

Mustang Youth Sports Softball League/Tournament General Rules for All Age Groups

Purpose

Mustang Youth Sports (Softball) (Known in this Document as MYS) has designed this program to promote the physical, mental, and spiritual well being of young ladies by teaching them the importance of teamwork. Our goal is for each girl to develop respect for others and practice good sportsmanship while perfecting their athletic skills and ability. We feel this will instill good values that will contribute to the positive future of these young ladies. MYS is dedicated to making each girl's softball experience the best it can possibly be. The League provides girls the opportunity for lifelong behaviors and values through playing softball.

Conduct

The head coach or acting head coach of each team is responsible for assistant coaches, players, and spectators conduct. Each Head coach or acting head coach will ensure there are no misconduct, unsportsmanlike conduct, **Profanity** and/or unruliness towards opposing players, umpires, spectators or board members. If any player, coach, or fan are ejected for any reason they will have a 1 game suspension (league or tournament) within Mustang Wild Horse Park.

Penalty

1. Warning: the umpire shall warn the Head Coach of the violation. The umpire has the authority to skip directly to the consequence of the second or third occurrence if they feel it is necessary.
2. The violator(s) and Head Coach shall be removed from the park (Out of site) if the violation is not corrected.
3. If the problem still exists the umpire shall pronounce the game over with the offending team losing by forfeit.
4. If a head coach is ejected twice in a season they may not be allowed to come back for the remainder of the season.

Note: No protests allowed, as this is considered a judgment call.

Spectators and players need to be told that they can and will be ejected from a game, or meeting because of poor sportsmanship, misconduct, **profanity**, and/or unruliness. If a player is ejected from a game, she will be suspended for her next game also.

Any player inflicting physical abuse or bullying to another player will be suspended for her next 3 games. (Disciplinary action will carry over to the next season.) If the problem still exists, the player will be removed from the league for the remainder of the season.

Profanity: anyone using profanity in the ballpark will immediately be asked to leave the complex.

Disciplinary Actions:

All persons accepting responsibility in this program must carry out the rules and regulations of MYS. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the league. MYS will convene a hearing to consider disciplinary action if one or more board members or team managers file formal complaints/protests reporting rule violations and requesting such action. Board members have the right to ban a coach, player or spectator from league and/or tournament games.

Background Checks

All Head Coaches and 1st Assistant coach will be required to go through a back ground check. The back ground check will be completed by the City of Mustang for all league teams. Tournament teams are to have a background check from USSSA or FASA.

Alcoholic Beverages:

Wildhorse Park is a city park and is subject to the public area ordinances of the City of Mustang. As such, alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the park.

The league will not permit any alcoholic beverages or intoxicated persons in the ballpark during games. Spectators and players need to be warned that they can and will be ejected from the park for violation of this rule. If the problem occurs umpires or league coordinators/officials have the authority to eject the violator's from the park. If the violator (s) is a coach, assistant coach, or player at a game in progress, the umpires have the authority to forfeit the game to the opposing team if necessary.

Tobacco Products:

Wildhorse Park is a city park and is subject to the public area ordinances of the City of Mustang. As such, tobacco products including vapes are not permitted in the park.

The league will not permit any tobacco products in the ballpark during games. Spectators and players need to be warned that they can and will be ejected from the park for violation of this rule. If the problem occurs umpires or coordinators/officials have the authority to eject the violator's from the park. If the violator (s) is a coach, assistant coach, or player at a game in progress, the umpires have the authority to forfeit the game to the opposing team if necessary.

Protests:

Protests may be allowed for violations of playing rules and player participation rules only. All protest have to be made before game time expires. Once the Head Coach has called time and talks to the umpire and state they would like to protest the game for the following reason the umpire will stop time and notify the UIC or MYS representative at the fields. At that time the coach will be required to pay the \$100 protest fee. If the protest is won in favor of the team paying the protest fee, the fee will be return. If the protest is lost, there will be no refund.

