

The KCAC Belt Rules

1.0 The KCAC Belt Committee

The KCAC Belt Committee, known as the KBC, is made up of one president and three members. The KBC will be created at the end of the KCAC Doubles title tournament. The initial committee will be one member of the losing team in the final, and one member of each semifinal team. The individual will be determined by flip of the coin or deferment by any of those finalists and semifinalists. The KBC is responsible for the current activity in regards to the title belts and its legacy. They will also govern title defenses when it is necessary.

1.1 The president

The president acts as steward of the belts and only acts as a backup voter when needed.

Responsibilities include:

- Help organize matches or belt tournaments
- Manage the communication and announcements of title defenses
- Hold the belts in the case that the title is currently vacant
- Facilitate the initial creation and any turnover in the belt committee
- Act as a stand-in committee member if there is a conflict of interest with a committee member. A conflict of interest includes a committee member contending for a belt.
- Responsible for soliciting volunteers to the KBC and appointment if there are volunteers for replacement when a committee member decides to step down.

1.2 The Committee

The committee is a three-person panel that makes decisions for the successful management of the KCAC belts with respect to the rules outlined in this document. Their responsibilities include:

- Receive any agreed-upon title matches, or contention requests from a team that would like to contest for the title
- Manage contender requests and create a contender list and communicate it to the president to be shared on the website
- Approve a title match and communicate it to the KBC
- Receive final outcome of title match, including score and communicate it to the committee and president
- Responsible for transition of belt to the new champion team if the contender

2.0 The Belts

The KCAC Belts are property of the KCAC and are loaned to the title holders with the signed agreement that the champs will respect the belts while in their possession.

3.0 Defense of Title

The doubles champions are required to defend their title within 6 weeks from the date of winning their title. If a team wishes to challenge the champs for the belt, and a contender does not exist, then their request will be received by the committee. The champs are required to confirm that they will play against the contenders.

3.1 Belts

It is required to bring the title belts to a title match. If the belt holders do not bring the title belts to the title match, they may be fined \$20 for the first offense and the match will still take place. If they fail to bring the belts a second time, then the KBC will meet to decide to fine them \$40 or vacate their title. The defending champs can keep the belts with them during the match unless a KBC committee member is present. If a KBC member is present, then they will hold the belts for the title match. If the contenders defeat the belt holders, the belts will change hands at that time.

3.2 Deferrals and Contenders

They are able to defer one match, but only because they may have another match scheduled or extenuating circumstances approved by the KBC. If a deferral is accepted, then that opponent will be considered the next contender behind the opponent they are already scheduled to play. These will be managed by the KBC and tracked on the KCAC website. The champion team can play more than one match within the 6-week requirement, and will count towards their total belt defenses. All challengers to the belt will be queued as contenders and displayed on the website with no priority given by skill. The dates of the matches will be agreed upon by both teams and within the 6-week defense requirement.

3.3 Host facility

The primary facilities for hosting title matches are the KCAC and the Athletic Club of Overland Park due to it having the highest percentage of KC handball players as members. It is the responsibility of the title holders and the contenders to have an active membership at the facility where the match is to take place. It is allowed for a competitor in the title match to request a guest pass for the hosting facility. It is the contenders' responsibility to ensure access to the club where the champions prefer to play. Tournaments and league matches are the exception to this rule and if a tournament/league match is agreed upon, then the host facility is not relevant. Deferral will not be given to the title holders for not having membership to the KCAC and the ACOP.

3.4 Outdoor vs Indoor

There are two handball seasons, outdoor season and indoor season. Outdoor season is defined as May 15th until October 1st. Indoor season is defined as October 1st until May 15th. It is the decision of the defending champions as to which format they will defend their title, but the general guidelines should be followed when deciding. If the titled is vacated, then the KBC will follow the calendar to decide which court type to play on.

3.5 Official Match

3.5.1 Witness

KBC must be made aware of a title match. They do not need to witness the match or outcome, but must have confirmation from both teams that a title match is to occur. The date, time, and location must be communicated. They can receive communication by email, phone call, or text message

3.5.2 Injury

If a member of the title defending team is injured during a title match, then the match will be suspended and a rematch will be scheduled with the contending team. If there are disagreements on the legitimacy of the injury, the KBC may be consulted for a decision. Depending on the ruling, the match may be rescheduled, the match may be forced to continue where it left off on an agreed-upon date, or the title could be vacated.

3.5.3 Tournament or League matches

A Title match can take place during a local tournament or league match if all parties agree on the arrangement.

3.5.4 Lack of Contenders

If there are no contenders, the KBC will try to arrange a title match for the champions. If at that point there is still not a contender for the title, then the championship team may receive an extension to their 6-week defense requirement

4.0 Eligibility

4.1 Eligibility

To be eligible to contend for the Doubles championship belt, both members of the team must maintain current permanent residency within the Kansas City metropolitan area. The following items do not qualify as KC residence:

- Prior KC resident
- Currently in school, but home for summer or winter break
- Residents of Topeka, Springfield, Wichita, Lawrence
- Soon to be moving to Kansas City

4.2 Lost Eligibility

If a current champion is moving from the Kansas City metropolitan area, then they must vacate their Doubles title. See section 7.0 on vacating titles

4.3 Extenuating circumstances

If there are any concerns that fall outside of items listed within the official rules document, then the KBC will meet to determine the outcome of the exception

5.0 Failure of defense/compliance

If the holders of the belt fail to defend their title within the timeframe outlined in Defense of Title section (3.0), then they will be forced to relinquish their title. They must return the belts to the KBC.

5.1 Did not defend in timeframe

The team has 6 weeks to defend their title. If they do not play a requested match within the timeframe, then they will return their belts to a KBC member and the title will be vacated

5.2 Injury

The team needs to communicate any injuries that prevent the belt holders from defending their title within the timeframe outlined in the defense of title section (3.0). If the committee determines the injury is acceptable, they will offer a defense extension they feel is fair to the team to recover from the injury, or they will decide to vacate the title to prevent Title inactivity.

5.3 Behavior

If either member of the defending team behaves in a way unbecoming of their title, then the team will be stripped of their doubles title and the belts will be vacated. Examples may include:

- Disrespect or destruction to the belts
- Causing damage to the facility where match takes place
- Personal behavior that may tarnish the reputation of the title or the club

If there is concern of the behavior of the champion team, then it needs to be communicated or witnessed by the KBC. They will then decide if the behavior warrants vacating the title.

6.0 Legacy

All title activity will be tracked on the 'KCAC Belts' section of the KCAthleticClub.com website. Upcoming title matches will be announced, as well as current and past champions title wins and defenses. There will be special incentives for the amount of times a team defends their title. The goal is not how long a belt is held, it is how many times a belt has been defended. There will be a separate perpetual plaque for the number of title defenses. 5 successful defenses will be the first level of getting your name added to the plaque.

7.0 Vacating Title

If for reasons outlined above, the Title needs to be revoked from the current champs and vacated, then arrangements will be made for open competition to crown a new champion. If there is an existing queue of contenders, then they will contend with each other for the title. If there are only 2 contenders, then they will compete for the title. If there are more, then a bracket will be produced for the vacated title seeded by their spot on the contenders list. At the completion of the bracket, the contenders can again request to the champs and the KBC to be added as a contender.