

# **Marshall Area Fastpitch Softball Association**

## **2024 Code of Conduct**

### **Mission**

The Marshall Area Fastpitch Softball Association is committed to providing the skills necessary to be a successful athlete, teammate, student, and community member. We strive to provide all players with a safe and competitive environment that fosters positive self-esteem and individual growth through personal achievement and team play.

### **Team Objective**

Create and maintain an environment that enables coaches and players to compete on and off the softball field with emphasis on community, teamwork, discipline, ethics, leadership, sportsmanship, and positive communication.

### **Team Goals**

Goal 1: Our goal is to give our players the opportunity to grow athletically, socially and emotionally.

Goal 2: Our goal is to teach character, leadership, personal responsibility, and personal accountability.

Goal 3: Our goal is to reinforce the values of community through actions, which support younger player development and encourage a continuous commitment to sportsmanship.

Goal 4: Our goal is to support our players in exceeding their personal expectations and in developing self-confidence through accomplishment.

Goal 5: Our goal is to emphasize the value of hard work, self-discipline, loyalty, teamwork and sportsmanship, as well as having fun while participating in MAFSA.

### **Player Expectations**

- To set a positive example at all times – show respect, and display good sportsmanship.
- To put the team first at all times. Competitive softball requires self-discipline related to attendance, practices, games and team functions.
- To maintain a positive attitude at all team functions and be respectful to teammates at all times. Failure to be respectful to teammates will result in immediate removal from practice/game situations. This is non-negotiable for players, respect for teammates & coaches is a basic requirement of the program.  
**This includes social media.**
- Hustle & show pride in the program.
- Players not playing should stay in the dugout supporting the team.
- Non-players should not be in the dugout, players should not be outside of the dugout during games.
- To come prepared for all practices and games with all necessary equipment.
  - o Be on time to practices, games, and tournaments. **IF** late, the entire team will have consequences.
- To work hard, be open to change and learn new skills, and perform at the best of her ability.
- To have respect for the coaches, umpires, and opponents.
- Participate in fund-raising & community events
- **Electronic devices will not be used while at practices or games for personal use, except in emergency situations, as they create a distraction for the players and coaches.**
- Players must contact coaches via cell phone if they are unable to make a practice or an event. Please provide at minimum 2 week notice for tournaments and 48 hours for individual games. IF coaches are not notified, there will be consequences for the individual.
  - o Note: In the event of an illness or other unplanned event, please still contact coaches so they can plan appropriately.

### **Parent/Guardian Expectations:**

- To understand, accept, and support the team goals.
- To understand the level of commitment that is necessary from themselves, their athlete, and the coaches to make this team successful. Being on this team will require a large time and financial commitment.
- Ensure their athlete attends practices, tournaments, and team functions.
- To remain **OUT** of the dugout **UNLESS** an injury occurs.
- To respect umpires' decisions. The responsibility of an umpire is to call Softball games fairly and within their knowledge of the sport. They have the power and support of MAFSA to stop interference in the game(s).
  - o First: a warning will be given.
  - o Second Offense: parent/guardian will be banned from the next home game
  - o Third Offense: parent/guardian will be banned for the remainder of the season
- To respect coaches' decisions. Challenging the authority of a coach will not be tolerated.
  - o ***Any issue regarding playing time should first be discussed between player and coach.***
  - o ***Failure to comply with the above may result in suspension of games or removal of the player from the team.***
- To refrain from criticizing and/or second-guessing coaches' decisions. Negative comments can be destructive and can lead to conflict among parents and/or spectators. If you have specific criticisms or concerns, you should handle them according to the procedures defined in the next bullet.
- If a parent feels a coach has violated a guideline listed below or has any other concern regarding his or her athlete's involvement with this team, he or she should adhere to the following procedures:
  - o **Step #1 – Follow 24-Hour Rule:** Coaches cannot be contacted within 24 hours prior to or after a game and/or tournament.
    - **CONTACT THE HEAD COACH FIRST**
      - Inputs related to player playing time, performance, and coaching decisions will not be recognized by coaches unless a discussion has happened between the player and coach FIRST.
      - Inputs related to player playing time, performance, coaching decisions will not be recognized by the MAFSA board unless a discussion has taken place with the head coach per the process above.
  - o **Step #2 -** Speak directly to the Head Coach, in a civil and respectable manner away from any organized team activity (ex: practice or game) via phone or face-to-face conversation.
    - Coaches prefer face-to-face conversation.

- Player will be present during this conversation.
- After speaking with the head coach and you still feel the issue isn't resolved, you should then forward your concerns onto the MAFSA board. Contacts for the MAFSA board are available at <https://www.marshallareafastpitch.com/board>
- To refrain from using Social Media as a way to express your issues/concerns.
  - o If coaches or the MAFSA board find that a parent has used Social Media in a negative way, appropriate actions will be taken. Each situation is different, so action will be based case by case.
- Volunteer Expectations:
  - Concessions, home tournament, score board, helping fundraise

**Note:** Failure to comply with the above may result in removal of the player from the team. Refunds will not be offered in these circumstances.

