

MBSA Fastpitch Softball In-House Spring 2026

Rules of Play

Last revised 03/04/2026

Monroeville Baseball & Softball Association (MBSA) Girls Fastpitch Softball In-house will follow current-year ASA/USA Softball rules except as modified herein.

GENERAL RULES

1. ROSTERS

Team rosters will be shared between commissioners of both leagues, with birth dates noted on the rosters.

2. SPORTSMANSHIP

For the health and promotion of league play, individual player and/or coach activity and team activity must be controlled and limited to encouragement, cheering, and good sportsmanship. BE SUPPORTIVE! THE UMPIRES SHALL CONTROL SPECTATOR ACTIVITY.

3. PERMITTED INDIVIDUALS

Only team members, coaches, managers, and official scorekeepers for the team are permitted on the team bench and in the playing area. There is to be NO use of tobacco products on any team bench. Monroeville Community Park (turf fields) will also prohibit gum and sunflower seeds of any kind.

If a team is seen to be using gum/seeds the team will be given a warning and must clean all remnants of the gum/seeds from all surfaces. A second infraction will result in automatic elimination from the tournament and no refund will be given. Each manager is expected to make this rule clear with their spectators and fans. These infractions will be enforced with all players, coaches, and fans.

4. DECISION OF THE UMPIRE

The decision of the umpire is final. Umpires may eject players, coaches, spectators, and managers from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct, foul language, continuous arguing and/or harassment of the umpire. All in attendance must always conduct themselves in a civil manner. Violation of this rule may result in game forfeiture, tournament forfeiture and/or disciplinary action. Any ejected manager, coach, spectator and/or player from a game will be suspended from the next game played. The ejected person(s) may also be subject to disciplinary actions by the MBSA or FRAA Disciplinary Committees and risk forfeiture of the game as well as suspension from coaching.

5. SCORE BOOKS

Paper or digital score books are final. The home team shall report the score to the MBSA Softball Commissioner (or designee) at the conclusion of each game.

6. GAME TIME LIMIT

Game time limits will be noted under each individual age group notes.

7. BATS

MBSA in-house players should use USA Softball Bats only. All bats must have the USA or ASA certification mark. Bat throwing is dangerous and can cause injury. Each TEAM is allowed 1 warning for throwing the bat. For all subsequent offenses, the batter will be called out and dead ball will be called. (ie. no base runner can advance)

GENERALPLAYING RULES

MBSA Fastpitch Softball In-House Spring 2026

Rules of Play

Last revised 03/04/2026

1. The umpire shall notify each coach/manager at the top of the inning that it is the last inning of play based on time.
2. Teams will be comprised of up to 15 players. Girls may only be rostered for one team regardless of age category. Call-ups from a lower age group are permitted on a game-by-game basis.
3. COURTESY RUNNER - a courtesy runner (the last out made) may be used for the pitcher or catcher at any time during the game. Other position players may use a pinch runner only once and must notify the umpire and other manager/coach.
4. Continuous Batting Order will be used for all age groups. If a player becomes injured during the game and does not play the rest of the game no out will be recorded in her spot in the batting order however, she cannot reenter the game unless an out was taken in her spot in the batting order. If the girl leaves a game for any other reason than injury, when it is her turn to bat, an out will be taken (unless her departure was discussed and agreed by opposing coaches prior to the games start).

Note: A continuous batting order allows for free substitution, however, the exception is a pitcher that is removed from the defensive lineup can only return to the pitching position once.

FIELD REQUIREMENTS

1. Measurements of field:
 - a) 8 & Under: 35-foot pitching distance
 - b) 10 & Under: 35-foot pitching distance
 - c) 12 & Under: 40-foot pitching distance
 - d) 16-foot circle around mound (8 ft. radius)
 - e) Bases: 60 feet distance apart w/Running Lane for 1st Base
 - f) Batter's box shall measure 3 feet by 7 feet, inside line shall be 6 inches from home plate. The front line shall be 4 feet to the front and the rear line shall be 3 feet to the back of the obtuse corner of home plate.
2. All ground rules should be clearly defined and agreed upon (by umpires and coaches/managers) prior to the start of each game.

LEAGUE STANDINGS TIE BREAKER RULES

1. Head-to-Head play
2. Runs Against
3. Runs Scored
4. Coin Toss

MBSA Fastpitch Softball In-House Spring 2026

Rules of Play

Last revised 03/04/2026

6 & Under League

LENGTH OF THE GAME

1. There will be no forfeits in the Instructional League. If there are not enough players to have a game the original game will be rescheduled as per field availability.
2. Games will be rescheduled by the MBSA Executive Commissioner (or designee) based on field availability and input from the affected coaches.
3. Games will be timed for 1 hour and 15 minutes drop dead, games will be 3 full innings.
4. The home team coach or the MBSA or FRAA Commissioners can call or suspend a game due to the weather or darkness. Suspended games will not be rescheduled if at least 1 inning was played.

