

2008 Chicago MSA Women's Softball Rules and Regulations

CMSA Women's Softball follows ASA rules, however any rule listed below preempts ASA rules.

1. CMSA Membership all players appearing on a team's roster and all team participants (including managers, coaches, base coaches and scorers) must be members, in good standing, of CMSA before she steps onto the field. Any team that plays a game with a non-member in the line up at any time will forfeit that game as soon as the infraction is noticed - during the game or anytime thereafter. If a team loses a game in which an infraction on their part is later discovered, that team will then forfeit its most recent regular season winning game. Any team that plays with a non-member manager, coach, base coach, or scorer will be responsible to pay a fine of \$25 and will be required to ascertain that the person in question becomes a member prior to participating again. A second infraction for the same person will result in a forfeiture of the game as soon as the infraction is noticed, as stated above.

2. Time Limit each game will be played under a time limit of 65 minutes. No inning will be started after that time limit has expired unless the score is tied at the end of an inning, in which case the international tie-breaker will be used. No game may end in a tie. An inning will be considered begun when all defensive players are in their respective positions, regardless of whether the offensive team is prepared. Delay by the team in the lead, whether on offense or defense, will not be tolerated.

3. Metal Cleats or Spikes are illegal and strictly forbidden. Any player found wearing such will automatically be ejected from the game. An out will also be charged if said player is on offense at the time the violation is cited.

4. Courtesy Runner may be used, ONLY in the case of medical circumstance. The courtesy runner must be the player making the last out. The opposing manager/coach must consent to the USE of a courtesy runner, but may not choose who shall run. "A", "B" and "C" divisions: one per inning, "D" two per inning, thereafter for all divisions it is at the discretion of the opposing coach/manager.

5. Forfeit Rule the game clock shall commence at the scheduled time or five minutes following the end of the previous game (whichever is later). If one or both teams are not ready to begin the game a run will be marked as scored against the delaying team (s) at the five-minute mark. An additional run will be marked as scored at each five-minute interval. This procedure shall continue until thirty minutes have elapsed without the beginning of play. At this point, if the score is equal a double forfeit will be declared. Otherwise, the team with the highest score will be declared the winner. This rule shall be in effect even if (and especially if) the cause of delay is the designated team's failure to set up the field accurately in a timely manner. Any team's forfeit will incur a \$45.00 fine.

****note: there must be a minimum of eight players to start a game and five players present within five minutes of game time or it is a forfeit, regardless of the rule above.**

6. Failure to set up/take down the field equipment the success of the league is dependent upon each team fulfilling its responsibility to set up and take down the field equipment in an accurate and timely manner. Any team which fails to completely and accurately set up the field equipment before the scheduled start time of the FIRST game of the day shall be penalized according to the "Forfeit Rule" above. Any team that further fails to completely and

accurately set up the field equipment before the scheduled start time of the second game of the day shall forfeit their next scheduled game. If the field equipment is not returned at the end of the day, or before the next weekend, each rostered team member shall be held individually financially responsible for the entire cost of replacing the equipment, including the equipment bag itself. Also, failure to take down the field equipment as assigned will result in a forfeit of the team's most recent winning game.

7. Mercy Rule The league will implement the ASA 20 runs after 3, 15 runs after 4, and 10 after 5 run mercy rule. If, at the completion of the 5th or 6th inning (or 4 1/2 or 5 1/2 innings, should the home team be in the lead) the score will be posted and the game will be called as official and play ended. IN WOMEN'S C & D Division's only: the maximum number of runs to be scored per inning by a team that begins its turn at bat in the lead is 12, i.e., their turn at bat will be over when the 12th run that inning is scored.

8. Umpire Complaints are to be made by a manager to the League Commissioner, within two (2) days of the game(s) in question, and complaints must be submitted by email. Complaints must include the specific umpire's name or uniform number. Also note which field you were playing on at the time of the incident.

9. Forfeits any team, which forfeits any two (2) games, or three (3) if all, called in before by 5 P.M. the Friday before its playing schedule, for any reason, **WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM POSTSEASON AND/OR CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT PLAY.** This means if you forfeit two times during the season without calling them in before 5pm the Friday before the scheduled game your team is out of the playoffs. If you call the forfeits in before 5pm the Friday before the scheduled game you will be allowed one more chance. No adding to the roster at this time. A team which forfeits two games may add (if the nucleus of the original roster wishes) a reasonable number of new players, under the scrutiny and authorization of the softball board, only to play out the remaining regular season schedule. All wins and losses, prior to and subsequent to said team's continuing play, will count in the regular season standings. Again, Any team which forfeits any two (2) days (or three as states above) of its playing schedule, for any reason, **WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM POST-SEASON AND/OR CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT PLAY**, regardless of whether they choose to add players after their two forfeits days or not. Any team's forfeit will incur a \$45.00 fine to be paid by the next game. If not paid all games occurring thereafter shall be forfeits. Should the remaining nucleus of a team, which forfeits two days, choose not to continue to play under the aforementioned guidelines, that team's record, regardless of standings at the point of forfeiture, will revert to O-O win/loss. All other teams' records affected by the forfeiting team will be adjusted accordingly. Teams subsequently scheduled to play said forfeited team will be issued a "bye" with its final roster considered as signed in. Such team will not be issued any refund of sponsorship or any fees, and any remaining players will be considered disbanded. A forfeit of a double header is considered as one forfeit.

