



Parks & Recreation

Men's & Co-ed Softball League RULES AND REGULATIONS Revised 2025

Macomb Township reserves the right to amend league rules at any time.

FEES:

- All fees must be paid by the start of a team's first scheduled game.
- Each team must pay \$20.00 **Cash Only** to the umpire at the beginning of each game.

ELIGIBILITY, CONTRACTS AND RELEASE:

- Each team can consist of no more than 20 players.
- Each player must be 18 years of age at the time of participation.
- No player shall participate on more than one (1) team in the same league.
- Players must play in 3 games to be eligible for playoffs.
- **Rosters must be filled out completely.** No player will appear in the lineup unless their name is legally affixed to an official roster/release on file with the Macomb Township Parks and Recreation Department.
- During the season, to add a player to your roster, a new team roster must be downloaded and printed off from the softball webpage. The added player must completely fill out their information on the form and submit it to acorda@macomb-mi.gov. Pictures of the form are acceptable for submission. If removing a player from your roster, email the players name to acorda@macomb-mi.gov and it will be noted on the original roster. Rosters will not be kept at the field or managed by the umpires.
- No team will be allowed to add any players to its roster after the 5th scheduled game. The exception is a medical release/add.
- In the event a player cannot play for medical reasons, the team will be allowed to replace that player. The injured player being removed will not be eligible to play with any other team in the league for the remainder of the season. A doctor's note must be filed before a new player may be added. The added player due to injury must still participate in three regular season games to be eligible for the playoffs.

SCHEDULING & GAME TIMES:

- The Macomb Township Parks and Recreation Department will schedule all softball league games at their discretion. It is the responsibility of the teams to be available and ready to play at their scheduled game times each week.
- **Game Guarantee** - Teams are guaranteed 8 regular season games and a single elimination playoff for the top four teams in the league.
- The Macomb Township Parks and Recreation Department has the right to change or amend the league schedule at any time due to any unforeseen circumstances with proper notice given to all teams and umpires involved.
- **Make up games** – Are scheduled at the discretion of the Macomb Township Parks and Recreation Department with proper notice given to team managers. If games need to be rescheduled, teams should be prepared to play at alternate times and on alternate fields on any given Sunday afternoon.

- **Grace Period** - Each team will be allowed to utilize the 5-minute grace period to field a legal team. The game clock will start on time at the scheduled game time. The 5-minute grace period will start as soon as the game clock is started by the umpire. After the 5-minute grace period has expired, the game will be declared a forfeit by the team unable to field a legal team for play.
- **Forfeits**- Any team that forfeits 2 or more games during the season is subject to removal from the league at the league director's discretion without refund. Forfeits are awarded a score of 7-0 in any un-played game. Should a forfeit occur in the middle of the game, a score of 7 runs, or the runs scored (whichever is greater) will be credited, and the forfeiting team will be given a 0.
- **\$40.00 Forfeit Fee** – **If a forfeit occurs, a \$40.00 forfeit fee must be paid to the Macomb Township Parks and Recreation Department prior to the teams next scheduled game. If the forfeit fee is not paid, the team will be forced to forfeit every game until the fee is settled. Teams will also be responsible for the payment of additional forfeit fees that may occur due to the original forfeit fee not being paid. After two forfeits, a team is subject to removal from the league at the league director's discretion without refund.**
- **Rain Out Number** - (586-992-2909) will be listed on the schedules for your information. We ask that you call that number if there is any doubt regarding inclement weather or field conditions. Teams should always show up to the field ready to play unless the rainout line says differently, or a park official has notified you. The rainout recording is updated no later than 4:00pm, or once park staff have made the determination to cancel due to inclement weather. Keep in mind, we will wait as long as possible to make that call to give us the best chance to play.

PLAYING RULES:

