Diamond Sports Equipment Program Guidelines

Technical Specifications & Program Documentation

Program Sponsors:

Additional Support from the Long Center Foundation

1. Program Overview:

The Youth Diamond Sports Equipment Program, sponsored by **Mizuno USA,** supports **community recreational diamond sports (baseball and softball) organizations** by addressing critical **safety**, **participation**, and **equipment needs**. Its primary goal is to **replace batting helmets and catchers' equipment on a three-year cycle** and expand equitable, safe access to organized youth baseball & softball through targeted equipment funding.

Funding requests falling outside the program's enrollment period may be reviewed **and approved by the CFY Office** and are subject to **budget availability in CFY's sole discretion**.

2. Eligibility Criteria:

2.1 Eligible Organizations

- Pinellas County based youth baseball and softball organizations only. **No exception.**
- Recreational youth baseball and softball programs

2.2 Eligible Equipment

- Samurai Women's Box Set
- F6 – BT Helmet Solid – ADT
- MVP BTG Helmet W/FP Mask
- MVP BTG Helmet W/FP Mask Youth
- Shogun Men's Box Set – Large
- Shogun Box Set – Youth
- Samurai Men's Box Set
- Samurai Youth Box Set
- B6 – BT Helmet – Solid ADT
- B6 – BT Helmet – Solid YTH
- MVP Batting Helmet
- MVP Batting Helmet Youth

2.3 Ineligible Equipment

- **Any equipment other than the approved is ineligible.** This includes all other batting helmets and catchers' equipment types. The program is intended only to replace up to 33% of an organization's batting helmets and catchers' equipment through the partnership with Mizuno USA.

3. Funding Parameters:

3.1 Award Limits

- Maximum award: Up to **33% of total register for baseball and softball participants during the *previous* season.**

- Maximum annual award per organization: **One award per year**

3.2 Matching Requirement

- Based upon the size of a program, matching funds up to $250 will be required annually to participate.
- Amount will be determined by CFY and will be required **prior** to ordering any equipment.

4. Batting Helmet and Catchers Equipment Specific Restrictions:

Batting Helmets and Catchers Equipment are **ineligible** for CFY's Equipment Supplement Program.

Additional restrictions:

- Batting Helmets and Catchers Equipment procured under this program may **not be given to participants at the end of the season;** they must be reused for the next two seasons of the organization.
- While organizations can choose different products or vendors to procure batting helmets & catchers' equipment, **no CFY funds** of any type may be used to procure any or a portion of an order in the year that the organization participates in this program.

5. Program Process:

5.1 Application Period

Organizations must apply during the open enrollment period for that year, but missing out the window does not block future participation.

  - **Example:** If an organization does not apply during the 2027 open enrollment period, it may not participate in the program for 2027, but it may apply during the next open enrollment period for future participation.

- After receiving approval from CFY, organizations will work directly with Mizuno USA representatives to order the approved items in the requested sizes, quantities, and colors.

5.2 Funding Source Disclosure

Applications must clearly identify:

- The source of matching funds
- The origin of matching funds
- Confirmation that funds are dedicated solely to the requested purchase

6. Payment and Disbursement Process:

- Organizational funds must be remitted to CFY prior to the order being placed.
- CFY funds are **paid directly to Mizuno USA (no exceptions)**
- No funds are disbursed directly to the applicant organization under any circumstances

7. Equipment Usage and Compliance:

All equipment funded through the program:

- Must be used **exclusively** by the requesting organization
- Must be used **only for the approved purpose**
- Must remain in use for the **entire lifecycle of the equipment** within the approved program
- Must ensure that all helmets have the CFY logo sticker located in a highly visible place on the helmet

7.1 Unauthorized Use

Any unauthorized use of funded equipment may result in:

- Immediate non-compliance status
- **Ineligibility for any future CFY funding**

8. Equipment Storage and Longevity:

To ensure durability and maximize long-term value:

- Applicants **may be required** to submit a storage and maintenance plan
- Plans should demonstrate reasonable safeguards for equipment longevity

9. Governance and Oversight:

The CFY Office retains authority to:

- Enforce eligibility and compliance rules
- Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in a programs ability to receive future CFY funds as determined by CFY in its sole discretion
- Deny funding based on budget constraints or policy violations
- Review documentation prior to final approval