

Maple Grove Senior High School Girls Softball Participation Expectations

Dear parents/guardian and student athletes:

Over the past few years as a head coach it has come to my attention that some parents and students have some misconceptions about what a competitive high school program is. Please take a few moments to read this information and hopefully, this will help you understand how a competitive high school athletic program is conducted and what the expectations are for those involved.

Being a member of a team, regardless of time spent in actual competition, a person can learn many valuable life lessons. Among them: citizenship, sportsmanship, respect for opponents and others, teamwork, responsibility, commitment to a team and school, loyalty, placing team above self, learning to accept instruction and criticism, winning and losing with humility and dignity, self-control and being responsible.

A common goal of a competitive athletic program is to put the most talented and coachable members of the team in competition in an attempt to win a contest. Starting positions and playing time are not guaranteed to anyone. Each member of the team is valuable to the teams over all progress and success. Some members may play extensively in a contest while others may not see "significant" playing time and make their contributions in another way. Each student should have personal improvement and team success as two of her primary goals.

In each program, a coach and/or coaches are hired by the school district to be responsible for that particular sport. Team selection, practices, style of play, game strategy, playing time and decisions regarding game situations are the responsibility of the coaching staff. The head coach establishes the criteria for these decisions with input from the coaching staff. This may be a highly subjective process, but based on hours of evaluation and instruction by multiple members of the coaching staff. If you have any questions please feel free to address them directly to the head coach. Please call the head coach to set up an appointment outside of school, practice or game time, planning to have your daughter involved in this meeting. There is also a conflict resolution process in place that each parent and player signed at the beginning of the season and it outlines how steps need to be taken starting with meeting with the head coach first. This signed sheet is on file with the athletic department at MGSB.

Relationships involved in the girl's softball program at MGSB

- A. **Player-Coach Relationship:**
- **This is the most important relationship**
 - **Parents can affect this relationship by criticizing the coach to their daughter.**
 - **Parental coaching at home may impede the athlete's progress**
- B. **Coach-Parent Relationship:**
- **Allow the coaches to instruct and guide the team**
 - **Do not question or confront the coaches immediately after a game/ practice**
 - **If you want to discuss a problem with the coach, make an appointment and discuss your concern in a calm, courteous, and logical manner with your daughter present.**
- C. **Parent-Player Relationship:**
- **Do not try to live through your child**
 - **Be *positive* and supportive without adding undue pressure and unrealistic expectations on your daughter, causing undo stress and confusion.**

I sincerely hope this helps you to understand the goals and philosophies of a competitive high school program. Thanks again for your support and involvement in Maple Grove Senior High, the Girls Softball Program, the coaching staff, and your daughter in providing a positive experience through softball.

Sincerely,

Jim Koltes

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Maple Grove Head Softball Coach and the Maple Grove Girls Softball Staff