



2023-2024 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Adapted Softball Rules, Policies, and Bylaws

General Information

See the [MSHSL Handbook Page](http://www.mshsl.org/governance) (www.mshsl.org/governance) for information regarding the following:

- Multiple Level Teams at Sub-Varsity Level
- Official Squad Size
- Substitution in MSHSL Tournaments
- Weather Conditions (heat, cold, lightning & air quality)

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 501](#) for information regarding:

- Maximum Number of Contest Chart

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 502](#) for information regarding:

- Daily and Season Player Participation Limitations

CONTEST RULES

Refer to [Bylaw 402](#)

Except as modified by the League, the National Federation of High School Association rules for the current year shall be the official game rules for all interscholastic contests in which League members participate. See the [2023 CI Supplement Rules](#) and [2023 PI Supplement Rules](#) for more information.

END OF SEASON

Refer to [Bylaw 411](#)

A. Student Participation on a Non-School Team While the Season is Still in Progress:

- 1) The season shall end when the student or the student's team has been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series.
- 2) Students who have been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series may participate as an individual or as a member of a non-school team in that sport.

B. School Team Practice and Competition:

The "end of season" shall be defined to be the last date of the state tournament in that sport.

- 1) Schools may continue to conduct practice and training for all squad members, including the students who have been eliminated from further individual competition in a League-sponsored series, until completion of the state tournament conducted by the League in that activity.
- 2) Dual contests may be scheduled after the start of the official League tournament series providing the school does not exceed the maximum number of games/matches/meets permitted in that activity.

C. No school may engage in any meet or meets, practice, training, or other activities between the end of the season and the opening of the next season.

D. During the Summer Vacation Period (Bylaw 208 3 Non-School Competition and Training—Team and Individual Sports) members of a high school team may participate on a non-school team and they may receive coaching or training from a salaried or non-salaried member of the student’s sophomore, B- squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport provided the school has approved a summer coaching waiver for the coach or coaches of that sport.

E.

VIDEO TAPING ANOTHER SCHOOL'S GAME

It shall be an ethical violation to tape another school's game, meet or contest without their permission. Further it may be a violation of the laws governing copyrights. Each school owns the copyrights to their games, meets and contests. Taping another schools game without permission could constitute a violation of the copyright law.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPECTATOR CONDUCT

These policies “elevate standards of sportsmanship and encourage the growth of responsible citizenship among the students, members schools and their personnel,” consistent with the Minnesota State High School League’s Founding Purposes and the belief that sportsmanship needs to have a constant presence in all school-based activity programs. The League and its member schools work intentionally to create safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for fine arts activities and sports in our schools and competitions.

School officials are responsible for the proper conduct of teams, team members, students, and home spectators regardless of where the contest is being held. (Bylaw 409).

Behavior Expectations

To create safe, welcoming and inclusive environments in fine arts and sports in our school and competitions, I will:

- Lead by positive example and demonstrate respect and support for others.
- Follow all MSHSL, school and venue expectations.
- Refrain from using profanity or ethnic, racial, religious, ability or gender-based comments, posts or messages directed at participants, directors, coaches, officials, spectators, or team representatives.
- Act as a responsible and respectful digital citizen who positively uses social media platforms.
- Speak or act in support of others when they are harmed by words or actions.
- Honor each contest and all involved, including participants, directors, coaches, officials, spectators, and team representatives.
- Hold high standards for myself, engage positively and demonstrate sportsmanship.

Requirements of Attendees

Prohibited Items

- Flags, whiteboards, large signs on sticks, signs with vulgar, obscene or inappropriate language or images, or that obstruct the views of others or similar items
- Balloons, confetti, glitter, baby powder, pom poms or other similar celebratory items
- Artificial noise makers (i.e., megaphones, cowbells, sirens, whistles, thunder sticks and other similar items)
- Drones and laser lights
- Firearms or other weapons
- Vapes, alcohol, tobacco, cannabis or illicit drugs
- The following are prohibited at MSHSL postseason events. These may be prohibited as determined by the venue during the regular season:
 - Backpacks and other bags
 - Cameras and tripods
 - Outside food and drink
 - Pets

Dress Code/Attire

- Spectators may not wear masks or costumes that limit the ability to identify individuals. Masking for medical purposes is allowed
- Spectators must wear clothing that covers the torso
- Clothing worn must not be vulgar, obscene, or inappropriate

Behaviors

- No one may interfere with the contest in any way
- Only members of the official squad may be on the contest surface
- The use of appropriate language is always expected. Profanity, negative chants, booing, trash talk, name calling, personal attacks or other acts of disrespect are unacceptable
- Respect the Flag and the National Anthem

*Venues may have additional requirements and prohibited items.

