



## General Playing Rules

- SECTION 1 **Coaches are to exhibit proper Softball etiquette on the softball fields. Inappropriate behavior on the field is subject to a verbal warning, at a minimum, by the umpire and commissioner on duty. Coaches are also responsible for the parents in the stands for their demeanor towards the game.** Managers, coaches, players, or spectators will be removed from a game or from the association for disciplinary reasons that include **but not limited to**:
- The use of any alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances on the field or in the dugout during practice or games.
    - No alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances will be allowed on the property.
  - Being under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances at practice or games.
  - The use of profanity at any time during practice or games
  - A second offense of any of these reasons will result in the suspension of participation for the remainder of the regular and post season and removal from MBYSA.
  - Coaches, players and or parents ejected from any game must appear before the board before returning to the field of play.
- SECTION 2 The manager of each team shall have the responsibility of maintaining order, discipline, and good sportsmanship from all who are associated with or representing his/her team.
- SECTION 5 If a player is being disciplined, she may be withheld from one or more games for the following reasons:
- Two missed practices in a row or excessive absences from both practices and games; EXCEPTION: An excused absence.
  - Disruption of team activities.
  - Unsportsmanlike conduct or any other activity that discredits Barbers Hill Girls Softball Association.
  - Only girls registered with MBYSA for league play may participate in the current season. ***Once a child has been pulled from League (resigns and or quits) she will not be allowed back at any time during the season without prior approval from the MBYSA Board.***
- SECTION 6 **Team Responsibilities:**
- Cleanup: Each team is responsible for leaving dugouts, fields and spectator area clean after each game and practices.
  - Field Maintenance: The **Visiting team** will be responsible for raking and marking the field before every game and put down the bases.
  - Score keeping: The **Home team** will supply an official scorekeeper at least 18 years of age.
  - Penalty: Any team failing to fulfill their obligations shall result in suspension of manager for two (2) games. Suspended managers shall not be present at games, or perform any of the above duties may be required to forfeit their next league game and four (4) scheduled practice times on the fields, at the discretion of the board.
- SECTION 7 **Protective Gear:**
- The catcher, batter, on-deck batter and base runners shall wear all appropriate protective equipment during all games and practice sessions. (The only exception is for 6U and 8U where the catcher will be allowed to wear soccer style leggings). These rules apply in all league/divisions.
  - Player's shoes shall be closed top, with no metal spikes or metal cleats. Rubber cleats are acceptable. No Exceptions
  - No girl shall be allowed to play unless in proper uniform, which consists of only those items approved by the MBYSA Board. EXCEPTION: With the permission of the plate umpire.



