



Summer

T-ball/Softball

Parent

Handbook

## League Philosophy

We are dedicated to providing safe recreation T-ball and Softball Leagues that promote teamwork, sportsmanship and fun while always maintaining a great level of competition.

All these policies, procedures and modifications will continually be evaluated and modified throughout the summer.

## Umpires and Staff

Staff receive extensive training, which covers safety, sportsmanship, and the rules of the Mt. Pleasant T-ball and Softball league.

## Behavior

Coaches, players and spectators are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior at all times. Our guidelines help ensure that leagues are safe and enjoyable for everyone.

### **We expect coaches, players and spectators to:**

- Respect staff, volunteers and other participants
- Show respect for equipment, supplies and facilities
- Cooperate, participate positively and follow the rules

### **Parent Responsibilities**

1. Remain in the spectator area at all times.
2. Refrain from coaching your child during athletic contests or giving the coach suggestions.
3. Be positive in supporting your child and the team at all times.

4. Demonstrate praise and interest regardless of the score or team record.
5. Control your emotions; do not make derogatory comments to officials, coaches or other parents.

Staff will use a direct, positive and progressive approach to discipline to help coaches, players and spectators develop self-control and learn to assume responsibility for their actions. We use positive statements and reinforcement to redirect negative behavior. Staff will reinforce good sportsmanship and ensure that everyone that participates upholds the rules and standards of the league. We reserve the right to dismiss any participant whose behavior endangers safety or negatively impacts a program or facility.

We evaluate each situation independently and document inappropriate behaviors. Staff will discuss negative behavior with the player and parent or guardian. Recurring or severe behavior problems may lead to suspension or dismissal from the league at the discretion of the Recreation Supervisor and Parks and Recreation Manager.

### **Zero Tolerance Policy**

Mt. Pleasant Recreation has a zero tolerance policy for parents, spectators, coaches, officials and staff who are under the influence of or using drugs/alcohol during athletic events.

## **Practices**

All teams will follow basic social distancing guidelines to the best of their abilities during practice times, plus their own stricter guidelines as they choose. Players are not recommended to wear a mask while

actively practicing. Coaches will contact their players within a week after the coaches meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup> to schedule their first practice.

## Games

Games will start the first week of June. Games times will be 5:30pm and 6:50pm and will run 1 hour long. The 20 minute gap between games will allow for less people at one time at each diamond and adequate time to clear the dugouts. Please allow the 5:30pm teams and spectators to leave before occupying the dugouts. Schedules will be distributed by your coaches at your first practice and will also be available through our online portal:

The actual gameplay on the diamond will be the same as it always has been with the exception of catchers and umpire spacing. Catchers should be a step or two farther from the batter than normal and the umpire should be farther from the catcher than normal. A catcher is required for each team for leagues ages 6-18. The changes to games will be surrounding the diamond. The bleachers will be used by the players rather than spectators. Players will be expected to use the bleachers and players bench when they are on offense and waiting to bat. All players will need a bag for their belongings. In addition, all belongings should be put into their bag when not in use, including hats, gloves, drinks, batting gloves, etc. There will be hand sanitizer available for each team in their designated area. Each base coach should remain a safe distance from 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base to ensure adequate social distancing. Coaches and Parents are not allowed on the field of play other than base coaches and pitching for coach pitch for ages 6 to 18. Coaches and Parents (up to 5) are allowed on the field during T-ball games. It is recommended that a designated coach/parent have hand sanitizer for the players and clean up the bench area as much as possible while the team is in the field with disinfectant spray or wipes if

available. In addition to these changes during games, the following changes will be required:

- No sharing of any equipment other than bats as long as hands are properly sanitized
- No food of any type allowed in the player area, including sunflower seeds and gum
- No team huddles, high fives, or shaking of hands after the game
- No coaches, umpires, or players should attend if they are sick in anyway
- Players cannot go through the other team's dugout to get to the on deck circle, in fact players or coaches should not go into the opposing team's dugout at all.
- Spectators should distance themselves away from the from the bleachers, players bench and each other

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How do I communicate with my coach?

