



**Metro Omaha Softball LLC
2010 Girls' Fast Pitch
League Rules
& General Information**



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General Information

Field Conditions/Rainout Information

Field conditions/rainout information will be available after 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. For Sunday league play in particular, information will be available after 12 noon for leagues starting in the afternoon. For leagues starting at 5 and 6 p.m. on Sunday, information will be updated after 3 p.m.

Field Conditions *RAINOUT NUMBER FOR 2010 – 991-4026*

The Metro Omaha Softball office will remain open until about 7 p.m. Monday-Friday throughout the season to address emergencies or problems with league play scheduled for the evening.

Emergency Number 7-10 p.m. 740-7183

The weather is the single most unpredictable factor affecting any softball season. Metro Omaha Softball umpires will use following criteria for canceling games in progress as taken from Appendix D of the NCAA rule book and as recommended by the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL):

"Thunder always accompanies lightning, even though its audible range can be diminished because of background noise ... The current recommendation of the NSSL is to consider terminating play when the lightning is six miles away ("flash-to-bang" time of 30 seconds or less). This ... was developed as a practical way to make a judgment in situations where other resources ... are not available."

Refund Policy

After Metro Omaha Softball has filled your league, no refunds will be given unless another team takes your spot in the league. After the season begins, NO refunds will be given.

General Rules for Metro Omaha Softball League Play

All Metro Omaha Softball girls' fast pitch leagues will follow the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) code with the exceptions and clarifications that follow.

Softballs

♦ Youth fast pitch

- 10U – ANY 11-inch .44 or .47 COR SOFTBALL optic yellow/red stitching.
- 12U-14U-All High School Divisions – ANY 12-inch .44 or .47 COR SOFTBALL optic yellow/red stitching.

SPECIAL NOTE – GAME OFFICIALS MUST BE ABLE TO READ THE "CORE" AND COMPRESSION DESIGNATION ON THE BALL OR IT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO BE PUT INTO PLAY.

Equipment

- ♦ Teams are responsible for providing all of their own equipment.
- ♦ Bases are provided at all complexes. At all non-complex fields, ALL teams should be prepared to provide their own bases.

Intentional Walk

- ♦ In all girls' fast pitch leagues – ***The batter MUST BE PITCHED TO.***

Protests

Protests can be filed on any umpires' rule interpretation, but not a judgment call. Before the next pitch—legal or illegal—the umpire must be notified that you are going to continue to play the game under protest. The umpire will gather the teams together and announce that a protest is being lodged. Both scorebooks must reflect the same score and, if necessary, the ball/strike, outs count and positions of the runners. The umpire will initial both books. Your protest—along with a \$30 filing fee—must be turned in at the MOS office, in writing, within 48 hours of the game. Your filing fee will be returned if the protest is upheld by the MOS Protest Committee.

Games in Progress Called due to Inclement Weather

Any game that is called due to threatening weather and/or rain will be considered a complete game if:

- a) 4 complete innings were played, or
- b) 3 1/2 complete innings were played and the home team is ahead. If the game does not meet these two conditions, MOS will attempt to re-schedule the game from the point that the game was suspended. In this case, teams **MUST** record the number of outs remaining, pitch count and identify the batter so the game can continue correctly.
- c) If a game is called in the top of inning 6 or 7, then the score will revert back to the last complete inning played for the purpose of determining a win/loss.

Rainout Dates

Due to the short "window" of opportunity to play games in the girls' fast pitch leagues—primarily due to the need to be completed by the time post-season tournaments begin—the ability to make up rained-out games is limited. However, EVERY attempt will be made to schedule rained-out games prior to July 1 IF field space is available. To do so may require that teams play an additional night during the week. A major determining factor will be whether a particular game (or games) will have an impact on the league championship.

Lineups and Keeping Score

In all leagues, teams should exchange lineups at the start of the game. Lineups should also be given to the umpires. However, umpires will only become involved in lineup issues IF a batting-out-of-order situation occurs.

