

Marshalltown Softball Association
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2026 Men's 14" Softball League Registration Packet

Cost: \$550.00

Registration Due Date: Saturday, April 18th, 2026 by 5PM

This league is offered for the recreational player and is characterized by the following:

1. League season will consist of 12 games and an end of season tournament seeded by final standings. Up to four additional league games may be added depending on participation.
2. The 2025 U.S.A. Softball 16" rules will be used, except for pitching distance and any changes implemented by M.S.A.
3. This league is open to any male who is at least 16 years old.
4. League games will begin the week of May 11, 2026.
5. League games will primarily be scheduled on Tuesday nights, but other nights may also be used.
6. MSA intends for this league to include A and B divisions, but participation could impact the format. Please classify your team according to skill, not by where you can win.
7. Each team should have like jerseys with at least 6" high numbers on the back. Uniforms should be in good taste and no obscene or objectionable illustration or lettering is allowed.

Registration Details

All registrations must include the following:

- A Roster form must be submitted, containing the name of team, league and division, manager name(s), and manager phone number & email address.
- Registration fees must be paid in full by the due date.
- Completed waiver forms are required for all participants. This waiver can be submitted using the digital form on our website, or the paper form can be submitted by email, mail or in person. Waivers are valid for the calendar year in which they are submitted.
- All players must submit the waiver form and be added to their team's roster to be eligible to play. A team playing with an ineligible player will forfeit any games played with said player (see league rule #4).

How to Register

1. Online – Navigate to our website, click on the **League Registration** link and complete the form in full.

2. Email/Mail – Navigate to our website and click on Forms>Handouts. Select the **League Registration Form (printout)** link. Print the form and complete it in full. Email or mail the completed form using the relevant address information in the header of this document.

How to Pay

1. Online – Use the payment option at the bottom of the **League Registration** form when you submit your roster. Note: there is a convenience fee applied for this payment method.
2. Mail – Mail a check payable to “Marshalltown Softball Association” to the address listed in the header of this document.
3. Drop off – Deliver your payment to GNB Bank and notify them that you are paying league fees. **Be sure to specify your team name.**

Cost Details

Umpires	\$15.00/game/team x 12 games	\$180.00
Scorekeepers	\$5.00/game/team x 12 games	\$60.00
M.S.A. Fund*		\$238.98
Tax (7%)		\$34.02
<u>U.S.A. Sanction Fee</u>		<u>\$37.00</u>
Total Cost		\$550.00

A \$50.00 late fee will be charged to anyone paying after the specified registration deadline. No registrations will be accepted later than April 25, 2026.

*The M.S.A. Fund is used to help offset the costs of running the league. These costs include lighting, chalk, bases, supplies, field maintenance, insurance, etc.

DO NOT PRACTICE AT THE COMPLEX PRIOR TO THE START OF LEAGUE PLAY

League Rules

1. This league is intended to provide an enjoyable recreational experience. It is the responsibility of each league member to maintain good sportsmanship. The M.S.A. will take whatever action necessary to ensure that an individual's conduct does not jeopardize the right of others in having an enjoyable recreational experience. Poor sportsmanship by teams, spectators or individuals will not be tolerated. The game umpires or scorekeeper may file an unsportsmanlike conduct charge to the M.S.A. Each incident will be handled individually with possible discipline ranging from three games to one calendar year suspension and ban from the complex.
2. At no time shall an umpire be threatened while on city property. Incidents of this nature will receive maximum discipline.
3. An individual ejected from a game will automatically receive a three-game suspension, be put on probation in all leagues for the remainder of the season and will sit out the next three scheduled games of that league. If ejected while on probation, an individual will receive a one calendar year suspension from all M.S.A. programs. The suspended individual may appeal the suspension to the M.S.A. board during the monthly board meeting. No special meetings will be scheduled to review suspension

appeals. The M.S.A. board reserves the right to increase the suspension depending on the severity of the situation. Failure to sit out the required games will result in an automatic forfeiture of any game the suspended player played in and the player will automatically be suspended for one calendar year.