- SECTION 8 All games are to be played by the United States Softball Association's (USA) Guide and Rule Book or Pixie Division State Rules except when MBYSA Rules are listed for a specific situation.
- SECTION 9 In every age group there will be a maximum of 4 runs per inning.
- SECTION 10 Home team will be listed first on the schedule.
- SECTION 11 The home team will occupy the third base dugout.
- SECTION 10 Umpires:
- All leagues/divisions will have a minimum of one USA certified umpire for each game. However, every effort will be made to furnish two umpires per game.
  - Umpires are prohibited from calling a game involving his/her daughter's league/division, or in his/her league/division he/she manages or coaches.
  - One umpire for the Pixie leagues.
  - If both managers agree, an adult that is acceptable to both managers may umpire a game in the absence of an USA umpire. The results of the game will be final and no protests will be allowed
  - Negative Cheering and Behavior: While MBYSA encourages positive cheering supportive of team play, negative cheering directed at or to distract the opposing players or team will not be tolerated. The Umpire or Director-in-Charge is empowered to declare a forfeit, if necessary, after a team has been given a warning. A manager or coach ejected from the game for failing to enforce League Standard of Conduct Rules (See PART ONE, ARTICLE XI, SECTION 2 and PART TWO, ARTICLE X, SECTION 2) must come before the MBYSA Board of Directors at their next monthly meeting. Failure to appear shall result in immediate dismissal from the league.
- SECTION 11 Any team that has less than eight 8 players for a game must forfeit. If a team starts the game with 8 players and a player(s) becomes injured, then the game will continue without penalty or forfeit. Exceptions to be approved by the MBYSA Board.
- SECTION 12 All defensive players not on the playing field must remain in the dugout. All offensive players must remain in the dugout with the exception of base runners, the batter, on-deck batter, and the base coaches as long as they have the appropriate safety gear on.
- SECTION 13 No one except players, coaches, team scorekeeper, approved parent/helper or Team Mother will be allowed in the dugouts. Everyone in the dugout or on the field will be required to have an approved background check completed through the USA website. In the absence of a manager or coach, a temporary alternate assistant may be used with the approval of the opposing manager. All approved members must wear their USA issued/approved identification badge for that season at all times.
- SECTION 14 Base coaches shall be players or coaches of the team at bat. Players as base coaches must wear their batting helmet. EXCEPTION: 10 and under, Pixie and T-Ball leagues; no players shall be base coaches.
- SECTION 15 All leagues will use official 12-inch softball. EXCEPTION: 10 and under, Pixie and T-Ball leagues, which will use the 11-inch softball.
- SECTION 16 All teams will have continuous batting. All girls will be listed on the lineup sheet in the order that they are to bat. The batting order must be turned in ten (10) minutes before the game time and may not be changed.
- SECTION 17 **Time Limits:**  
Game time begins when the umpire calls "Play Ball". For 6U, 8U & 10U games shall have a playing time limit of one (1) hour and five (5) minutes. For 12 & 14U games shall have a playing time limit of one (1) hour and fifteen (15) minutes. EXCEPTION: In the event of a tie game at the end of regulated playing time, a new inning must begin to break the tie. Only one International Tie Breaker inning will be played per game. If the game still remains tied after one international tie breaker the official outcome of the game will be shown as a tie. (If one coach refuses to go into ITB and leaves the field of play, then the game will go as a win for the other Team and a forfeit for the other).  
However, if the game is not tied, no inning shall begin after one (1) hour and twenty (20) minutes. No new inning will start past 9:30PM on a school night.
- SECTION 18 Forfeit time, is game time as determined by the umpire.



- SECTION 19 Inning Rule. Maximum inning for each age league is as follows, unless the game is tied. Tied games are granted only one international tie breaker inning to break tie. (See SECTION 18 above).
- All age groups (7) Innings plus one progressive I.T.B. inning if needed.
- SECTION 20 **Run Rule:**  
A game is called or considered to be complete if one of the following occurs.
- After three (3) innings a team is ahead by twelve (12) or more runs.
  - After four (4) innings a team is ahead by eight (8) or more runs.
  - If the winner of a game is determined by run rule above the game may continue when the managers agree (for practice purposes only) until the time limit expires. No umpire will be available after game is called due to run rule.
- SECTION 21 **Score Sheets:**
- Players shall be listed on the line-up sheet in their batting order. All girls drafted on the team must be listed on the line-up sheet every game. The Manager must indicate on the bottom of the line-up sheet the girl(s) not playing because of late arrival, illness, absence, or discipline.
  - The Manager shall present copies of the line-up to the official scorekeeper, umpire, and opposing manager indicating all of the above information ten (10) minutes before game time.
  - The umpire, scorekeeper, and the opposing manager will be notified of all substitutions as they are made.
  - Excused late arrivals will be listed as late arrivals on the bottom of the batting order and will be allowed to enter the game with no penalty, if she has not missed her turn at bat. Excused late arrival(s) missing their turn at bat will be allowed to play with the approval of the opposing manager and must bat at the bottom of the batting order.
  - An injured player removed from the field shall take her turn at bat unless officially removed from the game. If removed from the game, the girl's position in the batting order will be skipped without penalty.
  - **Formal Protested Calls:** Date, time and signatures of Head Coaches, Umpire, and commissioner on duty, will be added to official scorebook. Play will resume. Coordinator and commissioners, at earliest convenience, will rule on protested call. If call is overturned, then the game will be replayed at a later time from point of call registered in scorebook. If call is not overturned, then the Head Coach protesting call will give a \$25 fee payable to the league within 7 days of final ruling. The former applies to rule calls only, all umpire judgment calls stand.

