

5th & 6th Grade Local League Softball Rules

MSHSL Official Softball rules will apply for the league with these exceptions:

1. Official Rosters must be the turned in the Friday before league play begins

- a. Friday May 26th, 2023

2. Game play

- a. Game time is 6:00 pm unless scheduled otherwise.
- b. At 15 minutes past such time the plate umpire will declare any team not present a forfeit
- c. Game Ball: 12" Dudley Hard Sided Can be other brand if you can't get dudley
- d. Six inning games will be played.
 - i. If a team is behind by 10 runs after 5 innings or 20 runs after 4 innings the game will be complete.
- e. In case of rain or darkness, four innings will constitute a complete game (umpire discretion).
- f. No inning will be started after 1 hr & 30 Minutes.
- g. Rainouts lasting less than 4 innings
 - i. These games continue at the point where it was left, same score, same inning. Batting order and positions are discretion of the coach as not all the same players may be available. Rainouts do not have to be made up but can be

3. PROTECTIVE GEAR

- a. All players in the field of play must wear batting helmets w/ face masks at all times. (Field of Play constitutes not in the dugout or behind a fence.)
- b. If the helmet has a chin strap it must be strapped. Some helmets don't have straps
- c. All catchers must wear chest protectors, catcher's mask/helmet, and shin guards (both during warm ups and during the game).
- d. Molded/Rubber/Plastic Cleats only
- e. No jewelry allowed.
 - i. Exceptions: Newly pierced ears, medical alert bracelets or necklaces, and so on.
 - ii. If worn they must be taped to the body and medical information must be available.
- f. During games, players must stay in the bench area while not in the field or batting. One coach on each baseline only.

4. PITCHING

- a. A pitcher may pitch no more than 3 innings per game, non-consecutive innings are okay.
- b. Pitchers can follow either MSHSL or ASA pitching rules.
- c. Any pitcher that hits three batters must be removed from pitching for the balance of the game.
- d. A partially pitched inning is considered a full inning pitched, regardless of the number of batters she faces in the inning and regardless of whether she is the starting pitcher or the relief pitcher.
- e. Pitchers do NOT need to use the Windmill Pitch. May pitch using the Modified Pitch.
- f. If you go to extra innings then you can rotate your pitchers equally in the added innings. (Pitcher A could pitch inning 8 - Pitcher B could pitch inning 9 or Pitcher A, B, C could all pitch in an inning).
- g. Warm up pitches
 - i. 5 pitches to start the game or for a new pitcher
 - ii. 3 pitches in between innings if it is the pitcher from the previous inning
- h. No leaping or crow hopping allowed.
 - i. Pitcher will be given a warning and the pitch will not count on the warning. This is at the umpire's discretion
- i. Time is called when the ball is held by the pitcher in the area of the pitcher's mound and all runners have stopped their advancement.

5. FIELD DIMENSIONS

- a. Pitching: 35ft
- b. Bases: 60 or 65 feet Orange safety base is encouraged
- c. Pitching Circle: An eight-foot radius circle surrounding the pitching rubber. Once the pitcher has the ball within the pitching circle (8 foot radius from center of pitching mound), the base runners must immediately commit to a base .

6. BATTING ORDER

- a. All players present will be in the batting lineup. The lineup must stay the same throughout the entire game, unless an illness or injury forces a change.
- b. If a player leaves for injury or illness their spot in the order will not be considered an out unless dropping below 7 players. Could just borrow players at this point
- c. Any player leaving the game for injury or illness may return to play at coaches discretion unless removed for a head injury.
- d. Batting out of order is considered an out.

7. SUBSTITUTIONS

- a. Free substitution of players is allowed including the pitcher.
- b. All girls must play at least 3 innings defensively in six inning game
 - i. with the exception of a shortened game, because of the maximum run rule. Must still play 2 innings (non-consecutively is ok)
 - ii. or in the case of a coach benching a girl for unsportsmanlike conduct, in which case the coach must notify the opposing coach and umpire.

8. COMPLETE INNING

- a. A complete inning shall be 3 outs or a maximum of 5 runs in one teams at bat, except last inning
- b. The inning ends at 5 runs, unless it is the last inning of the game, the last inning has no run limit.
- c. Coaches need to coordinate with the umpire when you are close to the end of the game/time limit. The last inning must be declared as such prior to the start of it.
- d. When the last inning has been declared, BOTH teams will be subject to the "Unlimited Runs LAST Inning rule" The maximum playing time may extend past 1 hour 45 minutes to complete the last inning
- e. Game called due to weather or darkness
 - i. If in the middle of an inning and both teams have not had a full at-bat, the score reverts back to the last full inning completed.
 - ii. Unless there have not been 4 innings completed, if this is the case the game should be suspended and played at a later date.

