

Bylaws and Rules of the Mid-Maryland Semi-Pro Baseball League

Article I: Name & Purpose

Name

Section A: This organization shall be known as the Mid-Maryland Semi-Pro Baseball League and shall be on an amateur standing.

Purpose

Section B: The purpose of the league shall be to protect and stimulate competition among amateur baseball teams in Maryland.

Agreement

Section C: All franchises and team members agree to abide by the by-laws of the Mid-Maryland Semi-Pro Baseball League.

Article II: Membership

Members

Section A: The membership of this league shall consist of duly elected and accepted baseball teams, each one of which shall hold a franchise in the league. Any team holding a franchise in this league shall retain and exercise its franchise without need for re-acceptance to membership, providing that it has fulfilled all of its obligations to the league.

New Members

Section B: Applications for new franchises will be reviewed by the Executive Committee. A new franchise may be elected to membership by achieving a 60% favorable majority of the league members present and voting at a league meeting. Each application for membership will be acted upon individually. New franchises will be acted upon no later than the February meeting of the membership.

Membership Revocation

Section C: Membership status may be revoked by a 70% majority of the franchises present and voting at a league meeting. Any franchise whose membership is in jeopardy shall be notified, in writing, by the President of the charges against them and be given the opportunity to respond to the charges at a league meeting conducted no earlier than fourteen days from the date of written notification from the President.

Article III: Officers

President

Section A: The President shall be elected by majority vote annually at a fall meeting of the league. He/she is the chief executive officer of the league and is responsible for its overall functioning and security.

Treasurer

Section E: The Treasurer shall be appointed by the President and shall be responsible for keeping an account of all league revenue and expenditures. He/she shall submit a report of same at each meeting of the league.

League Information Director

Section F: The Sports Information Director shall be appointed by the President. He/she shall keep the minutes of league meetings and submit them to all league members within fourteen (14) days after each meeting. He/she shall also manage the publicity of the league.

Executive Committee

Section H: The function of the Executive Committee will be to conduct the monitoring of all league business. The executive committee will consist of all league managers and is chaired by the President.

Board Of Appeals

Section I: The Board of Appeals shall rule on all game protests and team player suspensions. The board will consist of a minimum of two (2) league officers, chaired by the President. All rulings by the Board of Appeals shall be final and binding.

Article IV: Voting Privileges and Procedures

Member Club

Section A: Each member club is entitled to one vote on all matters brought to a vote at any league meeting at which it is represented.

President

Section B: The President, or in his absence his/her designee, is entitled to vote if there is a tie vote among member clubs at a league meeting. If the President is also a manager of a member club, this vote will be in addition to the member club vote.

Quorum

Section C: Presence of 50% of the league's members shall be sufficient for conducting business at a league meeting.

Majority

Section D: All matters brought to a vote at league meetings shall be decided by a simple majority of members present and voting unless otherwise specified in these bylaws.

Article V: Dues

Approval

Section A: Annual dues of member franchises shall be established by the Executive Committee prior to February 1 of each year.

Payment Due

Section B: Each member franchise shall submit its league dues in full to the President before April 1. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of membership. A new member must submit the sum of \$500.00 to the President at the time of being accepted as a league member. This sum will go towards the new members annual dues and is non-refundable. If the franchise is in default, the money will become the property of the Mid-Maryland Semi-Pro Baseball League.

Article VI: Schedule

Schedule Deadline

Section A: The regular season schedule of league games shall be submitted by the President for approval at a league meeting prior to March 15 of each year. Prior to March 15, member franchises must indicate to the President the dates on which their home field is available, and their desire to schedule home games. After the schedule is approved, no changes may be made without the approval of the President.

Starting Times

Section B: The starting time of weekday regular season games shall be 6:00 p.m. for unlit fields and 7:00 p.m. for lit fields. Starting times for Saturday and Sunday games shall be 1:00 p.m. A team unable to field nine players at the scheduled time may have an additional 15 minutes before a forfeiture is awarded and an additional 45 minutes before the second game of a doubleheader is forfeited.

Article VII: Team Rosters and Player Eligibility

Player Eligibility

Section A: No player shall be paid for his playing services by any team in the league. If said player is found guilty, he will be suspended for the rest of the season. The team will forfeit every game that the player was compensated for and participated in.

Section B: Players who wish to transfer from one team to another, from one season to the next, must secure the President's approval for such transfer. The President will normally approve all such requests, provided that all obligations to the former team have been met (money owed, uniforms, equipment, etc..).

