

BERKLEY MOMS CLUB SOFTBALL – GOVERNING RULES (Adopted March 2011)

RAINOUT INFORMATION: 248-658-3474

Italic = 2011 Rule

Changes

The Official ASA Guide and Playing Rules - current issue - will be the governing rules, except for the following, adopted by the Berkley Moms Club Softball.

CONDUCT

1. The conduct of each member - including parents - of the Berkley Moms Club Softball reflects on all members of the club. In uniform or out, on the field or off, your conduct should warrant respect from all who see you. Any discrepancies not resolved by managers will be turned over to the Czar. If there still is no resolution, the problem will be resolved by the Board, which has the authority to act including the removal of your membership in the club. The following are some specific guidelines to be followed:

a. All players must show up for all scheduled practices and games, or notify her manager or coach personally or they will be ineligible to play.

b. If a player refuses to play for the team to which they are assigned, they are automatically suspended from participation in the Berkley Moms Club Softball activities during the softball season.

c. No smoking or drinking of alcoholic beverages by anyone on the field or dugout during any scheduled game or practice.

d. There shall be no undue public reprimand of players by managers or coaches.

e. No foul language by players, managers, coaches, scorekeepers or parents.

f. No negative chatter against the opposing team members or your own team. Negative chatter is defined by Berkley Moms Club Softball Rules Committee as "cheering against the other team as opposed to cheering for your own team." Managers and coaches are responsible for good sportsmanship behavior of all team members.

2. *Any member charged with conduct adverse to the cause of civic well being, or out of harmony with the principles of the club, may be expelled by the two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors. A written copy from the President of the charge of such misconduct shall be hand delivered to the member within one week. The Board of Directors will attend to all complaints within a two (2) week period after which a special meeting will be scheduled to allow the opportunity for the member to defend themselves.*

3. Members of teams ONLY in the dugout.

4. Any player, coach or manager ejected from a game for any reason shall be automatically ineligible to play in at least the next regular scheduled game. It is the responsibility of the team manager to see that the suspended/ejected player(s), coach or managers not play or coach in (at least) the next regular scheduled game.

5. *If a parent, relative or fellow manager/coach has a complaint/comment regarding a situation that has occurred in a game they must wait 24-hours before initiating any discussions. Please adhere to this policy (this includes text and email). Whether the issue is labeled as coaching error, teammate conflict, parent conflict or any other of a number of possible situations, it is very important that all parties involved take the full 24-hours to remove or decrease the emotional element so that the actual issue can be resolved quickly and in a civilized manner. Any conversations should first be addressed to the team manager before elevating issues to the league Czar, Board of Directors or the President.*

COMPOSITION OF TEAMS

1. Elementary and Jr. High teams shall be composed of no more than (17) seventeen uniformed players, all of whom are eligible to play. High School teams shall be composed of no more than (15) fifteen uniformed players, and all players must have at least one year of fast-pitch experience to be eligible to play with the 16 & Under league and two years of fast-pitch experience to be eligible to play with the 18 & Under league. Uniforms provided must be worn at all games.

2. Managers will be responsible for the return of all team uniforms (shorts) two (2) weeks after the last game of the season.

3. All eligible players will play at least half a game in the field, and be at bat at least once a game. It is the manager's discretion as to whether the girls will play consecutive innings or rotate in and out every other inning.

4. A team failing to field at least eight (8) uniformed players shall forfeit the game.

5. (Fast Pitch only) The Jr. High league may use 10 field positions. The tenth position will be an outfielder. No infield rover for Jr. High.

6. If a player quits for any reason, the Czar will replace her with a player from the waiting list through the first half of the season.

7. Each team is limited to (1) one manager, (2) two coaches, and (1) one scorekeeper participating in a regularly scheduled game. The scorekeeper must remain near the bench. Any coach must be a relative to a player on that

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team, or husband of manager or coach or a past Berkley Moms Club Softball player. The Board must approve any exceptions.

8. All Board-approved manager or coach applications must be on file and retained with each division czar.
9. Scorekeepers need not be a member of the Berkley Moms Club Softball; however, they are covered by Berkley Moms Club Softball insurance and should be so notified. Scorekeepers must sign the scorebooks. Umpires must also sign both scorebooks.

