



Mahomet Parks & Recreation

YOUTH BASEBALL/SOFTBALL



Parent & Coaches Guide

2020

Questions/Comments:

586-6025 or visit www.mahometrecreation.com

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Mahomet Recreation is to improve the quality of life for all participants by meeting the needs of the community through the provision of safe, excellent, recreational and leisure-time activities.

SPORTSMANSHIP

We promote good sportsmanship, which is a combination of fair play, respect and consideration for opponents, spectators, teammates, coaches and officials.

HEALTHY RECREATION

Our programs are designed to provide healthy recreation and to keep winning in perspective in an environment where participants can have fun while developing their physical skills and emotional maturity levels.

RESPONSIVENESS

Mahomet Recreation regularly evaluates community needs and responds by offering programs that are desired.

EQUAL ACCESS

All citizens are encouraged to participate in our affordable programs regardless of their skill levels, gender, race, socio-economic status, or any other factor that is not in conflict with our mission.

REFUND POLICY

A refund application form must be filled out and submitted to the Mahomet Parks & Recreation Department office in order to receive consideration for a refund. We cannot accept telephone Refund Application Requests for **ANY** Parks & Recreation activity. All requests must be made by mail or in person during regular office hours.

- **NO** refunds on "league" programs once teams are set up and posted on our website.
- **NO** refunds will be given after the start of the program.
- **NO** refunds for certain special events. (i.e.; recreation trips, camps, clinics, etc.)

All refunds are subject to a \$10 Admin. fee (per registration) except under the following circumstances:

- Refund is initiated by the Park & Recreation Department
- Doctor's note is submitted with Refund Application Form prior to the start of the program

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that we're a fee base program? Fee base programs do not receive tax dollars. We are a department of the Village Administration, unlike Park Districts; we rely only upon participant fees and donations from the community. Park District fees are lower because they receive tax dollars to support and fund programs. However, we're proud that our fees are very competitive with area Park Districts!

Coach's Responsibility Code

Goals and Objectives:

The Mahomet Recreation Youth sports program is a group-oriented program involving social and physical development. The goal of our league is to teach sports fundamentals, sportsmanship and a love for the game. Your support and encouragement will go a long way to helping achieve that goal. As a coach, you should demonstrate the following:

1. Build sound **fundamental** sports skills and develop a love for the game.
2. **Encourage** team play.
3. Reinforce good **sportsmanship**.
4. Show **respect** for referees, other coaches and players at all times.
5. Be a resource person to your **team**, helping them to develop their athletic and human potential.
6. **Involve** all team members and parents in special events.
7. **Recognize** that all children are not the same and respect their individual differences.

Remember: Be careful where you walk ... you never know who's going to follow in your footsteps!

Safety:

The safety of children is extremely important. Here are some strategies to help you safeguard any children or youth in your supervision:

- Ensure that you are the last person to leave practice/game. Wait until all players have either left practice/game or have been picked up by a responsible adult.
- Talk to parents/legal guardians and introduce yourself. This initial contact can facilitate communication between you and parents regarding any player or team matters.
- If an emergency situation arises, report events as soon as possible to your Mahomet Recreation staff.

Parent's Responsibility Code

Mahomet Recreation requests that the parents /guardians of children participating in the youth sports programs help us monitor the program by:

- communicating with their children and coach
- observing their children in practices and games

As a parent with a child in Mahomet Recreation youth sports program, it is reasonable to expect the following from the program:

- that your child is involved in both weekly practices and games
- that your child have the opportunity to play all positions and have equal playing time
- that a special event involves all team members and parents
- that your child enjoy a safe, satisfying and growing experience while involved in the program

Mahomet Recreation does not condone the following activities and/or events:

- overnight trips
- special practices for a small number of players
- events involving a small number of team players
- that your child be subject to physical or verbal abuse from coaches, parents, peers, etc.
- coaches requiring team members to keep secrets
- coaches wishing to have excessive involvement with your child

Please remember:

- children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, not yours
- children learn best by example
- children should always be encouraged to play by the rules
- children (and officials) should never be yelled at or ridiculed for making a mistake
- children should be taught that an honest effort and hard work are just as important as winning

The Mahomet Recreation youth sports program is a group-oriented program involving social and physical development. The goal of our league is to teach fundamentals, sportsmanship and a love of the game. The support and encouragement of all parents will go a long way to helping this come true.

