

MUSTANG RULES

Playing Field

- 1) Pitching Distance 35ft.
- 2) Base Lines 60ft.

Equipment

- A standard 11in softball (guideline reference, maximum compression of 375 lbs. and a maximum COR of .47).
- All players on a team shall wear uniforms alike in color and design.
- Shoes with rubber cleats may be worn (metal cleats are not allowed).
- All players must wear a protective helmet with face mask, double ear flaps when batting, base running, or in the on-deck circle.
- Catchers must wear masks with a throat protector, body protector, protective helmet, and shin guards.
- No jewelry is allowed to be worn during the game.
- Masks are highly recommended for all infielders.
- All bats must be ASA fast pitch approved. The barrel may be no bigger than 2.25”.

Umpires

- There must be at least one umpire on the field, but two umpires are preferred. If only one umpire, umpire must be behind home plate.

GAME:

- A regulation game will consist of 6 innings. A game called by the umpire shall be regulation if four or more complete innings have been played. If four innings are not completed, the game is unofficial and treated as if the game was never started and must be rescheduled. All games have a 1hr 45min time limit, after which no new regulation inning may start. This time limit will be 2hr 15min for any playoff games
- Team enthusiasm is encouraged. All player chatter must be positive and directed only towards their team and their teammates. If a team communicates negatively towards their opponent, the team Manager will be warned. If the issue occurs again, the team will forfeit the game and the League Director will address accordingly with the team Manager.
- 15 run rule after 4 innings, 10 run rule after 5 innings. *If there is time remaining the expectation is to continue the game until the time limit
- Teams can score 6 runs per inning (with the potential for 9). Once a player has possession of the ball inside the pitcher's circle, the play is dead in this instance and no other run following this count.
- The final inning will be the 6th inning unless the umpire declares another inning as the final inning due to time restrictions.
- A game that is tied at the end of the regulation game whether by time or 6 innings finished will be completed as follows (unless the game is ended due to darkness/weather/safety):

The visiting team will start a final inning with a runner on second base and no outs - the runner will be the last out from the last inning played. The home team will field a defense as normal; any pitcher situation remains for the extra inning. The visiting team will bat until the home team gets the third out of that inning, with any runs scored counting towards the visiting team score. The home team will then get the same opportunity for their half of the inning with the visiting team defending. The team with the most runs after this extra inning being the winner of the game. If this inning ends in a tie, then the game is officially a tie.

- All other rules not addressed above are governed by *ASA rules*.
- During Regular Season Games only, a player may be removed from the lineup due to illness or injury with no opportunity to return and not be an out every time up to bat in the lineup. If the player's absence causes her team to go below minimum players to start, then her team will forfeit the current game.

Base Running:

- All the defensive and offensive players must take every effort possible to avoid unnecessary physical contact. If any baserunner fails to slide and comes in contact with the fielder where there is a potential for being out, the base runner will be called out.
- A runner on 1st or 2nd or 3rd may steal at their own risk. The runner can only leave after the ball has crossed the plate. The baserunner cannot advance on an overthrow from the catcher.
- There is no leading off.
- A base runner can steal only after the ball crosses the plate.
- A courtesy runner can and should be used for the catcher or pitcher, with 2 outs but is not required.
- If a runner leaves the base prior to ball crossing the plate and the ball is put into play by the batter, the base runner is out, and the hitter is still a live runner
- If a runner leaves the base prior to the ball crossing the plate and the runner is out.

Batting

- There will be a continuous batting order. Any late players are added to the bottom of the order.
- If the batter throws her bat, the umpire will immediately warn her. If a warned batter throws her bat again, she will be called out and there will be no advancement by any baserunner.
- Any batter that throws her bat intentionally will be ejected from the game without a warning and there will be no advancement by any runners.
- Bunting is allowed.
- When a pitched ball, not struck at or called a strike, touches any part of the batter's person or clothing while she is in the batter's box, she will be awarded first base, even if the ball touches the ground first.
- Dropped Third Strike Rule is not played at this level.
- Infield Fly Rule is not played at this level.

Pitching:

- Pitchers will be allowed five warm up pitches between innings. Substitute pitchers first entering the game, and re-entering starters shall be allowed ten pitches.
- A pitcher who hits three batters in one inning or five batters in a game she must be removed from pitching for the rest of that game. The substitute pitcher at that time will be considered the starting pitcher for substitution purposes.
- A manager or coach may only request a time out when the play is complete, and the pitcher has possession of the ball in the 16 foot circle.
- 3 inning pitching limit per game.
- One pitch is counted as one inning pitched.

Players and Substitutions

- 1) Girl's age rule is: As of Jan 1 of current season's year.
- 2) Teams will field 9 players. Teams may play with 8 players without penalty, failure to field at least 8 players will result in a forfeit after a fifteen-minute grace period.
- 3) All players must play at least 2 innings in the field on defense.
- 4) Players are not allowed to switch teams within the Tri county Girls Softball conference. New players may be added to the roster only if the league president is notified in advance. Teams may use players from the division below them. This shall be the only team that player is allowed to play above her level with. This player is only allowed to pitch or catch at the level declared prior to the first game of the season. For purposes of playoff competition, a player may only play on one team.
- 5) Starting players may be taken out of the game and re-entered as many times deemed necessary. The starting pitcher may be taken out of the game and re-enter the game only one time as a pitcher.
- 6) Unlimited defensive substitutions are allowed.