10. Ejections any player ejected from a playing area either as player, coach or spectator/member, by an umpire or league official, will **AUTOMATICALLY** be suspended from the team's next scheduled game, whether it be regular season, playoff or championship game. In addition, that player will be on probation for one month from the date of the ejection. If, during the period of probation, the player is ejected a second time, s/he will be suspended from participation in all CMSA affiliated softball activities for the longest of thirty (30) days or the team's next five CMSA affiliated games. A third ejection in the course of the same season

(during or after probation) will result in his/her suspension from participation in all CMSA affiliated softball activities for the next 120 days of play. Additionally, the Commissioner will be required to present the matter of revocation of membership to the Board of Directors for consideration. Disciplinary periods will carry over into the following softball season in the event that the season concludes before they can be completed. The Board of Directors reserves the right to revoke a person's membership for due cause at any time.

11. Protests umpires will have the final word on all judgment calls made during the season. Any protest on the interpretation of rules or regulations must be announced at the game, at the time of disagreement, and so noted in both team's scorebooks. A written complaint, via email or U.S. mail, must be filed with the league Commissioner and sent (or postmarked, if using U.S. mail) by the Tuesday following the protest. In addition, a \$25 protest fee, which will be returned if the protest is won, must also be mailed to the commissioner and postmarked by the Tuesday following the protest. Unaffiliated board members will decide on the validity of such protest. The CMSA protest procedure supersedes any other. WHERE AN OFFICIAL UMPIRE IS NOT PRESENT, A LEAGUE DESIGNEE WILL BE ASKED TO UMPIRE. In this case, the individual must be approved by a member of the women's softball board or by both managers and can be paid up to \$25, reimbursable with a signed receipt.

12. EP/Extra Player An EP (extra player) may be used by teams for a maximum of 11. Rules governing the EP are outlined in the ASA rulebook.

13. Batter's Box A batter's box exists for all games, whether it is chalked or not.

14. Videotaping of any CMSA game must be approved by the league, and consented to by the teams participating in the game being taped. (Federal Law prohibits enforcement of this rule, but due to the personal preferences of many of our members we ask that managers and members please respect the wishes of others and police our own).

15. Roster Limit The roster limit is 20. Coaches and other assistants are not required to be on the roster unless they will be playing in games but they must be a member of CMSA as stated above. Any changes to the roster after the 2nd played game must be medically documented and approved by the softball board. Injury replacement may be granted if out for the season.

16. Participation There is required attendance in order for a rostered player to be eligible for playoffs or championship**. A player must be signed in for three regular season games. Each player participating in playoffs or championships will be required to produce photo identification to verify their identity before they will be allowed to play, or may be required to produce this upon demand at any time during the regular season. All teams will be required to fill out a sign-in sheet every game. **ASANA: Players going to the World Series must have a 50% participation rate on their CMSA team.

17. Players on Multiple Teams A lower division team may add NO MORE than TWO upper division players from the current year's roster, with the exception of an entire team receiving permission from the Commissioner to register in a lower division. Examples: One "A" and One "B" player is allowed in "C", Two "B" players are allowed in "C". One "B" and One "C" is allowed in "D". No "A" player is allowed in "D".

18. Inclement weather during playoffs In the event of inclement weather such that the season is not completed by the last date designated on the schedule, only the regular-season standings will be used to determine a winner. No team will be required to play past the last date designated on the schedule.

19. Division Champions and Division Moves Teams that end the season with a championship victory or a last place ranking could be required to move up or down in the divisions accordingly. However, the Women's Board reserves the right to move teams to different divisions at will for the current or upcoming season. All appeals to divisional moves must be made in writing to softballdivas@aol.com. This will be further discussed at the end of the year meeting in 2008.

20. Contact when a runner is approaching any base or home plate where a play (i.e., a ball either in the fielder's possession or in flight to said fielder) is involved, the runner must slide or avoid initiating solid contact with the defensive fielder. If the runner fails to slide or fails to avoid initiating solid contact with the fielder, the runner is out. The purpose of this rule is to protect the safety of the fielder. However, the runner shall not be deemed to have initiated contact if the fielder stands in the base path without there being a "play", steps into the path of the runner to field an errant throw, or attempts to field a thrown ball not at or near a base. This decision is in the sole discretion of the umpire.

21. Playoffs the team with the better regular season record will be home team for the first game of the playoffs, thereafter the home team will be decided by a coin toss.

22. Banned Bats we will follow ASA rules with regards to banned bats. A team will get a warning if found using a banned bat, after which they will incur a forfeit if the bat is used again at any time during the season. It is the team manager whom is responsible for knowing what bats are banned. http://www.asasoftball.com/about/build_batlist_w_pics.asp

23. 1 & 1 Count

Starting this year in 2008, all divisions will be playing with a one-on-one count with one extra foul ball. For example, if you have 2 balls and 2 strikes and you foul the next pitch, you are still at bat.

24. Rules It is the COMPLETE responsibility of the MANAGERS that players are fully aware of ALL rules, regulations and guidelines of CMSA. Updated 4/22/08