

Topeka Parochial League Handbook:

The following is a compiling of the rules ---guidelines upon which the Topeka Parochial League exists. This booklet should be used as a guide for all matters concerning the purpose and function of the Topeka Parochial League. (*Revised: January, 2020*).

Article I – Purpose

Section 1 – The purpose of the athletic program in our system is to promote interest and enthusiasm and loyalty in our youth; to fashion the image of Christ in our youth by means of competitive events; to assure its contestants and managers of complete honesty and fair play at all times; to provide proper safeguards for its contestants, and to cultivate the confidence of the general public in the integrity of the contestants playing under its sponsorship and supervision.

Article II – General

Section 1 – In order to participate in the competitive programs each student must be a member of a Parochial League school.

Section 2 – It is required that every team be accompanied to all games by a coach or adult advisor who will be responsible for the teams conduct. The lack of supervision will make the group liable and will be grounds for the team not being able to compete. Also, this could, at the discretion of the Athletic Committee, lead to the suspension of the offending coach.

Article III – Forfeit

Section 1 – A school will forfeit all contests in which an ineligible player has participated. Each coach is responsible for the eligibility of his/her own participants. All ineligible players, and coaches who allow them to participate, will be liable at the discretion of the Topeka Parochial League Athletic Committee (AC) to suspension for one year.

Section 2 – Unless otherwise noted, forfeit time will be fifteen minutes after the scheduled starting time. A team that waits past the forfeit time for its opponent may not use lateness for protesting the results.

Article IV – Rules of Competition

Section 1 – Elementary school rules in the State of Kansas are to be followed in all contests, except where the provisions may conflict with the Topeka Parochial League (TPL) and the conditions which cannot be overcome without undue hardship to any team or official.

Section 2 – Any player, manager, coach or official who is ejected from any contest sponsored by the TPL for assaulting any other player, manager, coach or official, or inciting others to do so, will be automatically suspended.

Section 3 – When it becomes necessary to postpone any contest for any legitimate reason, it is the responsibility of the home team representative to contact the League Director as well as the visiting team’s coach at least five days in advance of the scheduled date thereof, and postponements shall be effective only upon

agreement of the representatives of both teams involved. It is to be understood that only parish wide functions of a religious or school nature and inclement weather may be offered as reasons for postponement of games. The League Director, Athletic Director or team coach shall be recognized as qualified to request the postponement. Disagreements as to postponements must be submitted to the Athletic Committee for decision.

Section 4 – No contestant is permitted to practice or take part in any organized workout with the Parochial School Team until he/she has submitted a physical card signed by both the doctor and parent/guardian.

Failure to follow this rule will result in the forfeiture of all games in which a contestant may participate.

Section 5 – Scheduling and Practice

- a. All schedules for interschool athletic contests must be approved by a school administrator, and the administrator should also be informed of a weekly practice schedule.
- b. Practice shall not exceed two hours per day. One practice per day only, four practices per week.
- c. Time during the legal school day shall not be used for athletic practice.
- d. Physical education instruction classes shall not be used for team practice.
- e. Any new athlete added to the team after the season starts, must practice two days before competing in that sport.

Article V – Eligibility

Section 1 – All contestants in the grade school athletic program must be within the age limit as of September 1 of the current year as hereinafter set forth. In the sixth grade program a child must not have reached his/her thirteenth birthday; seventh grade – fourteen; eighth grade – fifteen. Any exceptions must be approved by the Athletic Committee.

Section 2 – All contestants participating in the grade school program must be enrolled in the parochial league school that the contestants represent.

Article VI – Conduct

Coaches, players, and any school representative must maintain and observe good sportsmanship at all times.

Section 1 – Coaches must set the proper example to their players by respecting and complying with the decisions of officials during athletic contests. No coach shall degrade any contestant, official, or coach from another school, or allow any of their athletes to do so.

Section 2 – Coaches must make a reasonable attempt to utilize every player on their team during the course of any game or event providing the player is eligible.

Section 3 – ***C Flight league in volleyball and basketball is considered instructional and team talent will be split evenly if schools have more than one team in that flight. A & B Flights in volleyball and basketball are considered competitive and schools may arrange teams by talent level if they so choose.***

Article VII – Discipline

A coach may, for reason of either inadequate classroom work or discipline problems at school, hold a player from competition until time as such problems are remedied. This decision must be reached by school principal and must be explained to the participant so he/she understands the reason for such action.