### **PICK UP PLAYERS:**

- If you are short players you may pick-up players (MBYSA registered) from the same age group or the age below your division during the season. You may not pick up players until your team roster is down to 8 players and you may only pick up enough players to reach a 9-player roster. You may start and/or finish with only eight players.
- Any player arriving more than 20 minutes after the start of the game MAY NOT enter that game.
- In the event you have picked up players and your team player arrives prior to the twenty-minute limit, the original player will replace the pick-up players spot.
- No pick-up players will be allowed to play in the infield unless both coaches agree before the game starts and is reported to the home plate umpire.

### **DEFENSIVE PLAY RULES:**

- No Player may sit out two innings per game on defense until all players have sat out 1 inning. No player may sit out two consecutive innings. If it is discovered that a player has sat out two consecutive innings, that player shall be inserted in the defensive line up and shall play the remainder of that game and the entire next official game. Exception to rule is player illness.
- Ten players will be used on the field in 6u & 8u age groups only. The tenth player is used as an outfielder.
- All outfielders must be behind the baseline to begin play.



## **OFFENSIVE PLAYING RULES:**

- A continuous batting order will be used in all age groups.
- Base Stealing is NOT allowed in 6u & 8u.
- Coach is not allowed to touch an offensive player. Touching an offensive player during live play will result in an out.

## SECTION 22

### **Playing Field Distances: OFFICIAL FIELD DIMENSIONS:**

DIVISION	BASES	PITCHING
Pixie (6U & 8U)	60 feet	35 feet
10 & Under	60 feet	35 feet
12 & Under	60 feet	40 feet

All age divisions will use the "Safety Base".

## **SECTION 26 Special Special rules**

- No Team practice is to take place past 9PM on a school night
- Score will be kept for all age groups
- Coaches will be allowed two minutes maximum between innings to change positions in the field. Pitchers will only be allowed 5 warm up pitches between innings or at a pitcher change during an inning
- Players playing A or Div. 1 ball that wishes to return to league play may appeal to the district office to return to league ball. All appeals must be in writing form and sent to the district officer for review. Note: Players that are allowed to return to league play will not be allowed to pitch or catch for the current season.

## **SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS FOR 12 & UNDER:**

- Stealing of home will be allowed.
- Drop third strike in effect
- Infield fly rule in effect.
- The base runner may steal more than one base at a time.

*Note: Rules may be altered for this age group after tryouts.*

## **10u rules**

- In 10 and under we will have girl pitch with a coach pitcher coming in as needed. There will be (2) base on balls allowed per inning. The second batter of the inning that reaches a 4-ball count will be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base, every batter following for that inning will receive coach pitch on a 4 ball count.

# OF STRIKES	# OF COACH PITCHES
0	3
1	2
2	1

***Note: On the first initial walk of the inning if all bases are occupied then the runner on occupying 3<sup>rd</sup> will score.***



