MCRF Coed Softball League Rules

All games will be played on Tuesday or Thursday evenings from early July through August. All games will be played at Lacey Complex in Oskaloosa, Iowa, on Field 6 and Field 8. All softball games will be played in accordance with the USA Softball Association except for any rule change stated in your specific league rules or on league schedules pertaining to specific league situations.

**Rosters and Players:**

1. All rosters must have at least 12 players (maximum 20) with at least 5 females on each roster.
2. Players may play for only one team and must be at least 18 years old.
3. The Team Roster form and liability waivers must be filled out by all players and returned to the office or the field before the 1st game. Any substitute players must stop into the office and sign the liability form before playing or have a waiver on file. No player additions will be allowed to the Team Roster after the 4th game. A copy of this form will be in the storage area for teams to verify players.

**Umps:**

1. The batting team must provide a home plate and base umpire. This is an adult league, handle and settle all differences in an adult manner. Please refrain from using profanity and display a good example of sportsmanship. Expulsion from the league will be enforced.

**Start of Games:**

1. Captains or team reps should meet with the umpire 5 minutes before the scheduled start time to hand in their lineup cards. Any substitutions should be reported to the umpire. **Play must start on time!** A minimum of 9 players, including 4 females and 4 males are needed to start. There is a no grace period; the game clock will start on time.
2. GAME TIME IS FORFEIT TIME: Gameday operations manager’s watch will be used as the official game time. If your team forfeits a game without notifying MCRF 3 hours before game time you will need to pay $20 before you will be allowed to play your next game. The second forfeit will cost $40. More than two forfeits in one season or if the entire team does not show, without notifying MCRF will result in immediate release from the league with no refund of fees. Forfeit fees are to be paid to your gameday operations manager prior to your next game. All forfeit fees collected will be donated to MCRF. Please call the opposing team if you know before the game that you will be forfeiting.

 **General Rules:**

1. Batting Order: Everyone must bat, even when not playing in the field. Batting order must be Male – Female – Male – Female. Unless you do not have equal number of males and females, if this is the case the team cannot have more than two males back-to-back in the batting order. The batting order must be decided at the beginning of the game.
2. Coed leagues use a 12” ball. Each team shall **supply their own** softballs, bats, gloves, team scorebook and back up balls. Bases will be provided, and official scorebook will be kept for league standings.
3. There are free substitutions on the field during the game. This doesn’t change your batting order.
4. Games will be 6 innings or 55 minutes. An official game will be after 4½ innings. 55 minutes will be put up a timer at the beginning of the game. The horn sounding as time expires will signal that no additional inning will start from that point. Any inning that started before the horn, will be completed if the home team is behind. If the game is tied it must be played until the tie is broken. Game clock will only stop when directed by gameday operations manager.
5. 5 warm up pitches will be allowed in the first inning and two warm up pitches will be allowed between innings. Any warmup pitches taken that exceed the allowed number shall be considered a ball on the batter. Infield practice or throwing the ball around-the-horn will not be allowed at any time. All Leagues will have a 70-foot base path. All Leagues will use a 50-foot pitching distance.
6. Starting pitcher may reenter as pitcher unless they have been removed for pitching with excessive speed.
7. The pitch must have a minimum arc of 6 feet from the ground and a maximum arc of 10 feet from the ground. Pitcher must always keep one foot in contact with the pitching mound.
8. Teams are required to retrieve their own home run and foul balls in a timely manner.
9. The only players allowed on the field while on offense are the base coaches, the on-deck batter, and the batter. It is the responsibility of the manager to keep all other people in the dugout or off the field. Only rostered players are allowed on fields and in dugouts. Children are not allowed in the dugout.
10. Foul Poles: Any ball which hits any part of the foul pole wing on the fly will be ruled an over the fence homerun.
11. Mercy Rule: The 15 runs will be in effect after 5 innings.
12. Slide Rule: If there is a play at a base you must slide or avoid contact. No running over or crashing into another player. When a defensive player has the ball or is about to catch a thrown ball and the runner remains on his feet and crashes into the defensive player, the runner will be declared out. If the act is determined to be flagrant, the offender shall be ejected.
13. COURTESY RUNNER: Any rostered players on the official line-up including substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner may be used once per inning.
14. MCRF reserves the right to make any schedule changes necessary and will reschedule any game(s) that we postpone. MCRF WILL NOT reschedule any games for teams once schedules have been distributed with following exception. A. RAINOUT POLICY: If a rainout occurs, the teams will play the rescheduled games after all regular season games are completed. If there are too many rainout dates, teams will be required to schedule make-up games through opponent and MCRF. If there is no makeup, results will be determined by a coin toss.
15. Each team manager shall be acquainted with the game rules and is responsible for their interpretation to team members.
16. USA SOFTBALL RULE - A walk to a male batter will result in a two-base award. The next batter (a female) shall bat. Exception: with two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.

# Each batter will begin with a 1 ball and 1 strike count. After two (2) strikes, the second foul ball will count as the third strike and the batter is out.

1. There will be a Home Run limit of seven (7) per team per game. Any home run after seven (7) is considered an out. Females DO NOT count toward the home run total. All bases must be touched for any home run to count.
2. Children are NOT allowed on the field or in the dugouts during the games. NO unattended children will be allowed at the complex.
3. Each team is expected to honor the game schedule and team responsibilities to make this a successful league.
4. Team managers will be notified by 3:00 pm if games are cancelled due to wet fields. It is the team manager’s responsibility to notify her/his team of cancellations and make-ups.
5. The home team is the team listed last on the schedule and will sit in the 3rd base dugout and keep the official score.
6. Tournament Rules – Only the players listed on the Team Roster will be allowed to play in the tournament. A copy will be provided with the schedule for cross referencing. If your team cannot play in the tournament, you must notify the office at least 1 week before the tournament.
7. **NO SMOKING OR ALCOHOL IS ALLOWED ON MCRF PROPERTY.**