Article VIII – Inclement Weather

Section 1 – In the event of inclement weather that may inhibit or endanger the participants of a regularly scheduled outdoor athletic event, the Athletic Director, at his/her discretion, shall issue cancellations of such events at least 45 minutes before the start of the first scheduled game. Notice of the cancellation will be broadcast over at least two (2) of the local radio stations. The radio stations will be ones which are predetermined by the Athletic Committee and the Athletic Director before the start of the school year. Coaches should instruct players to monitor the radio reports if bad weather or conditions exist.

Article IX – Protests

Section 1 – Coaches should direct any complaints or protests to their schools Athletic Director and they in turn will address it with the League Director. In the event of a protest of the outcome of any athletic contest, the protesting school must place the protest in writing and turn in to the League Director within 24 hours of the completion of the game. The League Director will then contact the Athletic Committee within 24 hours and inform them that a protest has been lodged and the circumstances involved. The Athletic Committee will then call a meeting to rule on the protest. The Athletic Committee may call on individuals if need be, to verify all information necessary to obtain a just and fair conclusion. The Athletic Director will then notify the protesting parties of the Athletic Committee's decision which will be final.

Topeka Parochial League Athletic Committee Description

Basic Function: The Athletic Committee is the governing body of the Topeka Parochial League. The committee is comprised of one representative appointed by the administration of each of the league schools. The committee acts as a body which maintains a functional balance between all league schools and provides sponsorship for the extra curricular athletic events.

League Director Job Description

Basic Function: The League Director shall be responsible for the administration and operation of all athletic activities among schools of the league in conformity with general school policies. The director shall implement the athletic policy as stated by the Athletic Committee of the TPL. The director shall report to and receive consultation from the Athletic Committee.

Major Responsibilities:

1. Assist in the formation and organization of League activities at each of the schools, in cooperation with the individual Parochial League school administrators.
2. Administer the rules and regulations, which govern all League activities.
3. Hold periodic meetings with the Athletic Committee and coaches to insure proper communications with the member schools. Meetings shall be held as necessary to inform schools of rule changes and to provide for input and exchange of ideas to help solve any problems that may arise in the Athletic Programs.
4. The Director, in conjunction with the Athletic Committee, shall be responsible for the following:
 - a. Organization of Athletic schedules (regular and tournament seasons).
 - b. Securing of necessary facilities.
 - c. Purchasing equipment for League use.
 - d. Collection and accounting of gate receipts.
 - e. Arranging for scorekeepers and collecting scorebooks. Athletic Directors from the hosting venue will email results for the day to the League Director.
5. The Director shall be solely responsible for the following:
 - a. Scheduling of necessary officials. The director will meet with TPL coaches to talk about rules and officiating at the beginning of each season. This will be a meeting of all coaches for all sports.
 - b. Securing necessary athletic equipment.
 - c. Supervising TPL tournaments.
6. League Director and Principals will meet annually.

Individual Season Guidelines:

The following pages are designed to outline and explain individual rules, special or otherwise recognized only in the TPL. This is not the complete rules of the game book, but merely an interpretation of individual rules.

For all TPL sanctioned sports, coaches should consult the current KSHSAA rule books for up-to-date rules of the game. Any exceptions or changes will be covered by the League Director at a meeting with coaches prior to the start of each season.

Fees for gate \$5.00 for family, \$3.00 for adults and \$1 for students per day (not contest, stamps will be provided by the league to stamp hands of those entering). Teachers and coaches are free (coaches will receive a pass from League Director) a list of teachers will be turned into the league director so that every venue has a copy. Each venue will be responsible for their concessions/workers and someone to work the gate. These are not paid positions and the Athletic Committee strongly recommends that the TPL schools use this as an opportunity for members to contribute with service hours.

BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL

Games will consist of four six minute quarters. KSHSAA rules will apply for both girls and boys.

The following statements will cover all participants and coaches in our program:

1. No two players on the same team will be allowed to have the same number on their jersey.
2. Coaches must have all lineups in the official scorebook 5 minutes prior to game time. If this is not done the game can start with a technical foul.
3. There will be one minute between quarters, five minutes between halves, and five minutes between games.
4. Four time outs are given to each team and one additional time out for each additional overtime period. (Two full and two 30's).
5. Coaches should not leave their players at the school sites for others to supervise. You should make sure these players have rides home from these athletic events.
6. Controlled scrimmages are allowed between teams before the season begins. If such a scrimmage is held, the scrimmage will count as a practice for that week and is subject to practice time limitations.
7. Basketball size is 28.5 for all levels.
8. Each game will need 2 responsible adults to keep the scorebook and run the clock. Each competing team should contribute one person.
9. TPL league has a mercy rule. If in the second half a team leads by 30 points or more the clock will run continuously, except for timeouts and foul shots.

