



Macomb Township Parks & Recreation

Softball League

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Visit us on the web at www.gomtpr.org

Like us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/MTPR04

Schedules, Standings and other league information are available on our website

Macomb Township reserves the right to amend league rules at any time.

FEES:

- All fees must be paid by the start of a team's first scheduled game.
- Each team must pay \$15.00 **Cash Only** to the umpire at the beginning of each game.

ELIGIBILITY, CONTRACTS AND RELEASE:

- Each team shall consist of no more than 20 players.
- Each player must be 18 years of age at the time of participation.
- No player shall participate on more than one (1) team in the same league.
- **Contracts and rosters must be filled out completely.** No player shall appear in the lineup unless their name is legally affixed to an official roster on file with the Macomb Township Parks and Recreation Department.
- No team shall be allowed to add any players to its roster after the 5th scheduled game. Exception is a medical release/add.
- In the event a player is lost for medical reasons, teams shall be allowed to replace the player. The injured player being removed will not be eligible to play with any other team in the league for the remainder of the season. A doctor's note must be filed before a new player may be added.

SCHEDULING & GAME TIMES:

- The Macomb Township Parks and Recreation Department will schedule all softball league games at their discretion. It is the responsibility of the teams to be available and ready to play at their scheduled game times each week.
- **Game Guarantee** - Teams are guaranteed 10 regular season games plus a single elimination tournament. The Macomb Township Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to change or amend the league schedule at any time due to any unforeseen circumstances with proper notice given to all teams and officials.
- The Macomb Township Parks and Recreation Department has the right to change or amend the league schedule at any time due to any unforeseen circumstances with proper notice given to all teams and officials involved.
- **Make up games** – Are scheduled at the discretion of the Macomb Township Parks and Recreation Department with proper notice given to team managers. Our department will use whatever means necessary in an effort to get all games rescheduled. In the event games need to be rescheduled, teams should be prepared to play at alternate times and fields on any given Sunday afternoon.
- **Grace Period** - Each team will be allowed to utilize the 5-minute grace period in an effort to field a legal team. The game clock will start on time at the scheduled game time. The 5-minute grace period will start as soon as the game clock is started by umpire. After the 5 minute grace period has expired, the game will be declared a forfeit by the team unable to field a legal team for play.
- **Forfeits**- Any team that forfeits 2 or more games during the season is subject to removal from the league at the league director's discretion without refund. Forfeits are awarded a score of 7-0 in any un-played game. Should a forfeit occur in the middle of the game, a score of 7 runs or the runs scored (whichever is greater) shall be credited and the forfeiting team will be given a 0.
- **\$30.00 Forfeit Fee** – If a forfeit occurs, a \$30.00 forfeit fee must be paid to the Macomb Township Parks and Recreation Department prior to the teams next scheduled game. If the forfeit fee is not paid, the team will be forced to forfeit every game until the fee is settled. Teams will also be responsible for the payment of additional forfeit fees that may occur due to the original forfeit fee not being paid.

- **Rain Out Number** - (586.992.2909) will be listed on the schedules for your information. We ask that you call that number if there is any doubt regarding inclement weather or field conditions. Teams should always show up to the field ready to play unless the rainout line says differently or a parks official has notified you. The rainout recording is updated no later than 4:00pm or once parks staff have made the determination to cancel due to inclement weather.

