

2026

Marshall Area Youth Baseball

Handbook



Welcome

Welcome the Marshall Area Youth Baseball Handbook. The MAYBA handbook is used to help familiarize parents and players with Marshall Area Youth Baseball program. The handbook is used to help answer frequently asked questions pertaining to the in house and traveling baseball teams. MAYBA keeps itself up to date online at: www.marshallbaseball.net

Mission Statement

“The Marshall Area Youth Baseball Association is dedicated to provide the skills necessary to be successful students and productive community members. MAYBA values participation and competition that build self-esteem through determination, focus, commitment, teamwork, honesty, loyalty and sportsmanship. It is MAYBA’s mission to develop life skills while building a tradition of respect for their program.”

MAYBA Goals

1. Develop baseball skills
2. Instill character
3. Develop teamwork
4. Establish and maintain a work ethic
5. Develop continuity in teaching from lowest levels in system to highest
6. Have a competitive high school, VFW and legion baseball team EVERY year
7. Have fun

MAYBA Philosophy

1. **TEACH SOUND FUNDAMENTALS** – We believe that we are teachers first and coaches second. From our perspective the purpose of youth sports is to HAVE FUN and develops players. Winning is not an overriding concern with us at our lower levels. At the older ages, winning takes on a more prominent role. We ultimately judge success, equally, from the combined perspective of winning, skill improvement, character development, sportsmanship and teamwork.

All players should be given a chance to succeed. We also believe that not all players can succeed at all positions during their course of development; our coaches have a goal of helping players experience success. The players that work the hardest, put the most time in, and have the best attitude often earn the opportunities in front of those that do not do those things. Our philosophy on playing time varies with the age groups (see American and National League, Tournament, & VFW section near the back of this handbook).

We want to provide every player with kinesthetically sound skills that will enable him to compete successfully. We break each skill into smaller

components and teach it in short, repetitive sessions, constantly building upon each subcomponent until the entire skill is taught. This is known as the part/whole method.

2. **MIND POWER** – A critical and frequently overlooked part of preparing athletes for competition is mental preparation. It has often been said that baseball is 90% mental. We work to develop visualization and focusing techniques and on helping players develop mental images and mindsets prior to task performance.
3. **FAMILY ATTITUDE** – We attempt to make every player feel he is a part of something bigger than himself. We want our players to know that someone will always be there when needed. This family attitude is developed by practicing with your teammates on a daily basis, by sweating, working, traveling and having fun together as a team.
4. **ORGANIZATION** – The key to bringing all these vital elements together in the limited time available is organization. There is no substitute for organization. An integrated practice plan is essential to ensure all the basics are covered before the players participate in games. Communication lines with parents and the community are essential to the success of our program.
5. **POSITIVE ATTITUDE** – It is important that players enter a game expecting to win rather than hoping not to lose. A key element in everything we do is positive reinforcement. Players need this every day. All constructive criticism is designed to make our players better; we use positive feedback when possible to accomplish this. We spend considerable time teaching players how to develop mental images prior to performing any skill and to focus on what they do rather than what they hope will not happen.
6. **DEVELOPMENTS OF “LIFETIME SKILLS” – These skills include** such things as an appreciation for the values, benefits and responsibilities of being part of a team. The following are life skills we focus on:
 - need for teamwork
 - strong emphasis on good sportsmanship
 - requirement for commitment (individual and team)
 - necessity and rewards of hard work
 - how to handle adversity and success
 - mental training for maximum performance are the skills that will benefit the athlete in any endeavor he/she chooses in life.
7. **PRACTICE PRESSURE** – Everything we do in practice is aimed at preparing our players for games. We make practices more difficult than games when possible to let the player game confidence that there isn't anything they have

not seen going into a game. “Practice Pressure” produces game confidence and pressure-free execution.

