



FALL BALL 2022

RULES OF PLAY

1. Player Registration and Dues

Each player must register and pay their dues in full to participate

- i. \$40 player dues
- ii. A portion of the total player dues will go a beneficiary TBD

2. Team Format

- a. Make/Build your own team – 14 players minimum
 - i. Free Agents can be picked up by coaches based on availability and to make their 14
 - ii. All remaining unclaimed free agents will be built into a team if enough players exist
 - iii. The Fall Ball Committee will assist Free Agents with being placed on teams
- b. Any players needed to fill a team on the day of the game may be picked up to make their 10

3. Game Format

- a. Team Lineups
 - i. Coaches do NOT have to provide a lineup prior to each game
 - ii. Teams can bat all their Fall Ball registered players on the bench
 - iii. If a team starts with 9 players, the 10th batter will be considered an out unless the 10th player shows up while the game is in progress
- b. National League (B, C, and mid-to-high D rated players)
 - i. 1-1 count with one courtesy foul
 - ii. 1 courtesy runner per inning – anyone on the lineup may be used; if the courtesy runner comes to bat and is still on the base, that batter will be called out
 - iii. Homerun counts will be in effect (1 allowed per game). Any above 1 per team will be a recorded as an out and play will continue if less than two outs

- iv. Teams may begin with 9 players and may pick up a player within their respective division to make it to their 10th player to fill their roster; no other pickups will be allowed after the 10th player unless an injury occurs, and that player is unable to finish the game
- c. American League Upper and Lower (mid-to-lower D and E rated players)
 - i. 1-1 count with one courtesy foul
 - ii. 1 courtesy runner per inning – anyone on the lineup may be used; if the courtesy runner comes to bat and is still on the base, that batter will be called out
 - iii. NO homeruns will be allowed and will be recorded as an out and play will continue if less than two outs
 - iv. A National League pitcher may be used to only pitch, but will NOT be allowed to hit
 - v. If a National League pitcher is used, teams may pick up a player within the lower division to make it to their 10th player in to fill their roster; no other pickups will be allowed after the 10th player unless an injury occurs, and that player is unable to finish the game
- d. Game time
 - i. Game time is forfeit time
 - ii. 50 minutes, including the post season tournament; no drop dead; finish the inning unless the home team is at-bat and is winning when time has expired
 - iii. If both coaches agree, the game may start ahead of the scheduled game time
- e. Run Rule (for all divisions)
 - i. 20 runs after 3 innings
 - ii. 15 runs after 4 innings
 - iii. 10 runs after 5 innings
- f. Tie Breaker
 - i. International Tie Breaker rules will NOT be in effect for regular season games
 - ii. International Tie Breaker rules will take place for the end-of-season tournament after time has expired or if the score is tied after 7 innings of play
 - iii. The following will be the tie breaker format:
 - 1. Runner on 2nd (last batter that fully completed a full at-bat in the previous inning)
 - 2. 1 pitch, no courtesy foul
 - 3. Zero outs to start each at-bat

4. If at the end of 1 complete inning neither team scores, another inning will be played in the same format until a team wins

g. Home/Visitor Determination

- i. Regular Season – Flip for home
- ii. End-of- Season Tournament – The team with the highest seed at the conclusion of the regular season will be home team

h. Bats

- i. MSLA league bats will be used
- ii. Personal bats will NOT be allowed
- iii. MSLA rules will be in effect with respect to the bats (see MSLA Sportsmanship Guidelines, section j)

i. End of Season Tournament Format

- i. Each division will have their own tournament
- ii. Seedings will be based on final regular season outcomes per each division
- iii. Single Elimination; losers bracket “winner” concession game (two game guarantee)
- iv. All games will be 50 minutes, no drop dead, International Tie Breaker (see section f); a winner will be determined
- v. Pickup players will NOT be allowed

j. MSLA Sportsmanship Guidelines

- i. ALL players, coaches and spectators will play or watch in a manner in-line with good sportsmanship
- ii. The Fall Ball Committee reserves the right to report any improper sportsmanship to the MSLA Board of Trustees for review
- iii. Field umpires and/or the Fall Ball Chair will make the final decision on the field with respect to general softball rules
- iv. NO protests – neither player nor game – will take place

k. Fall Ball Committee

- i. The Fall Ball Committee may amend the 2022 Fall Ball Rules of Play before play starts but will notify coaches of any changes
- ii. Once the first week of play begins, all rules will stand and will NOT be amended unless specifically needed