COACHES AND MANAGERS MEETING NOTES

9/10/2023

RULE CHANGES and AMENDMENTS FOR 2023/24 SEASON

- The competition will be run in accordance with MWSA rules and the rules of softball.
- Juniors have been divided into 4 grades – Div 1, Blue, Maroon and White
- Maroon and White games will be 1 hour and 15 mins
- Rules Specific to White–

  Play with an 11'' softcore ball
  The batter in the box will start with a ball and a strike
  After ball 4, a tee will be used ie no walks.
  All rules for the tee will be implemented.
  Pitching distance is 35'.
  Exception:
  Pitchers will pitch at the distance they would be pitching at state.
  43', 40' or 38' depending on their eligible team for 2023/24.
  All other rules are normal softball rules.
- Modball A and Modball B will combine for the Competition and split for the finals. To facilitate the competition –

  Both grades will play 3 Pitch rules
  Coach pitches the first 2 innings
  The players will pitch the final innings
  Both pitchers must pitch to the same number of batters in the final innings. Eg one team has 11 batters and the other team has 9 batters.
  The smaller team will also bat through 11 batters as per the line-up
  This rule will be evaluated following one complete round.

- Rules for borrowing players in all grades apply.

  In Juniors
  White can borrow from Modball
  Maroon can borrow from White and Modball
  Blue can borrow from Maroon, White and Modball

- Where clubs have been granted permission to have team members on loan from other clubs, these players can only play up for their original registered club. Teams with on loan players can only borrow play-ups from their original registered home club.
- A Grade and Div 1 only, have unlimited play-ups.

- **Juniors Dual Registered in Senior Grades**

  The MWSA Committee encourages eligible juniors to dual register in senior teams as a way of refining their skills, learning from experiences softballers, or being able to play in the same team with older family members and friends.

  MWSA will always encourage fair play and competition. Juniors should be reminded, however, that the senior grades are the primary competition for adult players, and that those adult players are not expected to “go easy” on junior players in those grades.

WEB Site www.mwsa.com.au

- First port of call - Draws, results, what's happening, etc

On the front page - "Our Comp" tab

- The Draw
- Results
- Where is that Diamond
- Rules
- What Ball, what pitching distance
- Filling out the score sheet
- Wet Weather
- Packing up the Diamonds
- Setting up the diamonds
- Canteen
- Insurance Claims

Facebook

- http://www.facebook.com/manlywarringahsoftball/

Weather

- The golden rule is - the games are on unless you hear otherwise.
- A decision of morning games will be made by 7:30 am and afternoon games by 12:00
- To see if anything has changed:
  1. Check this WEB site - it will be bold and obvious if the games are cancelled.
  2. Check Facebook https://www.facebook.com/manlywarringahsoftball

  NOTE: Wet Weather Bounceback has been discontinued.

If conditions change during the day the WEB site and Facebook will be updated AND team on the grounds will be informed.

MWSA Supporters Gear

If you are after MWSA Supporters gear check out the store – hoodies, beanies, sloppy joes, tank tops – and more coming soon:

www.mwsa.store

Ball Sizes

Seniors	12”
Div 1	12”
Div 1R, Blue, Maroon	11”
Div White	11” softcore
Modball A, Modball B	11” softcore
Teeball	10 ½” softcore

Pitching Distance

Representative pitchers are required to pitch from the distance they will be pitching at their respective tournaments

Seniors
A Grade 43’
A Res Grade 43'
B, B Res, C Grades 40’
C Res grade 38’

These distances will apply in all matches unless specifically approved by MWSA

Juniors
Div 1 40’ or 43’ depending on the pitcher (ie the pitching distance she would pitch at State)
Blue, Maroon 38’,40’ or 43’ depending on the pitcher (ie the pitching distance she would pitch at State)
Div White 35’ or 38’ depending on the pitcher(ie the pitching distance they would pitch at State)
Modball A and B (when the team pitches) 30

Injured Players

Unfortunately injuries do happen. Please use common sense and not move a player if an injury could be serious. All injury incidents must be recorded on the scoring APP.

If an insurance claim is LIKELY to be made the insurance forms need to be sent in within 30 days of the injury. DO NOT wait for bill before submitting the forms. Forms are on the WEB site under the “Comp” tab.

Scoresheets

All scoresheets have been replaced by the scoring APP.

Information not completed by 5.30 by a team will be recorded as a forfeit.

Fines or lost points will apply for scoresheets which are not completed properly – warnings will be issued first as we understand there are new people responsibility for this in some teams.

An introduction to scoring course will be run early in the season. Details will be sent soon.

Borrowing Players

The following are the specific MWSA rules that apply to borrowing players from other teams within the same club. See section 8 of the updated MWSA Rules:

8. "PLAY UP" AND "PLAY ACROSS" RULE

8.1 Teams may borrow players from teams ranked below or in the same grade or division.

8.2 Teams may only borrow players who are registered with the same club. This includes players who are playing in joint teams. (Rule 7.2.1)

8.3 The borrowed player/s must be withdrawn and replaced if regular team members become available during the game.

8.4 The number of players in the augmented team must not exceed 9.

8.5 Borrowed players must not play pitcher, catcher, shortstop or first base. They must bat at the end of the line-up. Exception – A Grade where no restrictions apply.

