



**Metro Omaha Softball LLC  
2010 Adult League Rules  
General Information**



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## General Information

### Field Conditions/Rainout Information

Field conditions/rainout information will be available after 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. For Sunday league play in particular, information will be available after 12 noon for leagues starting in the afternoon. For leagues starting at 5 and 6 p.m. on Sunday, information will be updated after 3 p.m.

**RAINOUT NUMBER FOR 2010 – 991-4026**

The Metro Omaha Softball office will remain open until about 6 p.m. Monday-Friday throughout the season to address emergencies or problems with league play scheduled for the evening.

Emergency Number    7-10 p.m.                    740-7183

The weather is the single most unpredictable factor affecting any softball season. Metro Omaha Softball umpires will use following criteria for canceling games in progress as recommended by the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL):

*"Thunder always accompanies lightning, even though its audible range can be diminished because of background noise ... The current recommendation of the NSSL is to consider terminating play when the lightning is six miles away ("flash-to-bang" time of 30 seconds or less). This ... was developed as a practical way to make a judgment in situations where other resources ... are not available."*

### Refund Policy

After Metro Omaha Softball has placed your team in a league, no refunds will be issued unless another team takes your spot. After the season begins, NO refunds will be issued.

### **General Rules for Metro Omaha Softball League Play**

All Metro Omaha Softball leagues will follow the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) rule book with the exceptions and clarifications that follow.

### **Softballs in 2010 ... The official softballs for all league play will be:**

- ♦ **(Men's Open only)** – Any 12-inch .40 COR softball maximum compression of .325. YELLOW COVER, BLUE STITCHING ONLY (**Classic M or Classic M+ ONLY**).
- ♦ **Adult Slow-Pitch (male)** – Any 12-inch .44 COR softball maximum compression of .375, white or optic yellow cover, ANY color stitching. The same ball is also used for men in all Co-Ed leagues.
- ♦ **Adult Slow-Pitch (female)** – Any 11-inch .44 COR softball maximum compression of .375, white or optic yellow cover, ANY color stitching. The same ball is also used for women in all Co-Ed leagues.
- ♦ **Men's fast pitch** – 12-inch .47 COR SOFTBALL .400 compression, optic yellow with red stitching.
- ♦ **Youth fast pitch**
  - 10U – ANY 11-inch .44 or .47 COR SOFTBALL optic yellow/red stitching.
  - ♦ 12U-14U-16U-18U – ANY 12-inch .44 or .47 COR SOFTBALL optic yellow/red stitching.

**SPECIAL NOTE – UMPIRES MUST BE ABLE TO READ THE "COR" AND COMPRESSION DESIGNATION BEFORE THE BALL WILL BE ALLOWED IN PLAY.**

**Note for adult slow pitch: Starting in 2011 ALL MOS LEAGUES will ONLY use the optic yellow ball.**

### **Banned Bats**

ALL bats in Metro Omaha Softball league play (**the ONLY exception is the Men's Open**) will follow the Amateur Softball Association's list of non-approved bats that failed an ASA sponsored field audit and that also carry the most recent ASA Certification Mark (2004). This is also available on ASA national website, [softball.org](http://softball.org), under the "Certified Equipment" page.

ALL bats used in Metro Omaha Softball league play MUST have a certification stamp. However, the following BATS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED AT ALL in 2010 Metro Omaha Softball League competition:

- Combat – VIRSP3 Lady Virus
- Easton – SCX2 Synergy, Easton SCX22 Synergy 2, Louisville Slugger, FPC305 Catalyst (-8) Louisville Slugger SB304, Louisville Slugger SB34 , Genesis Louisville Slugger SB404
- Miken – MSF Freak, Ultra, Ultra II, Ultra Maxload
- Nokona – Tomahawk
- Schutt – Red/Silver Schutt Bat
- Worth – EST9, QESTFP, SBWK(Wicked), SBWKA, WWSC, Wicked Comp. (SP Only), WWSCA, XEST9X, XGold, XPST4, XRed, XWICKX Wicked (SP Only)

### **Age Limit - Adult Leagues**

- ◆ All Adult Leagues – Player must be at least 16 years of age to participate in a Metro Omaha Softball adult league. Players ages 16-18 must have parent/guardian sign roster/waiver. Players in this age bracket must be age 16 on January 1 of the current year.

