

City of Mebane Recreation & Parks Department



CITY OF MEBANE RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT GIRLS SOFTBALL RULES

Revised: April 12, 2010

- I. NAME: The name of the league shall be Metro League Girls Softball.
- II. ELIGIBILITY:
- A. Any girl who has not reached her birthday before August 1st of the playing year is eligible to participate. (MINIMUM AGE: Anyone who has not reached her sixth (6th) birthday before August 1st of the playing year shall be ineligible to participate.) This will be done only through the use of birth certificates and the birth certificate file in the office of the Athletic Director.
 - 1. Pee Wee Girls (Must be 6 years before August 1st but cannot be 9 years old before August 1st.)
 - 2. Mite Girls (Cannot be 11 years old before August 1st.)
 - 3. Midget Girls (Cannot be 13 years old before August 1st.)
 - 4. Intermediate Girls (Cannot be 15 years old before August 1st.)
 - B. Any child who resides in the City of Mebane or within three (3) miles of the Alamance County boundary line or whose parents pay City of Mebane taxes has the option to play for any team she so desires.
 - 1. Proven pressure recruiting will not be tolerated by the City of Mebane Recreation and Parks Department. Coaches found in violation may be suspended from the program.
 - C. A new player must be on the team roster and present her birth certificate to the MRPD before she is eligible to play in a league game. Only new players who have not participated in any league may be added to a team's roster before May 26th of the playing year with the permission of the MRPD. These players must be added during the regular season and also participate in league play.
 - 1. Any participant found to be ineligible due to clerical error on behalf of the MRPD will be ineligible to participate for the remainder of that season, unless corrective measures are implemented. Disciplinary action will NOT be taken against the team involved.
 - D. Each player must sign a contract. She must play on that team with which she signs for the entire season unless released by the coach or the Athletic Director on the contract form. A player may NOT be released to another team after May 26th of the playing year. Failure to obtain a release will result in suspension of the player for the remainder of the regular season.
 - E. A player may play move up and play in an older league if she so desires, but after she has participated in one (1) league game, with that team, she must play in that age group for the remainder of the season.
 - F. A player may only be listed on one (1) MRPD official roster and play for only one (1) MRPD softball team.
- III. PRINCIPLES OF YOUTH ATHLETICS:
- A. It is the aim of the City of Mebane Recreation and Parks Department to provide organized games and activities, recreation facilities, supervision and leadership to the citizens of Mebane in their ideals and interests in the area of leisure time activities and/or its organization.
 - B. To promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, teach basic skills, develop individual talents, provide the City's residents with the opportunity to enjoy the best possible recreation advantages and atmospheres.
 - C. To recognize the Youth Participant as an individual with particular abilities and limitation. A great deal of consideration must be given to her physical, mental, emotional, and social development with every precaution taken to ensure that each is developed to its highest potential
 - D. Any coach, parent or spectator suspended must leave the facility immediately upon ejection, however, a player may remain at the playing facility. All suspensions will be reviewed by the Recreation Staff in order to determine if further disciplinary action need be taken. All decisions concerning disciplinary actions by the Mebane Recreation and Parks Department are final. Individuals can be suspended after the game for unsportsmanlike conduct by a game official or recreation staff member.
- IV. DUTY OF THE COACH AND CERTIFICATION:
- A. It is the duty of the Associations/Clubs to see that the roster and record of their teams are delivered to the MRPD prior to receiving their schedules, so that they may signify that all players are eligible. The official City of Mebane Recreation and Parks Department Roster must be used. It is mandatory that this roster be complete in full, alphabetized and preferably typed showing the player's name exactly how it appears on her birth certificate with no use of nicknames or other. The player's birth date and complete mailing address must be filled in. If the player's birth certificate is on file from the previous year, her full name, complete address, and birthdate must appear on the roster with an asterisk (*) beside her name for last season's identifications. Any rosters or birth certificates not turned into the Athletic Department prior to the first game will result in forfeiture of games.
 - B. Rosters that are on file with MRPD will be the official rosters. There are NO exceptions.
 - C. To see that her team warm-ups are a safe distance from all spectators.
 - D. To see that her team reports to the field for a game unless officially notified of a game cancellation, regardless of weather or other factors. Although the first game may be called off, the remaining games may be played.
 - E. The coach shall see that every girl has adequate insurance or a signed release from her parents giving her permission to participate in the City of Mebane Girl's Softball Program.
 - F. The winning coach will be responsible for turning in the game's scorecard immediately after the game. This scorecard should be turned in to the plate umpire. THE NAME OF EACH TEAM AND THE CORRECT SCORE MUST BE LISTED ON THE SCORE CARD.
 - G. The home team will be responsible for having someone return balls to the playing field.

