

ROCHESTER MAYO SOFTBALL



2026

TEAM HANDBOOK

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Purpose of the Handbook: The purpose of the Mayo Softball Handbook is to share important beliefs, expectations, and details about the softball program. We will strive to build a family atmosphere within our program, and we hope that you, as parents, always feel a part of the softball program. We urge you to come to games, cheer the team on, volunteer to help with team activities, and stay active in the program.

My purpose statement: To help all Mayo softball players become better people, players and teammates. When we take the field our goal is to win, but the purpose through the process is for the players to be better people, players and teammates when the “game is over”.

4 Pillars of Mayo Softball

1. Compete

We expect the program and players to compete everyday, this includes practice and game days. Competition is one of basic foundation of sports.

2. Selfless

We > me. Encouraging and wanting the best for our teammates while we compete is a key component to building the culture and standard we strive for.

3. Respect

Respect everyone in the Mayo program, our opponents, the officials and the game. Win with class, lose with dignity.

4. Support

Coaches and players strive to support everyone in the Mayo softball program and the same is expected of parents and fans.

HAVE FUN. Softball is a game to be played with excitement and joy.

Coaches' Roles:

1. Bring energy and positive coaching.
2. Communication of roles, expectations, strengths, and areas to improve upon.
3. Demonstrate positive field behavior with players, officials, and opponents.
4. Focus on Mayo softball and what we can control.

Players' Roles:

1. Support all teammates, pick each other up. WE > me
2. Bring positive attitude and 100% effort, control the controllables.
3. Maintain school academic standards, including attendance. You are a student first.
4. Respect the game, your opponent, and the officials. Dugouts, locker rooms, and buses are always clean when we leave..
5. Have fun – it's a game

Parent's Roles:

1. Support your daughter, all players and the program.
2. Encourage your daughter to be supportive of all members of the team and the coaches. You can model this, and it is important as your daughter sees and hears how parents talk about the team and the program.
3. Display good sportsmanship. Positively represent the Mayo Spartan Softball Community at each game towards umpires, opponents, coaches and players. Umpires make errors just like coaches and players; it's how we move onto the next pitch that is important.

Spring Break Policy, Practice:

Practice and game time missed for vacation, including during Spring Break will be considered an unexcused absence. We start playing games the week after Spring Break, we need to be prepared to compete.

All levels: No practice March 27th

Varsity and JV: Optional practice, March 30th. Start required practices again on March 31st

C squad: No practice March 30 – March 31st. Resume practice on April 1st.

Attendance:

Excused Absences: If a player is going to be absent from practice or a game, the coach must be contacted prior to the absence. This communication should come from the player, parents can be copied on the e-mail, or text. Valid reasons for absence may include: sickness, family emergency, medical appointments (try and schedule around softball), faith event, or other school-related events.

Unexcused Absences: Work, family vacation, out-of-season sports, senior photos, haircuts, etc.

Missed Practices or Game Policy:

- a. Unexcused absence from practice – minimum player will not start next game.
- b. Unexcused absence from game – minimum player will not play next game.

* Coaches will evaluate if player is game ready to help the team be successful after unexcused absences, minimum playing time missed is noted above. A single occurrence counts as a single event, for example players miss time for vacation this would be counted as single event. After 3rd unexcused practice or game, the players' coach will call for a player and parent meeting.

Coaches understand things come up there may be times where a player needs to leave practice early (not miss a practice), especially during the first part of the season where practice schedule is fluid and changing for weather issue. But these situations should be minimal and not a common occurrence, players own this communication with the coach, and this will be reviewed case by case.

Multi-Sport athlete:

1. Multi-sport athletes are encouraged, and players can play other non-school sports during the season (JO Volleyball, AAU Basketball, flag football, etc), but softball attendance should be the priority.

Summer ball: Players on C squad can practice with their club team during our season, outside of our schedule but cannot participate in game activity for their club team until the Mayo softball season is complete. We ask varsity and JV players to not practice with their club team until Mayo softball is complete to focus on our season.

Chain of Communication: Please follow this sequence when communicating any issues or concerns.

1. Player speaks with her coach.
2. Player speaks with the Varsity Coach and player's coach.
3. Player and parent speak with player's coach and varsity coach.
4. Player and parents speak with Athletic Director, Varsity Coach, and player's coach.
- 5.

Parents should contact coaches via email when requesting to meet (step 3 or 4 above), contact should be 24 hours after game or practice concern. Coaches emails are located on the team website. Coaches will share the e-mail with the player and have conversation with the player regarding the e-mail. After the e-mail is reviewed with the player, the coach will send follow up e-mail to the parent. Please be aware coaching staff will not discuss lineups, game strategy, other players, or coaching decisions. Thank you for your understanding.

Lettering: In order for a player to letter, one of the following requirements must be met.

- Player selected to the playoff roster.
- Player played in at least 4 varsity games.
- Player has 5 consecutive seasons with Mayo Softball.

*Student cannot letter if she received any MSHSL or school violations during the season. The coaching staff reserves the right to letter a varsity player outside the above criterias.

School Release for Games and Bus expectations:

We will excuse players early from school for some games, and players will be dismissed 15 minutes prior to the bus departure time. Middle school students must have a parent's note for early dismissal (Submitted to the Middle School Attendance Office).

Players are expected to ride back on the team bus for games outside of Rochester. A travel release form must be submitted 48 hours prior to the varsity coach if a player will not be riding the bus home. This should be an exception for an event maybe that is opposite direction of coming back to Mayo High School. Bus time with teammates is part of the team chemistry.

Travel Release Form: <https://www.mayospartans.org/page/show/1505069-forms>

