

Operational Handbook

Minnesota Blizzard Fastpitch Club

2008

Created: 1/3/2005

Modified: 1/5/2008

MBFC - GENERAL PHILOSOPHIES	3
MBFC Mission Statement	3
MBFC Goal	3
MBFC Objectives	3
Importance of Winning.....	3
Team Spirit Policy	4
MBFC – GENERAL PLAYER INFORMATION.....	4
Player Eligibility.....	4
Player EVALUATIONS	4
Player Registration Fees	5
Player equipment	5
Player FUNDRAISING.....	5
Nation tournament policy	6

MBFC - GENERAL PHILOSOPHIES

MBFC MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Minnesota Blizzard Fastpitch Club is to provide a safe, challenging, competitive and enjoyable environment in which young women can develop and enhance their skills as athletes in preparation to compete in high school and ultimately at the college level.

MBFC GOAL

Blizzard athletes should be allowed and encouraged to develop their self-confidence and to be supportive and respectful of each team member in order to achieve team and personal objectives.

MBFC OBJECTIVES

Total dedication and commitment to the game of fastpitch softball and each member of the Blizzard team, be it player, coach or parent;

Emphasis on teaching and reinforcement of the fundamentals of individual and team play; if applied on a regular basis, individual players will find success that will ultimately raise the potential for team success.

Assist in the development of quality individuals; winning is important but not the driving force; being respected and feared as a quality team will lead other quality players to the team which will lead to the team's success.

Motivation, not only yourself but also your teammates, everyone is an important part of the team, whether you are in the field or on the bench, maintaining a positive attitude will have an affect on everyone else.

IMPORTANCE OF WINNING

Winning is an objective of MBFC teams, but not the driving force behind every team. It is the least significant objective and must not be pursued at the expense of the higher-ranking objectives. It is important to the extent that it helps achieve MBFC mission and objectives.

If all of the MBFC Objectives are applied on a regular basis, individual players will find success that will ultimately raise the potential for team success and personal achievement.

TEAM SPIRIT POLICY

The coaches of the MN Blizzard ask parents and players understand that there is a delicate balance between maintaining team success and commitment to the player's wishes. A player's success is dependent on the overall success of the team; i.e. post-season tournaments. Players and parents must keep in mind how disruptive complaining about playing time, positions, and batting order can be to the coaches, other players, other parents, but most importantly how it affects their game. Always remember a college coach may be watching you or sitting in the stand and listening to what is being said by parents. What kind of impression will be left with that college coach?

Blizzard coaches will make every effort to start a player if informed that a college coach they have invited is in attendance and before a game line-up is made. A player should not ask to be played just because any college coach is there watching.

Players need to learn to communicate with coaches if they plan on playing in college. So, in keeping with the spirit of our above stated team goals and objectives, if a player has an issue, they, not the parents, when time allows, need to go directly to the coach to discuss the issue. If a player or parent lets an issue become disruptive to the overall team, you will be asked to leave the team.

MBFC – GENERAL PLAYER INFORMATION

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

All players 18 years of age or younger as of January 1 of the current year are eligible to tryout and play on the MN Blizzard 18U Girls Fastpitch Team.

In alignment with MBFC goals, returning college freshman players will be allowed to participate based on the needs of teams and the discretion/decision of the team coaches.

PLAYER EVALUATIONS

Player evaluations for team selection can be done several different ways. MBFC player evaluations are done using tryout sessions, held annually in August or September, and also through player participation during the fall ball and dome ball seasons.

In either case, in the MBFC organization, the head coach and assistant coaches have the final say on player selection on his/her team. Although a player may request playing in a certain position, and the coaches will try to honor that request, the final decision will be made by the coaches.

Players should expect to provide information on their availability during the summer season; for example, vacations, work schedules, soccer, or basketball are activities that may affect time spent on fastpitch and may be considered for selection on a team.

PLAYER REGISTRATION FEES

Registration fees are calculated before each session (summer, fall, dome) and must be paid as early as possible and before a player will be allowed to participate for that session.

There will be no refunds made once a player has been placed on a team, the MBFC board will decide upon exceptions for extenuating circumstances.

Registration fees do not cover travel and living costs for local or post-season tournaments.

PLAYER EQUIPMENT

Because of recent changes to the USA-ASA equipment policy, all players will be expected to have a 2004 NOCSAE approved faceguard on their helmets. All helmets must also have a chinstrap.

PLAYER FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is an important aspect for all non-profit organizations. Registration fees do not cover all of the costs of our organization and sponsor/donor participation may vary from year to year.

We are asking that players try and raise an additional \$50-\$100 for the organization for any given registration year (fall season through summer season).

Please consider some of the following suggestions that could be accomplished on an individual basis or as a group:

- shovel snow in winter
- rake leaves in fall
- spring yard clean-up
- cutting the grass in summer
- planting flowers in spring
- washing windows
- washing cars

We also understand that many people don't want to ask others for donations or don't have time. MBFC will provide for a 'buyout' option of \$75.00. Checks should be made out at the time registration fees are collected.

NATION TOURNAMENT POLICY

One MBFC team objectives is to play in National Level Tournaments to help players wanting to play in college to be seen by college coaches. Therefore, every player on a MBFC team must declare their availability for all National Level Tournaments at the time of registration.

Failure of the player to participate in National Level Tournaments may affect the overall success of the team. Therefore, any player not participating in National Level Tournaments for reasons other than emergency, work related, or medical should expect changes in playing time for the remainder of the current season and/or participation on the team the following summer season.

In the event that an MBFC team playing in regional and national tournaments has to add additional players, the following will apply;

1. The decision to use pick-up players for the Regional and National Tournaments will be sole decision of the coaching staff.
2. MBFC will encourage the head coach to discuss the idea with his or her players and parents/guardians, but the decision is ultimately up to the coaching staff.