

Malden Modified Softball League Rules (2026)

(Excludes Windmill, Slingshot, and other Fast Pitch motions)

Highlight = New Rule Added before 2026 Season

2026 Softball Teams:

- Angels, Bombers, PALS, Criollos, Piratas, Dirtbags, Sachems, Space Cowboys

Minimum League Age:

- Players MUST BE High School Age or Older (includes both genders)

Game Times:

- Mondays and Tuesdays:
 - First game begins at 6:30pm (Automatic Forfeit Time is 6:45pm)
 - No inning can start after 8:05pm
 - Second game begins at 8:15pm (Automatic Forfeit Time is 8:30pm)
 - No inning can start after 10:10pm
 - 15-minute Grace Period for each game

League Bases, Bats & Softballs:

- League will provide all bases, bats & softballs in the job box for every team to use with the league logo attached to the balls.

Game Rules:

- All teams are allowed to field 10 players total
- You can bat as many Extra Hitters (EH) as you want
- If you have a player who is being hit for, this must be communicated to the League Scorekeeper before the game starts. This can not be done after the game starts. Inside of Gamechanger App, it recognizes the person who is being hit for as the Flex position. The person who hits is called the Designated Player (DP), not a DH.
- Home team will take the first base dugout
- Home team is responsible for putting the bats & bases away, as well as locking the job box
- Every player on every team is required to have jersey numbers (no duplicate numbers)
- During the regular season, no players from other teams in the league will be allowed to fill-in
- If late to a game, players are allowed to be added to the end of teams batting order upon arrival. Players can not be added after the team has batted once around. However, they can be used as a substitute instead.
 - When this takes place, umpire, league scorekeeper and opposing managers are required to be notified
- If a player in the batting lineup leaves while a game is still being played for a reason (without replacement) then that spot in the batting order is an OUT.

- No bunting is allowed
 - An attempt to bunt will result as an Automatic Strike
 - A successful bunt (defined as bunting a pitched softball in fair play or foul territory) will result in an Out
- A hit batter is awarded first base (HBP)
- Pitcher must have two feet on the rubber

Ground Rules:

- Butland Field:
 - Any fair ball that is hit into the soccer nets in Right Field (RF) will ruled a Ground-Rule Double
 - Any fair ball that bounces onto the concrete in between the power box and soccer nets will be ruled a Ground-Rule Triple.
 - Any fair ball that bounces onto the concrete to the left side of the power box will be ruled a homerun
 - If a ball hits the power box, it will be ruled a Ground-Rule Triple.
 - If a ball hits any object on the concrete in Right Field and bounces back into the field of play, it will be ruled a Ground-Rule Triple
 - If the ball stays on the grass to either side of the power box, the ball is playable.
 - Any fair ball that is hit onto the concrete in Center Field (CF) or Right Field (RF) in the air will ruled a Home Run (HR)
 - Any fair ball that travels into the soccer nets in Left Field (LF) will be ruled a Home Run (HR)
- Ippolito Field:
 - Any ball that travels into the soccer nets in Left Field (LF) or any unplayable area will be ruled a Home Run (HR)
- Both Fields:
 - Both fields have trees in foul territory, therefore any ball that hits a tree on the fly will be ruled a foul ball
 - If a ball is thrown by a fielder and hits a tree, it is a dead ball and all runners will be awarded one base from the time of throw.
 - No music is allowed during the playing of the games. In between innings and walk up music is allowed.
 - If lights go out during a game in the regular season, refer to complete game definition
 - If lights go out during a game in the playoffs or the play in games, refer to complete game definition

Base Runners:

- A runner cannot advance a base on a wild pitch or passed ball
- Stealing bases is illegal

- Runner may be forced out at any base if unable to return before throw arrives

Courtesy Runners:

- Once a runner reaches base, the LAST OUT can run for that player
 - If the last out can not run for the player who reaches base, it will continue to go backwards to the previous outs.
- Courtesy Runners should be discussed with both managers and umpire(s) prior to start of a game
- If a batter/runner advances past first base, if both teams agree courtesy runner will be allowed. Shall be discussed in ground rules.

Umpire Information:

- Umpire(s) and Manager(s) must go over and agree to, ground rules before game including “courtesy runner” expectations
- Umpire cost will \$30.00 per team per game
- Umpire cost will be \$60.00 per team per game if two umpires are provided
- Scorekeeper cost is \$20.00 per team per game
- 2 Umpires will be provided for the Semis and the Finals
- FAILURE TO PAY UMPIRE WILL RESULT IN A FORFEIT

Forfeits:

- Team MUST field nine (9) players to avoid a forfeit
- If your team forfeits, the opposing team will get credit for a game played for everyone on their roster

Managers:

- Deposit of \$200 is due at the time of the annual Managers Meeting
- Balance of team fee (\$150) is due before the first pitch of your first game
 - If balance is not paid by your first game, the game will not be played and it will be a forfeit for your team
- Paper Scorebooks are required to be submitted to the Commissioner at the conclusion of the regular season
- All new teams must submit a roster for approval from the league
- Managers MUST SUBMIT Team Rosters to the Commissioner no later than the start of the Regular Season
 - Team Rosters CANNOT exceed 25 players
- Managers MUST SUBMIT Final Rosters to the Commissioner no later than July 4th
 - No Team will be able to add players after July 4th

If there is ever a conflict about field location, home /away team, or game time, always refer to the website, as opposed to Gamechanger.

