

Mountain Softball Association

2023 Membership & League Guidelines (Revised: February 2023)

This list represents League Information / guidelines for league administration.

Board Members:

The Mountain Softball (MSA) is an association of area girls fast pitch (recreational) softball Leagues formed in 2010. Mountain Softball is affiliated with the ASA, and is governed by a board that includes an administrator from each League as well as oversight members from high school coaches and the TriState Umpire Association.

AHS – Allegany	Dave Winners	Need Info	Need Info
FHHS – Fort Hill	Jason McMahan	(301) 707-7320	jason.mcmahan@maryland.gov
FHS - Frankfort	Duke Lantz	(301) 707-1187	duke_lantz@hotmail.com
MRHS – Mtn Ridge	Dave Robertson	(240) 727-1294	dcrobertson1@juno.com
KHS - Keyser			
TriState Umpires	Kenny Johnson	(301) 268-0945	kjohnson@alleganyhrdc.org

Area League Administrators

Frankfort	Chip Parsons	(301) 697-1174	chp_2@hotmail.com
Cumberland	Cindi Gillum	(240) 362-5807	crg.0513@gmail.com
Frostburg	Adam Ritchey	(240) 522-4620	ritchey165@comcast.net
Georges Creek	Shane Lamberson	(301) 876-1975	janellnshane@verizon.net
Keyser	Jeremy Shingler	(304) 790-9333	shingler2017@gmail.com
LaVale	Chris Blank	(240) 727-0906	cblank@cbiz.com
PVAA	Beth Cornachia	(240) 500-6331	pvaa.softball@outlook.com
Tri-Towns	Olivia Bateson	(304) 790-9918	oshambaugh@yahoo.com

Administration:

The Mountain Softball Association (MSA) board of directors meets as defined below to discuss league events. A rotating chair is appointed (one of the league administrators) after each meeting to lead the next scheduled meeting.

1Q - March – Provide final team information and field availability to Scheduling

2Q - April – (optional if needed) – Final Schedule Review

3Q - July – Season Wrap-up Discussion (Discuss opportunities for improvement, potential rule changes)

4Q –Dec/Jan - Publish rule changes, review guidelines document for new members, finalize upcoming year calendar of events

MSA BOD is responsible for evaluating and publishing changes to the membership and league guideline summary

Changes require board of director concurrence from a minimum of 2/3's acceptance of all board members or respective league representative

MSA BOD is responsible for evaluating and publishing changes to the Rules Summary

Changes require board of director concurrence from a minimum of 2/3's acceptance of all board members or respective league representative present at time of vote

Special Assignments

BOD Meeting Chair	Rotating membership	Role: Setup and oversee MSA BOD Meetings
League Scheduler	Cindi Gillum	Role: Setup and oversee game schedule
Playoff Organizer	Chris Blank	Role: Setup and oversee playoff games, order trophies
League Umpire Liaison	Chip Parsons	Role: Serve as liaison for league administrators / umpires
		<i>Default Liaison will be League Admins if nobody volunteers</i>

Recent changes are in **Bold font or highlighted**.

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Area League Administrators (for their respective area) are responsible for:

- Attending MSA BOD meetings or assign an area representative
- Coordinating sign-ups, and collecting player registration payment
- Ensuring coaches / players are registered with ASA and have insurance coverage / medical release
- Financial obligations for their league and in support of MSA
- Field safety, scheduling, availability and preparation for games
- Coach selection, performance and behavior

If an area league does not comply with one or more of their MSA membership responsibilities, The MSA BOD reserves the right to penalize the area league up to and including having membership rights terminated.

Payments / Fees:

Player Registration / Insurance

- Each area league is responsible for ensuring their players are registered with USA and provide insurance

Regular Season

- Each area league is responsible for area league associated field costs
- Each area league is responsible for sharing the costs associated with the umpire fees.
- Financial responsibility will be determined at the start of the season based on the number of area league home games and the total number of teams per age level.
- Payment is required at games or before start of season (first game)

Umpire Support / Fee Schedule (Revised January 2019)

MSA has enlisted TriState Umpires

8U – Each team responsible for providing their own umpire administration

10U – (1) One umpire per game \$50 per umpire

12U – (1) One umpire per game \$50 per umpire

15U – (2) Two umpires per game \$50 per umpire

Note: If limited number of teams in 15U, the league may only request (1) umpire

Playoffs (10U, 12U, 14U, 17U only)

- Each area league is responsible for area league associated field costs
- Each area league is responsible for sharing the costs associated with Playoff fees for trophies and umpires.
- Financial responsibility will be determined at the start of the season based on the number of area league teams and the total number of teams per age level.
- Trophy Payment (based on # of teams per age level) is required before start of season (first game)

Trophy Fee: \$250 League Trophies Budget per age level, Payable to MSA Playoff Organizer

Umpire Fee: Two umpires will be used at all playoff games. Fee's according to Umpire fee schedule per an age. Each team will be responsible for splitting umpire costs regardless of game location.

