



Rules and Other Information

Structure

- ☐ Executive Director/President will be responsible for appointing and removing members of the Executive Board and naming a Vice President(s)
- ☐ Executive Director will be responsible for enforcing all rules and penalties for violations of the rules
- ☐ Executive Board, as appointed by the Executive Director, will be responsible for bringing ideas on league rules to the table and will vote on those rules. Will vote on other items as needed.
- ☐ Advisory Board will be made up of one representative from each team in the league. Rep should not be a member of the Executive Committee.
- ☐ Advisory Board will vote on items per Executive Director and must vote yay or nay, they may not abstain.
- ☐ Advisory Board will be responsible for bringing ideas and concerns to the Executive Committee. They also have the right to send a rule back to committee if a majority find the rule unfair, unclear or any other credible reason.
- ☐ All managers must be approved by the Executive Board before joining the league.

Player limits and rules

- ☐ Eligible players in the league are as follows (age by end of season):
 - o 18 and over if playing with parent
 - There are 2 grandfathered players: Cole Eichelberger and Brayden Speelman, who are the lone under 18 yr olds moving forward.
 - o 30 and over if not with parent
- ☐ Players under 35 MUST use wood bats. Failing to do so is an automatic out and all runners are returned to their respective bases.
- ☐ Any player under 35 who does not have a wood bat available may continue to play defense but does not bat until they have a wooden bat. Position in the line up will be an out if less than 9 batting.
- ☐ Players under the age of 30:

- o Parent must be present and playing if “able” (injuries happen, but father must still be present if unable to physically play).
 - There is a lone exception to this rule due to father’s employer: Garrett Moats
 - o Are eligible to play **ONLY** the following positions in the field: catcher, second base, first base and right field.
 - o May not be used as a pinch runner.
 - o Are not eligible for All-Star game
- ☐ Any player under 35 will not be eligible if they are on a roster of a professional baseball team, or Central / Susquehanna league or on a college roster.
 - ☐ Players must play ½ of their team’s games to be playoff eligible.

Rosters

- ☐ March 1st is the cutoff for adding teams for the current season.
- ☐ There is no limit on roster size.
- ☐ No more than 5 players under the age of 30 on any roster.
- ☐ Rosters are locked after the Free Agent draft.
- ☐ Players may change rosters in the off season.
 - o If the manager does not agree, the matter will then be presented to the executive board if the player wishes to appeal. This is to keep the league competitive. The board can also prevent a player from leaving if the team that would receive them would not need the help and would jeopardize his current ballclub.
- ☐ Free Agent draft will be held with all un-rostered players.
 - o Draft will be in reverse order of previous year’s record. Tie-breakers will be as noted later in the rules.
 - o Teams do not have to take players but are encouraged to try and accommodate any free agents to help the league grow.

The league will be utilizing MLB rules except for the following exceptions:

Game Times

- ☐ **The home team manager is responsible for the game’s time.** *The umpires are not responsible for the time.*
- ☐ All games will be 7 innings with a time limit of 2 ½ hours.
- ☐ No new inning shall be started after 2¼ hours.
- ☐ If score is tied after 7 innings and the game is within the 2¼ hour limit, the game continues into extra innings.

- ☐ If the time limit has been reached and the game is tied, teams will play using the **Tie-Breaking rules**.

Tie-Breaking rules

- ☐ If the score is tied and the time limit has been reached, one last inning is played.
- ☐ This inning will start with the last out from the previous inning on 2nd base, for both teams.
- ☐ Each team is limited to a maximum of 3 runs in the extra inning. If the score is still tied, the game ends as a tie.

Batting

- ☐ Each team will submit a continuous batting order before the start of week 1. This is the official batting order for the entire season.
- ☐ Any player(s) added after the batting order has been submitted will be inserted at the end of the official batting order.
- ☐ Players may be skipped in the order if injured or leaving the game, without recording an out if there are still 9 players in the order. They may re-enter the batting order if they feel they can do so, however this rule does not permit players to skip their at bats for strategic purposes (players can't skip an at bat to allow another hitter to bat)
- ☐ There will be no modified bats. Vote unanimously from managers.
 - If discovered, the bat is removed from the game and the player is ejected per MLB Rule Rule 6.03(a)(4).

Pitching

- ☐ Players must be 35 or older to pitch.
- ☐ Pitchers may pitch a maximum of 4 innings per game. Any inning in which they pitch is considered a complete inning when calculating innings pitched.
- ☐ Pitchers may work from the stretch or wind-up. They may not attempt to pick off a runner from the wind-up with full count and 2 outs. See Baserunning
- ☐ Pitchers may NOT re-enter to pitch after leaving the position.
- ☐ Balks will not be called.

