



A department of MPS

Milwaukee Recreation
YOUTH SPORTS
5225 W. Vliet St. Rm. 163
Milwaukee, WI 53208
P: 414.475.8410
mkerec.net

MIDDLE SCHOOL COED SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL RULES

Milwaukee Recreation Youth Sports reserves the right to change rules at any time.

Rules adapted from the ASA Rule book.

Last Updated: 03/27/25

Section 1 - General League Rules

SPORTSMANSHIP – Unsportsmanlike conduct may result in ejection from the contest. Officials, coaches, parents, players, and fans should always display leadership and sportsmanship qualities. Any players or coaches ejected from the game by officials/staff for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended until their case is reviewed by Milwaukee Recreation. The final disposition of the case will then be made. Sports Coordinators are required to check with the Youth Sports Office before allowing the player or coach in question to continue participation in Youth Sports Activities.

SPECTATORS – Spectators are to be seated opposite the player’s bench. All spectators are asked to show good sportsmanship and character and offer only positive reinforcement.

COACHES (UPDATED) – Only coaches and players listed on the TEAM ROSTER FORM are allowed in the team bench area. ***All coaches in the bench area must be completely hired by Milwaukee Recreation (Paid or Volunteer), and have a visible coach’s credential.*** A maximum of three (3) coaches are allowed on the team bench. A hired coach must be present before a game may start.

FACILITY REMINDERS – Dogs, alcohol, smoking (including E-cigarettes), weapons, and grilling are prohibited during Milwaukee Recreation Youth Sports activities.

JEWELRY – Head decorations, headwear, and jewelry cannot be worn during competitions. This means that rings, wristwatches, hair curlers, combs, beads, earrings, or barrettes cannot be worn while participating in Youth Sports Leagues.

GAME RE-SCHEDULING/CANCELLATIONS – All school sport coordinator, coaches, or applicable staff will be notified of any reschedule games or game cancellations via email. Revised schedules will be posted on the Milwaukee Recreation Website: www.mkerec.net/YouthSports.

WEATHER HOTLINE – For inclement weather updates, contact the Weather Hotline at 414-475-8068. The hotline is updated on league play days by 8:00 AM on Saturdays and 1:00 PM on weekdays when inclement weather is expected. The hotline is available in English and Spanish. Coaches are responsible for informing players and their families of the weather hotline number.



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ROSTERS (UPDATED) – A copy of the team’s roster must be submitted to the Youth Sports Office using the online submission link prior to the deadline given by the Youth Sports Office at the seasonal Sports Coordinator meeting (Usually one (1) week prior to the team’s first scheduled game). ***Teams may only submit one (1) updated roster prior to the secondary roster deadline given at the seasonal Sports Coordinator meeting. Any additional updated rosters will not be accepted. All Non-Attending Student forms must be submitted prior to the secondary roster deadline, while all Transfer Student forms must be submitted prior to the second to last week of the season.*** There is no roster limit, however only fifteen (15) medals and/or awards will be given. Extra medals and/or awards are available for purchase from the MKE REC Youth Sports Office.

ONE TEAM, PER SPORT, PER SEASON – Athletes are permitted to play multiple sports per season by cannot play on more than one team in the same sports during the same season.

Exception: Athletes are only permitted to play on one (1) basketball team per academic year.

COED LEAGUE RULES – The term “COED” refers to the fact that both boys and girls are eligible to play on the same team. It is possible that teams will have varying numbers of boys or girls, but no special “coed rules” will apply. Teams made of one gender are allowed in the COED league.

FORFEITS (UPDATED) – The Youth Sports Office must be notified in advance of all forfeit contests. Notification must be delivered to youthsports@mkerec.net at least 36-hours prior to scheduled game start time. ***Teams that forfeit will be charged a \$50.00 fee per occurrence.*** See the Youth Sports Website and Opportunity Handbook for a list of forfeit situations.

PROTEST – Judgement calls made by the game officials are not eligible for protest and/or appeal. Protest on rule enforcement must be filed in writing with the Youth Sports Office with 48-hours following the incident. Protest on athlete eligibility may be filed any time during the regular season. Submit rules enforcement and athlete eligibility protest via email to youthsports@mkerec.net.

TIE-BREAKER PROCEDURES (TROPHY SPORTS ONLY) – The Youth Sports Office will have full discretion determining the position and placement of all teams. Tie-break procedures are available online at www.mkerec.net/YouthSports.

LEAGUE CHAMPIONS (TROPHY SPORTS ONLY) – League Champions can be determined one of three ways.

- A. **Tournament** - A season ending tournament in which a championship game is played. The winner of the tournament will receive the league trophies regardless of their regular season record.



