

## Minnesota Fastpitch League

The following table summarizes the options available in 2010

	10U	12U	14U	16U	18U
Sanctioning	ASA, USSSA	ASA, USSSA	ASA, USSSA	ASA, USSSA	ASA, USSSA
Start Date, weeks of play (A division)	May 3 10 weeks	May 3 10 weeks	Jun 1 5 weeks	Jun 1 5 weeks	Jun 1 5 weeks
Start Date, weeks of play (B/C division)	May 3 10 weeks	May 3 10 weeks	Jun 1 6 weeks	Jun 1 6 weeks	Jun 1 6 weeks
ASA State Date	Jul 17/18	Jul 17/18	Jul 10/11	Jul 10/11	Jul 10/11
USSSA State Date	Jun 19/20	Jun 19/20	Jun 26/27	Jun 26/27	Jun 26/27
Prepaid Umpire Division	No	No	A only	A only	A only
Games nights per week option	1	1 or 2	1 or 2	1 or 2	1 or 2
Games in week leading into 4 <sup>th</sup>	Yes	Yes	B/C only	B/C only	B/C only

## Question & Answers

### ***Q: What is the league fee, and what is included in this fee?***

A: \$290. This includes ASA & USSSA sanctioning, league scheduling, league administration, and either the ASA or USSSA state tournament. Additional sanctioning and/or tournaments can be pursued by each team outside of league structure.

### ***Q: Are there any discounts that can be applied?***

A: Since USSSA sanctioning for the summer season starts in August, some teams may already be sanctioned USSSA for the 2010 summer as a result of fall participation. Their fee would be reduced by \$25. In addition, ASA team (or individual) insurance can be purchased outside the league which would cover the ASA sanction fee - also a \$25 discount. Finally, if a second state tournament is chosen, it can be added for an additional \$160 (normally this is \$200).

### ***Q: What is a "prepaid umpire" option?***

For 2010, if approved by the members, the league would collect umpire fees up front and be responsible for assigning umpires to games/field locations for a subset of ages/levels. Host communities/teams would be required to identify the initial sites to the league, and communicate changes in venue. Online confirmation of placed umpires is planned.

### ***Q: Are refunds given?***

A: Since the option of two state tournaments is given, and guaranteed entry into one of them exists, refunds will not be granted. If the "prepaid umpire" option is pursued, refunds (less a scheduling fee) would be granted.

### ***Q: What are the divisions of play?***

A: Final divisions will depend on league registrations, but A (also known as "elite"), B and C divisions can be identified. A self-assessed strength indicator is planned on the registration form, so some optimized matchups can be scheduled when a simple round-robin schedule is not possible, or if some feel a single "A" class is not granular enough. These classes map onto state and national affiliations.

***Q: What state tournament(s) can I play in?***

Either ASA or USSSA state events can be chosen. Placement into one of these is guaranteed. Based on 2009 and 2010 announcements to date, it would be possible to play in 3 state tournaments by playing in the MFL. Dates for the ASA and USSSA state tournaments are in the summary chart at the beginning of this document. The MMFL State is also an option, but entry fee and placement into that tournament would need to be done outside of the league.

***Q: When does the league play?***

A: Similar to other leagues, younger ages will start play earlier - during the school season. The summary chart at the beginning of this document highlights the proposed starting dates by age. The league is happy to assist in arranging games during the down period leading into national tournaments on request that extends beyond the dates in the summary chart.

***Q: What post-season play can I participate in?***

A: Any national affiliation's tournaments should be pursuable. The MFL does not have a qualifying tournament that would conflict with known requirements to attend. Both ASA and USSSA will be requiring attendance in their state events – both of which can be participated in.

***Q: Can I play in multiple leagues?***

A: Yes. MFL has a one game night per week option that would allow for dual participation.

***Q: Does the league fee include insurance & ACE certification?***

A: The \$290 league fee does not include ACE certification. That can be done through the register ASA office or with assistance through the ASA of MN office & the J.O. Commissioner. ACE Certification is required at regional qualifying & national events only. With approximately 10% of the teams attending these events, it is a cost they would pay for rather than teams not requiring it.

Insurance is covered to the extent it has been in the past. The league is ASA sanctioned; all teams will be, so liability coverage for umpires is covered at league events. Team or individual player insurance can be purchased in addition, but is not part of league fees.

***Q: Can I just play three doubleheaders – meeting my 6 game minimum?***

A: Technically yes, although you will be scheduled more (1 or 2 games nights per week). It is the desire of the MFL to promote the ASA program. Significant non-weather cancellations that are not made up could jeopardize future involvement in the league by a team/association.