

OFFICIAL RULES METROWEST GIRLS SOFTBALL

Seniors DIVISION

Grades 7, 8, and 9

Fall 2022 – Updated September, 2022

Rule(s) Description

Senior Division

USA Softball Rules and Regulations followed. Specific league rules are as follows.

7 inning games. No new inning to start 1 hour 20 minutes after start time. Games can end in tie.

No playoff games will be played in the Fall.

4 run limit per inning, excluding 7th or last declared inning.

Game is considered complete after 3.5 innings if home team is ahead or 4 innings if visitor is ahead.

8 players needed to start and end game.

10 fielders total (4 outfielders, each of whom must start on the grass)

12-inch Stamped ASA ball and 43 feet pitching distance

Free substitution of players in the field

Infield fly rule in effect

Mercy Rule: 12 runs after 5 innings, 10 runs after 6 innings

Maximum of 4 innings per pitcher. Pitcher may re-enter. If there is a team with only one pitcher then they must get approval of an exception before the game from the opposing coach and both coaches need to let the ump know.

Pitcher shall be removed from pitching after directly hitting 3 batters in an inning or 5 in the course of the game (bounced pitches will not count).

Continuous batting order. All non-injured players present will bat.

Runners may leave the base on release from the pitcher's hand

If player becomes injured, they will skip their next at bat. Not an "Out."

If player is ejected, then subsequent at bats for player ejected will be an "Out"

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Players who arrive after the start of the game will be added to the end of the order.

Courtesy runner can be used for catcher or pitcher on record who is returning to that position the following inning. Courtesy runner is the player who was the last batter in the previous inning, and second to last batter of the previous inning if both pitcher and catcher are on base at the same time).

No stealing if team at bat is up by 8 or more runs.

Slap hitting and drag bunting are allowed

Special Playing Rules (all upper divisions)

- o Minimum of eight players required to start the game.
- o Games must start once the scheduled start time is reached and both teams have the minimum number of players.
- o All players bat - a continuous batting order will be used. Players who arrive after the start of the game will be added to the end of the order.
- o All players must play an equal amount of time in the field each game. No player will be on the bench for 2 consecutive innings and all players must play a minimum of 2 innings in the infield.
- o Players must slide or avoid contact. All sliding rule decisions are at the discretion of the umpire.