



## MBSL Pre-Game Checklist

- Who calls Fair and Foul Balls - catcher or 1st/3rd base coach?  
1st Base coach calls plays at home and 1<sup>st</sup>, 3rd base coach calls plays at 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup>
- What are the out of bounds (i.e. what is live and what is dead)? One base on overthrow? Distance between bases 70 feet, pitching from 50 feet (or as close to those depths the given physical field dimensions/limitations)
- Collapse Rule/Shortfielder. NOTE: clarified rule states that a team must play a short fielder for an entire game or not at all (all or nothing rule). Therefore, teams cannot play a shortfielder based on the inning or the batter.
- Teams can't change defensive positions during an inning (unless there's an injury – a player replaces another in the field).
- Pinch Runners – When possible, pinch runner needs to be of the same gender.
- Pitching - it's imperative that the team captains ensure that their pitcher can get ball over the plate and defend themselves.
- Captains should discuss pitching (spin, excessive height, and intentional inaccuracy exc.) in the pre-game meeting. It is the captain's responsibility to ensure that pitching is not used to give an advantage. Captains are responsible for working-out complaints from opposing teams about pitching.
- Infield Fly rule - Note: an infield fly rule is now a standard rule.
- Field specific rules—for example, what happens if a ball goes into bushes, what constitutes a home run, etc.
- 2nd home plate - if runner goes to wrong plate and interferes with the play, they are out
- Double First Base Bags – In order to prevent collisions, two side-by-side first base bags will be used at first base. One base shall be placed in fair territory, and the 2nd base should be placed next to it in foul territory. The base runner should run to the "foul" side of the first base bag, while the first baseman should field his/her position on the "fair" side of the base.
- Force Outs at 2nd base rules. If a ball is fielded (especially in cases where a shortfielder is used or the outfielders are on the collapse line) will they be allowed to throw to 2nd base for the force out?
- Foul Tips – Foul tips that are caught by a catcher must be “over the batter's head” to result in an out.
- Commit line between 3rd and home and if so what will mark this?
- 11 inch ball rule is up to individual woman batter at each individual at bat (it's no longer up to the captains to decide).
- Confirm that all bats are approved for use. **ALL DOUBLE WALLED, TRIPLE WALLED, and COMPOSITE bats are illegal regardless if they have been certified by USA Softball.** NOTE: clarified rule states that all bat infractions must be reported to your divisional coordinator for review. For a first offense your divisional coordinator will review the infraction with the captains from both teams & determine the appropriate penalty, up to and including forfeiture of the game. For a second offense, the offending team MUST forfeit and will not be eligible to play in the playoffs. For a third offense, the offending team will no longer be allowed to play in the league. For a listing of current approved and non-approved bats go to: <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/certified-equipment>