

CITY OF MARTINEZ SLO-PITCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS

LEAGUE DIRECTION

The league will operate under the City of Martinez Recreation Division (MRD) softball league rules. Any rule that is not covered in the packet will be covered by All World Sports (AWS) <http://www.allworldsoftball.com/Pages/display/rule>. MRD reserves the right to change, modify, add or delete any rule, regulation or requirement it deems necessary for the welfare of the players or leagues.

TEAM ROSTERS

- Team rosters may list a minimum of 12 and a maximum 20 players including managers.
- **Players must be 18 years of age.** If a player is currently academically eligible for high school sports participation, he/she may not be allowed to play until the completion of sport or graduation. **Managers/coaches must be listed as a player and sign the waiver form to be allowed on the field.**
- Rosters **MUST** have players name printed, address, home or work number and the player's signature, including any non-playing manager. **Each player must sign the Player Waiver, Release of Liability and Indemnification Agreement before their first game.** Failure to sign the Waiver by each player may result in a forfeiture of each game played with the violating player(s).
- Non-residents accepted on a roster are subject to a non-resident fee. **Once a player has been accepted into the league, the non-resident fee will not be refunded or transferred to a non-resident roster addition.** The maximum number of non-residents charged is nine. There is no additional charge for ten or more.
- Player may appear on only one roster per league/night.
- Rosters may not be accepted without all required player and manager information. Periodic roster verifications will be taken and **ROSTER FALSIFICATION WILL RESULT IN A \$50 PENALTY AND POSSIBLE BANISHMENT FROM LEAGUE PARTICIPATION FOR TEAM OR INDIVIDUALS.**
- **Roster changes** will be accepted no later than game time. To avoid forfeits, roster changes can be made up to the half way mark in the season. Rosters become frozen for the play-offs.
 1. Teams that have 20 players must delete players from their roster before they may add to the roster.
 2. Teams wishing to have a roster with more than 20 players must request a "hardship" from the League Coordinator. Hardship additions will only be granted after a team has suffered a forfeit and may not be granted to teams in playoff or trophy contention.

TEAM PRIORITY POLICY

- **Returning team from the same league with the highest number of City of Martinez residents.**
 1. A returning team is defined as having 50% or more of the previous year's team.
 2. Martinez resident is a person residing within the City Limits of Martinez.
- **A Team's Priority is as follows:**
 1. New team with the highest number of Martinez residents.
 2. New team based on availability.
 3. New teams are assigned based on league availability. MRD will automatically advise teams of next opening regardless of day.
 4. MRD reserves the right to move any team based on their performance from the previous year.
 5. New teams are assigned based on league availability. MRD will automatically advise teams of next opening regardless of day. Once schedules are printed, teams are not entitled to a refund.

FEES

- Fees are established by the MRD based on cost of umpires, balls, trophies, All World Sports registration, lights, field preparation, materials, supplies and administrative costs.
- League fees must be submitted, with the roster, no later than the last date requested. Teams not submitting their fees on time are subjected to losing their priority for league placement.
- Any team not submitting their fees on time will be fined a \$25 late fee.

Non-resident fee:

1. A non-resident is anyone that does not live inside the City limits of Martinez.
2. Fall and Spring Non-resident fees for 2020 are \$8. Summer non-resident fee is \$13.
3. Non-resident fees **ARE NOT** transferable due to roster changes. A maximum of nine non-resident fees are charged.

PLAYING RULES

PLAYING TIMES

Games are sixty (60) minutes long. No new inning will be started after 55 minutes. Start times are approximate and subject to change based on league size.

Joe DiMaggio/Waterfront Fields

1 st game	6:10 pm
2 nd game	7:15 pm
3 rd game	8:20 pm

The home plate umpires watch is the official game clock.

- Tie games. An extra inning can be started within the original 60 minutes. No new inning will be started after 50 minutes. If the game is tied at the end of regulation time, the game will remain a tie.
- Any game that is started after the official start time because the previous game ran longer than scheduled, will still receive a 60-minute time limit.

FOREFITS

- **Any team forfeiting a game will be subject to a \$25 fine.** That fine must be paid prior to the start of the next scheduled game.

FOREFIT TIMES

- Game time is forfeit time at Tavan. There is no grace period for late arriving players/teams.
- Waterfront/Joe DiMaggio Fields has a 10-minute grace period due to the trains. Games will still end 60 minutes after their scheduled start time.
- A team forfeiting two games is subject to removal from the league. A team failing to pay the forfeit fee will also forfeit the following game or games until all forfeit fees are paid.