We encourage open communication between our parents, coaches and staff. If you have a concern, discuss it first with your coach. If you have an issue your coach cannot resolve, please contact Brittany Bodnar at [bbodnar@mtpleasantwi.gov](mailto:bbodnar@mtpleasantwi.gov).

### How do I get information?

We will communicate information through our Facebook page, Village website, our online scheduler and through newsletters. Urgent information will be done through phone calls/text messages. Parents

should confirm their cell phone number and e-mail with their child's coach.

[www.mtpleasantwi.gov](http://www.mtpleasantwi.gov)

[www.facebook.com/mtpleasantparks/](http://www.facebook.com/mtpleasantparks/)

[www.quickscores.com/mtpleasantwi](http://www.quickscores.com/mtpleasantwi)

### Where are games played?

T-ball games are at Franksville Park at Diamond #2 and Diamond #3.

Softball games for ages 6 to 18 are at Stewart McBride Park and Solbraa Park(15 to 18 girls).

*Note: Make up games may be played at other days/locations to complete the season.*

### What happens if it rains or is very hot?

We will make every effort play every scheduled game unless there is severe weather, which would include lightning or heat advisories. We will still play if there is rain as long as the fields remain safe enough to play. If we do decide to cancel, it will be for the safety of all of our participants and spectators. Games will not be canceled until after 4pm the day of the game. Updates/cancelations can be found on our website [www.mtpleasantwi.gov](http://www.mtpleasantwi.gov) under the News Flash section on the main page and on our Facebook page- Mount Pleasant Parks and Recreation. We will also contact all of the coaches after 4pm if games are canceled and expect all coaches to inform all of their players of the cancelations for that day. If games are not canceled by 4pm, teams

should report to their games diamond and it will be up to the discretion of the umpire staff to determine if it is unsuitable to play by the games start time. If the first game is canceled at 5:30pm, then the second game will be canceled as well. Coaches will be contacted to reschedule any canceled games within 1 week.

### **What do I send to practice and games with my child?**

Please have your child bring a labeled bag with their glove, hat, water bottle and any other equipment they wish to have. Any additional equipment or apparel should include your child's full name. Items that are left behind have a greater chance of being returned to you if they are labeled.

### **What if my child is injured during a game?**

The umpires and coaches will make contact with you as soon as possible. If a child is seriously injured and requires more than basic first aid, the staff will take the following steps:

- Paramedics will be called.
- Paramedics will transport an injured or ill child to the nearest hospital, accompanied by their coach if a parent or guardian is unavailable.

We want to be able to reach you in case of an emergency. If you are not going to be at your regular daytime phone number, please provide an alternate number (for phone calls only, not texting).

## What if children are sick?

Ask yourself the following questions to determine if your child should participate in practice or game:

- Have you had a fever or been feverish in the past 24 hours?
- Have you had the chills or any body aches in the past 24 hours?
- Do you have a sore throat or cough?
- When you breathe, is there any chest tightness or congestion?
- Have you had diarrhea within the past 24 hours?
- Do you have any upper respiratory symptoms?
- Have you been around anyone suspected of or tested positive for COVID- 19?
- Have you had loss of taste or smell?