Player Eligibility:

To be eligible to play, a player must be at least 4 years old and less than 19 years old as of January 1st of current year. For fall softball you will play what you would play in the spring of the next year. Dates of birth of candidates shall be certified by the birth certificates, baptismal certificates, hospital certificates, or equivalent religious or legal documents. Each player must provide this certificate to their coach prior to the first scheduled league game. Photo copies of any of the above documents are acceptable.

Rosters:

Names must be listed on an official roster maintained by MYS. The roster maintained in the league files will serve as the official roster and will prevail in any disputes. Each coach is responsible for insuring the accuracy of his/her roster against the official league roster by the deadline discussed at the league coaches meeting. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of all games played with a player not listed on the official roster. In the interest of fairness, players may not be added to a team roster after first pre-season game without justifiable cause and MYS approval. All Coaches will be required to carry their rosters, Birth Certificates with them to all games played. If a team is found to not have it the game could result in a forfeit.

You are only allowed to be on one roster per season that is registered with MYS. **Example:** This means that a Tball player will not be allowed to be listed on a Tball roster and a 8U roster.

TOURNAMENT ROSTERS: need to be uploaded on the tournament website before start of first game. All guest players have to be aporve and listed on roster. Players can only be on one roster per tournament.

Weather delays:

Lightning and severe weather detectors will be used at the ball park. Detectors will be set at a 10 mile setting. Upon alarms going off, all play will immediately be suspended and complex cleared. The Board members have the right to continue play if they feel the detectors went off in error. Within 30 minutes a decision will be made whether to resume play or postpone to another date. (The MYS also has the right to make the decision at that time to either cancel or move to another day without delay if it does not look like 30min will be enough time) MYS and the UIC will work together on determining necessary steps.

Games called due to bad weather, power failure etc. that do not constitute a complete game will be replayed. A game is considered complete if 3 innings have been played. (2 ½ if the home team is ahead) or 20 min less left on the playing clock

TOURNAMENT RAIN OUT POLICY: No games played-100% refund, start of 1st game-50% refund, start of 2nd game-no refund.

MYS may choose to use any day of the week to use as a league make up day for rain outs: this includes Wednesday, Fridays and Saturday's if we feel it is necessary. We will try to give a 1 week notice if possible.

Game Procedure:

Home and visiting teams shall provide a scorekeeper. Home team will be the official scorekeeper. The head coach must exchange batting orders (First Initial and Last name and jersey number) prior to the beginning of each game. Either team scorekeeper may inspect the official score record of the game at any time during a game.

Forfeits:

If a team fails to appear or refuses to play within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled starting time, the game shall be forfeited to the team not at fault (7-0 score). There will be a \$100 forfeit fee to be paid by the forfeiting coach to the league prior to the team playing their next game. This will be enforced.

Forfeit fees will not have to be paid if the field coordinator where the game is to be played is notified of the forfeit at least 1 week in advance of the scheduled game time or if at least 60% of your team enters and pays gate fee. It is best to always get another team to play in your spot or swap you games.

A team must have at least seven (7) players to start a game. Two (2) automatic outs will be recorded when the 8th and 9th position immediately upon arrival if the batting order has not been completed. All girls will be placed in the line-up or the scorebook and all players will bat around in one order. If a girl should arrive late, her name will be placed at the bottom of the line-up.

Game times: Spring/Fall League:

LEAGUE: Tball-12U League – 60 minutes. If home team is winning when clock expires, its ball game. If home team is down but can mathematically come back to tie and/or win then new inning will start. If a game is tied at the end of regulation play, the game is over and each team will receive ½ a win and ½ a loss in the standings.

Tournament game times will vary. Games times will be posted on tournament listing and/or schedules.

Run Rules will apply: 12 after 3, 10 after 4, and 8 after 5.

Coaches passes:

All Coaches will be required to have their coach's passes with them at all times. If they do not have this they will be required to pay for entry into the park. We will hand them out to the team rep at the coaches meeting for league and at coaches check-in table for tournaments.

