



MYA
Softball

OFFICIAL COPY OF RULES

Vince Farah – Director of Softball

MYA Softball Rules

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IN-GAME RULES

Each team shall maintain the most current version of the following rulebooks at each game:

- MYA Softball Rulebook – This book – provides an overall explanation of MYA Softball guidelines.
- Henry County Parks & Recreation Inter-Association Softball Rulebook – Contains all age-group/division specific rules regarding play. A copy can be found on MYA Softball's Official website or in the Softball Office.
- USSSA Rulebook – may be downloaded from the USSSA website:
<http://resources.ussa.com/ussa/ussa-general/2015FPRuleBook.pdf>

For any rule interpretation discussions with umpires, the MYA / USSSA rulebook will be utilized where appropriate. For additional "General Playing Rules" refer to the Henry County Recreation Department Inter-Association Softball Rulebook.

COACH RESPONSIBILITIES

ID BADGES (Background Checks) –HCPRD (Henry County Parks and Recreation Department) requires every Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Dugout Mom or any person that may have the potential to be alone with a child complete a background check and badging process. The background check must be completed prior to the first practice. All coaches must have their ID badge visible. The Umpire Association, the Director or his or her designee, will enforce this policy for MYA Softball. ID Badges are to be checked before every game at the plate conference.

Additional information may be obtained from the Henry County Parks & Recreation website at www.hcprd.org

MYA GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Scheduling Practice Time – All practice schedules will be completed by MYA Softball's Board-appointed practice scheduler. Coaches may request days/times to the scheduler as necessary. Practice schedules will be posted on the MYA Softball website two weeks in advance. Coaches are to advise Scheduler when practice date and times will not be utilized. Any additional practice request will be answered within a 24-hour period.
2. Game Balls – MYA provides two (2) game balls to be used for each game at Alexander Park. The balls are provided to the Head Umpire. These balls must be used throughout the game. Coaches may not substitute another ball at any time.
3. Post-Game Sportsmanship – At the conclusion of each game, both teams are expected to congratulate the other team with a post-game handshake. Any other activities are optional, and must be agreed upon by both coaches prior to the start of the game.
4. Each team will be responsible for cleaning trash and debris from their dugout at the end of each game.
5. Following the last game of the day, the Home Team is responsible for switching off the lights, scoreboard and returning the score box to the concession stand.
6. All teams must be represented at any MYA Softball field official workday.
7. Uniforms are ordered separately from registration fee. The coach of each team will discuss uniform options and cost. Teams are required to keep cost at a minimum.

It is mandatory for all MYA Softball teams to display an "MYA" identification on the uniform jersey when playing games at Alexander Park. This identification may be placed on the uniform sleeve, or incorporated into the team logo.
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8. The Director of Softball has the authority to postpone or call off any game(s) to be played due to pending inclement weather, school function, or any other reason. If the umpires have taken the field to start a game and the game has been interrupted by weather or other reasons, it is within the umpire's authority to determine whether the game should and will be played. The time of the game will be noted. A fifteen (15) minute grace period will begin once play has stopped and the umpire will determine if play is possible. Managers/coaches are responsible for clearing the field of players during any weather where lightning is present. Players should be moved to safe shelter as soon as possible in this event.
9. Rescheduling Games – HCPRD is responsible for re-scheduling all games (Rainouts, School Functions, etc). MYA Softball has no authority, only input when a game is re-scheduled. Coaches must contact the MYA Softball Scheduler to request any games to be rescheduled. HCPRD will reschedule all weather related canceled games.
10. The following guidelines are to be used in determining division champions for all age divisions:
 - Number of wins
 - Number of losses
 - Head to Head Competition
 - One (1) game playoff
 - Two (2) game playoff, if three (3) teams are tied for 1st place. Each of the three teams will draw a number to determine which team receives the 'bye' for the first game.
11. It is MANDATORY any MYA Softball Team hold a BANQUET within 30 days from the end of the current year's season, unless the Director of Softball waives this banquet due to the fact that the team is continuing on; then it must be done within one calendar year. If and after one year a banquet is not held, MYA Softball will sponsor a banquet for the "said" team and the Head Coach will be held responsible for any monetary reimbursement to MYA.

CONDUCT

- Alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited at any MYA-involved event.
- Tobacco products are prohibited in the park areas at any MYA-involved event.
- Persons convicted of child and/or drug abuse are not allowed to manage/coach with MYA.
- All coaches, players and fans are expected to display good sportsmanship at all MYA-involved events, both Home and Away.

Coaches are responsible for attempting to maintain the conduct of their team's fans during an MYA-involved event. Coaches shall assist umpires in asking unruly and/or unsportsmanlike fans to discontinue any disruptive behavior. Any failure of the coach to assist the umpire in controlling fan behavior/conduct could result in fan ejection as well as coach ejection.