The home team scorebook will be the official scorebook. Umpires will become involved in score-of-the-game issues only if there is a conflict between the scorebooks of both teams. At such time, the umpire will confer with both managers and resolve the situation before the game will continue (the clock will NOT be stopped during the discussion). If the issue cannot be resolved, then the score in the home team scorebook will be the official score. **Teams should periodically check the score with each other to avoid the potential of conflicting score information.**

Banned Bats

All bats in Metro Omaha Softball League Play must meet ASA Code. For 2010, MOS will follow the ASA "banned bat" list as published on the ASA website, softball.org.

Player Eligibility

If a team has a reason to question the eligibility of a player, an inquiry must be filed in writing to the Metro Omaha Softball office. The inquiry and any other resulting activity will be handled by a panel consisting of designated members of the Metro Omaha Softball Advisory Committee, which—at its discretion—may call the player and coach of the team in question to attend a special hearing.

In such cases, umpires WILL NOT become involved in handling any dispute. This is strictly an administrative matter. Umpires will instruct teams to contact the Metro Omaha Softball office.

Umpire Pay on Games Called Due to Rain /Other Threatening Weather/Darkness

If three (3) complete innings OR one-half the time limit are completed, the umpire is entitled to keep the game fees. If the umpire works less than three (3) complete innings OR less than one-half of the time limit, the game fees will be returned. In this situation, IF both teams involved agree to re-schedule the game, umpires will be paid a full game fee.

Forfeited games

- ◆ **Monday-Thursday Games Starting at 6 p.m.** – If a team does not have the required number of players to start the game under the short-handed rule, the umpires will start the game clock at the proper time and allow 10 minutes to elapse before calling the game a forfeit. If a player arrives during the 10-minute "waiting period," then the clock will continue to run and the game will start from that point. For all other starting times ... game time IS forfeit time. For any forfeited games, umpire fees will be deducted from the forfeit fees paid at registration. Umpires will NOT work a game if the teams involved in a forfeit still wish to play a "practice game."
- ◆ *Due to the ongoing, large number of forfeited games in past seasons, IF a team forfeits a game, that team MUST pay ANOTHER forfeit fee to the MOS office before it will be allowed to play its next game.*
- ◆ *However, the MOS office is notified 48 hours in advance that a team cannot play its scheduled game—and the opposing team and umpires can be notified—then a forfeit fee will not be charged.*

Unable to Play Scheduled Game

- ◆ If your team is unable to play its scheduled game, the Metro Omaha Softball Office must be notified 48 hours in advance. DO NOT CONTACT THE MANAGER/COACH OF THE OPPOSING TEAM. Failure to do so will result in loss of forfeit fee UNLESS a team is faced with exceptional circumstances beyond its control.
- ◆ *If a team calls the MOS office THE SAME DAY of the scheduled game and reports it cannot play its scheduled game, the team will automatically lose its forfeit fee.*

Eligibility for League Awards

- ◆ TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR LEAGUE AWARDS, TEAMS MUST HAVE PLAYED 66% OF THE COMPLETE GIRLS' LEAGUE SCHEDULE. Since 20 games are scheduled for all girls' fast pitch leagues, a team must play a minimum of 13 games to be eligible for league awards.

Reporting Scores/League Standings

Team coaches have received league SCORE SHEETS. Whether your team wins or loses, coaches or a designated team representative should record the score of their game and send the SCORE SHEET by FAX to the Metro Omaha Softball office on a weekly basis.

Metro Omaha Softball FAX line – 551-2522

Submit score by e-mail – Go to our website, metroomahasoftball.com. Find "scoreline," complete the information and submit your score.

Special League Playing Rules

- ◆ 10U Leagues ONLY – A ½ inning of play will consist of three (3) outs or 10 batters that complete a turn at bat, whichever comes first. At the end of play for the 10th batter or three (3) outs, the umpire will declare the 1/2 inning over.

