

## 2024 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 2024 or changes from last year's policies.

You may only sign up for one team per day, or just one team for the week, your choice. For all returning ball players, all Registrations (if required by your Manager) and checks must be in ASAP to the address he gives you. **Do not send them to the 6560 County Road M address.**

**Brand new players may sign up at any time. Only brand new players or players looking to be drafted onto a second team should send the completed Registration and BIO forms to the 6560 County Road M address found at the bottom of the BIO form.**

You are advised to read the 2024 edition of the GMSS Rules as found on the Website after March 1, 2024 under the 'RULES' button. There have been changes made and all commonly known slow-pitch rules have been left out of the current rules. *A revised edition of the 2023 rules is under 'FORMS' for the newer people who may not know the rules as well as those GMSS members who have been doing it for years.*

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 and send it via email to Mike Ecker. His address is available from your Manager.* 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 Division you would like to play in) and send it in to the address at the bottom of the BIO Form. Then the Managers who need players will meet in early April 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 Divisions and what the scope of each Division is. Be as honest as you can in filling out the BIO.

### DECIDING WHICH DIVISION MIGHT BE BEST FOR YOU:

**Wed and Thur Upper Divisions are** for skilled, capable, and competitive players who want to play a high grade of softball. They are generally very good batters and good fielders with few physical problems.

**Wed and Thur Lower Divisions are** 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 Upper Division.

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.

#### **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 Divisions he will be available to be a Substitute.
3. If you are interested in being a Substitute and playing additional games, then email Mike Ecker at [mgecker49@gmail.com](mailto:mgecker49@gmail.com) with the following information by April 1st so you can be placed on the Substitute List. That info is: Name, Age, Phone Number, email address, what days you are willing to sub (Wednesday and/or Thursday), Present Team, Positions you are willing to play. Or you can just email him a completed BIO form
4. Managers will be free to select any player on the Substitute List or may recruit a needed player who will best fill the slot created by the missing rostered player.
5. 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 (continuing from 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.

**New players are encouraged to sign up even after Mar 25, because some teams find themselves short of players during the season and have to sign up new players to fill out their roster.**