Player's Responsibility Code

1. Play for the fun of the game!
2. Play by the rules.
3. Cooperate with your coach, teammates and opponents.
4. Work hard for yourself and your team.
5. Do not yell or argue at/with the officials.
6. Control your temper and your language.
7. Be a good sport, be a team player and treat all players like you would like to be treated. (The Golden Rule)

Officials Responsibility Code

- Know and familiarize yourself with the Mahomet Recreation Youth program rules and philosophy.
- Arrive 15 minutes before scheduled start time of first game.
- Act as an ambassador for Mahomet Recreation - take ownership and act accordingly.
- Dress appropriately - in Mahomet Recreation staff shirt / official shirt, proper shoes and shorts or sweat pants.
- Introduce yourself to players and coaches.
- Ensure field area is clean and tidy upon arrival and departure.
- Check field and equipment for safety before and after game.
- Report any safety issues or damages to Mahomet Recreation Staff.
- Know and understand the rules for the league you are officiating.
- Umpire your game(s).
- Explain the rules to players when a call is made.
- Use discretion and good judgment when a negative situation arises.
- Hustle at all times while officiating.
- Finish games **on time**

MAHOMET PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AT REGISTRATION TIME

Q. Can I request a certain coach/team/buddy pairing?

A. No. To help ensure balanced teams, the only pairing requests that are honored are those of the children of 1 head coach with 1 assistant coach. Furthermore, consistent with our philosophy, we want to encourage social development (ie make some new friends). Finally, often times when such requests are made the coach/child requested may not be coaching/participating or is in a different age group.

Q. My child is young for their grade/ skipped a grade/ is small for their age, can they play down a year?

A. No. Mahomet Parks and Recreation sets up sports leagues by grades not ages, accept for some 4 year old and 5 year old leagues in certain sports. Age break downs can be confusing as to what day/month/year they have to be a certain age. Playing by grades allows kids to play with classmates that they may not be able to otherwise. Unfortunately Mahomet Parks and Recreation does not make any exception for kids to play down a grade. Kids that fill the above criteria or something similar are only allowed to participate in their current grade.

Q. Can my child play up a grade? I need them to a)because of carpooling, b) so they can play with their friends/sibling, c) because they're too good for their age group, etc.

A. No. Our goal is to position participation for success. Mahomet Parks and Recreation youth sports leagues are organized by grades and not ages accept 4 year old and 5 year old leagues. Age break down can be confusing as to what day/month/year they have to be a certain age. Playing by grades ensures a similar level of physical and mental maturity among participants and allows kids to play with their classmates. Playing by grades allows kids to play with classmates that may not be able to otherwise. When a child plays up a grade, they are participating against more experienced, bigger, and stronger kids. Although some kids may ready for this challenge of playing up a grade, once an exception is made it is hard to justify saying no to another. Not every child is ready to play up and this is unfair to the child who may not be able to keep up with the older player's. It is also unfair to the older players because they are not allowed to play down a grade and the child playing up could slow down drills.

Q. How do you know if you're a resident or non-resident of the Village?

A. The Recreation Department is not supported by Village tax dollars, however the Parks do receive a very limited amount of funding from the "Village of Mahomet" tax line item on an annual basis to help develop and maintain our park and play areas. Since the families that live within our corporate limits pay a "Village of Mahomet" tax to help our parks, the Village Board decided it was only fair that those families that live out of the corporate limits or those that do not pay the tax, help with funding to maintain our Village Parks as well.

The Village of Mahomet distinguishes Residency or Non-Residency by the "Village of Mahomet" tax line and has nothing to do with the school districts or the public libraries boundaries, they set their own. We hope this helps to explain how the Village determines residency.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR COACHES AND PARENTS

What to Wear

All players must wear recreation-issued T-shirts and hats/visors. Participants are encouraged to wear baseball pants, shorts or sweatpants, refrain from wearing jeans. No extra equipment is allowed (i.e. bandannas, non-recreation issued hats/visors, jewelry). Proper baseball/softball cleats should be worn – No Metal Spikes Allowed.

Picture Day

Coaches will distribute picture packets with order forms prior to your picture day. Forms are also available online under forms @ www.mahometrecreation.com, to expedite the picture taking process please pre-fill your order form prior to your picture time. Also, **there are no makeup dates scheduled for team pictures, please do not be late. Only in the event of weather cancellation, will picture day be rescheduled.** Picture Day will be May 23rd. Team picture times will be listed on the schedule.

Contact from Coaches

Coaches should contact players **no later April 14th**!

First Aid/Ice Packs

First Aid and Ice Packs are located in the concessions facilities or with the coordinator onsite.

Game Day

- Garbage: At the conclusion of games please do your part to place trash into a garbage can. Help keep our parks and facilities looking good!
- Game times are start times. Have your team and players there early to warm up. That way the game can begin promptly.
- Remember, have a good time, this should be fun for everyone: players, coaches, parents and even the officials.

Coaches Meeting

You'll learn more about our philosophy on coaching youth sports and gather important information on rosters, picture day, schedules and much more. **Only one representative from each team please.** Equipment will also be distributed.

