

KNOTHOLE BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL, INC. (KBS)

“AA” Baseball 2026

MANAGERS’ MEETING: M a y 2 n d , 1 0 : 0 0 A M Blue Ash Sports Complex (Concession Area)

*** T E A M R E G I S T R A T I O N ***

The Team Registration and Roster forms along with contracts and the \$350.00 fee are due by May 2nd. Make check payable to: KBS (Knothole Baseball and Softball, Inc.). Turn in check and team forms at the May 2nd meeting or Mail To: Chris Kuczek, 8048 Acorn Trail, Maineville, OH 45039

EXECUTIVE SUPERVISOR: RICK BETHEL 513-314-7543 rbethel12@aol.com

1. League Fees

- a) **\$350.00** Checks made payable to **KBS** (see above)

2. Team Eligibility

- a) The Team Roster Form, the Team Registration Form, both signed by your Region/District Supervisor, along with the Team Fee and copies of each completed Player Contract and the completed Coach’s Agreement for the team must be returned to the Executive Supervisor on or before the May 2nd Managers’ Meeting. PENALTY: THE TEAM WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AA LEAGUE FOR THE 2025 SEASON. NO TEAMS WILL BE ADDED AFTER MAY 2ND UNLESS PRIOR APPROVAL IS OBTAINED FROM THE EXECUTIVE SUPERVISOR.
- b) Teams should not carry less than 14 or more than 22 players. All teams must have their roster with them at all games. PENALTY: Forfeiture of Game.
- c) For Ohio teams, make sure to follow OHSA rules and procedures for rostering players from the same High School team. Check the OHSA website for the rules and procedure for the current season. Further, no High School baseball player can play on an AA team until their High School team has been eliminated from any High School sanctioned post season play.

3. Player Eligibility

- a) You must have copies of each of the completed Player Contract in the hands of the Executive Supervisor on or before May 2nd for all players on your roster to start the season. For players added after the season starts, copies of the completed Player Contract must be in the Executive Supervisor’s hand before said player can play in a game. Emails are acceptable. PENALTY: Team will forfeit each game in which said player participates.
- b) Teams are not required to turn in a birth certificate or a picture of each player. However, in case of protest on player’s eligibility, the manager must produce both items within 24 hours or face possible forfeit.
- c) Players may not play on any other Knothole team.
- d) Teams and players may not play in more than one Knothole league. Teams and players may play in a non-Knothole league in addition to their Knothole league.
- e) Players **cannot** be **19** before **May 1, 2026**.
- f) No players may be added after June 21st.

4. Season Dates

- a) The season will begin either Sunday May 24th(most probably) or Sunday May 17th. Early season games may be rescheduled by the teams where conflicts exist due to high school rules.
- b) The last scheduled game date will be Wednesday July 1st.
- c) Last date for make- up games from regular season will be Tuesday July 7th.
- d) Any required tiebreaker games will be played on Wednesday July 8th.

5. Schedules

- a) Schedules shall be released no later than Saturday May 9th.
- b) Schedule styles and number of games shall be discussed and decided upon at the May 2nd Managers’ Meeting.

6. District/Region Boundaries

- a) Teams are to be made up of players from their Knothole Region/District.
- b) If a player wishes to play in another Region/District, the coach must obtain approval from their Region/District Supervisor and the AA Executive Supervisor.

7. Number of Games

- a) The number of games to be played shall be determined by the number of teams signed up with the goal of having a given number of full round robin sets within the league (s).
- b) Scheduling of doubleheaders is a **MUST** due to the short season – doubleheaders will be scheduled on Sundays.
- c) A legal season for a team to qualify for the AA Knothole Baseball World Series Tournament shall be determined at the Managers’ meeting but shall be at least a minimum of 12 games per KBS Rule #VII A.
- d) **FORFEITS DO NOT COUNT WHEN DETERMINING NUMBER OF GAMES PLAYED FOR TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY PURPOSES.**

8. Uniforms

- a) This is a uniform league.

9. Umpires

- a) Each game should have two umpires. Umpires must be trained in Class AA rules to umpire Class AA games.
- b) The **Host** team is responsible for providing both umpires for all games.
- c) Umpire pay is **\$140.00** per game with each team paying one umpire **\$70.00**. If only one umpire does a game, that umpire will be paid **\$105.00**, with the home team paying **\$55.00** and the visiting team paying **\$50.00**
- d) Teams that forfeit a game will be charged a \$50.00 penalty, to be paid immediately or they will not be able to finish their season, (payable to KBS through the Executive Supervisor).
- e) Each umpire who shows up at a game that is forfeited will be paid \$50.00.
- f) No “AA” manager, coach, or player may umpire in “AA” baseball.
- g) No person may umpire a game when an immediate family member is playing or coaching.
- h) Umpires must be paid on the field before the game starts unless prior arrangements have been made by the host team with their umpires.