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Schedule Changes:

- Once the Final Schedule is published, each area league is responsible for maintaining / updating their respective field availability schedule. Direction will be coordinated by respective area league representatives.
- Game Schedule conflict
 - If a team is unable to support the schedule as published, the conflicted team is responsible to notify the other team coach of the conflict as soon as known.
 - Home field team coach is responsible to re-schedule game with visiting coach based on field availability
 - Make-up games are to be rescheduled ASAP
 - The home field team coach is responsible for notifying the umpires and league liaison of changes
 - The originally conflicted team will incur a forfeit if the game is not made-up.
 - Respective league administrators are to mediate re-scheduling efforts with their respective coaches
 - **Home field league administrator responsible for updating schedule with new date in League Line-up.**
- Weather conflict
 - Home field team coach must call / notify umpires & visiting coach of cancellation (minimum 2hr before game time). Reference age level, home field location, team name, and game number.
 - Respective coaches must notify their respective teams of the cancellation.
 - Home field team coach is responsible to re-schedule game with visiting coach based on field availability
 - Makeup Games to be played ASAP
 - The home field team coach is responsible for notifying the umpires and league liaison of reschedule date
 - The home field team will incur a forfeit if the game is not made-up.
 - Respective league administrators are to mediate re-scheduling efforts with their respective coaches
 - **Home field league administrator responsible for updating schedule with new date in League Line-up.**

Umpires:

- TriState Umpire Schedule Coordinator – Kenny Johnson - (301) 268-0945 kjohnson@alleganyhrdc.org
- If a umpire does not show up for a game, coaches are to perform the following;
 - 1) Call respective Umpire Schedule Coordinator to see if an umpire is on the way
 - 2) If an umpire does not arrive, try to setup another umpire agreement with other coach
 - 3) If an umpire does not arrive, and game was played or not played – Send e-mail to respective umpire coordinator, League umpire liaison and area league administrator / president to report issue
- Weather related items:
 - The umpire has the right to stop the game due to weather or unsafe field conditions.
 - The umpire is required to stop all game play for a minimum of 30 minutes from last visible sign of lightning
 - The home team league is responsible for additional umpire costs if the game is stopped after completion of the 1st pitch
- Non-Weather related Changes - Please provide a minimum of 24 hour cancellation notice to umpire coordinators
- Remember – The coaches responsibility is to respect the officials and their authority during the game. Any coach removed from a game, the Umpire is to notify respective WV Umpire Schedule Coordinator and MSA League Umpire Liaison. The area administrator will be notified and will discuss with coach on their own. If a Coach is removed from 2 games, the MSA board will speak with coach and vote on whether the coach shall be permitted to continue coaching.
- All Umpires must be properly equipped, and the plate umpire must stand behind the plate to make calls.

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Reporting Scores:

League Reporting

- Each league president is responsible for reporting scores to the MSA for playoff ranking
- Both coaches and the umpire are to sign the home team book to document the score at the end of the game
- The home team scorebook is the “official” book for a game
- Each team is responsible for reporting scores to their respective area league representative

Playoffs:

- Playoff dates will be established before the start of the regular season
- Playoffs will occur on weekdays only and will not be held on a federally recognized holiday.
- Playoffs are limited to the top 8 teams per age group
 - Teams cannot miss more than 3 regular season games to qualify for playoffs.
 - Selection is determined by final regular season win/loss record
 - At time of playoff seeding, any non-reported games will result in a loss for both teams
 - Ranking to be determined by # of wins then winning percentage
 - Ranking Tie-breaker to be determined by head/head score then highest score (run differential) vs. #1 team, #2 team, etc.
- Playoff format as follows:
 - Fixed 8 team bracket (No re-seeding after each game), ranking assigned by season ending win/loss record
 - Home Field honor will be granted to highest seed of the initial bracket ranking.
- Player participation
 - For a player to participate in playoffs, a player must have participated in at least 50% of regular season games played.