BATS

- All bats must have a new USSSA or ASA stamp (No senior, baseball. Or fast pitch bats allowed) and must be on the approved bat list.
- No bat is legal for AWS (All World Sports) play if it is badly worn, abused, damaged, altered or shaved.
- No bat is legal if there is an excessive foreign substance on the barrel or tape of a bat, (i.e. too much pine tar, stick-em type products, etc.)
- AWS Umpires or Directors reserve the right to remove any bat we feel is altered, damaged or made to enhance ball/bat performance. We will take the bat for that game and return it upon the end of the game with the mutual understanding it will not be used in the league again. If the bat is caught being used a second time, the player using the bat will at that time will be ejected from the game and will be asked to leave the park/field/complex.
- Coaches/Managers with multiple offenses under these rules may be suspended for failing to have his or her team follow AWS rules.

BALLS

- **Two balls** are provided for every game by the MRD, one new ball and one used back up ball. **“If both balls are lost or not returned to the field during the game, it is the responsibility of the team that hit the ball out to put in a ball for play.”**
- The team that hit the ball out of play is responsible for retrieving it.

UNIFORMS

- Teams are not required to have uniforms, but players must wear shirts, pants or shorts and shoes.
 1. Shoes with metal spikes are not allowed.
 2. Shoes with hard soles will not be allowed.

PREGNANCY

Women that are pregnant are prohibited from participation for their safety and the safety of the child.

LINE-UPS

Teams may bat as many as 20 in their lineup.

- Teams must field no more than ten (10) players in defensive positions.
- Teams batting more than ten (10) players may play in any defensive position.
- Any player arriving after the official start of the game may be added to the lineup at any time provided the original game lineup is less than ten (10) players. Players added must be listed at the bottom of the lineup.
- Any player arriving after the official start of the game and his team's official lineup has ten (10) or more players must be added as a substitute to the lineup.

RE-ENTRY RULE

One player may be substituted for another player. The new player takes the place of the substituted player in the lineup. If the original player re-enters the game he must re-enter in place of the original substitute, with his original spot in the batting order.

- If a team loses a player due to injury or ejection and the team has a substitute that has not played, the substitute player may replace the injured or ejected player without further penalty.
- At no time may a team field fewer than eight (8) players or forfeit results.

CURTESY RUNNER

- One courtesy runner is granted per team, per inning, per gender.
- The courtesy runner is the last preceding out or prior lineup player who is the same sex as the batter/runner. (See Co-ed for special rule).
- The batter must reach first base on his or her own, and then a courtesy runner may be used.
- If the last out is batting, on deck or injured and is using a courtesy runner, then it is the second to last person that must be used as a courtesy runner.

PLAYING FIELD

- In all leagues there is a commitment line along the third base line. Once a runner touches or passes the commit line, the runner may not return to third base without being called "Out!"
- **Home Plate Extension Line – THIS APPLIES TO ALL LEAGUES!** The first base line shall be extended to the backstop and will serve as an extended home plate for the runner from third base. The runner must not touch home plate, but must cross the extended first base line before the catcher has possession of the ball to be called safe. If the player touches home plate, the player is out (or hits catcher – umpire discretion).
- Loose balls, bats, or gloves will not be allowed in the playing area of the field. Interference caused by loose balls, bats, or gloves will be enforced.

BALL COUNT

All leagues will start games with a 3/2 count. Three balls and two strikes.

HOME RUN RULE

- All teams are allowed only two homeruns per inning, per team. All additional homeruns hit by a team in an inning are an out.
- Women are not restricted to homeruns.

SLIDING

- Sliding is allowed in all leagues. Must slide across the base line NOT home plate.

RUN RULE.

- If any team is ahead of another team by 15 runs after five innings, the game is declared over and the team with the 15 run difference is the winner of the game.

PITCHING SCREEN – Optional

- To reduce injuries to the pitcher, MRD provides a safety pitching screen.
- The team manager must tell the opposing manager and umpire the decision to use the pitching screen. When the screen is used by one pitcher, the net will be placed in foul territory beyond the pitcher's dugout when it is his team's to bat. If the net will not be used by either team, it will be removed from the field.
- MRD suggests that pitchers that do not use the net, should wear a face mask and shin guards.
- **Any batted ball hitting the screen will be declared a strike.**
- A ball hitting the screen after being touched by a fielder will be counted as a 'live ball' and play will continue.

FACE MASKS

- Any player may wear a protective mask to prevent injury. Wearing a face mask is strongly recommended.

