

# **Mahtomedi Fastpitch Softball Association (MFPA) Policies**

Updated January, 2007

**Mission:** *To provide players of ages 8-18 (U10 through U18) the opportunity to play competitive summer fast pitch softball in an environment where all players will be developing their skills, learning good sportsmanship and team work. This also allows the players to develop their skills and abilities for fast pitch softball for high school and beyond.*

## **Policy #1 Purpose of Policies**

These policies will direct the activities of the Mahtomedi Fast Pitch 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 MFPA Board will determine which league the players will participate in. MFPA will follow the league's by-laws in addition to MSF/ASA rules.

## **Policy #3 Fees**

Each year the MFPA Board will determine the registration fee which covers the league fee, umpires, fields, first aid kits, two weekend tournaments, softballs and equipment, league and state tournaments (if a team qualifies), paid coaches, and miscellaneous expenses incurred by coaching staff and Board members (e.g. copying, postage, etc.).

After tryouts are complete and teams are selected, all fees become NON-REFUNDABLE except under extraordinary circumstances (e.g. injury, illness, etc.). Final decisions on refunds are made by the MFPA.

Scholarships are available to cover up to 50% of the registration cost for extraordinary circumstances and financial hardship. A written request must be submitted to the MFPA at time of registration. Scholarship applications require approval by the MFPA Board.

## **Policy #4 Registrations**

Specific registration dates and times will be announced by the MFPA through postings and/or announcements in school and on the website ([www.mahtomedi.com/fastpitch](http://www.mahtomedi.com/fastpitch)). Players may register via mail or in person 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.

If a player wishes to be considered to play up one level, the player must indicate desire on the Registration Form (see Policy #9 for selection criteria).

## **Policy #5 Tournaments**

Coaches are encouraged by the MFPA 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 the MFPA. Any additional tournaments would be at the expense of that team.

## **Policy #6 Coach Selection**

The head coach is selected by the MFPA. If there are multiple head coaching candidates, the MFPA Board will select the most qualified candidate. Head coaches select their assistant coaches. The head coach is required to go through a mandatory back-ground check and a Coach's Certification (renewed every two years).

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

## **Policy #7 Conflict Resolution**

Differences of opinion between coaches and parents/players are to be addressed between the coach and parent/player on a non-game day and should wait to address concerns in a private setting where other players and parents are not present. If not resolved, the parent/player/coach should contact the Coach Coordinator on the MFPA Board via an "Issue Report" (located on website). The Coach Coordinator/Board will reply back to all parties to resolve the issue(s). Failure of the coach to meet and discuss the issue, or failure of the coach to follow the direction provided, may result in immediate dismissal of coach.

## **Policy #8 Playing Time**

Coaches are required to communicate to the players and parents prior to the season their policy on playing time. Equal playing time is not guaranteed but every attempt will be made to give each player at least 50% playing time over the entire season. Coaches are strongly encouraged to follow the "Coach Guidelines" set by MFPA. The Coach Guidelines are posted on the website ([www.mahtomedi.com/fastpitch](http://www.mahtomedi.com/fastpitch)).

## **Policy #9 Team Selections**

Teams shall consist of a maximum 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 U10 teams will be divided equally with a focus on development of the game and skill level of each player.

Players on U12 teams will be divided equally with a focus on development of the game and skill level of each player. However, consideration to split U12 teams competitively ("A" and "B" team as discussed below) will be given on an as needed basis by the MFPA based upon the skill level of the age group.

Players on U14, U16 and U18 teams will be divided into the following if more than one team is needed:

- 1) "A" Team - more competitive (usually Tier I in Tri-County League)
- 2) "B" Team - less competitive (usually Tier II or Tier III in Tri-County League)

At no time can a player move down to play in a lower level than her age. If players wish to play up one level, the player MUST be in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of eligibility and must evaluate in the top 8 players in the upper age level. However, one or more players can and may move up one level depending upon their age level, the needs of the teams, and at the discretion of the MFPA board.

TEAMS WILL BE SELECTED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) Strong consideration will be given to the top eight (8) scores and the top two (2) pitchers and the top catcher. MFPA will also consider the following:
  - A) Playing experience
  - B) Player evaluations from previous year

## **Policy #9 Team Selections (continued)**

- C) Commitment and DESIRE to play
  - D) Needs at skill positions
  - E) Positive attitude of player
- 2) After the selection of the “A” team, the “B” team will be selected with the remaining players if there are enough players to support the formation of a second team.
- 3) If a player is not placed on a team, a full refund will be given. If she is placed on a team and decides NOT to continue, NO refunds will be given, unless under extraordinary circumstances as defined in policy #3 above.

## **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 either in February or March. Players may be evaluated on the following criteria by independent evaluators:

- 1) hitting/bunting
- 2) fielding
- 3) throwing
- 4) base running

Ratings will be based upon technique, form, and execution.

A player who has registered for evaluations and cannot participate due to an injury or illness must notify the MFPA President of their condition. A player can be considered as a coach’s pick based on history in the travel program or being able to be evaluated prior to the selection of final rosters.

## **Policy #11 Eligibility**

The Association is open to players who are residents living and/or attend school in the Mahtomedi area (District #832), including the cities of Mahtomedi, Willernie, Hugo, Grant, Pine Springs, and parts of White Bear Lake, Stillwater, and Lake Elmo.

At the U18 level there are “OPEN” teams which are defined as teams that can recruit players from outside the community without having to have a waiver signed by the Association. All other players are required to have a waiver signed by the MFPA if she wishes to play outside of the MFPA community.