Player Contract / Liability Waiver

Section C: Each player must sign the MMS PBL Player Contract (Appendix B) in order to become eligible to play. All contracts must be submitted to the league president prior to the start of the season and within 48 hours of a roster addition.

Preliminary Roster

Section D: Each team shall present a copy of its preliminary roster of not more than 25 players to the President by the final meeting before the regular season (April). Failure to submit preliminary rosters will result in the suspension of team activities. Once a player signs the roster, he becomes the property of said team for the remainder of the season unless he is released by said team.

Section E: Changes in the preliminary roster may be made by notifying the President or his designate in writing. New players are eligible to play immediately, however, the league President must be notified within 24 hours of their addition to the roster.

Final Roster

Section F: Each franchise shall submit its final roster of not more than 21 players to the President or his designate by July 1. Failure to submit the final roster could result in the suspension of franchise activities. No change may be made to the final roster for any reason except if a team loses a player because he has been drafted into the service, drafted by a professional baseball team, or has died. That team shall be allowed to add a player to the roster even if the vacancy occurs after final rosters have been submitted, in accordance with Sections A-F.

Article VIII: Post-Season Format

Playoff Games

Section A: Prior to the opening of the regular season, the executive committee, with the approval of the league members, will design a playoff format.

Schedule

Section B: At a meeting called at the end of season's play by the President, the President and the playoff managers shall arrange for the scheduled playoff games and approve the final roster of each competing franchise.

Eligibility

Section C: A player must have taken part in no less than five (5) games of his team's league games to qualify himself for any championship playoff game.

Home Team

Section D: The team with the highest league standing for the year shall be the home team for the first and deciding games.

Article IX: League Standings

Regular Season Standings

Section A: Standings shall be determined by the awarding of two points for a win and one point for a tie. The President shall establish a procedure for the reporting of game scores.

Playoff Positions

Section B: All regular season games must be played, any game not played will result in a loss for both teams. The President shall directly supervise the re-scheduling of any postponements during the final ten days of the regular season. Teams which tie for post-season playoff positions shall determine their playoff seeding using the tie-breakers as outlined in Appendix A.

Article X: Regional Tournaments

Regional Tournament Eligibility

Section A: The winner of the post season playoffs will be considered the league champion and will be granted a berth to a regional tournament conducted by an affiliate organization (NABF, NASPBA, AABC, etc.). If the league is providing for 2 regional tournament berths, the top standing team in the regular season will claim the second berth.

Section B: In the event that a team that has earned a tournament berth cannot attend, a substitute team will be selected. The substitute team shall be selected using the Tie Breaker methods described in Appendix A. The method will be applied to each teams overall league record, including regular season and playoffs.

Regional Tournament Selection

Section C: If the league is participating in 2 different regional tournaments, the top standing team in the regular season will select the tournament of their choice. The league champion will attend the second tournament.

Article XI: The Mid-Maryland Semi-Pro Baseball League Rules

Mid-Maryland Semi-Pro Baseball League Rules

Section A: The American League rulebook shall govern the playing of all league games except rules that are specific to the Mid-Maryland Semi-Pro Baseball League as contained herein.

Postponements

Section B: The home team manager may postpone a game because of inclement weather conditions. Within 48 hours of a postponement, the home team manager must offer the manager of the visiting team at least two possible make-up dates on which it does not have a league game scheduled. The visiting team manager must indicate his acceptance of one of these dates within 48 hours of notification. These games must be played within fourteen (14) days after the postponed date. Failure of either team to comply with this rule could result in a forfeit. The home team manager must notify the President of the date and time of the rescheduled game within 96 hours of the postponement. Failure to notify the President will result in a fine of \$10.00 to the home team.

Officials

Section C: No league-sanctioned games may start with less than one league-assigned umpire present. Only league-assigned umpires may be used for scheduled games.

Special Circumstances

Section D: Postponements for any other reason may be made only with the approval of the President. Failure to obtain approval will result in a forfeit by the team. The President may grant a waiver in the case of extenuating circumstances.

Length Of Games

Section E: All regular and post season games shall be a length of 7 innings. A 10-Run Mercy Rule shall be in effect in both games of a double-header and all single games. Under the mercy rule, the game will end and a win will be awarded when the home team is ahead by at least 10 runs after 4 1/2 innings or behind by at least 10 runs after 5 complete innings. Teams should attempt to play beyond seven innings in the event of a tie unless halted by darkness, curfew, or inclement weather.