- There will be no base stealing when the coach is pitching.
- No Drop third strike will be in effect during Coach pitch.
- Batter will get unlimited number of foul balls on her third strike to either hit a fair ball or strike out during kid pitch & coach pitch.
- Bunt, Slap Bunt, or Fake Bunt & Hit is not allowed when the Coach Pitcher is pitching.
- The coach pitcher must pitch from the pitching rubber.
- No coach pitch warm ups will be allowed.
- The coach that starts to pitch in a team's turn at bat must complete the team's turn at bat.
- The coach pitcher will try to avoid interference with the play of the ball after it has been hit. If the ball happens to hit the coach pitcher, the ball will be a dead ball, the batter awarded 1st base, and the runners will advance; if, in the judgment of the umpire, the coach pitcher made an attempt to get out of the way. If, in the judgment of the umpire, interference was flagrant on the part of the coach pitcher, it will result in the lead runner being put out, the other base runners being returned to the previous base, and the ball declared dead.
- The team pitcher must stand in the back half of the pitcher's circle while coach is pitching.
- Runners may steal more than one base at a time.
- Drop third strike rule will be in effect after the second week of the regular league play.
- Stealing of home will be allowed
- Girls are not allowed to leave the base they are on, in stealing, until the pitcher releases the ball. If a girl does leave prior to the time the pitcher releases the ball, she will be returned to the base she was on, without penalty. The umpire will warn the manager after the first time per team, per game. Later violations will result in an out.
- All teams will play with an 11-inch USA regulation ball
- All teams may field **10 players** with a maximum six (6) infielders and 4 outfielders, if present. The game may start with a minimum of eight (8) players, all players will bat. No outs will be assessed for teams with fewer than 10 players.
- If a player must leave the game due to illness or injury it will not be counted as an out when it is her time to bat, UNLESS you only have nine players. If the batter that leaves the game due to illness or injury is your ninth player, the next time her spot comes up in the order she will be counted out. If the player for some reason can come back into the game she may be reinserted in her original spot.

#### Pixie League Rules:

- There is no infield fly rule in effect.
- The batter will be allowed 5 pitches or 3 swings.
  - **6U division will be allowed 4 pitches and one swing off the "T". The ball must be put into play or the batter is out when hitting off the "T". No additional swings will be allowed.**
  - **6U division will not be allowed to hit off the "T" during the Season Closing Tournament.**
  - **8U unlimited foul balls will be allowed.**
- Hash marks will be marked on the field half way between home and first, first and second, second and third, and third and home. The sole purpose of these lines is to position runners when play is stopped. If any part of the runner's body has crossed the line when the ball crosses the plain of the pitcher's circle when the ball is called dead she is entitled to the next base. If she has not crossed the line she must return to the last base touched.
- Two runners may not occupy the same base. If two runners are touching the base, while the ball is live, the trailing runner is out when tagged. The lead runner is entitled to the base.
- Pitching coach must avoid interfering with defensive play by moving away from the direction of a batted ball.
- After the coach pitcher pitches the ball and the ball is hit that coach must get out of the way of the



hit ball. If the hit ball accidentally strikes the coach pitcher in the circle the ball shall be declared dead. The base runners and batter will advance one base. If in the judgment of the umpire the coach pitcher interferes intentionally with any play the batter shall be declared out and the runners on base will return to the base occupied when the ball was hit.

- The defensive player/pitcher must stand in the back half of the pitching circle. She may not move from the back half of the pitching circle until the ball has been hit. Except for the catcher, no defensive player may be closer than 30 feet from the batter until the ball has been hit. The four outfielders will remain behind the baselines until the ball has been hit. Violation of this rule will allow the offensive coach to take the resulting play or advance the batter to first base. (Hit ball means fair or foul).
- There will be no unassisted putouts at first base by the **pitcher**, i.e. she must throw the ball to the base. IF, in the umpire's judgement, the pitcher runs towards the first base line to field a ball, she may tag the batter/runner out if she beats the runner in between home plate and where the ball is fielded. In other words, the pitcher may not make any move towards first base to tag the runner out. So, if the runner has passed the pitcher or 30' mark, the pitcher must make the throw to first base in order to get the out.
- Base runners are permitted to leave the base once the coach pitcher releases the ball but not before or she will be declared out. The act of simply picking up the foot off the base should NOT be construed as leaving the base early.
- Only two defensive coaches will be allowed outside the dugout. These two coaches must not be any closer than 10ft from either 1st or 3rd base and 5ft or more from the foul lines.
- The defensive pitcher will give the ball to the coach/pitcher at the end of each play.

