

Middleton Baseball & Softball Commission
Operational guidelines for softball programs

Adopted: Feb. 13, 2001

Revised: March 11, 2003

Following are the general characteristics of each softball program in which the Middleton Baseball & Softball Commission participates and the general operational guidelines for each program as administered by the league program director and the head coaches selected by the Commission. The softball programs are open to all boys and girls of the Middleton-Cross Plains School District. Typically, girls participate the softball programs and boys in the baseball programs.

Little Brewers Program

Age: 6-8 or grades K through 2

Philosophy: This program starts with general instruction on hitting, fielding throwing, and game instructions. The coach pitches to her/his own team but does not field a hit ball. Coaches are allowed on the field to instruct play as it happens. Ten players are in the field in correct positions. There are no walks. Three swinging strikes and you are out. Play stops when ball is back to pitcher (coach). Only 10 batters per inning and three outs, or 10th batter is put out or ball brought back to pitcher. Catcher wears facemask and chest protector. Batters wears helmet. A 12 inch rag ball is used.

Season: The season runs from the middle of June to the end of July. The season runs for 6 weeks and plays twice a week on Mondays and Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. A picnic is held at the end of the season for the Brewers, Cardinal, and Minor Leagues where a game is played first. A family pot luck, with hot dogs and drinks, is furnished by the Commission.

Team Composition: The program director without consideration to talent levels organizes teams. Consideration is given to keeping players from the same neighborhood or school together. All games are played on the grass Kromrey Middle School, which makes for a very family friendly atmosphere. Time limit is one hour or six innings.

Cardinal Program

Age: 9-10 or grades 3 through 4

Philosophy: This program is instructional in nature. The league coaches hold practices two weeks before the season starts. The first two weeks of the season, the coach pitches, after 2 weeks then player pitch, but only three innings. A batter hit by the pitch does not take the base. Batter gets three strikes swinging or called, and/or five balls. Teams bat no more than 10 players per inning, three outs or 10th batter put out or walk. Teams play with 10 players in the field. 12-inch softballs are used. Batters must wear helmets and catcher must wear catcher's equipment. Home team must provide the umpires.

Season: The season runs from the middle of June to the end of July. The season runs for 6 weeks and plays twice a week on Mondays and Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Games have a 1 ½ hour time limit or 6-innings. A picnic is held at the end of the season for the Brewers, Cardinal, and Minor Leagues where a game is played first. A family pot luck, with hot dogs and drinks, is furnished by the Commission.

Team Composition: The programs director and coaches select teams based on school areas when possible. Teams from West Middleton and Sauk City are in this league so some travel is involved.

Minor Program

Age: 11-12 or grades 5 through 6

Philosophy: This program is instructional in nature. The league coaches hold practices two weeks before the season starts. Players do all the pitching, but only three innings, pitchers can windmill. Batter gets three strikes swinging or called, and/or five balls. Teams bat no more than 10 players per inning, three outs or 10th batter put out or walk. Batters can bunt and lead off, but there is no stealing. Teams play with 10 players in the field. 12-inch softballs are used. Batters must wear helmets and catcher must wear catcher's equipment. Home team must provide the umpires

Season: The season runs from the middle of June to the end of July. The season runs for 6 weeks and plays twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday at 6:00 p.m. Games have a 1-½ hour time limit or 6-innings. A picnic is held at the end of the season for the Brewers, Cardinal, and Minor Leagues where a game is played first. A family pot luck, with hot dogs and drinks, is furnished by the Commission.

Team Composition: The program director and coaches select teams based on school areas when possible. Teams from West Middleton and Sauk City and Black Earth are in this league so some travel is involved.

Junior Program

Age: 13-14 or grades 7 through 8

Philosophy: This program is recreational nature with the intent to teach WIAA high school rules, including infield fly and dropped 3rd strike rule. Games are seven innings or 1 hour 45 minute time limit. Teams play 9 in the field, everyone bats with free substitution in the field. Players may bunt and steal. Runners may steal only one base per pitch. No stealing of home unless a play is made on the runner leading off on third base. Runners must slide on any close play or the runner will be called out. An inning consists of three out or a team may score 7 runs except for the last inning where there is no run limit. 12-inch softballs are used. Batters must wear helmets and catcher must wear complete catcher's equipment.

Season: The season runs from the middle of June to the middle of August. The season runs for 7 weeks and plays twice a week on Monday and Wednesday at 6:00 or 8:00 PM. A tournament and picnic is held at the end of the season.

Team Composition: The program directors and coaches select teams. Teams from Cross Plains, West Middleton, Sauk City, Black Earth, Verona and Madison are in this league so some travel is involved.

Senior Program

- Age: 14-18 or high school
- Philosophy: This program is recreational nature with the intent to further instruct WIAA high school rules. Games are seven innings or 2 hour time limit. Rule modifications include everyone bats with free substitution in the field.. An inning consists of three outs or a team may score 7 runs except for the last inning where there is no run limit. 12-inch softballs are used. Batters must wear helmets and catcher must wear complete catcher's equipment. Runners must slide on a close play at home plate. Courtesy runners are available for the pitcher and catcher. Double first base is recommended.
- Season: The season runs from the middle of June to the middle of August. The season runs for 7 weeks and plays twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday at 6:00 or 8:00 PM. A tournament and picnic is held at the end of the season.
- Team Composition: The program directors and coaches select teams. Teams from Cross Plains, West Middleton, Black Earth, and other communities in this league so some travel is involved

South Central Softball U12 & U14

- Age: Under 12 and Under 14, as of Jan 1st.
- Philosophy: The South Central League is a competitive league with a major commitment by players and parents. Middleton typically assembles one team, for each age group
- Season: Practice starts in April, games start end of May through the end of July. Two games per week, with the league tournament held in the middle of the season, and possible weekend tournaments though out the season.
- Team Composition: Teams are selected through a tryout process. Players who are not selected for the South Central teams are automatically eligible to play in the Recreation Program. The tryouts are held in early April. Middleton teams typically are comprised of 13-14 players. This program follows WIAA rules.

South Central Softball U16 & U18

- Age: Under 16 and Under 18, as of Jan 1st.
- Philosophy: The South Central League is a competitive league with a major commitment by players who have selected softball as their primary spring/summer sport and have played or are considering playing varsity level softball at Middleton High School. Middleton typically assembles one team, for each age group. Graduated seniors (U-18) are not eligible to play.
- Season: Middle of June or when High School softball is over, though the end of July. Two games per week, with the league tournament held in the middle of the season, and possible weekend tournaments though out the season.
- Team Composition: Teams are selected through a tryout process. Players who are not selected for the South Central teams are automatically eligible to play in the Recreation Program. The tryouts are held in early April. Middleton teams typically are comprised of 13-14 players. This program follows WIAA rules.