

2024 Western Michigan Middle School Softball League - Game Rules

All games played in accordance with NFHS softball rulebook, except as noted below...

1. A game consists of 5 innings. Two games will be played per night with a 15-minute break between games. Home team will bat, first, in the second game. Each 5-inning game now features a 70-minute time limit.
2. Mercy Rule... a game is ended when a team has completed three at-bats and is behind by 10 or more runs
3. If a game is tied at the end of regulation, the International Tie Breaker (ITB) is invoked with a runner at 2nd base in the sixth inning. For seven or more innings, runners will be placed at 2nd and 3rd bases
4. No restrictions on uniforms. Rule 3.2 Art. 1 – 10 plus penalty are deleted
5. Metal cleats are allowed but caution is still encouraged
6. Defensive conferences are limited to two conferences per five-inning game. The pitcher is removed on the third conference. One additional conference is available for each inning past five
7. All players must bat in the lineup
 - a. However, if the two teams that are scheduled to play want to play with free substitution rules, they are free to do so. High School rules will then be followed (which means your umpires need to know what to do)
 - b. If only one team has the desire to play with free substitution, then it reverts back to the original “all play” rule that is established
8. Each player must play at least one inning within a five-inning game
9. Pitcher’s mound is set at 43’ unless agreed upon by the coaches before the game starts.

Darrin Duistermars
Western Michigan Middle School Softball League
darrin@usasoftballmi.org, 616-218-1861