

# MARSHALL RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## MACHINE PITCH GIRL'S SOFTBALL BY-LAWS

1. MHSAA Fast Pitch Rules shall govern play except as noted.
2. The VISITING TEAM is listed first and uses the 1<sup>ST</sup> base bench.
3. Game time listed on the schedule is the time the game will start. Teams should arrive 10 minutes early to practice (\*If time permits). The Visiting team uses the field to the right of 2<sup>nd</sup> base and the home team uses the field to the left of 2<sup>nd</sup> base. Tennis or whiffle balls must be used for soft toss or batting practice.
4. Five innings will constitute a complete game. Play may continue until time expires. Tied games end as tied games. No new inning will start 15 minutes before the next scheduled game.
5. A team must have 8 rostered players to start/finish a game. With less than 8 players the game is a forfeit, but teams can still play.
6. All players present shall be in the batting line up and must bat in the same order throughout the game. A player who arrives late must be inserted at the bottom of the line up. Coaches shall show line-ups to the umpire prior to each game.
7. If batting out of order is discovered while the incorrect batter is at the plate, the correct batter must be inserted and must assume the count. If batting out of order is discovered after an incorrect batter has completed the turn at bat, but BEFORE a pitch to the subsequent batter, that turn at bat is canceled, the batter is out and all runners are returned to original bases and the correct batter is now at bat. If discovered AFTER a pitch to the subsequent batter, the play stands.
8. Batters are always out on a dropped third strike.
9. Each batter will be given 5 hittable pitches to put the ball in play. If the batter does not put the ball into play after fifth hittable pitch, she is out or after 3<sup>rd</sup> missed swing. Batter is not out if the fifth hittable pitch is fouled, unless caught in the air. A swing counts as a hittable pitch. Also caught fair/foul balls are considered an out.  
(10 pitches max before the batter is out).
10. 10 players - 4 outfielders and 6 infielders, shall play defense. No player may sit out more than 2 defensive innings. No player may play more than 3 innings in the same defensive position. All players should play infield & outfield in a game if possible!
11. Free defensive substitution is encouraged for defensive purposes as long as the batting order remains constant.
12. If 7 runs are scored in one-half inning, that half inning is considered complete with the completion of the play that scores the 7th run, regardless of number of outs. (If you have 6 runs in and hit a grand slam, all runners should round the bases)
13. **GROUND RULE DOUBLE** shall be awarded for a batted, fair ball that goes out of play.
14. There shall be **NO** infield fly rule.
15. A batted ball that hits an umpire, coach feeding pitches or pitching machine is a dead ball and will be replayed. Also any pop-up that would lead a fielder into machine or designated pitching area will be considered dead ball and will be replayed (Umpire/Supervisor makes call). Runners shall remain on the base occupied at the time of the pitch.
16. If the umpire sees a runner miss a base that runner will automatically be called out. There is no appeal on this play.
17. The umpire will declare time out when the ball is returned to the infield and controlled. All runners must return to the last base legally occupied - there shall be no "base jockeying."
18. No walks and No "Hit by Pitcher"
19. A courtesy runner may be used for an injured player, or the catcher (with two outs) to speed up the game.
20. Base runners that must leave the game cannot be replaced.
21. Metal spikes are not permitted.
22. **NOCSAE** approved helmets **MUST** be worn by the batter and base runners. All players should wear long pants. Shorts are discouraged
23. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated (abusive language, throwing a bat or helmet, intentional collision, etc). A player may be sent to the bench for a MINIMUM of 2 innings and will miss at least 1 at bat.
24. If games are to be postponed because of inclement weather, the Marshall Recreation Department will make the decision after 4:30pm COACHES ONLY may call the office for verification.
25. All jewelry must be removed before being permitted to participate
26. No use of tobacco products by players or coaches.

### THE FOLLOWING RULES MAY BE DIFFERENT DEPENDING ON THE LEAGUE

#### Minor Coach Pitch

27. One of the coaches of the team up to bat pitches the ball to Batters of his/her own team.
28. No bunting, leading off, stealing. Runners may not advance on an overthrow (encourages fielders to throw the ball).

#### Major Coach Pitch

29. Players may bunt
30. Runners: A) Must stay on base until the ball is released from the machine; B) May advance one (1) base at their own risk when a fielder overthrows a baseman
31. Coaches should remain in the bench area during play, unless acting as first or third base coach or pitching to their team.