

MTL SOFTBALL RULES 2019 (April 17, 2019)

MTL Trustees:

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ALL GAMES WILL START AT 6:30PM regardless of field

General League Rules:

Good Sportsmanship is expected from coaches, players and fans. When in doubt, make whatever decision that will give each girl the greatest opportunity to play, bat or participate in the game. Our primary goal is to encourage participation and learning the game. Our focus is not on winning. Once the game begins, the umpire is in control. Berating, constant questioning, or arguing with any umpire decision or call will not be tolerated. Coaches are responsible for player and parent behavior towards the opponent and umpire. Any coach, parent or player ejected from a game for any reason receives an automatic two-game suspension. If you are not satisfied with the umpire of your game, the behavior of another coach, or a parent immediately contact one of the trustees after the game. Zero tolerance for drugs, alcohol or cigarettes for anyone at the game.

Fields

The WO Rec Dept is responsible in maintaining the fields. MTL is responsible for Umpires. If for some reason an Umpire does not show up, a volunteer or coach will umpire their team while in the field for the ½ inning. During Rain days please call the WO Weather hotline 973-243-1115 or email Trustee.

A second way to check is a web link to our Mountain Top League website. The page lists each field, address, and whether it is open or closed. Not 100% sure it will be updated by the town.

http://www.mountaintopleague.com//content/softball_fields

Games:

If a coach needs to change a game or make up a game please email Randy Nathan for the reschedule date 2 days before. You cannot cancel a game the same day (unless is due to weather) it will be played, if that is the case the opposing team shall take a win by forfeit. Once a game is completed the winning team must email Randy Nathan the game date, team played and the score. Each game will have a time limit of 75 minutes. No new inning can begin once that time is reached. However, if the game is in its 73rd minute, a new inning can begin. During Playoff and Championship games the home team will be decided on the best record, if it is a tie then runs scored against decide.

Rosters:

To allow for player development, each team must bat all players on the roster. Minor and Major leagues will field 10 players with 4 outfielders. There will be open substitution, a pitcher may leave and re-enter anytime

during the game. Once the batting order is established for the game it cannot be changed. Player positions can be changed anytime during the game.

Equipment:

The home team will supply a game ball. Batting helmets must have cages and chin straps, NO metal cleats or spikes allowed. Rubber cleats must be worn by all players at all levels. No jewelry can be worn during games. If extra game balls, ice packs, etc are needed please contact the Mike Scalora.

Base Coaches:

You may have 1 or 2 adults on the bases, you must have a third coach in the dugout. If you have a player coaching a base, they must wear a batting helmet.

Safety:

Catchers are required to wear protective equipment while catching during all games and practices. Batters and base runners must wear protective helmets. All players not in the game should remain on the bench. Spectators are NOT permitted on the team bench. Issues that arise between coaches and parents should not be handled on the field. There is a mandatory 24-hour waiting period for parent-coach communication following a game. A written incident report must be emailed by all parties and submitted to Mike Scalora if it cannot be resolved the following day.

Inclement weather:

Prior to the start of the game, the coaches will make the decision. Once the game begins, the decision will be at the discretion of the umpire. At the first sound of thunder or sight of lightening "Clear the field." We will be using a 20 minute wait for thunder and a 30 minute wait for lightning. If, after a delay, conditions do not improve, suspend game or if enough innings have been played declare it official and leave the field. If a game is suspended less than 1 inning then the game starts over when replayed. If the game is suspended before it is official (4 innings) then it will pick up where it left off. If the game is official and it is a tie then the final result is a tie. The umpires rule book may have an official ruling on the amount of innings needed to be an official game. Please review with umpire before game.

Accidents:

In the event of an injury, please contact the police and emergency squad immediately. Please fill out an incident report and email to Mike Scalora.

Playoffs:

All teams will participate in playoffs. Teams will be seeded based on points earned.

- 3 points for a win
- 2 points for a tie
- 1 point for a loss
- 0 for a forfeit.

Once all teams have finalized the games a playoff bracket will be set based on single elimination.

