



2018 Young Men's Fastpitch League (YMFL)

What is YMFL?

Young Men's Fastpitch League (YMFL) provides a place for boys to play in a community league Fastpitch program. The 2018 season, will be MHMSA's first year offering the YMFL division.

Medicine Hat Minor Softball Association has more than doubled since 2011 – with over 400 athletes playing on our diamonds!!

In 2017, we have 128 U4 kids – 94 of them playing are boys (79%). In U6, we have 58 kids playing – 37 of them are boys (64%). In U8 we have 68 kids playing – 28 of them are boys (41%). In U10 we have 74 kids playing – 15 of them are boys (20%). PLUS, there were boys playing in **all other divisions**, U12, U14 and Highschool.

The number of boys joining our association has increased over the past 5 years.
There are Boys Fastpitch teams Alberta and Canada wide – offering both tournaments and provincials.

We have chosen to put a plan in place for the boys who love this game!

Boys born in the years, 1998 – 2011, will register in the MHMSA YMFL program.

What is Fastpitch?

Fast-pitch softball (also known as **fast pitch** or **fastpitch** without the hyphen or "fastball") is a form of softball played commonly by women and men, though coed fast-pitch leagues also exist. Softball branches into Fast pitch and Slow Pitch. Fast pitch is considered the most competitive form of softball.

Our introductory U4, U6, U8 divisions are introducing the basics of Softball, so that once they reach U10 – Kid Pitch – they can begin developing Fast Pitch.

Specifics?

U4 and U6 --- Will remain Coed teams.

In the event that there are substantially more boys in a division, all boy teams may be made but will play against the co-ed teams all season long.

U8 Parent Pitch, U10 Mites, U12 Squirts, U14 Peewee, Highschool – U19

There must be enough boys to create an ALL boys team (9).

If there are not enough boys to create an ALL boys team:

1. Registration fees will be refunded; UNLESS
2. The individual has previously played within MHMSA and then will be placed on a team, making it COED.

Options for ALL BOY teams within MHMSA and our YMFL:

- 1) If there is only 1 team, that team will play 2 games against the same age division and 2 games against the division one above. After discussion with coaching, they will join the division there is the most room for growth and development for all involved. Safety will be a consideration.
 - *Ex. U10: 2 games vs U10 girls / 2 games vs U12 girls
 - *The exception is Highschool (U16/U18) – 2 teams are required for inclusion as they will not be integrated into the U16/U18 girl schedules
- 2) If there are 2 teams in a division within the YMFL, their schedule will consist of 1 day/week practice. 1 day/week play the other YMFL team. Alternate weeks they will have an exhibition game against a girl's team. A trial process may need to occur to determine whether the exhibition games should take place against same division equivalent or division above.
 - *Highschool (U16/U18) teams will not have exhibition games vs MHMSA girl's teams. However, MHMSA will work with coaching and team managers to set up exhibition games from other cities in Sask and Alberta.
- 3) Should there be enough boys to form 3 teams, a schedule will be developed where the boy's primary season will be playing within their own division.

Should there be too many boys registered to form 1 team but not enough to form a second, a decision will be made by MHMSA, with the input from parents as to options. Combining divisions may be necessary.

*MHMSA has previously ran a U12/U14 JV division – many division combinations could be created to best suite the development of boys fastpitch.

Other items to note:

Boys assessments will be held in conjunction with girl's assessment dates.

All clinics offered at the diamond (i.e. pitching and catching) will be offered to the teams within the YMFL.

If a tournament is being organized for any division with MHMSA it will be inclusive to a YMFL component.

MHMSA encourages all YMFL players to consider REP/Provincial ball and attend Softball Alberta Provincials. Funding is available to all Provincial teams, subject to availability.

MHMSA will provide all equipment and fair playing time on facilities to both MHMSA girl and YMFL teams.

ALL teams within MHMSA rely on volunteer coaches. For any team or any division to be successful a coach is required. Provincial coaches require proper certification and at least (1) male coach is required for a boys team, the same as (1) woman coach is required for a girls team.

Out of city teams wishing to join MHMSA that are COED (ex. Irvine), will play within the YMFL.

This format is created similarly to the fall ball program in Calgary, Alberta and was a success with no safety issues found.

Calgary Minor Softball Fastpitch did this for the first time in 2012 and it was a huge success! YMFL boys and their parents noted significant improvement in skill level & interest in the sport from the challenge of playing against older girl teams. They also performed well in the provincial championship against other male teams from around Alberta.

WE INVITE YOU TO BE INVOLVED. IF YOUR CHILD LOVES THE GAME – ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO TRY IT! WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH OUR ATHLETES AND FAMILIES TO ENSURE SOFTBALL –AND YOUNG MENS FASTPITCH - CONTINUE TO GROW IN OUR COMMUNITY. ANY QUESTIONS ARE WELCOMED; YOU CAN REACH THE EXECUTIVE AT ANY OF OUR LISTED EMAILS ON THE WEBSITE OR THROUGH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE. THANK YOU FOR JOINING OUR GREAT GAME!