8.6 A team must have a minimum of 4 original registered team members or the team will forfeit.

8.7 Only players registered in Junior divisions 1, Blue and Maroon can play up in Seniors A and B Grades. Normal "play-up restrictions" (See 8.4) apply. Players from Junior divisions Maroon and White can also play up in B Grade but must field in the outfield and bat at the end of the line-up. No junior players can play in C Grades or Ladies Grades.

8.8 An individual may play up or across 3 times during the season. On the fourth play-up, the player is automatically registered in the lowest graded team that the player played-up for. Exception: A Grade and Div 1 are allowed unlimited playups.

8.9 Junior registered players may play up to 3 games in the senior competition. On the fourth occasion, they become dual registered as a member of the lowest graded team they played for. Dual registration becomes effective from the first game the junior played in the senior competition. Juniors who are not eligible for dual registration, are not permitted to play any further games in the senior competition.

8.10 A player registered in one team cannot play in a lower graded team with the following exception. The lowest graded team in a club may borrow a maximum of 3 players from the next highest graded team in that club provided there are no other club teams or registered players in that grade or below. The borrowed players must play in the outfield and bat at the end of the line-up. All rules- Section 8 - regarding borrowed players must apply.

Teams impacted by representative duties (MWSA, NSW, Australia) - See section 16 of the updated MWSA Rules:

16. POSTPONEMENT OF MATCHES

16.1 Postponement of matches will not be permitted.

16.1.1 *Exception:* Teams need not be disadvantaged due to absent players if these player/players are involved in NSW Softball State Championships or are required for NSW/Australian softball representative commitments.

16.2 Disadvantaged teams must let the Committee know in writing at least two weeks prior to the affected date.

16.3 The Committee will either reschedule the game, amend the draw, direct the teams involved to play for double points in the next round or direct the team to play as per the draw, depending on the circumstances of the competition and the involved players.

16.4 Teams who are deemed to be disadvantaged must fulfil any umpiring or other commitments.

16.5 A senior team is deemed to be NOT disadvantaged if the absent players are dual registered players.

Clearly approval of an exemption remains at the discretion of the Committee.

A few specific comments if and when these rules become relevant: -

- It is the responsibility of both teams to check the teams recorded on the scoresheet APP to ensure the opposition team is as listed.
- If you borrow a player, you must record that on the scoresheet.
- Breaches of the player borrowing rules could lead to the result being treated as a forfeit.
- For all grades other than A Grade & Division 1 all borrowed players must bat at the end of the line up and not field as pitcher, catcher, shortstop or 1st base.
- If you have any doubts about whether you can borrow a player, please check with your club well in advance

Qualifying for the Finals

- Team must have at least 6 players that played half the round matches.
- Players must have played 6 round matches for the team or other same club team during the season.
- At least 9 players must participate in the whole match during the final series - penalty is forfeiture of the match and remainder of final series.
- A player in a team receiving a forfeit will be deemed to have "played".
- Washed out games do not count towards eligibility.

Regrading

Grading teams is always difficult and MWSA reserves the right to regrade teams during the season. Regrading could potentially happen at any time. It generally happens around round 4. We do not have a set time for doing this as we want to retain the flexibility to see enough games to make such a decision. We will try to do it as early as possible.

Rep Programme

MWSA is very proud of its rep program. It however relies on people trialling to join the teams. We encourage all coaches & manages to encourage your players to trial for rep teams.

Diamond Etiquette

The first team on the draw will normally sit on the 1st base side of the diamond. No team or players should warm up on the diamond. Each team should warm up past the 1st & 3rd bases (depending on which side you are sitting) & in the outfield of the field.

Sponsors

If you know anyone who may be interested in sponsoring MWSA please ask them to contact Doug Freeman from the Committee.

Your Support is Needed

MWSA is managed by volunteers, so jobs need to be allocated to the clubs to get them done. The allocations end up even over the year and we do ask for your support in meeting your obligations with this.

a. Canteen

The clubs are advised of the roster to serve in the canteen or on the BBQ well in advance of the duty and it is their responsibility to ensure each team gets their equitable share of jobs to do. Your assistance is appreciated. The canteen & BBQ are key fund raisers for MWSA and help keep fees to a minimum.

b. Working Bee

MWSA runs working bees throughout the season to do specific jobs to improve our grounds. Your assistance is appreciated. The next working bee will be during the Oct school holidays – details to follow.

c. Grounds Set Up Pack Up

The clubs are advised of the roster (morning & afternoon) to set and pack up the grounds well in advance of the duty and it is their responsibility to ensure each team gets their equitable share of jobs to do. Your assistance is appreciated.

d. Diamond Pack Up

We would ask you to pack up the diamond if you are the last team to play there on the day. This will normally be a 1.45pm or 3.30pm game. Please put the bases & the benches in the middle of the diamond neatly piled.

e. Shelters

Shelters are provided for teams on diamonds 5 to 10. The first team to play on the diamond is to pick the shelter up from outside the Rueb Hudson building and erect it. **PLEASE make sure the tent is pegged**. It may not be windy when you put it up however the shade will be up all day and conditions change. **PLEASE CHECK THE DRAW as you may be the last game on that diamond.** The last team to use the diamond is to pack the shelter up and return it to the Rueb Hudson Canteen. **Please do this as soon as you game is finished… other people want to finish and go home and they can't until everything is away**.

