

**Mayfield Hts. Fall COED Softball
League Rules for 2019**

LEAGUE AUTHORITY:

- 1) The Mayfield Hts. Softball League is responsible for all Mayfield softball financial operations – Umpires and scorekeepers not included.
- 2) The Mayfield Hts. Softball League and its' Commissioner reserve the right to rule on any situation of dispute and further reserves the right to interpret all rules, their meaning and intent, and may modify or change such rules and render decisions which in its judgement benefit the League. The Mayfield Hts. Softball League Commissioner will be the final authority on all league and playing rules.
- 3) All Mayfield Hts. Softball will be played under GSL rules, both national and metro, except where league rules override.

FEES:

- 1) The league entry fees will be \$250.00 for double header season, \$215.00 for single game season.
- 2) At least ten minutes prior to game time, each team will pay umpire fees of \$22.00 cash. **Games will not start until fees are paid by both teams.**
- 3) In the event of a forfeit, the forfeiting team will pay game fees for both teams (\$44.00). This fee is due at the time the game is ruled a forfeit. Failure to pay the forfeit fee on game day will result in a \$5.00 fine and forfeiting team may not take the field for their following game until all fees are paid.

SCHEDULING:

- 1) Games will be played on Kobe field or Fornaro Field.
- 2) All schedules are distributed to managers, put on city website, or may be accessed online at bgsd.com.
- 3) Game times will normally be at 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, or 9:30 p.m.
- 4) There is **no grace period** for starting times; the home team must have at least nine players on the field at the game starting time. If your team forfeits, have someone present to pay the forfeit fee.
- 5) Each game has a time limit of 60 minutes. **No new inning may start after the time limit has expired.** Any inning started must be completed, regardless of the time limit. **If there is time remaining on clock, a new inning will begin.**
- 6) Make-up games will be played the following week on Thursdays. Managers are responsible for notifying their players of make-up dates and times. Although every effort will be made to make up cancelled games, due to weather, field availability, length of season, etc., **there is no guarantee all scheduled games will be played.**
- 7) If a game is cancelled due to weather, ALL subsequent games that evening are cancelled. Teams may call the rain-out hotline at (440)442-2626, ext. 345 **after 4:30 p.m.** on game day to determine whether that evening's games will be played. **If there is no current info, or if there is no message at all, teams should assume games are being played.** Please refrain from calling the hotline until one hour prior to your own game time. Do not call City Hall or Commissioner for game information.

GAME:

- 1) Prior to game, teams will pay umpire fees to scorekeeper. At this time, teams should also submit a lineup to scorekeeper. Both teams are responsible for keeping track of score, batting order, substitutions, etc. Scorekeeper will also keep track of the above, and their tally will be considered official if a dispute arises. Please notify the scorekeeper of any changes or substitutions you wish to make during the game
- 2) Team managers will be responsible for controlling their players and fans. Only managers are permitted to discuss disputed plays. Swearing is not permitted. Participants can/will be ejected for swearing at the umpire's discretion. An out may also be called against the offending team in accordance with the profanity rule. Any verbal or physical abuse directed toward an umpire will result in immediate suspension to be determined by the Commissioner.
- 3) Pace of play is to be dictated by the managers. Please get your team in and out of the dugout in a timely manner, and up to bat as soon as the team gets back into the dugout.
- 4) Speed play is in effect. All batters start with a one ball – one strike count on them. The second foul ball after a two-strike count is considered a strikeout. Pitching are 5' to 10'.
- 5) The GSL batting order/field position requirements will be in effect as follows:
 - a) Teams start with either ten (five males/five females) or twelve (six males/six females) players. The batting order must alternate between the genders.
 - b) Fielding positions must have: two males/females in the outfield, two males/females in the infield, one male/one female pitching and/or catching, one male-one female EH (optional)
 - c) A team may start with nine players (five men, four women or five women, four men) without fear of forfeit. **However, the tenth spot in the lineup will result in an out every time the open spot is due to bat.** If a player arrives late, he/she may be inserted in the open spot.
 - d) Teams must finish the game with the same number of players in the lineup as it started the game. Any open spot in the lineup, even if due to injury, will be considered an out. Teams may not play with fewer than nine players at any time; teams with less than nine players are subject to a forfeited game.
- 6) When a male batter reaches base via a walk, he will automatically proceed to second base. The next female batter must hit with the following exception: **with two outs, a female batter has the option of automatically walking** following a walk to a male batter.
- 7) Five innings constitute a complete game; four and one half (4 ½) if the home team is ahead. No matter what inning, a game lasting the full time limit will be a complete game.
- 8) The mercy rule run spread will be 12 runs after five innings, 18 runs after four innings.
- 9) Automatic Flip Flop Rule will be in effect.
 - a. If home team is losing by 18 or more runs after the 3rd inning, they automatically flip to the away team and need to score the amount of runs to keep the game going.
 - b. If home team is losing by 12 or more runs after the 4th inning, they automatically flip to the away team and need to score the amount of runs to keep the game going.
 - c. After the flip, if the team scores the amount of runs to keep the game going, they will remain the away team for the completion of the game.
- 10) In case of a tie game after the time limit has expired, there will be a **ONE** inning tie-breaker "Texas Shoot-Out" format; that is, **each batter gets only one pitch**, and female players **must hit** even after a walk to a male player. If after the one inning the game is still tied, the game will result in a tie.

