

**THIS IS A NON-COMPETITIVE, INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION: NO STANDINGS WILL BE KEPT**

*Parents may request in writing on the application for a player to move up to a higher level of play, if a player has the ability to do so.*

**MGSL reserves the right to change any divisions, playing fields, schedule times, or days of play in accordance with registrations received.**

**GENERAL RULES**

1. Unless specifically changed by the following rules, USSSA SLOW PITCH 2018 rules will prevail.
2. The distance between the bases shall be 50 feet.
3. The distance between the home plate and pitcher's plate (the "T-Stand") shall be 32 feet. There will be a circle of fifteen (15) feet in diameter around the pitcher's plate.
4. The game ball shall be an official USSSA 10 inch softball.
5. Maximum of 8 teams in the T-Ball Division. Games will be played on Tuesday and Thursday at Mentor High School Fields #5, #6, #9, and any other fields deemed necessary.
6. The team roster will be a maximum of 14 players per team.
7. There shall be a 12 game schedule played in the T-Ball Division. The T-Ball Division does NOT have Official Umpires. Umpire duties will be controlled by the Managers during League Season games.
8. **GAME TIME:** Game times shall be 6:00 P.M. & 7:15 P.M. Three (3) innings shall constitute a game. No new inning shall start 1 hour and 10 minutes after the start of the game. The Team Manager will use his judgment in calling the game due to darkness or weather when at the field.
9. **OFFICIAL GAME:** An official game shall be three (3) complete innings. This is a non-competitive division and all games will have a tied score. If the game needs to be rescheduled after it has started, it will be according to the rescheduling procedures. Regular Season games will start from scratch when rescheduled.
10. **WARM-UPS:** For the first game, the team listed first on the schedule sheet (Home Team) will have warm-up time from 5:30 to 5:45 P.M. The second team listed (Visitor) will have warm-up time from 5:45-6:00 P.M. Teams for the second game will warm up on the side lines and be ready to play promptly at game time. There will be no leeway time called for the second game. If field time is available before the second game, it will be shared equally by both teams.
11. There shall be a minimum of 8 players by game time in order to play. If less than eight players of one team are present at game time, the Managers will agree to **BORROW PLAYERS FROM THE OPPOSING TEAM SO THE TEAMS CAN PLAY.**

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12. The entire roster will play on the field. There is to be a maximum of six infielders, including the pitcher. These infielders will play in standard infield positions. The outfielders play just inside the grass line. Every player who is present at the game will bat in order and will play all innings unless injured.
13. **RAINOUTS:** Managers and players shall report to the field for scheduled games prepared to play regardless of the weather, unless the game is postponed in advance. Please check the flashing "Announcements" on our website ([www.mentorgirlssoftball.org](http://www.mentorgirlssoftball.org)) for continuous updates or your Commissioner and/or Manager will contact you when he/she learns of a cancellation.
14. Once at the field, Managers of teams scheduled to play shall decide if games are to be played in adverse weather or field conditions before the start of a game.
15. **UNIFORMS:** All players will wear the team uniform which consists of team shirt, socks, and cap/visor. The uniform color for bottoms will be **WHITE** for all non-competitive divisions; T-Ball and Pigtail. All players will provide their own white shorts or white baseball pants. No numbers or names shall be placed on any League shirts. No one is allowed to change the shirt or sock colors, such as tie-dying, etc. All players should wear tennis shoes. Softball shoes with plastic/rubber cleats are legal. **ABSOLUTELY NO METAL CLEATS ALLOWED.**
16. **JEWELRY:** All exposed jewelry or items which include; rope jewelry, plastic jewelry, any type of earrings, etc. are not allowed to be worn during games (no tape over the jewelry). This is a safety rule and will be STRICTLY enforced by all Umpires/Managers. Plastic barrettes, bobby pins, and hair clips (all must be shorter than 2 inches), plus pro-wrap (not as a headband) may be worn to **control hair only.**
17. **INFIELD FLY RULE:** Infield Fly Rule is **NOT** in effect.
18. **SLIDING:** Sliding is **NOT** permitted. The runner will be called out.
19. **FOULS:** Unlimited fouls on the 3<sup>rd</sup> strike.
20. **HOME TEAM/VISITOR:** The HOME TEAM shall be the team listed first on the schedule sheet and shall occupy the first base side. The team listed second on the schedule sheet shall be the VISITOR and shall occupy the third base side. **Only players of the team playing, Managers, Coaches, and Scorekeepers shall be permitted to occupy these benches.**
21. **GAME BALLS:** The team listed first on the schedule (Home Team) will supply the game ball. Game balls should be picked up on Opening Day by each Team Manager while checking in at the Information Booth before team pictures. All game balls will be placed in the equipment box after each game. These game balls will be used for practice.
22. **PRACTICE BALLS:** Balls will be kept in the equipment box. Make sure they are placed back into the equipment box for all teams to use.
23. **EQUIPMENT:** The Home Team of the last game played has the responsibility of replacing all equipment into the equipment box. The first team to arrive at the field shall place the bases accordingly.

