



MSCR SOFTBALL – COED LOCAL RULES AND PROCEDURES
2010 Coed Edition

NOTE: The current edition of the A.S.A. Official Playing Rules, along with the "MSCR Local - Softball Rules and Procedures," will be the official rules governing this program. Coed rule modifications will supersede all others, where applicable. In all coed play, teams will play a 10 game schedule with all rain-outs rescheduled. For all leagues, standings will be kept and the league champion will receive a team trophy or plaque. MSCR slow pitch pitching rules, as outlined under #2, A-E will be used. The same rules apply to Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights of coed play. Two competing teams or managers may not agree to alter any rules.

1. Only one umpire will be assigned to each game. If no umpire shows: teams can agree to play or the game will be re-scheduled.
2. **Pitching & Base Length:**
 - A. Distance - 50 feet pitch and 65 foot bases.
 - B. Three balls will constitute a base-on-balls. A strike-out will consist of any combination of two strikes:
 1. Two called.
 2. One called - one swing and miss.
 3. One called - one fouled.
 4. Two fouled balls.
 5. One swing and miss and one foul ball.
 6. Two swinging misses.
 - C. Home plate and the mat will be used in determining balls and strikes. If any part of the pitched ball lands on any part of the plate, including the black perimeter, and/or mat, it shall be a strike.
 - D. **NEW in 2010, ASA rule change** - Arc limits will be a minimum of 6 feet and a maximum of **10 feet** from the ground.
 - E. A 12" **optic yellow** – softball – **NEW color in 2010**, issued by and marked "MSCR", will be used for both male and female batters.
 - *If a team is unable to supply an optic yellow ball, a previously issued MSCR white softball, in good condition, will be permitted, so that the game can be played. Note: "In good condition" is determined by the umpire.*
3. **The Game:** Games will be seven innings or a one (1) hour time limit whichever comes first. No new inning shall be started after the time limit expires unless the game is tied.
 - A. **TIE BREAKER-** Anytime the score is tied and the time limit has expired, the next inning will begin using the tie breaker procedure.
 - B. **TIE BREAKER PROCEDURE**
 1. The visiting team will place a runner (the last batter from the previous inning) on second base. If available, a legal substitute may be used.
 2. The visiting team has 3 outs with which to score as many runs as possible.
 3. After 3 outs, the home team will follow the same procedure as outlined in steps 1 & 2.
 4. Whichever team scores the most runs is declared the winner. If the score remains tied at the completion of each additional inning, the procedure will be repeated from step 1.
4. **Batting Order:**
 - A. Teams must alternate by gender in the batting order.
 - B. A team may begin, and play a game with only eight (8) players. This must be four (4) women and (4) men. When (or if) the ninth and tenth player(s) arrive, they may be added to the bottom of the batting order, provided there are not more than five (5) of any one gender.
 - C. If there are nine (9) players present at the starting time, the batting order must be 5 men/4 women or 5 women/4 men. The gender with five must bat first.
 - D. If there are at least five (5) men and five (5) women players present at the starting time, a team **must** list a minimum of ten (10) in the batting order.
 - E. Teams may elect to bat more than ten (10) players provided that they are present at the start of the game, but **under no circumstances, to start the game, can more than two consecutive men or women be listed in the batting order.** (Exception during the game: a player who leaves the game for injury or a valid reason may result in 3 consecutive batters of the same gender)

Note: Batting two consecutive players of the same gender is allowed only as in 4-B. & 4-C. or as in 4-E.... when batting more than 10 players and the number is uneven (Example: 11 players, 6 male and 5 female: the first batter must be male and the eleventh batter will be male thus two consecutive males will bat.)

MSCR SOFTBALL – COED LOCAL RULES AND PROCEDURES . . . (Continued)

5. **Fielding**

- A. There will be ten (10) players in the field, five (5) men and five (5) women. Exception: 4-B & C.
- B. For players who are listed in the batting order, there is total free substitution in the field on defense. Refer to Local Rule III-C. 1, 2, 3.
- C. There is no requirement as to where men or women must be positioned while in the field. A.S.A. rule 4-1-C-3e. does not apply.

6. **Substitution:** See "MSCR Local - Softball Rules and Procedures." Any substitution must be on a man for man or woman for woman basis.

7. **At home plate, at all times (whether a play is being made or not) the base runner must touch the BLACK mat while the catcher has the WHITE home plate. Catching the ball and stepping on the plate before the base runner arrives at the mat is all that is required to record an out. Sliding is allowed at home plate (this is a method of avoiding a collision). When sliding, base runners should attempt to slide toward the black mat, again in an effort to reduce contact around home plate.**

To create the "force situation" in all instances, a chalk line will be placed approximately 20 feet from home plate, across the baseline. Once a base runner has touched or crossed the line, the runner must continue toward home plate and cannot return to third base. The runner may be put out at home by the catcher (or defensive player) tagging home plate (a force out) or be tagged out. The runner may return to third safely after touching or crossing the line only in the event that a batted ball goes foul, or another rule requires the runner to return to third base (i.e. batting out of order, illegal bat, ball out of play, time-out, etc.). If a defensive player fails to tag home plate and the runner returns safely to third after crossing the line, the runner cannot be put out if the next pitch has been thrown.

8. **Metal spikes** may not be worn. (*Penalty: removal to continue participation in game and legal shoes must be worn*)

9. **Rain-Out Games:** ALL games that are rained-out, competitive and recreational division, will be re-scheduled at the end of the regular season and managers will be notified.

Rules that apply to all MSCR Slow Pitch Softball but noteworthy for Coed Softball.

- A. Each base runner may leave his/her base when a pitched ball is batted or reaches home plate, but must return to that base immediately after each pitch not hit by the batter. A base runner should not be called out for stepping off their base on a swing and miss or a pitch not swung at as long as they don't leave the base too soon.
- B. All jewelry must be removed when possible. Rings or earrings that cannot be removed may be covered with tape.
- C. Players are reminded to swing bats **only inside the protective fences**, at Elver, Goodman, Bowman, and Olbrich diamonds. Each team will be allowed one warning. Violation, after warning, will result in disqualification from the game.
- D. **A courtesy runner may be used** to replace an injured player who has reached base safely and is unable to run the bases. The injured player may remain in the game defensively and have a courtesy runner each time they reach base.
 - a.) **Prior to each game, in the presence of the umpire, teams must indicate on the scorecard, all players with a prior injury that require a courtesy runner for that game. The courtesy runner must be used each time they reach base safely.**
 - b.) **A player who is injured during the game may also have a courtesy runner for the remainder of the game. If the injured player chooses to leave the game, their position in the batting order is left vacant and no penalty is assessed.**

The courtesy runner **must** be in the batting order and will be the player who made the last out.

In coed, the courtesy runner must be male for male, female for female. If the injured player chooses to leave the game, their position in the batting order is left vacant and no penalty is assessed. *If a courtesy runner situation arises in the first inning and no outs have been recorded, the courtesy runner will be the last batter listed in the batting order.*