AGE LIMITATIONS

1. In order to be eligible to participate in the Berkley Moms Club Softball program, a player must be currently in the first grade. The Little Sluggers division will be first and second grade, Elementary division will be grades 3- 5, Junior High division will be grades 6-8, and High School division will be grades 9-12. The Board must approve any exceptions. The league involved will govern all fast pitch teams and all rules will apply.
2. Managers must be 18 years or older. High school players will be permitted to coach provided they are members of the Berkley Moms Club Softball. Managers and coaches must be members of the Berkley Moms Club Softball and Berkley residents. The Board must approve any exceptions.
3. The accuracy of the grade submitted on the registration form shall be the responsibility of the Czar and Registration Committee.
4. Players, in any division, must reside or attend school within the Berkley School District.
5. Players who no longer reside or attend schools within the Berkley School District who wish to continue playing, will be granted registration; however, players must play consecutive years to continue playing with BMC.

BASE RUNNING

1. (Modified pitch only) Base runner must not advance to next base until the ball has been hit.
2. The ball shall remain in play after a legally batted ball and runners may advance at their own risk as far as possible where rules permit (left to the umpire's discretion). CONTINUOUS PLAY IS STOPPED WHEN THE UMPIRE CALLS TIME - runners may not advance.
3. In case of injury or illness, a player may be replaced by another player.
4. The infield fly rule will not be in effect for the elementary league.
5. (Fast pitch only) A pitched ball must leave the pitchers hand before the runner leaves base - no lead-offs.
6. (Fast pitch only) No fake tags.
7. Sliding is permitted in all divisions.

PITCHING

1. A Jr. High pitcher shall be limited to 8 innings in a regular scheduled 2 game week, and 12 innings in a regular scheduled 3 game week. An Elementary pitcher shall not be allowed to pitch more than twelve (12) innings in any regular scheduled week.
2. Any pitcher may be re-entered as a pitcher only once during the course of a game, regardless of how they were removed from pitching originally.
3. One pitched ball will constitute an inning (for pitchers only).
4. A manager or coach may go to the pitcher's mound twice in any one inning. On the third trip to the mound, the pitcher must be removed from the pitching position.
5. Pitching in re-scheduled games will revert to the regular scheduled week (rainout, heat, no show of umpire).
6. Jr. High pitchers will be allowed to pitch according to Michigan High School pitching rules.
7. The Elementary League will be modified pitch. Modified pitching will follow ASA pitching rules with the exception of:
 - a. Foot Placement – Modified pitch will follow the Michigan High School pitching rule which simply states only one foot on the rubber at the beginning of the pitch.
 - b. *No intentional walks. Any walk determined by the umpire to be intentional will result in the batter being awarded two bases (2nd base) and the next batter given the choice of being awarded one base(1st base) or batting.*

BATTING

1. Thrown bat - BATTER IS AUTOMATICALLY OUT after one warning!!!!
2. Elementary and Jr. High league will have continuous batting order. All players present will be in a single starting lineup turned in before start of game. All players will bat in that order throughout the game. In case of injury, the player's team does not take an out, and the next batter is up.
3. In both leagues, in case of ejection from the game, team will take an automatic out for removed batter when her turn comes up. Removed player may not re-enter the game.

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4. Players that arrive late, can only be added to the bottom of the batting lineup if one rotation of the lineup is not complete, otherwise the player can not be added; with the exception of less than 10 players, up to 10 players can be added at the bottom of the batting lineup at any time during the game.
5. Batting order is left to the discretion of the manager.
6. When a player bats out of turn, if called to attention while player is batting, regular batter assumes her turn including balls and strikes. If batter reaches base, regular batter is out and runners may not advance.
7. Batters may have unlimited foul balls
8. (Fast Pitch Only) Count is three (3) balls and two (2) strikes.
9. (Fast Pitch Only) Batter is out on bunt foul if it is the 2nd strike.
10. (Modified Pitch Only) A half swing does not constitute a bunt.

