

Media Area Girls Softball Slow Pitch 2010 Rules and Responsibilities

Slow Pitch Contacts

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| President | Steve Byrne | 610-909-5339 |
| Vice-President Slow Pitch | Chris Bannan | 610-764-9105 |
| Junior Commissioner | Jenn Metzger | 484-802-5544 |
| Intermediate Commissioner | Jim Swinuich | 610-316-7482 |
| Senior Commissioner | Bob Fadgen | 484-947-1111 |
| Game Day Field Coordinator | Harry Moore | 215-778-5094 |
| Umpire Coordinator | Ernie Ricco | 610-299-2476 |

Coach Responsibilities

1. All coaches must read and understand the rules that follow. Unless a rule is listed here, ASA rules apply.
2. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of both players and parents. Please make sure that all parents and players understand that there is no taunting or offensive behavior permitted on the field. Please pay attention to this area as well as play on the field. League officials will support your efforts to enforce appropriate behavior by asking offenders to leave the field.
3. Coaches are responsible to hold practices to prepare their teams for the season. Practice fields are to be scheduled through the Game Day Field Coordinator. If you are at a field and having difficulty with another team or coach, please notify your division commissioner or the President or the Slow Pitch Vice President immediately.
4. Prior to game time, only the league may cancel games in case of inclement weather. The home coach is responsible to notify the other coach and his or her players. A game may be called by the umpire if lightning or other dangerous conditions exist. No other game can be changed without the approval of the Division Commissioner 72 hours in advance to the scheduled game. If approved, the coach requesting the change will contact Game Day Field Coordinator, and the opposing team coach to reschedule the game.
5. A canceled game must be rescheduled within 7 days of the original date. This does not mean the game must be played within 7 days of the original date. If the game is not rescheduled within 7 days the commissioner of the respective division shall determine which team was responsible for the delay and award the appropriate forfeit of the game.
6. The home coach must measure the dimensions of the playing field prior to the game. Do not take for granted

that bare spots are at correct distances.

7. The home team shall use the third base bench/dugout.
8. A member of both coaching staffs must go over ground rules with the umpire before the game starts.
9. The winning coach is responsible to notify the Division Commissioner of the game outcome within 48 hours. Failure to do so will cause inaccurate reporting of standings or other difficulties. The winning team is responsible to prepare a short written summary for inclusion in local papers. This is important for both our girls and sponsors. Be sure to include highlights and play names for both teams. Ask the opposing coach for player names. Summaries can be left at the snack bar, submitted on the web site or emailed to mags_publicity@yahoo.com
10. Team pictures will occur sometime during the season. Coaches will be notified by the Picture Coordinator or Commissioners. Please get as many players in the picture as possible. Copies go to our sponsors on plaques. A picture with few players in it discourages sponsorship.
11. All parking regulations must be observed at all fields. These problems have cost us field use in the past.
12. Please inform all parents to observe parking regulations.

Game Rules

Media Area Girls Softball Recreational Divisions will abide by the rules set forth in the official Rules of Softball issued by the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA). In addition, all teams will abide by the rules listed below which were adopted and agreed upon by the league Board of Directors. If a dispute arises during the game and it cannot be worked out, then the discrepancy must be presented to the Division Commissioner. The Commissioner will handle the discrepancy, or present it to the Vice President of the slow pitch league.

1. Field Dimensions are as follows:

60' bases and 46' pitching - Senior Division

60' bases and 40' pitching - Intermediate Division

50' bases and 30' pitching - Junior Division

Measurement for base distance is made from the back of home plate to the back of the base.

Measurement for pitching is made from the back of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber.

2. Each team member must play 3 innings in the field and may not sit on the bench more than 2 innings in a row. A continuous batting order is used.

3. Complete Games

- 7 innings or 4 and a half if called by the umpire for the Senior Division
- 7 innings or 4 and a half if called by the umpire for the Intermediate Division
- 6 innings or 3 and a half if called by the umpire for the Junior Division

4. Infield fly rule is in effect in the Senior Division only.

5. A team must have 8 players ready to play at the scheduled game time or the game will be forfeited. The

teams shall then balance the number of players each has and play the game for fun.

6. Game times:

All evening games will begin at 6:00pm. Weekend games will be scheduled at 9:00am, 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. At all fields it shall be the umpire's decision as to whether or not the game should continue as daylight permits if there is a problem with darkness prior to 7:30 PM. The safety of the players should always be the primary consideration. **Note: No new inning may begin more than 90 minutes after the scheduled start time.**

7. Pitching

- a. One foot must be in contact with the pitching rubber at the start and release of the pitch
- b. The pitch must be delivered at a slow rate of speed so as not to over power the hitter, following an arc the top of which must be at least 6 feet and no more than 12 feet high
- c. Junior Division coaches must replace pitchers unable to throw strikes. If the pitcher has walked three batters and then throws 4 additional balls or 6 consecutive balls, that pitcher must be replace a coach for the team at bat, who will then complete the inning. A new pitcher will begin the start of the next inning.

8. Batting

- a. A continuous batting order will be used regardless of how many players a team has. If a player arrives late, that player is added to the bottom of the batting order.
- b. Intentional bunting is not allowed. If a player intentionally bunts a ball, she will be declared out.
- c. In the Junior Division and Intermediate Division, there shall be a maximum of 3 walks per inning per team. After the third walk the batter must either put the ball in play or strike out.
- d. In the Senior Division, there are unlimited walks allowed per inning.
- e. Throwing the bat is not allowed. A warning should be issued to both teams at the beginning of the game. The batter will be declared out as of the first offense.
- f. No base is awarded for a batter being hit by a pitched ball.
- g. A batting helmet with cage/shield and a chin strap, shall be worn while batting and running the bases.

9. Base Running

- a. Base stealing is not permitted
- b. Sliding is permitted in the Senior Division only
- c. Leads are **not** permitted in the Junior and Intermediate Divisions. The runner may advance when the ball is hit.
- d. Leads are permitted in the Senior Division games. Leads may only be taken after the pitcher releases the ball. A force out is permitted at first base if the ball gets there before the runner gets back. An overthrown ball is live. The runners must tag up before they can advance. The runners on base can only advance on an overthrow. If the player does not tag up and advances, the runner can be called out by the defensive team tagging the base.
- e. A pinch runner must be sent in for the catcher if there are 2 out in the inning.
- f. Junior teams will be permitted to score a maximum of 5 runs per inning. In the Intermediate and Senior divisions, there is a maximum of 7 runs per inning.
- g. Overthrows: Regardless of where the throw originates, runners will get the base they are going to plus one.
- h. Play is declared stopped: When the ball is returned to the pitcher in close proximity to the pitching rubber or, **in the Junior Division only**, if an attempt is made to throw the ball to the pitcher or when stopped by the umpire.
- i. Runners cannot run into a fielder who has possession of or is in the act of receiving the ball. Contact will result in the runner being declared out.

10. Fielding

- a. Defensive players may not block any base from a runner without possession of the ball.

Coaches should remind their defensive players to keep the base paths clear during the course of the game.

- b. The short fielder (10th player) is an outfielder and may not take an infield throw at 2nd base
- c. All girls should be taught to play all positions. Coaches should rotate all girls between infield and outfield within the limits of players abilities. The Division Commissioner may enforce that this rule is being followed when a protest is made by a coach.