

# Mini-MAC Girls Softball

## 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Rules

Revised March 11, 2021

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### Regular Season

1. Girls' Softball League will be comprised of teams from Coldwater, Fort Loramie, Fort Recovery, Marion Local, Minster, New Bremen, St. Henry and St. Marys, Versailles for girls who have JUST COMPLETED the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades. There are no age stipulations for participants, only grades. Rosters will be filled with a mixture of girls from both the third and fourth grade and in the case of multiple teams from the same community, it is highly encouraged to have girls from both grades. Regular season will begin no sooner than May 10, 2021.
2. Communities which host multiple teams will be designated by a nickname or a number and not by a coach's name or color. Players will be expected to wear team shirts, helmets and pants/shorts during games - rubber cleats are not necessary but will be beneficial. Each community will be responsible for providing their own uniforms and equipment and the "home" team on the schedule will provide two game balls for each game scheduled. Uniform shirts must be numbered.
3. Regular season games will not affect the standings and have no bearing towards tournament seeding. The priority of the regular season is to play everybody and to play the girls in multiple positions.
4. The home coach will determine if a game is rained out. That coach will be responsible for contacting the visiting coach and the umpires. The coaches are responsible for rescheduling the game, including scheduling the umpires.
5. The league will consist of an eastern conference (Ft. Loramie, Minster, New Bremen, and St. Marys) and a western conference (Coldwater, Ft. Recovery, Marion Local, St. Henry and Versailles).
6. 2nd grade girls may be used to fill out the lineup card to ten players. This is allowed and encouraged. An attempt to call up younger players should be made first before cancelling games.
7. A head coach for each team will be required to attend the scheduling meeting on Wednesday April 7th at Maria Stein Legion. If the head coach is unable to attend then he or she must send an assistant in their place to represent the team.
  - 6pm 7<sup>th</sup> grade
  - 7pm 8<sup>th</sup> grade
  - 8pm 9<sup>th</sup> grade

### Tournament Play

1. A single-elimination tournament will be held at the end of the regular season. The tournament will be held the week of June 28th and completed on or by July 1st. **NEW 2021 Each community will assign one team to represent their community in tournament play. We will play the LLWS style tournament structure... meaning that all towns will play internally amongst each other and the winner will represent their town in the Mini- MAC league tournament, held in Ft Loramie.**
2. The quarter, semi-finals and final round will be played in Ft. Loramie. Each community will pay a \$125.00 entry fee before April 7, 2021, with checks made payable to **Fort Loramie Youth Softball**. The fee will cover the cost of the umpires at the league tournament as well as tournament awards.
3. All tournament games will require two umpires. Both plate and base umpires will need to be **high school age or older**.
4. Winning teams of tournament games will be required to text the score to **Brad Turner (216-973-2246)** after each game.
5. Tournament game time limit is 90 minutes drop dead.
6. If a team has enough regular season players, they must play. Younger players (2nd graders) may only be used if there are not enough (less than 10) regular season players present. No swapping of players of the same age division is allowed during the tournament. If a younger player (2nd grader) is brought up to fill in the roster, that player may only play for 1 team and may not play for another team during the tournament.
7. A pitcher may pitch only two innings and it is considered an inning if the pitcher throws at least one pitch in that inning during tournament play.

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8. All regular season rules apply to tournament play unless indicated above.

**2021 Rules** – Standard high school softball rules will apply except the following:

### **GAME**

- ◆ The home team will provide 11" raised-stitch yellow softballs for the game.
- ◆ All players will be placed in the batting order regardless of the number of the players.
- ◆ A regulation game consists of 5 innings.
- ◆ Game time limit is set at 90 minutes "drop dead".
- ◆ 5 run maximum per inning for the hitting team, with NO LIMIT on runs in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning.
- ◆ The run rule will be enforced if the losing team is down by 15 runs after 4 complete innings.

### **FIELD DIMENSIONS**

- ◆ The diameter of the pitching circle will be **16-feet** and the distance from the pitching rubber to home plate will be **35-feet** while all bases will be **60-feet** apart.

### **PITCHING**

- ◆ During league play a pitcher may pitch only two innings and it is considered an inning if the pitcher throws at least one pitch in that inning. Number of balls pitched between innings is 5. More pitches are allowed only if there is a pitching change.
- ◆ The pitcher must have her pivot foot on the rubber at the beginning of the pitch. The pivot foot must stay in contact with the ground when the pitch is released.
- ◆ Strike three is strike three no matter if the catcher drops the strike.
- ◆ A pitch hitting the ground before hitting the batter is considered a hit-by-pitch, and batter is awarded first base.
- ◆ **NEW 2021** To begin the game the batter will start with a 1-1 count. Pitchers are **NOT** permitted to walk any batters per inning. Upon being walked the hitter remains batting while her coach enters the game to pitch **TWO** pitches. The batter will either hit or strike out from the coach's pitches. If the second pitch while the coach is pitching, goes foul, the player is not out unless the ball is caught. The coach will continue to pitch until the player hits or strikes out. During this time, the pitcher will stay on the field and be permitted to be on either side of her coach, but is not permitted to break the plane of the pitching rubber until after the pitches release. The same coach must be used for the entire inning. After the coach has pitched 2 pitches and the batter hits or strikes out, the pitcher returns to face the next batters.

### **DEFENSE**

- ◆ Teams will have 10 players on the field for defense. Four of the players must play on the grass. No five person infields are permitted.
- ◆ All players must play at least two innings of defense except in case of shortened games.
- ◆ A player may be removed from a game at any time for a substitute on defense.
- ◆ Players removed from a game may re-enter at any time and for any player **ON DEFENSE ONLY**. The batting order does not change once the game begins.
- ◆ A player may change defensive positions at any point during the game.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- ◆ Offense is permitted to steal any base but home. A player can only steal one base at a time and may not advance on an overthrow. Runners can lead off or steal once the ball crosses home plate. Runners may only advance home on a batted ball.
- ◆ Sliding and Bunting are permitted. Baserunners are encouraged to slide when played upon. Baserunners may be called out for failing to avoid contact or otherwise interfering with a defender attempting to make a play (umpire's discretion).
- ◆ Infield fly rule will not be enforced.
- ◆ Courtesy runners for pitchers and catchers are permitted, but not required. Courtesy runners will be the last player to have made an out.
- ◆ Wearing jewelry and metal cleats is prohibited.
- ◆ In case of rain or darkness the game may be postponed to a later date from the point of suspension. Games will be rescheduled as soon as possible. An official game is recorded after four complete innings (the losing team has batted four times).
- ◆ A community **MAY** play season league games in multiple leagues as long as the two don't consistently result in games being forfeited. However, a community must play in only **ONE** league tournament.

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**At the first sight of lightning or sound of thunder, games will be delayed for 30 minutes or until there is no lightning or thunder for 30 minutes. If lightning or thunder re-occurs, the 30 minute clock resets.**