

2018 KNOTHOLE BASEBALL EAST REGION RULES

FORMATION AND ORGANIZATION RULES

EAST REGION - is designated as Districts #26 & #45N of Knothole Baseball.

The Districts are subdivided into franchises.

Amelia (45N)	Hamersville (26)
Batavia (45N)	Lynchburg (26)
Bethel (45N)	Milford (45N)
Blanchester (26)	Mt. Orab (26)
Clermont Northeastern (45N)	New Richmond (45N)
Eastern Jr. Sports (26)	Ripley (26)
Fayetteville (26)	Tealtown (45N)
Felicity (45N)	Williamsburg (45N)
Georgetown (26)	Withamsville (45N)
Goshen (45N)	

Leagues in the East Region are formulated by teams entered from the above franchises.

1. Players may be signed from anywhere in the local school district, within the Districts that which they reside. When there are two or more Franchises within a school district an agreement on boundary lines will be determined by the Franchises involved. Such agreement must be agreed to and signed by all Franchises involved and approved by the board members (appointed Representatives of each franchise) and the Region Supervision.
 - a. Players attending a school in outside of the franchise of their residence may play for the franchise in which the school is located. Players must sign-up for that Franchise during their first year of attendance at that school or their first registration.
 - b. If a player changes residence from one franchise to another after the season starts they may continue to play with the team in the franchise from which the player moved for the remainder of the season.
2. **RELEASES:** Players who wish a release from their proper franchise will be required to apply for one of the following:
 - a. **General** – There are two types of General releases and must be requested by March 1st of the current year.
 - i. Type 1: When two franchises involved agree on a release, the release will be granted by the region. **Prior to player participating with team, Regional Director must be notified of request.**
 - ii. Type 2: If no agreement on a release can be reached by the two franchises involved, the following will occur...
 - a. The names of three franchises will be placed in a pool (one being the franchise player wishes to play within).
 - b. Release will be handled at the next scheduled East Regional meeting. Where the player's franchise will be drawn from said pool.
 - c. The new franchise will then place the player on a team.
 - iii. These releases are permanent and the new franchise will be the proper franchise for all future registrations.
 - b. **Placement** –
 - i. May be requested at any time but player must sign up with their proper franchise during regular registration.

- ii. This type of release is for players who do not have a team to play on in their proper franchise.
- iii. Players may find a team to play for on their own or the Region will try to find a team for them.
- iv. This release is only valid for one year.
- v. The following year, the player will have the option of returning to their franchise of residence or staying with the new franchise. If the player chooses to stay with the new franchise, this release will become permanent.

3. The Age limit for each class is as follows...

CLASS	DATE
A – Sr. / 15U	Youth born on or after May 1, 2002
A – Jr. / 14U	Youth born on or after May 1, 2003
B – Sr. / 13U	Youth born on or after May 1, 2004
B – Jr. / 12U	Youth born on or after May 1, 2005
C – Sr. / 11U	Youth born on or after May 1, 2006
C – Jr. / 10U	Youth born on or after May 1, 2007
D – Sr. / 9U	Youth born on or after May 1, 2008
D – Jr. / 8U	Youth born on or after May 1, 2009
D – Jr. Inst. / 7U	Youth born on or after May 1, 2010

Players must reach the age of 6 on or before April 30, 2018 to play Knothole Baseball. **No overage players. No exceptions.** Penalty – Forfeiture of all games in which overage player participated.

