

Mahtomedi Fastpitch Softball Association (MFPA) Policies

Updated February 2017

Mission: To provide players of all ages (U8 – U18) the opportunity to play competitive summer fastpitch softball in an environment where all players will be developing their skills, learning good sportsmanship and team work. This will also allow players to develop their skills and abilities for fast pitch softball in High School and beyond.

Policy #1 Purpose of Policies

These policies will direct the activities of the Mahtomedi Fastpitch Association (MFPA). Any additions or changes to these policies will be voted upon by the MFPA Board members at any meeting and must have two-thirds majority to be modified. No proxy voting will be allowed.

Policy #2 League

Each year the Board will determine what summer league the players will participate in, and the Association will follow the league's by-laws, in addition to MSF/ASA rules. Teams for the Fall Ball season will be determined and sponsored at the Board's discretion.

Policy #3 Fees

Each year the Board will determine the registration fee which will cover the league fee, umpires, fields, first aid kits, two weekend tournaments, softballs and equipment, league and State tournaments (if team qualifies), and miscellaneous expenses incurred by coaching staff and Board (i.e. copying, postage, etc.) Uniforms are a separate fee due at registration.

After tryouts are done and teams are selected, all fees become NON-REFUNDABLE except under extraordinary circumstances (i.e. injury, illness, etc.). A final decision will be made by the MFPA if a refund will be given.

Policy #4 Registrations

Registrations will be conducted through registration dates determined by MFPA. Specific dates and times will be announced through postings and/or announcements in school, on the MFPA website and email.

Players may register until set deadline. Players will be accepted after this date only on a space availability basis (first come first serve) and may incur a late registration fee. This fee is determined by the MFPA.

Policy #5 Tournaments

Coaches are encouraged by the Association to enter their teams in at least two local tournaments throughout the season (in addition to Tri-County and State tournaments). These four tournaments are paid for by MFPA. Any additional tournaments would be at the expense of coaches/players.

Policy #6 Coach Selection

The selection process of the head coach for each team is the responsibility of the Board. All interested volunteers will fill out an application which will be reviewed by the Board members. If multiple people want to be the head coach, the Board will determine this through interviews, if they deem this process necessary. Head Coaches will determine their assistant coaches, with Board approval. All coaches are required to go through a mandatory back-ground check and a Coach's certification (renewed every two years). Head Coaches are also required to attend try-outs, when try-outs are necessary.

If no coach is available, the Board will appoint/recruit as necessary. If no coach is identified, the Board may disband the team or hire a coach.

Policy #7 Conflict Resolution

Differences of opinion between coaches, parents and players, are to be addressed between the coaches, parent/players on a non-game day. If not resolved, the parent/player/coach should contact an Executive Board member via an "Issue Report" (located on website). The Board will reply back to all parties involved to resolve the issue(s). Failure of the Coach and/or parent to meet and discuss the issue, or failure of coaches and/or parents to follow the direction

provided, may result in immediate dismissal of the coach or the banning of a parent from practices/games.

Policy #8 Playing Time

Coaches are required to communicate to the parents and players prior to the season their policy on playing time. U10 and U12 teams are encouraged to use “fair play.” Equal playing time is not guaranteed 100% of the time but every attempt will be made to give each player at least 50% playing time. U14 and above coaches may use merit based playing time. Coaches are urged to follow the “Coach Guidelines” set by MFPA.

Policy #9 Team Selections

Teams optimally will consist of 12 players, unless the MFPA approves additional players. In the event there are more players than teams, tryouts will be used to determine who will play (see below).

Players on U8 teams may be divided equally with a focus on development of the game and skill level of each player. However, consideration will be given annually by the MFPA based upon the skill level of the players.

Players on U10 through U18 teams will be divided into multiple teams based on skill level if more than one team is needed:

- 1) “A” Team – more competitive (usually Tier I in Tri-County League)
- 2) “B” Team – use less competitive (usually Tier II of Tier III in Tri- County League)

At no time can a player move down to play in a lower level than her age. However, one or more players can and may move up one level, depending on the need of the team and at the discretion of the MFPA Board.

If players wish to play up one level, player preference would be given to the player in the 2nd year of eligibility, however the board reserves the right to play any player up one level.

After evaluations, the Coaches will be selected (see Policy #6).

TEAMS WILL BE SELECTED AS FOLLOWS:

(Team Selections – cont.)

- 1) Strong consideration will be given to the top eight (8) scores and the top two (2) pitchers and the top two (2) catchers. The MFPA will also consider the following:
 - a) Playing experience,
 - b) Coach's evaluations from previous year,
 - c) Commitment and DESIRE to play,
 - d) Needs at skill positions, and
 - e) Positive attitude of player
- 2) After the selection of the "A" team, the "B" team will be selected with the remaining players if the numbers support the formation of a second team.
- 3) If a player is not placed on a team, a full refund will be given. If a player is placed on a team and she decides NOT to continue, NO REFUNDS will be given, unless approved and authorized by MFPA.

The team selection meeting will be restricted to MFPA Board members due to the privacy issues with player identification.

Policy #10 Tryouts

All players will be given prior announcement of the date and location if tryouts become necessary. Players will be evaluated at MANDATORY evaluation sessions in prior to roster selection. Players will be evaluated on the following by independent persons not related to any player:

- 1) Hitting/Bunting
- 2) Fielding
- 3) Throwing
- 4) Base running
- 5) Sliding
- 6) Previous year's evaluation (if applicable)

Ratings will be based upon techniques and execution.

A player who has registered for evaluations and cannot participate due to an injury or illness must notify a Board member of MFPA of their condition. A player can be considered as a coach's pick based on history in the travel program or being evaluated prior to the selection of final rosters. An injured player must provide a doctor's release in order to participate.

Policy #11 Eligibility

If a player does not meet these requirements, they may register and will be put on waiting list.
At the Boards discretion and need of a team, these players will be placed.