10. Class AA World Series Tournament

- a) The “AA” Knothole Baseball World Series Tournament will tentatively begin Thursday July 9th or Friday July 10th.
- b) The tournament structure and style shall be determined by the number of teams in the tournament.
- c) If eight (8) or more teams play in the tournament, two double elimination brackets will be played and the winner of each bracket shall play a best of three (3) championship series to determine the overall champion. If less than eight (8) teams play in the tournament, then one double elimination will be played with the winner being the overall champion (no best of 3 championship series will be played). No fewer than four (4) teams will be in the tournament.
- d) Tournament eligibility – see 7 (c) plus must have a winning record (.500 records will be considered if the tournament bracket is short) and teams must play no less than 4 fewer games than the most games played by any team (example: the highest number of games played by any team is 19; then to qualify for the tournament, each team must play at least 15 games). Consideration will be given for excessive rain during the season and/or if a team folds during the season making those games impossible to play for opponents.
- e) All tournament games shall be played to completion unless ended by run rule. Games shall be considered suspended if inclement weather stops a game or darkness stops a game.

11. Re-Entry Rule

See KBS Rule #XVIII.

12. Batting Order Options

- a) The continuous batting (CB) rule: If a player cannot bat, (unable to bat because of illness, injury, had to leave, etc.), such position is not an out in the batting order, as long as there are at least nine batters. Any nine players may play on the defense.
- b) The additional hitter (AH) rule: If using the AH, a 10th batter may be added to the batting order at the start of the game. Any nine of the ten batters may play on defense. If a team using the AH drops from ten to nine players available, the spot in the lineup is left open and is NOT an out. The re-entry rule applies as well.
- c) The designated hitter (DH) rule: If a designated hitter is used, he may not play on defense. The DH may be used with the AH and the re-entry rule.
- d) Managers must choose one of these options before the game begins:
 - CB, Continuous batting rule
 - AH, Additional Hitter
 - DH, Designated Hitter
 - AH and DH
 - Regular nine-man batting order.

13. Courtesy Runner

- a) THIS OPTION IS FOR CATCHERS ONLY. This rule applies only to the player who finished the previous inning as the catcher, not the player who will be the catcher the next inning.
- b) If the team is using the continuous batting order, the player who made the last out will be used. For the other batting options, any player who is not in the batting lineup may be used as the courtesy runner. A team with only nine (9) players is deemed to be using the continuous batting order for purposes of this rule.
- c) In any circumstance, the courtesy runner does not enter the score book.

14. Extra Inning Base Runner at 2nd Base – Ghost Runner

- a) During the regular season, every half inning of extra innings will begin with a runner on second base. If that runner scores, the pitcher won't be charged with an earned run. The runner placed on second base at the start of each half inning will be the player in the batting order immediately preceding that half inning's leadoff hitter, or a pinch runner. This rule WILL NOT be in effect for AA postseason tournament games.

15. Pitcher

- a) Pitching limitations in AA shall adhere to the following pitch/rest limitations:

Level	Daily Pitch	Days Rest Based on Pitches Thrown			
	Limit	0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days
AA	110	1-30	31-50	51-80	81-110

Notes: A day is defined as starting at Midnight following a pitching appearance and running through the following Midnight
Pitch 30 or less pitches on Monday – can pitch again on Tuesday
Pitch 50 or less but more than 30 pitches on Monday – can pitch again on Wednesday
Pitch 80 or less but more than 50 pitches on Monday – can pitch again on Thursday
Pitch 110 or less but more than 80 pitches on Monday – can pitch again on Friday

- b) Clarifying pitching rules:
- A pitcher may finish the current batter if the daily pitch count limit is reached during that at bat.
 - A pitcher may pitch in multiple games during the same day up to the daily pitch count limit.
 - All pitches thrown in a suspended game or a “no contest” game **SHALL COUNT** toward the daily pitch count limit and the total number of pitches thrown for days’ rest purposes.
 - All pitches thrown in a scrimmage game or a preview game **SHALL COUNT** toward the daily pitch count limit and the total number of pitches thrown for days’ rest purposes.
 - Each team **MUST** keep a record of all pitches thrown by each of their pitchers in each game (including those in 14 b iii and iv) and make this available to the AA Supervisor upon request.
 - Any player pitching during a period of required rest is considered to be pitching as an ineligible player.
 - No pitch intentional walks are allowed using the following procedure:
No pitches count toward the pitcher’s pitch count when a no pitch intentional walk is declared by the manager of the defensive team in the field. The manager declares the use of a no pitch intentional walk directly to the home plate umpire who shall in turn call time out and direct the batter to take first base. The ball is dead during the no pitch intentional walk and remains so until the umpire calls “play”. See KBS Rule #XVII H.