- 4. Each player in each class must be under contract before they play in a regular season game. Managers of each team must deliver all copies of each contract to the Regional Director. The release copy shall not be signed until such time as the manager wishes to release the player. Eleven contracts must be on file with the Regional Director before the first scheduled game. Any contract thereafter that does not reach the Regional Director by game time must be OK'd by the opposing manager and then sent to the Regional Director. No player contract may be OK'd more than once and all such contracts must be on file with the Regional Director within one week. All player contracts must be complete with proper signatures in order for them to be eligible for play. Managers are responsible for player eligibility and proper execution of contract. Any manager/coach who plays an ineligible player in a league game will forfeit all games in which the player has participated and said manager/coach may be suspended for five years. The Regional Director shall have access to any team scorebook for the purpose of inspection at any time without notice of such inspection. Teams that will carry more than 14 players (Maximum of 17 players) must have permission from the Regional Director. Player contracts will end when their team is eliminated from the East Regional Knothole Tournament. Players, who are not competing in the Knothole Baseball World Series Tournament and have completed their regular season, may play in other tournaments while competing in the East Regional Knothole Tournament. Teams cannot add any players after June 1st of current season. Exceptions can be granted by Regional Director.
- 5. A player while under contract in the East Region may not play on any other team or league. **Exception:** A school team (a school team is a team participating in a program sanctioned by the applicable governing body for the school's athletic program such as OHSAA or CYO in play against other sanctioned school programs). **Penalties:** (1) Forfeiture of game in which player participates (2) Disqualification for both East Regional Tournament and the Knothole Baseball World Series.
- 6. A player who is a member of a High School Baseball team may participate in only intra-squad practices of his Knothole team and must secure prior permission from the High School coach.

A player may not play a game or so-called practice game for his Knothole team while a member of the High School team. When the High School team has been eliminated from the State sponsored tournament and has completed its regular schedule, the player may participate with their Knothole team. Please read and adhere to Ohio High School Athletic Association eligibility requirements.

7. Each manager or team representative must attend a meeting or class where the Regional rules are reviewed. One meeting is held annually, prior to start of each season. Upon completion, everyone in attendance will receive a "Team Rep Card". This card must be shown at ground rules prior to each game. It is this card that appoints a team's voice in matters of disputing rules. Only one card valid per game. In the event that original card holder must leave game (non ejection), a replacement holder may assume role as Team Rep pursuant to possessing their own Team Rep Card. If Team Rep is ejected, no alternate Team Reps may take their place and offending team forfeits their ability to dispute calls or make protests.
8. All managers of Knothole teams must be 18 years of age or older. Exceptions may be made by the Regional Director when an older person accepts responsibility. Managers will be held responsible for actions of their coaches, players and parents.
9. Winning team must report the score of the game in the manner determined by the Regional Director.
10. Any manager or coach found guilty of using intoxicating beverages or under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while coaching a Knothole team may be barred from coaching Knothole for life.
11. All games which affect a championship must be played by the date which is determined by the Regional Director.
12. All rained out, suspended or postponed games must be re-scheduled within 48 hours and played within 10 days of original scheduled date. Re-scheduling of games that cannot be played within 10 days of original scheduled date must be approved by the Regional Director. When two managers cannot agree on re-scheduling a game, the Regional Director may be notified by either manager. The Regional Director will schedule the game on any field, at any time available to him as he sees fit. *****All games that have not been played or reported within 10 days of originally scheduled date will be posted as a forfeit by both teams (FFB). Once these games are played and reported, their status will be amended to reflect its final outcome.*****
13. For league standings – 1) Wins 2) Head to Head for teams with like records 3) Games Played will determine placement.
14. **NO TEAM IN THE EAST REGION IS PERMITTED TO ENTER ANY TOURNAMENT OTHER THEN THOSE LISTED BELOW WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE COUNTY SUPERVISOR.**
 - a) East Regional Tournament
 - b) Knothole Baseball World SeriesThis policy is made to protect the eligibility of the Knothole players. Teams that have completed their regular season, and are not eligible for the City Tournament, may play in the East Regional Tournament and any other tournament.
15. Every team in East Region Knothole must have an approved franchised designation on either their hat or uniform for all games.

16. A person can manage only one team (unless approved by the Regional Director). A person may coach as many teams as desired.
17. Team drinks consumed on park property must be purchased at park concession stand. Team drinks: \$10.00 which includes all players and up to three coaches. Penalty: \$25.00 fine charged to offending Franchise.
18. Teams that finish 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th in classes A Sr, B Sr, B Jr, C Sr, C Jr or D Sr in Division 1 of the second half of the season (full season for those with no split) must play in the Knothole Baseball World Series to be eligible for play in the East Regional Knothole Tournament.
19. It is recommended that Franchises require background checks for all managers and coaches.
20. Any game, scheduled or made up, on Sundays may not start prior to 1:00pm. This includes Regional Tournament games.