4. The official team roster will be maintained by the M.S.A. Board. All players must be at least 16 years old, and they must have completed a waiver form to be eligible to play. Players can be added to rosters throughout the season, but they cannot be removed from the roster after the team's first league game. At that time, players can only be transferred from one team to another within the same league. **PLAYERS CAN ONLY PLAY FOR ONE TEAM IN EACH LEAGUE.** For example, a player on a roster in 14" A league cannot play for any other team in 14" league, including the B division.

5. Bats that are not ASA/USA softball certified should not be used in league play. All bats should be verified and approved by an umpire, scorekeeper, or board member prior to the game. We will use the USA Softball Approved Bats List to determine whether a bat will be allowed. A sticker will be applied to approved bats so that umpires and players can easily see the bat has been approved. Any player caught using an uncertified bat that has had an approved sticker applied will be suspended three games. Additional offenses will result in harsher punishments, including yearlong suspensions or bans.

6. M.S.A. POLICY: Any team or player owing money to the Marshalltown Softball Association or U.S.A. Softball will not be allowed to play in any league until the debt, and all related charges, is paid in full. This includes each player on a team's roster if it is a team debt.

7. **ONE TRANSFER PER SEASON WILL BE ALLOWED PER PLAYER IN A LEAGUE.**

A manager or sponsor cannot block a transfer of a player from one team to another. As a courtesy, the player should notify his manager that he is transferring to another team. There is no cutoff for transfers for league play.

8. All games will start at the scheduled time. The official time at the complex is the clock located above the concession windows. Players and umpires shall set their watches to these times.

9. Each team shall have their lineup turned in to the scorekeeper FIVE MINUTES BEFORE SCHEDULED GAME TIME. A team playing a double header has five minutes to turn in their roster for their second game after the finish of their first game. If the lineup is not in on time A FORFEIT WILL BE CALLED. See Rule 7 for official time.

10. No infield warm up will be allowed prior to the pitchers warm up period. This includes teams playing the first games. To speed up the game, around the horn or warm up pitches between outs is not allowed.

11. A game will end when one team is leading by 20 runs after 3 innings or by 15 runs after 4 innings or by 10 runs after 5 innings. In case of rain, 4 innings will be a complete game. **ALL TEAMS WILL HAVE ONE HOUR AND FIVE MINUTES TO COMPLETE 7 INNINGS.** After 1:05 is up no new inning may start. The existing inning may be finished. The start time will be noted on the score sheet.

12. After a run rule or forfeit is called the game may continue for the fun of it if both teams agree. In this instance, the umpires & scorekeeper will not work the practice that follows.

13. The team listed last is the home team. The league ball is the DeBeer F14 Clincher. MSA will provide one new ball for each game, and several good-quality used balls to serve as a backup. The umpire has the final say on fitness of the game ball.

14. The M.S.A. will assign the official scorekeeper, whose book will be considered the official record.

15. Protests must be filed according to the official U.S.A. Softball rules. The M.S.A. requires that a \$20.00 protest fee be given to the umpire at the time of a protest and an official written protest (form provided in score shed) must be given to the umpire before leaving the area. If a protest is won, the \$20.00 will be refunded. If the protest is lost, the money will be deposited into the M.S.A. account.

16. Free substitution will be used with the following restrictions:

A. A person may re-enter the game only at the beginning of that team's defensive half of the inning. Re-entries must remain in the same spot in the batting order that they originally occupied. A player cannot move up or down the batting order.

B. A person may not enter the game until the manager reports the change to the scorer.

17. All league players are restricted to sport shoes or U.S.A. Softball approved shoes with rubber cleats.

****NO METAL CLEATS****

18. A courtesy substitute who has previously been in the game may be used in case of injury or illness if agreed on by both managers. In case of disagreements, the final decision to allow the courtesy re-entry is left up to the umpire.

