



**MUNCIE BASEBALL &
SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION**

P. O. Box 69
Muncie, IN 47308

Safety Policy

Safety is the most important issue we face as league officials, coaches, and parents. It is our job to instruct our players in the proper use of baseball and softball equipment. Bats, batted balls, thrown bats, thrown balls, and lightning are some of the most potentially damaging pieces of equipment and situations our children will face in athletic competition. Please abide by the following MBSA safety policy throughout the season.

- 1) All players must remain in the dugout during the playing of the game.
 - a) Players are only allowed to leave the dugout to play the game itself, to use the restroom, or to receive medical attention.
- 2) When a team is on offense, only the batter and the on-deck batter are allowed to be out of the dugout with bats in their hands. No other player shall have a bat in their hands at any time. The on-deck batter must be within the confines of the on-deck circle when swing their bat.
 - a) The first violation of this policy will result in a team warning. Subsequent violations will result in the offending player being ejected from the game.
- 3) Teams are allowed to warm-up pitchers during the course of the game. During this warm-up session, players must be positioned in such manner as to not endanger other players playing the game, or spectators watching the game. If the warm-up catcher is not an adult, a catcher's mask is required to be worn.
 - a) The first violation of this policy will result in a team warning. Subsequent violations will result in the offending player being ejected from the game.
- 4) Only MBSA board members, league recognized coaches (those who are on the official MBSA coaches roster, or their substitutes who report as such to the umpire or board member onsite), scorekeepers, team moms, and uniformed players are allowed in the dugouts, and area surrounding the dugout, during games being played. No spectators, friends, parents, grandparents, or other children are allowed in the dugout during the game.
 - a) With a board member's approval only, a coach may have a child excluded by the above in the dugout only if they have no one else available to supervise that child during the game. This should only happen on rare occasions when a proper caregiver is not available.
- 5) Pre-game warm-ups shall be conducted as follows:
 - a) Pitchers will warm-up from the pitcher's mound or be positioned in such manner as to not endanger other players preparing for the game, or spectators assembling to watch the game.
 - b) If the warm-up catcher is not an adult, a catcher's mask is required to be worn.
 - c) Teams will warm-up in the outfield and will do so from the foul lines to centerfield.



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- d) A five minute infield practice session will be allowed to each immediately prior to the game. These warm-up sessions must be concluded prior to game time and shall cause no delay in the start of the game. The visiting team will take infield first, with the home team taking infield last and remaining on the field for the start of the game. If a team is not ready to take infield at the start of their allotted session, they will forfeit the right to warm-up
 - e) On days with multiple games, teams waiting for their game to start may warm-up in the following areas:
 - i) The grass area between the batting cage and Bethel Avenue.
 - ii) The grass area behind the old Northside High School scoreboard.
 - iii) The grass areas surrounding the playground equipment next to the Anthony Administration Building.
 - iv) Field 4 may be used for warm-ups if it has no game is scheduled.
 - v) The batting cage is available for warm-ups on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - vi) NO warm-ups may be conducted in the grass area between the parking lot and the concession stand (behind left field of Field 2).
 - vii) NO warm-ups may be conducted between the concession stand and Oakwood Avenue.
 - viii) NO warm-ups may be conducted between the outfield fences of Field 1 and Field 2.
 - f) Soft-toss may be conducted using only waffle balls, soft-core baseballs, or rag balls. **DO NOT HIT HARD BASEBALLS OR SOFTBALLS INTO ANY FENCING ON THE PROPERTY.** Soft-toss warm-ups must be conducted by adults and concluded 30 minutes prior to game time.
- 6) Lightning
- a) At the first sighting of lightning in the immediate vicinity, all fields of play shall be cleared of players, coaches, and game officials. It is not necessary for an MBSA Board member on duty to clear the field, as umpires have been advised of the lightning procedure.
 - b) If desired, players, parents, spectators and all others present may go to their cars when the fields are cleared, but should not leave the complex until instructed to do so by an MBSA Board member on duty. Every attempt will be made to resume the games that have been interrupted.
 - c) Only an MBSA Board member on duty shall determine if and when play will resume. Generally, at least 30 minutes must elapse after the last sighting of lightning before play will continue.