GAME SWAPPING:

League teams may change games with any other teams in **Fall**.

Spring games have to be swapped with a team that will be playing the same opponent due to standings.

You must follow these requirements:

- Must have contacted MYS (This means you have contacted the MYS officials such as the President or Vice President to let them know you will not be able to play and that X team is taking your spot)
- Must have written notification that the other coach approves the trade and that notification from the other coach approving the trade has been sent to MYS. You should always cc us both (head coaches and MYS) in email to: Sabrina@mustangyouthsports.com. Game swap will be updated on schedule.

T- Ball Rules:

Base length is 60 feet

The pitching circle shall be defined as the area in the center of the diamond. The area will be outlined by a circle 16 feet in diameter with a pitching rubber in the center 35 feet from Home plate.

Fair ball Arc is 10 feet in diameter centered on the tip of home plate.

Teams will provide their own game balls. Ball size is 11in USSSA stamped. Can be red or blue stitch.

Bats must be stamped USSSA and/or USA.

The pitcher is a fielding position only. The pitcher must have one foot on the pitching rubber.

No defensive player may play closer to home than the 35' hash mark. Infielders must be behind the 35' hash mark. It is the umpires judgement. The umpire will give one warning to the team. After the initial warning if it happens again the head coach could be removed from the game and will be subject to the discipline of a normal ejection and be forced to leave the current game and have to sit out the next game as well.

There will be up to 10 defensive players on the field.

- A maximum of 6 players, including the pitcher and catcher may be on the infield (inside the diamond).
 - Outfielders must stay at least 10' behind the bases.
- Defensive shifting will not be allowed to prevent overloading one side or the other according to how a batter is positioned.
 - First and Second base fielders must stay on the right side of the infield until the ball is hit off the tee.
 - Shortstop and Third base fielders must stay on the left side of the infield until the ball is hit off the tee.
 - No defensive player can play closer to Home plate than where the pitcher is positioned.

The batter is allowed three swings. If the batter fails to hit the ball after the third swings, she will be called out. It is not counted as a swing if the batter accidentally knocks the ball off of the tee while addressing the ball. The batter must remain in the batter's box. If the batter lines up or one foot comes out of the batter's box during swing where the batter makes contact with the ball the batter is considered out and the ball is dead. The batter is out whether the ball is fair or foul. In cases where there are no batter's box lines evident, good judgement must be used and the benefit of any doubt must go to the batter, If the hitter does not make contact with the ball, there is no penalty.

Batter must take a full swing and ball must pass the fair ball arc to be considered a live ball.

Runners may not advance if the ball does not travel outside the Fair Ball Arc.

League Overthrow rule: On a defensive overthrow at 1st base (into fair or foul territory) while attempting an out with no other base runners on base, the play shall be called dead with all runners advancing a maximum of one additional base beyond the base they were running to when the overthrow occurs. Runners advancing beyond the allowed one additional base will be returned to the appropriate base by the umpire. Overthrow rule does not apply if the runner beats the ball to the base.

Tournaments: Rule does not apply.

The catcher must stay behind home plate and to the opposite side of the batter until the ball is hit. The catcher may not interfere with the batter.

Catcher **MUST** wear helmet with mask and a chest protector.

MYS highly recommends all players to wear face mask while on defense.

When any fielder has control of the ball and the lead runner is stopped at a base the umpire will declare the ball dead and play will stop.

The infield fly rule is not in effect.

All ground rules will be discussed before the game. The umpire shall inform both coaches of the existing ground rules, dead ball areas and other specific rules before the game begins.

One defensive coach may be positioned in the outfield for defensive instructions only. The coach may not touch the players or enter the playing infield. All other coaches must remain in the dugout during defensive play.

One coach from the team that is batting will be responsible for adjusting the tee to the satisfaction of the hitter. The umpire will place the ball on the tee and call aloud "play ball". The coach is responsible for removing the tee and bat from the playing area after the ball has been hit fairly out of the catcher's circle. Teams are allowed to use their own tee.