Rookie League Rules (K – 1st): (TBall/Coach Pitch)

Games: 6:30pm start time

There is no minimum number of players needed to start and finish game. Games are 4 innings in length. Each inning shall be 3 outs or 7 batters whichever comes first. No leading, No stealing. No automatic base on an overthrow. Runs/Score will no be kept.

Batters:

Batters must wear helmets while at bat and on base. Do not throw bats, bunting is not allowed. All players bat and open substitution is allowed. Batting orders for each game cannot be identical. A team must rotate their order. (For instance, the first five batters for one game becomes the second five batters the next game.) This allows for all players to have more at bats throughout the season.

Fielding:

There is no infield fly rule. There is no minimum or maximum numbers of players required on the field. However, if possible do your best to get to 10 players on defense, with 4 outfielders. **Fielders should not be in the base line or blocking access to the base while not in possession of the ball unless a play is being made. (Fielders should not be position in the baseline in order to interfere with runners before a pitch.)** Outfielders must stand in the grass. Only the pitcher is allowed in or near the pitcher's circle. All other infielders must play at least 5' "behind" or "away from" the circle. Obstruction is a coach's judgment call. All players must play at least one infield and outfield position per game. Be conscientious to where players are placed in the field. Move players around at least each inning, or if desired during an inning to keep kids moving. **Play ends when the fielding team attempts (successful or unsuccessful) to get the ball back to the pitcher in the circle.** (However, on an infield hit (ball hit in the dirt, before the grass), with runners on base, that does not mean a runner can take advantage of the situation. For instance, with a runner on second and batter hits to an infielder, it is not reasonable to expect the runner to score.

The First Two Games uses Batting T for all players

Defense will play the necessary positions, while the offense will use the T for hitting. Allow players a reasonable amount of swings to hit the ball off of the T. If it seems to be taking a lot of swings (ie 10), then cheer the player and allow them to run to first base. Then sit down after that. If a batter hits the ball, then allow the defense to do their best fielding and making the play. Generally, a runner only advances one base at a time. There is no need for a catcher.

Beginning Third Game Pitching is Coach Pitch:

The fielding team will have a fielding pitcher standing with both feet in the pitcher's circle to either side of the manager/pitcher. In the event a batted ball strikes the coach/pitcher, the ball shall be considered "live" and will remain in play. Balls, strikes, hits, and foul balls will be decided by the coaches. A parent volunteer will call balls and strikes behind the plate to assist in this process of coach pitch.

The coach/pitcher is allowed to coach while the ball is in play. If by chance a player struggles with Coach Pitch, at the discretion of the coach the T can be used in its place. We want players having fun.

Running:

Runners cannot lead off base or steal. Runners cannot advance on overthrows. There is NO must slide rule...the rule is slide or avoid contact.

Scoring:

The 7 batter rule is in effect. The inning will end upon the offensive team making 3 outs or batting 7. The 7th batter is live until she is out, or if a walk when the runner arrives at first base.

Minor league Game Rules (2nd - 4th grade)

Games: 6:30pm start time

Must have a minimum of 8 players to start and finish game. Games are 6 innings in length. Each inning shall be 3 outs or 10 batters whichever comes first. No 3rd strike drop ball. No automatic base on an overthrow. Mercy rule will be 12 runs after 4 innings and 10 runs after 5 innings. A complete game is 4 complete innings. Winning coach must email game date, opponent and scores to Randy Nathan.

Batters:

Batters must wear helmets while at bat and on base. Do not throw bats, bunting is allowed (no fake bunts). Once a bunt is present it cannot be taken away to a full swing or the batter will be called out. A batter hit by a ball takes first base. If the ball hits the ground first then the batter it is still a "hit by pitch". All players bat and open substitution is allowed. Batting orders for each game cannot be identical. A team must rotate their order. (For instance, the first seven batters for one game becomes the second seven batters the next game.) This allows for all players to have more at bats throughout the season.

Fielding:

There is no infield fly rule. 10 players on defense, with 4 outfielders. **Fielders cannot be in the base line or blocking access to the base while not in possession of the ball unless a play is being made.**

(Fielders can not be position in the baseline in order to interfere with runners before a pitch.)