Pitching and Catching Clinic

A Pitching and Catching clinic will be held in 4-week blocks throughout the season. Players are to register their name using the QR Code which will be shared on social media and located on the canteen. The clinics will start in week 2 and run for 45 minutes. Starting at 9:00am and 10:00am.

Ozpitch

Social mixed Ozpitch competition on Friday nights. Details to come.

Blastball – for 3 to 6 year olds

Just come as many times as you like. No organised games, just skill development and lots of fun. Keep your eye on here for updates.

Umpiring:

Each team after they move up from teeball and modball has umpiring duties. It works out about every 2nd week. When your team has umpiring you are expected to provide a plate umpire and 2 base umpires. The only exception to this rule is when MWSA appoints umpires to a game. In these circumstances MWSA may choose to only have a plate & 1 base umpire.

There is a penalty for not supplying all 3 umpires – loss of competition points and a fine.

Some basic "rules" for coaches and spectators:

- Any aggressive behaviour towards an umpire will not be tolerated. The main reason we can't get umpires is that they don't like being "attacked".
- Umpires like players and coaches make mistakes – accept it and move on.
- You can't question a judgement call (out or safe, ball or strike) – the call that goes against you this time will go in your favour another. Live with it.
- If you are asking a question of a rule interpretation then ask in a non aggressive way and accept the answer.
- Don't go back for a second bite of the cherry
- Listen to the umpire – when they ask your team to hurry up do it.
- If there is a problem with an overly aggressive coach, official or spectator then write it up in the day book. Without a something in writing we can't do anything to stop it.

RUN RULES – ALL GRADES (except Modball and Teeball):

Run limit rules apply to all grades and divisions except where special timed innings rules are played (Modball A & B and Teeball). That is a batting innings is complete when either 3 outs are made or the team scores the run limit. **The limit is 5 runs.** The **"Mercy Rule" does not apply in any grade.**

Shorty Rule:

A team will not be penalised by an automatic out, for having less than 9 players in the line-up. That is, the "Shorty Rule "does not apply. Note: Rule 17.4 continues to apply in relation to the Finals Series.

Junior Games:

An adult is required to be present during the game when a junior is umpiring. Their role is to provide support for the umpires – you don't need to know the rules or be able to umpire, just be there in case. Remember the coach is typically an adult talking to a child – the child can be very easily intimidated.

Blues may be assigned to a game. The Club will be informed of this on the Thursday. Where Blues are assigned to the game there will be a supervising umpire with them. The supervising umpire may be on the diamond during the game assisting the umpires with positions etc. They are not there to make a call for the umpires.

Senior games:

Only Senior players can umpire a senior game unless they are assigned by the UIC or have been approved by the UIC. The penalty for using a non-approved junior is the same as not providing any umpires – forfeit of the game you have played and a fine.

NOTE: no shorty rule, no new innings with 5 minutes to go

Buying an umpire:

Email mwsaumpires@gmail.com

If you can't or don't want to umpire you can pay hire an experienced umpire.

Teams may request a plate umpire, which are typically junior blues. The costing of requesting a plate umpire this year is $40. No requests can be made for base umpires through the umpiring committee. The Plate umpire assigned will be solely responsible for mentoring the base umpires as well.
Teams are encouraged to do their own base umpiring to assist in learning the rules.

The process to buy an umpire:

1. Send an email by 5:00pm on the Tuesday asking for a plate umpire. Include the name of the team they will be umpiring for. If your request is late, we will do our best but may not be able to provide an umpire.
2. On Thursday night you will get an email back giving you the name of the umpire.
3. On Saturday you pay the umpire at the game. The kids rely on their umpiring money for Saturday night so please make it a priority to pay them.
4. You can request a plate umpire or all umpires for the season with one email. Saves sending emails every week.
   The umpires provided are typically accredited juniors.

Please note that we may not have enough umpires so you will have to fulfil your on umpiring commitments on some weeks.

Learn to Umpire:

MWSA runs a "learn to umpire" program called "The Blues". The program teaches you how to umpire and gives you a good understanding of the rules. It is open to adults as well as children over the age of 13. Participants umpire most Saturdays in teams of 3 or 4 with an experienced senior umpire.

- Sign up sheet will be on the Notice Board near both canteens from week 1
- There will be rules sessions as well – the time of these has not been decided as yet
- The program will start week 4

Coaching courses:

- Introduction to Coaching Sunday Oct 22. D2 9.30am to 10.30am
- Fundamentals of Coaching Sunday Oct 22 10.45am to 12.45am

To be held at Manly diamonds.
Register for one or both courses.

Scoring courses:

- Level 1 – November 6th details to follow For information - doug@mwsa.com.au