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2023 PARENT GUIDE

An overview of what parents can expect this season

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Code of Conduct

Tottenham-Beeton District Minor Softball Association (“TBDMSA”) has developed the following guidelines, based on the values of fair play, to promote (a moral and) ethical behaviour (code) amongst its Participants and Volunteers.

Participants and Volunteers must read and understand the following policies regarding their behaviour on and around the playing fields.

1. The safety of the Participants in the game is more important than the final score.
2. I understand that TBDMSA respects other people’s rights and that I am expected to do the same.
3. I will be supportive and will not let my expectations become a burden to the Players, Participants and Parents involved with our organization.
4. I will teach Players that doing one’s best is as important as winning, so that Players will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game/event.
5. I will make my team feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and trying hard.
6. I will remember that children learn best by example. I will applaud good plays/performances by both my team as well as their opponents.
7. I will never ridicule or yell at any player for making a mistake or losing a competition.
8. I value the opinion of the Parents/Guardians in developing the children’s talents; even though I may not always agree with their opinion I will not interfere in a public manner. Any disagreements will be put forth in a personal and professional manner.
9. I understand that children learn from adults, and my behaviour reflects what I want children to learn.
10. I understand that Officials do not make the softball rules, they only apply them. I understand that Officials are responsible to ensure that the game is played in a safe and fair manner for all participants. The Officials who contribute their time for little reward which enables the Players in the League to play an organized sport will be treated with respect and encouragement at all times.
11. I will never ridicule or harass Officials.
12. I understand that Players, Parents and Officials are learning the game, and mistakes will be made in the learning process.
13. I understand that entering the field of play during a game to dispute a call by an Official will result in immediate ejection from the park where the game is being played.
14. I will encourage the Players to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility.
15. I may not cheer for the opposition team, but I will also not cheer against them or verbally abuse them.
16. I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's sports activities, both on and off the playing field including via social media and other internet media by committing to the following:
 - a. I will not bully, intimidate, or harass any player, coach, official or member of TBDMSA either in person or via social media or other internet applications.
 - b. I will not post any photographs, videos or make comments that may be hurtful, untrue and upsetting or may be used by other people in a way I did not intend or want.

- c. I will not post content that is hateful, threatening, or pornographic, incites violence, or contains nudity or graphic or gratuitous violence.
- 17. With regards to reference of social media and/or other internet applications, I understand this includes but is not limited to personal blogs, Twitter, Facebook, My Space, Bebo, You Tube, personal websites, email, and text messaging.
- 18. I will not write any derogatory or offensive comments in relation to Tottenham Beeton District Minor Softball Association or any other affiliated minor softball league via print media, social media, and/or other internet applications.
- 19. I will not post comments criticizing or verbally abusing Players, coaches, Officials or members of TBDMSA or any other minor softball league in print media, on social media, and/or other internet applications.

I have read and understand and accept the “Code of Conduct.” I understand that violation of any one of these policies will result in me being required to appear before the TBDMSA Board of Directors as per TBDMSA’s Disciplinary, Grievance and Complaints Procedures and could result in the removal of me as a coach, player from a game, or the removal of me from my role as a coach, player and/or executive member for a specified period of time or as a coach, player and/or member from TBDMSA entirely.

Executive

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Introduction

Parents and Guardians are influential decision makers regarding their children's activities, and need to be informed of the issues pertaining to their involvement with the game. Whether you are a grandparent taking your grandchildren to a game on behalf of their parents or a new parent to the game of softball or someone who is new to this community, It is important to our organization that that we do our best job possible to keep everyone informed of how the Association works and help parents with answers to common questions in order to make their experience a positive one.

The Role of the TBDMSA

From registration, scheduling umpires, soliciting sponsorship, providing opportunities for player development to ball diamond bookings with the municipality, the TBDMSA is a volunteer-based organization that enable players, parents, coaches and fans to enjoy softball in our community. Read our Mission and Vision statement by clicking here.

"We are not developing softball players for today; we want to develop softball players for life."

How are Registration Fees Based and Used?

Player registration fees are used to offset costs of ball diamond permit fees, equipment, umpires, development programs, awards, team photographs and uniforms. Older age-groups will see higher fees than younger ages primarily due to the use of lights and senior umpires.

We are fortunate to have wonderful support from our sponsors who offset our expenses with generous contributions to our Association. Without their support, we would be forced to increase our rates. Please support them and say thanks.