- 11) The Re-entry rule is in effect. Any player in the starting lineup may be substituted for and re-enter the game to his/her original spot in the batting order. The substitute is out for the rest of the game once the original player re-enters.
- 12) Bats must have the GSL/USSSA "thumbprint" stamp for use in league play. **Bats that are not approved for league play include any bat rated at 100 mph, or any bat that has been altered to improve performance.** "ASA only" bats are not approved for league play. The Commissioner reserves the right to outlaw any bat that may be considered hazardous to the safety of the players at any time.
- 13) Home run limit (over the fence): The limit will be one per team and one up. Any hits over the fence beyond these rules will be recorded as an out.
- 14) Sliding is permitted into all bases.
 - a. Players may not deliberately crash into a fielder in an attempt to dislodge the ball – an out will be called and the runner will be ejected from the game. When in doubt – "slide or give up".
 - b. Baserunners must run to the "safety" base at both first base and home plate. **Any baserunner touching the permanent home plate, regardless if a play is being made on them or not, will be called out immediately with no exceptions.** All plays made at the permanent home plate will be force plays, where no tag is necessary. However, a defensive player may tag a runner coming into the safety home plate if there is an offline throw and it is the only way to record the out.
 - c. There is a "commit" line 20 feet beyond third base; any baserunner *touching or going past this line* must proceed to run to home plate.
- 15) The courtesy runner rule is: One batter/runner of each gender may be run for once per inning, for as many times as they are on base that inning, by any member of the same gender on the roster. Should the substitute runner be on base when it is his/her turn at bat, an out shall be recorded and their time at bat forfeited.
- 16) A female batter/runner cannot be thrown out at first base by an outfielder. However, an outfielder may choose to relay hit ball to an infielder, who then may throw out a female batter at first base.
- 17) All outfielders must start the pitch on the grass part of the outfield. There also must be two outfielders on the left side of second base, and two outfielders on the right side of second base. No team can play three outfielders on one side.
- 18) No team shall play five infielders.
- 19) No metal spikes of any kind are allowed. Rubber cleats are permitted.
- 20) For safety reasons, no children will be allowed in the dugouts.
- 21) No smoking or alcoholic beverages are permitted in the dugouts. Any player suspected of being under the influence will not be permitted to take the field.
- 22) Any player ejected from a game for any reason will receive a one game suspension – player must sit out their next game.
- 23) A high priority is placed on sportsmanship. Taunting or "trash" talk against opposing players may result in termination of the game. Play competitively while having respect for the opposing team and spectators.

ELIGIBILITY:

- 1) All players must be compliant and be on file with the league. Team managers are responsible for collecting and submitting signed cards for all new players prior to the season. No player may take the field without being in the Mayfield Heights Softball Player Database.
- 2) Players may be added to your roster throughout the season. Added players must sign a contract card. Teams may add players for: in an emergency, to avoid forfeit, etc. Any question of playoff eligibility will be determined by the Commissioner.
- 3) A player may be under contract to only one team and one Division. If a player wishes to change teams mid-season, he/she must be released from their original team and sign a new contract card with their new team. Any player switching teams during the season will be ineligible for the playoffs.

PLAYOFFS:

- 1) All teams will be eligible for the playoffs at the end of the regular season, at a date to be determined. Regular season records will determine seedings throughout the playoffs.
- 2) A player must have at least 12 plate appearances during the regular season to be eligible for the playoffs. Any question of eligibility will be determined by the Commissioner.
- 3) Time limits will be 60 minutes (no new inning may start after 60 minutes) during the playoffs, with the run spread mercy rule still in effect. In the **Competitive League** Championship Game there will be no time limit or run spread rule in effect. In the **Recreational League** Championship Game there will be no time limit but run spread rule will be in effect.

AWARDS:

- 1) Playoff Champion will receive a team sponsor plaque in each division. Championship team will also receive t-shirts for each team member.

ADDENDUM:

- 1) Pitchers will be allowed to pitch from inside a "box", measured from the pitching mound to six feet behind the mound and the width of the mound. Pitchers must still be in a set position within the box when delivering the pitch.
- 2) If the home team is short-handed to start the game, they may choose to hit first (in effect becoming the visiting team) to allow them more time for their ninth player to show. This may only be done with the consent of the opposing manager and does not affect future home/visitor status in subsequent games between the two teams.