### **Equipment**

- ◆ Teams are responsible for providing all of their own equipment.
- ◆ Bases are provided at all complexes. **At all non-complex fields, ALL teams should be prepared to provide their own bases.**

### **Intentional Walk**

- ◆ ALL adult men's, women's and Co-Ed slow pitch leagues AND men's and women's fast pitch leagues – A batter can be intentionally walked ***WITHOUT BEING PITCHED TO.***

### **Special Note Regarding Walks in Co-Ed Leagues – ASA Rule 8-1C(4)**

- ◆ With less than two outs, a walk to a male batter results in an automatic two-base award for the batter and all runners on base. However, runners on base may NOT advance past third base unless forced to do so (ex: if the bases are loaded and a walk is issued to a male batter, then the runners at 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> base are awarded home base. The runner at 1<sup>st</sup> base will advance to 3<sup>rd</sup> and the batter advances to 2<sup>nd</sup> base.
- ◆ With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.
- ◆ If a male batter receives a base on balls, then he MUST run the bases in order.

### **Protests**

Protests can be filed on any umpires' rule interpretation, but not a judgment call. Before the next pitch—legal or illegal—notify the umpire that you are going to continue to play the game under protest. The umpire will gather the teams together and announce that a protest has been made. Both scorebooks must reflect the same score and, if necessary, the ball/strike count, outs and positions of the runners. The umpire will initial both books. Your protest—along with a \$30 filing fee—must be turned in at the MOS office, in writing, within 48 hours of the game. Your filing fee will be returned if the protest is upheld by the MOS Protest Committee.

## **Games in Progress Called due to Inclement Weather**

Any game that is called due to threatening weather and/or rain will be considered a complete game if:

- a) 4 complete innings were played, or
- b) 3 1/2 complete innings were played and the home team is ahead. If the game does not meet these two conditions, MOS will attempt to re-schedule the game from the point that the game was suspended. In this case, teams MUST record the number of outs remaining, pitch count and identify the batter so the game can continue correctly.
- c) If a game is called in the top of inning 6 or 7, then the score will revert back to the last complete inning played for the purpose of determining a win/loss.

## **Rainout Dates – All Adult Leagues**

*There will be one (1) or (2) rainout dates included at the end of the year on your league schedule to make up games canceled due to wet playing fields.* If more rainouts occur than our schedule permits, then Metro Omaha Softball office will determine IF, where and when the additional games can be re-scheduled. **There will be NO Refunds for games not played due to weather.** A major determining factor will be whether or not a particular game (or games) will have an impact on the league championship.

## **Lineups and Keeping Score – POINT OF EMPHASIS AGAIN IN 2010**

All teams should keep an official scorebook. In all leagues, teams should exchange lineups at the start of the game. Umpires will only become involved in lineup issues if a batting-out-of-order situation occurs.

The home team scorebook, if kept properly will be the official scorebook. Umpires will become involved in score-of-the-game issues only if there is a conflict between the scorebooks of both teams. At such time, the umpire will confer with both managers and resolve the situation before the game will continue (the clock will NOT be stopped during the discussion). If the issue cannot be resolved, then the score in the home team scorebook will be the official score. **Teams should periodically check the score with each other to avoid the potential of conflicting score information.**

## **Player Eligibility/Player Classification/Rosters for League Play**

- ◆ Every player on every team must be listed on an official MOS team roster.
- ◆ Each player on each team MUST sign the team roster.
- ◆ All adult leagues are classified based on the level of competition desired.
- ◆ Players may play up one division, but CANNOT play down a division.(Ex: A Class D player can play in a Class C league but CANNOT play in a Class E league).
- ◆ "Open" league players may play on industrial league and church teams for which they are eligible.
- ◆ Players may play on as many teams as they are eligible for.
- ◆ Players may not play for two teams in the same league.
- ◆ If a player wishes to switch teams within the same league, Metro Omaha Softball must be notified and the player MUST first obtain a written release from their current manager.
- ◆ Any player requesting a release should be granted one unless extenuating circumstances are involved. In that case, the manager should submit a written explanation to the Metro Omaha Softball Advisory Committee why the release is not being granted.
- ◆ Players may be added to the rosters at any time. However, **July 1, 2010, 5 p.m. is the final deadline for adding ANY new players to team rosters.**