16. Official Game – Regular Season

- “AA” games will be 7 innings.
- Any game stopped because of rain, lightning or darkness shall be considered a complete game after a minimum 4 1/2 innings provided the home team is leading. See KBS Rule #XI for further definition.
- A game stopped because of rain, lightning or darkness, and not an official game, will be resumed at the point of suspension. Know the MLB rules which apply to these situations.

17. Run Rule

- A game will be called if one team is ahead by 8 or more runs after the losing team has had 5 complete times (innings) at bat.
- No game can end by the run rule if the run limit is reached while the visiting team is at bat.
- See KBS Rules #VIII and #XI for full definition of an “Official Game”.

18. Rain Condition Rule

- The **Host** team manager will check the field 3 hours before game time and notify the visiting team and umpires if the field is not playable. The **Host** team manager decides if the field is playable before the game starts.
- Once the game starts and the first pitch is thrown, the game is up to the umpires.

19. Cancelled Games

- Scheduled games may only be cancelled because of rainouts or school events (teams face possible forfeits for other reasons).
- All games are to be rescheduled and played within two weeks after the cancellation. Any games cancelled after June 20th must be played on both teams’ next “mutually open date”.
- No game is to be rescheduled after July 6th.
- The Executive Supervisor is to be notified about rescheduled games. If there is any problem in rescheduling a game, the Executive Supervisor should be contacted and he can schedule the game and require the teams to show up or forfeit.

20. Discipline

- Any player, coach or spectator ejected from a game for disciplinary reasons will be suspended for 1 game on the first offense.
- On the second ejection, player or coach will be suspended for 2 games and the team could forfeit the game in which the second ejection occurred. A second ejection for the same spectator will have their discipline decided by the Executive Supervisor and enforced by the spectator’s team manager. Both managers must report all ejections for disciplinary reasons to the Executive Supervisor.
- For serious discipline cases, the Executive Supervisor can impose a more severe punishment, with final appeal to an Appeals Board appointed by the Executive Supervisor to hear the appeal. The appellant must actually attend the appeal or the appeal won’t be heard and the discipline automatically upheld.

21. Forfeits

- ONLY THE EXECUTIVE SUPERVISOR CAN DECLARE FORFEITS. CONTACT THE EXECUTIVE SUPERVISOR IMMEDIATELY IF YOU THINK YOU ARE DUE A FORFEIT; DELAYS OF LONGER THAN ONE CALENDAR WEEK AFTER THE SCHEDULE DATE OF THE GAME IN QUESTION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**
- If a team does not field a team within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting game time, the game could be

forfeited. Unusual circumstances and emergencies will be considered before a forfeit is final.

22. Protests

- a) Protests must be made in accordance with KBS Rule #XIV.
- b) The protest, along with \$100.00 CASH, must be filed in writing with the Executive Supervisor within 24 hours.
- i) For player eligibility protests, the \$100 fee will cover up to two (2) player eligibility reviews.
- c) The Executive Supervisor will be responsible for setting up a Protest Committee and he will head said committee.
- d) No person involved in the protest will be on the Protest Committee.
- e) Protests during the AA tournament will be accepted on the field and all rule interpretation protests will, if possible, have an immediate hearing at the field to resolve the protest. The \$100 fee is still due prior to the protesting team's next game or that game will be forfeited.

23. Official Scoring

- a) If there is an independent "official scorer" assigned to the game, that individual shall be responsible for keeping the official scorebook for the game including the recording of pitch counts for each and every pitcher used in the game by both teams. The "official scorer" shall sign the scorebook after the completion of the game. The home team shall take possession of the game's official scorebook after the completion of the game.
- b) If there is no independent "official scorer" assigned to the game, the home team is responsible for assigning someone to be the official scorer for the game. That individual shall follow all instructions in #23 (a) and shall give the scorebook to the home team manager after the completion of the game.
- c) After the game has ended, if there are any questions about pitch counts and/or any other recordable activity during the game, the scorebook signed by the "official scorer" shall be the only scorebook consulted by the Executive Supervisor.