PLAYING RULES:

- Macomb Township Parks and Recreation Department uses the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) Rulebook amended by these policies and procedures to govern league play.
- **Ball/Strike Count** – Each batter will start with a 1 ball-1strike count. The batter will be called out on strikes when two strikes are called by the umpire. The batter is awarded first base when three balls are called by the umpire. If the batter hits a second foul ball after one strike, the batter is called out and the ball is dead.
- **Balls** - will be 12-inches in diameter and are supplied by Macomb Township Parks and Recreation.
- **Bats** - USSSA approved bats may be used in league play. The USSSA bat specifications can be found at www.MIUSSSA.com (Umpires will have final say when it comes to bat eligibility at the field).
- **Bases** - 65 feet.
- **Pitching** - 50 feet from the back point of the plate to the front of the pitching rubber.
- **No metal spikes** of any kind are allowed.
- **Complete Game** - Seven innings constitutes a complete game. In the event of inclement weather, poor field conditions or situations out of our control, 4 ½ innings (if the home team is ahead) or 5 innings will constitute an official game. All games will have a 1 hour and 10 minute time limit. No new inning will begin after the 70 minutes have expired. Game time begins when the umpire indicates game clock has started.
- **Tie Games** - At the end of the time limit, one extra inning will be played in order to give teams a chance to break the tie. If the game is still tied after the extra inning, the game will end in a tie.
- **Run Rule** - When a team is ahead by 12 runs or more after 5 completed innings (4 1/2 if the home team is ahead) the game is ended. The team facing the deficit must have their opportunity to bat in the inning to make the game complete.
- **Ties In Standings** - Will be decided in this order: (1) head to head competition results, (2) total runs scored on the season, (3) total runs allowed on the season.
- **8 Players**- A team may start a game with no less than 8 players. A team playing with 8 players may add players up to 10 in the lineup as they become available. Additional players will be inserted into the lineup in the last spot available up to 10. Additional hitters may not be entered into the lineup once the game has started. Once the game has started, other players must enter the game as an official substitution. A team with 8 players in the lineup who loses a player during the game must forfeit (once a game has started you have lost your right to utilize the extra hitter rule).
- **Extra Hitters**- One or two (EH'S) can be included in the batting order to make up to 12 hitters in the lineup. They must be added prior to the first pitch of the game. The umpire must be notified of the addition(s) during the ground rules. If the Extra hitter is added after the first pitch, the player will be ejected from the game. The ejected player cannot be used for said game at any point after being ejected. In **Coed Leagues**, when an EH is used, the team must use either a male EH and a female EH or 1-2 female EH(S) will be allowed. More males are never allowed in the lineup at any time.
- **Lineup** - A team may bat up to 12 players anywhere in the lineup to start the game. Player(s) must be present when called to bat in the lineup, or player(s) is an automatic out. Any 10 of the 12 may play defense throughout the game.

- **Intentional Walks** - the pitcher or manager may make it known to the umpire their intent of an intentional walk. No pitches need to be thrown; the batter is awarded 1st base and all runners advance if forced.
- **Interference** - Will be called if no attempt by a runner to avoid contact with a fielder is made. If intentional or malicious contact is made, the player will be out and ejected from the ball game at umpires discretion.
- **Courtesy Runners** - One courtesy runner is allowed per inning. This runner must be the player who made the last out. If an out has not occurred in the first inning, the courtesy runner will be the last batter in the lineup. If the courtesy runner is still on base when their turn comes up to bat, an out is recorded in that batting position and the game continues with the next batter stepping to the plate. If it is the third out of the inning the inning is over.
- **Base Runners** - May leave the base when the pitch breaks the front plane of the plate or is contacted by the hitter with the bat. **Stealing of bases is not allowed.** A runner may be called out for leaving the base before the ball crosses the plate.
- **Pitching** - a legal delivery is a ball pitched to the batter underhand at a moderate speed with a perceptible arc of not less than 3 feet and not more than 10 feet from the ground. The pitcher may release the pitched ball from up to 6 feet behind the mound. **Note:** speed and height are the judgment of the umpire.
- **Dugout Area** - Only roster participants will be allowed to occupy the dugout area. No one under 18 years of age may take a position in the dugout or on the playing field. Spectators must stay in the spectator area outside the fields.
- **Bat Throwing** - Tossing the bat carelessly or with malice is extremely dangerous and will result in the offending player being ejected for a period determined by the Macomb Township Parks and Recreation Department.
- **Home Run Limit** - 2 home runs by each team per game. Any home runs hit after 2 will be a dead ball out and all runners return to the last base at the time of the pitch.
- **Walk Off Home Runs** - On a fair fly ball hit over the fence for a Home Run, the batter and all base runners are credited with a score. The batter and any runner(s) on base do not need to advance and touch the bases. The players should go directly to the dugout area.

