

MANHATTAN SOFTBALL LEAGUE

By-Laws, Rules & Regulations

Eligibility: All Employers – Employee groups are invited to participate.

Teams are assigned to leagues following preferences expressed to the extent possible, giving regard to seniority (which need not be consecutive).

Players: There is no limit on the number of players eligible to play on a team. Any employer group entering more than one team must maintain separate rosters for each team.

An official roster on company or team letterhead (or clearly indicating the team sponsor) must be furnished to the League no later than the beginning of the Season as indicated to you during registration. If a team has not submitted a roster by its second game, that team will forfeit its games until the league has received the roster. Rosters must be signed by each player opposite his or her typed name, and must be signed at the bottom by an authorized company representative. We will return an initialed copy of your roster, properly postmarked, which you must bring to each game. Failure to do so may constitute a forfeit.

Additions to Roster: Players may be added after the original roster has been submitted, using the same formality. The League will handle such additions similarly by showing the postmark date, initialing and distributing each addition. Players added are only eligible after players names have been received by the League.

Uniforms and Equipment: Uniform shirts are required. This requirement may be extended upon application, but no extension will be valid after the beginning of the Season as indicated to you during registration. The league will advise the umpires of extensions to avoid problems at the field about this rule.

For safety precautions, **no metal spikes** may be worn in any league. Female catchers must wear a facemask. Shin guards and chest protectors are optional.

Softball: Each team must furnish one new ball per game. This ball must be a 12" Clincher. It comes in a **green & yellow box**. Every team must also bring an extra ball in good condition (in the opinion of the umpire) for emergency use.

Bases: Each team will bring a set of bases and home plate to the field. The home team's bases will be used.

Scorebooks: Both teams should have a scorebook to document the line-up and the score. After each inning both team managers should check with the umpires so that there is agreement concerning the score. At the end of the game, the umpire will sign both teams' scorebooks. The home team's scorebook is official.

Rules of Play: **ASA (American Softball Association)** rules apply, except as modified by these rules and regulations. Each team manager, before each game, will review with the umpire the applicable ground rules.

Type of Pitch: Coed divisions are slow pitch with a **maximum height of twelve (12) feet** and a **minimum height of six (6) feet. Men's division is max (18)**. If the umpire deems a pitch illegal, the batter then has the option of swinging at the pitch or it being an automatic ball. If the batter swings at an illegal pitch, the result of the swing stands. A foul on the third swing is a strikeout. No runners may advance.

The coed and men's modified division arc is a three to six foot arc.

Number of players: There may be a **maximum of ten (10) players** or a **minimum of eight (8) players** on the field. All late arriving players must be put at the end of the lineup. A team can bat as many players as they wish, but after the twelfth player it must be man, woman, etc. The 11th or the 12th position must be a "DH" position with that player not able to play the field. If a team uses 9,10,11 or 12 players, the team must finish with that amount. Any player that gets injured or has to leave must be replaced or it will be an automatic out in the lineup. Less than eight players will be a forfeit. An EH (extra hitter) may be used but only if the umpire is notified before the game. The extra hitter may be only used if a team fields **ten** players.

In order to speed the games along and play a full 7 innings, the count will start at 1 ball and 1 strike.

Co-Ed Play: The Co-Ed division must alternate their batting order (male, female, male, etc.) with the extra males or females batting at the end of the batting order. **The EH must be a female.** Thereafter batters must alternate between male and female. **No limit to number of players batting as long as there is the same number of females as men.**

Teams can substitute players but must notify the umpire and other team before the start of the game. Any starter can be replaced and re-enter the game once during the game and must re-enter back in the same batting position.

<u>Total Players</u>	<u>Maximum of Men</u>	<u>Minimum of Women</u>
10	7	3
9	7	2
8	6	2

If you play with nine players, one of the women must bat twice in the order

Cage area must be clear of all but catcher, batter and umpire.