- H. It is the duty of both opposing coaches to get together with the plate umpire prior to every game to decide the game's starting time.
- I. The home team will be responsible for keeping the official score, however, it is the duty of the visiting team to check the score at the end of each inning to insure the score is correct.
- J. The parent shall be responsible for seeing that their child is examined by her family doctor before she is allowed to play.
- K. All tobacco products on the playing field will be PROHIBITED.
- L. The coach must have her team ready to play fifteen (15) minutes prior to game time.

V. EQUIPMENT:

- A. The Athletic Department will make the final decision as to whether a field is in the proper playing condition due to adverse weather. Community Athletic Committee Chairman should notify the Recreation Officials by 4:00 p.m. as to playing condition of his field. Coaches and players may call the information line, (919) 563-3629 Ext. 6 to receive information about rain-outs.
- B. The ball shall be an official 11" softball for Pee Wee and Mite Girls and official 12" softball for Midgets and Intermediates, which will be furnished by the City of Mebane Recreation and Parks Department.
- C. The bat shall be an official softball bat made of wood or aluminum (Exception: Tee Ball bats are legal for Pee Wees).
- D. Tennis shoes or molded rubber spikes must be worn by all players. METAL SPIKES & HARD PLASTIC CLEATS ARE PROHIBITED.
- E. Each player in the field must wear a glove.
- F. A protective mask with throat protector, body protector and shin guards must be worn by catcher. Catchers must wear protective headgear and throat protector while warming up pitchers in the Midgets and Intermediates.
- G. Each player must wear a numbered shirt.
- H. Helmets with ear flaps must be worn by all batters and baserunners.
- I. Face Masks/Shields will be mandatory for all batting helmets in ALL age groups.
- J. No battery powered noise makers or voice enhancers will be allowed at games other than the official public address system.
- K. Jewelry may not be worn during the game.