If a child has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, experiencing vomiting and/or diarrhea, or answers yes to any of the above questions, do not send them to practices or games until the following is met:

- No sign of fever for 3 days (without use of any medication)
- Cough or breathing problems have subsided
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea has stopped for 2 days

## What if your child becomes ill during a practice or game?

If a child becomes ill at a practice or game, parents/guardians will be notified and asked to pick-up their child immediately. The ill child will be removed from the activity area, made to feel comfortable, and



isolated with a staff member until picked-up. A child sent home from due to illness will not be permitted back to camp until the following requirements have been met:

- No sign of fever for 3 days (without use of any medication)
- Cough or breathing problems have subsided
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea has stopped for 2 days

### **What about germs, sanitizing and equipment?**

#### **Cleaning Modifications:**

To keep things clean and sanitary there will be several cleaning routines in place for our staff as well as expectations for each team:

- Benches, bases and any equipment used by coaches, players and staff will be cleaned daily
- Each team will be provided with a cleaned softball for each game and should use their own ball when they are on defense
- Players are required to have their own glove, water bottle and hat
- Players are encouraged to have their own bag, batting gloves and or bat. Each team will be provided with 2 to 3 bats that players can use, however they will be required to sanitize their hands before each time they use a team bat. Sanitizer will be available for each team.

Staff will continue to monitor the situation and add to the above list as needed.

To avoid the spread of germs and allergens, participants are asked to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon arrival to practices and games.

### **Do participants receive a snack?**

We ask that if teams decide to have a snack brought for their players at the end of their games that all snacks be prepackaged and individually wrapped.

### **Are group/individual pictures taken during the season?**

Yes. We will offer a few different picture days for each team to be able to take a team photo and any individual player photos through VIP Photography. Coaches will update their players with this information as the designates dates approach.

### **Photography Policy**

The Park District takes photos and video of participants in classes, during special events and in the parks. These photographs/videos are used to promote the services, programs and facilities of the District. All photos and videos taken are for Park District use and become the sole property of the District.

## **Parents' Code of Ethics Pledge**

**I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports.**

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players at every game, practice or other sports event.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- I will provide support for coaches and officials working with my child to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all.
- I will demand a sports environment free of alcohol, tobacco and drugs and agree to refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will remember that the game is for children and not for adults.
- I will do my best to make youth sports fun for my child.
- I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect, regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
- I will promise to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience within my personal constraints by assisting with coaching, being a respectful fan, and providing transportation or whatever I am capable of doing.

Parents: The Park and Recreation Department wants children to receive the best possible opportunity to enjoy this recreational experience. Parents must remember the proper perspective about the purpose of the activity. Please remember that coaches are volunteers; sometimes we expect more from them than they can give. Parents are expected to follow the Code of Ethics guidelines. If they do not, the only people hurt are the children. This is their activity; help ensure that it is a positive experience for all.

# Mt. Pleasant Softball Rules

## General Rules:

- Time limit is 1 hr.per game. (A new inning must start before the 1 hour mark and is based off of umpire's time clock!)
- Tied games at 1 hour mark will play 1 extra inning. If it is still tied after extra inning the game will be over and considered a tie.
- 5 Run Rule (Boys and Girls 6-8) and 7 Run Rule for ALL OTHER AGES
  - Once team has scored 5<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> run the half inning is over.  
Example: 6 runs have already been scored, team has bases loaded, next batter hits a grand slam home run, ONLY 1 MORE RUN WILL BE COUNTED.
- No minimum or maximum arc limit when pitching.
  - A flat pitch is legal, if Umpire doesn't deem it to be too fast.
  - Pitch is illegal if it is deemed too fast by the umpire. Umpire will declare the pitch illegal and a "ball". However, if batter swings at the pitch, misses or foul tips it will be counted as a strike. If batter hits the ball it will remain in play as a legal at bat.
- 11 players per team on the field. Team can play with 7 players to avoid a forfeit.
- A catcher is required behind home plate for all leagues.
- NO METAL SPIKES
- Pitchers receive 5 warm up pitches before the start of the game (New pitchers will receive 5 as well) and 3 warm up pitches from then on between innings.
- No stealing home in any leagues unless the ball is hit.
- Both fence lines are out of play on all diamonds.
- No alcoholic beverages are allowed at games or practices.
- Each team must pick up their trash after all practices and games.
- All players must play at least 2 consecutive innings in the field unless injured.

