

Mayfield Heights Softball League Rules for 2019

Note that (M) signifies Men's league; (W) signifies Women's league

LEAGUE AUTHORITY:

- 1) The Mayfield Heights Softball League is responsible for all Mayfield softball financial operations -- umpires and scorekeepers not included.
- 2) The Mayfield Heights 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 judgment benefit the league. The Mayfield Heights Softball League Commissioner will be the final authority on all league and playing rules..
- 3) All Mayfield Heights Softball will be played under GSL rules, both National and Metro, except where league rules override.

FEES:

- 1) The league entry fee will be (M, Mon.-Wed.) \$550.00 for resident teams, \$600.00 for nonresident teams, (M, Thurs.) \$350.00 resident, \$400.00 non-resident and (W) \$300.00 for resident teams, \$350.00 for nonresident teams. A resident team is defined as a team in which at least 75% of the roster resides within the Mayfield School District.
- 2) The league reserves the right to release a team, with no refund for money paid, if the balance of entry fees are not paid in full by **April 15th, 2019**. **NO TEAM WILL BE ALLOWED TO TAKE THE FIELD WITHOUT BEING PAID IN FULL.**
- 3) At least five minutes prior to game time, each team will submit a lineup and pay game fees of \$44.00 for Doubleheader (M) or \$22.00 (W). Game will not start until both teams have paid their game fees.
- 4) In the event of a forfeit, the forfeiting team will pay a forfeit fee of \$88.00 (M), or \$44.00 (W) The forfeit fee is due at the time the game is ruled a forfeit. Failure to pay the forfeit fee on the day of the game will result in a \$10.00 fine and another forfeit if not paid before the next game.

SCHEDULING:

- 1) Men's games will be played on Kobe Field; women's games will be played on Dragga Field and on occasion, Kobe Field.
- 2) **GAME TIMES:** All game times are posted on the weekly schedule for each league. **Makeup games will be scheduled soon after a rainout date.**
- 3) 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, you must have someone present to pay the forfeit fee.**

4) **GAME TIME LIMITS:** each game has a time limit of 70 minutes. That is, no new inning may start after the time limit has expired. Any inning started must be completed, regardless of the time limit. Mayfield Hts. City Park has a curfew of 11:00 PM. No new inning may start after 10:45 PM and games will end at 11:00 PM. Games beginning after 10:00 PM will be played as a "Texas Shoot-Out".

5) The Mayfield Heights Softball League is not a "second league". *Managers are responsible for notifying their players of makeup times and dates, and to field a team on said make-up day.* Women's make-up games will normally be scheduled as double-headers on Sundays. Men's make-up game dates will be determined by a vote of the managers, but could fall on either a Thursday, Friday, or Sunday. Although every effort will be made to make up canceled games, due to weather, field availability, length of season, etc., **there is no guarantee that all scheduled games will be played.**

6) **CANCELLATIONS:** If a game is canceled due to weather, ALL subsequent games that evening are canceled as well. Teams may call the rainout hotline at (440) 442-2626, ext.345, after 4:30 PM on game day to determine whether that evening's games will be played. **If there is no current info, or 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.

TEAM

1) Teams will carry a minimum of 13 and a maximum of 25 players on their roster.

2) Teams will submit a signed contract card for each player prior to the player's first game. **No player will be permitted to take the field without a signed contract card.**

3) Teams will be allowed to add players to their roster until July 1, 2019. Newly signed players must submit a signed contract card before playing.

4) Any team that forfeits three times during the season will be removed from the league.

5) All teams must be attired in proper uniforms. Matching jerseys are required. If a player's jersey is different from their team's uniform, they will be called out by the umpire their first time at bat. Thereafter, that player may play without penalty. In a doubleheader situation, said player will be penalized only once for the evening. Managers may enforce this rule by appealing to the umpire **only** during the player's first time at bat. Umpires will rule on whether there are substantial differences in the uniform, and their decision is final.

6) Non-playing managers and coaches are also encouraged to wear matching team jerseys.

PLAYERS

1) All players must be at least 18 years of age, or a high school graduate.

2) All players must have a signed contract card on file with the league. Team managers are responsible for collecting and submitting signed contract cards prior to the first game of the season.

3) Players are required to have at least 30 plate appearances (M), or 15 plate appearances (W), in order to be eligible for the playoffs.

4) Only team managers will be permitted to discuss disputed plays. No player will be permitted to argue with umpires, though they may confer with umpires within reason. Managers are responsible for controlling their players and fans. Swearing is not permitted. Players can be ejected for swearing at the umpires discretion. An out may also be called against the offending team in accordance with the league profanity rule. Any verbal or physical abuse directed against an umpire will result in immediate suspension, length of which to be determined by the Commissioner..