The TBDMSA is a not-for-profit organization so all funds are allocated back to the organization.

Are there Financial Subsidy Programs or Multi-Child Discounts?

If you are registering three or more siblings, please contact our registrar for more information about discount.

There are several great resources to ensure that every child has the opportunity to play without parents having to worry about financial burdens.

Financial support can be applied for through:

HELP THE KIDS PLAY

<https://www.helpthekidsplay.ca/application-form/>

Canadian Tire Jump Start

<https://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca/pages/apply>

How Do I Know What Division My Child Will Play In?

As of the January 1, 2023, the TBDMSA will move towards Softball Canada's age categorization. The "U number" refers to the age that a player will turn after December 31st of the current season.

Previous Age Division Name	2023 Age Division Name	Birth Years
Blastball	U3	2020
T-Ball	T-Ball U5	2018, 2019
Atom	U7	2016, 2017
Mite	U10	2013, 2014, 2015
Peewee	U14	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012
Bantam	U19	2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008

When Does the Season Start and Finish?

The Town of New Tecumseth will release the use of ball diamonds based on the weather conditions and physical conditions of the diamonds typically around the second to third week in May. Our schedule will typically start around this time.

There are no weekend games with the exception of the "Opening Tournament" and Year-End Playoff weekend.

Game Nights are set to:

- U3 - Mondays
- U5 - Tuesdays
- U7 - Wednesdays
- U10 - Mondays
- U14 - Thursdays
- U19 - Thursdays

Games start promptly at 6:30 pm. We ask players to be at the diamond a minimum 15 minutes prior to game time so that they can be warmed up and ready to play at game time. U14 & U19 divisions also play under the lights at 8:00 or 8:30 pm.

During the course of the season, the TBDMSA will host an "Opening Tournament" on June 3-4 where all teams from U5 "T-Ball" to U19 divisions will play two regular season games. There is no championship or awards handed out that weekend. The weekend is used as a great bonding experience for the players and families.

U3 "Blastball" participants have two six-week sessions throughout the year. The first session will start around the end of May and the second session commences after the first one concludes. Players will typically receive participant medallions after each session to congratulate them on a job well done.

The regular season wraps up at the end of August then finishes with a year-end playoff tournament-style for U7 to U19 divisions from August 25-27. Playoff positions and schedules are based on regular season standings. T-Ball "U5" teams will play one fun game on the Sunday as a way to cap off a great season.

Practices vs. Games and Competition Level

The TBDMSA is essentially a “House League” meaning we do not have travel teams so all games are played locally in Tottenham and Beeton. Diamond locations are found under the ABOUT US section on our website.

The level of competition varies but for the most part, games are played for fun. Due to the size of our community, it is very likely that your child will know other players from school or other sports so comradery is very common.

Teams will play once a week on a designated time slot while all teams have practice times available to them. Teams in the U7, U10, U14 and U19 divisions will have practices that may occur once a week or every other week depending on your Coach’s decision.

U5 teams will have a practice followed by a two-inning game where every player will have the opportunity to bat during the regular schedule.

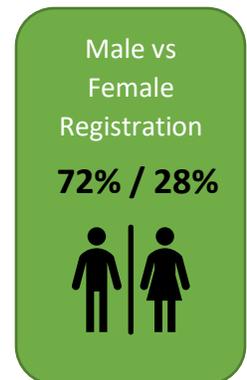
There are no championships awarded in U5 and U3 as these divisions are meant for player development and fun.

This low level of commitment provides parents the opportunity to allow their families to enjoy other activities throughout the summer.