If a team has questions about the eligibility of a player on another team, then an inquiry should be submitted in writing to the Metro Omaha Softball office. Player eligibility refers only to a player NOT being listed on a team's roster. In adult slow pitch leagues if a team has reason to believe that a player is "playing out of class"—meaning that player is playing "down" in a classification—an inquiry must be filed in writing to the Metro Omaha Softball office. The inquiry and any other resulting activity will be handled by a panel consisting of designated members of the Metro Omaha Softball Advisory Committee, which—at its discretion—may call the player and coach of the team in question to attend a special hearing. In such cases, umpires WILL NOT become involved in handling any dispute. This is strictly an administrative matter and teams will be instructed to contact the Metro Omaha Softball office.



# 2010 League Rules – All Adult Leagues

## Time Limits

- ◆ All Slow Pitch – 60 minutes
- ◆ All Fast Pitch – 90 minutes
- ◆ **Game time starts at the END OF THE PRE-GAME CONFERENCE.**
- ◆ **IF THERE IS ANY TIME REMAINING ON THE CLOCK A NEW INNING WILL BE STARTED!!**
- ◆ No new inning will be started if time has expired.
- ◆ If the "home" team is at bat when time expires and is also ahead in the score, the game is ended.
- ◆ If a game is ended by the runs-ahead rule, teams may continue to use their time on the field but umpires will NOT continue to officiate the game. When the teams scheduled to play the next game arrive, those teams on the field will be expected to leave immediately.

## Tiebreaker Procedure-International Tiebreaker Rule

If the game is tied at the end of the time limit or the end of the seventh inning, whichever comes first, the international tie breaker rule will be used for **ONE EXTRA INNING**. *The extra inning will be played under the "international tiebreaker" rule. The offensive team will begin its turn at bat with the player scheduled to bat LAST in that half inning being placed at 2<sup>nd</sup> base. For example, if the No. 5 batter is to lead off, the No. 4 batter in the batting order should be placed at 2<sup>nd</sup> base. A substitute—referring to a player who has NOT already played in the game—may be inserted for the runner.* If the score remains tied at the end of one extra inning, the game will be recorded as a tie.

## Runs Ahead Rule

### *Slow Pitch*

- ◆ All Adult Slow Pitch Leagues — 20 runs after 3 innings; 15 runs after 4 innings; 10 runs after 5 innings
- ◆ **Men's Open League Only** – 12 runs after 5 innings

### *Men's and Women's Fast Pitch*

- ◆ 10 runs after 4 innings
- ◆ 7 runs after 5 innings

## Umpire Fees for League Play

League	Two Umpires	One Umpire
All Adult Slow Pitch	\$18 per team	\$12 per team
Men's Open League Only	\$20 per team	\$14 per team
Men's Fast Pitch	\$30 per team	\$22 per team

## Umpire Pay on Games Called Due to Rain /Other Threatening Weather/Darkness

If three (3) complete innings OR one-half the time limit have been completed, the umpire is entitled to keep the game fees. If the umpire works less than three (3) complete innings OR less than one half of the time limit, the game fees will be returned.

## All Adult Fast Pitch League Special Exceptions

- ◆ Courtesy Runner – A courtesy runner can be used for the pitcher and catcher at any time.
- ◆ Batting Lineup – All players may be included in the batting order. Re-entry rule remains in effect. Lineup must remain the same for the entire game. If a player starts in the batting order, he/she must finish the game or an automatic out will be called when it is his/her time at bat, UNLESS there is an eligible substitute available that was not already in the batting order.

