

# West Metro Senior Softball

## 2022 Northwoods Division Rules

- Play 7 innings, two innings at a time - innings 1-6.
- Flip-flop rule: if the home team is behind by 1 or more runs at top of 7<sup>th</sup>, they bat in the top of the inning and can only go up by 5 runs – home team can then only tie.
- 3 ball, 2 strike count and one courtesy foul allowed.
- Hit ball that strikes the screen: First one is “inert”- a no pitch, play continues with same count; subsequent hit screens are strikes. (i.e. a “courtesy hit screen”)
- Pool players- lowest team in standings gets preference unless number of players per team dictates otherwise. Managers decide fairest way.
- If one team has 2 or more players more than the other team, the larger team gives players to the smaller team to balance within one player. (Loaning Manager presents choice of three)
- Play 12 players in the field. If short of players, opposing team provides a catcher, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup> baseman as needed.
- Short fielders cannot play on same side of a line from home to second to the outfield. Shortstop and 2<sup>nd</sup> base play on opposite sides of 2<sup>nd</sup> base. (i.e. no overcrowding one side of the field)
- 4 outfielders must remain in outfield defensive positions, no overcrowding the infield. Outfielders must start the at-bat approximately 50 feet from the infield edge, equivalent to light poles.
- A player can only pinch run once per inning. A pinch runner on base when it is their turn to bat can be replaced and will not be out.
- A pinch runner from home starts behind a line near the backstop, 1<sup>st</sup> pole to the catchers’ right.
- Pitching screen required – top of the screen placed 12 feet from rubber. Must pitch from behind the screen.
- Arc on pitch between 6 and 12 feet high. The screen is 7 feet.
- Pitcher must face the batter and hold ball 1 second before pitching. No quick pitch to catch batter when not ready, called a no-pitch.
- If a player or players from the National Division play in Northwoods, they bat last and should play in the outfield. They should only play infield if needed by a team and the opposing manager agrees.

Modifications to rules can be made if opposing managers agree. They should be changed only in specific situations, not permanently changing the above rules. e.g. – Wet bases, excessive wind conditions.