Special Option to Allow ALL Players in the Batting Order

- ◆ **ALL LEAGUES** – Teams will have the **OPTION to place ALL of its PLAYERS in the batting order.** AS AN EXAMPLE, IF A TEAM HAS 12 PLAYERS AT THE GAME, IT CAN CHOOSE TO BAT ALL 12 PLAYERS. If a team elects to bat only 10, the two remaining players are listed as substitutes on the lineup cards. Any nine (9) of the players listed **in the batting lineup** can play a defensive position at any time.
- ◆ **Courtesy runner for pitcher and catcher – If a team chooses the option to bat ALL of its players, then the courtesy runner shall be the LAST RECORDED OUT from the previous inning.**
- ◆ **BASERUNNING RULE IF ALL PLAYERS ARE INCLUDED IN THE BATTING ORDER** – If a player who has completed a turn at bat and advanced safely to a base is unable to complete her base running obligation, THEN the “next previous” batter who is not on base will be used as a runner. For example: If the No. 7 hitter is injured, then the No. 6 batter is the runner. If the No. 6 batter is on base, then the No. 5 batter is the runner ... and so on.
- ◆ If all players are included in the batting lineup, then the lineup must remain the same for the entire game.
- ◆ If a player starts in the batting order, she must finish the game. If that player is injured or becomes ill and is unable to continue, an automatic out WILL be called when it is her time at bat. The next batter is the player who is listed after the player who cannot continue.
- ◆ The ASA “flex player” rule may be used. However, teams batting 10 players or more cannot use this rule.
- ◆ If ALL players are included in the batting order AND a team is faced with a situation where several players cannot continue due to injury, an out WILL be called for each player who cannot complete a turn at bat. However, No team will be allowed to continue with less than eight (8) players.

Special Rules Regarding Age Group Participation

- ◆ The players’ age on Jan. 1, 2010 is also the age group she is eligible to participate in during the 2010 season.
- ◆ Teams will be allowed to move up only ONE AGE GROUP in league competition.
- ◆ A player may only be listed on the roster of one (1) team.
- ◆ Players will only be allowed to substitute for another team in the same age group AND division of play (Ex: a 12 Division I player cannot play for a 12U Division II team and so on). **Exception: a player may “play up” one age group/division but not “down.”**
- ◆ If a player wishes to switch teams within the same league, Metro Omaha Softball must be notified and the player MUST first obtain a written release from their current manager.
- ◆ Any player requesting a release should be granted one unless extenuating circumstances are involved. In that case, the manager should submit a written explanation to the Metro Omaha Softball Advisory Committee why the release is not being granted.
- ◆ ***June 1, 2010, 5 p.m. is the deadline for adding ANY new players to team rosters for league play.***

Time Limits and Other Considerations

- ◆ 75 Minutes “DROP DEAD” in ALL AGE GROUPS. The result of the game is the score when the time expires.
- ◆ *There will be NO TIE BREAKER in youth league play in 2010.*
- ◆ **ALL TEAMS MUST BE PREPARED TO START GAMES 10 MINUTES PRIOR TO THEIR SCHEDULED STARTING TIME !!! THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT PRIOR TO JUNE 1 WHEN PLAYERS ARE STILL IN SCHOOL !!**

Umpire Fees

10U-12U-All High School Divisions – Two Umpires – \$27 per team
18U Gold or “Elite” Division – Two Umpires - \$30 per team

One Umpire – \$18 per team
One Umpire – \$20 per team

Runs-Ahead Rule

- ◆ 12 runs after the 3rd inning
- ◆ 10 runs after the 4th inning
- ◆ 7 runs after the 5th inning

Uniform Requirements

Follow ASA Code for players and coaches. Exception: Coaches may wear denim jeans.