### **SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS FOR 6U:**

- **The coach pitcher must have one foot inside the circle before they start to pitch. The batter will be allowed 4 pitches and one swing off the "T". The ball must be put into play or the batter is out when hitting off the "T". No additional swings will be allowed. If the batter and the coach decide to forfeit the "T" on the fifth ball for the pitch she will be awarded an additional pitch if the fifth one is fouled off. Up to seven total pitches.**
- When positioning the Tee for the batter to hit the Tee will be placed in front of home plate and NOT on top of home plate. The batting coach must remove the Tee after the batter hits the ball or the runner coming home will be called out.
- Teams are allowed to have a defensive spotter on the field to position players when the ball is dead. Any violation will result in the spotter being removed from the field without a replacement.
- On the first play after the ball is hit, if an overthrown ball that travels outside either foul line, the play shall be considered a dead ball. All runners on base shall be awarded the next base not yet reached at release of throw and may not advance beyond that base. The batsman however remains at risk and a play may be made on her until she reaches 1st base safely. A ball that is thrown foul and not in the process of making a play shall be deemed intentional and will not be considered dead. A caught fly ball is considered the first made play.

### **SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS FOR 8U:**

- Each batter will receive 5 pitches from the coach pitcher. Batter is out after three strikes if contact is not made on the third swing. The coach pitcher must have one foot inside the circle before they start to pitch. Unlimited foul balls will be allowed.
- **There will be no over throw rule in effect. The ball is live unless it leaves the field of play. At this point all runners are awarded the next base not yet occupied at the time of the throw.**
- Play will be declared dead when the defensive pitcher has control of the ball within the pitcher's circle, unless in the umpires' judgment a play is being made.
- If a batted ball comes to rest in the pitcher's circle, and no further play is made, the ball is dead when the batter reaches first base.





#### Make-up Games:

- Make-up games consist of games missed due to weather conditions, authorized school activities, or severe situation, which causes the league/division commissioner to cancel a scheduled game(s).
- The commissioner of each league / division along with the scheduler must reschedule make-up games at the next open slot that is available to both teams. The scheduler shall notify the commissioner and managers involved no later than 48 hours prior to the rescheduled game.
- The manager must notify the commissioner and scheduler 72 hours prior to game time, if it will be necessary to reschedule a game.
- Make-up days during normal league play will be targeted for Wednesdays during normal league play or on Friday evening where normally scheduled league games are not scheduled (typically Friday evenings open up after the 2nd week of League play)

#### League Standing in Case of Tie:

- First Place Tie: If two teams tie for first place at the end of league play, then the league/division champion will be decided by a one game play-off. If three teams are tied for first, then each team will play each other once. The team with the best record will be the league/division champion; the team with next best record will be the second place team, etc. Any ties from this playoff will be decided by the team with the highest total score, 2nd tiebreaker being runs allowed, and the 3rd tiebreaker is being a coin flip.
- Second or third place tie will be decided by a one game play-off.
- Time and place for the play-off games will be set by the division commissioner. Play-off games will be seven (7) innings or time limit under league rules, whichever comes first.
- In the event a team has their place of finish locked in near the end of the season and decides to forfeit a remaining game(s), and in so doing causes or breaks ties involving other teams in order of league / division standings, the manager will be barred from managing the next year, if the forfeit is at his/her will.
- Tied games will be allowed to play progressive international tie breakers until a winner can be determined.