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- B. **Position Day** - the number 1 and number 2 teams in the league standings will compete in a single game at the end of the season to determine the league champion. League record will not prevail as the determining factor, the single match up will.
- C. **Season Record** - Best overall season record in league play will determine the league champion.

YOUTH SPORTS OPPORTUNITY HANDBOOK – The current version of the Youth Sports Opportunity Handbook is available at www.mkerec.net/YouthSports. All sports coaches and sports coordinators are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the rules, regulations, procedures, and policies governing the Milwaukee Recreation Youth Sports Programs.

Section 2 – Before the Game

Article 1 – Rules are adapted from the Amateur Softball Association Rule Book and may be changed by the Youth Sports Office at any time to improve the safety and understanding of the game.

Article 2 – Eligibility:

- A. **Age/Grade Limits (UPDATED)** – Students may not exceed the age/grade limits as listed below. Age is determined as of September 1 of the current school year. Middle School Coed Slow Pitch Softball is only offered to students enrolled in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade at the beginning of the Spring season. **Elementary (1st-5th Grade) students are NOT eligible for participation in Middle School Boys or Coed Slow Pitch Softball.**

12 years old and under/6th grade maximum

13 years old and under/7th grade maximum

15 years old and under/8th grade maximum

- B. **School Suspensions** – Any student suspended from school must be reinstated prior to the close of school on the Friday before their next scheduled game to be eligible.
- C. **Grade Point Average (GPA)** – Schools using the standards-based report card please use published requirements for eligibility.
 - 1. A student must have a minimum 2.0 GPA in their previous mark period report card in order to participate unless the school standard is higher, in which case the school GPA requirement would prevail.
 - 2. Middle School athletic eligibility is determined by report card mark period GPA only; there are no provisions for recertification in the program.
 - 3. Once a student is ineligible, they must wait until the next report card is published to regain eligibility.



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Article 3 – Players: In order to avoid a forfeit, a team may start with seven (7) athletes. Additional athletes who arrive late may enter the game and be added to the end of the batting order when fully suited, checked in, and have informed the umpire that they are ready to join in the game. Teams must play with ten (10) players, if available.

- A. Line-Up Card - A line-up card must be presented to the official and opposing coach prior to the start of the game.
- B. Batting Order – All players present will bat, and must be included in the official batting order. However, only ten (10) players may play on the field at one time.
- C. Infield – With the exception of the pitcher and catcher, only five infielders are allowed in the infield. None of whom may be in front of the pitching rubber. Outfielders must be on the outfield grass.
- D. Playing Time (UPDATED) – It is mandatory that all players who suit up for the game play a minimum of 2 innings in the field in a 6-7 inning game. If a game lasts less than 6 innings, then 1 inning of play will satisfy the requirement. If these requirements are not met, it will result in the game being forfeited. ***Please notify the scorekeeper of any players that will be sitting out due to personal or disciplinary reasons, so that a note can be made on the scoresheet.***
- E. Substitutions – The batting order may not be changed. Players on the field may be interchanged at the coach’s discretion, but these changes must be relayed to the umpire prior.
- F. Uniforms – Teams are required to wear matching jerseys with numbers, sweatpants or gym shorts, and athletic shoes or rubber cleats (Metal Cleats, Crocs, and Open Toe shoes are prohibited). Shorts do not need to match jerseys.
- G. Pinnies – Visiting teams are required to wear pinnies in the event both teams are wearing the same or similar colors, and their jerseys are not reversible.
- H. Warm-up Balls – MKE REC will not provide warm-up softballs for teams.
- I. Post-Game – Post game hand shaking will occur at the discretion of each coach. Opposing coaches and players that choose not to shake hands, should wave at one another from their respective bench areas, as a non-physical way to demonstrate sportsmanship at the end of the game.

Article 4 – Officials:

- A. All games will be officiated by a home plate umpire.
- B. The Umpire’s decisions on point of fact connected with the game shall be final.
- C. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.
- D. The umpire or staff member can stop, suspend, or abandon the game because of outside interference of any kind.



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Article 5 – Coaches: (UPDATED)

- A. Only coaches who have been completely hired by Milwaukee Recreation (Paid or Volunteer), and listed as “Hired – Good To Work” on their schools hiring spreadsheet, are allowed in the team bench area.**
- B. Hired coaches will be given a coach’s credential by the Milwaukee Recreation Youth Sports office once they have completed the hiring process. Credentials must be visible while coaches are in the bench area.**
- C. A hired coach or other responsible adult must be present before a game may start.
- D. On offense, coaches must remain behind the dead ball line established by the umpire before the game, unless they are assisting the batter or baserunners.
- E. Only one coach or player may occupy the coach’s box at each base.
- F. On defense, coaches or volunteer parents are encouraged to assist their players in the field.

