

Mat-Su Softball Association League Rules and Information for 2026

1. The Mat-Su Softball Association offers competitive softball leagues for Men's and Coed Divisions in accordance with the Rules and Guidelines set forth by the **USA Softball** Organization unless specified otherwise. Coed Leagues play Monday through Wednesday evenings, and the Men's League plays on Thursday evenings. Monday night is designated for Coed E teams. Coed Rec teams are designated to play on Tuesday evenings, and 3 of 15 Coed Rec teams will play their weekly games on Thursday night (Not applicable this season). Coed B, C, D, and E teams play in a mixed league on Wednesday evenings.
2. All games will be played at the Bumpus Softball Complex located at 2001 Mystery Ave, Wasilla, AK. League game times will be 6:40, 7:50, and 9:00 PM.
3. There is a **one-hour time limit** on all league games. A team may be given a five-minute grace period without enough players to start a game, provided the other team agrees. The five minutes will come off the front end of the one-hour time limit. Umpires must tell both team managers the starting time of the game. It is the manager's responsibility to get the starting time.
4. All teams may start a game with eight (8) players and finish with eight (8) players. If eight (8) players are used in coed play, no more than four (4) may be men. In Men's and Women's Divisions, teams must start and finish with eleven (11) players if an Extra Player (EP) is used. In the case of an injury, teams may finish with ten (10) players. A game may continue as long as an ejection does not create a player vacancy. If playing with eight (8) players in any division, the ninth (9th) and tenth (10th) batting positions will be automatic outs. If playing with nine (9) players in any division, the tenth (10th) batting position will be an automatic out. If a coed team has less than the required number of players, it may play more female players than male players to reach the required minimum of 10 players. When playing defense, the team must follow the same rules used for coed play – no more than three men may be in the infield or two men in the outfield. On offense, no two men may ever bat back-to-back in the batting order. The team will follow the coed procedure of alternating a male and a female in the batting order until no more men are available. At that time, females may bat back to back until they reach the end of their lineup, at which time they would start at the beginning of their lineup.
5. To prevent forfeits in league play, teams may pick up as many as three players from the opposing team or anyone rostered on a team within their own division of play who is scheduled to play that evening. Pickup players must be of the same classification level or lower. Pickup players may only be used if the team has at least six (6) players present. Teams picking up players may not have more than 10 players to participate. A pickup player must wear a jersey representing their registered team. If a late player from the team with a pickup player(s) arrives, they must be immediately inserted into the lineup as a substitute for one of the pickup players. Borrowed pickup players may return to their own team and be considered eligible substitutes.
6. In Coed play, if a team elects to use the EP, they must use both males and females.

7. Team lineups are to be turned in to the plate umpire at least 5 minutes before the start of the game. Lineups should be legible and contain each starting player's last and first name along with the player's game jersey number. Listing substitutes is encouraged to speed up player substitutions during the games.
8. In all league play, players must wear a shirt with a 6-inch number on the back. The Uniform Rule will go into effect for **all State Tournaments**, requiring each team member to wear a similar style, like color jerseys with a minimum 6-inch number on the back. If baseball caps are worn, they must be worn properly on the field.
9. MSSA will supply balls for league play. Women will hit an 11-inch softball, and men will hit a 12-inch softball. All male players will hit a .52 core/300 lb. Compression ASA/USA ball. Female players will hit a .52 core/300 lb. Compression ASA/USA ball in the upper division, Coed, and all sanctioned tournament play. The ball must be optic yellow for all league and tournament play.
10. All players must register online or have signed a player contract and paid their Player Registration fee in full before playing a game. Any player found participating in an ineligible status will forfeit that game. The player and manager will be held responsible, and disciplinary action against both of them may be taken. Rosters will be checked periodically by a member of the Mat-Su Softball Association.
11. A player must be 14 years of age to sign up and participate in our association. All **Minor** participants must complete a **Parental Consent Form**, which must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. The Parental Consent Form is available for download on the MSSA website. MSSA reserves the right to assess the eligibility of the minor participant based upon physical development, skill level, and the league he or she wishes to participate in. Minors can only play infield if the board approves and must wear a fielding mask. Minors must wear a helmet when participating on offense.
12. **No outside alcoholic beverages are allowed in the softball complex.** Alcoholic beverages are permitted in the complex when purchased from the concession stand.
13. Keep your dugout area clean. Pick up trash immediately after completing your game and place it in the receptacles near all playing areas.
14. Any player who assaults or verbally abuses an umpire or association official before, during, or after a game is subject to suspension. (Article 13, USA Code, USA Guide, and Playing Rules) In addition, players who verbally or physically assault anyone are subject to penalties through the legal system.
15. Courtesy Runners will be allowed in all leagues. There can be one (1) Courtesy Runner per inning per gender. The Courtesy Runner may be anyone of the same gender on the team roster who is still eligible to play. A Pitcher may have a Courtesy Runner at any time, which will not count towards their one permissible Courtesy Runner allowed per half inning. Any eligible player may be a courtesy runner once per inning for any player other than the pitcher. This player or any eligible player may also courtesy run for the pitcher whenever the pitcher is on base.

16. After being substituted, a player may re-enter a game one (1) time in the same spot in the lineup as they previously were. A player who has been substituted for after re-entering the game one time is no longer eligible for play, and they may not be used as a Courtesy Runner.