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24. **NEWS-HERALD SPORTS LINE REPORT:** The **HOME TEAM** Manager from each game played will call, fax, or email the games tied score plus 3 players' names and stats from each team into the News-Herald. If it is past 10:00 P.M., you should call, fax, or email the scores in the next day. See the pink Sports Line Report from the Red Binder for contact information.
25. **PROTEST:** There will be no protest of any kind. This is a non-competitive, instructional division.
26. **CATCHERS:** There are no catchers in T-Ball.
27. Any ball hit outside the 3 ft. circle in front of home plate will be a fair ball.
28. No fielder will be allowed to assume a position close to the home plate. Players may come in to the Hash Marks for a ball going into foul territory. Players' positions shall be rotated from infield to outfield each inning to the best of your ability. Every player needs a chance to learn all positions.
29. One base is automatically awarded on the overthrow. The runner gets the base to which they are going to. The runner does not advance, if a player reaches the next base, they stay there.
30. There will be extra bases allowed on overthrows to first and third base. Any ball thrown past the first or third baseman into foul territory will be a live ball, unless the ball goes outside the field of play and out of play, as determined by the MANAGER. If the ball goes out of the playing field, the runner gets one base plus the base the runner is going to. Overthrows at second base are not dead ball situations and base runners should be encouraged to advance.
31. There will be a limit of seven (7) runs scored per team per inning. This ends an inning.
32. There is no deliberate rolling of the ball to any base to create an out. If done, the runner is awarded the base to which they are running.
33. The batter must take a full swing at the ball.
34. The pitcher must be placed in the middle of the circle.
35. No lead off shall be taken at any base until the ball is hit off the T. Any runner leaving the base before the ball is hit will be given a warning. If the instance occurs again, the runner will be called out.
36. There will be NO "tagging" or "running down" of players during play. This is for safety!
37. Throwing the bat by a batter shall constitute a warning. The second time a player throws the bat, the player is automatically out. The ball is dead. THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.
38. No one is allowed to practice swing except inside the backstop by the "T-Stand". No player is to be given a bat until they approach the "T-Stand". Any bat outside of the equipment box should be placed inside the backstop and behind the "T-Stand", so as to not be easily available to players. This is a safety rule and must be followed.
39. **COACH'S BOX:** Only one coach at a time in each coaching box during play.

