

MIDLAND UNITED GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION, INC.
2021 LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

T-BALL

The following are the Midland United Girls Softball Association 2021 Recreation League Playing Rules which were adopted by the Board of Directors. All League play will be governed by the 2020 USA Softball Rules, except as noted herein.

A. THE GAME

1. BASES: Same as Division 10U
2. AN INNING: The side will be retired **after 8 batters** or three out are made by the offensive team.
3. REGULATION GAME: A regulation game will be five full innings or 1 hour, whichever comes first. Because win/loss records are not kept for the regular season, no cumulative score will be recorded during the game.
4. Conferences: Each team will be allowed 1 per inning, unless to care for an injured player.
5. PROTESTS: No protests are allowed in T-Ball.

B. GAME MANAGEMENT

1. All players, when not on the playing field, shall remain in the dugout or outside the fence on the outfield side of the dugout during the game. Exceptions shall be made by the team manager or coaches only.
2. Home team will occupy the third base dugout.
3. All players and teams must warm-up only in designated warm-up areas.

C. PLAY

1. DEFENSIVE PLAY:
 - a) Allow a maximum of 10 players on the field – the 10th player is the rover and can play infield or outfield except as pitcher or catcher.
 - b) A defensive player may not intentionally roll the ball to a base unless this would, in the judgment of the umpire, constitute a normal play. The ball cannot be intentionally rolled or run to the pitcher. If, in the umpire's judgment, a ball is intentionally rolled to a base, the base runner will be safe. If the ball is intentionally rolled to the pitcher, the base runners will be given an extra base.
 - c) A player will not be allowed to run down the batter/runner or base runner or run the ball to a base unless this would, in the judgment of the umpire, constitute a normal play. If not a normal play, the runner shall be declared safe.
 - d) Each player present for the game must be given a position on the field, with substitutions made every inning. No player may sit out more than one inning per game until each player present has set out. A player will not "sit out" more than one inning consecutively. Substitutes are to be marked on the batting roster form. A single player cannot play a position more than one (1) inning per game. **Each player must play the infield at least one inning per game.**
 - e) A player, with the exception of the pitcher, may be moved from position to position during an inning without causing delay to the game. If the pitcher is removed from the circle during an inning, she cannot play the pitcher position again.
 - f) All defensive players must play their position from behind the base lines and outfielders must be on the outfield grass until the ball is hit.

- g) If a fielder intentionally hinders or obstructs a base runner causing an out, the play is dead and runners advance to the base they were going to.

2. PITCHERS:

- a) The pitcher must stay in contact with the pitching rubber until the ball is hit.
- b) The pitching circle will be the same as Division 10U. When the ball has been thrown back to the pitcher and the pitcher has control of the ball with both feet inside the circle, the play is stopped by the umpire.
- c) If the pitcher runs through the pitcher's circle with control of the ball after the initial play on the ball, the play will be stopped by the umpire.
- d) The pitcher will not be allowed to run down the batter or base runner to any base except home. The pitcher must throw the ball to the base or the runner will be called safe.
EXCEPTION: If, in the judgment of the umpire, a tag would be the normal play on a base runner, the pitcher would not have to throw the ball.

3. CATCHERS:

- a) All catchers must wear their catcher's mask at all time during the defensive inning.
- b) All catchers must position themselves at least six feet directly behind home plate for the pitch.

4. COACHES ON THE FIELD

- a) The defensive team may have the head coach, assistant coach, or manager (ONLY ONE) on the field roaming in the outfield grass.
- b) The offensive team may have the head coach, assistant coach, or manager (maximum two) present in the coaching boxes at first and third bases.
- c) The offensive team will also have a coach positioned by home plate to move the tee after a hit ball.

5. BATTING:

- a) The ball will not be pitched but shall be hit off a tee. The tee will be placed on home plate. It will be the responsibility of the offensive coach to remove the tee from the home plate area should a play involve a player scoring from third base.
- a) The batting lineup shall list each roster player present. Late arrivals should be added to the bottom of the lineup. The batting order will be determined by the coach prior to the game and cannot be adjusted.
- b) If a player is removed by sickness, injury, or disqualification, all batters will "move up" and remain in their respective batting order. No substitution will take place for a removed player in the batting order. The removed player cannot return to that game.
- c) No outs shall be taken for the removed player. All count on her is removed and the next batter will bat.
- d) Double ear flap NOCSAE approved batting helmets with a securely fastened NOCSAE approved facemask/guard must be worn by any youth participant on the field.
- e) Only the batter, base runners, and on-deck player can be on the playing field.
- f) Foul balls are treated the same as conventional softball. In addition, a ball that travels less than 15 feet in fair territory from home plate is called a foul (an arc 15 feet from home plate will be drawn, from the first base line to the third base line, designating a foul). If the ball comes to rest on any part of this line, it is a fair ball.

- g) There will be no strike outs. A player will continue to bat until she hits a fair ball
- h) The batter will not be allowed to bunt and may not take a half swing or swing bunt. If, in the judgment of the umpire, the batter does not take a full swing, the coach may be warned with runners returning to their previous bases. If the batter persists in bunting, she will be called out.
- i) If the batter positions herself outside the batter's box, it will be the responsibility of the offensive coach to reposition the batter in the box. The offensive coach cannot physically position the batter in the batter's box.
- j) If a player throws the bat during the game, the first offense shall result in a team warning. Each offense for that team thereafter shall result in the player being called out.
- k) The infield fly rule does not apply in T-Ball.

6. BASE RUNNERS:

- a) Runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit. Once a runner is detected as being not in contact with the base, she will be called out.
- b) When the ball is thrown back to the pitcher and the pitcher has control of the ball with both feet inside the circle, the play is stopped by the umpire. At this time runner will go to the nearest base (the base paths are marked designating a halfway point).
- c) The runner is also out by running out of the path to avoid a tag.
- d) There will be no stealing or sliding.
- e) If a base runner intentionally tries to run forcefully through a fielder, the base runner is out, regardless if the fielder is in possession of the ball or not.
- f) An errant throw is one in which one fielder throws the ball past the intended receiving fielder. **Base runners are not allowed to advance on errant throws.**

Revised 9/2/20