BLOOD RULE

- A player who is bleeding or has blood on their uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. If treatment is in a reasonable length of time, the individual will not have to leave the game.

The umpire shall:

- 1) Stop the game and allow treatment if the injured player affects the continuation of the game
- 2) Apply the rules of the game regarding substitution, shorthanded player and re-entry if necessary. A player that has left the game under the blood rule may return without a penalty.

DUGOUTS

Children and spectators are not allowed in the dugouts during games. This is an AWS and City of Martinez Rule!

CONCUSSIONS

- Upon becoming aware that a participant or coach/manager of his team has received a suspected concussion (or has been struck in the head area with any significant force), the Team Manager will not allow that person to participate in any AWS sanctioned event and if occurring during a AWS sanctioned event, shall have that person removed from the playing field of any AWS sanctioned event. Upon becoming aware that a participant, coach/manager or umpire/referee has received a suspected concussion (or has been struck in the head area with any significant force), an umpire/referee or director will have that person removed from the playing field of any AWS sanctioned event. Without a written medical clearance from a licensed medical doctor to return to play, such persons will not be allowed to return to the AWS playing field in a AWS sanctioned event. For umpires/referees, the medical written consent must be presented to the Team Manager and retained permanently by the AWS State Director. For participants and coaches/managers, the medical written consent must be presented to the Team Manager and retained permanently by the Team Manager. Any Team Manager, who allows a coach/manager or participant back on a AWS sanctioned event playing field without first obtaining the required written consent, may be suspended by the State Director for up to one year.

COED RULES

SLIDING

- Sliding is allowed in Co-ed leagues.

PLAYERS NEEDED TO PLAY A GAME

- Co-ed may start a game with eight (8) players. **FOUR (4) PLAYERS SHALL BE WOMEN OR A FORFEIT WILL RESULT.** When a Coed team starts a game with **NINE (9) PLAYERS, FIVE (5) SHALL BE WOMEN.**
- A full team consists of five (5) women and five (5) men
- A team starting with eight (8) players may request a catcher from the opposing team.

BATTING ORDER

- A male batter will follow a female batter and vice versa. At no time can there be two male or female batters together in the batting order. Two line-ups will be given to the scorekeeper - one male and one female.
 1. All players in line-up must bat.
 2. Free substitutions are allowed.

COURTESY RUNNER

- When using a courtesy runner, a team must replace the runner with a runner of the same sex, and that runner must also be the last out of that sex.

BATTING

- Co-ed teams may bat up to 20 players, just as any other league. The 20 players must be divided between the two lineups, male/female. A minimum of four (4) players must be female.

WALKS

- When a male is walked, he automatically receives first and second base. The woman has the option of walking to first or batting. (This is her option).

OUTFIELDERS

- Outfielders may not enter the dirt area of the infield to field a ball when a batter is up, until the ball is hit.

BALLS

The men will hit a 12" ball and the women will hit an 11" ball. The exchange will be made by the umpire on the field.

POACHING

- Poaching is a team issue and is regulated by the team, not the league. Poaching is allowed.

OFFICIALS

The umpires assigned to the games have complete authority over players, coaches, managers and the game. The umpire has the authority to order any player, coach, manager or spectator out of the game and off the field for unsportsmanlike behavior. This individual must leave the facility **immediately** and should be out sight and should not be heard. *City of Martinez Staff has the identical authority of an umpire.*

PROTEST

- Only errors in the interpretations of the league or AWS rules may be protested. Umpire judgment may not be grounds for protest.
 - Misinterpretation of a playing rule.
 - Failure of official to apply correct rule in a given situation.
 - Failure to impose the correct penalty in a given situation.
- Protest must be lodged to the plate umpire **BEFORE THE NEXT PITCH**, and recorded on the official score sheet, listing the batter, how many runners on base and where, and the count to the batter.
- If the error is not noticed before the first pitch of the next legal batter, then it is a non-correctable error and the game will continue as played.
- Protest must be followed up in writing to the MRD within 48 hours of the protested game. A fee of \$50 must accompany the written protest. (If a ruling is in favor of the team protesting the game, then the fee will be returned to that team. If the protesting team loses the protest, then the fee is kept by MRD. All checks will be cashed prior to a ruling on the protest).

