

**Marinette Recreation Department
Slow-Pitch Softball League Rules
2021**

New rules for 2021 are highlighted.

1. Games may be played with 8 players on a team. Normal number of players for a game is 10. Any less than 8 players at game time will result in a forfeit.
2. Coed Rules: Must have at least 4 of either sex on the field at all times. Preferably 5 men and five 5 women. **Exception: If any team has less than 8 players and wishes to play the game anyway, the opposing captain has the option to agree to play the game and it becomes an official game. Both captains must sign the scorebook prior to playing the game to verify the agreement. Regardless of players in the lineup, there MUST have 4 females for each team or no game.**
3. All players must be a minimum of 16 years of age. If a player under 16 has played, all games in which he or she played are forfeited and the team must pay the required forfeit fees.
4. No smoking or alcoholic beverages within the fenced-in ball-field area.
5. This is a RECREATIONAL league. Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated. Swearing, protesting of calls, and other types of unsportsmanlike conduct are not allowed. This is an adult league and all players will act accordingly - adults out to enjoy a game of softball. Threats, swearing at or any other derogatory comments at the umpire or the other team at any time on the field or off after the game will automatically result in player ejection. Unsportsmanlike conduct by any player will constitute ejection from the game. Second offense - ejection from three games. Third offense - ejection for the remainder of the season.
6. All umpire decisions are final. **Umpires may enlist the help of the official scorekeeper to aid them in making a call. A second umpire may be utilized from the teams in the game prior. This umpire will be neutral and decisions will be respected as the same as the home plate umpire.**
7. Games will consist of seven (7) innings. Fifteen-run rule after five (5) innings.
8. Ball bouncing over or through fence is ground rule double.
9. Pitched ball must be arched over batter's head with a fifteen (15) foot limit. (This is a judgement call)
10. No metal cleats allowed.
11. Must slide or strongly avoid contact. **(No barreling allowed.) Player will be called out if not sliding or avoiding contact. If barreling, player will be ejected from the game.**
12. No stealing, lead-offs, bunting or advancing on a passed ball. A runner may advance only upon a walk or a batted ball or an overthrow in play.
13. Pitcher's foot must stay in contact with mound until ball is pitched.
14. On an overthrow out of play the runner is permitted the base he or she is progressing to plus one more.
15. One-hour limit for all games - complete the inning.
16. Three balls constitute a walk, any combination of two swinging strikes, foul balls, or called strikes is an out.
17. Coed Rule: If a male batter is walked with one strike in the count, the female batter behind him in the line-up – MUST bat, she does not have a choice. If the male batter walks with no strikes on him in the count- the female batter has her choice.
18. A base-runner may not courtesy step.
19. **Official ball is a .52 core 300 compression twelve-inch ball.**

20. A pitched ball that hits any part of the home plate or mat shall be called a strike.
21. If **rain** interrupts a game, both teams must remain at the field until a decision is made whether a game can be resumed. It is considered a complete game if five (5) or more innings have been played and the home team is ahead after 4 1/2 innings. Games are suspended for lightning and/or darkness only. If this happens, the game is resumed at the point at which it ended- same line-up,inning, outs, players on base, etc.
22. League President/Commissioner is the Recreation Director.
23. No players are eligible to play without being officially entered on the team roster by the Recreation Department. Any players playing and not on the Department's official roster will forfeit the game for their team. **(See Rule # 1)**
24. If two or more teams are tied for first place at the end of the regular schedule, head to head will be the first tie-breaker, then tie breaker games will be played.
25. Game-time is printed on the schedule. The umpire's watch is official for starting and ending the game. A **five-minute** grace period is started after the **scheduled game-time** if both teams must agree to allow it. If a team does not have enough players after 10 minutes the game is a forfeit. If a game has been forfeited, the next scheduled game will automatically start as soon as both teams have ten players each. If both teams do not have ten players each earlier than game-time, then the game will start at the stated time on the schedule.
26. Rain dates will be rescheduled on normal game days, to be played earlier in the day or another rain date, on a Sunday or at the end of the season.
27. Coed Rule: Outfielders may not cross restraining line (set at 200' for 2012) until the ball is hit in the event of a female batter. Outfielder crossing the restraining line prior to the ball being hit results in a minimum of an automatic base hit for the batter. If 5 females are in the lineup a team may use 5 infielders. To use 5 infielders, you must have 5 females starting.
28. Coed Rule: Added hitter may be used if five females are in the line-up at all times. Eleven people may bat rather than ten, and those eleven may rotate any position defensively. Teams using eleven batters must use eleven batters for the duration of the game. (If using 11 hitters – at least 5 must be women) If an injury occurs to one of the players and no subs are available when that batter comes up in the lineup an automatic out will occur.
29. A safety base will be used at first base.
30. Courtesy runners are allowed. Then it is whoever made the last out. Male for Male, Female for Female. Only one (1) courtesy runner allowed per inning. **(Must be approved by opposing Manager and once courtesy runner is used for a player it must be used for the entire game.)**
31. **There is a 5 (five) Home Run limit in all Division 3 games played on the little field. Home runs after 5 will be scored as a single, and base runners are allowed to ONLY advance 1 base. There is no limit on Division I games played on the big field.**
32. Re-Entry Rule – Any player may leave the game and later re-enter once per game. **The player MUST re-enter in the SAME batting order they occupied before coming out of the game.**
33. All other rules of the Amateur Softball Association apply.
34. No sandals allowed.
35. **BATTER – The batter must start and finish in the batter's box (back to front). Penalty – OUT**

Scores, Schedules & Standings will be available at

<https://marinette.recdesk.com/Community/Home>