

**MARS AREA GIRLS SOFTBALL
RULES AND REGULATIONS
2003**

THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY TO ALL GIRLS AGES 5 THROUGH 18 IN THE MARS AREA GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE, UNLESS A SPECIFIC RULE IS DESIGNATED FOR A SPECIFIC DIVISION.

1. General Conduct:
 - A. There will be no profanity or abusive language permitted by the coaches, assistants or players. The umpire has the right to eject any person committing any of the above acts. If the person, or persons, committing the act refuse to leave the area, the game shall be ended by the umpire and awarded to the opposing team.
 - B. There will be no smoking in the dugouts, on the players' benches or in the coaches' box.
2. The Home Team, so designated by the schedule, is responsible for placing bases, liming the foul lines, providing the game ball and running the concession stand.
3. Instructional & Junior Division – catcher's mask, helmet and chest protector must be worn by catcher at all times while she is catching. Senior Division catchers must wear catcher's mask with helmet.
4. A game shall consist of seven complete innings for the Senior Division and six complete innings for the Junior Division. In the event a game must be ended by rain or any other reason, a game shall be considered complete in the Senior Division if five full innings have been played (4½ innings if home team is ahead). In the Junior Division, a game shall be considered complete if four full innings have been played (3½ if home team is ahead). If five full innings in the Senior Division (or four in the Junior Division) have not been completed, the game must be continued where it was left off at a later date which will be scheduled by the equipment manager.
 - A. All rostered players that were in the original rain out game must be placed back into the same batting order if available.
 1. All starting players including 12 year olds (in the Senior Division) & 8 or 9 year olds (in the Junior Division) are committed to participate in the game.
5. A team shall consist of ten players.
 - A. A legal game can be played in the Senior or Junior Division with eight players.
 - B. If above requirements are not met, forfeiture will result against the offending team.
 - C. Senior Division coaches have the option to call up 12 year olds from the Junior Division to bring their playing team to no more than ten players.
 - D. Junior Division coaches have the option to call up 8 or 9 year olds from the Instructional Division to bring their playing team to no more than ten players.

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- E. When using a 12 year old or an 8 or 9 year old, a coach cannot leave a girl from their own team sitting on the bench unless for disciplinary reasons. Any Senior or Junior Division player arriving after 5 full innings is ineligible to play in that game.
 - F. No 8, 9 or 12 year old may skip a previously scheduled game in her own division to participate in a Junior or Senior Division game.
 - G. Each coach shall be provided with a list of all eligible 8, 9 or 12 year olds before the start of the season.
 - H. Once a lineup has been submitted to the umpire, that 8, 9 or 12 year old is committed to that team for the game.
 - I. The two-inning rule is still in effect for any player called up, even if a Junior or Senior division player arrives.
6. The decision to play or cancel because of weather rests with the equipment manager and/or assistant.
 7. Once the game starts, the decision to cancel play is made strictly by the umpire. The umpire can consult with the coaches if he/she desires.
 8. Any piece of equipment designated "Official Softball" may be used. No double-wall or triple-wall bats may be used.
 9. Laced tennis shoes or rubber spikes are legal shoes to be worn. No hard or steel spikes are allowed.
 10. Before the game begins, the batting order, starting line-up and all substitutes must be given to the umpire and the opposing team's scorekeeper. All eligible girls must play at least two innings in the field. Failure to do so will result in the offending team forfeiting the game. All games must be completed with at least eight players. If the game was started with ten players and any are injured and there are no substitutes available, you must take an out for those players.
 11. Starting players may be put back into the game as long as they bat in their original batting order and as long as this is only done one time per player. These players may play any position on the field. The pitcher may be reinstated once as a pitcher, even if she is removed from the game, but must be put back into the same batting order.
 12. In case of an injury and the players are limited, a player may be placed back into the game after being removed from the game (two-inning rule does not apply) only if such injury caused the team to fall under eight players.
 13. Any substitute must take the place of the removed player in the batting order.
 14. All girls must wear long pants.
 15. Home team should be on the field ½ hour before the start of the game.
 16. Visiting team may have the field 15 minutes before the start of the game.

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17. The coaches shall agree upon any special conditions at any particular field before the beginning of the season. Ground rules will be written and supplied to coaches with schedules. Ground rules will be gone over with the umpire before the start of each game.
18. Players may be benched for disciplinary reasons. If so, the opposing coach must be notified before the start of the game.
19. All girls in uniform must play their two innings. If a girl is injured and is in uniform, the other coach must be notified before the start of the game; otherwise, it shall be an automatic forfeit.
20. There shall be no more than one coach at first and one coach at third base.
21. All batters and base runners must wear batting helmets at all times while batting or on base. The umpire shall automatically call out any girl who deliberately removes her helmet, but the play of the game shall continue until umpire calls time.
22. All on deck batters must wear batting helmets or the girl at the plate will be called out entering the field.
23. Junior Division only – there shall be a limit of 13 batters per inning. After the 13th batter, the inning shall be over regardless of the number of outs.
24. The 10-Run rule shall be in effect after 4 innings in the Junior Division (3½ if the home team is ahead) and after 5 innings in the Senior Division (4½ if the home team is ahead). Ten or more runs shall declare any team ahead the winner.
25. No one will be put on a team just for transportation reasons unless after review, the Board legitimizes and approves the request.
26. A player may re-enter the draft for any reason. However, she cannot pick which team she wants to play on.
27. If the third strike for a batter is a foul ball, the batter will be allowed one more strike before being called out.
28. A coach or an assistant coach must be present at the game. The coach or assistant coach may ask a parent of a child that is playing to be a base coach.
29. Any other rules shall follow ASA guidelines for slow pitch.