PLAYING RULES

1. Umpires

- a. It is the responsibility of each franchise to supply certified umpires for each home game. **Classes A & B:** Home team is to supply two umpires. **Classes C & D:** Even though Knothole ultimately wants two umpires on all games, if staffing presents a problem, one umpire may be used for these two classes only. This umpire must be 18 years of age by April 30th of current calendar year, have at least 4 years experience umpiring and approved by their Franchise (OHSAA certification is preferred but not required) **Class D Inst:** Only one umpire is required. Scorebooks for both teams must be presented at ground rules and umpire's names must be **printed** in them at that time. Umpires must check for "Team Rep" cards and perform a bat inspection (see Knothole Baseball Rule #15) during ground rules.
 - i. If the home team does not supply two umpires that are certified for classes **A & B**, but does supply one, the visiting team has the right to put any person of their choosing on the field as the field umpire. This person does not have to be certified and the game is still considered legal. This person must meet the age requirement for this game. Field umpire will be paid \$5.00 by the home team prior to start of the game.
 - ii. If the home team does not supply any certified umpires, the visiting team has the right to decline to play the game and have the game re-scheduled at their field. In this case, umpire fees will still be paid by original home team.
 - iii. Any game played without a certified umpire, will not be considered legal. This only means that the game will still count as a win or loss, but not be able to be protested.
 - iv. No father, mother, son, daughter, brother, or sister may umpire a home game in which their father, mother, son, daughter, brother, or sister is managing, coaching or playing.
 - v. No manager or coach may umpire a game in their age group unless both managers agree before the game starts for them to do so.
- b. **East Regional Knothole** will administer annual Training and Certification Test
 - i. The certification training & test will be held on the date, time and place or places that the Regional Director determines.
 - ii. Dates, Venues & Times (once determined) will be posted on Regional website.
 - iii. A final test grade of 70% or greater is required prior to working first game.
- c. Regional Director will be able to administer the test for umpire certification after the season begins.

d. A list of each Franchise's certified umpires not attending the annual training will be submitted to the Regional Director prior to start of season. This list is to include Umpire's name, date of birth, address, phone number and email address (if applicable).

e. Umpire Age Requirements:

Class A	16 years of age
Class B	14 years of age
Class C	13 years of age
Class D	13 years of age
Class D Inst.	12 years of age

The umpire's age is to be reached by April 30th of the current year

f. Umpires who are not 16 by April 30 of the current year must attend a class and pass test each year to be certified. Umpires 16 and older must either, (1) attend class and pass the test or (2) be approved by Franchise for certification.

2. **PROTESTS:** Protest may be of two kinds.

a. Ineligible players and breaking of Standing Rules or By-laws.

i. A team may protest these at any time. In cases involving ineligible players and breaking of Standard Rules or By-Laws, a Supervisor may take action without a formal protest.

ii. Protests of an overage or ineligible player will cost \$25.00 cash per player.

b. Misinterpretation of playing rules.

i. Umpire judgment decisions cannot be protested, but all protests must be accepted.

ii. All disputes should be settled on field if possible before resuming play.

iii. When a protest is made on the field of play, the manager must quote which general rule was misinterpreted and have the umpire announce that the game is being played under protest before the next play is made. Umpires must sign both scorebooks at time of protest noting point of protest.

iv. A protest form (email is acceptable) must be completed by the protesting team and in the Regional Director's hands within 48 hours after the completion of game. Protests must be accompanied with a fee of \$25.00 cash. If the protest is not allowed, the \$25.00 will go into the East Region Knothole Association Treasury.

v. Protest of a game in the Regional Tournament must be filed with the Regional Director within 3 hours of completion of game.

vi. The Protest Board is to consist of three members, chosen by Regional Director.

3. Profane or abusive language by managers, coaches, players and spectators will be grounds for ejection from the game and or viewing area. The name of those involved along with a detailed description of the incident must be turned into the Regional Director for further action. This is the Franchise Rep's responsibility. Any manager or coach displaying disrespect or abuse to umpires, league or tournament officials will be barred from managing or coaching a Knothole team or being associated with a Knothole Franchised in any manner for any length of time determined by the Regional Director. If actions of this nature occur, Franchise Reps concerned will be notified.