WHO	DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
TBALL 4 & 5	MON	APRIL 13	6:00PM	MPRD – 218 S. LAKE OF THE WOODS ROAD
KINDERGARTEN COACH PITCH	MON	APRIL 13	6:00PM	MPRD – 218 S. LAKE OF THE WOODS ROAD
1 ST & 2 ND GRADE GIRLS	MON	APRIL 13	6:45PM	MPRD – 218 S. LAKE OF THE WOODS ROAD
1 ST & 2 ND GRADE BOYS	MON	APRIL 13	6:45PM	MPRD – 218 S. LAKE OF THE WOODS ROAD
3 RD -6 TH GRADE GIRLS	MON	APRIL 6	6:45PM	MPRD – 218 S. LAKE OF THE WOODS ROAD
3 RD & 4 TH BOYS	MON	APRIL 6	7:15PM	MPRD – 218 S. LAKE OF THE WOODS ROAD
5 TH & 6 TH BOYS	MON	APRIL 6	7:15PM	MPRD – 218 S. LAKE OF THE WOODS ROAD
ADULT LEAGUE MANAGERS	THURS	APRIL 18	7:45PM	MPRD – 218 S. LAKE OF THE WOODS ROAD

Weather/Cancellations

For any weather or cancellations call 586-6025, any cancellations will be posted online and on our voice mail by 4:30 pm and by 7:30 am on Saturdays. If there are no updated announcements, please assume all games will continue as scheduled. **As a general rule: if school closes or dismisses early, recreation activities will be cancelled.**

Text Alerts – MPRD now has text alerts for weather cancellations. Visit www.mahometrecreation.com for details on how to sign up.

Rosters/Schedules

All rosters, team schedules and coaches contact information will be posted online no later than **April 14** @ www.mahometrecreation.com.

Game Schedules

Game schedules will be available online at www.mahometrecreation.com no later than April 14. Practice locations and times are available on a first-come, first serve basis unless otherwise notified.

As a general rule, for the time leading up to league play, practice should occur at your leagues game facility and on your leagues game night. In other words, if your league plays on Tuesdays and Thursdays @ Taylor Field, please practice during those times @ Taylor before the season begins.

With spring planning well underway we realize the importance of having an idea of when baseball/softball leagues will occur. Although we cannot guarantee schedule days/times until after the March 12 deadline, we can let you know what we did last year, which is also our initial intention for the season ahead:

Game Season starts the first week of May and concludes by June 30.

League	Day	Time	Location
4 T-ball	Saturday	8:45am	13 Acres
5 T-ball	Saturday	10:00am	13 Acres
K Coach Pitch	Saturday	11:15am	13 Acres
1 & 2 Baseball	Tues/Thurs	6:00pm	13 Acres
3 & 4 Baseball	Mon/Wed	6:00pm	13 Acres
5 & 6 Baseball	Thurs	6:00pm, 7:30pm	Taylor Field
1 & 2 Softball	Mon/Wed	6:00pm	Bridle Leash Park
3-6 Softball	Mon/Tues/ Thurs	5:30pm, 6:50pm	Dowell Park
Adult Softball	Mondays	6-10 pm	Taylor Field N

These schedules are **tentative and subject to change**. Schedules cannot be determined until the deadline has passed and we know how many participants have registered. We will try to stay with these schedules, but cannot guarantee we can.

Practice time/schedules are will be communicated to you by your team's coach.

Practice/Game Locations

Location	Address	League Game Location
<u>13 Acres Park</u>	302 W. Dunbar St.	Baseball, 1 st & 2 nd Grade / Baseball, 3 rd & 4 th Grade
<u>13 Acres Park</u>	302 W. Dunbar St.	T-Ball Age 4 & 5 / Coach Pitch Kindergarden
<u>Dowell Park</u>	501 E. Andover	Softball, 1 st & 2 nd Grade / Softball, 3 rd -5 th Grade
<u>Taylor Field</u>	703 W. Hickory	Baseball, Age 5 th & 6 th Grade

**Rules for all leagues are posted on the website under
forms & documents.**

Coaches will receive copies of all league rules at the coaches meeting.

Officials Signals

Baseball Signals			
			
Do Not Pitch	Play Ball	Time-Out, Foul Ball or Dead Ball	
			
Foul Tip	Fair Ball	Safe	
			
Strike or Out	Infield Fly	Count	Time Play

Helpful Links and Contacts

Mahomet Recreation Phone and Cancellation Line – 217-586-6025

Mahomet Recreation Website – www.mahometrecreation.com

The department also has a library of instructional books and videos for coaching youth sports, call our office 586-6025 to check one out!