

## Mount Laurel Girls Softball Recreational League Policies

*Mount Laurel Girls Softball is a recreational program designed for the enjoyment of all participants. Our mission is to provide a safe and structured environment for the development of softball skills, teamwork, sportsmanship and friendship. All players, coaches, umpires, and spectators should always show mutual respect. The M.L.G.S. board of directors, to help ensure this goal and enhance the playing experience for all, has adopted the following policies. The respective league commissioners, on behalf of M.L.G.S., shall enforce these policies.*

### **Commissioners:**

1. Commissioners shall be appointed by the M.L.G.S board of directors for each age division. The responsibilities of the commissioners shall be to appoint head coaches; conduct league drafts or team assignments; schedule league games and practice slots; and to oversee the general operation of their respective divisions.
2. Commissioners shall be responsible for reviewing all M.L.G.S. rules and policies with their respective head coaches and for the enforcement of these rules and policies.

### **Coaches:**

1. All appointed head coaches and assistant coaches may be subject to a criminal background check as a prerequisite to serve in such positions.
2. Coaches and assistants shall adhere to the code of conduct posted on the M.L.G.S. website.
3. Head coaches shall be responsible for the controlling the conduct of their assistant coaches; players; and spectators.
4. Head coaches and assistants shall review and comply with all M.L.G.S. rules and policies.

### **Players:**

1. The MLGS recreational program is intended for players who reside in the township of Mount Laurel, NJ. Players who reside outside of the township must receive league approval to participate. Exception: Previous participants who reside in Hainesport, NJ may register without prior approval.
2. Spring players shall not be permitted to register for more than one recreational age division without the prior approval of league commissioner(s).
3. All players shall adhere to the code of conduct posted on the M.L.G.S. website.
4. Players may be permitted to register for both M.L.G.S travel and recreational leagues at the discretion of the respective league commissioner and travel coordinator. Such players must declare their primary team prior to the spring recreational draft and are eligible to participate in the recreational playoffs. M.L.G.S. travel players designated to participate in the recreational program after the spring recreational league draft, shall be assigned to a recreational team by the league commissioner at the time of designation. Such players shall be ineligible to participate in the recreational league playoffs, unless otherwise authorized by the league commissioner.
5. Players may not drop from their recreational team and be added to any M.L.G.S. travel team roster after the recreational draft.
6. Players shall prioritize their primary team when scheduling conflicts occur.
7. Parents may appeal any decisions made because of this roster policy by first discussing the issues with the effected team managers, and then, if required, discussing the issues with the recreational commissioner and travel coordinator. If resolution is not reached at either of these levels, an appeal may be made directly to the Grievance Committee of Mount Laurel Girls Softball by e-mailing [mtlaurelgirlssoftball@gmail.com](mailto:mtlaurelgirlssoftball@gmail.com).

### **Spring Recreational Teams:**

1. 18U, 14U, 12U, and 10U divisions shall create teams through a draft process, which ensures the fair and even distribution of players, to create a balanced and competitive recreational league. Rookie, Ponytail and T-Ball divisions shall appoint teams by school and requests, or random distribution. We try our best to accommodate all requests, but sometimes it is not possible.
2. 18U, 14U, 12U, and 10U divisions shall conduct evaluations of all registered players prior to the draft process to assess skill levels. These evaluations shall be used in addition to prior skill assessments to determine draft rating. Any player who does not participate in the evaluation process shall be rated by any previous assessment available. Any player whose parent is either a head coach or assigned assistant coach, and who does not participate in the evaluation process, shall be rated at the highest possible level for draft purposes.

### **Fall Recreational Teams:**

1. Fall divisions shall be divided by the following age groups: 8U, 10U; 12U; 14U; and 18U. Eligibility is based on age as of January 1 of that calendar year. Depending on the number of teams in each division, teams may play either exclusively against other M.L.G.S. recreational teams within their own division, or participate in outside inter-town leagues.
2. 8U; 10U; 12U; 14U and 18U teams shall be established through a draft process which ensures a fair and even distribution of players, to create balanced M.L.G.S. teams.

### **Recreational All-Star Tournament Teams:**

1. A recreational all-star tournament team committee shall establish teams to represent M.L.G.S in post season all-star tournaments. The committee shall be responsible for determining the number of teams, the appointing of coaches for each team, and determining which all-star tournaments the teams shall enter. The goal shall be to establish a minimum of one team for the 8U; 10U; 12U; 14U; and 18U age divisions provided that there are a sufficient number of qualified players for each respective age division.
2. These teams shall be comprised of players who have participated in the M.L.G.S. recreation program during the season. Travel or club players, who are USSSA; ASA; PONY registered, are not eligible.
3. Team roster selections shall be the responsibility of the tournament team committee along with the respective appointed coaches. A selection process shall be implemented which allows for a fair evaluation of all players wishing to be considered. This process shall include, but not necessarily be limited to: All-Star tournament team tryouts; spring recreation season performance; prior all-star team experience. Tryouts shall be announced to all registered spring players. Participation fees shall be determined for each team and players advised of costs at the time of tryouts. Selections shall be announced on the M.L.G.S. website once the rosters have been determined.

