

# 2024 MPSL Playing Rules



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

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

	Pitching Distance	Distance between bases	Minimum Outfield Fence	Maximum Outfield Fence
U13	38 feet	55 feet	170 feet	225 feet
U15	40 feet	60 feet	210 feet	250 feet
U17	43 feet	60 feet	225 feet	265 feet
U19	43 feet	60 feet	225 feet	265 feet

**3 - Length of games** - U13 teams will play 6 inning games with no time limit while the U15, U17 and U19 teams will play 7 inning games with no time limit.

**4 - 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, U17 and u19 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).

**5 - Tie Breaking** - The International Tiebreaker Rule shall be used in all MPSL regular season games at the completion of regulation play 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.

**6 - Suspended Play** - If for any reason, the game is stopped, it shall resume from the exact point it left off (unless listed otherwise below). This applies to all MPSL regular season games.

- 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, U17 or U19 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.

**7 - Batting Line-Up** - For all MPSL regular season 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 teh 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, U17 and U19 games, roster batting will not be permitted. U15, U17 and U19 teams will have the option to use the designated player / flex player rule.

**8 - Conferences** - For U13 games, the conference rule is waived.

For U15 games, five (5) defensive conferences are allowed per game. For U17 and U19 games, only three (3) defensive conferences are allowed per game.

**9 - Innings Pitched** - For U13 games, pitchers will be permitted to pitch three (3) innings per game. One (1) pitch constitutes an inning. Penalty for use of pitchers beyond innings allowed will be defaulting the game.

For U15, U17 and U19 games, there is no limit on innings pitched.

**10 - Game Time Temperature** - For all MPSL league games, if the game time temperature is predicted to be below 10 degrees Celsius, the game will be postponed.

**11 - Game Cancellation Procedure** - All scheduled league games are to be played. A minimum notice of 48 hours is to be given if games are to be rescheduled.

In the event that a game cannot be started due to:

- The game time temperature is predicted to be below 10 degrees Celsius at game time;
- The expected amount of rain or lightning will prevent play or create hazardous field conditions;
- The condition of the field will not be playable by game time.

The notification of these types of cancellations should be done 3 hours prior to the start of the game. It is the responsibility of the home team to advise of the cancellation and to:

- Contact the visiting team, keeping in mind the travel times to be incurred by the visiting teams;
- Contact the UIC to cancel the umpires;
- Contact the Commissioner to advise of the cancellation.

Games may be delayed to allow weather conditions to subside or one game of a scheduled double header may be cancelled due to weather conditions. Games may be cancelled at or just before game time due to unpredictable weather conditions by the umpire.

1. For non-weather or field related game rescheduling, both teams will agree on a make date and location prior to requesting the League reschedule the game;
2. It is encouraged to move forward and not delay the rescheduled game

**12 - Player Call-up Procedure** - All players that are used in a call-up role for an MSPL game are required to meet the following conditions:

1. Must be registered with Softball MB for the 2024 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).
3. Requesting coach must have confirmed with the 'call-up' player's current coach for each day

The U19 Eastman Phillies team can draw from both regions, Interlake and Eastman.

**13 - 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, U17 and U19 players.

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

**15 - 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, U17 and U19 games.

**16 - 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, U17 and U19 age groups. The team on defense must record three outs.

**17 - Temporary Runner** - In order to speed up game play, teams have the option to use a temporary runner for their catcher and their pitcher. If there is two outs and one of the pitcher and / or catcher is / are baserunner(s), either, or both, may be substituted by a temporary runner. At the U13 age group, the temporary runner can also be used once 5 runs have been scored in the inning, even if there are not 2 outs yet.

**18 - Score Reporting** - The home team must report the score of the game by texting or e-mailing a picture of the filled out Official Game Report immediately after the conclusion of the game.