THANK YOU for supporting your student athletes and fine arts participants and for providing a positive environment in which educational activities are conducted.

Adapted Softball Information – Regular Season

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 501](#) for information regarding:
Maximum Number of Contests

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 502](#) for information regarding:
Daily and Season Player Participation Limitations

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 515](#) for information regarding:

- Adapted Athletics Eligibility Requirements
- Contests
- Last Date to Join a Team
- Player Participation Limitations
- Practice Sessions before First Contest
- Season Begins

RULE MODIFICATIONS

See the Resources section [CI Supplemental Rules](#) and [PI Supplemental Rules](#) for more information.

GAME MISCONDUCT PENALTY

A game misconduct penalty is an ejection under League policies. The player or coach will be removed from that game for its duration and is ejected for the next game(s) according to the MSHSL Policy for Student/Coach Ejection from a contest.

GAME DISQUALIFICATION

A game disqualification penalty is an ejection under League policies.

The MSHSL ejection policy is not applied twice in the event a player receives a game misconduct and game disqualification in the same game.

GAME ENDING

Effective for regular and post season, MSHSL Rules call for a game to end when: After four innings of a 7-inning game, a team is 15 or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat (15-Run Rule); or after 5 innings of a 7-inning game, a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat (10-Run Rule).

REGULATION GAME

A regulation interscholastic game is a game whereby: (a) five full innings have been played, or (b) if the team second at bat has scored an equal or greater number of runs in four or four and a fraction terms at bat than the opponent has scored in five terms at bat; or (c) if play has gone beyond five fullinnings.

In (b), if the game is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed terms at bat, the score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning, except that if the home team, in their half of the uncompleted inning, scores a run (or runs) which equals or exceeds the opponent's score, the final score shall be as recorded when the game is called.

TIE REGULATION SEASON GAMES

Each year during regular season play some conference games, after going five full innings or more are called because of rain, darkness, or other cause while the score is tied. According to the rule this is a tie game. Batting and fielding records are counted but the game is not counted in computing percentages of games won or lost.

There is, however, by rule this choice; by conference adoption, a regulation called game with tie score shall be counted as half game won and half game lost for each team.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Tournament manager will inform member schools of policies, procedures, dates, sites, and times of games.

COACHES

Coaches, when on the field, are required to be in team uniform or properly attired. Only one high school coach in uniform is permitted to occupy each coaching box.

SUSPENDED GAMES

A suspended game is any game that is ended before it becomes a regulation game, or a regulation game that has a tie score when ended. A suspended game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time. The line-up and batting order of each team shall be the same as the line-up and batting order at the moment of suspension subject to the rules governing the game.

If a regulation called game has a tie score when ended, it shall be declared a suspended game.

If darkness, rain, or other cause interferes with play so that the game is called (ended) by the umpire before it is a regulation game, such game shall be declared a suspended game.

PLEASE NOTE: The suspended game rule (Rule 4, Section 3, Article 1 of the National Federation Rule Book) has been adopted for use at state tournament games only. This rule has not been adopted for use at the

local conference level. Other rules for ending a regulation game listed under Rule 4, Section 2, in the National Federation Rule Book have not been adopted by the MSHSL and therefore cannot be implemented at the conference level.

Adapted Softball Information – Post Season

ELIGIBILITY DURING MSHSL TOURNAMENTS – SUBSECTION, SECTION AND STATE

Refer to [Bylaw 206.4.B.1.d](#): A student must be fully eligible under all local school district policies, MSHSL Bylaws and Rules & Policies to be in uniform, occupy the bench or playing area, participate and receive individual/team awards, including all-tournament honors, in the awards ceremony.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN LEAGUE-SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS

Refer to Bylaw 405: A member school must schedule a minimum of three interscholastic varsity games, meets or matches to qualify for League-sponsored tournament participation in that sport.

STATE TOURNAMENT QUALIFYING SCHOOL INFORMATION

Specific information for qualifying schools is available on the MSHSL Administrative Web site under Tournament Information.

STATE TOURNAMENT QUALIFYING

The top eight teams based on season records will advance to the state tournament.

OFFICIAL SQUAD

18 Players

Two Student Managers

Three Coaches

STATE AWARDS

- Certificates of Participation: To each student member of the official squad.
- Certificates of Recognition: Three-head coach and the assistant coach of each team.
- Medals: To all members of the first, second and third place teams.
- Medals: To the head coach and assistant coach of the first, second and third place teams.
- Trophies: To champion, second, third and fourth place teams and winner of consolation.
- Plaques: To the sixth, seventh and eighth place teams.

Note: It is a violation of MSHSL policy for a member school or a representative of a member school to establish, distribute or accept any awards not provided by the MSHSL for section or state tournament.