VI. PLAYING RULES FOR BEGINNER PEE WEES, PEE WEES AND MITE GIRLS:

- A. North Carolina High School Federation Rules will be used with the following exceptions:
 - 1. The official diamond shall have 60 feet base lines and a 40 feet pitching distance.
 - 2. The number of players on the team roster will be unlimited.
 - 3. All Pee Wee games shall be five (5) innings. All Mite games shall be six (6) innings in length. In the event of rain or darkness, the losing team must have been at bat three (3) complete times to constitute a complete game unless the time limit has expired. Incomplete games will be considered suspended games and will be resumed from the point they were discontinued during the regular season.
 - 4. The team at bat must provide a pitcher 16 years old or older.
 - 5. Each batter will be allowed five (5) underhanded pitches to hit the ball, if she does not hit it fair in five (5) pitches she is out. Walk and strike outs are not allowed.
 - a. If a batted ball hits the pitcher or the pitcher catches the ball, the batter is out. The pitcher shall not interfere with any hit ball or his batter is out.
 - 6. A baserunner may not leave the base until the ball is hit. (Stealing will not be allowed). PENALTY: Baserunner is out and the ball is dead.
 - 7. Play will be stopped at all times that a hit ball is returned into the infield, providing the player has complete control of the ball and no subsequent defensive action takes place or if the defensive player holds the ball above her head and calls time out. NOTE: The play officially stops when the umpire grants the defensive player with the ball a timeout.
 - 8. Restraining Line two (2) yards in length shall be drawn midway between each base except home plate and first base. PURPOSE: A player must have both feet beyond restraining line before time is called in order to be able to advance at her own risk to the next base.
 - 9. On all fields an arc should be drawn in a 60' radius from the pitcher's plate. This will determine where the outfield begins. The defensive player with the ball may only call timeout when both feet are inside the arc.
 - 10. If a team has ten (10) or more players present at any game, they must play ten (10) players on defense. This includes having a catcher behind home plate.
 - 11. Defensive players must play even with or behind the pitcher until the ball is hit. Defensive players may not take a position in front of the pitcher.
 - 12. All Pee Wee games will have a one (1) hour time limit. All Mite games will have a one (1) hour minute time limit. Any inning started must be completed unless the home team is ahead. An inning will not be started with ten (10) minutes or less remaining in the time limit. (Clarification: A new inning begins immediately following the third (3rd) out made by the home team). The umpire's time will be official. Games must start at the designated time
 - 13. PARTICIPATION RULE:
 - a. Every dressed player must be listed in the batting order on the score sheet and bat continuously throughout the game.
 - b. Every dressed player must play one complete inning (3 consecutive outs) in the field.
 - 14. FREE SUBSTITUTION RULE:
 - a. Substitute runner for the catcher anytime she is a baserunner (Mandatory wit 2 outs).
 - b. Only one (1) offensive and one (1) defensive time out per inning will be allowed.
 - c. Courtesy runners will NOT be allowed unless a player is hurt in the game. It will be the umpire's judgement whether or not a player needs a courtesy runner.
 - d. The player who made the last out in her team's batting order may become a substitute runner for another member of her team.

15. A baserunner may not run into the fielder who has the ball in her possession with the intent of causing injury or dislodging the ball from the fielder. PENALTY: Baserunner is declared out and may be ejected from the game at the discretion of the umpire.
16. The infield fly rule will not be enforced.
17. The batter will not be called out for stepping out of the batter box or stepping on home plate.
18. A batter may strike at a pitch that bounces before it crosses home plate.
19. Eight (8) players must be present to begin any game.
20. Infield practice will NOT be allowed prior to the start of the game.
 - a. The batting order must remain the same throughout the game.
 - b. When no substitutes are available, the batter will not be called out for missing their turn at bat due to injury or illness. However, this rule does not apply for ejected players.
 - c. There is no limit to the number of times a player may enter the game on defense.
21. A player who unintentionally throws her bat will be warned by the umpire. In addition a team warning will be issued and there after any player who throws her bat will be declared out. This is a dead ball situation.
22. Intentionally rolling the ball to a base for the purpose of obtaining a put out will not be allowed.
23. Chatter will be permitted as long as it is encouragement for your team and not directed at the opposing team.
24. When a team establishes a 10 run lead, the team's bat will end at that point. Each inning thereafter, the team with the 10 or more run lead will only be allowed to bat six (6) batters or have three (3) outs which ever comes first. If the losing team cuts the lead to less than 10 runs, the leading team will then resume normal batting until they re-establish a 10 run lead. Once the team regains the 10 run advantage, six (6) more batters will be permitted to bat in that inning.
25. All games **MUST** be played at times and locations scheduled by the Athletic Department. Games cannot be rescheduled because of field trips, Girl Scout outings, band concerts, etc.

