



PROGRAM GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS

Goals

- To develop and improve softball skills of the athletes.
- To build self-esteem, mental discipline and leadership in the athletes.
- To prepare athletes for high school competition & possibly beyond.
- To maintain at least two teams at each age group to maximize opportunities for the local community while maintaining teams' competitive level.
- To win.

Expectations in General

- Athletes and coaches must be dedicated to the on-going improvement of individual and team skills.
- In-season practices and game attendance is mandatory unless discussed with the coach beforehand.
- If a practice or game is missed, discipline will be at the coach's discretion.

Practices

- Outdoor practices in the fall are at each coach's discretion; usually weekly until the weather gets too cold.
- Winter indoor training sessions are usually 2-4 times a month, with possible additional opportunities for hitting instruction. Madness is closed in December.
- Spring practices begin when the weather breaks. There are usually 2-3 practices a week until the season begins.
- In-season practices (June and July) are at each coach's discretion and there is usually 1-2 per week.
- Pitchers and catchers may have additional practices. Pitchers are expected to throw 3-4 times a week starting in March. During the off-season, pitchers should throw at least twice a week. Dedicated pitchers should work with a pitching coach. Madness coaches are not trained to teach this skill.

League Games

- Madness teams that play in the Western Wayne County League, <http://www.go2wwcl.com>, should expect the season to start June 1 and go thru mid July. There are 2 games a week. 10U & 12U play on Tuesdays and Thursdays. 14U plays on Mondays and Wednesdays.
- It is a team decision on whether they play league or not.

Tournaments

- The number of tournaments attended depends on the team. Madness provides each team a budget to be used for league and tournaments. Based on the average cost of a tournament, the budget should provide 6-8 tournaments.
- A team may decide to play in more tournaments than stated above. Teams choosing to play in more than the budgeted tournaments will be required to pay additional money or fundraise to offset the additional costs.

Playing Time

- Coaches will plan to get everyone a fair amount of playing time in league games.
- Playing time is not guaranteed in tournaments, although consideration will be given to pool play games versus playoff/elimination games.
- Athletes should expect to play 1-3 different positions throughout the season. They should be prepared and willing to play any position for the success of the team.

How Parents Can Help

- Practice, practice, practice with your athlete at home. Just 20 minutes per day will show amazing results. And consider taking your athlete to softball camps and pitching/hitting instructors in the area.
- Check with the coaches about teaching certain skills. Make sure parents reinforce, not change, what Madness coaches have taught.
- Get players to training and games on time, with proper equipment, and mentally and physically prepared to train or play hard. For younger players, feel free to stick around during practice and ask the coach if you can help.
- Parents are not to coach from the sidelines. Inconsistent directions confuse players and causes errors. Please be assured that coaches have instructed all players and will remind & direct them during play as needed.
- Parents and coaches are expected to lead by example and exhibit good sportsmanship at all times before, during and after games. While wearing a Madness uniform, the athlete and those with them are representing Madness and are expected to uphold a high standard related to personal conduct. This includes the treatment of umpires and other teams and obeying all park rules (i.e. pets & alcohol restrictions).
- Help your athlete understand the playing time expectations.
 - ✓ Playing time will be “fair”, not “equal”. “Fair” is determined by coach, subject to Madness Expectations stated above.
 - ✓ Team is more important than any individual.
 - ✓ Players may be asked to move positions in order to help the team.
 - ✓ Coaches need your support on the sideline, in the car, and at home.
 - ✓ Teach and reinforce accountability and responsibility for your player’s own development, strengths and weaknesses.
 - ✓ Remember that parents have an enormous impact on their daughter and the team.
- Communicate any concerns to the coaches.
 - ✓ If an athlete has a problem or question, please have the athlete speak to the coach first.
 - ✓ If a parent has a question or concern, please speak to the coach in private. Communication is critical to the team’s success; If you want to know why the coach is doing something ask!
 - ✓ If a problem remains unresolved, contact a Madness board member.
 - ✓ Complaining to or about a coach, player, or parent in front of other coaches, players, parents or the public is not acceptable.
- Order parent Motor City Madness spirit wear to promote our organization.

Media

- Picture, voice or video taking and the posting of these to local newspapers, the Madness website, our Facebook page, and the personal web pages of parents, or players, etc. are routine and may occur. It is the responsibility of the parent to make any concerns they have with such activities known to the coach, parents, and players of their team, and to monitor the activities related to their concerns. Madness takes no responsibility for the oversight or monitoring of such activities.