

# MADISON GIRLS' ROOKIE SOFTBALL SPRING 2022

## GENERAL

OUR GOAL IS SIMPLE: EVERYONE HAS FUN! Good sportsmanship is expected from coaches, players and fans. No coaches on the field, except ROOKIE division, when ball is in play. No jewelry during practice or games (except medical alert tags). Zero tolerance for drugs, alcohol, or cigarettes for players and coaches.

## FIELDS

Softball will be played at the Madison Recreation Center. Final game schedules will be released mid-March.

## EQUIPMENT

Each team will receive and equipment containing a) 3 bats, b) an adequate supply of softballs for practice and game use and c) batting helmets. All equipment will be returned immediately following your team's final game of the season. For the ROOKIE program, coaches will catch and pitch so NO catcher's equipment will be provided. All Players are expected to wear only SB supplied uniform during games. All equipment will be returned immediately following your team's final game of the season.

## SAFETY:

Batters, base runners and players acting as base coaches must wear protective headgear. Only the current batter shall have a bat in their hands. All players not in the games shall remain safely away from the batter. Spectators are not permitted on the field. No on deck swings are permitted

Only certified coaches that have a current NAYS certification card, completed the borough background check and have a Teamsnap coaches record are allowed to participate with the players during games and practices.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

At the first sound of thunder or sight of lightening "CLEAR THE FIELD". At present we are using 20-minute wait if the thunder is present and the 30-minute wait if lightening was spotted. If after a delay conditions do not improve, suspend game or if enough innings have been played, declare a Rain-Out. Complete details on the boroughs lightning policy can be found at: <http://www.rosenet.org/319/Lightning-Alerts>

## ACCIDENTS:

In the event of an injury, contact the police and emergency squad immediately using the emergency phone at the MRC. When in doubt, play it safe.

# SPRING 2022 ROOKIE LEAGUE RULES- MADISON GIRLS SOFTBALL

## Local Rules

### PLANS

Expect to play 2, occasionally 1, games during each week.

### GAME

Games should last about 1 hour; following a 20-30 minute practice. Starting time should be confirmed with both coaches before First Pitch. Reach agreement for the Last inning with both coaches before first pitch thrown at top of inning. With bad weather and darkness, always consider the safety of your players FIRST. 4 innings = a complete game. If weather/darkness prevents you from completing a game after 4 innings, the game is over. Coaches are Umps.

The MRC is always playable; however, weather conditions may be unfavorable. On inclement weather days, Head Coaches should talk to each other in midafternoon and make a decision regarding their game. To reschedule, send a note to [dcarver262@aol.com](mailto:dcarver262@aol.com) to reserve the field on an OPEN Date. On weekends, the Division Mgr is responsible to confirm rain outs at least 45 minutes before ALL games to Madison Coaches. If you hear nothing, expect to play ball!

If you can find the time, a one paragraph write up of the game, combined with the game results, will make a big hit in the local paper. If you write it, we will get it published.

### BATTERS

Batting helmets on when at bat or on base. There is no "on deck" circle. Players should not pick up their bat until they walk to the batter's box. Do not throw bats. Through end-April [games played in weeks 1-2], an inning ends after ALL batters have batted once. For the rest of the season, An inning ends when a) 3 outs or b) 5 Runs have been scored. 5 swings = OUT. Cannot strike out on a foul ball. There are no WALKS and want to get to 3 strikes = OUT.

### FIELDING

All Players should be taught to make eye contact before throwing ball to partner. The players who occupies the defensive (RIGHT and LEFT) position of pitcher should be behind the pitcher. Care should be taken by all coaches that these defensive pitcher's view of the batter is not obstructed when the ball is pitched. 1 player may stand behind 2<sup>nd</sup> base and 1 player may be a short fielder and play a few steps behind where a 2<sup>nd</sup> baseman normally stands.

### RUNNING

Runners en route to first base must run either on the foul line or in foul territory. No Stealing or Leading. Teach your runners to tag up on a fly ball. Teach your players to pay attention to the base coaches for direction to advance to the next base. On infield hits, runners can advance 1 base. On outfield hits, runners can advance up to 2 bases. BASES ARE SET APPROXIMATELY 45' FROM EACH OTHER.

### PITCHING

Coaches will pitch/catch to their own teams. Coaches may stand as close to the batter as they like as long as it is in line with the pitching rubber. It is encouraged that all coaches pitch as close to the pitching rubber as possible. All pitching shall be underhand.

### SCORING

The five-run rule will be in effect. The five-run rule is as follows: the inning will end upon the offensive team making three outs, or after a play in which the offensive team has scored the fifth run of that inning. All runs scored on the final play of the inning will count. For example, if the play results in the fourth, fifth and sixth runs of the inning being scored, all runs would count and the offensive team would then take the field.

# Madison Softball 2022 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 and manage snack duty.

## **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?**

The MRC is always playable; however, weather conditions may be unfavorable. On inclement weather days, Head Coaches should talk to each other in midafternoon and make a decision regarding their game. To reschedule, send a note to [dcarver262@aol.com](mailto:dcarver262@aol.com) to reserve the field the next OPEN Date. On weekends, the Division Mgr is responsible to confirm rain outs at least 45 minutes before ALL games to Madison Coaches. If you hear nothing, expect to play ball! 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 game start time; the field becomes available for your use on weeknights at 5:30. 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 9AM, having 15 or 20 minutes for warm-ups and then start the game. You must vacate the field by 10:30 for the next match-ups. The next games need to be complete and off the field by NOON for lacrosse. Lacrosse needs to start on time so that 5 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?**

During the week, we use far side of MRC1.

- A Corner Closest to Entrance from Tennis Courts
- B Same Side as A, opposite Side of Field next to Parking Lot

You'll find two complete sets of turf bases in the yellow box next to the doorway on the ROOKIE side of the MRC 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. The visiting team puts the bases back in the storage box before leaving the field (again assign players to help)

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.

On Saturday, we use MRC2. Sections A, B and C. [still working out base logistics].

A/C at 9am [share field with KINDER in B/D/F]

A/B/C at 10:30am

On weekends, the 9AM home team sets up the field and the 10:30 AM visiting 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 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 for first few weeks but we recommend getting to and 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.