

# 2009-10 SOFTBALL

Revised June 2009

## Communications

- Any information received from the MSHSL or the Coaches Association is to be brought to the attention of the Activities Director.
- E-mail addresses and/or phone numbers will be available for all levels of coaching. Please address any concerns first to your school's activities director who will pass on any unresolved issues to the conference softball coordinator

## Schedule

- The conference schedule will be a double round robin with two dates used for double headers.
- Varsity conference double headers will be two seven (7) inning games. The first game should begin at 4:00PM with the second game following as quickly as possible after the first game is concluded. The host school will be "home" for the first game and the visitor will be "home" for the second game.
- Varsity and Junior Varsity games will begin at 4:30PM.
- In case of inclement weather, the host school should notify the visiting school no later than 2:00PM of game day.
- Rescheduled conference games take priority over non-conference games.
- The schedule for the following year will be handed out for review at the March meeting of the activities directors with final adoption at the April meeting.
- The schedules will be found on RSchool Today [www.wcconference.org](http://www.wcconference.org) for conference and nonconference as 5 levels: Var, JV, 9<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The 7-8-9<sup>th</sup> grade conference schedule will follow the varsity schedule with the same date for each school but opposite sites and a 4:15PM start.

## Officials and Workers

- Two MSHSL officials will be assigned by the conference for the varsity games. However, if only one official shows the game will be played and count as a conference contest. All other levels will be assigned by the host school.
- Home team scorebook will be the official scorebook.

### **Varsity Game Procedures**

- The official rulebook is the National Federation of High School Association Rules for Softball and the pitch will be fast pitch.
- The last 20 minute before game time shall be used for infield practice, 10 minutes for each team.
- Seven (7) innings shall be a regulation game for conference play.
- The suspended game rule will be the same as the MSHSL.
- If a team is leading by 10 runs at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, the game is stopped.

### **JV/9<sup>th</sup> Grade Conference Rules**

- Pitching and base distances are the same as varsity  
**As of 2009-10, games will be seven (7) innings in length. (No double headers for 9<sup>th</sup> grade)** If 7 innings cannot be played in 2 hours, the game will end at the 2 hour mark. Two hours begins at the start of the game.
- 90 second time limit between innings, except if the pitcher and/or catcher are on base.
- At least one new ball should be used to start the game.
- If not addressed above, MSHSL rules should be followed.

### **7-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Conference Rules**

These rules are enclosed at the end of these policies and also available under policies on RSchoolToday.

### **Post Season Meeting**

- A meeting following the regular season will be organized by the conference softball coordinator to discuss conference handbook changes, future schedules and finalize all-conference awards.

### **Conference Team Championship**

- Awarded to championship team based on conference dual season record
- Individuals of the championship team will receive conference certificates.

### All Conference Awards

- The All Conference team shall be selected by the conference varsity softball coaches at the end of the season meeting with twenty (20) individual trophies/plaques awarded based on conference standings:  
**4-3-3-2-2-2-1-1**
- Honorable mention awards are given at the discretion of each conference school with the awards also the responsibility of that school.

### Academic Conference Awards

- Students who are members of varsity conference teams may receive an academic certificate from their school for GPA's of 3.7.

### Publicity

- The host school of all matches shall call in or fax the results to the media:

Associated Press            800-300-8340    FAX 888-832-0338

Mpls Star Tribune            800-829-8742 ext 4447    OR 612-673-4447  
FAX 612-673-7774

St. Paul Pioneer Press        800-950-9080 ext 5518    OR 651-228-5516/5518  
FAX 651-228-5527

- Each school may publish their own All-Conference selections locally at their discretion but may not publish any other schools selections until all schools in the conference have finished post-season play.
- All conference list will be submitted to Pioneer Press and Star Tribune by the conference softball coordinator after all schools in the conference have finished post-season play. The list should be submitted in a timely manor in order to meet the deadlines of those newspapers.

## 7-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Conference Softball Rules

**Any changes to these rules must be mutually agreed upon ahead of time**

1. Pitching Distance – 40 Feet.
2. Base Distance – 60 Feet.
3. Starting Time: Start as early as possible (4:00-4:15). No inning will begin after 6:15 p.m. The latest a game can begin will be at 4:30. The coaches, through mutual consent, will decide upon the length of the game/games. An emphasis is placed upon player participation.
4. 90 second time limit between innings.
5. It is strongly recommended that 2 separate games (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>) are played at the same time. If back-to-back games are played, each game will be 1 hour and 15 minutes in length. The second game will begin 5 minutes after the completion of the first.
6. At least one new ball to start the game.
7. Start each batter with a "1 ball / 1 strike" count.
8. No infield or outfield practice before the games.
9. Players will be allowed to steal 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base, not home. Base runners may leave the base when the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
10. Steel spikes are not allowed.
11. Two five-inning games (If possible, teams should be "A" and "B" – like basketball). 5 run limit per inning. The 5 run limit will be in effect even in the last inning. The home team will still get their last turn at bat, even though they can't win the game.
11. Be flexible on the substitution rule
12. Junior high to follow varsity rules on the dropped third strike
13. If not addressed above, MSHSL Rules should be followed.