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40. **PARENTS:** Parents are allowed on the field, however, they must be behind the baseline when in the infield and in the outfield. It is a dead ball if the parent touches the ball.
41. **BATTING HELMETS:** Batting helmets will be worn by all batters and base runners.
42. **HITTING STICKS:** Non-competitive divisions (T-Ball and Pigtail) are NOT ALLOWED to use a hitting stick. Competitive divisions (Juniors, Seniors, Adult Co-Ed, and Fast Pitch) may use a hitting stick in PRACTICE ONLY. No hitting stick is allowed to be used at scheduled League games.
43. **CONTINUOUS BATTING:** All divisions have a continuous batting order. Your roster is your batting lineup. If a player is late to the game, she/he is placed at the end of the batting order. If a player must drop out of the game, it is NOT an out. She/He may return to the game but will be placed at the bottom of the batting order. The opposing team shall be notified of any change in the batting line-up immediately.
44. **SMOKING:** No smoking during any game by any Manager, Coach, Parent or any person working with the team.
45. **MANAGERS:** No Manager is allowed to add a player without the proper registration regulations! All Managers and Coaches will dress properly for all League games. **No sandals, cut-off shirts, sleeveless shirts, or tank tops will be permitted.** All Managers shall wear the League shirts provided by the League.
46. **SCOREBOOK:** The Home Team's scorebook will be used as the official scorebook and is responsible for recording the official start time. The decision of the official scorer is final.
47. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** Please exhibit appropriate behavior while representing Mentor Girls Softball. This includes, but not limited to: Any and all associations connected to Mentor Girls Softball League, during ALL League games, and ANYWHERE (in public, or any social media) while wearing M.G.S.L. uniforms (past or present).
  - Teams are to line up on field to "shake" hands appropriately at the end of every game.
  - Respect and speak civilly to an Umpire, even if they have made a mistake.
  - Please know your rules. Follow the above listed rules first, then USSSA rules. The Umpires will count on you to know our League rules.
  - During a problem, ONLY Managers, Umps, Jackie, Kim, Division Commissioner and Scorekeeper (if needed) may participate in a discussion. Anyone asked to leave who does not comply, will be SUSPENDED from the game along with the next two games.
  - Remember that this is a recreational league and the players are here to enjoy playing softball. All are playing to their best ability and all abilities are not equal.
  - Try to pay attention to any disturbances that spectators may be creating. Try to stop the behavior as soon as possible.
  - Utilize your Division Commissioner for questions, complaints, and any other subject matter pertaining to M.G.S. L.

Mentor Girls Softball League **APPRECIATES** the time and effort you put into your teams!

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### SCHEDULE

1. All games must be played as scheduled unless postponed for rain or wet grounds. **NO MANAGER HAS THE AUTHORITY TO CHANGE THE POSTED SCHEDULE.**
2. **MAKE-UP GAMES:** If a game is cancelled in advance(due to wet grounds or rain), the Team Manager will be contacted within 48 hours with information regarding the make-up game. If your game is cancelled during play and is not ruled as an "Official" game, please contact Tim McLaughlin @ (440) 477-5580. All make-up games will be scheduled according to the availability of playing fields. MGSL will reschedule the Umpires (if needed) for all make-up games.

### TROPHIES

Trophies **will be** provided by Mentor Girls Softball League for each player in the T-Ball Division. Each Manager is welcome to choose the manner in which the trophies are distributed at the end of the Season. Some teams have picnics and some meet at Dairy Queen or McDonald's. These are only suggestions, not requirements. The T-Ball Division does NOT have Official Umpires. The Umpire fees have been delegated for the purchase of year-end trophies for each T-Ball player.

### EQUIPMENT BOX

- The equipment box is to be locked during the game and all unused equipment is to be secured in the box.
- Bats will be furnished to non-competitive divisions; T-Ball and Pigtail. Competitive divisions; Juniors, Seniors, Adult Coed, and all Fast Pitch will supply their own USSA approved bats.
- No spectators are allowed in or on the equipment box. Each division has a varying amount of equipment. In any case, this equipment is valuable and represents a considerable investment by the Mentor Girls Softball League. It is imperative that lost, misplaced, and damaged equipment be held to a minimum.
- All Managers are responsible for our equipment. Please make sure you place all equipment back in the box and **KEEP THE LID CLOSED AND LOCKED AT ALL TIMES.**

**Mentor Girls Softball League (M.G.S.L.)**

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