

2021 Website Open Letter to all New or Returning Senior Softball players:

Note that all references to Substitutes are in Blue ink. Red ink is for wording added for 2021 or changes from last year's policies. Green ink refers to the use of 2020 Forms for the 2021 season.

You may only sign up for one team per day, or just one team for the week, your choice. All Registrations and checks must be in by March 15th to the address at the bottom of the Registration Form. If you sent a Registration and check in for 2020 season, then both are good for the 2021 season and a new Registration form is **not needed**. Any BIO forms will carry forward too. The 'Additional Waiver of Liability' you have to sign at the ballpark will cover the new year with your old Registration.

You are advised to read the 2021 edition of the GMSS Rules as found on the Website after Feb 1, 2021 under the 'RULES' button.

Every player who wants to play two games a week must sign up for a Wednesday team and a Thursday team. If you want to play a third or possibly a fourth game a week, your only choice is to get on the Substitution List (no cost) which will be maintained by a GMSS Director. Get on the Sub List by filling out a BIO Form, **including the blue blanks** in the top part of the BIO Form and send it in with Registration. This list is available for any Manager's use in finding Substitutes to fill out his team on any day that he is short players during the season. That Manager will contact you prior to his game,

HOW CAN YOU GET ON A TEAM?

If you can't find a 1st or 2nd team on your own, then you will be placed in a Draft Pool. You must fill out the 'BIO' form (where you fill out the personal info, rate your ability level, and decide which days and possibly which Tier you would like to play in) and send it in with your 'Registration form. Then the Managers who need players will meet in early March and select new team members from the BIO forms that have been sent in for the Pool. That Manager will contact you to join his team. To help you rate yourself, the following section defines our Tiers and what the scope of each Tier is. Be as honest as you can in filling out the BIO.

DECIDING WHICH TIER MIGHT BE BEST FOR YOU:

Wed Tier 1 is for skilled and capable players who want to play a high grade of softball. They are generally very good batters and good fielders. Our Tier 1 teams do have limited openings available.

Wed Tier 3 is for average players who are still good ball players and like a high grade of softball, but they are generally older, may have some physical loss of ability or be less skilled than Tier 1. Tier 3 players are still very capable and are expected to have a lot of softball experience in their background.

Wed Tier 4 is a fun league. Players in this league usually are more diminished in skills due to age related physical problems, younger players may not have much experience, the teams lost most of their games last year, and exercise and fun in the sun are the main objectives of this Tier.

Thu Tier 2 are generally former Tier 1 teams or other good teams who couldn't quite play at the Tier 1 level anymore. Their members have gotten older, they've lost a step or two, physical infirmities are surfacing, and they can't play the high grade of ball Tier 1 demands.

Thu Tier 3 is similar to Wed Tier 3, but many players play on a different team than on Wednesday.

Thu Tier 4 is similar to Wed Tier 4, but many players play on a different team than on Wednesday. **There could possibly be an expansion team in Thursday Tier 4 for mostly new players to get started playing ball again and to enable them to find out what Tier level they are qualified for.**

SUBSTITUTION RULES - Any player may volunteer as a Substitute player for a team that is short-handed for a game. Each team is allowed up to three Subs to fill out their fielding roster for the day, but they must have 8 rostered players to begin the game or else it is a forfeit. **For clarification, see GMSS Rules, B and I sections.**

GENERAL INFO REGARDING SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS:

1. A GMSS Director will maintain a list of Substitute player volunteers and their contact information plus the BIO Form needed by managers to help them choose Subs when short players.
2. Any player who wants to be a Sub should fill out a BIO sheet and designate what days and leagues he will be available to be a Substitute.
3. Managers will be free to select any **Tier eligible** player on the Substitute List or may recruit a needed player who will best fill the slot created by the missing rostered player, **providing they fall within the guidelines for number of Tier 1 players allowed on each team** within that tier.
4. Once selected per Section I guidelines for each tier, Substitutes are not under any special rules and may be used by the Manager any way he sees fit during the game, **except they must bat at the end of the batting order (new for 2021)**.
5. If a functional rostered player shows up late, he must take the batting spot of any Substitute and the Sub will be removed unless another opening has occurred.
6. Managers are allowed to have as many as three substitutes on any team for any game as long as they do not have more than 11 players **capable** of playing **defense** that day.
7. If somebody, for physical reasons, can't run or play defense, but wants to bat and use a courtesy runner, he or they may do so even though they would be the 12th (or even 13th) (does not refer to Batting position) player on the Batting Roster.

COMMISSIONER'S NOTE: GMSS has grown every year since it was started. It has also had many growing pains over those years. Those problems have decreased the last three years and it appears complaints are far fewer.

GMSS had hoped to have 24 teams this year, with 12 playing each day. This is a very ambitious goal and likely will not happen due to Covid-19 concerns. It would require smaller team rosters and an expanded use of Substitutes and the addition of many new players to GMSS. To facilitate this concept, there can be no additional limitations placed on the use of subs other than what we now have under the Tier structure. Subs will probably have to fill in the missing player numbers in some Tiers.

Our goal is that each player, as much as possible, gets onto teams and into tiers suited for their expectations, skill level, and abilities. We do this by having smaller leagues with more closely matched teams within each tier. **2021** will be the **second** year for this project. As such, we may have to adjust as we go along, and Substitutes will play an important role in this endeavor. But to make it work, we need all team registrations in by **Mar 15, 2021** so we, as Managers, can see what our team prospects are. We also need all BIOS in by Mar 15 for players, new or old, who are looking to be placed on a team or to volunteer as substitutes. At our March Manager's meeting, we will then look at the team rosters for completeness, hold our Draft to pick up the new players we need, organize a new team for Thursday, and decide in what manner we should use the substitutes to fill in where needed. There will also be the usual Substitute List for Managers to get additional players during the season when they are short.

New players are encouraged to sign up even after Mar 15, because some teams find themselves short of players during the season and have to sign up new players to fill out their roster.