

**MARLBORO GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOC.
MAJOR LEAGUE RULES**

MAJOR LEAGUE	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL
LEAGUE AGES	13-15	12-15	12-15
	<i>League age is a player's age as of January 1 of the current season</i>		
Game Days	Monday-Saturday	Monday-Thursday	Saturdays (two games)
Make-up Days	Any available day	Fridays/Weekends	Sundays
Rosters	----- Re-draft each season -----		
Ball Size	----- 12 inch -----		
Pitcher's Mound	----- 43 feet -----		
Bases	----- 60 feet -----		
Jewelry	----- Not permitted ----- (only exception: medical bracelet; must be taped)		
Metal Spikes	----- Not permitted -----		
Batting helmets:	----- Optional -----		
Chin Straps	-----		
Faceguards	----- Required -----		
Fielders: Facemasks	----- Required for pitchers; strongly encouraged for infielders -----		
Catcher's helmet/facemask	----- Required for pitcher warm-ups and during game ----- (Warm-ups include practice + games)		
Maximum game length	----- 7 innings -----		
Extra Innings	----- Playoffs only; with international tiebreaker -----		
Playoff Format	Double elimination	Single elimination	Single elimination
Time Limits:	New no inning after 1:40	No new inning after 1:30;	No new inning after 1:25;
Regular Season		Drop dead at 1:45	Drop dead at 1:40
		(current at bat will be played out; if inning not completed, score reverts to previous inning if home team is not ahead)	
Playoffs	No time limit	No new inning after 1:30 (No time limits in finals)	1 st round No new inning after 1:25 no drop dead. Finals No time limits
Official Time:	----- After plate meeting w umpire -----		
Start of Game	-----		
New Inning	----- Last out made of previous inning -----		
Grace period	----- 15 minutes after start time; otherwise, the game is forfeited ----- (first game only)		

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Run Limits:			
Regular Season	----- Unlimited -----		--- 6 runs per inning ---
Playoffs	----- Unlimited -----		Unlimited in final inning (as called by umpire); for Finals, 7th inning is unlimited
Mercy Rule:			
Regular Season	13+ runs after 5 innings	----- No Mercy rule -----	
Playoffs	----- 13+ runs after 5 innings -----		
Dropped Third Strike	----- In effect at all times -----		
Infield Fly Rule	----- In effect -----		
"Look Back" Rule	----- In effect -----		
# Fielders	----- 9 (outfielders start on grass) -----		
Substitutions	----- Unlimited -----		
Pitching Inning limit	----- 4 Innings per game (one pitch = one inning) -----		
Penalty: Inning limit violation	Forefeit	6 runs added to opponent's score for each inning violation	
Pitcher's Return	----- Yes -----		
Hit batters	----- 3 in an Inning , pitcher is removed for inning -----		
	----- 5 in a game , pitcher is removed for game -----		
	<i>Note: If ball hits ground first and no attempt is made by batter to get out of the way, then it is up to the umpire's discretion to award the base or not</i>		
Continuous Batting Order	----- Yes -----		
Injured Player/Players leaving games early	----- If reported, no automatic out occurs -----		
Players arriving late	----- Added to bottom of batting order -----		
Bunting	----- Permitted -----		
Slash Bunting	----- Not Permitted (batter is out) -----		
Slap Hitting	----- Permitted -----		
Thrown Bats	----- Not Permitted -----		
	(First Offense - Team warning; Second Offense - Batter is out)		
Courtesy Runners	--- Permitted for injured players and next inning pitcher and catcher--- (runner = last out made)		
Lead/steal when...	----- Ball leaves pitcher's hand -----		
Stealing Bases	----- Unlimited; multiple bases (if able); all bases----- (exception: no stealing or advancement for teams leading by 10+ runs)		

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Sliding	Players must AVOID contact when there is a play at the base they are going to; otherwise, they risk being called out. <i>(this is a judgement call by the umpire)</i>		
Line-ups: Player Rotations	Players cannot sit for consecutive innings (including extra innings)		
Position Requirements	All players play minimum of one inning in infield, if safe and they choose to (regular season only)		
Calling up players from Minor League teams <i>Note: Coaches are responsible for notifying League Director of call-ups so that limits can be monitored.</i>	Allowed if team is expected to have less than 10 players at any point in game. Call ups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) must be 12 years old (Spring), or 11 yrs old (summer/fall) unless approved by League Director or President b) must not have another game scheduled for the same time c) may not start ahead of a rostered player d) must play at least two innings e) may not pitch f) must bat last in line-up g) may not play more innings than a rostered player h) may not play more than two innings at the same position i) may not play more than two innings total in infield (including catcher) j) should wear their own uniform so to be identifiable by opposing coach 		
Call-up limits	No more than three games in a row and a total of five games in a season (including playoffs)	No more than two games in a row and a total of four games in a season (including playoffs)	
Borrowing players from other Major League teams <i>Note: Coaches are responsible for notifying League Director of players borrowed so that limits may be monitored.</i>	n/a	CRITERIA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 1 player if team is down to 9 players (2 if 8, etc); b) Must be of the same ranking or below and not playing at the same time; c) Can borrow a #2 pitcher if #1 pitcher not available; d) #1 pitchers may be borrowed as positional players only 	
Borrowed player limits	n/a	No more than two games in a row and a total of four games in a season (including playoffs)	
Rainouts: Regular Season	Game is official after losing team has batted four times; otherwise rescheduled in full		
Playoffs	innings played: >1: Less than one inning played: Game will start over 1 + Game is suspended and re-started at point of interruption		

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Rescheduling Weather-Related Games	Make-up dates must be established with 48 hours of the originally scheduled game, based on field availability and as agreed to by both coaches, then confirmed with the League Director or President		
Rescheduling Games When Shorthanded	Teams are expected to play games by calling up/borrowing players if they have 7 or more players. If a team is expected to have 6 or less players available they have the option of playing the game with callups or appealing to the League Director or President to request that the game be rescheduled. <i>NOTE: Only the number of players will be considered when rescheduling. Availability of pitchers or catchers will have no bearing on whether a game may be rescheduled.</i>		
Thunder/Lightning	----- 30 minutes stoppage for first sighting/hearing----- 30 minutes added for each additional sighting/hearing		

The Marlboro Girls Softball Association uses official softball playing rules of USA Softball except for special league rules as explained in this document.

The Marlboro Girls Softball Board of Directors reserves the right to change or alter rules at any time that are judged to be in the best interests of the program.