

# Mid-Cities Softball Interlock General Rules

## (All Age Divisions)

Revised Jan-2025

### 1.1 GENERAL RULES

Mid-Cities Softball Interlock follows the [USSSA Official Fastpitch Playing Rules](#) (Seventeenth Edition (Printed 1-2024) or most current version available, **with the following local rules changes and exceptions.**

### 1.2 SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS

- 1.2.1 All substitute players must be identified to the opposing team coach during the pre-game coaches / umpire meeting. Opposing coaches may only raise objections regarding a substitute player at this time. Subsequent objections (during the game or after) will not be considered.

**Teams may only use substitute players that are currently assigned to a permanent roster of another Mid-Cities Softball Interlock registered team to fill empty roster spots due to absent players.**

Substitute players must be from lateral teams in the same competitive division or below (substitute player is 'playing up'). Lateral teams are defined as teams in the same competitive division.

***Example,** a player on a 10U "C" team would be playing up, not laterally, if she substitutes on a 10U "K" or "advanced" team. Similarly, a player on an 8U team would be playing up, not laterally, if she substitutes on an 8U "A" team. Alternatively, a player on an 8U "A" team would be playing laterally if she substitutes on another 8U "A" team.*

- 1.2.2 All substitute players must wear their own team uniform
- 1.2.3 The age-eligibility of the substitute player is not a factor in eligibility to be a substitute player. Substitute players may only participate in competitive divisions laterally or above from their permanent rostered team.
- 1.2.4 Substitute players from a lateral team are only allowed when a ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) player is needed to fill the game day roster.
- 1.2.5 Substitute players from lower competitive divisions may be used to fill any game day vacant positions on the roster. However, lower competitive division age players may only be used when a permanent rostered player is absent.

***Example,** a team with only nine permanent rostered players may not use substitute players to increase their game day roster to ten or more. **Substitute players must be replacing an absent permanently rostered player on game day.***

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- 1.2.6 Substitute players from lateral competitive divisions must be placed last in the batting lineup and may only play outfield positions.
- 1.2.7 Substitute players 'playing-up' in competitive divisions may fill any vacant game day position and may be placed anywhere in the batting lineup.
- 1.2.8 Substitute players are only allowed during the regular season. **No substitutions are allowed during the End of Season tournaments.**

**1.3 SELECT PLAYERS**

- 1.3.1 Select players are defined as any player who has played for, is rostered on, or 'picks up' to play on a select team, or who participates in an 'Open' All-Stars tournament outside of the Mid-Cities Softball Interlock or any non-sanctioned tournament during the current softball season.
- 1.3.2 The softball season is defined as "current" beginning on the last day of registration for the ongoing season.
- 1.3.3 **Select players and teams are not eligible to participate in recreational games or for All-Star teams in Mid-Cities Softball Interlock tournaments.**

**1.4 END OF SEASON TOURNAMENT**

- 1.4.1 End of Season tournament games will utilize the Modified California tiebreaker in the event of a tie at the end of regular play as follows:

Each half inning will start with the bases loaded and one (1) out. Each team will continue the batting order from the previous inning, with the three (3) previous batters occupying the bases, with the last batter occupying 1st base, the next batter occupying 2nd base and the 3rd batter occupying 3rd base. The game will continue until the winner is determined.

***Example:*** The game ends in a 3-3 tie. The visiting team determines the next batter due up and will put the #3 previous batter on first, the #2 previous batter on second, and the #1 previous batter on 3rd. There will be one out to start each half inning. Both teams will play like this until the winner is decided at the end of a full inning.

- 1.4.2 End of Season final standings are determined by winning percentage (%). If final standing tie breakers are required, the following method will determine the final standings:
  - If two (2) teams - Head-to-Head (if possible),
  - If three (3) or more teams are still tied after Head-to-Head, then a random drawing or random generator will be used to determine the final order.
- 1.4.3 **No substitute players are allowed during the End of Season tournaments.**