8. **COMMUNICATION** – This is the most essential element of a successful program. Philosophy, goals and requirements must be clearly articulated and adhered to. It must include the entire team – players, parents, coaches, supporters, the administration, and the press. We believe that openness and a willingness to listen are the strongest tools to build support of MAYBA.
9. **MOTIVATION** – Perhaps the most important consideration for a coach is motivation. Great coaches provide their players with incentives to grow. We encourage players to go beyond themselves to experiment and take risks. This is the most demanding responsibility for a coach. Every player reacts to different stimuli and has different motivations for playing the game. The successful coach must know what motivates every player and provide that motivation in abundance. There is no “one” motivational technique that works every time with every player. It must be player specific. The coach must be able to excite every player to want to work hard. Hard work will produce commitment and commitment will produce success. Success builds greater motivation and it soon becomes an ever-expanding process resulting in victory.
10. **GOALS** – Goals are essential in any competitive event. They are the yardsticks for measuring levels of success. Goals allow the players to focus their efforts. Without goals, hard work is usually wasted on non-productive ventures. Goals are like the targets for great marksmen. With them, the greatness of a marksman is easily determined. Without them, his abilities may never be fully realized. Every player should be actively involved in establishing individual and team goals. Once established, they must be internalized as the ever-present motivation for hard work.

Parental Expectations

1. Parental involvement. Night coaches, traveling team coaches, concession stand workers, tournament directors, parent reps and fans. Come out and support your kids!
2. Let coaches know if you will be on vacation or if your child has a camp, etc.
3. Make sure player is on time for games and practices.
4. Pick up child promptly after every event for safety purposes.
5. **In-House Baseball**-Bring all problems or concerns to MAYBA staff immediately. No grumbling in stands or talking behind backs.
6. **Traveling Baseball**-Bring all problems or concerns to your team’s parent rep. Parent reps will determine an appropriate course of action based on the situation. Parent reps may utilize the teams coach, MAYBA Senior Director or MAYBA Board of Directors to determine a resolution if needed.

7. Pre-game meals; high in carbohydrates. Avoid sweets and sugar-based products before and during games.
8. No sideline coaching during games. Stay away from dugouts during games. Let the coaches' coach and the kids PLAY!
9. Take care of hydration needs for the players prior to the game.
10. Always be positive. Praise efforts-not results.
11. Be positive role models for the kids.
12. Take it easy on the ump's; they do the best they can. This is especially important during in-house games. MHS Baseball players ump our in-house games. Criticism directed at in-house ump is not acceptable.
13. Learn and understand MAYBA goals.
14. Support the organization.
15. Support the coaches and players.
16. Parents are responsible for sharing MAYBA Parental Expectations with extended family members/friends that may be watching/supporting at either an in-house game or traveling baseball game.

Working Hours: Parents of 8 and 9 year olds will be expected to work the concession stand at Independence Park during in-house league game nights. Our Concessions Committee will assign shifts prior to the season. Please look for the schedule to be posted on the website. All parents are expected to work their scheduled hours or find a replacement to cover their scheduled time.

Parents of 10-13 year old **non-traveling** players are expected to work during the MSF 13AA State Tournament hosted by MAYBA **July 17th-19th or July 24-26th**.

Parents of 10-14 year old **traveling** players are expected to work during their respective home tournament (Parents of 13 year old traveling players will work **both** the home tournament and state tournament). The only exception to this would be if a team won a state tournament the prior year and couldn't participate in a home tournament, those parents would have 1 less tournament to work.

These working hours are a requirement of being involved in the MAYBA program. We typically try to keep the requirement to 5 hours maximum per player per season. For traveling players, the requirement may exceed 5 hours based on tournament size, location, weather issues, etc.

If you fail to work your required scheduled hours, you will be billed \$50 by MAYBA (flat fee based on assumed 5 hour commitment x \$10). You may choose to BUY your way out of working for \$50...this should be done prior to the season.

We appreciate and thank you for all of your efforts in making our program a successful one. If you have any questions about working contact our President, Nathan Deutz.

Coach Expectations

1. The game is for your players, not for your personal gratification or position.
2. Create a mental attitude that requires maximum effort at all times.
3. Be positive in your approach and eliminate fear of failure
4. Control your temper and encourage rather than berate.
5. Never sacrifice the dignity of a player in the face of defeat.
6. Sportsmanship must take precedence in victory or defeat.
7. Set a positive example when interacting with umpires. During in-house games MHS Baseball players serve as umpires. Criticism directed at an in-house ump is not acceptable.
8. The team must have pride in itself and respect for their opportunity to participate and for their coaches and teammates.
9. Accept only mistakes made through maximum effort. Do not accept errors caused by lack of effort.
10. Create an understanding that players achieve success through mental and physical preparation.
11. Make a concentrated effort to be a positive influence on a player in the game of baseball and in the game of life.