DISPUTES/DISAGREEMENTS

1. A team shall consist of all the players present for that game.
2. The HOME team is listed second on the schedule.
3. The playing teams should make every effort to hold the game on the day it is scheduled.
4. All pitchers must wear protective equipment when playing the position. MBSA will provide all teams with a helmet equipped with a face mask and chest guard.
5. There will not be catcher equipment provided, therefore, MBSA suggests team have the pitcher cover plays at the plate. Coaches are not permitted to position a player as a catcher.

OFFENSIVE RULES:

1. Players must bat from the batting box located at home plate every inning of every game.
2. A combination of coach pitch and a tee will be used for batting.
3. The batter must demonstrate sufficient effort in swinging. Incomplete swings or a lack of effort to pitched balls would result in the tee being used. There will be no bunting or half swings permitted.
4. Base runners are not allowed to steal or leave the base they occupy until the ball is hit.
5. No infield fly rule will be enforced; however, all other baseball rules should be taught in preparation for future divisions including tagging up.
6. Base runners may not advance on overthrows. Play shall cease and the base runners will go back to the base they last occupied if advancement after an overthrow occurs.
7. Balls that reach the outfield as a result of the hit allow the batter/runners to advance to a 2nd base. Once the ball is in possession of an outfielder play will cease and the runners will be allowed to the base they are advancing to.
 - a. This rule allows coaches to teach the player to listen to their coaches when running the bases. Situational baseball is something that should be focused on at this Instructional Level.
 - b. If the ball travels to the outfield because of an error or redirection by an infield player no 2nd base will be allowed.
8. Batters and base runners must always wear helmets while inside the fencing.
9. On any play at the plate the batting tee will be removed by a coach/volunteer.

MBSA Fastpitch Softball In-House Spring 2026

Rules of Play

Last revised 03/04/2026

DEFENSIVE RULES:

1. All balls traveling more than 6 feet from the back of home plate are in play. Balls played between home plate and the 6-foot line are judgement calls by the coaches as to whether the ball would have passed over the line.
2. All players present at the game will play the entire game unless ill or injured.
3. All players at the game will be in the field at once. Those players that exceed the normal infield positions of pitcher, 1st, 2nd, SS, 3rd, will be placed a minimum of 15 feet beyond each base. No outfielders may advance inside this line until the ball is hit. All players must play their position in a reasonable vicinity of that position. Players will stay within 3 feet of the base line in the infield and the pitcher will play on the 46-foot line at the mound.
4. Coaches should determine positions for each player in each game. At their discretion coaches can either position players at the same position during one game or rotate each player between innings. If deemed necessary due to safety concerns the head coach can reposition any player at any time during play.
5. A continuous batting order is used. 3 outs will clear the bases; however, the team continues to bat until the last batter bats. An inning is over when every player in the batting order has batted.
6. This is an instructional league; therefore, we do not keep score or track wins and losses during the regular season.

PITCHING RULES

1. Coaches will begin each game pitching from an approximate distance of 30 ft away, but adjustments from this distance can be made based on the current batter's ability to hit the ball. Each player will get 5 pitches. If the ball is not put into play the tee will be used. The coach of the batting team should use their own judgement on if the player will receive more pitches based on the player's effort and their ability to contact the ball.
 - a. 5 pitches must be strictly enforced for length of game restrictions
2. Coaches may decide to use the tee immediately if the current batter does not possess the skills yet to swing safely at a pitched ball. These decisions will be left to the player's head coach or parent/guardian decision. On Deck Batters: 1. On deck batters are permitted to use the practice area adjacent to the dugouts only when they are next up. All other players should be kept clear of that area until their turn to warm up by coaches. Instructional league encourages the assistance of a Instructional League Bench Assistant willing to manage the players in between plays while coaches are in the field. Parents/guardians are advised to use discretion before sending their child into game play. Sidelines/Dugouts: 1. No throwing balls on the sidelines or in the dugouts. 2. All players must be under control of the coaches/bench volunteers at all times.

An Instructional League Bench Manager will be responsible for controlling the bench during game play. The Bench Manager will be responsible for ensuring the players are ready for them at bat with the proper equipment

MBSA Fastpitch Softball In-House Spring 2026

Rules of Play

Last revised 03/04/2026

8 & Under League

EQUIPMENT

1. The official softball to be used in the 8 & under division will be any approved USA Softball 11-inch softball.
2. Shoes with rubber cleats may be worn, no metal or hard cleats will be allowed.
3. Batting helmets with faceguard must be always worn by batters and base runners.
4. Catchers must wear helmet with faceguard.
5. All players must have a heart-guard on when at the pitching position.

