

MIDLAND UNITED GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
2021 LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

Division 8 & Under

The following are the Midland United Girls Softball Association 2021 Recreation League Playing Rules which were adopted by the Board of Directors. All League play will be governed by the 2020 USA Softball rules, except as amended herein.

A. THE GAME

1. BASES: Same as Division 10U
2. AN INNING: The side will be retired if five (5) runs or three (3) outs are made by the offensive team.
3. REGULATION GAME: A regulation game will be five full innings or a time limit of 75 minutes, whichever comes first. In the event the game is tied after time expires finish the inning. The game may end in a tie. Once time has expired and a team is behind by more runs than they can score in their half of that inning, the game will be over by run rule.
4. CONFERENCES: Each team will be allowed 1 per inning, unless to care for an injured player.
5. COACH PITCH: The manager of the team at bat will appoint a member of his/her coaching staff to pitch to his/her batters. A team will not be allowed to change pitchers until the inning is over.
 - a) The coach pitcher must always keep at least one foot on the pitching rubber (set at 35 feet) or a 35-foot line until the ball is released. PENALTY: First offense is a warning. Second offense is removal of the coach pitcher.
 - b) The coach pitcher is allowed to coach or talk to the batter but must not leave the circle before the pitch. Once the batter becomes a batter/runner the coach may continue to talk to the batter/runner if he/she is moving to foul territory and does not interfere with the play. PENALTY: Removal of the coach pitcher.
 - c) The coach pitcher will try to avoid interfering with the play after the ball has been hit by moving to foul territory away from the play. If in the judgement of the umpire the coach intentionally interferes with the play:
 1. The ball is dead
 2. The coach pitcher is given a warning
 3. The batting team is given an out
 4. No runners may advance
 5. The batter will return to the batter's box and assume the count at the time of the infraction
 6. **Unintentional Interference:**
 1. Dead ball
 2. No out will be charged
 3. Forced run may score

B. Game Management

1. All players, when not on the playing field, shall remain in the dugout or outside the fence on the outfield side of the dugout during the game. Exceptions shall be made by the team manager or coaches only.

2. The home team will provide the official scorekeeper. The visiting team will provide the operator for the scoreboard.
3. Home team will occupy the third base dugout.
4. All players and teams must warm-up only in designated warm-up areas.

C. PLAY

1. DEFENSIVE PLAY:

- a) Allow a maximum of 10 players on the field – the 10th player is the rover and must play in the outfield.
- b) A defensive player may not intentionally roll the ball to a base unless this would, in the judgment of the umpire, constitute a normal play. The ball cannot be intentionally rolled or run to the pitcher. If, in the umpire's judgment, a ball is intentionally rolled to a base, the base runner will be safe. If the ball is intentionally rolled to the pitcher, the base runners will be given an extra base.
- c) A player will not be allowed to run down the batter/runner or base runner or run the ball to a base unless this would, in the judgment of the umpire, constitute a normal play. If not a normal play, the runner shall be declared safe.
- d) Each player present for the game must be given a position on the field, with substitutions made every inning. No player may sit out more than one inning per game until each player present has set out. A player will not "sit out" more than one inning consecutively. Substitutes are to be marked on the batting roster form. A single player cannot play a position more than two (2) inning per game.
- e) A player, with the exception of the pitcher, may be moved from position to position during an inning without causing delay to the game. If the pitcher is removed from the circle during an inning, she cannot play the pitcher position again in that inning. She may play the pitcher's position the following inning.
- f) No infielder may be closer to home plate than the pitcher until the ball is hit. Outfielders must be on the outfield grass until the ball leaves the machine.
- g) If a fielder obstructs a base runner causing an out, the play is dead and runners advance to the base they were going to.

2. PITCHERS:

- a) The pitcher must stay within the circle, no closer than the pitcher's plate until the ball is hit.
- b) The pitching circle will be the same as Division 10U.
- c) When the ball has been thrown back to the pitcher and the pitcher has control of the ball with both feet inside the circle, the play is stopped by the umpire. If the pitcher runs through the pitcher's circle with control of the ball, the play will be called dead, unless in the judgment of the umpire she does so in an effort to make a normal play on a runner.
- c) The pitcher will not be allowed to run down the batter or base runner to any base except home. The pitcher must throw the ball to the base or the runner will be called safe.
EXCEPTION: If, in the judgment of the umpire, a tag would be the normal play on a base runner, the pitcher would not have to throw the ball.

3. CATCHERS:

- a) All catchers must wear their full catcher's gear at all times during the defensive inning.
- b) All catchers will be required to play in the catching position (a crouched position directly behind home plate, to catch the pitched ball).

4. **COACHES ON THE FIELD**

- a) The offensive team may have the head coach, assistant coach, or manager (maximum two) present in the coaching boxes at first and third bases.
- b) An adult from the offensive team will operate the pitching machine.
- c) Coaching will be allowed from the person operating the pitching machine until the ball leaves the machine.
- d) No defensive coaches shall be allowed on the field during play.

5. **BATTING:**

- a) The batting lineup shall list each roster player present. Late arrivals should be added to the bottom of the lineup. The batting order will be determined by the coach prior to the game and cannot be adjusted.
- b) If a player is removed by sickness, injury, or disqualification, all batters will "move up" and remain in their respective batting order. No substitution will take place for a removed player in the batting order. The removed player cannot return to that game.
- c) No outs shall be taken for the removed player. All count on her is removed and the next batter will bat.
- d) Double ear flap NOCSAE approved batting helmets with a securely fastened NOCSAE approved facemask/guard must be worn by any youth participant on the field.
- e) Only the batter, base runners, and on-deck player can be on the playing field.
- f) There will be a maximum of six (6) pitches allowed to a batter. If a batter has not hit a fair ball after receiving six pitches, she will be out. Should the sixth pitch be hit in foul territory, a seventh pitch will be allowed. If the seventh pitch is hit in foul territory, the batter is out.
- g) Fouls count as a strike except as the third strike.
- h) A batter may strike out on less than 6 pitches.
- i) There are no walks.
- j) The batter will NOT be allowed to bunt.
- k) If a player throws the bat during the game, the first offense shall result in a team warning. Each offense for that team thereafter shall result in the player being called out.
- l) When a batted ball is fielded and the defensive player makes an errant throw that remains within the playing confines, thereby remaining a live ball, the batter-runner may advance with liability to be put out no further than third base, regardless the number of errant throw that occur as a result of that at bat.
- m) The infield fly and dropped third strike rules do not apply in Division 8U.

6. **BASE RUNNERS:**

- a) Runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball leaves the coach pitcher's hand. If a runner is detected leaving the base too soon, she will be called out. Once a runner is detected as being not in contact with the base, she will be called out.
- b) The ball is dead if not hit and each runner must return to her base without liability to be put out.
- c) When the ball is thrown back to the pitcher and the pitcher has control of the ball with both feet inside the circle, the play is stopped by the umpire, unless the pitcher is making a play. At this time runners will go to the nearest base.

- d) The runner is also out by running out of the path to avoid a tag.
- e) Sliding is allowed.
- e) There will be no stealing.
- f) If a base runner intentionally tries to run forcefully through a fielder, the base runner is out, regardless if the fielder is in possession of the ball or not.

revised 3/16/21