PROTESTS & PROCEDURES:

- Rule interpretations or player eligibility may only be protested, umpire judgment calls may not. The game is stopped and the following information is recorded on score sheet.
- **Rule Interpretations** - Date, time of protest, inning, score, runners, outs, count, time left in game and a detailed description of what rule is being miss interpreted.
- **Player Eligibility** - Player eligibility protests must be made known to the umpire before the last out of the game. The umpire will ask the player in question to produce identification. Refusal by player to produce identification is automatic forfeit. If the player does not have identification present but insists they are legal the following information will be recorded: name, signature, date of birth, phone number.
- Both team managers & umpire sign and the protesting manager must deliver \$30 (CASH ONLY) to Macomb Township Parks and Recreation Department within 24 hours of protest for processing or protest will not be handled.
- **If Upheld** - the money returned to manager and the game is forfeited by offending team.
- **If Overruled** - the money is kept by Macomb Township Parks and Recreation and game stands as called.

INJURED PLAYERS:

- **Male Player** - If injured and cannot continue to play and the team has no rostered substitutes for that player, no out will be taken.

- **If a Female Player** - If an injury to a female player occurs, the following male player will also be removed from the game if no rostered female substitute is available. No out will be recorded when either players turn comes up.

CO-ED PLAYING RULES:

- **Eight Players** - A team may start with no less than 8 players (must be 4 women and 4 men). A team may start a game with 8 players only if the players are equal men to women or more women. The number of men can never outweigh the number of women to start a game.
- **Batting Order** – Must alternate male and female throughout the line up. Exception: the line up may consist of females back to back.
- **Extra Hitters in Coed Leagues** - When an EH is used, the team must use either a male EH and a female EH or 1 or 2 female EH(S).
- **FEMALES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PITCH IN CO ED LEAGUES.**
- **Hog Rule** - If a ball is hit to a female fielder, a male cannot intentionally cut her off to get the ball. This will be up to the umpire's discretion to rule an out. The only exception is a play at the plate, hog rule does not apply for home plate coverage.
- **Five-Person Infield** - Is illegal in coed softball. All outfielders must take a position in the outfield grass.
- **No Intentional Walks** to men are allowed. If a man draws a walk, the male is awarded second base and the next female has the option to bat or take first base automatically.
- **Courtesy Runners** - Will be used for same sex only and must be the last out (male for male/ female for female). If the courtesy runner is still on base when their turn comes up in the batting order, that spot in the batting order is recorded as an out and play continues. If it is the third out, the inning is over. Each team will be allowed 1 courtesy runner per inning.

ALTERED BATS:

- Altering a bat is illegal and any player found altering a bat will be suspended from all Macomb Township Park & Recreation programs. USSSA umpires are authorized in their discretion to remove any bat from play which shows wear such as worn off or cracked graphics, damaged barrels, handles tapers, plugs, caps or knobs. The USSSA Umpire may remove the offending bat from the game and return it at the end of play or ask the player to put the bat away and not use it in play at Macomb Corners Park.

UNIFORM POLICY:

- **Team Uniforms** - Are optional however, all players must wear appropriate shoes, pants, shorts and shirts. **Crop tops, halter tops, bare midriffs and extremely short shorts** will not be allowed as part of a uniform. Players not conforming to this rule will not be allowed to play.

IMPORTANT NOTE: ALCOHOL IS PROHIBITED IN MACOMB TOWNSHIP PUBLIC PARKS !!

Questions about rules may be directed to Chris Stepp by calling 586-992-2900 or by email at steppc@macomb-mi.gov