#### All-Star Season Teams

- All post-season teams will use the name MBYSA Eagles, which can only be used by post season teams.
- Players will be selected from the 6u, 8u, 10u, 12u, and 14u league teams for Post Season teams to represent MBYSA during championship play. The Board of Directors will determine the number of teams based upon the recommendation of each League's commissioners and the # of players signed up to play All-Stars. A letter of commitment must be signed by each girl and her parent(s), stating she should be able to attend all practices and games through the dates set for District and State. Players failing to fulfill the commitment will not be eligible for post season teams the following year, pending board approval. The Commissioner needs to notify each girl and parent what is expected of them as a player and also what financial expenses are to be expected.
- The Post Season Teams will represent the MBYSA in post-season tournaments. MBYSA teams will not be allowed to advance or participate except through normal USA National Championship Qualification. EXCEPTION: A team may elect to try and qualify for other National tournaments with Board approval. Priority must be given to try and qualify through USA. There will be no direct funding by MBYSA for any tournaments other than those that are USA sanctioned.
- Player shall play All-Stars in the age division they played regular season in. Exceptions to be approved by the MBYSA Board.
- Each team may consist of up to thirteen (13) players. EXCEPTION: With commissioner's recommendation and Board approval.
- Only girls still participating as of the day of voting and in the MBYSA program for 3/4 of the season shall be eligible for the Post Season team.
- There will be no try-outs for Post Season teams unless the manager of a Post Season team requests a tryout or tryouts.
- A written notice will be given to parents of Post Season candidates stating the selection to Post Season may be a reflection of their try-out performance. The players' regular season play will be used to reflect their selection.



### Selection of Post-Season Teams Manager:

- The manager of the first place team in their respective league/division will be the manager with Board approval. He / She may select three (3) coaches from the managers, coaches, or assistant coaches in that league/division. EXCEPTION: If no manager in that league is interested, then the Board will choose.

### The Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners:

- Shall administer his/her league/division in accordance with the By -Laws and objectives of MBYSA
- Shall be responsible for the conduct of his/her league/division.
- Shall settle disputes where possible and enforce rules of the league during play. He/She shall refer to the Grievance Committee any protest that is correctly filed by a manager/coach.
- Will be responsible for overseeing the return of all equipment from the managers of their league/division to the equipment chairperson at a time determined by the equipment chairperson. NOTE: If the manager and/or coach does not turn in their equipment to the equipment manager prior to the All Star draft the manager and coach of that team are both ineligible to vote for All Stars.
- Will act as liaison between the Board and the managers and coaches in his/her league/division.
- Will assist the tournament director for any tournament held by MBYSA for his/her league/division.
- Will be responsible for the verification of coach USA badges for any managers or coaches in his/ league/division that will be on the field or in the dugout.
- Commissioners and assistants will be members of the rules committee.
- Assistant Commissioners are responsible for scheduling field maintenance Within His/her age group.
- Commissioner shall be jointly responsible along with the Treasurer for managing and reviewing monthly expense account statements received from managers.

### Managers and Coaches:

- Authority: Managers shall administer and direct their team in accordance with the MBYSA Rules and objectives, and shall be accountable to the league/division commissioner and the Board.
- Conduct: The Manager shall be solely responsible for the conduct of his/her team and its followers.
- Coach: The coach will help the manager and assume the manager's duties and responsibilities in his/her absence.
- Age Requirements: All managers and coaches must be at least 21 years of age to manage any team with MBYSA. The Board may approve special circumstances.

### Selection:

- Managers/coaches shall be appointed by action of the Board based on written application from the Manager/coach candidates and results of a basic criminal background check. Each candidate will be considered on an individual basis and vote may be taken by secret ballot
- The Coordinator for each the league will prepare a ballot of their respective league/division of the remaining Manager candidates in alphabetical order and certify the number of coaching vacancies.
- The President and the Secretary will collect the ballots, and in conjunction with the Board members, count the votes.
- Any ballot containing more votes than the number of managing vacancies will be voided.
- The Candidate receiving the most votes shall be appointed manager. If more than one opening exists, the candidate with the next most votes shall be appointed manager, etc. until all vacancies area filled.
- Managers may select up to 2 persons to serve as coaches; with one coach to be selected after the team's roster is completed.
- Back ground checks and Ace certification will be required for head coach, back ground checks will be required for all coaches on the field or in the dugout.