VII. PLAYING RULES FOR MIDGET & INTERMEDIATE GIRLS:

- A. North Carolina High School Federation Rules will be used the following exception:
 1. The official diamond shall have 60 feet base lines and a 40 feet pitching distance.
 2. The number of players on the team roster will be unlimited.
 3. All Midget games shall be six (6) innings. In the event of rain or darkness, the losing team must have been at bat three (3) times to constitute a complete game unless the time limit has expired. Incomplete games will be considered suspended games and will be resumed from the point they were discontinued. All Intermediate games shall be seven (7) innings. In the event of rain or darkness, the losing team must have been at bat four (4) times to constitute a complete game unless the time limit has expired. Incomplete games will be considered suspended games and will be resumed from the point they were discontinued during the regular season.
 4. Each pitcher will be allowed five (5) warm-up pitches prior to the start of each game.
 - a. At the beginning of each half inning, the pitcher has one minute to deliver no more than five (5) warm up pitches.
 - b. No throwing the ball around the infield after each out.
 5. All Midget Girls Fast Pitch Games will have a one (1) hour and fifteen (15) minute time limit. All Intermediate Girls Fast Pitch Games will have a one (1) hour and thirty (30) minute time limit. Any inning started must be completed unless the home team is ahead. An inning will not be started with ten (10) minutes or less remaining in the time limit. (Clarification: A new inning begins immediately following the 3rd out made by the home team.) The umpire's time will be official. Games must start at the designated time.
 6. **THE MODIFIED SPEED-UP RULE WILL BE IN EFFECT.**
 - a. Substitute runner for the catcher/pitcher anytime she is a baserunner (Mandatory with 2 outs).
 - b. Waive batter to first on an intentional walk.
 - c. Courtesy runners will not be allowed unless a player is hurt in the game. It will be the umpire's judgement whether or not a player needs a courtesy runner.
 - d. The player who made the last out in her team's batting order may become a substitute runner for another member of her team.
 - e. There will be no passing the ball around the infield after a put out; the pitcher will be allowed only five (5) warm-up pitches between innings.
 - f. A coach will not be allowed to talk to his pitcher more than one (1) time in a single inning. The second (2nd) time he goes out on the field, the PITCHER MUST BE RELIEVED FROM THE MOUND FOR THE REMAINDER OF THAT INNING (This does not mean the pitcher has to be removed from the game).
 - g. Substitute runner for the pitcher anytime she is a baserunner.
 - h. Only one (1) offensive time out per inning will be allowed.
 7. PARTICIPATION RULE:
 - a. (Midgets and Intermediates only) Every dressed player must be listed in the batting order on the score sheet and bat continuously throughout the game.
 - b. (All age groups) Every dressed player must play one complete inning (3 consecutive outs) in the field.
 8. FREE SUBSTITUTION RULE:
 - a. Illegal substitutions must be corrected when discovered. No penalty.
 - b. Due to injury when there are no legal substitutes remaining, any player may re-enter the game as a legal substitute.
 - c. When no substitutes are available, the batter will not be called out for missing their turn at bat due to injury or illness. However, this rule does not apply for ejected players.
 9. A baserunner may not run into a fielder who has the ball in her possession with the intent of causing injury or dislodging the ball from the fielder. PENALTY: BASERUNNER is declared out and may be ejected from the game at the discretion of the umpire. Suspension for one (1) additional game does not apply.
 10. Eight (8) players must be present to begin any game.

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15. All games MUST be played at times and locations scheduled by the Athletic Department. Games cannot be rescheduled because of field trips, Girl Scout outings, band concerts, etc.

VIII. UMPIRES:

- A. All umpires will be furnished by the Baseball/Softball Booking Agent.
- B. Umpires will have complete control of all games.
- C. After the game has started, the assigned umpires will be responsible for discontinuing the game for any reason.
- D. The umpire's decision on all calls will be final.

IX. AWARDS:

- A. Team and individual trophies will be awarded to the City Champion.
- B. In the event of a tie for the championship, a tie-break game will be played to determine a Division Champ for Pee Wees & Mites or a City Champ for Midgets & Intermediates.
- C. A team trophy will be awarded to the conference champions (Pee Wees & Mites only).

The City of Mebane Recreation and Parks Department does not discriminate on the basis or race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.