TBDMSA Registration

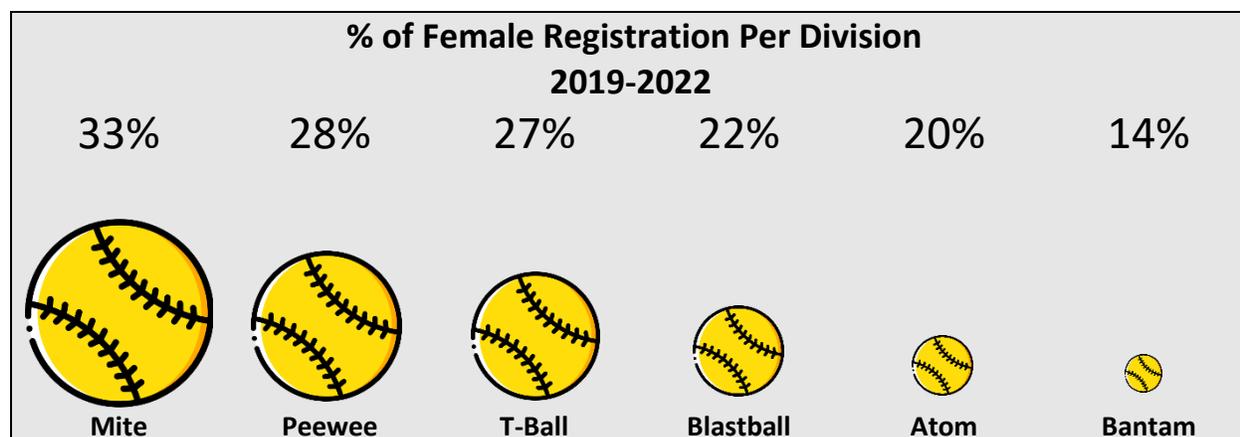
The Tottenham-Beeton area has long been a “softball/baseball” community. In addition to our Association, the ties to the sport date back decades with fellow leagues such as the Tottenham Oldtimer’s Slo-Pitch League, Tottenham Ladies Lob Ball League, Beeton Mix Slo-Pitch League and several years ago there was a booming ladies fastball league.

With respect to our Association, TBDMSA Player Registration saw record numbers in 2022, as the TBDMSA grew to 347 players, a 103 player increase over our last regular season in 2019. T-Ball saw the biggest jump with an increase to eight teams.



Team Registration Per Division
2022





Formation of Teams

Following registration, the Executive Team gathers to assign players to teams while accommodating as many reasonable requests as possible. Special requests must be submitted on Player Request Form and are not guaranteed.

Our Association has to follow Registration Policies and Procedures to accurately assign players to teams while balancing out the talent in the fairest possible manner to ensure the competition is enjoyable.

Our Coaches are responsible for completing a Player Evaluation form at the end of each season. This form assesses the talents of the players to record how they progressed throughout the season. These metrics are used in the overall planning of team rosters.

Coach and Volunteer Recruitment

Coaches are the backbone of player development and the overall experience. It is crucial to the success of our organization to recruit capable volunteers to help with coaching and other team management roles. The TBDMSA works hard to support our Coaches with tools and resources such as drill manuals on our website or hosting Coaches Information meetings.

Risk Management

Assessing and managing risk to provide the best possible experience for our participants is a big part of our job. There are a couple of new policies for the 2023 season that will help lower the risk for our participants, notably our players.

One, each team Head Coach and our Board of Directors must take the Respect in Sport Activity Leaders training course. This two- and half-hour online course educates youth leaders, coaches, officials and participants (14-years and up) to recognize, understand and respond to issues of bullying, abuse, harassment and discrimination (BAHD).

Two, each team must have at least one Coach provide a Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) from the OPP. A VSC screens those working or volunteering with vulnerable persons. A vulnerable person is someone who is: in a position of dependence on others or at a greater risk than the general population of being harmed by a person in a position of authority or trust due to their age, a disability or other circumstances (temporary or permanent).

In addition to these policies, there are several other actions take including, following strict playing field condition policies and procedures when it comes to weather conditions to ensure that people do not get injured as a result of the weather.

Lastly, the Association provides each team with equipment like helmets and catching equipment. Each piece of equipment is thoroughly inspected at the start of the season by the Association Equipment Manager.

Pressure

We are aware that tension and passion can escalate during times in the season so we encourage parents, players and spectators to remember that we are playing for recreational purposes. Our players do not need any additional pressure from the stands.

Volunteering

Our Association cannot operate without volunteers. We are always in need of capable volunteers to fulfill a number of roles including:

- Coaching
- Committees
- Board Positions
- Concession Stand help during tournaments

Your commitment can be suited around your skillset and availability. Please reach out to us to learn more!

What Equipment Does My Child Need?

- Softball Glove
- Long Athletic Pants
- Softball soft-spiked shoes or running shoes
- Jock/Jill

Helmets, bats, catcher's equipment, a hat and uniform are provided by the Association.

Your total equipment investment could range between \$60 to \$150 dollars depending on the age of player and quality of equipment you purchase. It is recommended you speak with an equipment expert at your local sporting goods store to ask what is the appropriate piece of equipment for your child.



Contact Information

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www.tbdmsa.ca

 @TBDMSA