**Kickball Study Guide**

Kickball is a playground game and competitive league game, similar to baseball,

invented in the United States in 1942. Kickball is also known as soccer-base or

soccer-baseball. American World War II correspondent Ernie Pyle reported it

being played by U.S. soldiers during the Tunisia Campaign, 1942-1943. The

game is typically played on a softball diamond with a 10- to 16-inch inflated

rubber ball. As in baseball/softball, the game uses 3 bases and a "home plate."

Rules generally follow baseball/softball rules, with the exception that the ball is

kicked rather than struck with a bat. The pitcher rolls the ball towards the catcher,

the "batter" kicks it with his/her foot, then runs to first base, becoming a runner. A

runner is out if any one of the following conditions are met:

• If the ball is caught in the air without touching the ground first, then the batter is

out (a fly out).

o In the case of a fly out, any runner already on base who attempts to

advance before the ball is caught may themselves be counted out if the

ball is returned to the base they were on before the ball was kicked.

• A defensive player with the ball touches the base ahead of a runner who is forced

to go to that base, because of an advancing runner behind him (a force out).

• A defensive player touches the runner directly with the ball while holding it (a tag

out).

• In some variations, a defensive player may throw the ball and hit the runner on the

fly with it (often called "Indian Rubber").

o In informal games, it is often decided ahead of time whether to allow

"Indian Rubber" in all or some situations (for example, hitting a runner in

the head is often considered illegal even if "Indian Rubber" is otherwise

legal). Some rules only allow for thrown balls that hit the runner on the fly

to count as an out, while other rules may count any contact by a runner at

any time with a ball (such as a kicked ball) as an out by "Indian Rubber".

Most versions also allow for balls and strikes, with a strike defined as any pitch

which crosses the plate below the knees of the batter (and which is thus

reasonably kickable), though each league may define balls and strikes differently.

As with baseball, a fixed number of balls defines a "walk" (usually 4, though

sometimes only 3), for which the batter gets a free trip to first base, and a fixed

number of strikes (usually 3, though sometimes 2) will get a batter an "out".

Foul balls (those kicked outside of the line through home plate and either first or

third base) may be handled in several ways, depending on local rules.

• They may be handled like baseball, with each foul counting as a strike, except that

one cannot strike out on fouls (any foul hit with 2 strikes does not garner a third

strike)

• They may be counted as strikes, and a foul on a third strike still counts for an out

• Every foul ball may count as an automatic out

• Some versions count fouls separately from strikes, and call the batter out after a

fixed number of fouls (usually either 3 or 4), or sometimes limit the number of "2-

strike" fouls which may be counted before fouling out.