5) A player may be under contract to only one team. If a player wishes to switch teams during the 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.**

6) The Commissioner reserves the right to suspend or alter any suspension of any participant, and the length of such suspension according to his discretion. Suspensions may be levied upon a player for game ejection, verbal abuse of umpires, game participants, league officials, or fans, for excessive profanity, etc. Physical abuse or assault upon any umpire, league official, player, or fan will result in a one-year suspension from the league, and will result in notification of suspension to GSL officials.

GAME

1) At least five minutes before game time, each team will submit a batting lineup and game fees to the scorekeeper.

2) Speed up play is in effect. Pitchers will be allowed five warm-up pitches in the first inning and one warm-up pitch each inning thereafter. Infield and outfield warm-up balls will be permitted only in the first inning.

3) A team may begin the game with nine players, no less. A 10th and 11th player may be added to the lineup provided the team has not yet completed a full turn through the order. Once a team has batted around, no additional player may be added to the lineup. An exception to this is if a team wishes to list their absent player to the lineup they may do so, with the risk of taking an out if said player is still absent when it is his/her turn to bat.

4) If a player leaves the game for any reason, the team may continue to play with at least nine players. If there is no substitute available for said player, his/her turn in the order shall be considered an out.

5) Teams may bat up to 12(M) or 13 (W) players.

6) Metal spikes are prohibited. Players caught wearing metal spikes must remove them.

7) All batters start with a one ball, one strike count. When a batter has two strikes, he/she will be allowed one foul ball; the second foul ball with two strikes will be recorded as a strikeout.

8) RE-ENTRY: All players in the starting lineup may be substituted for a player not in the starting lineup and allowed to re-enter the game one time. Once the original player re-enters the game, his substitute is out for the remainder of the game.

9) Five innings constitutes a complete game, four and one half if the home team is ahead. No matter what inning, a game lasting the time limit will constitute a complete game.

10) RUN SPREAD: The run spread (**mercy rule**) will be 12 runs after five innings, 18 runs after four innings.

11) Courtesy runners: Men's league will follow GSL Courtesy runner rule, where a batter/runner may be subbed for once per inning, for as many times as they reach base, by any player. Women's league will designate one batter in the lineup at game's beginning that can be run for the whole game. Women's teams will get an additional two courtesy runners at any time during the game; player in the lineup who made the last batted out will be the courtesy runner. Any substitute runner that is on base when it is their turn at bat shall be called out.

12) Ties will not be replayed. **If a game ends in a tie and the time limit has been reached, there will be a one inning, "Texas Shoot-out" format - each batter will get only one pitch.**

13) The GSL Designated Home Run Hitter is in effect, plus two additional HR's (men).. If the DHR is walked during their time at bat, any other player in the lineup may hit a HR without it counting toward their team total until the DHR comes to bat again. Women's league HR rule is three and one up; any balls hit over the fence beyond the limit shall be recorded as an out.

14) For safety reasons, children are not permitted in the dugouts.

15) Smoking is not permitted in the dugouts.

16) Alcohol is strictly prohibited in Mayfield Heights City Park.

17) Only bats listed on the current GSL/USSSA Certified Bat List are eligible for league play. Bats with no markings, or that have been painted or altered in any way to enhance performance are considered illegal. Any player caught using an illegal bat faces suspension.

PROTESTS:

1) Protests must be made in accordance to GSL Rules, which includes notifying the plate umpire and scorekeeper at the time of the protest.

2) All protests must be in writing and filed with the Commissioner within 24 hours, along with a \$35.00 protest fee, which will be returned if the protest is upheld. Protests of playoff games must be made immediately.

3) The written protest should contain the following information: Date, time, and place of game, the rule under which the protest is being made, and any pertinent facts or details which support the protest.

4) Successful protests can only be based on an umpire's misinterpretation of GSL or applicable league rules, illegal substitutions or re-entry, or player eligibility. Protests based on an umpire's judgment call will not be heard.

5) The Commissioner reserves the right to contact any GSL official regarding any protest decision.

PLAYOFFS:

1) The top six teams in each league will make the playoffs. Playoff game fees for umpires/scorekeeper are included in teams' entry fees and will be paid by the league.

2) Wins during the regular season will count as two points, ties as one point, to determine standings if necessary.

3) Players must have 30 (M) or 15 (W) plate appearances during the regular season to be eligible for the playoffs.

4) Until the Championship Series, game time limits and run spread rule will remain in effect. There will be no time limit on a third deciding game, however.

5) In the Championship Series, there will be no time limit or run spread rule in effect.

AWARDS:

1) Playoff Champions will receive a team trophy and individual player trophies. Playoff runner ups will receive a team trophy.

2) Highest Batting Average - the player in each league with the highest batting average during the regular season will receive a trophy. Player must have at least 50 (M) or 30 (W) plate appearances during the regular season to qualify.

3) Home Run Champ in each league will receive a trophy.

**Should there be a need for any change of these rules,
you will be notified immediately.
As always, your constructive input is appreciated.**

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.

3) Players may be added to team rosters after July 1st in an emergency situation to avoid forfeit. However, any player added after that date is NOT playoff eligible.