## Uniform Requirements

Metro Omaha Softball does not require official uniforms for adult league play. However, appropriate attire is expected; shoes and shirts are required. ***Metal cleats are allowed only in adult fast pitch leagues. Football type shoe with any exposed metal are illegal.***

## Short-handed Player Rule for ALL Adult Leagues

- ◆ **Men's Slow Pitch** – Teams MUST have nine (9) players to start a game. It does not matter if your team is the home team or visiting team. **The No. 10 spot in the batting order will be an automatic out.** If a team drops to 8 players during the game, then the game is ended. If a team is forced to forfeit a game under these circumstances, the umpire will turn in the score as a 7-0 win for the opposing team.
- ◆ **CO-ED Slow Pitch** – Teams MUST have nine (9) players to start a game. There must be five (5) men and four (4) women present, or vice versa. It does not matter if your team is the home team or visiting team. **The No. 10 spot in the batting order will be an automatic out. ON DEFENSE INFIELD MUST STILL CONSIST OF THREE (3) MALE AND THREE (3) FEMALE PLAYERS. THE PITCHER/CATCHER MUST BE MALE/FEMALE. IN THE OUTFIELD THERE MUST BE EITHER TWO (2) MALE AND ONE FEMALE PLAYER OR TWO (2) FEMALE AND ONE (1) MALE PLAYER.** If a team drops to 8 players during the game, then the game is ended. If a team is forced to forfeit a game under these circumstances, it will be listed as a 7-0 win for the opposing team.
- ◆ **Fast Pitch** – Teams MUST have eight (8) players to start a game. It does not matter if your team is the home team or visiting team. If a team drops to 7 players during the game, then the game is ended. If a team is forced to forfeit a game under these circumstances, it will be listed as a 7-0 win for the opposing team.
- ◆ A team may add a player to bring their team to full strength **ANY** time during the game. **THAT PLAYER MAY ENTER THE GAME AT ANY TIME AND WILL BE THE LAST BATTER IN THE BATTING ORDER.**
- ◆ The game will not be delayed to wait for a player to arrive from the parking lot or while the player is on the bench preparing to play.

## Batting and Batting Lineup Rules

**Adult Slow Pitch Men's and Women's Rules** – The ASA "extra hitter" rule will be used in all MOS league play. This means teams CAN place 11 players in the batting order. Any 10 of the 11 players can play defense at any time. IF the "extra player" option is used—and a player cannot continue due to injury or ejection—then that players' spot in the batting order becomes an automatic out when it is their turn to bat.

**Adult Co-Ed Slow Pitch** – The ASA "extra hitter" rule will be used in all MOS league play. ***In Co-Ed leagues—to remain in compliance with ASA Co-Ed playing rules—this means Co-Ed teams MUST place 12 players in the batting order*** if they elect to use the "extra player" rule. Any 10 of the 12 players can play defense at any time. IF the "12-batter option" is used—and a player cannot continue due to injury or ejection—then that players' spot in the batting order becomes an automatic out when it is his/her turn to bat.

**1-1 Count** – In all adult slow pitch leagues batters will BEGIN THEIR AT BAT WITH a 1-1 COUNT. This rule WILL apply to all men's, women's and Co-Ed leagues regardless of league classification.

**NEW in 2010- ASA pitching rules has been change to read "the ball must be a height of at least six foot from the ground to a maximum height of ten foot from the ground ". Because of the pitching arc change, MOS slow pitch leagues will follow the ASA rule for batters that was adopted in 2009: ALL BATTERS WILL NOT RECEIVE A COURTESY FOUL BALL ON STRIKE THREE.**

## Forfeited games

- ◆ **Monday-Friday Games Starting at 6:30 p.m.** – If a team does not have the required number of players to start the game under the short-handed rule, the umpires will start the game clock at the proper time and allow 10 minutes to elapse before calling the game a forfeit. If a player arrives during the 10-minute "waiting period," then the clock will continue to run and the game will start from that point. For Sunday games, game time IS forfeit time. Umpire fees will be deducted from the teams' forfeit fees paid at registration. Umpires will NOT officiate the game if the teams involved in a forfeit still wish to play a "practice game."

**◆ Due to the ongoing, large number of forfeited games in past seasons, IF a team forfeits a game, that team will be required to pay ANOTHER forfeit fee to the MOS office before it will be allowed to play its next game. However, if the MOS office is notified 48 hours in advance that a team cannot play its scheduled game—and the opposing team and umpires can be notified—then a forfeit fee will not be charged.**

### **Illegal Pitches**

- Men's Open – ALL illegal pitches WILL NOT be called.
- ALL other adult slow pitch leagues – ALL illegal pitches WILL BE called when they occur.