8U Coach Pitch Rules

Base length is 60 feet

The pitching circle shall be defined as the area in the center of the diamond. The area will be outlined by a circle 16 feet in diameter with a pitching rubber in the center 35 feet from Home plate.

Teams will provide their own game balls. Ball size is 11in USSSA stamped. Can be red or blue stitch.

Bats must be stamped USSSA and/or USA. Tball bats are allowed for 8U.

Batters/runners will wear an approved helmet with face mask at all times, including leaving and re-entering the dugouts.

The catcher will wear approved catchers gear including helmet, mask, chest and throat protectors and shin guards. Catcher helmet must be worn any time warming up a pitcher. The catcher's mask may be removed after the ball has been hit.

MYS highly recommends all infielders to wear a face mask on defense.

No defensive coach will be allowed on the playing field.

9 or 10 defensive players may be used at the discretion of each manager. This decision must be made prior to the start of the game. If a 10th player is elected, four outfielders designated as left, left center, right, and right center will be used.

A maximum of 6 players, including the pitcher and catcher may be in the infield (inside the diamond) all others must be behind the bases at least 10 feet. .

Coach pitch rules:

1.The pitching coach must DELIVER the pitch with one foot in contact with the pitching plate.

The pitching coach cannot throw in a manner that gives his base runners an advantage, if this occurs the coach will be removed. Second Offense: will result in a forfeit of the game. All this is the judgement of the umpire.

- ***Additionally if the ball lands in front of the plate no runners may steal a base. If the hitter hits the ball it is considered live at that point.***
- ***All pitches have to be catchable by the catcher. If the umpire deems that a ball is not catchable and a runner is stealing then the umpire will make the runner return to the base they were at before the pitch.***
- ***The pitching coach must be able to pitch the ball with minimal arch.***

2. The pitcher will be the manager from the team that is at bat. (The manager may designate a pitcher 16 years old or older)

3. While the batter is attempting to hit the ball from the coach pitcher, the defensive pitcher must have at least one foot within the pitchers circle until the ball is hit.

4. Each batter will be allowed 5 pitches to hit the ball. A missed 5th pitch results in a "strikeout".

5. The batter remains active if the 5th or any subsequent pitches are hit foul.

6. The batter must hit the ball into fair territory in order to get on base.
7. If the batted ball hits the pitcher/coach or the pitcher/coach catches the ball, the ball is dead and is re-pitched. If the pitching coach interferes with a live ball intentionally, the closest runner to Home plate will be called out.
8. The pitching coach may coach the batter only. The pitching coach cannot coach base runners while on the playing field inside the foul lines. Penalty: warning on the first offense; upon the second offense, the coach will be ejected from the game and the closest runner to Home plate will be called out.
9. If a batter is hit by a pitched ball from the coach pitcher, the batter is not awarded 1st Base and the pitch counts as a strike.
10. **Bunting IS ALLOWED.**
11. **STEALING:** a runner may steal as explained below.
A runner on 1st or 2nd can advance/steal only one base per pitch even in the event of an overthrow in live ball territory when the ball crosses the plate (*This is at sole discretion of the umpires and a non-arguable call*). If they advance more than one base, they are liable to be put out. At end of the play, if the runner is safe and has advanced more than one base, the umpire will return the runner to the correct base.
12. If a player is caught leaving the base early they will be called out.
13. A runner cannot steal home. If they advance home they are liable to be put out. At end of play if the runner is safe and has advanced the umpire will return the runner to the correct base.
14. Awarded bases will apply to all runners. This includes an overthrow into dead ball territory

10U-18U Rules

FASA and USSSA games rules will apply.

One coach outside the dugout while playing defense and two coaches outside the dugout while playing offense (one at 1st and one at 3rd base)

All ages may bat their lineup if the team wishes. This will need to be addressed at the plate meeting before your game. If they do not bat the line up FASA/USSSA rules will apply to batting lineups and substitutions.

MYS highly recommends all infielders wear face mask while playing defense.