19. A team may begin or end a game with 8 players, but a team with fewer than 8 players at the game start time will constitute a forfeit. If a team has fewer than eight players, it is permissible for a team to use players who are not on their roster to bring their total to eight in order to not forfeit the game. The manager using non-rostered players must inform the umpire and opposing manager and receive approval of the opposing manager to use the players. Once approved, the opposing manager forfeits his/her right to protest the eligibility of those players. If a team's rostered players show up, they must be subbed in for the non-rostered players, unless the opposing manager approves their continued participation.

20. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited on the field. Profane language will not be tolerated. Player(s) who violate this rule will be ejected. If the umpire can hear profanity, the player will be ejected. The player must be replaced by legal substitutes or the game is a forfeit. IOWA U.S.A. SOFTBALL CASUAL PROFANITY/SPORTSMANSHIP RULES WILL BE USED.

21. A runner may lead off any base with the risk of being picked off by a throw from the pitcher or catcher. If a pickoff attempt results in an overthrow or blocked ball, no runners may advance. Any runner advancing on a pitch not batted can be put out if tagged before returning to their original base (Rule 8 4 K).

22. Home run limits will be enforced as follows: A league teams are allowed four home runs per game, and B league teams are allowed two home runs per game. Any additional home run will be ruled as an out, with the following exception: if both teams reach the limit, either team is allowed to hit an additional home run to go up one home run.

23. All other rules shall be covered by the official U.S.A. Softball 16-inch rules current edition except pitching distance. The Extra Player rule (EP) will be enforced as written. The EP must be used the entire game and must remain in the same position in the batting order. The EP may be substituted for by a player who has not been in the game. If you use the EP, you must start with 11 players and U.S.A. Softball substitution rules will be used (free substitution cannot be used). The game may be finished with 11 players but not fewer than 8. If you start with 11 players and fall below 11, outs will be taken in the batting position of the missing players. Ejected players must be replaced or you will forfeit the game.

24. If the storm/tornado sirens sound during a game, the game will be immediately suspended and continued at a later date. The rest of the scheduled games for that night will also be postponed. When the siren sounds, take cover. Do not stay at the diamonds. In case of lightning, games will be suspended and resumed IF the lightning clears.

25. On rainy days, the decision to play or cancel will be made as early as possible. If we cancel, a notification will be posted on the Marshalltown Softball Association Facebook page and our automated text messaging system will notify subscribers. Sign up for the text notifications through the M.S.A. website. Rescheduled game information will be posted on Facebook and on our website. If it rains after 5:00 p.m., the umpire will make the decision to play or not. If games are cancelled, please stay off the diamonds.

26. All over-the-fence home runs are “walk off home runs” (Rule 8, Section 3 I). For speed of play, the batter and all base runners shall not run the bases. The team will be credited for all the runs associated with the hit. Failure to comply may result in a team out (Iowa U.S.A. Softball Unsportsmanlike “Team Out” Rule) at the umpire’s discretion.

27. M.S.A. will make every possible attempt to reschedule games cancelled due to poor weather conditions. However, refunds may not be given if games cannot be rescheduled due to diamond availability, acts of God and poor weather conditions.

28. Each batter will begin the at bat with a 1-1 count and receive one courtesy foul ball (with two strikes against them) during the duration of the at bat. If the batter hits another foul ball after the courtesy foul ball, the result is a strike out and the batter is out.

29. League Classification: If a team wins or ties for first place in the B division, they are required to play in the A division in the next season. For enforcement of this rule, 50% of the roster from the previous year will be considered the same team. The last place team in A division and all ties for last place can move down to B division. The enforcement of this rule is at M.S.A.’s discretion.

FOR CURRENT GAME INFORMATION, PLEASE CHECK THE MSA FACEBOOK PAGE OR WEBSITE

**DO NOT CARRY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES INTO THE COMPLEX. 22 CENTS OUT OF EVERY DOLLAR SPENT AT THE CONCESSION STAND COMES BACK TO THE COMPLEX IN THE FORM OF IMPROVEMENTS.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

The Marshalltown Softball Association is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Any damage caused to City / M.S.A. property shall be repaired at the expense of the adult that caused the damage, or the parent or guardian of a minor causing damage. The player will be suspended from league play until payment is made.