### **Over-the Fence Home Run Rules (Per Team-Per Game) for Adult Slow Pitch League Play**

◆ Men's Open	Five (5) per team per game on Tuesday and Thursday night
◆ OPPD, Catholic Men's, Men's "Super C", All Men's Class C Leagues, Industrial	Two (2) over-the-fence home runs
◆ ALL Men's Class "D" Leagues	One (1) over-the-fence home run
◆ ALL women's leagues	NO LIMIT
◆ Co-Ed Class "C"	Two (2) over the fence home runs
◆ Co-Ed Class "D"	One (1) over the fence home run
◆ Co-Ed Class "E" Recreational	NO over-the-fence home runs

Excess over-the-fence home runs will be an out and a dead ball. Batters will not be required to run the bases on any over-the-fence home run and/or four base award in slow pitch leagues only.

- ***IF A BATTER HITS AN OVER-THE-FENCE HOME RUN, THE BATTER DOES NOT—OR ANY RUNNERS ON BASE—DO NOT NEED TO "CIRCLE" THE BASES AND TOUCH EACH ONE.***
- ***Co-Ed leagues playing on Kelley Fields #6 or #7 – Any over-the-fence hits will be called a ground-rule double. The limit of over-the-fence hits on these fields will be TWO (2) per game, per team. Any additional over-the-fence hits beyond the limit will be outs.***

### **Playing Field**

ASA code will be in effect. THE DOUBLE BASE—WHITE-ORANGE—WILL BE USED IN ALL LEAGUES.

## **FIELD NAMES AND LOCATIONS**

### **Major Complexes**

Dill Softball Complex (4 fields) – 71<sup>st</sup> & Military Avenue

Dodge Park Softball Complex (4 fields) – 11001 John Pershing Drive (north of the Mormon Bridge)

Kelley Complex (8 fields) – 124<sup>th</sup> & Fort Streets

Seymour Smith Softball Complex (4 fields) – 69<sup>th</sup> & Harrison Streets

### **Other Key Fields**

Churchich Park – 50<sup>th</sup> & "C" Streets

Hitchcock Park (East & West) – 44th & "O" Streets

Elmwood Park (East & West) – 66<sup>th</sup> & Pacific Streets in Elmwood Park

### **Reporting Scores/League Standings**

Team managers have been given league SCORE SHEETS. Whether your team wins or loses, managers should record the score of their game and send the SCORE SHEET by FAX to the Metro Omaha Softball office on a weekly basis.

Metro Omaha Softball FAX line – 551-2522

Submit score by e-mail – Go to our website, [metroomahasoftball.com](http://metroomahasoftball.com). Find "scoreline," complete the information and submit your score.



# ***Metro Omaha Softball LLC***

## **Disciplinary Code**

### **Adult Leagues**

***Metro Omaha Softball will follow a general "three strikes and you're out" rule in ALL adult leagues. Remember, team managers/coaches are responsible for the actions of their players and fans before, during and after games.***

- ◆ A **PLAYER** or **COACH** who is ejected for the first time will NOT be allowed to play/coach the next regularly scheduled league game.
- ◆ A **PLAYER** or **COACH** who is ejected for the second time in a season will be suspended for the next two ***consecutive*** league games.
- ◆ A **PLAYER** or **COACH** who is ejected for the third time in a season will be suspended for the season.
- ◆ A **PLAYER** or **COACH** who is ejected in the first game of a doubleheader league will NOT be allowed to play/coach the second game.
- ◆ A **PLAYER** or **COACH** who is ejected in the **second game** of a doubleheader league will NOT be allowed to play/coach the next regularly scheduled league game.

**FIGHTING** – At a minimum, players/coaches involved will be suspended for one year from the date of the incident. "Fighting" shall be defined as any altercation in which ANY TYPE of physical contact occurs.

**EXCESSIVE VERBAL ABUSE/THREAT TO AN UMPIRE** – minimum three (3) game suspensions.

**ANY PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH AN UMPIRE** – minimum of one year suspension from the date of the incident.

