

ROCHESTER MAYO SOFTBALL



2025 TEAM HANDBOOK

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Purpose of the Handbook: The purpose of the Mayo Softball Handbook is to share important beliefs, expectations, and details about the softball program. We will strive to build a family atmosphere within our program, and we hope that you, as parents, always feel a part of the softball program. We urge you to come to games, cheer the team on, volunteer to help with team activities, and stay active in the program.

My purpose statement: I coach the game of softball to help the player “Be Better” as a player, person, and teammate through positive and motivational coaching

H – Hard work

I – Improvement

T – Teamwork

S – Support

Goals: H.I.T.S

1. Hard work

The value of hard work can never be underestimated. Failure is one facet of every sport, and working hard and staying positive will give players the best chance to improve. The lessons of hard work your daughter learns from softball will help her in any area of her life.

2. Improvement

We strive to “*Be Better*” as coaches and players every day on and off the field. We want to be at our best every day and strive to improve daily as coaches and players. We will *Be Better* at the end of the season.

3. Teamwork

We will play together as one team and create a family atmosphere. Each player plays a critical role in the success of the program. These roles may differ from player to player, but it is vital that every player feels she belongs in our softball family.

4. Support

Coaches and players strive to support everyone in the Mayo softball program and the same is expected of parents and fans.

Finally – HAVE FUN. Softball is a game to be played with excitement and joy.

Coaches' Roles: Below are my expectations for me as a coach and leader. I have these same expectations for all coaches in the program.

1. Bring energy and positive coaching.
2. Communication of roles, expectations, strengths, and areas to improve upon.
3. Demonstrate positive field behavior with players, officials, and opponents.
4. Focus on Mayo softball and what we can control.

Players' Roles: Below are the expectations that we have for our players. Note that each player has control over these expectations.

1. Support all teammates, pick each other up. WE > me
2. Bring positive attitude and 100% effort, control the controllables.
3. Maintain school academic standards, including attendance. You are a student first.
4. Respect the game, your opponent, and the officials. Dugouts, locker rooms, and buses are always clean when we leave..
5. Have fun – it's a game

Parent's Roles:

1. Support your daughter, all players and the program.
2. Encourage your daughter to be supportive of all members of the team and the coaches. You can model this, and it is important as your daughter sees and hears how parents talk about the team and the program.
3. Display good sportsmanship. Positively represent the Mayo Spartan Softball Community at each game towards umpires, opponents, coaches and players. Umpires make errors just like coaches and players; it's how we move onto the next pitch that is important.

Spring Break Policy, Practice:

Practice and game time missed for vacation, including during Spring Break will be considered an unexcused absence. First game of the season is late the week of Spring Break, practice time is needed for preparation of game.

All levels – No practice March 28 - March 31st.

Varsity and JV – Practice April 1

All levels – Practice April 2-4

Attendance:

Excused Absences: If a player is going to be absent from practice or a game, the coach must be contacted prior to the absence. Valid reasons for absence may include: sickness, family emergency, medical appointments (try and schedule around softball), faith event, or other school-related events.

Unexcused Absences: Work, family vacation, out-of-season sports, senior photos, haircuts, etc.

Missed Practices or Game Policy:

- a. Unexcused absence from practice – minimum player will not start next game.
- b. Unexcused absence from game – minimum player will not play next game.

* Coaches will evaluate if player is game ready to help the team be successful after unexcused absences, minimum playing time missed is noted above. A single occurrence counts as a single event, for example players miss time for vacation this would be counted as single event. After 3rd unexcused practice or game, the players' coach will call for a player and parent meeting.

Multi-Sport athlete:

1. Multi-sport athletes are encouraged, and players can play other non-school sports during the season (JO Volleyball, AAU Basketball, etc), but softball attendance should be the priority.

Summer ball: Players on 9th grade and JV teams can play tournaments with their summer ball team during the school year if it does not conflict with the Mayo Softball schedule. Varsity players should not commence playing with their summer team until the Mayo High School season is complete.

Chain of Communication: Please follow this sequence when communicating any issues or concerns.

1. Player speaks with her coach.
2. Player speaks with the Varsity Coach and player's coach.
3. Player and parent speak with player's coach and varsity coach.
4. Player and parents speak with Athletic Director, Varsity Coach, and player's coach.

Parents should contact coaches via email when requesting to meet (step 3 or 4 above), contact should be 24 hours after game or practice concern. Coaches emails are located on the team website. Coaches will share the e-mail with the player and have conversation with the player regarding the e-mail. After the e-mail is reviewed with the player, the coach will send follow up e-mail to the parent. Please be aware coaching staff will not discuss lineups, game strategy, other players, or coaching decisions. Thank you for your understanding.

Lettering: In order for a player to letter, one of the following requirements must be met.

- Player selected to the playoff roster.
- Player played in at least 4 varsity games.
- Player has 5 consecutive seasons with Mayo Softball.

*Student cannot letter if she received any MSHSL or school violations during the season. The coaching staff reserves the right to letter a varsity player outside the above criterias.

School Release for Games and Bus expectations:

We will excuse players early from school for some games, and players will be dismissed 15 minutes prior to the bus departure time. Middle school students must have a parent's note for early dismissal (Submitted to the Middle School Attendance Office).

Players are expected to ride back on the team bus for games outside of Rochester. A travel release form must be submitted 48 hours prior to the athletic office if a player will not be riding the bus home.

Travel Release Form: <https://www.mayospartans.org/page/show/1505069-forms>