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Player Area Registration / Player Area Transfers:

- Player Area Registration
 - Players are required to register annually,
 - In the league / area of their primary residence or otherwise defined as the residing address of the player's legal guardian.
 - OR-
 - In the league / area where school is attended based on school district boundaries or based on individual school established out-of-district attendance.
 - League administrators are required to submit team rosters to the league by 1 April.
 - Roster must include Name and League Age.
 - Changes in roster after first game must be reviewed by league.
- Player Area Transfers
 - If a player wishes to transfer to another MSA Area league, the following is required:
 - Approval of the league / area administrator where a player should play.
 - Note: An administrator's approval or denial of a transfer should not be challenged by other Leagues because each administrator must have the ability to make complex decisions that consider the future of individual players, teams, league, and high school program.
 - Obtaining approval for a transfer is the responsibility of the receiving league / area administrator. If transfer approval is not granted, outside players must not be accepted.
 - The receiving league / area is not required to accept an approved out-of-area player transfer.
 - Neighboring leagues may also agree to establish out-of-area placements to balance player numbers.
- Grandfathered Transfers
 - Existing out-of-area transfers/placements may continue to register annually in the league / area played during the previous season without a reiterated approval from a local administrator.
 - Return-to-area requests may not be challenged by the existing out-of-area league if a local administrator requires a player's return.

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Coach / Team Focus:

Remember – as a coach, our goal is to teach the game fundamentals and to promote the individual self-confidence of each player. The MSA is a recreational league and the primary focus of each team should be on player development and sportsmanship.

6U

- Batting Proper batting stance, swing, utilizing a “T” accordingly
- Running Proper base order
- Fielding Basic catch/throw
- Fielding Pitchers should not run home to make force out
- Pitching N/A – Coach to use one ball during game
- Catching Develop 3+ catchers and rotate during each inning (Catcher is optional)

8U

- Batting Proper batting stance and swing, cannot use a “T” unless agreed to by both coaches
- Running Proper base order
- Fielding Basic catch/throw
- Fielding Pitchers should not run home to make force out
- Pitching N/A – Coach to use one ball during game
- Catching Develop 3+ catchers and rotate during each inning

10U

- Batting Proper batting stance, swing, bunting
- Running Proper 1st base execution, stealing, tag-up awareness
- Fielding Improved catching (grounders & fly balls) / throwing
- Pitching Develop 5+ pitchers, focus on equal play time, Suggested 2 inning rotation
- Catching Develop 5+ catchers per team, focus on equal play time, Suggested 2 inning rotation

12U

- Batting Proper batting stance, swing, bunting, drag bunt, slap hit, Dropped 3rd Strike
- Running Proper 1st base execution, stealing, tag-up awareness, sliding
- Fielding Improved catching (grounders & fly balls) / throwing, Infield Fly Rule
- Pitching Develop 4+ pitchers, focus on equal play time, Suggested 3 inning rotation
- Catching Develop 4+ catchers per team, focus on equal play time, Suggested 3 inning rotation

15U

- Batting Proper batting stance, swing, bunting, drag bunt, slap hit
- Running Proper 1st base execution, stealing, tag-up awareness, sliding
- Fielding Improved catching (grounders & fly balls) / throwing
- Pitching Develop 3+ pitchers, focus on equal play time, Suggested 4 inning rotation
- Catching Develop 3+ catchers per team, focus on equal play time, Suggested 4 inning rotation

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MSA Boundaries:

- CGSA: Players living in Cumberland City limits, including Seaton Drive, Flintstone, Oldtown, and Bedford Road area into PA on 220
- Frankfort: Those players living in the Frankfort district of Mineral County
- Frostburg: Players living in Frostburg City limits, Midlothian, Eckhard, Val Summit, Mt. Savage.
- George's Creek: Players living in Midland, Barton, Lonaconing and ½ ways on 36 towards Westernport
- Keyser: Players living in the Keyser district of Mineral County. Players from Piedmont, WV may play for either Keyser or Tri-Towns
- LaVale: Players living in LaVale, Seaton Drive outside Cumberland City limits, Cash Valley Road, National Highway to 84 Lumber and Vocke Road
- PVAA: Players living in Cresaptown, Bowling Green, Winchester Road to Vocke Road, Bel Air, Rawlings and 220 South to Danville
- Tri-Towns: Players living in Westernport, Luke, Bloomington, McCoole, 220 North to Danville and ½ ways on 36 towards Barton. Players from Piedmont, WV may play for either Tri-Towns or Keyser.

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