

Spring 2023 MCGSA Rules & Amendments

The following rules apply to all age divisions within the Mon County Girls Softball Association unless otherwise noted in the rule.

1. Game time (8U-16U, see 6U rules for information on time limits)

1. For **all** regular season games, there will be a drop dead time limit and an inning limit in the division rules. The time limit will begin from the scheduled game start time **regardless of when the first pitch occurs**. Regular season games ending in a tie following the completion of the last inning or at the drop dead time will be recorded as such. There are no tie breakers during the regular season.
 - a. Note, that if the minimum number of players is not present, then the umpire may delay the start of the game up to 10 minutes. If the minimum number of players is present, the time will start at the scheduled start time. It is important for the coaches to be ready to play at that time.
 - b. Time will start as scheduled unless a prior game has pushed the time limit forward. When time between games is shortened infield warm ups **MUST** be shortened or removed. We want to maximize innings in the games.
2. During the playoffs, the following modifications apply:
 - a. There is no time limit but the inning limit for the division is in effect for all games except the Championship
 - b. In playoffs, there must be a winner so the ASA Tie-Breaker Rule will be in effect at the completion of the untimed inning for what would be considered extra innings for that age group.
 - c. There will be **NO TIME LIMIT IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME**. A full game will be 6 innings.
3. Infield time is available starting 10 minutes prior to scheduled start time (dependent also on the previous game ending). The visiting team has 5 minutes (start-10 to start-5) and the home team has 5 minutes (start-5 to start). This

- provides 5 minutes of buffer as well as a time for coaches to meet with the umpires as needed. Home team should remain on the field ready to play.
4. During games, no infield warm ups and pitchers get two pitches. The only delay may be waiting for the catcher to put equipment on. The pitcher may pitch more during this time.
 5. One umpire is designated as the official timekeeper. This umpire will work with the coaches and communicate with them the time remaining.
 6. Opening day may occur on a weekend and the start times for the games may be different, but the time constraints remain.
 7. The Granville town park closes at 10PM. Games may run past this time, but all effort should be used to complete late games by 10PM. In all instances, no new inning will start past 9:55PM
 8. Please make every effort to move the players on and off of the field as quickly as possible. Make every effort to use courtesy runners for catchers when possible. Keep in mind that USA rules state that a batter must take position in the batter's box within 10 seconds of being directed to do so by the umpire.
 9. Keep in mind that USA rules limit offensive conferences to one (1) per inning and defensive conferences to three (3) per game.
 10. Making up rain outs: Final strategy for making up rain outs will be determined once we know how many teams we have per division. Efforts will be made to attempt to get makeup games scheduled through the week, but we may require games to be played on Sunday evenings or in extreme cases Saturday evenings in an effort to keep the season on track. These games may start as early as 2PM and as late as 8PM once school has let out. Otherwise, they will follow the same time limit format.

2. **Tie breakers (Tie breaker rules do not apply in 6U)**

1. If a playoff game is tied, then the ASA Tie Breaker rule will be used (Rule 5, Section 11 of the 2013 Rule book)

2. If a regular game is tied at the conclusion of the game, then the game will be recorded as a tie.
3. If the tie leads to a tie in the standings, the following items will be used to resolve the tie, in this order:
 - a. Head to head record
 - b. Least runs allowed overall
 - c. Most runs scored overall
 - d. Coin toss

3. Games

1. The home team is responsible for lining the field, securing and returning any special equipment needed for a game as well as placing and removing the bases.
 - a. The bases must be removed each day, they will be stowed in the coaches equipment room or shed assigned to the field. Prior to the game, retrieve the bases remove the plug and insert the base. Make sure to return the plug at the end of the night when the base is pulled to be stored. Make sure to return the bases to the correct shed and stow them in the assigned storage space. This is not the middle of the floor.
2. After the last game of the night, “**both**” teams are responsible to clean up all debris from the dug outs and other team areas (e.g., the area behind the back stops)
 - a. This is important with respect to keeping our fields clean. Please take the time to clean out the dugouts.
3. Generally, no forfeits will be awarded.
 - a. Head coaches **need** to make use of call-ups to fill their roster.
 - b. Minimum Number of Players Allowed: Any team in 8U, 10U, 12U, or 16U not able to start and finish a game with 8 players must forfeit that game. A 10 minute grace period is granted to allow for the arrival of the eighth

player. However, a practice scrimmage may be played if both coaches agree. The umpire does not have to be present to play a scrimmage game. There is no penalty (outs) for having only 8 players present. There is no minimum player requirement for 6U.

