**MHHS Softball Parent Expectations**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely challenging in today’s world. We must realize that at

the core, coaches and parents have the same goal—to see that each young person has a positive experience and become well-rounded individuals.

Most issues arise due to a lack of communication, whether in a lack of stating a point clearly or a lack of hearing exactly what is being stated. This year we anticipate a great year, in order for us to reach our goals on the field we need to be able to work together. We have a MHHS Softball contract that states our expectations for your daughter on the field, in the classroom, and in the community. The contract also has information for parent/guardian that states our expectations for you in relation to the Mission Hills High School Softball program and its coaching staff. Remember- WE is bigger than me

As a fan, you are entitled to yell your head off, if you want to. (Please do) We want to remain positive towards the opponent, all coaches, all players, and yes umpires.  Please do not come over to the dugout during ball games. (Food Drinks, Extra coaching). If there is an emergency, and you are needed, we will come and find you.

Please know that cheering, excitement and exuberance is encouraged, but please be careful and always express this in a positive manner. Even when being vocal in an attempt to help a child, you should avoid acting or saying anything that is demeaning to your child or someone else’s.

The organization will not tolerate any behavior on the playing field or in the stands which would hinder the spirit of sportsmanship and cooperation that we are trying to encourage. Do not coach your daughter from the stands. Respect the officials and their authority during the games. No derogatory remarks should be made to or about the officials or to the opposing team.

It is imperative that open communication take place between the players and coaching staff. Players are encouraged to express any concerns they have with the program coaching staff or our expectations of them. Playing time positions and team assignments are issues that will be discussed in conversations between **players and coaches** only. The coaches will make every effort to communicate with each student athlete their position and role on the team. Parents may request a coaches conference to discuss a particular issue or circumstance involving their student athlete. However, playing time and positions are not appropriate topics for these discussions. Parents are strongly encouraged to become active in the Mission Hills Softball booster club to provide the best facilities and environment for the athlete to achieve .

Parents, please understand that you are the biggest supporters of not only your daughter,

but the program as a whole. It is easy to get disgruntled, which in turn, can lead to

negative discussion about the program, coaches, or other players. Please refrain from any and all negative comments while in the stands, or anywhere on the premises of the facility.

Negativity is the one killer to building a strong cohesive unit. Your daughters look at how you

act as a guide for how they should act. Please support your daughter, love her, and encourage

her to work hard.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to email me at chad.franks@smusd.org

**Communication you can expect from your athlete’s coach:**

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectation of individual athletes and team. (Player Contract)
3. Location, dates, and times of all practices, games, and MHHS Softball events
4. Adherence to CIF, Conference, and school rules.

**Communication that coaches can expect from parents:**

1. Non-confrontational situations.
2. Appropriate concerns can be expressed directly to the coaches outside of practice, games, or the playing field.
3. Specific questions about philosophy or expectations of their child.
4. Notification of any absences prior to practices or games.
5. An email to set up an appointment to discuss a concern.

**Appropriate to discuss**

1. Treatment of your child (mentally or physically).
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child’s behavior/academic problems.
4. Eligibility
5. Work Ethic

**Inappropriate to discuss**

1. Playing time
2. Coaching
3. Team strategy
4. Play calling or substitutions
5. Another athlete
6. Practice Organization

**Do not attempt to confront a coach before or after practice/ game. These are emotional times for coaches and parents. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.**

**Steps for resolution**

If you have a question or concern and would like a meeting, here is protocol:

**FOUR STEP ACTION PLAN**

**STEP 1.** The concerned player should approach his immediate head coach to schedule

a time to discuss her questions or concerns. If the player does not feel comfortable and

satisfied with the outcome of this meeting, she should move forward with Step 2.

**STEP 2.** The concerned player should request a meeting involving herself, her

immediate Head Coach and the Varsity Head Coach. If the player does not feel

comfortable and satisfied with the outcome of this meeting, she should move forward with

Step 3.

**STEP 3.** A meeting involving the player, the necessary MHHS softball coaches and

parent(s)/guardian(s) should be requested via e-mail. This e-mail should include a brief

explanation of the player/parent concerns. If this meeting does not resolve the situation,

the player and his parents should then move forward with Step 4.

**STEP 4.** A meeting should be requested involving the player, appropriate MHHS softball coaches, parent(s)/guardian(s), and the Athletic Director. If all the parties involved are still not comfortable with the outcome of this meeting, additional alternatives should be discussed to resolve this matter. Ex. Add Building Principal to the next meeting.