4. **INTIMIDATION:** An opposing manager, coach, player or spectator shall not in any manner harass or intimidate any member of the opposing team or umpire before, during or after the game. Penalty for this action shall be one warning from the umpire and then an automatic ejection for the next offense. Each manager is responsible for the conduct of their team's fans.

5. No use of tobacco of any kind on playing field or player's bench...Umpires included.

6. No jewelry to be worn by players on playing field. Exceptions: Medical ID tags. Failure to comply after warning will result in ejection of player.
7. Visiting team has the use of the field for 15 minutes prior to the scheduled game time.
8. A team is allowed 30 minutes from the scheduled starting game time in case of trouble without the danger of forfeit.
9. Names and numbers (if available) of all players must be recorded in scorebook. It is not compulsory for a player to have a uniform, cap etc. to play Knothole Baseball. However, if such equipment is worn; it will be worn in the proper manner. Violations are subject to the umpire's judgment.
10. The home team will furnish a new game ball. The visiting team will supply a good second ball. Thereafter, home team shall furnish all additional balls. Each ball is to be returned to the team from which it came.

11. Pitching distances shall be:
- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| CLASS - A | 60' 6" |
| CLASS - B-Sr. | 54' |
| CLASS - B-Jr. | 51' |
| CLASS - C | 48' |
| CLASS - D Sr. | 45' |
| CLASS - D Jr. | 42' |
| CLASS - D Inst. | 39' (Approximate) |
- Youth or full size pitching rubbers will be used in all Classes except Class D Inst.

12. Base Distances shall be:
- | | |
|------------------------|------------|
| CLASS - A | 90' |
| CLASS - B-Sr. | 80' |
| CLASS - B-Jr. | 75' |
| CLASS - C | 70' |
| CLASS - D | 60' |
| CLASS - D Inst. | 55' |
13. REGULATION GAME: Classes A and B – 7 innings. Class C – 6 innings. Class D – 5 innings. In case of a tie, as many innings as necessary will be played to complete the game. Games will become officially completed when it is mathematically impossible for the losing team to tie or win the game (see seven run rule). In the event of extra innings, a winner will be declared once the home team is ahead by at least one run. Games that are officially completed (one team has been mathematically defeated) may continue if both teams agree but no new inning may start after two hours from the start of game. All games will be complete games, unless run rule applies. Games stopped because of rain, lightning or darkness will become suspended and resume at point of suspension.
 14. SEVEN RUN RULE: Play stops when the third out is made or the 7th run scores in any one half inning. This rule MUST be used in all East Regional Knothole games.
 15. In all Classes from D–Inst. Through A-Sr., a manager must use the all player batting order. EXCEPTIONS: Disciplinary action being imposed on player by Franchise. NOTE: A team must have at least ten players in the batting order to be considered using the all player batting order.
 - a. ALL PLAYER BATTING ORDER: Manager must place all players at the beginning of the game in the batting order. If a player is injured, becomes ill, has to leave or is ejected, his spot in the batting order is skipped and no out is taken. If he later is able to resume play, he must bat in the same spot he occupied in the batting order at the beginning of the game. There will be no pinch hitters or pinch runners except in case of injury or ejection. A batter or runner who is injured or ejected while at bat or on the

bases and cannot continue play will be replaced by the most recent batter not occupying a base. NOTE: Batter will assume the count. A runner may be replaced only one time during a game; a second time will result in the runner being declared out and removed from the game. Players who arrive after the game has started will be placed at the bottom of the batting order. Free substitution will be allowed for defensive positions.