Basketball No Pressing Rule

1. No press rule for C Flight, B Flight may press in second half only and when point difference is less than 14. A Flight press anytime point difference is less than 14.
2. There is an imaginary line running from one side of the court to the other side of the court across the top of the three point arc. No defensive player can attack the offensive player with the ball above this line. The offensive player has five seconds to penetrate this imaginary line with a dribble or a pass. When this penetration takes place, all restrictions of the no press rule are gone for this series.
3. If an offensive player does not make penetration within five seconds; there is a warning given by the referee. If no penetration is made within five seconds after the first warning that player will be assessed with a technical foul.

FLOATING SYSTEM for BASKETBALL

1. No player floats down flights. 8th grade does not float to 7th grade and 7th grade does not float to 6th grade. A younger player playing up can float down to their class. No floating across.

2. A maximum of three players from each team should be floaters.
3. Players do not have to be designated as floaters. It can be any three in a given day as long as they have not exceeded their quarter or games allowed (see rule 4).
4. If a team has two games or a double header in a day then a maximum of 10 quarters will be allowed per player. Overtime shall be considered an extension of the fourth quarter.
5. Rosters should be turned in to League Director prior to the beginning of the season.

Soccer

Our rules are established by the KSHSAA with the following exceptions:

1. We have two (2) twenty five (25) minute halves.
2. We have a five minute break at the half.
3. We have six practice hours each week.
4. Teams must have 8 players to start a game.
5. There is a mercy rule in TPL soccer. Any team up by 10 goals is the winner and game is over.
6. Players cannot wear jewelry, face paint, temporary tattoo's, etc. Eye black is allowed for soccer.
7. If a team has less than usual number of starting players they can:
 - a. play shorthanded
 - b. opponent can agree to play with less to balance number on each team
 - c. use players from the opposing team to balance number if other team is willing.

Goalies cannot float to another team and play goalie. If a school has 2 teams they cannot float more than 4 players from Team A to Team B and not more than 4 players from Team B to Team A. These players that float **MUST** be designated on roster as floaters prior to beginning of season.

Track

1. A limit of six hours of practice per week is a must.
2. We have four meets and the Deanery.
3. Times and distances are given to the participants during the practice meets.
4. Times and distances are recorded at the Deanery. Ribbons are awarded to the top five in each event.
5. Coaches should use some good common sense in scheduling these young athletes in these track events.

Grade levels compete against each other. TPL runs the following events:

Shot Put: 6th /7th grade boys and all girls use the 6 pound shot.
8th grade boys use the 8 pound shot.

Discus, Long Jump, High Jump
100 dash, 200 dash, 400 dash, 800 run, 1600 run
4 x 100 relay, 4 x 200 relay, Medley Relay

Order of events will be as follows:

100 m-----1600 m----4 X 100 relay----400 m-----4 X 200 relay----800 m----200 m----
medley

Athletes may participate in a **total of 5 events**. All athletes must be in a school uniform to participate.

VOLLEYBALL

The TPL shall observe the KSHSAA rules and regulations for its volleyball program except as noted:

- A. Practice time is limited to 6 hours per week for all teams
- B. Matches will be played 2 out of 3 games. Total number of matches won and lost will help determine seedings for the post season tournament.
- C. Coaches must have the line up in the official scorebook five minutes prior to game time. Each team will provide one scorekeeper and one person for the book.
- D. Players cannot wear jewelry, face paint, temporary tattoo's, etc.
- E. Warm-up will consist of four minutes of passing on team's own court. Four minutes of shared net for spiking and two minutes of serving.
- F. Each team is allowed 50 – 60 minutes of play. If time allows after match concludes, teams may play a 3rd game for fun.
- G. Floaters cannot start games for both teams. If they start on first team, they must wait until the 12th point in games 1 & 2 and the 7th point of game 3 on the second team. (This means one team has to be at 12 or 7 not total points of game). The team they start on must remain the same throughout the season.
- H. No floating across.
- I. Players do not have to be designated as floaters. It can be any three in a given day.
- J. Teams may start or play shorthanded. It is a loss of rally every time that spot/s rotates to the serving position.