- Macomb Township Parks and Recreation Department uses the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) Rulebook amended by these policies and procedures to govern league play.
- Each game, a coin flip by the umpire will determine the home team for the game. In the playoffs, the higher seeded team will be home team.
- **Ball/Strike Count** – Each batter will start with a 1 ball-1strike count. The batter will be called out on strikes when two strikes are called by the umpire. The batter is awarded first base when three balls are called by the umpire. If the batter hits a second foul ball after one strike, the batter is called out and the ball is dead.
- **Balls** - Will be 12-inches in diameter and are supplied by Macomb Township Parks and Recreation.
- **Bats** – Only USSSA approved softball bats may be used in league play. Each bat must indicate the 2014 USSSA 1.20 Watermark, or the updated 2020 USSSA 1.20 Watermark. Umpires will have the final say when it comes to bat eligibility on the field. Girls fastpitch softball bats are allowed but not recommended. Bat technology differs between slow pitch and fastpitch bats. Fastpitch bats are manufactured to hit balls pitched at faster speeds, and slow pitch bats are manufactured to hit balls at slower speeds. Technically the use of a fastpitch bat in slow pitch softball puts the hitter at a disadvantage due to differing bat technology. If you have a particular question regarding bat eligibility, please take a picture of the bat and email it to acorda@macomb-mi.gov.
- **Bases** - 65 feet.
- **Pitching** - 50 feet from the back point of the plate to the front of the pitching rubber.
- **No metal spikes** of any kind are allowed.
- **Complete Game** - Seven innings constitutes a complete game. In the event of inclement weather, poor field conditions or situations out of our control, 4 ½ innings (if the home team is ahead) or 5 innings will constitute an official game. All games will have a 1 hour and 10-minute time limit. No new inning will begin after 70 minutes have expired. Game time begins when the umpire indicates game clock has started.

- **Tie Games** - At the end of the time limit, one extra inning will be played to give teams a chance to break the tie. If the game is still tied after the extra inning, the game will end in a tie.
- **Run Rule** - When a team is ahead by 12 runs or more after 5 completed innings (4 1/2 if the home team is ahead) the game is ended. The team facing the deficit must have their opportunity to bat in the inning to make the game complete.
- **Ties In Standings** - Will be decided in this order: (1) head-to-head competition results, (2) total runs scored on the season, (3) total runs allowed on the season. ****Teams that have forfeited a game during the season lose their tie breaker rights****
- **Lineup** - A team may bat up to 12 players to start the game. Player(s) must be present when called to bat in the lineup, or player(s) is an automatic out. Any 10 of the 12 may play defense throughout the game. Co-ed lineups must alternate male, female or female, male.
- **Additional Hitter**- One or two (AHs) can be included in the batting order allowing up to 12 hitters in the lineup. They must be added prior to the first pitch of the game. The umpire must be notified of the AH(s) during the ground rules. If the AH is added after the first pitch, the player will be ejected from the game. The ejected player cannot be used for said game at any point after being ejected. In the **Co-ed League**, when an AH is used, the team must use a male and female AH or 1-2 female AH(s). More males are never allowed in the lineup at any time.
- **8 Players**- A team may start a game with no less than 8 players. A team playing with 8 players may add players up to 10 in the lineup as they become available. Players added after the start of the game will be inserted into the lineup in the last spot available up to 10. Once the game has started, an AH may not be entered into the lineup. Other players after 10 must enter the game as an official substitution. A team with 8 players in the lineup who loses a player due to injury or ejection during the game must forfeit. You cannot play with 7 or less eligible players at any time.
- **Intentional Walks** - The pitcher or manager may tell the umpire to intentionally walk a batter. No pitches need to be thrown; the batter is awarded 1st base, and runners advance if forced.
- **Interference** - Will be called if no attempt by a runner to avoid contact with a fielder is made. If intentional or malicious contact is made, the player will be out and ejected from the ball game at the umpire's discretion.
- **Courtesy Runners** - One courtesy runner is allowed per inning. This runner must be the player who made the last out. If an out has not occurred in the first inning, the courtesy runner will be the last batter in the lineup. If the courtesy runner is still on base when their turn comes up to bat, an out is recorded in that batting position and the game continues with the next batter stepping to the plate. If it is the third out of the inning the inning is over.
- **Base Runners** - May leave the base when the pitch breaks the front plane of the plate or is contacted by the hitter with the bat. **Stealing of bases is not allowed.** A runner may be called out for leaving the base before the ball crosses the plate.
- **Pitching** - a legal delivery is a ball pitched to the batter underhand at a moderate speed with a perceptible arc of not less than 3 feet after leaving the pitcher's hand and not more than 10 feet from the ground. The pitcher may release the pitched ball from up to 6 feet behind the mound. **Note:** speed and height are the judgment of the umpire.
- **Dugout Area** - Only roster participants will be allowed to occupy the dugout area. No one under 18 years of age may take a position in the dugout or on the playing field. Spectators must stay in the spectator area outside the fields.
- **Bat Throwing** - Tossing the bat carelessly or with malice is extremely dangerous and will result in the offending player being ejected for a period determined by the Macomb Township Parks and Recreation Department.
- **Home Run Limit** - 2 home runs by each team per game. Any home runs hit after 2 will be a dead ball out and all runners return to the last base at the time of the pitch.