PITCHING

1. Pitching distance will be 30 feet within a circle of 16 feet diameter.
2. Team coaches will be utilized as pitchers but may not make any defensive plays.
3. A pitcher-coach will pitch to his/her own batter and must start within the 16 feet circle. The player-pitcher in the 8u division must start with at least one foot within the circle.
4. Batters will get a maximum of 7 pitches to hit a fair ball. If on the 7th pitch and subsequent pitches, the batter continues to hit foul balls, that batter remains at bat until a swing-and-miss or no-swing. There are no walks in this division and after the final pitch if the batter has not hit a fair ball, the batter will take an out.

GAME RULES

1. Teams field 10 players only
 1. Only one player is allowed in each of following positions: P, C, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B. All other players must be positioned in the outfield.
 1. No shifts are allowed.
2. **NO BUNTING - No bunting allowed in 8U division.**
3. Games are 5 innings. If a game is terminated for darkness, weather, field conditions, or umpire calls the game (not including time limit stoppage), 3 complete innings (2 1/2 where applicable) will determine a regulation game.
4. Runs per inning shall be limited to (4) four. The run limit will be waived in the last inning of play. In bracket play there will be no run limit. The inning will end when 3 outs have been recorded.
5. The infield fly rule **does not** apply.
6. Each batter will receive 7 total pitches. 3 strikes and you're out.
7. On a ball hit in the infield (ie. does not get to the grass or an infielder picks up the ball before it gets to the grass) the runners may advance only 1 base.
 1. In addition, runners can advance only one (1) additional base on an overthrow from an infielder at any base.

MBSA Fastpitch Softball In-House Spring 2026

Rules of Play

Last revised 03/04/2026

8. A player will be positioned beside the pitcher/coach for fielding but may not interfere with the delivery of the pitch and must be within the 16' circle.
9. If a pitcher-coach is struck by a batted ball, the ball becomes an immediate dead ball and is considered no pitch, and all runners return to their base. That pitch does not count as of the seven (7).
10. **Play stops once an infielder has possession of the ball in the designated infield turf (two feet).** This will be umpire's discretion. Base runners may advance to the base if they have passed the designated half way point prior to infield possession, at their own risk.
11. The position of the infielder may not be more than 10 feet in front of or behind the base, but not directly on the baseline.
12. The position of the outfielder must start 20 feet beyond the baselines.
13. **NO STEALING.** A baserunner is not permitted to leave any base (during the pitch), prior to the batter hitting the ball. A team warning will be given on the first offense, on the second offense, the baserunner will be called out.
14. Coaches should rotate players amongst all positions throughout the game and players should not repeat positions until the 5th inning.
 1. All other exceptions should be discussed between coaches prior to the games start.
 2. Coaches should position all players at least 2 inning per game in the infield.
15. Teams with less than 8 players on the field at the start of the game will forfeit the game and will be considered to have lost the game, but the game can still be played with sub players from the other team as agreed upon by both Head Coaches in advance of the start of the game.

MBSA Fastpitch Softball In-House Spring 2026

Rules of Play

Last revised 03/04/2026

10 & Under League

PITCHING

1. Pitching distance will be 35 feet within a circle of 16 feet diameter.
2. Pitchers are permitted to pitch from the "L" position. The "L" position is defined as "starting the motion with the ball in the pitching hand above and behind the head, glove hand out, lead foot in front of the rubber, and back foot on the rubber."
3. Pitchers are permitted to pitch a maximum of 3 innings per game. One pitch constitutes an inning pitched.
 - Exceptions to this rule must be approved by MBSA Commissioners (or designee)
4. Only the starting pitcher may re-enter into the pitching position, as long as the 3-inning limit has not been reached. Any subsequent pitcher may not re-enter to the pitching position once she has been removed from the circle.
5. Once the pitcher is removed from the pitching circle, she may not re-enter the pitching position for the remainder of that inning. Re-entry is allowed the following inning as long as that pitcher's inning limit has not been reached.
6. A pitcher will be forced to be removed from the pitcher position after 3 hit-batsmen for the remainder of the inning. They will be allowed to start the next inning at pitcher if they have not reached their inning limit. The pitcher will be removed from the pitcher position for the remainder of the game after a total of (6) six hit-batsmen.
7. Following 3 walks, the coach will come out and pitch the remaining **strikes** to the batter of the 3rd walk.
 - **Example:** If the batter walks with a count of 4-1, the coach will pitch 2 pitches regardless of quality.
 - Foul balls continue the at bat.
 - The 3rd walk will not walk and must either hit or strike out.