Player Expectations

1. Hustle at all times
2. Hard work
3. Be at all practices on time
4. Be coachable
5. Be a team player
6. Good sportsmanship (shake hands with other team after games, never make excuses for losses-only losers make excuses, never harass other players about beating them when you see them in school or elsewhere, accept the umpires and coaches decisions and get em next time)
7. On field procedures – no throwing or hitting until told to do so, meet on bleachers at the beginning of your practice to take attendance, listen when the coaches are talking.
8. Follow direction of coaches
9. Pants need to be worn for all practices and games

10. Shirt and jerseys need to be tucked in during games
11. Be at games 20-30 minutes before they start
12. Let coaches know ahead of time if you won't be at a game or practice
13. Listen to the Radio if the weather is questionable
14. Stay in dugouts during the games, no eating hot dogs, etc. during games, wait until after the game or between games

In-house Baseball

Philosophy: to provide kids in the Marshall area an opportunity to play baseball. To emphasize the skill development involved in learning the game of baseball.

Practice is mandatory. If the player will miss practice they need to notify the In-house director.

College League (8-9 yr. olds as May 1st or future 3rd/4th grade students):

8's-Practice 9:00-10:00 Mondays and Wednesdays. Games Tuesdays and Thursday nights.

9's- Practice 10:00-11:00 Mondays and Wednesdays. Games Tuesdays and Thursday nights.

This league is coach pitch—there no player pitch.

American League (10-11 yr. olds as of May 1st or future 5th or 6th grades): **Player pitch begins at this league.**

10's Practice 9:00-10:30 Tuesdays and Thursdays. Games Monday and Wednesday nights.

11's Practice 10:30-12:00 Tuesdays and Thursdays. Games Monday and Wednesday nights.

National League (12-13 yr. olds as of May 1st or future 7th or 8th graders): practices on Mondays and Wednesdays and plays Tuesday and/or Thursday nights.

12's and 13's: Practice 11:00-12:30 Mondays and Wednesdays. Games and Tuesdays and Thursday nights.

MAYBA in-house practices will begin early June. The in-house tournaments will begin the last week of July. We do our best to stay away from having inhouse baseball go into August. Please always check the website for more specific details. In house teams will be selected and posted on the website by May 15th.

Traveling Baseball

Philosophy: to provide kids with permanent residency in Marshall or is a member of ISD 413 an opportunity to play baseball. To emphasize the skill development involved in learning the game of baseball. Winning is not the sole purpose of traveling baseball teams.

Teams will be selected during the evaluation process. Please check the website for more details.

For traveling teams in ages 10-13 a player cannot “play up” (i.e. play on a team older than their age level) except for the following reasons: he/she is in the same school grade as the older age level and wants to play with others in the same grade, or to fill a vacancy due to lack of participants. The Board of Directors will review each situation where an individual wants to “play up” at the next age level.

Age	Deadline	Teams Split	Rulings
10 U	1.) Born on or after May 1, 2015 OR 2.) Player is in 4th Grade and born after May 1, 2014	Equally	MSF
11 U	1.) Born on or after May 1, 2014 OR 2.) Player is in 5th Grade and born after May 1, 2013	Equally	MSF
12 U	1.) Born on or after May 1, 2013 OR 2.) Player is in 6th Grade and born after May 1, 2012	A/B	MSF
13 U	1.) Born on or after May 1, 2012 OR 2.) Player is in 7th Grade and born after May 1, 2011	A/B	MSF
14 U	1.) Born on or after May 1, 2011 OR 2.) Player is in 8th Grade and born after May 1, 2010	A/B	SW League/MSF
15 U	1.) Born on or after May 1, 2010 OR 2.) Player is in 9th Grade and born after May 1, 2009	Orange	MSF
Junior Legion (17 U)	Born on or after January 1 st , 2009	Black	Junior Legion Black
Legion 19 U	Born on or After January 1 st 2007	Mudcats	American Legion Baseball