- **PROFANITY, ARGUING, FIGHTING and/or ANY CONDUCT** thought to be disruptive or otherwise unsportsmanlike, will not be tolerated during any MYA-involved event. The Director will have the final say in the matter as it pertains to disciplinary actions. This decision may be appealed.
- Umpires have the authority during any MYA-involved event to EJECT a player, coach, or fan for any of the ABOVE offenses. Persons ejected or asked to leave an MYA-involved event for any of these offenses will be given two (2) minutes to leave the area/field. Play will not resume until the ejected person has left the premises and is out of sight and sound. Punishment for any of these offenses during an MYA-involved event could include suspensions from any future games and potentially a lifetime ban from all Henry County parks per the MYA Board of Directors.
- When questioning an umpire's call, the coach must request timeout from the lead umpire before entering the playing area. If the umpire grants time, the coach may discuss the situation with the umpire that made the call. Players will not be permitted to join in coach/umpire discussions unless invited to participate by the umpire.

- Judgment calls are not to be argued during any game. Judgment calls are considered to be Ball/Strike, Fair/Foul and Out/Safe. If questioned about a call, the umpire may inform the coach that the call was a judgment call, and at that point, the coach must return to his/her dugout without further discussion. Once the umpire has indicated the call in question is a judgment call, continued questioning or arguing by the coach to the umpire will subject the coach to ejection immediately. Once ejected, a coach must leave the premises as described above. If an ejected coach attempts to incite the audience or continues to delay play by not leaving the premises, the umpires will have the authority to declare the game a forfeit in favor of the opposing team. The forfeited game shall be reported to the Director of Softball as soon as possible.
- If a coach, player or fan is ejected from an MYA-involved event, they will be suspended from participating in the game underway at the time of the ejection. This person will also be suspended for the next scheduled MYA-involved event (game) for their team.
- Any suspended coach will not be allowed to participate any game-time activities, including, but not limited to warm-ups, batting practice, etc. Suspended coaches will not be allowed to coach their team from the stands.
- During any MYA-involved event, any coach may be asked to leave the premises by the Director of Softball for conduct unbecoming. This type of ejection is subject to appeal to the MYA Softball Board of Directors and the Board's decision shall be final. Appeals must be submitted to the MYA Softball Advisory Board through the Director of Softball within 48 hours of the ejection.
- Threats of any kind toward a player, coach, fan or umpire, by a player, coach, fan or umpire will not be tolerated at any MYA-involved event. Authorities will be called immediately if this situation occurs.
- In addition these rules regarding conduct, "Conduct" rules as set forth in the "Henry County Recreation Department Inter-Association Softball Rulebook" shall be followed when playing a game(s) against another Henry County Association team not affiliated with MYA.
- MYA Teams Only, the appeal process for any game or non-game poor sportsmanship as determined by the Director of Softball will be as follows:
 - 1st Appeal will be to the Director of Softball;
 - 2nd Appeal will be to the Softball Hearing Board;
 - 3rd Appeal will be to the MYA Board of Directors. They will have the final say in the matter.

PROTESTS

Protests of MYA team vs. MYA team games shall be handled as follows:

- Coaches are entitled to protest any game played if he/she feels the game has not been played according to the rules specified in this document and the appropriate USSSA rulebook. When protesting a game, the coach should call time and advise the plate umpire of his/her desire to protest the game before the next pitch is thrown after the infraction or violation occurred. The official scorekeeper should be notified and advised to note the protesting coach's name, the time, and the reason for the protest and where each player is located on the field, the score in the scorebook.
- The protesting coach must notify the Director of Softball or his/her designee within 24 hours of the game, or the first business day following the game that he/she is protesting and provide in writing the details for doing so. The following items must be included in the report:
 - Time
 - Inning
 - Score
 - Runners on base (if any)
 - Batter at plate
 - Count (if applicable)

- The protesting coach will also be required to forward a \$50.00 protest fee along with the written details for the reason of the protest to the HRCPD, at which time will be forwarded to the Director. Should the protest be decided in the protesting coach's favor, the \$50.00 Protest Fee will be refunded to the protesting coach. The \$50.00 fee will not be refunded otherwise.
- The Director of Softball will first rule on the facts to determine if the protest is based on a misinterpretation/misapplication of the rules or if it is based on umpire judgment. The Director of Softball will have a Protest / Rule Violations Board in place made up of 2 outside people and 2 inside people of MYA Softball. If the protest has merit, the MYA Rules Board will rule on the protest within seven (7) days.
- Protests related to judgment calls made by the umpire or Procedure of Protest is not filed correctly, will not be heard by the Director of Softball or MYA Softballs Rule Board. (NO EXCEPTIONS)
- Protests of games played between an MYA team and another Henry County Association team will be handled according the "Protest" guidelines set forth in the "Henry County Recreation Department Inter-Association Softball Rulebook."

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SETTING COACHING STAFF

- All coaching positions are voluntary.
 - First Priority: Returning MYA Head Coaches (Spring ONLY, Fall does not qualify)
 - Second Priority: Returning MYA Assistant Coaches (Spring ONLY, Fall does not qualify)
 - Third Priority: New Coaches – Must submit request to Director of Softball
- All of the above is based on the number of girls signed up, on whether second and third priority is used.
- New Coaches are placed on a waiting list and filled by Director of Softball, in the order the request were submitted to the Director.
- All Voluntary Coaches will coach at the pleasure of the Director of Softball.