### **Games:**

1. Each team shall have at least one coach in the bench area at all times.
2. Only players and coaches shall be in the bench area.
3. Spectators, including player siblings, and friends are not permitted in the bench area at anytime during the game.
4. Parents not acting in a coaching capacity are not allowed in the bench area during the game, unless attending to injury or illness.

5. Players shall remain in the bench area at all times during the game while not on the playing field or warming up in a designated area, unless they need to use the restroom.
6. Coaches shall help keep the time between innings to less than three minutes.
7. In order to speed the game, coaches shall ensure that catchers are equipped and ready to assume their position prior to the third out unless they are at bat, on base, or on deck. (If on deck, the catcher shall wear shin guards.)
8. In order to avoid obstruction, coaches in younger divisions shall position infielders in front of or behind the base paths.

#### **Disputes:**

1. Coaches, players, and spectators shall treat all umpires with respect and courtesy. Our umpiring crew has been carefully selected and trained. They are comprised of teens and young adults primarily from within the M.L.G.S. organization. In the event of a disputed call by an umpire, the head coaches only, shall meet together with the umpire to discuss calmly and discreetly. If an error has been clearly made, and the head coaches agree, they then can remedy the mistake. Judgment calls may not be disputed!
2. Any dispute which cannot be resolved on the playing field shall be immediately reported to the league commissioner.

#### **Scheduling and Record Keeping:**

1. All teams are expected to play in accordance to their scheduled game dates and times.
2. The schedule shall be determined by each league commissioner, with the number of games and length of season set by M.L.G.S.
3. Playoff tournaments shall be played for 18U, 14U, 12U, and 10U divisions. The length and format will be determined by M.L.G.S.
4. The start of the game is the throwing of the first pitch or the scheduled game time whichever is earlier. The home team should be on the field and in position to begin play prior to the scheduled game time.
5. Teams are not permitted to postpone games, unless due to weather or field conditions, without the expressed consent of the league commissioner.
6. Postponed games shall be rescheduled as soon as possible at the next reasonably available time slot as agreed upon by both head coaches.
7. Rescheduled games take priority over practice slots.
8. Teams are required to maintain score book. Scores shall be reported to the league commissioner within 24 hours after each game.

### **Field Preparation and Maintenance:**

1. The home team is responsible for preparing and lining the field for play. Fields shall be checked for hazards and properly lined, including batter's boxes, foul lines, and a pitching circle with an 8' radius shall be included.
2. The away team is responsible for post-game field maintenance. Fields shall be raked and/or dragged and all equipment, including bases, must be properly stowed after each game. Please leave fields in usable condition after you are done. Care should be taken to keep player equipment separate from bases and lining equipment.
3. Please refer to "Field Maintenance" document for complete instructions.

### **Equipment:**

1. Players shall use approved softball bats and batting helmets with full cage. All equipment (bats, helmets, gloves, balls, etc.) not being used by a player shall be kept in the bench area. No loose equipment shall be in "live ball" area.
2. Fielder's masks are required to be worn by all players occupying infield positions at the 10U, 12U, 14U, & 18 divisions. Wearing fielder's masks in the outfield or in younger divisions is up to the parents and players.
3. Broken equipment shall not be used. Any broken player equipment should be removed from the field boxes and immediately reported to the league commissioner.
4. Players are not permitted to wear jewelry. This includes earrings. Please remove jewelry and give it to a parent for safekeeping during all games and practices.
5. Players required to wear glasses are strongly recommended to wear safety-type glasses only.
6. Coaches shall report use of any first aid items, including cold packs, to their league commissioners after the game. Coaches shall also alert commissioner of any missing supplies.

### **Participation:**

1. No player shall sit out a second inning on defense, except due to injury, until all other players have sat out at least one inning. No player shall sit out more than two innings on defense in a game unless the player is injured.
2. 12U and 10U: each player must play a minimum of 1 inning in the outfield and 2 innings in the infield.
3. Rookie and Ponytail: Players shall be rotated to a multiple of both infield and outfield positions each game. No player may play a third inning in the outfield until all other players have played at least two innings in the outfield in any game, or a fourth inning until all others have played three. No player shall play the same position for more than two innings in any one game.
4. 18U, 14U, 12U, 10U: Pitchers who have not yet demonstrated satisfactory level of proficiency may not be permitted to pitch in a game. Aspiring pitchers are encouraged to continue their development and may be given the opportunity to pitch once a satisfactory level of proficiency is demonstrated.
5. No girls shall be permitted to play in a game unless she is able to fully participate in the game. For example, a girl who has a foot injury that prevents her from running the bases but is able to play the field and bat, may not play in a game. Exception: A player who is injured during a game and is temporarily unable to fully participate may be substituted for and may return to the game when she is fully able to.