

# MSLA rules that differ from USA Softball Rules



## Game Time (50 minutes)

Game Time is forfeit time. Once the umpire starts the clock, each team must have at least 9 players present, or the game will be forfeit.

**No new inning will start after time expires.**

## Home Runs (over the fence) Maximums

**A Division** - 4 per team per game

**B Division** - 3 per team per game

**C Division** - 1 per team per game

**D Division** - 0 per team per game

**E Division** - 0 per team per game

**\*\*Any over the fence home run(s) over the limit in all divisions will be recorded as an inning-ending out.**

**Games involving teams from different divisions will use the rule of the higher division.**

## Courtesy Runners

Courtesy runners will be allowed in all divisions. Each team will only be allowed 1 courtesy runner per inning. The courtesy runner may be ANY player on the lineup sheet (including substitutes). If a courtesy runner is on base at the time that player is scheduled to bat, the runner is removed from the base, an out is recorded on the original batter and the courtesy runner becomes the next batter. If an illegal courtesy runner enters the game and is properly appealed before the next pitch, the player will be declared out.

**\*\*PIP Accommodations need to be reported to the home plate umpire during the coach/manager meeting before the game, otherwise the PIP Accommodation will be void for the game. The last out in the scorebook is the designated runner or the last player in the batting order if at the start of the game with "0" outs.**

## Team Lineups

A, B, C and D Divisions may bat up to 12 players in the lineup. E Division may bat up to their full roster provided they are on the lineup submitted prior to the start of play. A copy of the line-up sheet must be turned in to the umpire. **Line-up Cards need to have both the first and last names of each player and their jersey number. Keep ONLY the white copy for record purposes.**

## Scorebooks

The home team will keep official score books for the game. Should the home team not be able to provide a scorekeeper, they will lose home field advantage and revert to being the visitor.

## Bats

Only approved, MSLA softball bats will be used during play. No other bats will be allowed on the field of play and are herein defined as non-approved equipment. Field of play shall be defined as within the fenced area of the softball field, excluding dugouts. Tampering with, attempting to steal, or stealing MSLA marked bats or other MSLA equipment will be justification for the suspension or disqualification of any player. Tampering shall be defined as intentionally throwing or scratching bats, or otherwise destructive actions.

## Pitch Count

For all divisions, players will begin with a 1-1 count and shall be awarded one (1) courtesy foul.

The ball must be pitched underhanded and travel in an arc with the peak of the **arc being between 6 and 12 feet.**

## **Tied Games**

Regular season will complete any game that is tied at the end of regulation play utilizing the International Rule for breaking a tie. The International Rule is as follows: the last batter of the previous inning will begin their half of the inning on second base, ball/strike count will continue the same as previous innings, and the same substitute rules will apply.

***\*If the game is still tied after one additional inning the game will remain a tie for purposes of the regular season standings.***

## **Umpire's Interpretation of the Rules Protest Process**

1. Umpire's Judgement – no protest will be allowed...i.e. balls, strikes, foul balls
2. Protest must be announced to the home plate umpire before the next pitch (legal or illegal). In the event of the protested action occurring on the last play of the game, then the protest must be announced to the home plate umpire prior to the umpire leaving the field.
3. Upon notification of the protest, the home plate umpire shall immediately halt play and notify the UIC of the protest. The UIC will make a ruling based on the play and his ruling will be final.

**Scott Olsen is the UIC for the 2026 year. If he is unavailable please find Lauren Gustartis, the Competition Coordinator.**