

MSU Billings Rec Activities Softball Rules

Note: American Softball Association (ASA) rules will govern all play with the following exceptions:

1. The MSUB Recreational Activities Office will supply one umpire and one scorekeeper for each game. The umpire will call the bases, foul lines, etc., but will not call balls & strikes since all games are under three pitch rules.
2. All contests will be scheduled and posted on the web at www.msubillings.edu/recactivities. It is the team captain's responsibility to know when and where his/her team is scheduled to play.
3. Players may not wear baseball (metal) cleats, screw-on cleated shoes, or hard-soled shoes. Tennis shoes or soft-soled shoes must be worn at all times (no bare feet). All players in the field must wear a glove.
4. Teams must be ready to play at their scheduled time. A team with less than 10 and at least 8 team members must play the opposing team or forfeit the game at a cost of \$20. Teams with less than 8 must forfeit, if the other team requests it.
5. If a team has 8 players present, the other team will provide a catcher while the team is in the field. That catcher serves to throw the ball back to the pitcher and must get out of the way when a ball is hit. *New - If a team has 8 players, an outfielder may leave his/her position to play defensive pitcher or catcher.*
6. Games will consist of six innings. In case of a tie, extra innings will be played until the tie is broken. If a game is called because of weather or darkness, a game is considered complete after 4 complete innings or after 3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead.
7. Home team will be determined by the flip of a coin.
8. Teams must place all players (regardless if they play in the field or not) in the batting order. The maximum number of players will be 14. (A maximum of 10 players may bat per inning) Additions to the batting order after the game has started begin at the end of the line-up. Any player leaving the game must notify the umpire and scorekeeper.
9. A player may leave the field or re-enter the field only before the first pitch of that inning. The umpire may approve players to enter or re-enter the game in the middle of an inning.
10. An 11 run lead at the completion of five innings will constitute a completed game.
11. There is no maximum or minimum height on pitched balls.
12. Home Run Rule:
 - *The ball flies over the outfield fence is a home run.
 - *Men are limited to 1 home run per team per inning over the fence. No limit on inside the park home runs.
 - *Women - no limit on home runs.
13. The three-pitch rule will be used. Each team will supply their own pitcher. The batter must put the ball in play by the third pitch or record an out. The pitcher can not field or interfere with the fielding of the ball. If the pitcher comes in contact or interferes with the ball the batter is out and runners must return to their original base.
14. Disputes on rules or judgment calls are to be decided immediately. It is permissible to replay the pitch.
15. The defensive pitcher must stand within 6 feet of the pitcher at the time of the pitch.
16. Hard slides or hard stand-ups will not be allowed. Runners may not bowl over a fielder. Runner is out and unnecessary roughness will result in disqualification of the base runner.
17. Fielders may not prevent a runner from advancing by blocking a base. (The runner will be ruled safe.)
18. Two bases side by side will be used at first base. On all plays at first, the runner must use the right base. The left base will be used when advancement is possible.
19. Any loss of temper, unsportsman-like behavior, or violent play (including throwing the bat) will be grounds for the umpire to remove the player from the game. Any player removed for the above stated reasons will be automatically suspended. If a player refuses to leave the field, his/her team will automatically forfeit. The Director of Recreational Activities may suspend a player for a longer period of time if the unsportsman like behavior warrants such a penalty.
20. Alcoholic beverages will not be allowed on Montana State University Billings fields. Players suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be ejected. If a player refuses to leave the field, his/her team will automatically forfeit.
21. Postponement due to weather will be made by the Recreational Activities Office at 1:30 PM or by the home plate umpire after 1:30 PM.
22. Teams that do not have enough of their own rostered players may pick up players not on their roster only during the regular season, and only with the permission of the opposing team.
23. Players must have played in at least one regular season game to be eligible for playoffs. Players may only play on one team during playoffs.
24. No current baseball/softball players may play in Intramural Softball.

Special Co-ed Softball Rules

1. A male-female or female-male batting order must start from the top of the line-up.
2. There may be up to 14 people in the batting order (A maximum of 10 players may bat per inning).
3. There must be at least 4 persons of each sex present (8 players) to start a game.
4. Each team must start and end the game with at least four players of each sex present in the field.
5. The infield positions of first, second, third, and shortstop will be played by equal numbers of male and females.
6. The four outfield positions must have equal numbers of male and female players.
7. At no time will there be unequal numbers of players of each sex in the field or in the batting order. If more players of one sex are playing, the extra males/females must share a bating spot in the order, alternating at bats.
8. *New - If a team has 8 players, an outfielder may leave his/her position to play defensive pitcher or catcher.*