

Madison Softball 2016 ROOKIE League FAQ

How do all of our games get entered into team snap? Is that done centrally or do I need to do it as a coach?

Sorry but there is no way to centrally load the entire schedule in the teams. Each coach needs to enter their team's games into team snap. It's located on your team's page under schedule. This is a fairly easy, one-time setup that you'll need to do but by entering all the games in the schedule you could then ask all the parents to confirm their daughter's availability for each game.

Now that I've taken a close look at the schedule, I realize I can't make a game. What do I do?

Give the other coach a quick call or email. Together you can both agree to just cancel that game. As we know we overscheduled with a 14 game schedule, expecting that each team would miss a couple due to weather or other conflicts. The other coach can take advantage of having the field spot that evening to schedule practice or a "pick-up" game with another team that might be interested. There is no need to let us know centrally of events such as this. We leave it between our coaches.

It is difficult for us to find fields to reschedule but if each head coach is very keen on trying to make up the game, you can check with Dave Carver for field openings and/or play at a park or parking lot (e.g. the pool parking lot is often a great spot). You'd need temporary bases for a pick-up game but many coaches have them or they are readily available at local sports stores.

The same holds for bad weather decisions – which are explained in the next FAQ.

What about the weather? How do I know if we are going to play ball?

During the week the recreation department in town makes the decision by 3 PM on whether to close fields. This decision is posted online at <http://www.rosenet.org/gov/recreation/pages/home>

On weekends the softball leadership team will get down to the fields early and decide if games need to be canceled. That decision will be sent out by a Team Snap email to everybody.

No news generally means the games are on – but then again, head coaches can still make a decision together to forego playing.

We also ask that you sign up for the Borough's lightning alert system. This system sends a message to your cell phone if lightning is detected within close proximity of our fields. If you receive that message - get off the field. Sign up details are found at <http://www.rosenet.org/gov/recreation/pages/lightning-alerts>

What is the game starting time?

The schedule provides the time that the field becomes available for your use. A weeknight time of 5:30 means have the girls gather just before that time and then spend 15 to 30 minutes doing warm-ups or pregame practice. The amount of time you spend warming up is really best decided by you and the opposing coach, factoring weather and darkness.

If it's a gorgeous spring night, we can think of very few things better than spending some extra time on the softball field. If that's the case maybe spend 30 minutes warming up or even doing a relay race and play the game afterwards. There are no games following yours on weeknights so coaches have flexibility in the evening planning – and can even keep their own team for additional practice if they would like.

On weekends there is less flexibility. We recommend the early teams arrive at 10 AM, having 5 or 10 minutes for warm-ups and then start the game. You must vacate the field by 11:30 for the next match-

ups. The next games need to be complete and off the field by 1 PM for lacrosse. Lacrosse needs to start on time so that 4 hours later they can give the fields back to older girls to start playing softball again at 5PM.

How do I set up the field?

You'll find two complete sets of turf bases in the yellow box next to the third-base doorway on the MRC1 infield area. For 2016, we plan to add a 2nd box next to the ROOKIE side of the field. Officially it is the home team's job to bring bases to their respective corner. We recommend engaging the girls in field setup as this is a good habit to teach from the start.

To set yourself up infield place home in one corner (factor sun and other games into your choice) and then place first and third about 45 feet from home plate (that's about 15 strides or use the football lines). Second base then lines up at the intersection of the other three bases. Unless there is another rookie game immediately following yours the home team needs to put the bases back in the storage box before leaving the field (again assign players to help). On weekends, the 10 AM team sets up the field and the 11:30 AM team puts the bases away.

I have half a team that really wants to play and the other half unavailable. What should I do?

We can think of nothing better than playing softball. If you have a limited players, go ahead and play anyway. You can always borrow a few girls from the other team if that head coach is willing, which gives everyone more playing time. Alternatively, put the girls in the most key positions in the infield and have them do their best. It's all for fun.

What are the allowed defensive positions?

You can place two girls at pitcher, one each to the right and left of the coach who is pitching. You can place a baseman at first, second, and third. Then you have two additional infielders, one at shortstop between second and third, and one at short field in between first and second. The rest of the girls go in the outfield and/or sit the bench. Of course, try rotating the girls between infield, outfield and bench throughout the night.

How do we set up our lineup?

The lineup can be set up anyway you wish. We've used numerical order, alphabetical order (both first and last names); order they arrived at the field, etc. You can change the lineup each week or set one lineup that stays all season – but the girl who was next to bat at one game becomes the leadoff batter at the next game (as they do in Farm League baseball). You can bat the whole side but we really recommend sticking with 3 outs or 5 runs and letting the girls learn they don't all get up to bat each inning. Either way, both head coaches need to agree at the start of the game. If there is any disagreement, the league rules are 3 outs or 5 runs.

If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to ask. We hope you have a fun season.