

Mount Laurel Girls Softball

Recreational League Rules Supplement

Mount Laurel Girls Softball will play in accordance with the appropriate age-specific rules outlined in UGSA (United Girls Softball Association) for each level and leveraging the Freedom modifications. Rules outlined below are intended to override similar UGSA rules or supplement them where not specified. UGSA playing rules can be found on the UGSA Website at <https://www.ugsasoftball.com/>.

Coaching Requirements

- 1) Player Positioning (all ages): All players shall play a minimum of one inning in the outfield and two innings in the infield each game (if there are nine or more players). No player shall play a third inning in the outfield until all other players have played at least two innings in the outfield (8U – no player shall play a second inning in the outfield until all other players have played at least one inning in the outfield). No player shall play the same position for more than two innings in any game. Primary catchers who catch a minimum of four innings are exempt from all rotation requirements.
- 2) Batting Order (all ages): All players must appear in the top half and bottom half of the batting lineup an equal number of times throughout regular season.
- 3) Pitching: Pitchers shall be permitted to pitch a maximum of two innings in a game so long as the team has enough girls interested in pitching to support the entirety of the game. If the team has two pitchers, each pitcher must be given the opportunity to pitch two innings each. If the game goes to a fifth inning one of the pitchers shall be permitted to pitch a third inning at the coach's discretion. In a subsequent game, the coach should choose the other pitcher to pitch a third inning.

Equipment

- 1) Batter's Helmet: Players must wear helmets with full face cage when at bat, on base, on deck (in "live ball" territory), or serving as a base coach.
- 2) Catchers: Catchers must wear league provided catching equipment or personally purchased catcher's equipment. Catchers must wear a catcher's helmet, shin guards, and chest protector. Players are not permitted to wear batting helmets while catching for safety reasons.

- 3) Fielders: Fielder's masks are mandatory for all infield positions. Refusal to wear a face mask will result in only being eligible to play outfield positions. Use of mouth guards is recommended for outfielders if they choose not to wear a face mask.

Spectators

- 1) Spectators are not permitted in the bench area or on the field of play at any time during the game except to attend to an injured or ill player.

Additional 8U Modifications (only used when 8U is playing a completely in-house schedule):

- 1) Forfeits will occur if a team does not have four players at the start of the game and is not expecting a fifth player to arrive shortly following the start of the game.
 - Outfielders are not required.
 - Teams may borrow other players from the opposing team to play a position if necessary.
 - Teams may proceed with play without a catcher.
- 2) A batter may only advance as far as second base on a ball hit to the outfield. Advancing to second base is at the batter/runner's risk. The defense may attempt to make an out on the batter/runner advancing to second base.
- 3) Each batter will be given seven pitches to try to hit the ball in play. If the ball has not been hit into play after seven pitches, the batter is out. If the batter fouls the seventh pitch, they will receive another pitch and will continue to bat if they continue to foul the pitch. Balls and strikes will be called; however, there are no walks. After three strikes, the batter is out. A caught foul tip is handled as a strike unless it is hit above the batter's head and caught; it is then considered an out. The catcher must be in a true catcher's position behind home plate before the pitcher pitches the ball.
- 4) Three defensive coaches may be positioned on the field in addition to the coach who is pitching. One of the defensive coaches must be positioned behind the catcher (in the backstop area) to expedite the game. The coaches in the field should be positioned in the grass and remain there during the play. During the course of play, they may provide verbal instructions but are not permitted to interfere or assist in making any plays. After the play has concluded, they may step into the infield to provide additional instruction, but it may not impede the progress of the game.