Section 3 - The Game

Article 1 – Game Ball Size: If the listed game ball below is not available, a similar style and sized game ball will be used.

- A. 6th-8th Grade Slow Pitch Softball uses a ***Dudley Thunder SY 52/300 ASA Slow-Pitch Synthetic Softball (12 inch).***

Article 2 – Equipment:

- A. It is mandatory that all catchers wear a catcher’s mask. All other safety equipment (helmets, shin guards, etc.) may be used at the discretion of each individual team.
- B. Only legal aluminum/wood softball bats may be used in leagues.

Article 3 – Ground Rules: Specific Ground Rules, at each location, should be discussed prior to the beginning of each game with the umpire, coaches, and team captains present.

Article 4 – Baseline and Pitching Distance:

- A. A 60-foot baseline diamond will be used for all league games.
- B. The pitching distance will be 40 feet.

Article 5 – Timing:

- A. Teams must be ready to play within five (5) minutes after scheduled time for the first game. If a team is not ready to play within this time limit, a forfeit will be declared. Once a forfeit has been



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declared, teams will still be given the opportunity to scrimmage if desired. The scrimmage will consist of three (3) innings with a thirty (30) minute time limit.

- B. All games will be seven (7) innings with a fifty (50) minute time limit.
- C. No new inning would be started once the time limit has been reached. If the score is tied at the completion of the 7 innings before the time limit, one additional inning will be played. If the score remains tied, the game will be declared a tie.
- D. **LENGTH OF INNINGS** – Either 3 outs or 7 runs scored by a team (whichever comes first) will determine each half inning. If no team has reached the 7-run limit in a previous inning then an unlimited number of runs may be scored in the final inning. The umpire will notify the teams.
- E. A game shall be considered complete if called because of the time limit regardless of the number of innings played.
- F. In the event of a game called because of inclement weather, three (3) complete innings will be considered an official game.
- G. The only stoppage of clock occurs when there is an injury that requires the Umpire's attention.
- H. **Timeouts will be given upon request, and only granted by the Umpire.**

Article 6 – Getting Started: *NEW*

- A. Five (5) minutes prior to the start of each game there will be a mandatory **pre-game coaches meeting** with the umpire, coaches, and athletes at home plate. At this meeting, the umpire will introduce themselves and give reminders of select rules.

Article 7 – Game Play:

- A. **Ins and Outs**: The home and visiting team will be indicated on the season schedules.
- B. **Balls and Strikes**: Three (3) balls shall be a walk. Any combination of 2 called strikes, swinging strikes or foul balls shall be an out. A foul ball caught before touching the ground shall be an out and runners may advance at their own risk.
- C. **Strike Zone Mat**: A strike is called by the umpire for each legally pitched ball (Proper Arch) hitting the strike zone mat or home plate and the batter does not swing, and for each pitched ball swung at and missed by the batter. This includes pitches the umpire has already declared "NO PITCH". The catcher must allow the ball to bounce before they field the ball. This gives the umpire the opportunity to properly make a call on the pitch.
- D. **Pitching**: The pitcher must have one foot in contact with the pitching rubber until the ball leaves his/her hand. The pitch must be an underhand pitch at a moderate speed with a perceptible arc. The height of pitches is in the umpire's judgement. An automatic ball will be called on each illegal pitch. If a batter swings at an illegal pitch, the resulting play will be legal.
- E. **Base Runners**: Base Runners shall be declared out, if they fail to keep contact with the base until the pitched ball is hit by the batter. There is no leading off or stealing in slow pitch softball. On pitches not hit, runners must return to their base before the next pitch.



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- F. **OVERTHROWS** – On balls that are overthrown, go into a bench area or are touched by a person not involved in play the ball is declared dead and each runner shall be awarded 2 bases from the last base touched at the time the throw was made.

Article 8 – Fouls and Misconduct:

- A. **Thrown Bat Rule:** Each athlete will receive one (1) warning after a thrown bat. A second (2) warning will result in an out.
- B. **NO THROWING OF BATS PLEASE.**

Article 9 – Rule Explanations

- A. Appeal Play. All appeals must be made before the next pitch is thrown. All that is needed for an appeal is for the coach to ask for time and then verbally state the nature of the appeal. (Example: I would like to appeal that player #7 missed second base on the previous play.) No balls need to be thrown to any bases or other actions. The umpire will then rule on the appeal. No appeals of judgement calls are permitted.
- B. Infield Fly Rule – On a fair fly ball that can be routinely caught in the infield if there are less than 2 outs and runners are at first and second or the bases are loaded, the umpire will call “INFIELD FLY. BATTER IS OUT”. The batter is automatically out whether the ball is caught or not and runners may advance at their own risk. However, if the ball is caught runners must still tag up to advance as on a regular fly ball.