

## **Mechanicsburg Area Teeners (MAT) Baseball** **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)**

### **What league do Mechanicsburg Area Teeners (MAT) teams participate in?**

MAT teams play in the Greater West Shore Teener League (GWSTL), comprised of teams from throughout the south-central PA region.

### **What divisions are teams and players divided into?**

There are six divisions of baseball that teams may compete in -- National Senior (age 15-17), American Senior (age 15-17), National Junior (age 14, 8th graders), and American Junior (age 13-14). Players will be placed on teams based upon age and skill level.

### **How are rosters decided for the MAT teams?**

Teener evaluations are held in mid-March. There is a committee of individuals on hand to evaluate all players who wish to play on a MAT team. That committee is made up of, but not limited to, the managers of the MAT teams, the Teeners Coordinator, and the UABMA Commissioner. Once evaluations are concluded, the committee will place players on teams based upon ability, skill level, and team needs.

### **What is the difference between the National League and American League?**

GWSTL offers each age level two divisions: National and American. Based upon evaluations and the coaches' knowledge of the players, a National League team is selected comprised generally of the top talent in that age level. The remaining players not selected comprise the American League rosters. The National League team plays only against other organizations' National League teams while the American League teams plays against only other organizations' American League teams. This ensures that players are competing against other organizations' players of similar skill level which ultimately is best for those players' development and enjoyment of the game.

We want to make it clear that the selection of the National League team is not always strictly about selecting the most talented players in an age group. In order to ensure competitive teams in the American League and to allow players to develop as pitchers, catchers and other positions, we believe in placing some players who certainly could be "National League" quality players in the American League. This allows those players to develop at those positions where they otherwise may be blocked by other skilled players if they were all to play on the National League team. Many kids who have

played in the American League reaped the benefits of that developmental opportunity and went on to make and even become starters on the high school team.

### **Which players will be placed on the MAT National Senior team roster?**

Those players who were chosen for the JV baseball team for Mechanicsburg High School and wish to play Teeners are typically placed on the MAT National Senior team which starts its season only after the JV season is completed (typically mid-May). However, keep in mind that the JV roster is often over 20 players so we cannot put all JV players on the National Senior Team. Due to roster space limitations, sophomore JV players are given priority to fill the National Senior team and some freshman JV players may be placed on the National Junior team (age 14) or an American League team (age 14-17). This will ensure more playing time for all players. Indeed, from experience, we know that many freshman play very little for the JV team and are itching for playing time which they will receive on the American or National Jr. roster.

### **Why are the registration costs higher for Teeners?**

The Upper Allen Mechanicsburg Baseball Association (UAMBA) administers the MAT program and charges more for Teener baseball registrations because the administrative costs are higher for players at that level. Uniforms typically cost more and the expenses for umpires are significantly higher. Also, there are no concession stand volunteer requirements for Teeners families as there are for the little league program.

### **When and where are practices scheduled?**

Practices at the Teener levels are usually held 3 days per week in the pre-season. It is up to the discretion of the team manager, and the Teener scheduler, upon which days those practices will fall. One of those weekly practices typically falls on the weekend. After the season starts, the manager typically reduces the number of practices down to one per week. Practices for Teeners are held at either the Fisher Park Teener field, Koser Park or Northside School.

### **When do Teener teams play their games?**

Typically during the spring season, the GWSTL schedules games for weekday evenings, and there are no games scheduled on weekends. Games typically start in April, with the exception of the National Senior team, which starts the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May after the JV high school season ends. During the fall season, games typically are on Saturdays with a limited number of games during the weekdays. Games typically start in September for the fall season.

### **Where do Teener teams play their games?**

MAT teams compete in a league comprised of teams throughout the south-central PA region. As such, there is some local travel expected for away games. Typically all locations can be reached in under an hour of drive time. For home games, MAT teams play at the Fisher Park Teeners field or at Koser Park in Mechanicsburg.

**What are the dimensions of the baseball fields that MAT teams play on?**

All Teener teams play on the full-sized field featuring a 60-foot pitching distance and 90-foot base paths (60/90 field).

**What size and type of bats can players use in Teeners?**

No bats are allowed to be greater than 34 inches in length. Composite, aluminum and wood bats are allowed. For all Teeners levels, bats must be BBCOR certified and can only be a drop-3 in length/weight.

**Can my son wear metal spikes in Teeners?**

Metal spikes are allowed in Teeners only.

**SUMMARY OF TEENERS PLAYING LEVELS**

Level	Ages *	General Description	Bat Drop Weight **	Cleats	Bat Standard	Base Paths	Pitching Distance	School Grade
National Junior	14u	Selected 8th graders 14yr old or less	-3	Molded or Metal	BBCOR	90ft	60ft 6in	8, 9
American Junior	14u	Balance of 14 yr olds plus 13yr olds wanting to play on the bigger field	-3	Molded or Metal	BBCOR	90ft	60ft 6in	7, 8
National Senior	17u	High School JV players	-3	Molded or Metal	BBCOR	90ft	60ft 6in	9, 10
American Senior	17u	15-17yr old players not on the JV team	-3	Molded or Metal	BBCOR	90ft	60ft 6in	9, 10, 11, some 12th

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\* age on May 1st.

\*\* weight (oz)-length  
(in)