2018 FALL COED SOFTBALL RULES

NOTE: The current edition of the A.S.A. Official Playing Rules, along with the "MSCR Fall Softball Local Rules and Procedures," will be the official rules governing this program. The coed rule modifications will supersede all others where applicable.

The Male “Walk” Rule for MSCR coed softball will continue to be used during the fall of 2018.

--- On a three (3) pitch base-on-balls or “walk”, to any male batter, the male batter will advance to 2nd base. The following batter, female or male, must hit, no option is given. Runners on base will advance, only if forced to advance.

Note: On a “walk” to a male batter that consists of a strike, the batter will advance to 1st base only and the following batter will hit.

1. MSCR will assign one umpire to each game. If no umpire shows: teams can agree to play or the game will be rescheduled.
2. Pitching & Base Length:
   A. Distance - 50 feet pitch and 65 foot bases.
   B. Three balls will constitute a base-on-balls. A strike-out will consist of any combination of two strikes:
      1. Two called.
      2. One called - one swing and miss.
      3. One called - one fouled.
      4. Two fouled balls.
      5. One swing and miss and one foul ball.
      6. Two swinging misses.
   C. Home plate and the mat will be used in determining balls and strikes. If any part of the pitched ball lands on any part of the plate, including the black perimeter, and/or mat, it shall be a strike.
   D. Arc limits will be a minimum of 6 feet and a maximum of 12 feet from the ground.
   E. A 12" ball will be used for both male and female batters.
3. The Game: Games will be seven innings or a one (1) hour time limit whichever comes first. No new innings shall be started after the time limit expires unless the game is tied. A “15 run - mercy rule” will be used in the fall coed softball program. Please refer to the MSCR Fall Softball Local Rules and Procedures for the specifics of the rule.
   A. TIE BREAKER- Any time the score is tied and the time limit has expired, the next inning will begin using the tie breaker procedure.
   B. TIE BREAKER PROCEDURE
      1. The visiting team will place a runner (the last batter from the previous inning) on second base. If available, a legal substitute may be used.
      2. The visiting team has 3 outs with which to score as may runs as possible.
      3. After 3 outs are made, the home team will follow the same procedure as outlined in steps 1 & 2.
      4. Whichver team scores the most runs will be declared the winner. If the score is still tied at the completion of each additional inning, the procedure will be repeated from step 1.
4. Batting Order (this is the same batting order rule MSCR uses in the summer coed program)
   A. Teams must alternate by gender in the batting order.
   B. A team may begin, and play a game with only eight (8) players. This must be four (4) women and (4) men. When (or if) the ninth and tenth player(s) arrive, they may be added to the bottom of the batting order, provided there are not more than five (5) of any one gender.
   C. If there are nine (9) players present at the starting time, the batting order must be 5 men/4 women or 5 women/4 men. The gender with five must bat first.
   D. If there are at least five (5) men and five (5) women players present at the starting time, a team must list a minimum of ten (10) in the batting order.
   E. Teams may elect to bat more than ten (10) players provided that they are present at the start of the game, but under no circumstances, to start the game, can more than two consecutive men or women be listed in the batting order. (Exception during the game: a player who leaves the game for injury or a valid reason may result in 3 consecutive batters of the same gender)
   Note: Batting two consecutive players of the same gender is allowed only as in 4-B. & 4-C. or as in 4-E.... when batting more than 10 players and the number is uneven (Example: 11 players, 6 male and 5 female: the first batter must be male and the eleventh batter will be male thus two consecutive males will bat.)
5. **Fielding**
   a. When possible, there will be ten (10) players in the field, five (5) men and five (5) women.
   b. For players who are listed in the batting order, there is total free substitution in the field on defense. Refer to Local Rule III-C. 1 & 2.
   c. There is no requirement as to where men or women must be positioned while in the field. A.S.A. rule 4 - 1. C. 3. e. does not apply.
   d. A maximum of ten players can play defense, with a minimum of four of each gender. At no time can one gender outnumber the other by more than one, even if it means only nine players play defense (e.g., if six (6) men are present at the start of the game and four (4) women, only five (5) men and four (4) women play defense—never more than (+1) of a gender).

6. **Substitution:** See "MSCR Fall Softball Local Rules and Procedures." Any substitution must be on a man for man or woman for woman basis.

7. **Base-on-Balls Rule:** Please refer to the local MSCR “Male Walk Rule” at the beginning of this document. On a walk (base-on-balls) to a female batter, the batter is awarded first base only & the next batter must take their turn at bat.

8. **At home plate, at all times (whether a play is being made or not) the base runner must touch the BLACK mat while the catcher has the WHITE home plate.** Catching the ball and stepping on the plate before the base runner arrives at the mat is all that is required to record an out. Sliding is allowed.
   * * To create a “force situation” in all instances, a chalk line will be placed approximately 20 feet from home plate, across the baseline. Once a base runner has touched or crossed the line, the runner must continue toward home plate and cannot finish the play at third base. Note: If the runner who touched or crossed the "commit line" is on 3rd base when all play is completed, they may be called out on an appeal play, by the defensive team to the umpire.

9. **Metal spikes** may not be worn.

10. **Rain-Out Games:** MSCR will make every effort to reschedule ALL games that are postponed.

**Rules that apply to all MSCR Slow Pitch Softball but noteworthy for Coed Softball.**

A. Each base runner may leave his/her base when a pitched ball is batted or reaches home plate, but must return to that base immediately after each pitch not hit by the batter. A base runner should not be called out for stepping off their base on a swing and miss or a pitch not swung at as long as they don't leave the base too soon.

B. All jewelry must be removed when possible. This includes Fitbits, Jawbones, Misfits, and other exercise trackers of the like. Rings or earrings that cannot be removed may be covered with tape.

C. Players are reminded to swing bats only inside the protective fences at Olbrich and Goodman. Each team will be allowed one warning. Violation, after warning, will result in disqualification from the game.

D. **A courtesy runner may be used,** in good faith, to temporarily replace a player who has reached base safely, but has an injury and chooses not to run the bases. The injured player may remain in the game defensively and have a courtesy runner each time they reach base. The courtesy runner must be in the batting order and will be the player who made the last out. **(In coed, the courtesy runner must be male for male, female for female).** If the injured player chooses to leave the game, their position in the batting order is left vacant and no penalty is assessed. **Note:** If the courtesy runner is needed prior to an out occurring of the appropriate gender, the last batter in the order, of the appropriate gender, shall be the courtesy runner.

E. **Weather/Rain Number:**
   a. Call 204-3044, ext 1, after 3:30 p.m. on the day of the game.
   All managers, players and umpires are encouraged to use the MSCR weather website at [www.mscr.org](http://www.mscr.org) or [www.mscrsportsleagues.org](http://www.mscrsportsleagues.org)

   **On nights when the weather decision includes “Umpires Decision”**
   MSCR will update the weather message and weather website until 7:30pm