INJURY

1. In case of injury or illness, a player may be removed and re-entered once, in any one game, and replaced with another player, but must be returned in the next inning and must not miss her position in the batting lineup. If a player is removed from the game for injury, the player's name is removed from the lineup, and the team does not take an out, and the next batter is up.
2. BLOOD RULE -ASA RULE 4.8

ADMINISTRATION

1. A protest must be stated to both umpire and opposing manager at the time it occurs and before game proceeds. Rules of protest are stated in Official ASA Guide and Playing Rules - current issue. Written protest must be filed with Berkley Moms Club Softball Rules Committee Chairman within 24 hours and accompanied by \$30.00 protest fee. If protest is upheld, fee will be refunded.
2. Only managers or acting managers are permitted to question an umpire's decision on a rule interpretation and then only in a civil manner. **IF THIS RULE IS ABUSED, THE BOARD HAS THE DISCRETION TO DISCIPLINE THE MANAGER.** In case of rule infraction, only manager may protest within 24 hours.
3. Special meetings concerning rules and/or protest will be called only upon written request, addressed to the Rules Committee stating the reason for the special meeting and only that matter will be discussed. This must be done within 24 hours.
4. Czars will notify managers in the event games are to be postponed. Teams must be at the field unless otherwise notified. In case of rain, the rainout number, 248-658-3474, should be called. However, in event of wet grounds or other exceptions, the umpire may postpone the game and the Czar is to reschedule the game. If a tornado WARNING has been issued by the National Weather Service, all games are postponed.
5. Czars can be called upon to assist in any capacity during the play of a game within her league.
6. Only umpires authorized by Berkley Moms Club Softball board shall be allowed to officiate at a game. In the event an umpire is unavailable, Czar is to be notified and they will reschedule the game as soon as possible. No umpire shall be a relative of any player or coach of a team they are officiating unless agreed upon by both managers.
7. Score books may be called for review by the Rules Committee at any time. Pitchers must be recorded in all league scorebooks and amount of innings pitched. If a discrepancy is found, the board has the authority to forfeit that game. Books may be called for review at any time during the season. The scorekeeper will be responsible for keeping track of number of innings pitched by the opposing pitcher(s).
8. In the event of lightning, at first sighting all players must evacuate the field and take cover. A 15 minute wait-out period will take place and game may resume upon no further sightings, with both managers in agreement and no penalties occurring. Umpire in charge will make all final decisions.
9. No parent, manager or coach shall be required to pay for team treats.

PLAYING FIELD

1. Bases shall be 55 feet for Elementary and 60 feet for Junior High. (ASA Rules, 1992, Rule 2, sec. 3)
2. Pitching distance shall be 35 feet for Elementary and 43 feet for Junior High.
3. Benches and the area in front of the bench shall be restricted to team use ONLY. Players are to leave the area only upon permission of the manager or coach. Entrances of the field must be clear at all times.
4. DUGOUTS MUST BE CLEANED OUT BEFORE YOUR TEAM LEAVES.

EQUIPMENT

1. Rubber cleats or tennis shoes (with laces) only are permitted (including practice and games). For the safety of the players, canvas shoes are not advised.

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2. Only official softball bats including aluminum are permitted during games.
3. An official glove must be worn by all players.
4. Chest protectors, shin guards and facemasks are MANDATORY for catchers during games and practices.
5. Helmets must be used by batter-base runners and player base coaches at practices and games.
6. Any additional printing on shirts must be approved by the division Czar.
7. For safety reasons all jewelry and hair beads must be left at home. These items cannot be worn during games or practices.
8. NO CELL PHONE USE BY A PLAYER WILL BE PERMITTED IN THE DUGOUT INCLUDING TEXTING DURING A GAME.

WARM-UPS

1. *Each team will be allowed a 10 minute team warm-up period before each game. The visiting team will take the field first for their warm-up and the home team will warm-up next and remain on the field to start the game. If either team opts out of their team warm-up, the other team must still adhere to the 10 minute time period, no extra time will be allowed. ONLY ONE TEAM ALLOWED ON THE ENTIRE PLAYING FIELD AT A TIME WHILE WARMING UP.*
2. *If the start time of a game is delayed due to the previous game running late, it will be left up to the discretion of each team manager in conjunction with the umpire to determined if time allows for team warm-ups and how long each will be.*
3. *All BMC rules are in effect during warm-ups and while at the playing fields.*

