

2009
Metro League Fast Pitch
Eligibility Guidelines and Points of interest

Form a three-member Board, with one alternate, made up of Metro League coaches to hear league disputes and eligibility requests. Rulings of the Board are final and are not open to appeal to the varsity coaches. In cases involving one of the Board members, that Board member will remove themselves from the discussion and the vote with the alternate voting in their place.

Cobb County and GHSA eligibility guidelines will be strictly adhered to. They state that a player must reside within the school district or the parents must be employed at a feeder school in the school district. In multiple household families, the parent with primary guardianship as defined by the divorce decree or court order defines the school of record.

Any exceptions made (and there should be next to none) must be passed along to the varsity coach's Board for final approval. They don't need to approve it if we turn down the request but they will need to approve any exceptions we make. Players are not eligible until the varsity coaches Board rules.

No team will be allowed to use an ineligible player during a league game even if the opposing coach approves. If an ineligible player is used the offending team will be bared from post-season play. If the game was played with the approval of the opposing coach then the game will count as a league loss for the purposes of seeding for the postseason tournament.

If a team insists on fielding an ineligible player after having been notified of their ineligibility by the Board then the team will be dismissed from the league for the remainder of the season and remaining teams will not be allowed to knowingly play games or scrimmages against that team or face being dismissed as well. The Metro coach's Board would rule on dismissal of offending teams.

All teams will be required to submit a roster to the Board on Aug 3rd. The roster must contain player's complete name, address, and birth date. Each player will sign a form stating that they live within their team's school district and are eligible to attend the feeder high school.

The Board will then distribute the rosters to all teams or place onto the Metro website. Any player not listed on the roster will be treated as an ineligible player in league games.

No players may be added to a roster or moved from one roster to another without prior approval of the Metro board.

No deadline for adding new players from outside the current team to a program. This includes the tournament. So a team, in theory, can add a new player to their roster in the middle of the tournament if they choose to and the player is otherwise eligible to play for that team. All additions must be cleared with the Metro board prior to playing in games.

Players may not switch between teams unless a team's **roster drops to 9 players** due to injuries. At that point the coach must go to the Metro board for approval to switch a player from one team to the next. This must be done prior to the player participating in a game with the new team.

On the first Tuesday after Labor Day (September 8th this year) each school will be allowed to move up to two players from one of their rosters to the other. This will allow for adjustments based on player improvement or coach's misjudgment in assigning players to their original teams. That means two players can be moved up and two players must be moved down or any combination of the above. Changes must be sent to the Metro board on September 8th in order to be approved for play in that weekend's games.

All teams are responsible for reporting any potential ineligible players to the Board for investigation if they feel a player does not meet the Cobb County or GHSA eligibility guidelines

The season will consist of 12 league games with a schedule to be processed once we know how many teams we have on July 21st. Metro teams are not allowed to play in any outside pre-season or in-season tournaments that is not through the Metro league. The league will be split into Gold and Silver divisions as declared by the school on July 19th.

Games will be scheduled for play on Mon, Sat, and Sun. Each team will be responsible for finding a location to play all their home games. If a team has a home game scheduled and does not have a field available then they will be responsible for getting together with the opposing coach and working out either a different date or playing it at the away teams location if that is possible. It is up to both coaches to be flexible in trying to accommodate rescheduling of games before a forfeit will be called. *Only the Metro board can declare a forfeit*

- All games will be scheduled as follows. Only conflicts will need to be discussed by the coaches:
 - Saturday "Gold" games 10am
 - Saturday "Silver" games Noon
 - Sunday "Gold" games 2pm
 - Sunday "Silver" games 4pm
 - Week night games all start at 7pm
 - Any changes to the schedule please have both coaches confirm with me. If I don't hear from both coaches I can't know for sure what was agreed upon and I will have to assume the original schedule was correct.

Standings:

- Both coaches shall email me game results Every Tuesday morning and the website will be updated.
- I would like for the results of the games to be up to date by each Wednesday.
- Please make sure your scores are correct as the runs against count for tie-breakers.
- Tie Breakers
 - Winning percentage
 - Head to Head – If 3 teams are tied only works if one team beats the other two in head to head, then remaining 2 teams continue from here
 - Runs Scored against
 - Runs scored against in games only involving tied teams
 - Runs scored
 - Runs scored involving games only among tied teams
 - Coin Flip

The Post-season tournament will start on or about Thursday September 24th and run through Sunday September 27th. It will be double elimination and the tournament will be broken into two divisions, Gold and Silver. Each division will compete for their respective Championship. The Board reserves the right to move a Silver team to the Gold bracket if it is shown they are a true Gold team based on regular season performance.

- Typical Cost: \$250 per team
- Straight Double Elimination
- Seeding based on regular season standings
- 1 hour 20 minutes
- Same run rules as regular season
- Home team decided by higher seeded team. No Re-Seeding incase of upsets

Umpires – Scheduling and paying for umpires for each home game is the responsibility of the home team. You may choose to use any umpire association you wish. However, it will be your responsibility to make sure they know and follow our guidelines. The umpires associations that we have used in the past have been NGAUA and Steve Marcus group of ASA umpires and these two groups are used by the majority of Varsity/JV games in Cobb County.

NGAUA softball umpires
Bob Earwood
(h) 678-567-9730
(C) 678-360-1962
bnlearwood@hotmail.com

Steve Marcus Marcus993@aol.com

Points of interest:

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|---------------------|---|
| July 19 | Declare how many teams your school will have
Call or email Kenneth Sheffield- New programs with one team
need also to declare if they are Gold or Silver for first year. |
| July 26 week | Schedules out to teams |
| Aug 3 | Commit to being able to host the end of season tournament |
| Aug 3 | Rosters e-mailed to Kenneth Sheffield |
| Aug 10 | Season Begins |
| Sept 8 | May move up to 2 players from one team to another
Will always be the first Tuesday after Labor Day |
| Sept 24 | Tentative start date for tournament |

Run limits:

7 innings or:
15 run differential after 3rd
10 run differential 5th

Tie breaker scenarios

Winning percentage
Head to head
Runs scored against – run differential capped at 10 per game
Runs scored against in games involving teams in tie breaker only
Runs scored - run differential capped at 10 per game
Runs scored in games involving teams in tie breaker only
Coin flip

Time limits: No new inning after 1:30 – ITB is allowed for tied games

Insurance:

1. T.W. Lord Associates
770-427-2461 Attn: Tommy Lord, 25 Dodd Street, Marietta, GA 30060
Approximate cost is \$90 per team
Put “Cobb County Metro Fast Pitch Association” and your schools name on the page with the list of players.
Each team is responsible for having their insurance.
2. GA ASA Insurance
\$20 per team (not per school but per team)
Mail coaches name, school name, and team name to:
Steve Marcus, 1039 Autumn Glenn Way, Dacula, GA 30019
Make checks payable to: Georgia ASA

Game balls must be 12”, Yellow, .47 core balls and must have the NFHS stamp on them or else the umpires will not allow you to use them. Supplying game balls is the responsibility of the home team

Geographical area of league: The league will remain a Cobb County only league.