Base Running

- ☐ Runners may take a lead of 10' from 1st and 3rd base, and 12' from 2nd base. Secondary lead is MAXIMUM of 2 additional steps to primary lead.
- ☐ Runners do so at their own risk and may be picked off by the pitcher or catcher.

- ☐ At the umpire's discretion a player may be called out for taking an excessive lead.
- ☐ On an attempted pickoff, runners must return to the base they are leading from. If there is an overthrow or error, runners may advance immediately, and do not have to touch the base, at their own risk.
- ☐ With 2 outs and a full count, runners may run when the pitcher pitches the ball.
- ☐ Runners must wear batting helmets when running the bases.

Courtesy Runners

- ☐ Prior to the game, managers should announce any players not able to run the bases.
- ☐ If a player is hurt during the game, they may use a courtesy runner.
- ☐ The courtesy runner is the closest previous batter in the line-up who is not on base or designated as a player who cannot run. If the courtesy runner is the pitcher or catcher, the next runner may be used.
 - o Runner must be 30 or over. Under 30 MAY NOT be a courtesy runner.
- ☐ If a player reaches 2nd base during their at bat, they may not have a courtesy runner unless injured during that play.
- ☐ Pitchers and catchers may have courtesy runners if they reach base to keep the game moving along.
- ☐ With 2 outs, catchers should use a courtesy runner.

Fill-in players

Fill-in players are not to be used to create an advantage for the team they are playing for.

If a team is short players there are 2 options:

1. The opposing team shall provide players in the field for the team that is short. This is primarily used when a team has 7 or 8 rostered players.
2. A team may use "other" players. Any "other" player must be agreed upon by both managers, must be rostered in the league, and should not be difference makers. "Other" players will bat after the last rostered player in attendance. "Other" players are limited to playing the outfield and if not able to play outfield, may play first base or catch. "Other" players may not pitch.
3. If you have less than 7 players the game is **a forfeit** in the standings, 7-0, however you can still play the game and pay the umpires. Opposing manager **MAY NOT** choose to not take a forfeit.

A team that has 9 players but needs help in the field must use option 1. No "other" player may be used.

Fields

- ☐ Multiple fields will be utilized for play.
- ☐ Managers are responsible for cleaning their dugout at the end of the game.
- ☐ Home team should maintain the fields at the end of the last game of the day.
- ☐ Players and scorekeepers only in the dugouts
- ☐ No smoking or alcohol at any of the fields.

Keeping Score

- ☐ The league will pay scorekeepers \$15/game.
- ☐ Scoresheets will be sent Sunday evening, but no later than Monday, to the head scorekeeper, to be recorded on the league website.
- ☐ Line up will be written from leadoff batter for the game and only players present or expected to be present are listed for ease of scoring.

Uniforms

- ☐ All players need to wear similar shirts and hats.
- ☐ Players **MUST** have ID available to verify they are on the roster.
- ☐ Players should not wear shorts (This is a clarification)

Playoffs

- ☐ Players must play ½ of their team's games in order to play in the playoffs.
- ☐ Playoff games will be highest seed vs. lowest each round. Highest seed is the home team.
- ☐ All teams make playoffs with bottom seeds playing a wild card play in game the Saturday of week 1 playoff week, when necessary to avoid byes and when an odd number of teams exist. *This can be revisited each season based on the number of teams.
- ☐ Playoffs are single elimination
- ☐ Championship will be between the winners of the inter-division playoffs or the last 2 teams remaining if using 1 division for regular season play.
- ☐ Playoff games must be played to a win, no ties. After the time limit, use the regular season extra innings rule for all extra innings.

Sportsmanship

- ☐ All players and managers shall conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated during the season.
- ☐ For any player ejected from a game for arguing with an umpire shall serve a 1 game suspension.
- ☐ Any player or manager that displays unsportsmanlike conduct during or after the game shall serve a 1 game suspension.
- ☐ For a 2nd offense, the person is suspended for 5 games, a 3rd offense is a suspension for the remainder of the season.

Standings Tie-breakers

- ☐ First tie-breaker in standings is head to head match up.
- ☐ Second tie-breaker is the division record when 2 divisions are used. When using 1 division, runs allowed is the second tie-breaker.
- ☐ Third tie-breaker is runs allowed when 2 divisions are used. When using 1 division run differential is the third tie-breaker.

Rules violations

- ☐ The rules are the rules, **no exceptions**.
- ☐ First violation, games with infractions are forfeit.
- ☐ Second violation, the manager is barred from managing in the league.