SETTING THE ROSTER

1. MYA has 2 divisions; SELECT Division where a minimum of 7 players can be froze, a REC Division where the coach can only freeze a maximum of 6 players. These are the guidelines set forth by USSSA in setting the rosters. REC teams will only play other REC teams and SELECT teams will only play other SELECT teams with the exception of Opening Day. MYA Softball teams will play each other on Opening Day. All 6 & under teams will play in the REC Division.
2. Prior to any draft for any age division, no team will be permitted to have a combination of REC and SELECT players.
3. Players are allowed to play up one (1) age division as long as the player's age at the season's cut-off date is within one (1) year of the higher age division's lowest legal age. For example, to play in the 12 & Under age division, assuming a season cut-off date of 01/01/2003, a player can be 11 or 12 on 01/01/2003 to play in this division. A player who is 10 years of age on 01/01/2003 can also play in the 12 & Under age division since the player is within one (1) year of the 12 & Under division's lowest legal age of 11. A player that is 10 years of age at the cut-off date is also eligible to play in the 10 & Under age division. Players who choose to play up in a higher age division do so at their own will with the consent of their parents. A parent/guardian completed on-line registration form indicating the player's desire to play in the higher age division must be on file with the Director of Softball prior to allowing the player to participate in any MYA-involved events.
4. The following method will be used for the draft in all age divisions except for 6 & Under:

THE DRAFT

- ROUND 1 – All teams will get a first round pick before the equalizing round.

Assuming three teams are drafting, Team A begins the draft with 10 players already on the roster, Team B begins with 7 players, Team C begins with 3 players.

- EQUALIZING ROUND 2 – Team C picks four (4) players in the first round to make their roster size even with the next smallest roster, which is Team B's with 7. Both teams B & C now have 7 players.
- ROUND 3 – Team B picks one (1) player and then Team C picks one (1) player. Both teams B & C now have 8 players.
- ROUND 4 – Team B picks one (1) player and then Team C picks one (1) player. Both teams B & C now have 9 players.
- ROUND 5 – Team B picks one (1) player and then Team C picks one (1) player. Both teams B & C now have 10 players.
- ROUND 6 – Team A now picks one (1) player, Team B picks one (1) player, and Team C picks one (1) player, which gives all teams 10 players.
- This method will continue for all players who have participated in the division tryouts prior to the draft.
- Any players registered who were not frozen by a team and did not participate in the age division's tryouts will be subject to a hat-pick draft. The random/hat-pick draft will pick-up where the initial draft of players who participated in tryouts left off. The team next in line for a pick will select the first player from the draft list/hat.
- Drafted players may be traded, but any traded players must have participated in the age division's tryouts before being eligible for trade. Draft list/hat-picked players cannot be traded. Once the draft has ended, each team will be allowed to trade a maximum of two (2) players. The trade transactions must be completed on draft day and should be forwarded to the Director of Softball before the end of draft day. No trades will be permitted after draft day.
- Any players registering after draft day may be assigned to teams at the discretion of the Director of Softball.
- The Director of Softball has the authority to re-assign players to teams in order to accommodate any special situation, transportation or sister-tag that arises BEFORE OR AFTER THE DRAFT.

REFUND POLICY

McDonough Youth Softball will refund registration fee for the following reasons:

1. Medical – If for some reason a player is injured, the registration fee will be prorated from the time of the incident to the end of the season.
2. A partial refund will be issued after the uniform order, but before the first game. Registration Fee minus uniform package cost and playing fees. (Approx end of March of current year)
3. No refunds will be issued after the first game of the season unless "Medical" with doctors excuse.

FUNDRAISING / SPONSORSHIPS

1. It is OPTIONAL for MYA teams as well as PLAYERS/PARENTS to participate in any fundraiser involved by team and through the association. (It is highly recommended by MYA Softball if team/parents choose to participate that the entire team participate, because the whole team benefits from the monies).

2. IF a team chooses to participate in any fundraiser, it is the team's responsibility to organize the fundraiser and manage all the proceeds. MYA Softball does require each team to forward documentation back to the association if requested.
3. MYA supports fundraisers and recommends them, but does not police what fundraiser or planning. But the fundraiser funds MUST be used for the operation of team expenses (Equipment, Banquet).
4. Team fundraiser funds must to ALLOCATED TO THE TEAM, NOT AN INDIVIDUAL PLAYER. When sponsorship / fundraiser monies become property of the team/ association, at that time the monies are now property of the team/association NOT the player/parent who received the sponsorship or participated in any team fundraiser and are to be used for team expenses.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. The Director of Softball can request a financial statement and/or review the expense registry from any MYA team at anytime during the season for any reason.

THE GOVERNING BODY

1. The Director of Softball and/or his designee may make a decision that could deviate from the guidelines that are set forth in this manual if it so best fits the situation at hand for the better good of all. The Director of Softball will have the final say.
2. Any player or parent that wishes to appeal the decision made by the Director may appeal with the MYA Softball Hearing Board.