
STATE OF MICHIGAN COED SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL

LEAGUE RULES

League rules are in accordance with USA Softball except where Delta Township Parks and Rec has implemented their own rules. These rules are enforced by the umpires provided by the township. The following league specific rules supersede all other rules.

USA RULE BOOK

[Official Rulebook - USA Softball](#)

DELTA TOWNSHIP SOFTBALL

[Delta Township Adult Softball](#)

1. ROSTER ELIGIBILITY

- A. State Employee Player
 - a. Any State Employee who is working for any of the following agencies at the start of the softball season: DNR/EGLE/ DTMB/DARD/DHHS/MEDC/AG/MSP.
- B. Retired Player
 - a. Any employee that has 30 years of service with the State or is age 60+ and worked 10+ years for the state and was a player or met the employee eligibility (1.A) to play at their retirement.
- C. Spouse Player
 - a. Any spouse of a State Employee Player or Retired Player is eligible provided the employee/retiree actively participates by hitting.
- D. Child Player
 - a. Any child of a State Employee Player or Retired Player is eligible if they are 18+ years of age and the employee/retiree actively participates by hitting.
- E. Non-Employee Female Player
 - a. Each team may have up to two women that are not eligible to play under rules A through D. The children of these players are not eligible to play.
- F. Alternate Player
 - a. Is a league player that has been temporarily added to another team's roster.

2. TEAM COMPOSITION

- A. Minimum number of players
 - a. A team must have at least 9 players to play, with no less than 3 players of one gender.
- B. Alternate Players
 - a. There is no limit to how many alternate players can be used to reach the 9-player and/or minimum gender requirement.
 - b. If a player arrives after the game start, they must replace the Alternate Player of the same gender in the lineup.

C. Gender distribution

- a. There can be no more than 6 male players on defense at any time.
- b. The league does not require the infield and outfield to have two of each gender. Nor does it require the pitcher and catcher to be opposite genders.

3. SUBSTITUTIONS

- A. The league runs informally (line up cards are not required), free substitution and unlimited re-entry of players into defensive positions is allowed.
- B. If a player must leave any given game for any given reason, that team is NOT required to provide a substitute unless it results in that team having less than 9 players.
- C. If a player needs a pinch runner (injury, handicap, etc.), then any available player of the same gender can run for them. A pinch runner will be considered as an out if they are on base when it is their turn to bat.

4. BAT CHECK

Bats must be tested by Delta Township each season before using in league. Bats which pass compression testing will receive a sticker for the current season. All bats must be designated for use in USA softball and have the USA (or ASA) softball logo painted on the bat. Any player that uses a bat that's lacking the current season sticker, USA logo, or is on the prohibit bat test will be considered automatically out and the bat must be removed from the playing area.

5. EQUIPMENT

- A. Players must wear closed toe shoes on the field.
- B. Shoes with metal spikes or cleats are not permitted. Molded cleats, turf, trail or running shoes are acceptable.
- C. Players are encouraged to wear face masks for safety purposes but are not required.

6. BATTING

A. Initial pitch count

Batters will begin each at bat with a designated number of balls and strikes as defined by USA Softball and Delta Township. Currently each batter will begin with 1 ball and 1 strike and have the possibility of hitting 1 foul ball after they have two strikes, called the grace. If the batter hits a second foul ball with two strikes, then batter is considered as struck out.

B. Batting order

- a. The batting order must always alternate gender. In situations where there are more of one gender than the other the lesser will bat more often. The league has found that the easiest way to track the rotation is to have rosters separated by gender and to have batters remember who they follow in their gender roster. Batters must follow their roster order for the entire game.
- b. Late arrivals can be added to the end of the established roster for their gender.
- c. If a player must exit the game their roster spot will simply be skipped with no penalty to their team. If the player returns before the game is completed, they must bat in the same roster spot.

- d. Everyone who wants to play must be included in the batting order. Batters are not required to play defense. Players that have children or spouses must bat at a minimum for those players to qualify.
- C. Walks
 - Walk rules are in accordance with USA softball CO-ED rules
 - a. If a male batter is walked the batter is awarded two bases, runners on base will advance accordingly.
 - b. If a male batter is walked and there are two outs the next female batter has the option to take a walk or bat. This decision is made by the batter.
 - c. If a female batter is walked the player is awarded first base.
- D. Homerun Rule
 - Each team can hit a total of 6 homeruns by hitting the ball over the outfield fence per game. Any additional ones are considered outs and any runners on base cannot advance. Inside the park homeruns do not count against this total.
- E. Mercy Rule
 - A game where one team is trailing by 15 runs after 5 innings or 10 runs after 6 innings is considered as over.
- F. Flip Rule
 - If at the start of the fifth or sixth inning, the visiting team is ahead by the mercy run limit, 15 and 10 respectively, then the home team will remain at bat for the start of that inning. Subsequent innings will continue play with the home team leading off each inning.

7. RAINOUTS

Games in progress, but not complete, that are called due to severe weather will be rescheduled and played in their entirety. A complete game is defined as 5 complete innings or 4.5 innings if the visiting team has completed their 5th inning at bats and they are losing. Rainout games will be added to the end of the regular season before the league tournament.

8. FORFEITS

A team that needs to forfeit a game must contact their opponent Coach, the League Commissioner, Delta Township, and the League's Umpires. These contacts should be provided at the start of the season or will be available from the Commissioner. This is to ensure that those who will be impacted by the forfeit are notified. Refer to Delta Township rules regarding forfeits for further details.