LEGAL GAME

1. (Modified Pitch Only): Six (6) innings or 1 hour and 45 minutes shall constitute a complete game. No new inning shall start after 1 hour and 35 minutes. If an inning is started, the inning must be finished.
(Fast Pitch Only): Six (6) innings or 90 minutes for junior high shall constitute a complete game. No new innings shall start after 80 minutes, however, any inning begun before the 80th minute shall be finished.
2. In event of a tie at the end of six (6) innings and when time permits, one additional inning will be played. In case of a tie after seven (7) innings of play, each team will be awarded one (1) point.
3. Four (4) innings (3 1/2 if home team is ahead) shall constitute a complete game.
4. Games are to be played as scheduled - no game changing.
5. Forfeit time shall be at game time.
6. A win will be awarded two (2) points. A tie shall count as one (1) point per team.
7. If the team coming to bat is tied or ahead, it may score no more than (7) runs in an inning. If the team coming to bat is behind, it may score no more than (7) runs AHEAD. (EXAMPLE: Team A bats first and scores 7 runs - Team B comes to bat and may score up to 14 runs that inning.) In case of excess runs and batters, the next inning starts where the lineup left off. (Player will not bat twice if runs exceed the limit).
8. Winning manager is to phone results to the Czar within 24 hours or forfeit game points.
9. Any player who was not present at an incomplete game, but is present for the completion, will be added to the bottom of the roster. Any player who was present for an incomplete game, but cannot attend the completion of the game, will be crossed off the roster with no penalty to her team.

<u>LITTLE SLUGGERS CZAR</u>	<u>ELEMENTARY CZAR</u>	<u>JR. HIGH CZAR</u>	<u>HIGH SCHOOL CZAR</u>
Kelly Hamilton 3276 Phillips 586-604-5671	Sue Wassenberg 3585 Griffith 248-399-1740	Corrie Campbell 4013 Buckingham 248-255-6263	TBD

ROSTERS

1. A Liability Waiver must be submitted to the respective league Czar by the first game.
2. After the start of the season, each new player must be registered with the Czar before they are eligible to play.
3. Membership in the Berkley Moms Club Softball shall be compulsory for each family represented on the roster and each manager and coach. Any exceptions to this shall be only with the approval of the Board of Directors. Membership fee is \$1.00 per year per parent.
4. Participation fee is \$39.00 for each Little Slugger player, \$64.00 for each Elementary player, \$74.00 for each Jr. High player and \$94.00 for each High School player. The Board of Directors must approve any exceptions. All third player family members will not be required to pay registration fee (lowest amount) but will be required to sell fundraiser or pay that equivalent fee.

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5. DUES AND PARTICIPATION FEE SHALL BE PAID AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION, BEFORE A PLAYER SHALL BE ASSIGNED TO A TEAM.
6. Participation fees are established by the Berkley Moms Club Softball board.
7. Jr. High division roster will be sanctioned under ASA Roster Rule 4/1B.

ALL-STAR GAME

1. All-Star players will be voted upon by the players, managers and coaches and overseen by the manager. The total number of players for each All-Star team will be *ten (10)*.
2. All-Star game will be organized by and run by the first and second place team managers at the time the All-Star game is played.
3. There shall be only one manager per team in the dugout during the All-Star game. Each team manager will decide who shall represent their team in the event they are unable to do so.
4. All-Star players must have played one-half (1/2) of the season.
5. All-Star games are six (6) innings.
6. Pitching for the All Star game is not considered a regular scheduled week.
7. Each manager is responsible for providing the appropriate number of players determined by their place value.
8. *The 1st Place team shall be the home team for the All Star game.*

REGULAR SEASON PLAY-OFFS

1. In case of a tie at the end of the regular season, placement will be determined by the standings against one another. In the event of a tie with the standings, 1st or 2nd place only, a play-off game will be scheduled by the Czar.
2. An alternate date will be selected by the Board of Directors in case of inclement weather.

END OF SEASON PLAY-OFFS

1. Play-off games will be a one (1) game elimination.
2. Elementary and Jr. High teams playing three (3) games are restricted to twelve (12) pitched innings per pitcher.
3. Elementary and Jr. High teams playing two (2) games are restricted to eight (8) pitched innings per pitcher.
4. A bye does not constitute a game.
5. Jr. High games will be 90 minutes. Elementary games will be one (1) hour and 45 minutes.
6. No inning will start with less than ten (10) minutes on the clock. All innings will be finished.
7. No tie games.
8. Seven run rule is still in effect.
9. Final championship games (both leagues) will be a full six (6) innings.
10. All remaining Berkley Moms Club Softball, ASA and MHSAA rules shall apply.

REGISTRATION

1. There shall be two (2) announced registration dates. Any player registering after those dates will be put on a waiting list.
2. Teams will be organized by the Team Selection Committee.
3. All Czars must call players from previous year for registration.
4. No refunds, except for extended injury.

MANAGEMENT

1. Managers and/or coaches or coaches representative, are required to attend the April managers meeting and the August/September “feed-back” meeting.