### Coaches Expectations:

- Coaches will be positive role models.
- Coaches will display and instill in their players the principles of good sportsmanship and team play.
- Coaches will conduct themselves in a manner that best serves the interests of the players.
- Coaches will do their best to provide the players a positive experience.
- Coaches will ensure that winning and/or losing teams do so in a manner which exhibits respect and good sportsmanship.
- Coaches treat all players, parents, spectators, umpires, and board members with respect.
- Coaches will provide instruction in a manner that is constructive and supportive.
- Coaches will not tolerate behavior that endangers the health or well-being of any athlete.
- Coaches will teach the game of softball to the best of their ability.
- Coaches will not be any part of the use of profanity, obscene language or improper actions including negative social media use.
- Coaches will hold between 2-4 practices per week once their season starts.
- Coaches will be at every practice, game, and tournament unless he/she is ill or there is a family emergency.
  - o MAFSA Board must approve other absences.
  - o MAFSA Board must approve a substitute coach.
- Coaches will be on time to practices, games, and tournaments.
  - o *In case of inclement weather, players and parents need to be notified as soon as possible before start time of practice and/or game.*
- Coaches are prohibited from drug and alcohol use during and/or in between games each day. Alcoholic beverages may be consumed by those **OF AGE** once all games for that day are complete. Coaches may not consume drugs or alcohol in the presence of players from any team.
- Coaches' Dress Code: In order to ensure a professional and inclusive atmosphere at all games and tournaments, coaches should adhere to the following dress code guidelines:
  - o Coaches are expected to wear a MAFSA T-shirt and shorts or pants that are appropriate in length, keeping in mind the need for comfort and mobility during coaching activities. We respect and acknowledge that individuals may have different preferences for attire, and we encourage coaches to choose clothing that aligns with their personal style while ensuring it meets basic standards of appropriateness for a sports environment. Footwear is an essential aspect of coaching attire, and coaches are requested to wear tennis shoes that are suitable for the coaching role.

Coaches will comply with the decisions of board members and observe all rules, policies, and procedures as established or endorsed by MAFSA.

## **MAFSA DRUG, ALCOHOL, and TOBACCO POLICY**

Abuse of drugs and alcohol is a nationwide problem that affects persons of every age, race, gender and ethnic group. It poses risks to the health and safety of both the individual and the community. The Marshall Area Fastpitch Softball Association is committed to taking steps to reduce these risks.

To do so, MAFSA has adopted this policy that establishes standards that all team members must meet, and sets out consequences for those who violate this policy.

No team member shall report for any team related activity (practices, games, other sponsored functions) if they have used alcohol or any controlled substance, except when a physician has prescribed medication for a valid medical condition and the team member is taking it as prescribed.

Team members who are seen by a member of the coaching staff or another adult in a position of authority, using or possessing drugs or alcohol, or in possession of drug paraphernalia (as defined in prevailing state law), during a team event will be subject to the discipline outlined below.

In instances where another person, such as another team member, family member, or fan, reports a violation of this policy, the violation will be investigated on a case by case basis. If the person reporting the violation is willing to provide a written statement and/or testify in court (if needed), the report may be treated the same as if the violation was observed by a member of the coaching staff or an adult in a position of authority.

Alcohol: Possession or use of alcohol is a violation of state law for persons under 21 years of age. While alcohol is a legal substance for persons over age 21, alcohol abuse is a serious health problem and violations will be treated seriously. Therefore, possession or use of alcohol by a team member will result in State High School Federation Rules being applied.

### **Discipline:**

**First Violation** – Upon notification by the Board, the player/coach shall lose eligibility for the next two consecutive games or two weeks of a sport season in which the player/coach is participating, whichever is greater. No exception is permitted.

**Second Violation** – The player/coach shall lose eligibility in MAFSA for that sport season. No exception is permitted.

**Accumulative Penalties** – Penalties shall be accumulative beginning with and continuing throughout the player's/coach's participation in any and all MAFSA activities.

**\*\*If a player has served time in a school sanctioned sport the penalty will not be enforced again in the summer, but it will be counted as a violation.**

**I, the parent/guardian, acknowledge that I have seen and read the 2024 MAFSA Code of Conduct, including the MAFSA Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy. I hereby consent to abide by the expectations outlined in the Code of Conduct.**

**I, the parent/guardian, hereby give my consent for my daughter named on this form to participate in the Marshall Area Fastpitch Softball Association (MAFSA) Summer Softball program for the 2024 season. I know that participation in softball and related activities may result in serious injuries and that such injuries may occur even when protective equipment is used and I hereby waive, release, and agree to indemnify and hold harmless MAFSA, the organizers, sponsors, supervisors, participants, and agents of MAFSA for any claim arising out of an injury to my child whether the result of negligence or for any other cause. I, the parent/guardian, hereby give permission for the child named on this form to be admitted into a hospital, treated by a physician, and receive emergency medical care for any injury incurred while playing, being transported to or from, or as a spectator at any activity with MAFSA.**

**I, the parent/guardian, give my consent to use my daughter's name, photo or other reference in public documents.**

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**I, the player, acknowledge that I have seen and read the 2024 MAFSA Code of Conduct. I hereby consent to abide by the expectations outlined in the Code of Conduct.**

Player Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Marshall Area Fastpitch Softball Association is committed to providing a safe environment for players without prejudice.