RULES OF CONDUCT

- Fighting is uncalled for in any circumstances. All players involved in a fight, are subjected to ejection without distinction as to who started the fight.
 1. A manager may find that they are subject to the same penalty as their offending player or players by not controlling the conduct of their players.
 2. Players seen drinking prior to a game by an umpire will not be allowed to play in the game.
 3. Ball players found with a beer/alcohol in the dugout or found leaving the dugout to drink anything containing alcohol, are subject to ejection.
 4. If beer/alcohol is found in the dugout and no player can be identified with the beer, then **THE MANAGER OF THE TEAM IS AUTOMATICALLY EJECTED**, or in the case of a non-playing manager, both the manager and the on-the-field captain will be ejected.
 5. Players arriving to the game under the influence of alcohol will not be permitted to play.

6. No illegal substances are allowed on or near the fields.
- Any player or team that remains before or after a game either in the bleachers or in the surrounding area and subjects the umpire to ridicule or verbal abuse will be suspended for four (4) games. It can also result in a suspension for the remainder of the season.
 - Any manager or captain that is not playing, but is coaching first or third base is subject to the same conduct as any other player on the field. At any point that an umpire determines that a non-playing coach is a nuisance to the game, the official may remove him/her from the field.
 - Non-playing members of a team may not address an umpire in any capacity whatsoever.

PROFANITY

- Profanity is not allowed at any time prior to, during, or after the game. Any use of profanity by a player or players subjects that player or players to immediate ejection from the game. NO F bombs!
 1. First offence of profanity by a player of a team will draw a team warning from the umpires of the game, unless umpire deems the profanity vulgar and/or unsportsmanlike.
 2. A second offence by any member of the team will draw an ejection of the offending player.
 3. If after the first warning there is use of profanity and the offending player cannot be determined, the manager of that team is ejected, just as if he had used profanity himself.
 4. Profanity directed at an umpire, or a player on the opposing team, will draw an automatic ejection from the umpire, and an additional team warning to other members of the team. (In this situation, no advance warning is necessary).

BAT THROWING

- Bat throwing under any circumstance will not be tolerated.
 1. A player unintentionally throwing a bat will draw a team warning from the umpire, and the next player to throw a bat will be ejected from the game.
 2. Intentional throwing of a bat is caused for immediate ejection from the game.

EJECTIONS AND PENALTIES

- Any team or individual that is ejected will receive a minimum two-week suspension. Additionally, any team or individual who violates section or subsections contained in these league rules may be suspended by the MRD for up to one year. MRD and the Park and Recreation Commission will process all appeals of disciplinary actions. All appeals must be submitted to MRD within one week of disciplinary notice so an expedient hearing and review may be

scheduled. MRD and the Park and Recreation Commission have sole authority to levy suspensions more than one year.

1. An overt act against the person of any official (umpire, field supervisor, or scorekeeper) will result in the immediate suspension from further participation in any MRD activity.
 2. Touching an umpire or any official in an aggressive manner, even if the touch is unintentional, the minimum suspension of that player is one full year from all City sponsored leagues and possible arrest.
- Any team or individual, who violates sections or subsections contained in these league rules, may be suspended by the MRD for one full year. All appeals of disciplinary actions must be processed to the MRD and the Park and Recreation Commission. All appeals must be submitted to the MRD office within one week of disciplinary notice so an expedient hearing and review may be scheduled. MRD and Park and Recreation Commission have sole authority to levy suspensions over one year.

LIABILITY

- Participants in the Martinez Recreation Division Softball Program do so on a voluntary basis and, therefore, play at their own risk. The City of Martinez and MRD are not liable for any injuries incurred to players, spectators, or officials while participating or being present at any sponsored event. MRD encourages all participants to secure personal medical insurance coverage and treatment in case of an accidental injury while involved in this program.
 1. By a players willingness to play in a league softball game he/she understands that there are inherent dangers that are part of the sport, and willingly and voluntarily accept those dangers.
 2. All players must complete the "Player Waiver, Release of Liability and Indemnification Agreement" before their first game.

LEAGUE STANDINGS

- League standings will be e-mailed to the managers before the next game. Standings will also be available at the game. The following numerical system will be used for determining a winner.
 - A. Wins are three (3) point
 - B.** Ties are two (2) points
 - C.** Losses are one (1) points
 - D.** Forfeits are (0) points
- **Determining a Champion When Team Tie**

To determine a champion, second, third and fourth place finishers at the conclusion of a season, that involves a tie, the following format will be followed:

 - 1 Head to head.
 - 2 Record against other playoff teams
 - 3 Run differential, head to head.
 - 4 Run differential, other playoff teams
 5. Overall runs

AWARDS

- **League play** – T-shirts will be awarded to league champions. A maximum of 20 shirts will be provided. T-shirts will be ordered after the Championship game has been played.

**Please allow a two week period for League Championship shirts to be prepared.*