NOTE: The walk rule only applies to the regular season only. In playoffs, this rule does not apply.

GAME RULES

1. Games are 6 innings. If a game is terminated for darkness, weather, field conditions, or umpire calls the game (not including the time limit rule), 4 complete innings (3 1/2 where applicable) will determine a regulation game. Games with a tie-score after 6 full innings of play will be ended as a tie.
2. Teams field 10 players. Only one player is permitted in the following positions: P, C, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B. All other players must be positioned in the outfield.
3. BUNTING is permitted including Slap Bunting/Hitting.
4. The infield fly rule does not apply.
5. In league play, runs per inning shall be limited to (5) five. The 5-run rule is waived in the final inning.
6. The position of the outfielder must start 20 feet beyond the baselines.
7. Stealing

MBSA Fastpitch Softball In-House Spring 2026

Rules of Play

Last revised 03/04/2026

- a) Base runners can leave the base once the ball crosses the plate. This will be based on umpire discretion.
- b) Base runners starting at 1st or 2nd base are entitled to advance or steal only one base per pitch, with liability to be put out (no advancement on an overthrow on a attempted stolen base). Teams may steal home 1 time per inning. However, once the steal is used runners starting from 3rd base may not steal or advance home on a passed ball, a wild pitch, or a bad throw back to the pitcher but are liable to be put out if they come off the base.
- c) The runner at 3rd base can advance home after the steal is used only if a defensive player makes a play on that runner at 3rd base.

MBSA Fastpitch Softball In-House Spring 2026

Rules of Play

Last revised 03/04/2026

8. A runner attempting to advance beyond the one base they are entitled to advance or steal, may be put out while between bases.
9. After all play ceases and the ball becomes dead, if a runner occupies a base beyond the one the runner was entitled to, the runner will be returned to the correct base without liability to be put out.
10. Dropped 3rd strike rule will be played on for the first six games of the season for both teams, but the runner will be deemed out no matter the results.
 - a) Play can continue (runners advance, throw out attempts, etc) but after the final act of the play the field will reset to its original positions and situations. The out will be recorded, and game play will resume.
 - b) This rule is only to prepare the girls on more advanced softball rules as they move to 12U.
 - c) During games in which both teams have played at least 6 games, the full Dropped 3rd strike rule is in effect, and a player that reaches 1st base, will remain in the game
11. A batter who receives a base on balls cannot advance past 1st base. If they advance further the batter/runner does so with liability to be put out. If they make the base safely, they will be returned to the previous base.
12. Play stops once the pitcher has possession in the pitching circle (two feet). This will be umpire's discretion. Base runners may advance to the base they were advancing to prior to possession being called, at their own risk.
13. Each player will be required to play at least 2 innings in the outfield upon the completion of 6 innings of play. A pitcher who pitches 3 innings will need to only play 1 inning in the outfield.
14. Teams with less than 8 players on the field at the start of the game will forfeit the game and will be considered to have lost the game, but the game can still be played with sub players from the other team as agreed upon by both Head Coaches in advance of the start of the game.

MBSA Fastpitch Softball In-House Spring 2026

Rules of Play

Last revised 03/04/2026

12 & Under League

GAME RULES

1. A regulation game will be 7 innings. A regulation game can be called by the umpire after 5 or more complete innings because of rain, darkness etc.
2. Runs per inning shall be limited to (5) five runs with continuation. The five-run rule is waived in the final inning.
3. 12 & under teams field 9 players. Only one player is permitted in the following positions: P, C, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B. All other players must be positioned in the outfield.
4. **ALL BUNTING** is permitted.

PITCHING

1. 12 & Under Only: Pitchers are permitted to pitch from the "L" position. The "L" position is defined as "starting the motion with the ball in the pitching hand above and behind the head, glove handout, lead foot in front of the rubber, and back foot on the rubber."
2. Pitchers are permitted to pitch a maximum of 5 innings per game. One pitch constitutes an inning pitched. A pitcher's inning-count does not reset in extra innings.
3. Once the pitcher is removed from the pitching circle, she may not re-enter the pitching position for the remainder of that inning. Re-entry is allowed the following inning as long as that pitcher's inning limit has not been reached.
4. A pitcher will be forced to be removed from the pitcher position after 3 hit-batsmen for the remainder of the inning. They will be allowed to start the next inning at pitcher if they have not reached their inning limit. The pitcher will be removed from the pitcher position for the remainder of the game after a total of (6) six hit-batsmen.