16. A knothole team in the East Region must start the game with nine players, but may finish with eight or less. With eight or less, the vacant batting positions shall be declared out. When it becomes apparent that it is not a competitive game but a farce; the umpire will forfeit the game. This rule is only used if starting with nine players.
17. All players must play at least two innings in the field unless game is shortened by the run rule.
18. INTENTIONAL THROWING OF BATS AND HELMETS: One warning per team, second offense by team will result in the ejection of player or coach involved. Note: If player has put ball in play, a delayed dead ball is called, player is ejected but not out. Refer to ALL PLAYER BATTING ORDER
19. BALK RULE: If no agreement can be reached by both teams at ground rules, the following rules will be used. Classes D and C: one warning per pitcher per game. If during a pitcher's first balk any runner advances safely, runner will be allowed to remain at that base, if runner is tagged out, runner will return to base occupied at time of balk. Classes B and A: Major League rule.
20. SLIDING BASE RULE: This rule was written to protect the runner, not put them in jeopardy and to provide safety. This is only to be used when permanent (pegged) bases are not in place. Rule will apply when:
 - a. Non Permanent (pegged) bases are used
 - b. The runner slides in, he is considered to be with the base. Remaining on the ground if tagged, runner is SAFE. After sliding in, the runner stands up and makes NO attempt to advance, if tagged, runner is SAFE. If runner moves towards the next base and the fielder makes the tag before the runner can get back to where the base was ORIGINALLY, the runner is OUT. This is umpires judgment.
 - c. The runner goes in standing and the base moves off the spot more than the length of the base and no part of the runner is touching the original spot of the base, when tagged, the runner is OUT.
 - d. A preceding runner moves the base off the spot more than the length of the base; following runners need only to touch the original spot of the base. It is recommended that all base locations are clearly marked so that runners have a visual point for them to touch and the umpires have a reference point.
21. PLOWING OVER THE CATCHER OR OTHER FIELDER: Any runner who does not slide or attempt to get around a fielder "**WHO HAS THE BALL AND IS MAKING A TAG**" will be called out. Any runner that hurdles a fielder who has the ball will also be called out. When a runner is called out in either of these situations, the ball is dead immediately and all other runners must return to the last base reached when the ball became dead. In addition; any runner who WILLFULLY plows into or through a fielder that has the ball will be ejected from the game. ****THIS IS STRICTLY UMPIRE'S JUDGMENT****
22. PITCH COUNT & PITCHING ASSIGNMENTS:
 - a. Pitch Count: Must be used in all East Regional games. Pitch count will apply per pitcher per day. Players may only pitch up to their Max Pitch Count. In the event that this is reached while facing a batter, he/she may continue pitching until said batter either reaches base or is retired. The pitch count for both teams must be kept by both teams. Teams must notify the plate umpire when a pitcher is within two pitches of

their maximum pitch count. The plate umpire must check with each team at the end of each half inning. If there is any dispute of the pitch count, the plate umpire will have the final decision. Penalty for violation of this rule is forfeiture of the game by violating team (s) and the defensive manager/coach will be suspended for the next two home games (1st offense) and one calendar year (2nd offense). Pitch count is per day and does not carryover in the completion of a suspended game.

Notes: Warm-up pitches do not count toward pitch count

For a pitcher in Class D-Jr. the maximum of three innings per game and the pitch count will apply.

