

Mukilteo Baseball Club - Baseball Policies

Standard # 1 – Quality Sports Environment

Mission Statement

Mukilteo Baseball Club's objective shall be to weave together the ideals of sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, team work, and discipline with competitive baseball.

To achieve our objectives, the Club shall ensure that its activities reflect the Club's objectives. Although the Club shall strive to be competitive, winning at all costs is not the goal. The Club and its coaches shall strive to instruct the players in all aspects of competitive baseball while supporting the ideals of sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, team work, and discipline as our overriding objective. Our most important measure of success will be demonstrated by our ability to retain selected players and have players return enthusiastically each season.

Player Participation

Mukilteo Baseball Club strives to develop baseball fundamentals as well as a love of the game in players within the 8U through 18U age divisions. It is critically important that MBC maintains player enthusiasm while we strive to develop baseball skills. To this end, we highly encourage our participants to play other sports throughout the year.

A Player Selection Committee of not less than three individuals will be selected and approved by majority vote of the Board of Directors. The Player Selection Committee will establish annual guidelines and criteria for player recruitment and selection. Such guidelines shall include player performance and sportsmanship conduct standards. The criteria and guidelines will be approved by majority vote annually by the Board. All current players, as of the date of these Bylaws, are considered grandfathered in for the 2017 Tournament Season and will be evaluated according to the criteria established by the Player Selection Committee in future years.

Scholarships are available to children in need of financial assistance. Requests for financial assistance will be reviewed and voted on individually by the Board of Directors. A majority vote of Directors is required to approve financial assistance requests. Players shall be encouraged to play for MBC regardless of a given player's race, gender, creed, or economic status.

MBC teams intend to participate in local tournaments. The MBC teams do not plan to participate in formal leagues. All local players regardless of financial need shall be eligible to play on MBC teams. Players who lack the skill development to participate in competitive tournaments shall be eligible to participate in the practices and skill development activities with the goal of participating in at least one tournament per year based upon this focused skill development.

Participation Guidelines

MBC players are expected to participate in baseball tournaments four (4) weekends per year out of five (5) scheduled weekend tournaments. Practices shall be scheduled one (1) to two (2) days per week for not more than two (2) hours per day during the tournament baseball season. Practice participation shall not be required to participate in scheduled tournaments. Practices shall be scheduled for interested players and the practice time shall focus on skill development for the interested players.

Training and Accountability

Prior to each season, MBC board members shall meet with parents and players to explain the goals of the program, the program schedule, and the training objectives. Each player and parent shall sign a MBC code of conduct to ensure that they understand the sportsmanship and conduct guidelines established by the club.

The MBC coaching staff shall be trained to ensure the safety of the players. A medical professional (currently Brittany Armstrong-Hoss) shall serve as the MBC safety officer. At least one first aid/CPR trained individual shall be on site at all times during organized practices and tournaments. All MBC coaches shall receive Heads Up Concussion training as well as Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Training.

Coaches shall be selected based solely upon their qualifications. Coach recruitment shall encourage qualified coaches regardless of gender, race, creed, or economic status.

Each season, all MBC volunteers, coaches, and board members shall be required to sign a Volunteer Code of Conduct form. This Code of Conduct shall clarify the volunteers' commitment to provide an enjoyable, healthy youth sports experience.

Players, volunteers, or parents who do not exhibit conduct consistent with the Code of Conduct shall be subject to a progressive discipline policy. Minor first offenses shall be addressed by a MBC Board Member in person with the offender. A verbal warning shall be given. This verbal warning will be documented with a follow up email or letter. Second offenses or significant first offenses shall be subject to a suspension from MBC activities. Such suspension shall not be for longer than one week unless the offense is addressed via an MBC board meeting. Following suspension, the suspended party shall reaffirm their commitment to the MBC Code of Conduct prior to future participation. A third offense or an offense that is so severe as to warrant MBC board intervention shall result in a suspension of up to one year as deemed appropriate based on a board vote of at least 60% of current board members. Members who receive such a suspension must also reaffirm their commitment to the MBC Code of Conduct in a written manner before participating in an MBC function.

Screening Process

MBC shall conduct a background check on all volunteers. All volunteers will be cleared before they may participate in MBC activities. Volunteer screening shall be conducted via backgroundchecks.com which will determine whether any potential volunteers have a criminal background. No volunteers who have committed a violent crime nor any crime involving children will be allowed to participate as a volunteer.

Each season, all MBC board members and coaches shall read their approved job descriptions and sign them to indicate that they understand their roles and responsibilities as part of the baseball club. Following each season, MBC shall meet to discuss whether the job description should change for any of the roles within the club.

Parent Commitment

MBC shall hold a meeting for all invited players and parents each year following try outs. During this meeting, the goals of the program, training program details, and preliminary game and tournament schedule shall be discussed with the attendees. The Code of Conduct shall also be reviewed with all attendees. All parents and/or guardians shall sign a Code of Conduct before their player is eligible to participate in MBC activities. All interested parents will be encouraged to participate as a volunteer in an MBC role so long as they pass the background check for volunteers.

Sportsmanship

All MBC participants will be expected to sign the Code of Conduct. Poor sportsmanship, vulgar language, negative behavior towards other participants, and drug and alcohol use shall not be tolerated by any MBC participants. Any Code of Conduct violations shall be subject to the progressive discipline policy described above.

Safe Playing Environment

Before each game or practice, the playing field shall be inspected by the head coach of the team playing at the highest age group to ensure that the facility as well as the equipment are in safe condition. Play shall not be allowed in the event of an unsafe condition including: lightning storm, darkness, or other hazardous field conditions.

Each team shall carry a first aid kit during all scheduled activities. A first aid/CPR trained individual shall be on site during all scheduled activities. Coaches shall maintain a binder (or electronic equivalent) with the emergency contact information for all players. No coach may allow an injured player to participate in games or practice without appropriate clearance from a medical professional. Coaches must allow proper hydration during all practices or game activities. No fewer than two adults must be present during all games or practices. Players shall not be allowed to participate if they are not wearing all appropriate safety gear including: cups, batters helmet, catchers helmet, catchers' throat guard, chest protector, and shin guards as appropriate for a given participant. Players without all necessary safety equipment shall be removed from play immediately.

Equal Play

Player participation shall be encouraged regardless of a given player's race, creed, gender, or economic status. A founding principal of MBC is to allow all interested players to participate in competitive baseball regardless of their ability to pay to participate. All MBC players can expect to receive significant playing time during games they participate in. Children with disabilities shall be accommodated to encourage their participation.

Drug, Tobacco, Alcohol, and Performance Enhancer Free Environment

Participants and coaches may not use drugs, tobacco, alcohol, or performance enhancing substances during any MBC events or activities. Coaches shall be trained to identify signs and symptoms of drug or illicit substance use. Any players or adults who use drugs, tobacco, alcohol, or performance enhancing substances will be removed from MBC activities immediately. Any player or adult who is removed from play due to a violation of the drug and alcohol policy shall be subject to board action which may include suspension of up to one year prior to participation in future MBC events.