**CAUSE AN INJURY TO A GAME OFFICIAL OR ANOTHER PLAYER** – Lifetime suspension.

- ◆ *It is the responsibility of the team coach/manager to insure that the suspension(s) are appropriately served. Failure to do so will result in one additional game being added to the suspension until the disciplinary action is satisfactorily served. Failure to comply will result in additional disciplinary action being taken against the coach and team involved.*
- ◆ *If a player or coach wishes to have any suspension action repealed, then an appeal must be submitted in writing within 48 hours of the incident that led to the suspension. The Metro Omaha Softball Advisory Board then reviews the appeal, uphold or reverse the disciplinary action or recommend another course of action.*
- ◆ **Note: The Metro Omaha Softball Advisory Committee maintains the right to issue disciplinary action on a case-by-case basis.**



## **Metro Omaha Softball LLC**

### **Other Special Rules for 2010**

#### **Profanity and Sportsmanship**

Metro Omaha Softball—in all adult and youth league and tournament play—will continue to enforce the Nebraska Softball Association (ASA-Hastings) Procedural Code(s) with respect to “Casual Profanity” and “Sportsmanship.” The NSA Code states:

**11.07 Casual Profanity Rule** – The umpire has the authority to assess **ONE OUT** against the offending team for the use of **CASUAL PROFANITY** which shall be defined as expletives (Vulgar or Profane Language) not directed at umpires or opposing players, uttered by a player, manager/coach, on the field or individual within the dugout involved with the play of the team, frustrated with themselves, or a teammate or fan. All outs will be assessed to the offending team during their term to bat. Only ONE “Casual Profanity” out may be assessed per play with a maximum of two (2) per term at bat. Incidents of vulgar or profane language exceeding these limits will subject the individuals responsible to ejection from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct. A player ejected from the game for exceeding these limits will have a casual profanity out charged to the team. The casual Profanity penalty “out” will be assessed as a team and will not affect any batter or base runner, for scoring purposes, the put out will be credited to the catcher. **ANY PROFANITY OUT(S) ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF AN INNING—TO EITHER THE OFFENSIVE OR DEFENSIVE TEAM—WILL CARRY OVER INTO THE NEXT INNING THAT EITHER TEAM IS BATting.**

**11.08 Sportsmanship Rule** – The umpire has the authority to assess **ONE OUT** against the offending team for the excessive protest, arguments, complaints or behavior not appropriate in a recreation sports setting, throwing bat, glove, gestures, whining etc. Such conduct exhibited by a player, coach, or team representative will be penalized. All outs will be assessed against the offending team during their term at bat. Only **ONE** “unsportsmanlike” out may be assessed per play with a maximum of two (2) per team at bat. Incidents of continued or excessive unsportsmanlike conduct will subject the individual(s) responsible to be ejected from the game. A player/coach /team representative ejected from the game will not have a un-sportsmanship out called against them. The un-sportsmanship “out” will be assessed as a team and will not affect any batter or base-runner. For scoring purpose the out will be credited to the catcher. **ANY PROFANITY OUT(S) ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF AN INNING—TO EITHER THE OFFENSIVE OR DEFENSIVE TEAM—WILL CARRY OVER INTO THE NEXT INNING THAT EITHER TEAM IS BATting.**

#### **Unable to Play Scheduled Game**

- ◆ If your team is unable to play its scheduled game, the Metro Omaha Softball Office must be notified 48 hours in advance. DO NOT CONTACT THE MANAGER/COACH OF THE OPPOSING TEAM. Failure to do so will result in loss of forfeit fee UNLESS a team is faced with exceptional circumstances beyond its control.

#### **Other 2010 Softball Notes**

- A number of national governing organizations involved in the Omaha area put together tournaments and special competitions. The cost varies for each organization. Team registration provides your team with a variety of benefits, such as the ability to participate in any and all tournaments sanctioned by each organization throughout the country and access to discounted team insurance rates.
- ***WILSON is the official softball of Metro Omaha Softball. WILSON softballs—.44 COR-375 compression—are available for purchase at the Metro Omaha Softball Office.***