- c. Coaches can fill in rosters with call-up players. It is highly recommended that coaches make use of call-up players to fill out a roster. This is important to the growth and development of the players and the organization. Coaches that consistently use less than the minimum rosterable number of players may be disciplined.
- d. Call-ups may only be used when the maximum number of fielders for that age division is not present.
 - i. For example, the maximum number of fielders in 10U is 10. A coach may not call up players to add to the roster if 10 rostered players are present. However, if less than 10 rostered players are present; the coach may make use of call-up players.
- e. A player must meet the following criteria in order to play up when called
 - i. Players may play up only one age division
 - ii. **Only senior players** in an age division may be called up
 - iii. The player's parent(s) must approve of them being playing in the older age division
 - iv. The lower age division coach must approve of them playing in the older age division
 - v. They must be listed on the official division call up list
- f. Division commissioners or coaches if no division commissioner in the younger age division shall provide a call up list to the Player Agent. The Player Agent will be responsible for approving the call-up list and distributing to the division commissioner and coaches in the older division.

- g. Players that are playing up can only play in the outfield and must be placed last in the batting order.
 - h. If the call up player list has been exhausted and a team has less than 8 players, the opposing team coach may lend players to shorthanded teams if that team has over 10 players. The shorthanded team will incur a loss, but a game may be played.
- 4. Any player arriving late will be inserted at the bottom of the order. Any girl leaving the game early will be removed from the lineup with no penalty.
- 5. Coaches need to understand that games may be rescheduled. The coaches need to be able to support the games and should plan accordingly. For example, ALL of the coaches for a given team should not also be travel coaches and unavailable to coach make up games on a Sunday evening.
 - a. Note: This does not say that coaches cannot coach a travel team and coach a recreational team. What it intends to say is that if you are a travel coach and a recreational head coach you need to take steps to ensure that you have support for your team in the event that a conflict with travel schedules and recreational schedules arise. While the league will work with you to some extent, the league's priorities are generally with respect to playing the recreational games.
- 6. Coaches at all levels must play all girls, giving each of them meaningful playing time. Every effort should be made to rotate players to the infield. Players may not sit out more than one inning in a row defensively (reasonable exceptions may be made, such as injured or sick player, player's request, etc.).
- 7. Players must play both offense and defense and not just one or the other.
 - a. Twelve or more Players Present: No player sits out more than one inning in a row; maximum two innings total.
 - b. Eleven Players Present: No player sits out more than one inning in an entire game.

8. Suspended Games/Inclement Weather: Games will be on hold for 30 minutes from the last lightning strike. BMOD (Board Member on Duty) will be responsible for calling the game due to weather.
 - a. In 8U, a game is considered complete after either 45 minutes of play or 2 innings.
 - b. In 10U, and 12U, a game is considered complete after either 45 minutes of play or 3 innings.
 - c. In 16U, a game is considered complete after 60 minutes or 4 innings of play.
 - d. If the game is made up at a later time it will continue from where it was suspended. Different player lineups may be used in the suspended game if different girls are present. Use, as close as possible, the same line up from the game being made up. The score will revert back to the last full inning played for all games that have been called a completed game. For example, if a 12U game with two outs in the bottom of the 4th inning gets called by rain, the final score will be the score at the end of three full innings played. No runs scored in the 4th inning will be counted.

4. **Uniforms**

1. Uniforms will be worn at all games. This includes jerseys provided by the league and shorts or pants as chosen by the coach. Exceptions will be made for bad weather and other extenuating circumstances.
2. If a team wishes to make use of any additional uniform items (socks, visors, etc.), all players must dress in the same attire, as long as it is in proper taste and good sportsmanship.
 - a. Any of these items are to be approved by the head coach and the sponsor.

- b. Additionally, if any of these extra items causes a conflict with other teams, association officials or parents it will be dealt with at that time with the division commissioner, Vice President and President of the Association.
3. Players are to remove all jewelry (including pierced jewelry) prior to the game. Plastic hairpieces are permitted.
4. Appropriate helmets with facemasks are mandatory for batter, base-runners, warmup catchers, and on-deck batter.

5. Coaches

1. Coaching Requirements to be completed at registerasa.com:
 - a. Head Coach: Background Check, ASA ACE Certification and SafeSport.
 - b. Assistant Coach: Background Check and SafeSport.
 - c. Practice Helpers: Background Check and SafeSport.
2. Coaches are responsible for obtaining team sponsorship of \$500.