt must either bunt or take the pitch. Batters who show bunt but take a swing will be called out.

No Fake Tags

Any infielder who fakes a tag on a runner when no throw is made will be given a warning and every runner will be awarded the next base. A second team violation will result in a player ejection.

Bases & Pitching Distances

Age Level	Bases Distance	Pitching Mound Distance
8u	60ft	40ft
9u	60ft	46ft
10u	65ft (60ft if not available)	46ft
11u	70ft	50ft (48ft if not available)
12u	70ft	50ft
13u	80ft	54ft
14u	90ft	60.6ft

Pitching mounds are encouraged for all levels however not required in the event a field does not have access.

Innings Limit per Pitcher

8u – 11u	12u – 13u	14u
2 Innings per Game	3 Innings Per Game	4 Innings per Game

One pitch by a pitcher in an inning counts against their innings limitation. Teams that do not follow this rule will immediately be required to forfeit the game following its conclusion.

Mound Visits

One free trip to the mound per inning by a coach is allowed. A second mound visit in the same inning to the same pitcher must result in the substitution of the pitcher. Balk explanations do not count as a mound visit.

Pitcher Substitution

A player who is removed from the game after pitching is eligible to return at any other position however is no longer allowed to pitch again during the game.

Breaking Ball Restriction

8u-11u are not permitted to throw a breaking ball, however, change ups are allowed. Umpire discretion is in place to determine ball flight and one warning shall be given. Breaking balls are allowed for 12u-14u.

Hit Batter

For 8u-12u, a pitcher who hits two (2) batters with a pitched ball in an inning or three (3) batters within one game must be removed. At 13u & 14u, a pitcher who hits three (3) batters with a pitched ball in an inning or four (4) batters within one game must be removed.

Mercy Rule

Age Level	3rd Inning	4th Inning	5th Inning
8u – 11u	20	15	10
Age Level	2nd Inning	3rd Inning	4th Inning
12u – 14u	20	15	10

Teams are encouraged to communicate mercy rules and end of inning scores to help with pace of play and final inning potential.

Equipment Reminders

- No metal spikes for 8u-12u
 - Metal spikes are permitted for 13u & 14u pending field approval
 - All offensive players must wear a batting helmet
 - No metal jewelry
 - All bats must be BBCOR, wood or stamped either 1.15 BPF or USA Baseball
 - 14u will have -5 restriction / BESR stamped bats are illegal
 - 13u will have -8 restriction / BESR stamped bats are illegal
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Player / Coach / Spectator Conduct

The KCBL strongly encourages good sportsmanship and healthy competition. We want to remind all coaches, you are responsible for your staff – your players and your families. Please be respectful of our umpires and help us promote a positive experience.

- Any player or coach ejected from a game must leave the field of play and is ineligible for the next KCBL game.
 - Disputed calls may only take place between the Head Coach and umpire. Only rule related questions are eligible for discussion, judgement calls are not permissible.
 - Music is only permitted in between innings. One warning may be granted by the umpire. A second warning will result in an out the next inning. No singing or chanting specifically designed to distract the opposing team is allowed. One warning will be issued, a second will result in an out the next inning.
 - Lineup cards must be exchanged before each game and entered in the official scorebook.
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End of Season Playoffs / Tournament

All participating 2026 Spring KCBL teams will qualify for the playoffs regardless of number of games played or season record. Playoff (Tournament) format will be based on number of participating teams and competition level at the discretion of the KCBL Advisory Board.