◆ **NEW IN 2010: PLAYERS IN THE HIGH SCHOOL DIVISIONS MAY WEAR METAL CLEATS.**

Short-handed Player Rule for ALL Girls' Fast Pitch Leagues

- ◆ Teams MUST have eight (8) players to start a game. It does not matter if your team is the home team or visiting team. If through injury or ejection a team drops to 7 players, then the game is ended. If a team forfeits a game, the umpire will turn in the score as a 7-0 win for the opposing team. The forfeit fee that the team paid earlier will be used to pay the umpire(s) for that game.
- ◆ A team may add a player to bring their team to full strength **ANY** time during the game. **THAT PLAYER MAY ENTER THE GAME AT ANY TIME AND WILL BE LISTED LAST IN THE BATTING ORDER.**
- ◆ The game will not be delayed to wait for a player to arrive from the parking lot or while the player is on the bench preparing to play.

FIELD NAMES AND LOCATIONS

Major Complexes

- ◆ Dill Softball Complex (4 fields) - 69th & Military Avenue
- ◆ Dodge Park Softball Complex (4 fields) - 11001 John Pershing Drive (north of the Mormon Bridge)
- ◆ Kelley Complex (8 fields) - 124th & Fort Streets
- ◆ Seymour Smith Softball Complex (4 fields) - 69th & Harrison Streets

Other Key Fields

- ◆ Churchich Park - 50th & "C" Streets
- ◆ Hitchcock Park (East & West) - 44th & "O" Streets
- ◆ Elmwood Park (East & West) - 66th & Pacific Streets in Elmwood Park

Other Additional Youth Fields/Complexes

- ◆ Hillside Complex - 80th & Western Avenue (north side - Hillside Little League)
- ◆ Westchester Park Complex – 4875 Marshall Drive (139th & "O" St.) – Millard Athletic Association Complex
- ◆ Bellevue Lied Center Complex – 2700 Arboretum Drive, Bellevue. One-half mile east of the Highway 75-South and Highway 370 interchange. Turn left after exiting 75-South. At the first stoplights past the Highway 75 overpass. Turn left and then make an immediate right turn on to Arboretum Drive. Follow Arboretum Drive to the Lied Activity Center and park in the parking lot east of the fields.
- ◆ College of Saint Mary – Located at the southeast corner of the College of Saint Mary Campus, 7000 Mercy Road. Enter campus from the Mercy Road entrance and turn right into the parking lot. The field(s) are adjacent to the Keystone Trail.



Metro Omaha Softball

Disciplinary Code

Youth Leagues

Metro Omaha Softball will follow a general "three strikes and you're out" rule in ALL youth leagues. Remember, team managers/coaches are responsible for the actions of their players, parents and fans before, during and after games.

- ◆ A **PLAYER** or **COACH** who is ejected in the first game of a doubleheader league will NOT be allowed to play/coach the second game.
- ◆ A **PLAYER** or **COACH** who is ejected in the **second game** of a doubleheader league will NOT be allowed to play/coach the next regularly scheduled league game.
- ◆ A **PLAYER** or **COACH** who is ejected in the single game leagues (10U-12U-14U) will not be allowed to play/coach the next scheduled league game.
- ◆ A **PLAYER** or **COACH** who is ejected for the second time in a season will be suspended for the next two **consecutive** league games.
- ◆ A **PLAYER** or **COACH** who is ejected for the third time in a season will be suspended for the season.
- ◆ If the **PARENT** of a player is ejected in the first game of a doubleheader league then **their child** will NOT be allowed to play the second game.
- ◆ If a **PARENT** of a player is ejected for the second time in a season, then **their child** will be suspended for the next two **consecutive** league games.
- ◆ If a **PARENT** is ejected for the third time in a season, then **their child** will be suspended for the season.

FIGHTING – At a minimum, players/coaches involved will be suspended for one year from the date of the incident. "Fighting" shall be defined as any altercation in which ANY TYPE of physical contact occurs.

EXCESSIVE VERBAL ABUSE/THREAT TO AN UMPIRE – minimum three (3) game suspensions.

