

MURILLO MINOR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
2024 SOFTBALL SEASON INFORMATION HANDOUT



MMAA's MISSION & PHILOSOPHY - The MMAA's mission is to provide fun and safe recreational opportunities for area youth. Our softball league is not about winning or losing. We stress the importance of good sportsmanship and promote Fun, Friendship & Fitness. Unsportsmanlike conduct by Coaches, Players, Parents, or Spectators will not be tolerated. Please read MMAA's ***Parent and Coach Codes of Conduct; Concussion Code of Conduct; and Softball Concussion Awareness Sheet*** provided at Registration or on our website.

2024 SEASON KEY DATES

Registration Begins:	Friday January 26 th	See website is https://mmaa.tbay.me/
In Person Registration #1:	Tuesday February 13 th	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
In Person Registration #2:	Saturday February 17 th	11:00 am to 2:00 pm
In Person Registration #3:	Tuesday February 20 th	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Registration Late Fees Apply:	Saturday March 2 nd	
Coach Orientation Clinic:	Monday April 8 th	6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Umpire Clinic #1:	Saturday April 13 th	10:00 am to 12:30 pm
Umpire Clinic #2:	Sunday April 21 st	10:00 am to 12:30 pm
Field Clean-Up Day:	Saturday April 27 th	10:30 am to 1:00 pm
Season start:	Monday April 29 th	
Playoffs start:	Wednesday June 19 th	(for Atom, PeeWee, Bantam)
Season end Tournament/BBQ Day:	Saturday June 22 nd	

2024 SOFTBALL DIVISIONS

- T-Ball:** Youth born in 2020, 2019 & 2018. Introduction to softball basics (base running; batting; throwing/catching). All players bat each inning and no score is recorded.
- 3-Pitch:** Youth born in 2017, 2016 & 2015. Players bat at 3 pitches from their Coach. All players bat each inning, and players advance to base if they hit the ball, and are not thrown or tagged out. No score is recorded.
- Atom:** Youth born in 2014, 2013 & 2012. Modified softball rules apply. Players pitch. No base-stealing or sliding. Score is recorded.
- PeeWee:** Youth born in 2011, 2010 & 2009. Normal softball rules apply, including base-stealing and sliding. Score is recorded.
- Bantam:** Youth born in 2008, 2007, 2006 & 2005. Normal softball rules apply, including base-stealing and sliding. Score is recorded.

GAME SCHEDULES - Schedules will be emailed and posted on the MMAA website. We endeavour to have each team play 10 to 12 regular season games, depending on the number of teams in each division. Each team normally plays 2 games per week on weekday evenings. There may be Saturday games depending on how many players register, or for weather-related make-up games. There are no set game days of the week, as there are multiple teams per division; and each team will play each of the other team a few times per season. Teams in the older divisions may also have a few scheduled practices.

GAME TIMES - Coaches and players should arrive at the diamonds between **5:50 pm and 6:00 pm**. Coaches want time for team warm-up, practice and skills development before games. **Game start time is 6:30 pm.**

GAME CANCELLATIONS - Games may be cancelled due to rain and/or wet field conditions. Please do not assume games are cancelled just because it may be raining where you live. **If games are cancelled**, a league-wide cancellation notice will be emailed as early in the day as possible, but no later than 5:30 pm. Cancellations will also be posted on the MMAA website homepage and on Facebook at *MMAA-Murillo-Athletic-Association*. Please do not text or telephone. Rained-out games will be re-scheduled if possible.

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER! – Don't be fooled! Players and spectators need to be prepared for very cool and breezy weather at the ball diamonds, especially in May. Dress appropriately – hats, mitts, winter jackets and blankets are recommended.

TEAM SELECTIONS - Registered players are assigned to teams using a balance of age, gender, and Coach-evaluated player skill from the previous season. Sibling players, **in the same division**, will automatically be put on the same team. Special requests to be on the same team as a friend can sometimes be accommodated but **are not guaranteed**. Every player/parent will be contacted by their Coach at least one week before the season starts to advise which team they are playing on; when their first game is; and whether there is a pre-season team practice.

