

Minnetonka Girls Softball Association Rules

(Also see special rules for each league)

These rules will cover regular season play and post-season tournament competition for all MGSA in-house play.

The USSSA Rules will be the official rules of all MGSA in-house games, with the following exceptions listed below. Additional special rules apply to individual leagues and are presented with the schedules for those leagues.

1. No player may participate in a league game unless registered with MGSA.
2. A team may only use players from a lower age group with the permission of the League Director or MGSA President. That permission shall apply to only one game at a time.
3. The batting order shall include all players present at the start of the game. Late-arriving players will be allowed to enter the game and must be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
4. Every available player must play at least every other inning in the field.
5. In the event no umpire is available at the scheduled start time for a game, the home and visiting coaches will jointly agree upon a substitute umpire.
6. A game may be postponed or suspended due to weather conditions by the umpire, the League Director, or any other MGSA board member.
7. Games will be suspended immediately if lightning is sighted.
8. The home team coach will immediately report any game that has been postponed or suspended to the League Director. The umpire will immediately report any game that has been postponed or suspended to the Umpire Director.
9. The home team is responsible for rescheduling postponed games. Within one week of a postponed game, the home team head coach shall:
 - a. Contact the MGSA Scheduler to obtain available field times.
 - b. Agree upon a make-up date and time with the visiting team head coach.
 - c. Inform the League Director and MGSA Scheduler of the make-up date and time.
10. The home team shall occupy the first base dugout and the visiting team shall occupy the third base dugout.
11. All games must start within 15 minutes of the scheduled game time.
12. The "run ahead" rule does not apply.
13. A batter throwing a bat will receive one warning from the umpire. A subsequent violation will result in the batter being declared out and the ball will be dead. The batter will also be benched for the remainder of the game.
14. The home team coach is responsible for ensuring that the field is properly set, including bases, and shall provide the game balls.
15. Except for the on-deck batter, all players and equipment for the batting team must be remain in the team's dugout.
16. Team jerseys, as provided by the league, and appropriate athletic shoes (as determined by the umpire) must be worn at all times during the game. No bare feet, sandals, clogs, or loafers are allowed.

17. No jewelry or any other items deemed hazardous by the umpire may be worn during the game. Notwithstanding that prohibition, players who recently have had their ears pierced with stud earrings and, as result, those earrings currently cannot be removed, are permitted to completely cover those earrings with cloth tape and continue to wear them during the game.
18. Visors and hats are not required. Players may roll up the sleeves of their uniforms in any manner that they desire.
19. All coaches, players, and parents must abide by the rulings of the umpires. Verbal abuse, harassment, insulting remarks or actions, or unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches, players, or spectators will not be tolerated. After one warning by the head umpire, the offending team may be declared in forfeit of the game by the umpire or a representative of the MGSA or Bennett Park boards. MGSA has issued a Code of Conduct for both its coaches and parents that will be strictly enforced. All incidents of unsportsmanlike behavior will be reported to the MGSA Umpire Director for appropriate disciplinary action.