Class	Max Pitch Count	Class	Max Pitch Count
A	90	C	70
B	80	D	60

- b. Rest Between Pitching Assignments: Any player who pitches in any portion of a game (including practice games) shall not be permitted to pitch again without two complete nights rest between pitching assignments. In any one day a pitcher cannot pitch more innings than the length of a normal game in his/her class. Note: A single pitch in any inning counts as an inning pitched.
23. INTENTIONAL WALK: If a manager elects to intentionally walk a batter, the ball will become dead, no pitches will be thrown and the batter will be awarded first base. Note: No pitches will be added to the pitch count.
24. BATTING PRACTICE: NO swinging of bats or batting practice of any type including warm-up swings, soft toss, batting sticks etc. is permitted before, during or after a game except on the field of play, another field (if available) or in a designated batting cage.
25. MANAGER(S) ON FIELD: For safety concerns, the manager or coach, not acting as a 1st or 3rd base coach, must remain in the dugout (behind field of play) with the rest of his/her players. They are not permitted to direct their team from the "in play" side of the field or behind the backstop. Only at time out and dead ball situations are they permitted on the field of play. Failure to comply will cause the game to be halted until personnel are in their rightful place. Refusal to comply, or repeated requests made by umpire to comply will result in an ejection for unsportsmanlike conduct.
26. EJECTION RULE: Any manager, coach, player or fan may be ejected from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Manager or Coach:** In a game where a manager or coach is ejected it must be reported to the ejection phone line by both managers involved in the game no later than noon of the following day. Penalty for ejection will be as follows:
 1st Offense = 1 game suspension (next home game)
 2nd Offense = 3 game suspension (next 3 home games)
 3rd Offense = 1 calendar year suspension
- Suspensions must be administered and enforced by the Franchise Rep. of the manager/coach suspended. The suspended manager/coach will not be allowed to attend the game or games for which they are suspended. For any ejection that is not reported within the time limit by the manager of the ejected person the penalty will be doubled. Suspensions may be appealed to the Disciplinary Board (3 members) which will be appointed by the Regional Director. Appeal must be filed to the ejection phone line by noon of the day following the ejection. The cost for an appeal is \$35.00 cash. If the appeal is upheld there will be no suspension and the \$35.00 will be returned, if the appealed is denied the \$35.00 will go into the East Region Knothole treasury. All suspensions and games affected will be posted on the East Region Knothole website.
- Player or Spectator:** For a player or spectator that is ejected only carries a penalty of being removed from the game where the ejection occurred. All ejections of players or spectators must be reported to their appropriate Franchise Representative. Each

Franchise will keep a record of such ejections for possible additional disciplinary action. No appeal process is available for this type of ejection.

For Manager, Coach & Spectator Ejections: The ejected person(s) must be removed from the play area. They must be out of sight, sound and without use of electronic media. Game will not continue until the offender is in their appropriate location. Refusal to vacate from the area of play could result in forfeiture of game.

Player Ejections: Player(s) ejected from a game cannot be asked to leave playing area. If they choose to leave the area of play, it is of their own accord.

Franchises reserve the right to impose a more severe penalty on their managers, coaches, players or fans that have been ejected if it is deemed appropriate.

“SPECIAL RULES”

CLASS D-JR.

1. A pitcher may only pitch in 3 innings. One pitch in any inning is to be considered as one inning pitched. Note: In the case of a suspended game, a pitcher is still only allowed to pitch 3 innings in that game regardless of how many days it takes to complete the game.
2. The batter is out after the third strike even though the catcher drops the ball, ball is still alive.
3. **NO STEALING or LEAD-OFFS** at any base. Runner may not leave base until the batter put ball into play or is forced to advance by a walk, hit batsman or catcher's interference. Penalty: Runners will be called out. If after a batted ball, the batted or thrown ball goes out of play, the award of bases will be made according to the Major League Rules. A runner could advance in this situation.
4. If a pitcher cannot control the ball and hits 3 batters in a game, the pitcher must be removed from the mound for the duration of the game.

CLASS D-INSTRUCTIONAL

1. Coaches will pitch the entire game. Note: Spring-loaded pitching machines may be used. If a spring-loaded machine is available each team will have the choice of whether to use it or not.
2. Pitching distance will be approximately 39'.
3. One defensive player must stay within 6' of the pitcher at time of pitch.
4. Batters will be limited to 3 swinging strikes or a maximum of seven pitches, whichever occurs first. A foul ball on the seventh pitch will end a turn at bat. No balls will be counted by the umpire.
5. The batter is out after the third strike even though the catcher drops the ball.
6. Bunting is not allowed.
7. **NO STEALING or LEAD-OFFS.**
8. Two defensive coaches will be allowed in the field.

9. INFIELD POSSESSION: When a player has possession of the ball in the infield and he is not making a play on any runner, time will be called by the umpire. Runners that are more than halfway to the next base will be allowed to continue to that base, runners that are less than halfway to the next base must return to the last base reached.
THIS IS STRICTLY UMPIRE'S JUDGMENT
10. When a thrown ball goes into foul territory, play stops and the INFIELD POSSESSION rule will be in effect.
11. A fourth outfielder may be used. Extra player must play in the outfield. Extra player cannot play as an infielder or a short center fielder.
12. No official score is to be kept or called in by either team.
13. **THIS LEAGUE IS TO BE INSTRUCTIONAL**