EQUIPMENT - Except for a softball glove and running shoes, all player equipment is provided, however, if you cannot afford a glove, please don't hesitate to contact the MMAA. Please write the player's name in/on their glove. The 3-Pitch and Atom Divisions use 11 inch balls; and PeeWee and Bantam Division uses 12 inch balls. If a player brings their own bat, it must be labeled "*Official Softball Bat*", and the bat must be available to use by all players,

on both teams.

CLOTHING - Every player will be given a sponsored T-shirt and a ball cap to keep and wear for all games, as expected by the team sponsors (jackets are permitted to be worn when it is cool, preferably under the shirt). For MMAA insurance purposes, all players must wear **running shoes and long pants**. We highly recommend that you keep a spare pair of long pants and shoes in your vehicle in case your child arrives without. Sandals and flip flops are not permitted. Rubber cleats are permitted; metal cleats are not. Unless prescription, sunglasses are not to be worn on the playing field.

MMAA WEBSITE - Our website is <https://mmaa.tbay.me/>. We do our best to keep this site current with everything you need; forms, updates, rules, schedules, sponsor recognition, rain out notifications, etc. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the softball rules posted on the website, including some of our “non-standard” softball rules.

COMMUNICATIONS - The MMAA communicates with everyone via email and we may need to contact you by telephone. Coaches will determine their best way to keep in touch with their players/Parents. Please make sure you provide an email address and contact telephone number on your Registration Form. The MMAA League email is mmaa1@tbaytel.net.

TEAM PHOTOS & AWARDS- Team photos will be taken, however there are always no-show players or missing uniforms. When the date and time for pictures are scheduled, please make every effort to attend that game, dressed in the team uniform. As soon as the season is completed, the digital team photos will be made available. All teams play on Tournament Day, and Awards will be presented to all players.

VOLUNTEERS - Want to get involved as a volunteer? Just complete the volunteer section on the registration form. We always need Coaches, Scorekeepers, Field Maintenance help, Tournament & BBQ day help, etc.

COACHES / ASSISTANT COACHES - The only prerequisite is a desire to help the players and have fun. If you have some softball/baseball knowledge – even better! Each team needs one Head Coach and one or more Assistant Coaches. We will run through the basics with any new Coaches. The **Coch Orientation Clinic** will occur on **Monday April 8th, 2024, from 7 pm to 9 pm** at the Murillo Community Centre.

VULNERABLE SECTOR CHECKS - Coaches and Assistant Coaches 18 years and older must present a **Police Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC)** obtained within the last five years (since July 2019); or they will need to obtain one. The MMAA will provide instructions and a letter to obtain the reduced **Volunteer rate**. With your receipt, the MMAA will reimburse you for the volunteer cost. A VSC from another youth recreational activity; school; or employer will be considered if obtained within the last 5 years. If you already have a VSC on file with us, then you will be required to sign a VSC Declaration Form.

UMPIRES - Our youth are the game officials. Any registered MMAA players, born in 2013 or earlier, are eligible to be Umpires. Umpires can choose to be paid or they can use the time as credit for high school volunteer hours. All Umpires **must attend one pre-season umpire clinic**, where the rules and responsibilities are discussed. **UMPIRE CLINICS** will be held on **Saturday April 13th, 2024; and Sunday April 21st, 2024, from 10 am to 12:30 pm**. The location is to be determined.

TEAM SPONSORS - Please support the businesses that sponsor our League. It is due to their sponsorships that we can provide a quality spring league with reasonable registration fees. If interested in sponsoring a team, please contact Joe or Karen Ladouceur right away.

MISCELLANEOUS

- We thank the Municipality of Oliver-Paipoonge, who is a key supporter of the MMAA for the use of the Community Centre, and for ball diamond / sport facility maintenance.
- **NO SMOKING / VAPING** on the ball field area inside the racetrack oval, or within 10 metres of entrance gates.
- Dogs must be leashed and under control at all times. Please pick up after your dog.
- Please use the trash cans. Please take your recyclables home.
- Please make sure your kid takes all their belongings home after each game (e.g. jacket/hat/drink bottle/glove).

MMAA INFORMATION & CONTACTS

Email: mmaa1@tbaytel.net
Website: <https://mmaa.tbay.me/>
Facebook: *MMAA-Murillo-Minor-Athletic-Association*

Joe Ladouceur – President
Karen Ladouceur – Treasurer
Jessica Kapush – Director
Katie Matchett - Director