Playoff games shall be played the prescribed number of innings. If interrupted by weather or darkness, they shall be completed from the point of interruption on the next scheduled playoff date, if so directed by the President. The team trailing in score at the time of suspension may elect to waive this provision and accept the score as it stands.

Forfeits

Section F: A team which forfeits a game shall pay all umpire fees and any additional expenses incurred by the home team (lights, field) in full for games that are forfeited. Payment must be made before the team's next scheduled game or within 48 hours of originally scheduled game.

Section G: A team will be suspended from further league play if it has forfeited games on three separate dates during a season. Its remaining scheduled games shall be recorded as forfeits and its membership in the league shall be revoked. The balance of fees and umpire assessment, if any, shall become the property of the Mid-Maryland Semi-Pro Baseball League. Said team may re-apply for membership the following year.

Section H: The President shall award a forfeit for the use of ineligible players.

Ejection And Suspension

Section I: The Umpire-in-Chief shall report to the President, within 24 hours, the names and/or jersey number of any player or coach who may have been ejected from the game and circumstances surrounding the ejection.

- The First Time a player, coach, or manager is ejected from a game, he shall be warned by the President of the penalties for additional ejections.
- The Second Time a player, coach, or manager is ejected from a game, he will be suspended from the next two league games.

- The Third Time a player, coach, or manager is ejected from a game, he will be suspended for the rest of the season. If he desires to play the following season, the team that he wishes to play for must apply for re-instatement to the league and said application must be approved by a majority of the voting members.

When an umpire notifies the President of an ejection, the President will call the respective coach, who will inform him of the situation. With this call, the President will institute the appropriate penalty for the ejection.

If a player or coach has physically abused or threatened an umpire, he will be suspended for the next three games, following notification from the President. A second incident of any type of physical abuse shall result in the suspension of that player for the remainder of the season. If he desires to play the following season, the team that he wishes to play for must apply for re-instatement to the league and said application must be approved by a majority of the voting members.

Conduct Rules

Section J: LANGUAGE: Players must refrain from using vile and profane language. In general, it is expected that players will be under control and not use obscenities. It is further expected that the manager will control the language used by their teams. The standard for the League is that if, in the umpire's judgement, inappropriate language can be heard by a fan in the stands, that player will be warned. A second offense will result in the player being ejected. If the player does not leave the field immediately or if he persists in using foul language, the manager will also be ejected. If the situation continues to persist, the umpire will forfeit the game to the other team.

Section K: FIGHTING & PHYSICAL ABUSE: Any physical confrontation with opposing players or officials- including pushing, shoving, striking with arms, hands, legs, feet or equipment or attempt to make such physical contact- will result in the following penalties:

- For the first offense by an individual, ejection from the game and a suspension from the team's next game (the 2nd game of the doubleheader if appropriate).
- For the 2nd offense, ejection from the game and suspension from the next 3 games.
- For the 3rd offense, ejection from the game and suspension the season.

Section L: TEAM PERSONNEL LEAVING POSITIONS: If players or coaches leave their positions to participate in a fight, they shall be ejected and suspended from the team's next three games, beginning with the 2nd game of a doubleheader if appropriate. (A player who remains in his position and is judged to be defending himself or a player who is attempting to prevent a fight shall not be ejected or suspended). A batter or runner who initiates a fight by charging the pitcher or a pitcher who leaves the mound to initiate a fight will be ejected and receive a three game suspension. The second offense is suspension for the season.

Section M: INTENTIONALLY THROWING AT A BATTER: If a pitcher is ejected for intentionally throwing at a batter, he shall be suspended for the team's next game, beginning with the 2nd game of a doubleheader if appropriate. If a warning to the teams had been previously given, then the manager shall be ejected as well and be suspended for one game, beginning with the 2nd game of a doubleheader if appropriate.

Section N: VERBAL ABUSE/BENCH JOCKEYING: Game personnel will not use language that reflects negatively on opposing players, coaches, umpires or spectators. The umpire will issue one warning and if the abuse continues, will eject the offending personnel. If the abuse does not subside or if it cannot be ascertained who the offending individual is, the manager shall be ejected.

Protest

Section O: Games are to be protested in accordance with American League Official Rule 4.19. No later than 24 hours following the game, the manager of the protesting team must submit in writing to the President the reason for the protest. The sum of \$50.00, payable to the Mid-Maryland Semi-Pro Baseball League, must accompany the written protest. The President shall respond to the protest within 72 hours of its receipt. If the protest is upheld, the money will be returned.