Rain:

In case of rain, the league will make a decision no later than 5:00pm for a 6:30 game. Group text with only Managers and the League will be the preferred method of communication for this. All managers will have access to a shed that is close to the field if anyone can help work on the field. All work on the field must be communicated to the league and approved by the league. In the event of a rainout, the League will reserve all Thursday's for rain outs.

If a game is rained out, the league will notify in this order:

1. Managers Text
2. Umpires
3. League Facebook page
4. League Website (maldensoftball.com)
5. Gamechanger App

League website and Gamechanger will be done when it is time to reschedule the game.

GameChanger Player Profile:

- Every player in the league is required to be entered into GameChanger with providing a headshot, full name, and jersey number.
- Only Team Managers can add a player to their roster on Gamechanger. No scorekeeper is allowed to add players.

Complete Game Definition:

- Regular season
 - Generally, all regular season games must be complete 5 innings to be defined as a complete game
 - EXCEPTION: If the Home Team is winning after 4.5 innings, that team will be the Winner of that contest
 - If home team loses lead after a complete game has been determined, but does not get their last at bat and game ends due to: lights, weather, lightning, etc., the game will be considered complete, and result is final.
- Playoffs
 - If a playoff matchup completes 5 innings and the game is stopped due to weather conditions, the game will continue on another date.
 - If a game is stopped because of light failure/curfew, the game will continue on another date
 - If a playoff matchup DOES NOT complete 4.5 innings, the game MUST BE RESTARTED

Mercy Rule:

- A "Complete game" is defined as 5 innings played
- Mercy Rule applies when there is a 15-run lead after a "complete game"

- Mercy Rule is in effect for playoffs

Disciplinary Protocols:

- If player is ejected from a game, it will result in a 1-game suspension for that person.
- Anyone who has been suspended or banned from this league is not allowed to attend a game as a fan/player. If suspended/banned individual does not comply to this rule, this person will be considered trespassing and authorities will be contacted.
- No suspensions will be commuted or postponed
 - Player serving suspension may not sit on the bench with the team. Players may watch the game from stands or parking lot
 - If player who is serving suspension was due to physical altercation they may not be allowed on the premises at all.
 - If the player serving the suspension causes a disturbance at the park police will be notified and player will be trespassed.
 - Suspensions will be treated as not playing a game in relation to playoff eligibility
- If Unsportsmanlike Conduct, Altercations, Fights, or Unnecessarily Rough Play occurs on the Linden-STEAM Academy it will be brought to a Disciplinary Committee to be evaluated by the offended teams Manager.
 - Committee for even years: St Peter's Angels, Dirtbags, Space Cowboys, Sachems
 - Committee for odd years: PCals Pals, Malden Bombers, Criollos, Los Piratas

2026 Playoff Format/Eligibility:

- To qualify for the playoffs, a player must have played in 50% of the Regular Season games and be on the team roster (9 Games)
- Free agents who join a team in the Malden Modified Softball League after the season starts are required to play 6 games to be playoff eligible for the playoffs. They can only be from the League's Free Agent list to be eligible for this rule.
- If a team forfeits a game, the opposing team will get 1 game played for every person on the roster. The team that forfeits will lose all playoff eligibility for that game.
- An appearance counts for any pitch, at bat, or pinch runner. The player needs to play in the game.
- 1-seed and 2-seed will receive a first-round bye
- Playoff teams who advance will be re-seeded each round
- 1-game playoff:
 - 5-seed vs 8-seed
 - 6-seed vs 7-seed
- Round 1 (Quarter-Finals – Best of 3 Series):
 - 3-seed vs Lowest remaining seed
 - 4-seed vs Highest remaining seed

- Round 2 (Semi-Finals – Best of 3 Series)
 - 1-seed vs Lowest remaining seed
 - 2-seed vs Highest remaining seed
- Championship (Best of 5 Series)
 - Team with the Highest seeding will receive home-field advantage

Champions/Trophies:

- Ken MacCuish – Regular Season Commissioners Trophy (Best Regular Season Record)
- Al Locke Championship Trophy

Additional Rules:

- No more than 3 players from the same team from the previous season, may join a roster of another established team. If a new team is created with players from an established team, and the number of players is more than 3, the team manager losing players must agree before league allows more than 3 players to join the new team.
 - If a team disbands and more than 3 players want to play on an established team from previous season, the commissioner will decide how to move forward to maintain growth and integrity of the league.
- If a player does not pay the manager for the season. He may not play for another team in the league, until that debt is paid.

NOTE: ASA Rule:

- Umpire is required to call an **ILLEGAL PITCH** when appropriate and warn the offending Pitcher and Manager that two (2) additional ILLEGAL PITCHES will disqualify that player from the PITCHING POSITION.