

# Middle School Division Rules - 2026



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6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

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***MYGS reserves the right to make rule changes during the season if needed. If a rule is changed, the MYGS President will notify all coaches of the rule change before their next game.***

## 1. Player Eligibility & Conduct

- Players must meet Mosinee School District academic and behavioral eligibility requirements.
- All players are expected to represent MYGS, their school, and their community with positive conduct, respectful communication, and good sportsmanship.
- Unsportsmanlike behavior by players, coaches, or spectators may result in removal from the game or further disciplinary action by MYGS.

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## 2. Game Format

- Games will be **7 innings** in length.
- **Doubleheaders** will be played as **5-inning games**.
- A **1.5-hour time limit** will be enforced on all games.
- If a game reaches the time limit, the inning in progress will be completed (unless otherwise directed by the umpire).

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## 3. Field & Pitching Rules

- **Pitching distance:** 43 feet (all grade levels).
- All pitching must follow **WIAA high school pitching regulations**, including legal delivery and pitching limitations.

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## 4. Base Running & Stealing

- Stealing is **allowed on any base** once the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- Stealing **home is permitted** under the same rule.
- If a runner leaves the base **before the ball leaves the pitcher's hand**, the result is:
  - Dead ball
  - No pitch
  - The runner is declared **out**

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## 5. Batting & Lineup

- **Entire roster bats** in continuous batting order.
- If a player is injured and unable to continue batting:
  - The opposing coach must be notified
  - No out will be recorded for that spot in the order
  - The injured player may **not re-enter the game**

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## 6. Defensive Alignment

- **Nine (9) players** are allowed on the field defensively at one time.
- All defensive players must play standard positions.

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## 7. Dropped Third Strike

- A batter may advance to first base on a **dropped third strike** when:
  - First base is unoccupied **OR**
  - There are **two outs**

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## 8. Player Participation & Safety

- MYGS encourages coaches to rotate players through defensive positions when possible to promote development.
- Safety equipment is required, including batting helmets with face masks and appropriate protective gear per MYGS standards.

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## 9. Sportsmanship & Game Management

- Coaches, players, and spectators are expected to uphold MYGS sportsmanship standards.
- Umpire decisions are final.
- Any behavior that detracts from a safe, respectful playing environment may result in disciplinary action by MYGS.

**Aside from the above exceptions, all USA Softball/ASA rules apply.**