

**Medina Girls Softball Association, Inc.**  
**Division I (Coach-Pitch) Rules**

1. Division is determined by age.
  - A. Ages 8 and under. Can't be 9 before 8/1/06.
2. The field dimensions for Division I shall be as follows:
  - A. Bases shall be placed 50 feet from home plate.
  - B. An arc with a 10 foot radius shall be drawn in front of home plate.
3. Games will consist of a minimum of three innings and a maximum of five innings. The games will start at 6:30 P.M. No inning shall be started after 8:00 P.M. unless 3 innings have not been completed.
4. Players shall be positioned in the field as follows:
  - A. Six infield players: catcher, first, second, and third bases, a pitcher, and a shortstop
  - B. Four outfield players: left, left-center, center, and right fielders
  - C. The purpose of this rule is to teach organized defensive play and prevent a "pile-on" situation with young players.
  - D. No player shall sit out more than one consecutive inning. Also, each player shall play a minimum of three innings in the field.
5. Each team shall position a coach or a parent behind the catcher. The purpose of this coach/parent is to field pitched balls that get past the catcher and to keep the game moving. If, during the game, a play can be made at the plate, the ball **Must** be fielded by the catcher, not the coach/parent. The coach/parent who is backing up the catcher must be 13 years of age or older.
6. All players attending the game shall be scheduled into the batting order for every inning (regardless of whether they are scheduled to play defensively). Either three outs or once through the batting order shall constitute a half-inning.
7. The objective of Division I Softball is to have every player hit the ball. Therefore, coach pitchers are encouraged to modify pitches to match the player's ability (i.e. the pitcher can move up towards the batter, pitch slower, etc. to enable a player to hit the ball). The only limitation will be that the pitcher must pitch from beyond the ten foot arc in front of home plate.
8. There will be an eight (8) pitch limit to each batter. If, after the eighth pitch, the batter has not hit the ball, a tee shall be provided.
9. A batted ball must pass the ten foot arc in front of home plate in order to be considered a fair ball. A ball not traveling the ten foot distance shall be considered foul.
10. Players at bat or running the bases **MUST WEAR BATTING HELMETS AT ALL TIMES**. Helmets may not be removed until a player returns to the bench area.

11. A base runner, advancing from one base to another, must stop at the next base once the ball has been returned from the field to the pitcher.
12. A base runner may advance one base on an overthrown ball.
13. No base stealing, leading off, bunting, or sliding is permitted in Division I.
14. No pinch hitters or runners are permitted unless a player is injured.
15. Coaches shall attempt to play each player on the team at every position roughly an equal amount of time. The purpose of this division of the recreational league is not to develop full-time first basemen, short stops, etc. The purpose is to allow each player to experience all positions.
16. The season will be divided into two sessions: Spring Training and the Regular Season. The criteria for this split season will be as follows:

**Spring Training:**

During Spring Training, no score will be kept. Teams shall furnish a first and third base coach to aid players in running the bases.

**The Regular Season:**

During the Regular Season, the score of the game will be kept. Teams shall furnish a first and third base coach to both aid the players in running the bases and act as umpires. These coaches will make all calls at first, second, or third base. The coach pitcher will make all calls at home plate. The ruling of these coaches WILL BE IRREFUTABLE. Excessive arguing of calls by coaches, players, or parents will be grounds for removal from the game or the field and possible expulsion from the league.

League standings will not be maintained and no tournament will be held at the end of the Regular Season.

17. Coaches will be responsible for providing drinking water and a first aid kit for their team.
18. All Division I coaches shall be committed to following the Medina Girls Softball Association Division I Coaches Code of Ethics. Bad sportsmanship or swearing will be grounds for cancellation of the game and potentially expulsion from the league.
19. All Division I coaches shall be committed to achieving the Goals for Division I Participants, as established by the league.

**ALL EQUIPMENT - (BATTERS AND CATCHERS) SHALL BE WORN AT ALL TIMES - PRACTICES, WARM-UPS AND GAMES**

**Medina Girls Softball Association, Inc.**  
**Division I League**  
**Goals for Division I Participants**

Coaches involved in the Medina Girls Softball Association Division I League should consider the following achievable goals for their players:

- 1) Players should be able to name the basic defensive positions.
- 2) Players should know how a run is scored.
- 3) Players should be taught a level swing and to keep their eyes on the ball at all times while hitting a pitched ball.
- 4) Players should know what constitutes fair and foul territory.
- 5) Players should be taught how to record an out while playing the defensive positions (i.e. tag out, force out, caught ball, etc.).
- 6) Players should be taught the correct way to throw a ball (stepping with the opposite foot, shifting weight, and throwing with a good overhand motion).
- 7) Players should be taught how to correctly stop a ground ball.
- 8) Players should be encouraged to catch with two hands.
- 9) Defensive players should be encouraged to play their own positions and not fight for a ball with their own teammates.
- 10) Players should begin to learn catching skills.