

2023 MPSL International Classic  
Tournament Playing Rules



**1 - Rules** - All decisions of the umpires and the Tournament Committee are final. There will be zero tolerance on any form of harassment towards the umpires. Anyone ejected of a game will be automatically ejected for the remainder of the tournament. Gold, silver and bronze medals will be presented in each age group.

**2 - Ball** - All age groups are to use a twelve inch ball.

**3 - Distances** - Pitching distance and distance between bases will be as per the chart below.

	Pitching Distance	Distance between bases
U13	38 feet	55 feet
U15	40 feet	60 feet
U17	43 feet	60 feet

**4 - Length of games** - U13 teams will play 6 inning games while the U15 and U17 teams will play 7 inning games. For all round robin and semi-final games, no new inning will start 90 minutes after the conclusion of the pregame meeting between the umpires and the coaches. There will be no time limit for the gold medal and bronze medal games.

**5 - Run Ahead Rule** - For the U13 age group, a game will be considered complete if one team is up by thirteen (13) runs after 4 innings (3½ if the home team is ahead), or up by seven (7) runs after 5 innings (4 ½ if the home team is ahead). For the U15 and U17 age groups, a game will be considered complete if one team is up by fifteen (15) runs after 3 innings (2½ if the home team is ahead), or up by ten (10) runs after 4 innings (3 ½ if the home team is ahead), or up by seven (7) runs after 5 innings (4 ½ if the home team is ahead).

**6 - Tied games** - Providing that there is still time remaining on the 90 minute clock, should a game be tied after 6 innings for the U13 division and 7 innings for the U15 and U17 divisions, the International Tiebreaker Rule will be used with the following modification: only 1 extra inning is to be played under the tie breaker rule. The game remains tied if still tied after one extra inning played. Note that the innings pitched limit rule at U13 is waived for the tie breaking inning.

**7 - Suspended Play** - If for any reason, the game is stopped, it shall resume from the exact point it left off (unless listed otherwise below).

- a. Restart of such games must be made with the same line-up as existed when the game was called.
- b. Subsequent play will follow the rules for substitute players as defined in the official rulebook.
- c. Any games in progress at the time of suspension will be considered as complete if 4 innings have been completed (3½ if home team is ahead) of a U13 game or 5 innings have been completed (4½ if home team is ahead) of a U15, or U17 game. If the game has not completed the required number of innings to be considered a complete game, the game will be suspended and completed at a later date.

**8 - Batting Line-Up** - For all tournament games, teams must submit line-up cards to the home plate umpire prior to each game. In the event of any dispute regarding the batting line-up, the line-up card handed to the home plate umpire prior to the game shall be considered the official line-up. For U13 games, roster batting is mandatory. All players on the line-up card must bat. In the event a player is injured during the game and is unable to take their turn at bat their name shall be removed from the batting order and they will be ineligible to return under any circumstances for the balance of the game. The team will not record an out in the batting spot formerly occupied by the injured player.

For U15 and U17 games, roster batting will not be permitted. U15 and U17 teams will have the option to use the designated player / flex player rule.

**9 - Conferences** - For U13 games, the conference rule is waived. For U15 and U17 games, only three (3) defensive conferences are allowed per game.

**10 - Innings Pitched** - For U13 games, only one pitcher will be permitted to pitch three (3) innings per game. Remaining pitchers will be limited to two (2) innings pitched per game. One (1) pitch constitutes an inning. Penalty for use of pitchers beyond innings allowed will be defaulting the game. For U15 and U17 games, there is no limit on innings pitched.

**11 - Schedule** - Schedule may change to keep the tournament on schedule. Teams must be ready to start their games up to 30 minutes earlier than the scheduled time if requested to do so by the Tournament Officials. Home team and Away team will be predetermined for round robin games. For semi-final and final games, the higher seeded team will be the home team. The home team will occupy the third base side dugout while the away team will take the first base side dugout.

**12 - Official Scorekeeper** - The home team is designated as the official scorekeeper. The home team scorekeeper is to pick up the scoresheet at the tournament table and return it after the game. The scorekeeper must keep track of the pitchers used in each inning for the U13 age group.

**13 - Player Call-up Procedure** - All MPSL players that are used in a call-up role are required to meet the following conditions:

1. Must be registered with Softball MB for the 2023 season.
2. Meet either of the following :
  - o From within the requesting team's AAA organization (younger team), or;
  - o From within your AA or A organization (same age or younger team).

**14 - Minimum Innings** - For U13 games, each player must play a minimum of 2 innings per game unless the Run Ahead rule has been triggered, in which case, the team will not be penalized if they are not able to play all team members. There is no minimum innings to play for U15 and U17 players.

**15 - Infield Fly** - The infield fly rule is in effect at all age groups.

**16 - Dropped Third Strike** - For U13 games, the dropped third strike rule shall not apply. The batter is out. Base runners may advance at their own risk with liability to be put out. The dropped third strike rule is in effect for U15 and U17 games.

**17 - Inning length** - For U13 games, the offensive team shall have a maximum of six runs per inning or 3 outs, whichever comes first. There is no run limit per inning at the U15 and U17 age groups. The defensive team must record three outs.

**18 - Temporary Runner** - In order to speed up game play, teams are encouraged to use a temporary runner for their catcher. If there is two outs and one of the baserunner is the catcher, the catcher may be substituted by a temporary runner. At the U13 age group, the courtesy runner can be also be invoked if 5 runs have been scored the inning, even if there is not 2 outs yet.

**19 - Tie Breaking** - Teams will be awarded 2 points for a win and 1 point for a tie. If two or more teams are tied in the standings, the tie breaker will be applied in the order below with no reverting back.

- 1 - The team with the most points in the standings;
- 2 - The team that has won the most games in the tournament round robin overall;
- 3 - The team that has won the most games in the tournament among the tied teams;
- 4 - The team with the greatest positive ratio of runs scored by offensive out minus runs allowed by defensive out;
- 5 - The team who has scored the most runs in the tournament round robin overall;
- 6 - The team who has given up the least runs in the tournament round robin overall;
- 7 - Coin toss.