ANY PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH AN UMPIRE – minimum one year suspension from the date of the incident.

CAUSE AN INJURY TO A GAME OFFICIAL OR ANOTHER PLAYER – Lifetime suspension.

- ◆ *It is the responsibility of the team coach/manager to insure that the suspension(s) are appropriately served. Failure to do so will result in one additional game being added to the suspension until the disciplinary action is satisfactorily served. Failure to comply will result in additional disciplinary action being taken against the coach and team involved.*
- ◆ *If a player/coach/parent wishes to have any suspension action repealed, then an appeal must be submitted in writing within 48 hours of the incident that led to the suspension. The Metro Omaha Softball Advisory Board will then review the appeal, uphold or reverse the disciplinary action or recommend another appropriate course of action.*
- ◆ **Special note for all youth league games: If the parent ejected in a youth game is also the COACH of the youth team, he/she will be considered the coach and not a parent for purposes of the administration of the MOS discipline code.**
- ◆ **Note: The Metro Omaha Softball Advisory Committee maintains the right to issue disciplinary action on a case-by-case basis.**



Metro Omaha Softball LLC

Other Special Considerations for 2010

Profanity and Sportsmanship

In 2010, Metro Omaha Softball—in all adult and youth league and tournament play—will continue to enforce the Nebraska Softball Association (ASA-Hastings) Procedural Code(s) with respect to “Casual Profanity” and “Sportsmanship.” The NSA Code states:

11.07 Casual Profanity Rule – The umpire has the authority to assess **ONE OUT** against the offending team for the use of **CASUAL PROFANITY** which shall be defined as expletives (Vulgar or Profane Language) not directed at umpires or opposing players, uttered by a player, manager/coach, on the field or individual within the dugout involved with the play of the team, frustrated with themselves, or a teammate or fan. All outs will be assessed to the offending team during their term to bat. Only ONE “Casual Profanity” out may be assessed per play with a maximum of two (2) per term at bat. Incidents of vulgar or profane language exceeding these limits will subject the individuals responsible to ejection from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct. A player ejected from the game for exceeding these limits will have a casual profanity out charged to the team. The casual Profanity penalty “out” will be assessed as a team and will not affect any batter or base runner. For scoring purposes the put out will be credited to the catcher. **ANY PROFANITY OUT(S) ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF AN INNING—TO EITHER THE OFFENSIVE OR DEFENSIVE TEAM—WILL CARRY OVER INTO THE NEXT INNING THAT EITHER TEAM IS BATTING.**

11.08 Sportsmanship Rule- The umpire has the authority to assess **ONE OUT** against the offending team for the excessive protest, arguments, complaints or behavior not appropriate in a recreation sports setting, throwing bat, glove, gestures, whining etc. Such conduct exhibited by a player, coach, or team representative will be penalized. All outs will be assessed against the offending team during their term at bat. Only **ONE** “unsportsmanlike” out may be assessed per play with a maximum of two (2) per term at bat. Incidents of continued or excessive unsportsmanlike conduct will subject the individual(s) responsible to be ejected from the game. A player/coach /team representative ejected from the game will not have a un-sportsmanship out called against them. The un-sportsmanship “out” will be assessed as a team and will not affect any batter or base-runner. For scoring purpose the out will be credited to the catcher. **ANY PROFANITY OUT(S) ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF AN INNING—TO EITHER THE OFFENSIVE OR DEFENSIVE TEAM—WILL CARRY OVER INTO THE NEXT INNING THAT EITHER TEAM IS BATTING.**

Other 2010 Softball Notes

- A number of national governing organizations involved in the Omaha area put together tournaments and special competitions. The cost varies for each organization. Team registration provides your team with a variety of benefits, such as the ability to participate in any and all tournaments sanctioned by each organization throughout the country and access to discounted team insurance rates.
- ***WILSON is the official softball of Metro Omaha Softball. WILSON softballs are available for purchase at the Metro Omaha Softball Office.***