

2026 Gilman Middle League Softball Rules

Please remember these are kids. This is just a game. Parents should cheer for everyone. The umpires are kids too. You or your child do not play or coach in the MLB, therefore we expect respect to everyone who chooses to play, coach & umpire. We are here to have fun.

- Eligible players must have completed grades 5-8 in the 2025/2026 school year
- 8 runs per inning maximum
- Games are limited to earlier of 1 hour or 7 innings. Games can end in a tie. Games will start and end on time
 - Do not start another inning within 5 minutes of the start time of the next game
- Second team listed on the schedule is the home team
- No warmups on the infield – outfield grass only. No batting in open grass areas in the park outside of the field fences
- 12" ball used when boy is batting; 11" ball used when girl is batting
- Everyone present on the roster MUST be in the batting order
- Everyone on the roster must play a minimum of 2 innings in the field within the first 5 innings; 3 innings of a 7-inning playoff game
- Each team will have at least 3 girls in the field. If playing with less than 3 girls, the spot in the batting order will be an out. Spot 5 or 6. Needs to be decided with the coaches prior to the games starting
- A team may play a game with a minimum of 8 players with at least 2 girls. Wherever the girls fall in the batting order, it will be an out.
- If only 2 girls, only 9 players can be on the field.
- 2 girls must play in the infield other than catcher. One of the 2 girls can be the pitcher.
- No metal spikes
- 3-2 count with 1 courtesy foul (courtesy foul = when second strike is a foul ball. A foul ball as the first strike is just a regular strike). If courtesy foul has been used, next foul is a strike out.
- A tipped ball back to the catch must go above the batter's head and be caught to be an out. A tipped ball that is caught by the catcher but does not go above the batter's head is a regular foul ball.
- Catcher's and pitcher's masks must be worn
- Arc Limit: batters height to 10 feet. (Umpires will call flat or illegal and it will count as a ball)
- Pitchers will pitch from 40 feet.
- No intentional walks. Intentional walks will result in an automatic triple for the batter walked. This is the umps call.
- Weather is out of our control, and the Summer is busy for all. The first week cancelled due to weather will not be made up. If additional weeks are cancelled, we will attempt to schedule at the league director's discretion.
 - Rainouts will be called at 5 PM of gameday
 - If a team chooses not to participate in a make-up game, it will be a forfeit for that team and opposing team will be awarded the win
- Rosters are set by Park & Rec. Any additional players must be added through league coordinator
- No Dogs allowed at the ballfield/park
- Must use the bats provided by Park & Rec
- Only players on the bench
- Each player must play in half or more of the games to be eligible to play in playoffs
- Batting order will alternate gender until only one gender remains
- Swearing from the team/benches/coaches/parents will be an automatic out for the first offense, second offense automatic forfeit. No further discussion
- Base coach cannot be anyone playing in the little/middle leagues
- Head coach (or acting head coach) is the ONLY person who may respectfully dispute a call or present an issue with the ump. If anyone else involves themselves (assistant coaches, players, parents, guardians, etc.) it is an automatic out
- Outfield players must be on the grass
- No infield fly rule
- A player who is disrespectful to teammates, coaches or umps will be sat at the discretion of the coach or Park & Rec
- Teams must clean up field/bench after their game. Coaches put equipment away
- Each team keeps an accurate book of both teams, any disputes will follow home team book
- A coin flip determines home team for playoffs – No matter the team placing
- Playoffs Only – No run limit per inning. 7 inning game. 20 runs after 3, 15 after 4, 10 after 5 applies