Outfielders must stand in the grass. Only the pitcher is allowed in or near the pitcher's circle. All other infielders must play at least 5' "behind" or "away from" the circle. Obstruction is an umpire's judgment call. All players must play at least one infield and outfield position per game. (For example, a player can play an infield position for 2 innings and then must rotate to an outfield position. This will avoid position specialization at this young age providing all players an opportunity to gain experience at multiple positions. We want players getting exposure at numerous positions. This allows greater learning experiences and fun for each player.) **Play ends when the fielding team attempts (successful or unsuccessful) to get the ball back to the pitcher in the circle.** (However, on an infield hit (ball hit in the dirt, before the grass), with runners on base, that does not mean a runner can take advantage of the situation. For instance, with a runner on second and batter hits to an infielder, it is not reasonable to expect the runner to score.

Pitching: Player Pitch

Pitching distance is 35 feet. Dropped third strike ball is dead: batter is out. If a pitcher hits 3 batters in 1 inning, pitcher shall be removed at the opposing coaches request. If a pitcher remains in the batting order she can be removed from the mound and re-entered anytime during the game. Coach can warm up pitcher in between innings and not need to play the field. Windmill pitching is permitted for all games including playoffs/championship.

Running:

Runners who leave the base before the ball leaves the pitcher's hand are called out (one warning will be issued to both teams when this occurs). Runners may steal third base only and cannot advance on an overthrow. Leading is only allowed after pitcher releases the ball. Runner will be called out when leaving early. Runners cannot advance on a pickoff attempt. Runners can advance to the next base on an overthrow, or throw that goes out of play during a play in the field. A runner on second base cannot score on

an infield hit (a ball that does not go into the grass). A courtesy runner (last batted out) may be inserted for pitchers, catchers or injured runners. There is NO must slide rule...the rule is slide or avoid contact.

Scoring:

The 10 batter rule is in effect. The inning will end upon the offensive team making 3 outs or batting 10. The 10th batter is live until she is out, or if a walk when the runner arrives at first base.

Major League Game Rules (5th& 6th) grade

Games: 6:30pm start time

Must have a minimum of 8 players to start and finish game. Games are 6 innings in length. Each inning shall be 3 outs or 10 batters whichever comes first. Leading (after pitcher releases the ball) and stealing of any base, including home plate is permitted. Infield fly rule and dropped 3rd strike are in effect. Mercy rule will be 15 runs after 4 innings and 12 runs after 5 innings. A complete game is 4 complete innings. Winning coach must email game date, opponent and scores to Randy Nathan.

Batters:

Batters must wear helmets while at bat and on base. Do not throw bats, bunting is allowed. (**Fake bunting is not allowed.**) Once a bunt is present it cannot be taken away to a full swing or the batter will be called out. A batter hit by a ball takes first base. If the ball hits the ground first then the batter it is still a "hit by pitch". All players bat and open substitution is allowed.

Fielding:

The Infield fly rule is in effect. (Less than two outs, Umpire will call batter out automatically. Runners can advance at their own risk) 10 players on defense, with 4 outfielders (must be positioned on the grass). **Fielders should not be in the base line or blocking access to the base while not in possession of the ball unless a play is being made.** Fielders cannot be in baseline before pitch in order to disrupt a runner's path. Obstruction is an umpire's judgment call. Play ends when the fielding team gets the ball back to the pitcher in the circle.

Running:

Runners who leave the base before the ball leaves the pitcher's hand are out. Stealing, and leading permitted after ball leaves the pitchers hand. Base runners can steal ANY base. Runners can advance only one base on any overthrow, or throw that goes out of play. A courtesy runner (last batted out) may be inserted for pitchers, catchers or injured runners. There is NO must slide rule...the rule is slide or avoid contact.

Pitching:

Pitching distance is 40 feet. Dropped third strike ball is live and the batter may advance to first base if it is unoccupied. If a pitcher hits 3 batters in 1 inning pitcher shall be removed at the opposing coaches request. If a pitcher remains in the batting order she can be removed from the mound and re-entered anytime during the game. Coach can warm up pitcher in between innings and not need to play the field. Windmill pitching is permitted for all games including playoffs/championship.

Scoring:

Up until the last inning, the inning will end upon the offensive team making 3 outs or scoring 7 runs.