



# MANCHESTER SOFTBALL LEAGUE

## **Requirements for Under 18s in Softball Play**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Everyone who participates in softball is entitled to do so in a fun, enjoyable and safe environment. These principles apply to all participants, but young people in particular are entitled to a higher duty of care.

The requirements below should be read in conjunction with MSL Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures, which are in place to protect young participants and promote good practice.

To encourage the continued development of best practice, MSL (in conjunction with the British Softball Federation) has produced requirements when considering whether young people under 18 years of age are competent to play in an adult team or to coach or officiate in an adult game.

While no minimum age is given in this guidance, the younger the player, the more rigorous the assessment of competence needs to be.

These requirements are minimum standards to be followed by all MSL teams, whether competing in the league, in tournaments, or internationally. Teams, leagues and tournaments can introduce additional requirements governing the participation of young players on adult teams as they see fit.

### **SAFEGUARDING REQUIREMENTS**

Each team with under-18 players shall appoint a Safeguarding Officer who will ensure that the appropriate safeguarding procedures and checks are followed and that there is a process in place to assess whether a young player is competent to play, umpire or coach at the level at which the team is competing.

Each player who is under 18 shall be assessed for this purpose by the Team Captain. Where the Captain is under 18, an authorised club member or BASU member shall make the assessment.

Four areas shall be considered when deciding if a young player is competent to take part in an adult team or game:

- General physical capability.
- Social development.
- Emotional development.
- Softball skills and ability.

The young person's parent or guardian shall complete a Permission to Play form in all cases where the young person is competing with an adult team or taking part in an adult game. A permission form can be found on the MSL website. If a parent/guardian is unfamiliar with softball, a club representative shall explain the risks of the sport to them. The completed form shall be retained by the Team Captain and a copy will be sent to the MSL Secretary.

The Team Captain shall review a young player's competence to continue playing should game conditions change – for example, due to adverse weather, a change in the level of play or the conduct or aggressiveness of the opposing team.

If an Umpire is unsure about the competence of a young player, they shall make their concerns known to the Team Captain.

### **EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS**

Players under the age of 18 shall wear a helmet with a built-in faceguard when batting, baserunning, umpiring or when on the field.

Young players shall wear a gum shield if playing in any position in the infield.

The above equipment requirements can only be waived on the basis of an express written request from a player's parent or guardian based on medical considerations. Any other reasons given for a player not wearing the equipment will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Young players shall wear appropriate sports footwear.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Policies, procedures and supporting information are available on the MSL website: <https://manchester-softball.co.uk/>

#### **Welfare and Safeguarding Officer:**

Georgina Greaves  
[welfare@manchester-softball.co.uk](mailto:welfare@manchester-softball.co.uk)

#### **League Chair:**

Luis Arrevillagas  
[chair@manchester-softball.co.uk](mailto:chair@manchester-softball.co.uk)

#### **Relevant policies**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the other MSL policies including those on:

- Code of Conduct
- Anti Bullying
- MSL Safeguarding Children Policy

#### **REVIEW DATE**

This policy will be reviewed every two years or sooner in the event of legislative changes or revisions to policy and best practice.

## Appendix 1 – Parent/Guardian Permission Form

# Parent/Guardian Permission Form

This form is designed to be completed by the parent or legal guardian of any player under the age of 18. It will give permission for them to take part in MSL Softball Activities. Anything written on this form will be held in confidence. Once completed please return to the MSL Secretary.

<b>Section 1 – Player Details</b>	
<b>First Name:</b>	
<b>Last Name:</b>	
<b>Date of Birth:</b>	
<b>Section 2 – Parent/Guardian Details</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Mobile:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Section 3 – Emergency Contact Details</b>	
<i>In the event of an incident or emergency situation, where the parent or legal guardian named above cannot be contacted, please provide details of an alternative adult who can be contacted by the Safeguarding Officer. Please make this person aware that their details have been provided as a contact.</i>	
<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Mobile:</b>	
<b>Relationship to the child:</b>	
<b>Section 4 – Medical Information</b>	
<b>Does your child suffer from any medical conditions/allergies that MSL should be aware of?</b>	
<b>Please provide details of any medication that must be administered.</b> <i>(If applicable)</i>	
<b>Name of Doctor/Surgery</b>	
<b>Telephone Number</b>	
<b>Section 5 – Sporting Information</b>	
<b>Has your child played Softball before?</b>	
<b>Section 6 – Consent Statement from Parent/Guardian</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> I confirm that to the best of my knowledge all information provided on this form is accurate and that I will undertake to advise MSL of any changes to this information.	
<input type="checkbox"/> I agree to the child named above taking part in the activities of MSL.	
<b>Parent/Guardian Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	