



PLAYER AND PARENT EXPECTATIONS

Participation in the Mad River Girls Fastpitch Softball Association is a privilege that should elicit great pride in both you as a player and your family. It is also a responsibility that requires commitment once you decide to wear the Mad River ASA Jersey. Not only do you represent yourself and your family but also your teammates, your coaches, and your community. Standards of behavior in our organization are high, and a willingness to live up to them is part of being a member of our program. For this reason, each athletic team member is asked to sit down and read this contract with their parent and together decide if this is a commitment both player and parent will be able to make. Each player and parent are required to sign this statement of personal commitment indicating that you as a player, assisted by a parent, recognize and understand your collective responsibility and willingness to adhere to the basic concepts of good citizenship, proper training regulations, and to serve as a positive role model for the Mad River organization.

- Players are expected to attend every practice and/or team function, on time, and with all necessary equipment needed at the designated location.
- Players are expected to remain with the team while practices and games are in session and have an obligation to attend team meetings afterwards, put away all equipment, pick up trash, clean out dugouts, and properly maintain their field before the team is dismissed.
- Players who excessively miss practice, are tardy, or continually leave early may lose game play time as it is not fair to those who have made the full commitment to the team. Exceptions will be made for school-related activities, illness, and family emergencies. Coaching staff discretion will be used for any other absence. Besides loss of game play, other penalties may include but not be limited to: being assigned clean up duties, running laps or sprints, being sent home, not starting or sitting out a game. It is expected that penalties assigned by the coaches will be fair and equitable to suit the situation.
- If a missed practice or late arrival is inevitable, it is expected that you will have the common courtesy of notifying coaches in advance. Asking a fellow teammate to notify a coach for you is not a proper or reliable notification.
- Players are expected to report any problems, complaints, or requests directly to the head coach.
- Each player will be provided a uniform, which includes one game jersey and one pair of shorts and/or pants. All players will take excellent care of their uniforms and will not lose or damage them. If lose or damage occur, players will be responsible for paying the replacement costs for the uniform. All uniforms will be returned at the end of each season. Any player that does not return their uniform will be charged a replacement fee as dictated in the *League's Uniform Policy* posted on the Association's website. As accessories to the uniforms, sliding shorts, knee pads, and long-sleeve *Under Armour* style shirts are highly encouraged. No player will be allowed to play in a game until they are properly equipped and in full uniform.
- It is expected that cell phones are to be turned off and put away during the duration of practices and games and are to be used only for emergencies or after the team has been dismissed. Cell phone use in the dug outs is against ASA softball regulations.
- Players are expected to provide coaches with their undivided attention and respect during practices and contests. Inappropriate behaviors during instruction time will not be tolerated.

- We respectfully invite parents, family, and friends to observe Mad River Softball contests but not interact or interfere with activity occurring in the dugout unless it is an emergency. We feel the field and dugout is our classroom so any parent, relative, or friend who may be distracting may be asked to leave the area. Friends of any nature are discouraged at practice unless otherwise given permission by the coach.
- Foul language, rude and un-sportsmanlike behavior directed at teammates, opponents, coaches, and/or umpires will not be tolerated by either player, parent, and/or spectator. Parents and spectators are expected to be quality role models and exhibit good sportsmanship in the stands even if there is disagreement with the occurrences on the field. We politely ask you to represent the Mad River Girls Fastpitch Association, your team, your parents, and your community in a positive, friendly, and sportsmanlike manner.
- Playing time is strictly decided by the coaching staff of the team and is based on league rules and performance. At the “C” recreational level of play, all players will have an opportunity to play each game, however, at the “Gold,” “A,” or “B” travel levels, the best 9 or 10 players will be put on the field and substitutions made as the coaching staff sees fit. Every practice before a game, the coaches will select the starting line-up based on skills, level of play, commitment, and hard work, however, if a more skilled player is not pulling her weight at practice, she will risk being replaced by another player.
- It is expected that players who are unhappy about playing time will talk to the head coach first! Advocating for oneself is a fundamental principle we firmly believe. If the situation is not rectified after the player/coach contact, then a parent may approach the coach. If a parent or player feels a conference is necessary with one or more of the coaches, conferences can be scheduled for a time and date after the practices or games have been completed. No conferences will take place on the date of a game. If the situation still cannot be resolved then a Mad River Association representative may step in.
- It is also understood by player and parent alike that we believe as an organization that softball is supposed to engage ALL kids in ALL aspects of play...to get them to do things that they thought they would never be able to do – to ignite a desire in them to play, play hard, listen to instruction, love the game, and most importantly, have fun. We feel that in too many organizations, too much emphasis is placed on the winning and the losing rather than the experience itself. Instead of measuring organizational success by the number of wins and the number of loses, we challenge you at the end of the day to ask two questions:
 1. Were you (or your team) better than when you started?
 2. And did you have fun doing it!?!

If both answers are yes, then we feel it has been a successful day!

These are the terms and conditions as outlined in our *Player and Parent Expectations* contract associated with Mad River Girls Fastpitch Softball Association. After conferencing, reviewing, and accepting these guidelines and expectations as a player/parent combo, we invite you to sign the attached document, remove it, and return to your team coach or Mad River Association Board Member. All *Player and Parent Expectations* must be signed by the player and a parent and returned to the Mad River Association prior to the team’s first contest otherwise that player will not be eligible to play

Thank you!

(tear off and return to a Mad River Girls Fastpitch Softball Representative)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

I, _____, agree to all terms and conditions of this
(player's name printed)
contract and will abide by all the guidelines and expectations that have been established within
this document.

Signed, _____
(player's signature)

Date, _____



I, _____, the parent or guardian of the above
(parent/guardian's name printed)
named player, agree to all terms and conditions of this contract and will assist my child in
abiding by all the rules and expectations that have been established within this document.

Signed, _____
(parent/guardian's signature)

Date, _____



We, Mad River Girls Fastpitch Softball Association Board Members, the directors of
the organization, agree to also abide by the terms and conditions of this contract and will
communicate and assist you, your child, and your child's coach to the best of our ability while
being involved within our program.

Signed, _____, (on behalf of the Board of the Directors)

Date, _____