Designated Hitter

Section P: A designated hitter may be used in accordance with American League Official Rule 6.10.

Pre-Game Field Use

Section Q: Visiting teams may have use of the field 15 minutes before the start of games. All practice on the field shall end five minutes before scheduled start of a game. There shall be no practice time allotted between games of a doubleheader. Teams shall be ready to present lineup cards to the umpires and to review ground rules five minutes before the scheduled start of each game.

Article XII: Equipment

Uniforms

Section A: All players and base coaches shall be in proper, complete team uniform.

Baseballs

Section B: The home team is responsible for supplying all balls necessary to complete a game. Only one brand of ball will be used during the course of the season.

Helmets

Section C: All batters, base runners, and catchers must wear protective helmets. The batter's helmet shall have an ear flap on the side facing the pitcher.

Bats

Section D: Wooden bats that meet the specifications of the American League Rules will be used as well as composite bats meeting those specifications. The use of aluminum bats is prohibited.

Article XIII: Adoption of By-Laws

Approval

Section A: These by-laws will be effective when approved by a majority of the league's members present and voting at a league meeting.

Amendments

Section B: These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of quorum of league members present and voting at a league meeting.

Appendix A: Tie Breakers

In the event of a tie for a position in the standings, tiebreakers will be:

Most Wins,
Record vs. Tied Teams,
Most Runs Scored vs. Tied Teams,
Least Runs Allowed vs. Tied Teams,
Most Runs Scored vs. All Teams,
Least Runs Allowed vs. All Teams,
Coin Flip.

Appendix B: Mid-Maryland Semi-Pro Baseball League Player Contract

PLAYER'S AGREEMENT: I _____, agree to play with the _____ team during the upcoming season or until I am given my release in writing by the Manager / Coach of said team and said release is recorded by the Mid-Maryland Semi-Pro Baseball League. I understand that I am in no way obligated to play for said team and my release will be granted upon the return of all team property and payment of any monies due to the team.

LIABILITY WAIVER: As lawful consideration for being permitted to participate at the Mid-Maryland Semi-Pro Baseball League, I agree that I will not make a claim against, sue, attach the property of or prosecute Mid-Maryland Semi-Pro Baseball League and their agents, sponsors and employees for damages for death, personal injury or property damage which I may sustain as a result of my participation in these sporting activities. This release is intended to discharge in advance Mid-Maryland Semi-Pro Baseball League, their agents and sponsors from and against any and all liability, including for negligent actions, arising out of or connected in any way with my participation in the sports activity except for liability that may arise out of the willful or wanton misconduct of Mid-Maryland Semi-Pro Baseball League, their agents and sponsors. I FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT SPORTS INVOLVE PHYSICAL CONTACT BETWEEN PLAYERS, THAT SERIOUS ACCIDENTS OCCASIONALLY OCCUR DURING SUCH SPORTING ACTIVITIES, AND THAT PARTICIPANTS IN SUCH SPORTING ACTIVITIES OCCASIONALLY SUSTAIN SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURIES (INCLUDING DEATH) AND/OR PROPERTY DAMAGE, AS A CONSEQUENCE THEREOF, KNOWING THE RISKS OF PARTICIPATION, NEVERTHELESS, I HEREBY AGREE TO ASSUME THOSE RISKS AND TO RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS MID-MARYLAND SEMI-PRO BASEBALL LEAGUE, THEIR AGENTS AND SPONSORS WHO (THROUGH NEGLIGENCE OR CARELESSNESS) MIGHT OTHERWISE BE LIABLE TO ME (OR MY HEIRS OR ASSIGNS) FOR DAMAGES.

I attest that I am eighteen (18) years old or older, am physically fit and have no known medical conditions which prohibit participation in this sport. I agree to follow all laws, rules and guidelines regulating the conduct of the sports activity. I understand and agree that I am solely responsible for the mechanical and/or operating condition of any and all sporting equipment I use, and I agree to continuously inspect and maintain that equipment, even if I have obtained any of the equipment from Mid-Maryland Semi-Pro Baseball League, their agents and/or sponsors. I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND A CONTRACT BETWEEN MYSELF AND MID-MARYLAND SEMI-PRO BASEBALL LEAGUE, THEIR AGENTS AND SPONSORS, AND I HAVE SIGNED IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

(Player Name)

(Team)

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip)

(Player Signature)

(Date)

(League Signature)

(Date)