- The number of teams per age group will depend on the number of participants who try out. The goal is to have around 12 players per team.
- It is NOT mandatory that you travel. Many players over the years have enjoyed playing in just the night league.
- You must participate in “in-house” baseball to travel.
- Team Selection: The Senior Director and MAYBA staff members will select the teams using the following criteria:
 - In regard to 10 year old and 11 year old traveling teams, if there is enough participants for two traveling teams, traveling teams shall be split equally.
 - For 12 year old and 13 year old traveling teams, teams shall be split based on skill level with the division at the discretion of the Senior Director and MAYBA staff.
 - If an age group only has enough participants for one team, the team shall be chosen based upon talent by evaluation and shall have a maximum of 13 players on a team.
- Evaluations: will be conducted in a non-bias manner to determine the appropriate teams for each age group
- Traveling practices for 13U-10U will take place on NON game league nights.
- 10U-12U The MAYBA board will schedule 6 tournaments: 4 away tournaments, one home tournament, and the state tournament. The MAYBA board asks that you let them know of any additional tournaments that you will be participating in. Cancelled tournaments will be dealt with on a situational basis. We will look to reschedule but cannot guarantee it will be made up.
- 13U & 14U The MAYBA board will schedule 7 tournaments: 2 spring tournaments, 4 summer away tournaments, 1 summer home tournament, 1 or 2 state or final tournaments (teams that are hosting a state tournament in Marshall, usually 13U will host 2 state tournaments, one for Gopher State and one for MSF). Cancelled tournaments will be dealt with on a situational basis. We will look to reschedule but cannot guarantee it will be made up.
- There will be NO Scholarships for Traveling teams.
- Evaluation dates for the traveling teams are as follows (please check the website for specific times and locations):
- TRYOUT DATES: Found on the MAYBA website when decided.

Playing Time

In 10U-13U traveling baseball every player should play a minimum of 3 innings per game (tournaments and non-tournament games), including state tournaments. MSF rules state that all players will have an opportunity to bat.

Player Removal

Once a team is selected, a coach cannot replace a team member solely because of lack of skills. A player may be released for the following specific reasons:

- Failure to attend practice/games
- Frequent, flagrant disregard of the players responsibilities.
- Continued play in such a manner as to endanger others and/or self.
- Displaying an uncaring attitude, this results in not applying oneself, thus hurting the team's competitive potential.
- Failure to work within a team environment (placing self-interest before the teams).
- Repeated un-sportsmanlike behavior.

**Coaches have the ultimate authority in suspending players for the specified reasons.

The following steps will occur in the removal process:

1. The coach shall first meet with the player in an attempt to correct the behavior at hand.
2. The coach must discuss the situation with MAYBA board (send a detailed email to a board member), and the player's parents and attempt to correct the situation. The discussion would include an objective description of the behavior and of the intended discipline.
3. If this fails to correct the situation, the coach must notify the MAYBA board, who must approve any further action. The MAYBA Board must take action within 48 hours of its occurrence. Written documentation must be given to the MAYBA Board.

Concerns about MAYBA parent coaches, traveling team coaches, VFW coaches, etc. should be brought to the MAYBA Board or Sr. Director of Operations – Chace Pollock.

Drug and Alcohol Policy

The MAYBA board mandates that all players/coaches, parents participating in a MAYBA youth sport activity (practice, scrimmage, game) should refrain from the use of alcohol and/or a controlled substance. It shall be a violation of this policy for a player/coach, while participating in a MAYBA youth activity, to use a beverage containing alcohol, or use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell, or give away any controlled substance.

Once a violation has been brought the Board's attention and a decision has been made, the player/coach will be informed of his/her ineligibility by written letter from the program president.

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 MAYBA 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 MAYBA 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.

**If a player is on the Legion Baseball Team, the Legion board/President will be in charge of handling the situation/penalty.

Tobacco Policy

MAYBA does not condone the use of tobacco by players under legal tobacco age. It shall be a violation of this policy for player participating in MAYBA to use tobacco. Once a violation has been brought to the Board's attention, the player will be informed of his ineligibility. Ineligibilities will be the same as for the drug and alcohol policy.

MAYBA mandates that coach's refrain from the use of tobacco in any form during a youth sport activity (practice, scrimmage, game). If a parent must use tobacco during a baseball activity, they must remove themselves at least 100 feet from the playing area, which includes the bench area.

MAYBA 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 Youth Baseball Association is committed to taking steps to reduce these risks.

To do so, MAYBA 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 outline 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 MAYBA 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 MAYBA 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.

Notification of MAYBA expectations and Drug and Alcohol Policy

I acknowledge that I have seen and read the 2025 Handbook, including the MAYBA drug and alcohol policy. I hereby consent to abide by the expectations outlined in the handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

The information in this manual provides you with information about MAYBA this summer. If you have questions or concerns, call us or come talk to us personally. We truly want to work with you, the parent, to make the best possible baseball program for your child. Thank you for all of your support and time you give to the program.

Yours in baseball,

MAYBA Board