17. Any arguing on the judgment of balls and strikes will constitute a team warning. Any repeat offense will result in the ejection of that team member.

18. During league play, if a team player or manager is ejected for any reason, the individual must leave the playing field area without delay. That person will be disqualified for the remainder of that game and the next scheduled league game. If that individual is ejected from a second game, they would be disqualified for the remainder of that game and the next two scheduled league games. If the same individual is ejected a third time, they would automatically be disqualified from all MSSA and USA Softball play for the remainder of the season. The only offense that can be appealed is the third offense. If this behavior occurs during tournaments, the tournament director can disqualify the individual for the remainder of the tournament.

Prohibited Behavior

1. Any form of violence (physical altercations, aggressive behavior, or threats of harm) is strictly prohibited.
2. Use of bad language or unsportsmanlike conduct (e.g., offensive remarks, insults, inappropriate gestures, or verbal abuse) directed at players, officials or spectators is not tolerated.

- i. Penalty Structure for Violations:

1. First Offense:

- a. Suspension: The player will be suspended for one game
 - i. Fine: A \$150 fine will be assessed in order to play again.

2. Second Offense:

- a. Suspension: The player will be suspended for two games.
 - i. Fine: A \$250 fine will be assessed in order to play again.

3. Third Offense:

- a. Suspension: The player will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

- ii. Fine Allocation:

1. All fines to be collected from violations will be donated to the Alaska JO Fastpitch Program to support youth softball development and opportunities in the State.

iii. Appeal Process:

1. Players may appeal the fine penalty by submitting a written appeal to the league office within 48 hours of the incident.
2. The league's disciplinary committee will review the appeal and make a final decision. The decision of the committee is final.

iv. General Conduct Expectations:

1. Players are expected to demonstrate sportsmanship and respect toward all participants, including teammates, opponents, officials, and spectators.
2. Disrespectful behavior or language toward umpires, players or league officials will result in immediate disciplinary action.
3. Maintaining a safe and respectful environment for all participants is paramount to the leagues.

19. Protests: In any protest, the umpire must be notified before the next pitch, legal or illegal. Protests must be filed in writing with the softball Director or the Board of Directors within 24 hours.

20. Games may be played in inclement weather. The games being played in inclement weather will be determined before 3:30 p.m. of the playing day in question. Managers will be notified if any games have been cancelled. Notification will also be posted on the MSSA web page and the MSSA Facebook page. Team calendars will reflect that the scheduled game(s) have been postponed to a later date or cancelled.

21. **Metal cleats are not permitted.**

22. Members with outstanding debt from previous years will not be able to sign up or play until the Mat-Su Softball Association receives payment of the debt in full.

23. **HOME RUN RULE:** Home run limits for league play are as follows: **Men's C** - Plus 2 Two (2) 2-Up Home Run Rule (Teams can only be up 2 homeruns over their opponent at any point in a game.) This is a running tally kept throughout the game – Any home run over the 2 up will be an out. (2), **Men's D** - One (1) and progressive, **Men's E** - One (1) and done, **Coed B** - Plus 2 (2), **Coed C** - Two (2) and progressive, **Coed D** - 1 One (1) and progressive, **Coed E** - One (1) and done, **Coed F/Rec** zero (0). Home runs above the limit will be recorded as an out. Home run limits for Coed play are per gender.

24. As the batter enters the batting box, they have a one (1) ball and one (1) strike count on them.

25. The pitcher may take a position from the front edge of the pitcher's plate to 6 feet behind the pitcher's plate within 24 24-inch width of the pitcher's plate with both feet firmly on the ground.

26. Only ASA/USA Softball-approved bats may be used in the Mat-Su Softball league and tournament play. These bats shall have an ASA/USA certification label from the manufacturer and not be on the banned bat list provided by USA SOFTBALL. An ASA/USA-approved bat tester must test all bats for all tournament play to ensure they are within ASA/USA performance standards. Bats that pass the

performance standard set by ASA/USA shall receive a certification sticker that is good for the entire season. Bats will be retested before the USA Softball of Alaska State Tournaments. Any bat may be subject to testing at any time if a league official or umpire deems it necessary. If a player is found using a non-approved bat, the bat will be removed from play, and the player and manager could be suspended for one calendar year from the date of the offense.

27. Mat-Su Softball Association **Tie Breaker Rule:** If, after the completion of allotted time or seven (7) innings of play the score is tied, the following tiebreaker rule will be used to determine a winning team: Starting with the top of the next inning, and each half inning thereafter, will go to a one-pitch format with the last batter placed on second base only after the seventh inning. No Courtesy Runner will be allowed in this circumstance.

28. In the event of teams of different classifications playing each other, the team of higher classification shall spot the other team four (4) runs per classification level difference. The Home Run Rule of the higher-classified team shall be followed for the game. The Run Spot for Invitational tournaments shall be stated in the tournament rules.

Men's C Tiered,

• Tier A - 0 Spot • TierB-3Spot • TierC-6Spot • TierD-9Spot • Tier E - 12 Spot

The committee will meet once a week to determine the placement of the men's program in the Tier system.

29. Players on the Restricted Player List must play at the highest classification available. Two (2) runs will be spotted for each Restricted Player in Men's play. Four (4) runs will be spotted for each Restricted Player in Coed play.

30. USA Softball of Alaska Code will apply to any situation not covered here.