## **Batting Order Exceptions:**

- All bats are legal except those that say “baseball” on them and bats that are considered “loaded.” Loaded bats have a special substance in them and usually cost between \$200 and \$500. If a bat is suspected, it will be collected by the umpire and the bat will be tested.
  - Test is done at the City of Racine
  - There is free substitution on defense
  - Batting order cannot be changed once the game begins unless:
    1. If a player has to leave the game early, the first time his vacant spot comes up, an out will be declared and his name will be removed from the line-up.
    2. If a player arrives after the game has started, he will be inserted at the end of the batting order.

## **BLOOD RULE:**

A player, coach or umpire who is bleeding or has blood on their uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. If medical treatment is administered in a reasonable length of time, the individual will not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is left up to the umpire’s judgment. The umpire shall:

- Stop the game and allow treatment if the injured player would affect the continuation of the game.
- Immediately call the coach to assist the injured player.
- The following rules apply concerning **substitution**:
  1. A player removed from the game because of the blood rule may re-enter later.
  2. If the player is not available to bat their next time up, it is an automatic out the first time only. The batter can re-enter at any time, but only in their original batting order.

## **DOUBLE 1<sup>ST</sup> BASE:**

- Orange portion of the base is utilized by the offensive player
- White portion of the base is utilized by the defensive player.

- **\*Exception\***: On extra base hits of a ball hit to the outfield when there is no play being made at the double base, the runner may touch the white portion of base.
- For all leagues, except coach pitch, no one other than the players will be allowed on the field when play is in action.
- If no rule can be found applicable in our rules, the city rulebook will apply.

## **League Standards by Age**

### **BOYS AND GIRLS 6-8**

- Pitching distance is **30 feet**
- Baselines are **45 feet**
- 11" softball
- No stealing
- 7 innings
- No more than 5 runs can be scored in any half inning.
- No infield fly rule
- Coaches will pitch to each of his/her own batters. 11 defensive players will be on the field. Each player will get a maximum of 4 swings. If a player does not hit the ball in fair territory after 4 swings, he/she will get 1 swing with the ball on the tee. When hitting off the tee, the ball must go beyond the arc of chalk or the batter is out. Coaches are not allowed on the field of play other than when they are pitching and as base coaches for 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base.  
\*If the batter swings and hits the ball and it passes the arc, it is a legal hit and considered in play.\*

### **BOYS AND GIRLS 9-11**

- Pitching distance is **35 feet**
- Baselines are **60 feet**
- 11" softball
- No stealing

- 7 innings
- No infield fly rule
- Regular softball rules:
  - 2 strikes/3 balls
  - Foul on 2<sup>nd</sup> strike counts as out

### **BOYS AND GIRLS 15-18**

- Pitching distance is **46 feet**
- Baselines are **60 feet**
- 12" softball
- Infield fly rule is in effect
- Regular softball rules:
  - 2 strikes/3 balls
  - Foul on 2<sup>nd</sup> strike counts as an out

\*PITCHING DISTANCE FOR GIRLS 15-18 IS EITHER 43 FEET OR 46 FEET. ONCE YOU START AT A CERTAIN DISTANCE, YOUR TEAM HAS TO PITCH FROM THAT DISTANCE THE WHOLE GAME, EVEN IF YOU HAVE A RELIEF PITCHER.\*

### **BOYS AND GIRLS 12-14**

- Pitching distance is **38 feet**
- Baselines are **60 feet**
- 12" softball
- No stealing
- 9 innings
- Infield fly rule is in effect
- Regular softball rules:
  - 2 strikes/3 balls

### **INFIELD FLY RULE DESCRIPTION**

- Less than 2 outs
- Runners must be on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base or bases loaded.
- A "pop up" in the infield deemed catchable by a player subject to umpire's decision.

**All questions regarding any of the above rules please contact Brittany Bodnar at [bbodnar@mtpleasantwi.gov](mailto:bbodnar@mtpleasantwi.gov)**