24. Scores

- a) Winning team is expected to report scores to the Executive Supervisor, (or his designee), within 24 hours of the completion of the game.
- b) Failure to comply with this rule could lead to a disciplinary situation or even forfeit.

25. Final Standings

- a) The number of wins will determine final regional standings.
- b) In the case of a tie for position and/or qualifying for the tournament the following tie-breaker will be used;
 - Head to Head Record, (total runs are not considered)
 - Team record within the division, if divisions are used within the league (most wins).
 - Total games played
 - Playoffs will be held if necessary.

26. Pre-Game Batting Practice

- a) There shall be no batting practice 60 minutes (1 hour) preceding the scheduled start time of any game on or in the vicinity of the scheduled field for said game. This includes active batting practice with a pitcher, the use of hitting sticks, soft toss or any other means of simulating batting practice with a batter swinging an actual bat or substitute for same.
- b) Local parks rules shall apply if they are more restrictive than this rule.
- c) If a park has a batting cage which is able to be used by both the home and visiting teams; then, as long as both teams have an equal amount of time to use the batting cage, batting practice would be allowed during the 60 minutes preceding the scheduled start time of the game. Once the game has started, no team/player is allowed any batting practice during the playing of the game.

27. Playing In Outside Tournaments During AA Regular Season and Post-Season

- a) Teams are allowed to play in outside tournaments during the regular season and post season with prior approval of the AA Executive Supervisor provided that playing in such tournament doesn't impact the playing of their regularly scheduled games either during the regular season or during the post season tournament (if they are playing in said tournament).

28. Other Rules

- a) Major League or Knothole Baseball & Softball, Inc. rules will apply to any situation not covered in these AA rules.
- b) District/Region Rules, High School Rules and College Rules do not apply to "AA" Baseball.
- c) All Ohio managers, coaches and umpires must obtain the State of Ohio required "concussion certification."
- d) Ohio's Lindsay's Law must be followed by all coaches who play games in the State of Ohio.
- e) Senate Bill 534 (assault & harassment) must be followed by Knothole Baseball & Softball, Inc. because we are an interstate organization. All managers, assistant coaches, parent helpers and umpires working with our players in practices or games must be trained on this law and signify such with their signature on their agreement form.
- f) Knothole Baseball & Softball, Inc. (KBS) rules which apply to AA Baseball are numbers: I; II; III C; V; VI; VII A; VIII; IX; X; XI; XIII; XIV; XV; XVI; XVII D,E,F,G,H,I,J; XVIII; XX; XXI; XXII; XXIII; XXVI; XXVII; XXVIII and XXIX.

Team Name _____ District #/Region _____

Manager _____ Telephone _(____)_____

Coach _____ Telephone _(____)_____

Must have a coach

Please Print All Information

PLAYER	Date of Birth	PHONE #
1. _____		
2. _____		
3. _____		
4. _____		
5. _____		
6. _____		
7. _____		
8. _____		
9. _____		
10. _____		
11. _____		
12. _____		
13. _____		
14. _____		
15. _____		
16. _____		
17. _____		
18. _____		
19. _____		
20. _____		
21. _____		
22. _____		

Team Registration

This Team registration form and the \$350.00 Fee must be received by May 2nd.

Make check payable to: **KBS (Knothole Baseball and Softball, Inc.)**

Mail to: Chris Kuczek, 8048 Acorn Trail, Maineville, OH 45039 or turn in at May 2nd meeting

Please Print all Information

Community/Area: _____ **Team Name:** _____

District Number: _____ **District Supervisors Name:** _____

Manager's Name: _____ **Home Phone #:** _____

Address: _____ **Cell Phone #:** _____

City/State/Zip: _____ **Work Phone #:** _____

Fax Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Coach's Name: _____ **Home Phone #:** _____

Address: _____ **Cell Phone #:** _____

City/State/Zip: _____ **Work Phone #:** _____

Fax Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

TEAM MAKE-UP: **Number of Players:** _____ **# of 15 (or less) Year Olds:** _____

of 16 Year Olds: _____

of 17 Year Olds: _____

of 18 Year Olds: _____

HOME FIELD NAME: _____

Address/Directions: _____

FIELD AVAILABILITY:**Day of Week****Time of Day**

☐ Sunday

☐ Monday

☐ Tuesday

☐ Wednesday

☐ Thursday

☐ Friday

☐ Saturday

MANAGER'S SIGNATURE: _____ **DISTRICT/REGION SUPERVISOR'S SIGNATURE:** _____