9. SOFTBALL SIZE

- A. Male batters will use a 12-inch softball when hitting
- B. Female batters have the option to use either the 12-in or 11-inch softball when hitting.

10. TIED GAMES

If at the end of regulation the game is tied, additional innings will be played until the time limit for the game has been reached.

11. ALCOHOL

Delta Township provides permits for alcohol that you can obtain when registering your team. Teams are required to have a permit if they plan to consume alcohol in the park.

12. PITCHING RUBBER

Township fields may have two pitching rubbers, the one furthest back is used for slow pitch softball. For pitching rubber distance refer to the USA softball rule book.

13. TOURNAMENT

After the end of the regular season there will be a one game elimination tournament between all teams. Teams will be ranked based on their regular season win/loss record. The higher ranked team will be the home team. Teams that are tied in the standings will use the following tie breaker logic to determine their tournament seeding:

- a. Head-to-head record
- b. Head-to-head run differential: Total Runs For – Total Runs Against
- c. Coin flip

14. DISPUTES

This is a recreational league intended for fun and networking amongst fellow State Employees. Opposing coaches should work out issues together. If that is not possible then the dispute should be brought forward to the League Commissioner to resolve. The Commissioner may hold a majority vote with the remaining coaches to finalize a resolution.

15. LEAGUE GUIDELINES

These guidelines are intended for coaches and commissioners to clarify how the league operates to maintain consistency over time.

A. Communication

- a. Commissioner and Coaches should share after hour contact information to communicate rainouts, last-minute changes or field issues.

B. Season Prestart

- a. Each season starts by contacting Delta Township to ensure we have fields, the cost per team, umpire fees and any Township deadlines and changes that could impact the league and the Townships rainout cancelation number for the new season.
- b. The Commissioner should establish with the Township a way in which to communicate with the umpires and after hours for situations where the fields have not been dressed. This contact information should be shared with league coaches.
- c. Coaches are notified to determine if their team is returning and what their team costs will be.
- d. All fees and player registrations should be conducted through the Township office located off Canal Street opposite Horrock's.

C. Season

- a. The league season consists of approximately 10 weeks with an additional two weeks for the end of season tournament.
- b. The tournament consists of a single elimination bracket that is played after all regular season games are completed including rainouts.

D. League Schedule

- a. The commissioner establishes the league schedule. This can be done with a variety of web apps or manually. It may be possible to have the township establish the schedule as well.
- b. The number of games is dependent upon the number of teams. The ideal scenario is to have one game per week with a total of 10 games per team.
- c. No games shall be played on State holidays. If the 4th of July falls on a Wednesday or Thursday then a coaches vote to determine if the Monday before or after should have games is required, prior to scheduling games.
- d. The tournament typically consists of two days played over subsequent weeks at the end of the regular season.
- e. When scheduling games it is imperative that each umpire has two (or more) games per night. Umpires have requested that we do not schedule one game for one umpire.
- f. Once the schedule is established the Commissioner needs to provide it to all teams and the Township.

E. Umpires

- a. Umpires are provided by Delta Township based on the league schedule.
- b. Each team is required to pay an umpire fee.
- c. While the Township coordinates the umpires it is recommended that the Commissioner obtain the umpire contact information in case there is a need to communicate with an umpire when the Township office is closed.
- d. If an umpire does not show up to a game, then the two teams that are playing should look for a volunteer umpire or self-ump.
- e. Issues with umpires should be reported to the Commissioner who should evaluate the issue and then work with the Umpire, Coaches, and/or Township to resolve it.

F. Rainouts

- a. Delta Township provides a rainout number with a recorded message that will indicate if the games are cancelled or not. Teams should call this number if there is any question as to whether games may be cancelled.
- b. The umpire may cancel games at the field on their discretion. If teams have paid their umpire and the game is cancelled, then they need to coordinate with the umpire to either return the fees or ensure that umpire will be their umpire for the makeup game.

G. Forfeits

- a. Teams that forfeit are required to pay the umpire fee for themselves and their opponent.
- b. Delta Township has specific rules around the timing of a forfeit to avoid having to pay fees.
- c. The league recommends that a team needing to forfeit due to a lack of players forfeit their game to the opposing team (not the Township) and then play the game as a scrimmage so they can utilize as many alternate players as needed. Both teams will still need to pay umpire fees, but all available players will get to play a game, and the umpire will not miss out on an opportunity to officiate.

H. League Rule Changes

- a. Teams and players are encouraged to provide feed back and recommendations on how to improve the game and address any reoccurring issues.
- b. A rule change proposal should be well thought through with consideration for how the change will impact the game and obvious questions players may have on how the rule will work.
- c. Rules should first be vetted to all the players on the team proposing the rule change. Only proposals that are approved by that team should be submitted for League consideration.
- d. Rules that are submitted to the league for consideration must contain the Team proposing the change and the point of contact for any questions that coaches reviewing the change may have.
- e. Rule changes should be solicited by the Commissioner at the end of each year. The Commissioner will provide the rule change and point of contact to all coaches who will have a two-week window in which to review and vote yes, no, or abstain. If a team does not vote, then they will be treated as abstaining. The Commissioner will share the vote results for each rule change and add those that are accepted to the League Rules.
- f. In situations where a safety issue or other pressing concern that may impede play requires a rule change mid-season the Commissioner should bring the rule forward as an emergency rule change. Note that League rules should avoid mandating that players wear protective equipment. Wearing equipment is a choice for each player to decide.