



SHERWOOD PARK MINOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

Player Injury Policy

Rationale:

SPMSA takes player safety very seriously. All sports have potential for serious injuries. As an Association and as Coaches, we must be prepared to deal with them effectively and with the athlete's well being as the top priority. Furthermore, we understand Coaches are volunteers, we do not wish to put them at risk by having no direction in this regard.

Please adhere to the following:

- 1) Ensure the equipment bag has a stocked first aid kit. If it does not, contact the equipment manager, equipmentmanager@spmsa.com, right away to address this. This first aid kit needs to be at every game and practice. We encourage teams, particularly at older levels, to bring ice packs to each game/practice. Immediate icing is an important part of injury recovery.
- 2) Should an injury occur during a practice or game and the athlete requests to stop playing, this must be honored **immediately**. Should you as a coach determine the player should not continue playing (even if the athlete wants to), this should happen **immediately**. Should parents request that their athlete stop playing due to an injury, this should happen **immediately**. This is to be done regardless of the impact on the game result.
- 3) Any injury that requires an athlete to stop playing must be recorded on an Injury Incidence Form. These forms must be submitted within 24 hours to the appropriate Division Representative. The Division Representative, after communication with the Coach, will determine if a Return to Play Form is required.
- 4) Should the player sustain a serious injury that requires immediate outside medical assistance (i.e. ambulance, hospital) with the injury, they must be cleared to play again by submitting a Return to Play Form. In addition, any player diagnosed with any grade of concussion must submit a Return to Play Form. Any costs associated with this form will be reimbursed by SPMSA upon presentation of a receipt.

If a coach is found to have not followed these procedures, after knowing that the player was injured, they will be sent a reprimand, suspension, or dismissal, as determined by the board.

Note: All forms will be provided in the form of hard copies in the team equipment bag, they can also be found in Coach Resource section on the website.

Parents and players must be prepared to communicate fully to the coach regarding any injuries sustained. A coach will not be held accountable for a player continuing to play and potentially getting further injured, if they are not fully informed. There is accountability on all sides of this matter.

Our Mission:

To provide young players the opportunity to learn and enhance their skills in an environment focusing on fun, fair play and development.