



A department of **MPS**

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

Coed Middle School Slow Pitch Softball Rules

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

Rules are adapted from the Amateur Softball Association Rule Book

Last Updated: 2/18/22

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 behind the backstop or the player's bench at least 6 feet from the fence. All spectators are asked to show good sportsmanship and character and offer only positive reinforcement.

COACHES - Only coaches and players listed on the TEAM ROSTER FORM are allowed in the team bench area. A maximum of three (3) coaches are allowed on the team bench. A 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 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 8AM on Saturdays and 1PM 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 – A copy of the team’s roster must be submitted to the Youth Sports Office one (1) week prior to the team’s first scheduled game. Roster additions are not allowed after a team’s 2ND scheduled game. All rosters **MUST BE TYPED**. There is no roster limit.

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 – 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 charges a \$25.00 fee per occurrence. See the Youth Sports Opportunity Handbook for a list of forfeit situations.

PROTEST – Judgement calls made by the game umpire is 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.
- 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



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responsible for familiarizing yourself with the rules, regulations, procedures, and policies governing the Milwaukee Recreation Youth Sports Programs.

SECTION 1 – BEFORE THE GAME

ARTICLE 1 – RULES:

Rules are adapted from the Amateur Softball Association Rule book and may be changed by the Youth Sports Office as any time to improve the safety and understanding of the game.

ARTICLE 2 – ELIGIBILITY:

A. Age/Grade Limits

Students may not exceed the age/grade limits as listed below. Age is determined as of September 1 of the current school year.

- 12 years old and under / 6th grade maximum (*Born September 1, 2009*)
- 13 years old and under / 7th grade maximum (*Born September 1, 2008*)
- 15 years old and under / 8th grade maximum (*Born September 1, 2006*)

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.

- A student must have a minimum 2.0 GPA in their previous mark period report card to participate unless the school standard is higher, in which the school GPA requirement would prevail.
- Middle School athletic eligibility is determined by report card mark period GPA only and there are no provisions for recertification in the program.
- Once a student is ineligible, they must wait until the next report card is published to regain eligibility.

ARTICLE 3 – EQUIPMENT:

A. Game Ball

Dudley 12" Thunder SY 52/300 ASA Slow-pitch Synthetic Softball



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B. Catcher's Equipment

It is mandatory that all catchers wear a softball mask. The use of a chest protector is highly recommended.

C. Players Equipment

Only official softball bats and gloves may be worn or used in league play. Any questions regarding bats and gloves should be posed to the umpire prior to the game.

D. Jewelry

Head decorations 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.

ARTICLE 4 – PLAYER LINE-UPS:

A. Official Line-Up

A full team consists of ten (10) players. No team shall be permitted to start or continue a game with less than seven (7) players. A team starting with less than ten (10) players may add additional players at any time to bring their line-up to ten (10) players, provided that those players are added to the end of the batting order. A line-up card must be presented to the officials and opposing coach prior to the start of the game. To facilitate this, all players must wear shirts with numbers.

B. Batting Order (Line-Up Card):

All players present for the game will bat and be included in the officials batting order. However, only ten (10) players may play on the field at one time. The batting order may not be changed, but the players on the field may be interchanged at the coach's discretion. Except for 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.

C. Playing Time:

It mandatory that all players who suit up for the game play a minimum of one (1) inning of the game or the game will be forfeited.

ARTICLE 5 – OFFICIALS:

- A. All games will be officiated by a home plate umpire.
- B. The umpire's decision on point of fact connected with the game shall be final.
- C. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.



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ARTICLE 6 – COACHES:

- A. A coach or other responsible adult must be present before a game may start.
- B. On offense, coaches must remain behind the dead ball line established by the umpire before the game.
- C. Only one coach or player may occupy the coach's box at each base.
- D. On defense, coaches must remain in the designated team bench area.

SECTION 3 – THE GAME:

ARTICLE 1 – 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 2 – 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 3 – 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.
- B. All games will be seven (7) innings with a fifty (50) minutes time limit.
- C. No new inning will be started once the time limit has been reached even if the score is tied. However, if the score is tied after 7 innings and the time limit has not been reached an extra inning will be played but if the score remains tied then the final result will be a tie.
- D. A game shall be considered complete if called because of the time limit regardless of the number of innings played.
- E. In the event of a game called because of inclement weather, three (30 complete innings will be considered an official game.



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- F. The only stoppage of clock occurs when there is an injury that requires the Umpire's attention.
- G. Timeouts will be given upon request, and only granted by the Umpire.
- H. Base runners DO NOT have to stop running simply because the fielding team calls time out. Time out is only granted by the umpire when the fielding team has possession of the ball in the infield and has stopped all runners from advancing. Always keep playing until the umpire grants time out.

ARTICLE 4 – GAME PLAY

A. Ins and Outs

The home and visiting team will be indicated on the season schedules.

B. Balls & Strikes

3 called 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 called strike is given when a legally pitched ball lands on either the strike zone mat or home plate. The catcher must allow the pitch to bounce before they catch the ball to allow for a call to be made".

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 will be declared out if they fail to keep contact with the base until the ball is hit by a batter. There are no leadoffs or stealing in slow pitch softball.



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ARTICLE 5 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

A. Thrown Bat Rule

Each athlete will receive one (1) warning after a thrown bat. A second warning will result in an out.