9. ROSTER

- a. There will be no more than 18 players on a roster.
- b. Ten players will be used defensively (minimum is 7 players)
 - i. 4 Outfielders will be used
- c. If a team is playing with 7 players and a player must leave the game then that spot in batting order will be declared an out.
- d. Official Rosters must be turned in to Tom Middagh/Waconia Baseball by May 31st as stated in rule 1.

10. NO PROTESTS are allowed

- a. Umpires judgment calls may not be protested.
- b. All rule violations will be settled immediately by the umpire and managers.
- c. Umpires decisions are final.

11. No PROFANITY, TOBACCO or SMOKING is allowed by anyone

12. INFIELD FLY

- a. Infield fly rule will apply.
- b. Infield fly rule is a pop fly, not a bunt pop up, that occurs with runners on at least 1st and 2nd base when there is 0 or 1 out. In these situations the batter is out, and runners may advance on their own as a normal fly ball.
- c. The umpire should call out "Infield Fly" when he/she realizes it. The batter is out even if the ball is dropped, as long as it is in fair territory and the umpire judges it to be an infield fly.
- d. A bunt popped up is not an infield fly.

13. BUNTING is permitted at any time

14. GROUND RULES

- a. The home team determines the ground rules
- b. On fields without side fencing coaches and umpires should agree on the out of play lines prior to the start of the game.
- c. Side fences shall be out of play lines.

15. GAME BALLS

- a. each team must supply one new game ball, Dudley 12”.

16. RAINOUTS

- a. Both teams must agree on a makeup date.
- b. A team may reschedule a game due to lack of players or field conflict, providing they give the opposing team a minimum of one week notice of need to reschedule.

17. UMPIRES.

- a. Home team will furnish the umpire.
- b. The umpire may be a coach of, or relative of, either team.
- c. If no umpire shows up, the managers of the teams must mutually agree on how the umpiring shall be handled.

18. OVERTHROWS

- a. On overthrows (balls in play), the base runner can attempt to advance at her own risk.
- b. Over the fence and out of play balls equal 2 bases from the time of the pitch

19. LEADING OFF

- a. A base runner may leave the base when the pitched ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- b. If violated, one bench warning will be given; the second violation will result in the player being called out.

20. STEALING

- a. Stealing 2nd & 3rd is allowed once the ball leaves the pitcher's hand
- b. Stealing of home is only permitted when there is an overthrow back to the pitcher or a play on any base runner.
- c. Stealing home on a passed ball is not allowed

21. SLIDING

- a. The MSHSL rule on sliding will apply
- b. Any runner that has a play being made on them has to make an attempt to avoid contact with the fielder. (Generally includes but not limited to sliding, moving out of the way, or giving themselves up.) "Umpires Discretion"
- c. A batter runner does not have to slide into 1st base, running from home to first.
- d. Penalty for not making an attempt to avoid contact is the umpire calling the base runner out.
- e. Fake tag or decoy tag may not be used by a fielder. The penalty is the base runner is awarded one extra base, beyond their position.

22. COURTESY RUNNER

- a. Is encouraged to be used for the catcher, if catcher is on base with 2 outs, the courtesy runner will be the player who made the last out.

23. SCOREBOOK

- a. The home team score book is the official score book. It is the visiting team's responsibility to check the official score book inning by inning.
- b. Any discrepancies to be worked out by the coaches and umpire
- c. The Umpire's ruling is final.

24. THIRD STRIKE

- a. A batter is out on a third strike unless it is dropped by the catcher.
- b. If the catcher drops the ball the batter can run to first. The batter is not out until they enter the dugout or are put out by a fielder.
- c. If first base was occupied by a runner at the time of the pitch the batter can not run on a dropped third strike unless there are two outs.

- d. On two outs if bases are loaded, the catcher may touch home plate for an out or any other advancing runner/force base.

25. THROWING OF THE BAT

- a. Base runners may not advance when an out is called in this situation. Safety of the players is the major concern.
- b. Is only an out if it interferes with a fielder's ability to make a play or becomes persistent.

26. BASE COACHES

- a. Adults or players may coach bases. If players are coaching bases, they must wear helmets.

27. SPORTSMANSHIP

- a. Good sportsmanlike behavior will be regarded at all times. There will be NO HARASSMENT of the opposing team or umpires whether by the coaches, team members or parents.
- b. Cheers, jeers or comments directed at the opposing team or umpires with the intention of harassment will NOT be tolerated.
- c. Coaches should control this.
- d. Umpires may eject a person responsible for harassment or the team will forfeit the game.

28. BORROWED PLAYERS

- a. If you need to borrow a player from another team to play a game, the borrowed player may not play the key positions of Pitcher, Catcher, Short Stop or First Base.