

**Marinette Recreation Department
Slow-Pitch Softball League Rules 2026**

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. **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 number of players in the lineup, there MUST be 4 females for each team or no game.**
3. 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. Players must be added to the roster before the first pitch of the game. At the field, a player is only considered added if done so with the official scorekeeper.
4. 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.
5. Rosters:
 - A. Male players can play for only one (1) team. (A sponsor may play on all sponsored teams.) Once on a roster for a team, the male player may not play on another team during league play or any subsequent tournament.
 - B. The first team a female player plays during a season on will be her "primary" team. Female players may only have one primary team, but may sub for other teams within the division if necessary for a team to avoid forfeit.
 - C. Players must play in one regular season game to qualify for the tournament unless prior approval for the tournament game is given by the commissioner.
6. No smoking or alcoholic beverages within the fenced-in ball-field area.
7. This is a RECREATIONAL league. Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated. Swearing, protesting of calls, and other types of unsportsmanlike conduct are not allowed. Threats, swearing at or any other derogatory comments at the umpire, scorekeeper, 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 or spectator will constitute ejection from the game and field area. The Department reserves the right to suspend any player for conduct deemed unsportsmanlike, unsafe, or in violation of league rules. Suspensions may be issued with or without prior warning, at the discretion of league officials.
8. 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.**
9. Games will consist of seven (7) innings or one hour (60 minutes). The run rule will be in effect if 10-runs separate the teams after 5 innings (4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead) or 15-runs separate the teams after 4 innings (3 ½ if the home team is ahead).
10. Ball bouncing over or through fence is ground rule double.

11. Pitched ball must be arched over batter's head with a fifteen (15) foot limit. (This is a judgement call)
12. No metal cleats allowed.
13. 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.**
14. 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.
15. Pitcher's foot must stay in contact with mound until ball is pitched.
16. On an overthrow out of play the runner is permitted the base he or she is progressing to plus one more.
17. One-hour limit for all games - complete the inning.
18. Three balls constitute a walk, any combination of two swinging strikes, foul balls, or called strikes is an out.
19. 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.
20. A base-runner **may not** courtesy step.
21. **Official ball is a .52 core 300 compression twelve-inch ball.**
22. Bats must be approved by the ASA (<https://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/~link.aspx?id=015F4358A30B44368FC142350D112FFF&z=z>) and marked with the appropriate MRD sticker. The sticker can be obtained during REC Center operating hours and will not be marked at the field.
23. A pitched ball that hits any part of the home plate or mat shall be called a strike.
24. 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.
25. 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.
26. 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 agree to allow it. If a team does not have enough players after 5 minutes the game is a forfeit. Any grace time will be subtracted from the hour game time.

27. If games run over, the next game begins immediately after the late game. There is NO grace period. For example, if the 4 pm game goes until 5:15 pm, the 5 pm game will begin immediately following the end of the 4 pm game.
28. 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.
29. Outfielders may not cross restraining line (set at 200') 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. This rule is for all divisions.
30. 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. If playing with 4 females and one is injured, that spot in the lineup will an automatic out.
31. A safety base will be used at first base.
32. 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.)**
33. Home runs:
 - A. Big Field: No limit.
 - B. Little Field: Five (5) per game per team.
 - a. Home runs after 5 will be scored as a single, and base runners are allowed to ONLY advance 1 base.
 - b. Home runs count as ones hit over the fence:
 - C. Batters need only touch first base and the home run will be awarded. Other players on base only have to touch the next base. If a base is not touched, the player is out.
34. 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.**
35. No sandals allowed.
36. **BATTER – The batter must start and finish in the batter's box (back to front). Penalty – OUT**
37. League President/Commissioner is the Recreation Department.
38. All other rules of the Amateur Softball Association apply.

Scores, Schedules & Standings will be available at
<https://marinette.recdesk.com/Community/Home>