Four innings or **one hour** played constitutes an official game. If after five innings a team is leading by **12** runs, the game will be ended and considered an official game. If a game does not go four innings for any reason it will not be considered an official game and will be rescheduled from the first inning with the score being 0-0

Tie games will not be replayed. They will count in the standings for each team as ½ win and ½ loss.

A courtesy runner may be used in case of injury and is umpire discretion. The courtesy runner is the player who made the last out. In the **Co-Ed division**, the courtesy runner is **female** for **female** and **male** for **male**.

There is **no** Stealing or Bunting in any division. All runners must slide or give themselves up at close plays at all bases and home. (Pete Rose rule)

There are no leads when base running. The base runner can only leave a base when the batter makes contact or the ball crosses home plate. If the base runner leaves early, then the umpire will call out the runner.

Balls and Strikes: We start the count with a 1-1 count

COED Division 3 straight balls to a male batter without throwing another strike with a female batting behind has the option of batting or taking first. You cannot intentional walk a male to get to a female batter.

When a woman is at bat the out- fielders must stay on the grass and are permitted into the infield to make a play when the batter makes contact.

Lineup cards must be given to the umpire prior to the game starting with the substitutes on the line card also

Scores: the officiating umpire will call in all final scores to the league.

The umpire's watch (time) governs the time of play. The **NYC Department of Parks** suggests **MSL** schedule two games each night to have maximum use of the fields.

There will be a coin toss at the field for the home team.

Game starts vary. Review your schedule for appropriate time.

MSL may make such changes from time to time that are necessary or appropriate. Only the League can arrange postponements.

Umpires: One will be assigned to each scheduled game (**cost paid by MSL**). The umpire has full jurisdiction over the game subject to applicable rules. At any field where there is a fence in the outfield, the umpire will determine the appropriate ground rules and inform both managers at the coin toss.

Protests: Legal protests, including roster questions and the validity of the players are to be resolved as follows:

The protesting team must advise the umpire and the opposing team manager of its intention to protest at the field.

The League must be notified the **following morning** of the protest, and a formal protest and supporting statement must be submitted to **MSL** within **two business days**, accompanied by a protest fee of **\$175.00**.

The opposing team manager will send a statement of their version within the same time period, addressed to **MSL**.

The umpire will do likewise and send a copy to the umpire director.

If a player is being questioned, the umpire will forward the player's signature, secured at the field, to be checked against the roster.

MSL's Board of Directors will review the protest and its sole decision will be considered final

Forfeits: Each team will be allowed one forfeit. Upon the second forfeit a team may be dropped from the league at the league's discretion.

A team will automatically be dropped from the league upon their third forfeit and will not be reimbursed for the remainder of their season. This directive will be strictly enforced.

The league policy is that any team forfeiting *must first notify the league, 24 hours before the forfeit*, then the team they are playing (courtesy) or when they know they have to forfeit (also notify the opposing team) so that the opposing team does not go to the field for nothing.

Rainouts: A rainout will be determined no later than **4:00** by an **MSL** official due to inclement weather. If you are not notified by **4:00** that a game has been canceled, it will be considered an officially scheduled game. Failure to show will be considered a forfeit. The schedule you receive is the schedule that must be followed.

This year there will be no changes after the first month of the season for any reason.

The umpire's decision will be enforced in determining if a game is playable due to field conditions, darkness or rain.

Property Damage/Injuries Disclaimer: **MSL**, directors and representatives have no responsibility or liability for damage to property or injury to any person, whether players, spectators or others, no matter how caused. It is sole responsibility assumed by the teams, players, participants and companies they represent.

Permits: The umpire will be responsible for carrying copies of the permits at all times.

Player Code of Conduct: As Manhattan Softball League is a recreational league, in some cases the games may become intense, but you still can be competitive while maintaining good sportsmanship. With this said, any behavior deemed unacceptable by the umpire or MSL staff may result in the ejection of the offending player and/or team from the game and suspension of that player and or team from the league with NO refunds.

Absolutely no alcoholic beverages are permitted at the playing area. The Department of Parks has requested that the fields be left in good, clean condition, or the permit to use the field will be rescinded.