



2018 Updates and Revisions to KICKBALL: Official Rules of the Game (Selected highlights)

This document highlights the most important revisions to the Official WAKA Rules in the 2/2018 edition. New language is in red, additional notes are in blue. For more information visit www.kickball.com/rules, www.kickball.com/rulesfaq and www.kickball.com/policies. Thank you & happy kicking!

CHANGED:

13.02c a kicked ball landing in fair territory, but touching the ground in foul territory on its own at any time before crossing **1st or 3rd base** (see Rule 1.01h, Diagram 3C, 3D);

13.02d a kicked ball landing in fair territory, then entering foul territory before crossing **1st or 3rd base**, and touching a fielder or Referee wholly in foul territory (see Rule 1.01h, Rule 1.04);

13.03b. a kicked ball landing in fair territory then traveling into foul territory **at or beyond 1st or 3rd base** (see Diagram 3A, 3B).

Previously, the point at which the ball had to cross was defined by the 1st-3rd diagonal. By describing a fair or foul ball by its relationship to the 1st/3rd diagonal, it lead to some confusion when a ball hits a base before going into foul territory. Refs are left to determine whether the ball had hit the front half of the base or the back half, which would be difficult under most circumstances. We are now clarifying that the base is the mark to which a ball must reach before going foul.

CHANGED:

1.01g the kicking box is a rectangle with the front of the box aligned with the front of home plate and the back of the box aligned with the sideline cones behind home plate. Lines extending forward from the sideline cones perpendicular to the front of home plate make up the sides of the kicking box. **The area directly forward the kicking box is fair territory** (see Diagram 2).

13.02i a kicked ball first touching a player in front of the kicker's box prior to the ball crossing into fair territory.

The previous rule, often referred to as "The Grey Zone" allowed for balls to be fielded fairly ahead of the kickers' box but before crossing into the infield. It was often difficult even for the most experienced ref to determine whether a ball was fielded within the grey zone was fair or foul. This was especially the case when playing on fields without fully lined and painted markers. By stating any ball touched by the catcher before crossing into fair territory as foul, it will simplify the rule and improve consistency. NOTE: The ball may still travel through the 'grey zone' but is not considered fair until it crosses the foul line into fair territory. The 'grey zone' is essentially considered an extension of the kickers' box and the same rules apply.

CHANGED

12.01. A count of four (4) balls advances the kicker to first base, **with the exception of four-pitch walks (see rule 12.02).**

12.02. During a single plate appearance, if a kicker is walked on exactly four pitches, without being pitched any strikes (see Rule 11) or any resulting foul balls (see Rule 13.02), the kicker will be awarded a walk of two bases. Base runners shall only advance as far as they are forced by the kicker proceeding through 1st base to 2nd base.

It's not uncommon for defenses to intentionally walk stronger kickers to face weaker ones or to set up force outs at other bases. This creates a negative experience as players may go an entire game without the opportunity to kick the ball. It also puts a spotlight on the next kicker as publicly identifying them as a 'weaker' player and putting additional pressure on them. By adding an additional base for four-pitch walks or intentional walks, we would increase the number of opportunities for kickers to at least have a single pitch to kick.

UPDATED

All diagrams have been updated to improve clarity.