- **Walk Off Home Runs** - On a fair fly ball hit over the fence for a Home Run, the batter and all base runners are credited with a score. The batter and any runner(s) on base do not need to advance and touch the bases. The players should go directly to the dugout area.

PROTESTS & PROCEDURES:

- Protests can only be filed on Rule interpretations or player eligibility. Umpire judgment calls cannot be protested. The game is stopped and the following information is recorded on score sheet.
 - **Rule Interpretations** - Date, time of protest, inning, score, runners, outs, count, time left in game and a detailed description of what rule is being misinterpreted.
 - **Player Eligibility** - Player eligibility protests must be made known to the umpire before the last out of the game. The umpire will ask the player in question to produce identification. Refusal by player to produce identification is automatic forfeit. If the player does not have identification present but insists they are legal the following information will be recorded: name, signature, date of birth, phone number.
- Both team managers & the umpire must sign, and the protesting manager must deliver \$40 (CASH ONLY) to Macomb Township Parks and Recreation Department within 24 hours of protest for processing or protest will not be handled. The protesting fee will not be handled at the field and should not be given to the umpire.
- **If Upheld** - the money will be returned to the protesting manager. If player eligibility was protested, the game is forfeited by offending team. If a ruling is protested, the game will be replayed from the point of the protest.
- **If Overruled** - the money is kept by Macomb Township Parks and Recreation and game stands as called.

CO-ED INJURED PLAYER SITUATION:

- **Male Player** - If male player is injured and cannot continue to play and the team has no rostered substitutes for that player, no out will be taken.
- **Female Player** - If an injury to a female player occurs, and no rostered female substitute is available, the following male player will also be removed from the game. No outs will be recorded when either player's turn comes up. The opposing team can agree to allow the male following the injured female to continue to play, but it is totally their call. This only occurs if there isn't any available females to substitute.

CO-ED PLAYING RULES:

- **Eight Players** - A team may start a game with a minimum of 8 players only if the players are equal men to women or more women. The number of men can never exceed the number of women to start a game.
- **Batting Order** - Must alternate male, female or female, male throughout the line up. Exception: the line up may consist of females back to back.
- **Additional Hitter in Co-ed Leagues** - When an AH is used, the team must use a male and female AH or 1-2 female AH(s). More males are never allowed in the lineup at any time.
- **FEMALES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PITCH IN THE CO-ED LEAGUE.**
- **Hog Rule** - If a ball is hit to a female fielder, a male cannot intentionally cut her off to field the ball. Rule enforcement is at the umpire's discretion as to rule an out. The only exception is a play at the plate, the hog rule does not apply for home plate coverage.

- **Five-Person Infield** - Is illegal in coed softball. All outfielders must take a position in the outfield grass.
- **No Intentional Walks** are allowed to males. If a male draws a walk, the male is awarded second base and the next female has the option to bat or take first base automatically.
- **Courtesy Runners** - Will be used for same sex only and must be the last out (male for male/ female for female). If the courtesy runner is still on base when their turn comes up in the batting order, that spot in the batting order is recorded as an out and play continues. If it is the third out, the inning is over. Each team will be allowed 1 courtesy runner per inning.

ALTERED BATS:

- Altering a bat is illegal and any player found altering a bat will be suspended from all Macomb Township Park & Recreation programs. Umpires are authorized to remove any bat from play which shows wear such as worn off or cracked graphics, damaged barrels, handle tapers, plugs, caps or knobs. The umpire may remove the offending bat from the game and return it at the end of play or ask the player to put the bat away and not use it in play at Macomb Corners Park.

UNIFORM POLICY:

- **Team Uniforms** - Are optional however, all players must wear appropriate shoes, pants, shorts and shirts. **Crop tops, halter tops, bare midriffs and extremely short shorts** will not be allowed as part of a uniform. Players not conforming to this rule will not be allowed to play.

IMPORTANT NOTE: ALCOHOL IS PROHIBITED IN MACOMB TOWNSHIP PUBLIC PARKS !

Questions about rules may be directed to Angelo Acord by calling 586-992-2900 or by email at acorda@macomb-mi.gov