

McHenry County Baseball League 2016/17 Official League Rules

Last updated: October 12, 2016

LEAGUE RULES

1. There will be no residency rule. In no situation will a team be allowed into the league that is unwilling to travel for all games or cannot provide a suitable playing field and patched umpire.
2. The league entry fee is \$300.00 payable to 'MCBL'. This fee is collected to cover the costs of league.
3. Each team must submit a Certificate of Insurance; thereby holding MCBL including its coordinators/administrators harmless from any liability incurred before, during or subsequent to any practices, league or tournament games.
4. All teams are required to make every reasonable effort to play and complete all scheduled regular games. Double booking of games is prohibited and will result in game forfeiture(s) and possibly league expulsion. Reasonable advance notice (1 week) must be given to an opposing manager/team when unforeseen conflicts arise necessitating rescheduling activities. In the event of a rain out or other postponement teams have two (2) weeks to reschedule a game, if after that time the team or teams have tried to make contact and failed, e-mail will be sent to the division coordinator, in order that he or she will intervene to get the game rescheduled. If a team does not respond or has no time to reschedule the game they will be given a 7-0 loss and the other team a 7-0 victory. We all go into the season committed to play all of our games and we are obligated to do so regardless of the standings. The league administrators and division coordinator will resolve any disputes, when necessary.
5. The winning team is responsible for entering the score into the website, this must be done within 24 hours of the completion of the game. The leagues standings will always remain current.

GENERAL RULES

6. **PROTESTS:**
Protests may be submitted to your division coordinator and the league coordinator. For consideration there will be a \$100 cash fee. If the protest is held up, the money will be returned. If not the funds will be forfeited.
7. Teams must fill out the roster section of the website, with a maximum of 15 players to the league coordinator by March 1st of the upcoming season. Teams may not add players to their roster after the start of the season except in extreme cases, subject to the majority approval of the League and Division Teams. Violation of the rule will result in a forfeit of all games played by non-roster players. A player may not be rostered on two teams within the same age division. They may be rostered on two teams of different age groups in different divisions and must meet the age requirement of each team. Rosters will be locked by the league administrators on March 1st of the current season.

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8. All rostered players must comply with the age chart below. Teams must provide a copy of each of their player's Birth Certificate upon request of the League administrator and have available at each game upon request of the opposing coach. (NOTE: New for the 2017 season and beyond – Players in the 13U and older divisions will move to scholastic age level limit. Thus if a player turns 14 before May 1st and is still in 7th grade he or she is still eligible for the 13U division. No player turning 15 before May 1st would be eligible for 13U. The same applies for the 14U division and 15U division when applicable. In these cases, the coach must carry the most recent report card for that child and it must state the grade level on it. Otherwise the chart below applies.)
 - a. 8U Division – Must be 8 years or younger on or before April 30th.
 - b. 9U Division – Must be 9 years or younger on or before April 30th.
 - c. 10U Division - Must be 10 years or younger on or before April 30th.
 - d. 11U Division - Must be 11 years or younger on or before April 30th.
 - e. 12U Division - Must be 12 years or younger on or before April 30th.
 - f. 13U Division - Must be 13 years or younger on or before April 30th.
 - g. 14U Division - Must be 14 years or younger on or before April 30th.
 - h. 15U Division - Must be 15 years or younger on or before April 30th.
9. A limit of four (4) coaches and a scorekeeper will be allowed on the field or in the dugout at any one time. The umpires may overrule this at any time.
10. A home team representative must contact the visiting team representative at least 1½ hours (or longer if possible) prior to game time - to cancel games due to inclement weather or field conditions. On days that this call cannot be made due to intermittence or logistics, make every reasonable attempt to extend notification to the visiting team representative. Thereafter, reschedule the cancelled game(s) as soon as possible.
11. The league's regular season is scheduled to run from April 1st through June 30th. Postponed games need to be made up as soon as possible and before the end of the season (and/or designated date) in order to determine final standings and seeding for the league tournament.
12. Home teams are required to provide and compensate for at least one (1) "patched" umpire for all league games. The umpire must be 18 years of age or older. If the scheduled home team must play at the visitors' field - the scheduled home team must reimburse the scheduled visiting team for the full cost of the umpire(s). Failure to provide an umpire for a scheduled game may result in a forfeit (7-0). Under no circumstance will a game count toward the standings if played without an umpire. These games need to be rescheduled and replayed on an alternate date.
13. Designated home teams on the schedule are required to provide two (2) new baseballs per game. Each game ball must be of identical type. Game balls are to be of cork center with wool winding and full grain leather cover, i.e....Wilson A1010 or comparable Rawlings, Diamond, etc.
14. Forfeit time is designated to be 15 minutes after the scheduled start time of the game.

GAME/PLAYING RULES

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15. Games will be played in accordance with the 2016 published IHSA Rules, unless altered by this document. It is recommended that each team secure their own copy of these rules and be familiar with its contents.

16. Game length:

- a. 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U games are 6 innings in length. A game is considered complete after 4 innings have been played. If the home team is ahead after 3 ½ innings they are deemed the winner. Or, if the visiting team is ahead after 4 innings they are deemed the winner. Suspended games will be rescheduled by each manager and completed at a later date from the point of suspension. All games started that are stopped for any reason by the umpire are considered to be suspended games unless the game has progressed to the point of being considered a complete game. A 12 run after four innings/10 run after five innings slaughter rule is in effect.
- b. 12U, 13U and 14U games are 7 innings in length. A game is considered complete after 5 innings have been played. If the home team is ahead after 4½ innings they are deemed the winner. Or, if the visiting team is ahead after 5 innings they are deemed the winner. Suspended games will be rescheduled by each manager and completed at a later date from the point of suspension. All games started that are stopped for any reason by the umpire are considered to be suspended games unless the game has progressed to the point of being considered a complete game. A 12 run after four innings/10 run after five innings slaughter rule is in effect.

17. **Time limit:** There will be no time limit for games, unless deemed necessary (e.g. the field must be available for another game) and agreed upon by BOTH teams. The umpire and the visiting team manager must be informed of the time limit before the start of the game.

18. Field dimensions:

- a. 8U – 40 feet pitching distance, 60 feet bases
- b. 9U and 10U – 44/46 feet pitching distance, 60/65 feet bases
- c. 11U and 12U – 48/50 feet pitching distance, 70 feet bases
- d. 13U – 54 feet pitching distance, 80 feet bases
- e. 14U and up – 60 feet pitching distance, 90 feet bases

19. **Bat restrictions:** The MCBL will adopt the rules outlined in the USSSA document titled "**New USSSA Baseball Bat Marks & Grandfathering Rules**" can be found here:
<http://web.ussa.com/ussa/ussa-general/USSABaseballBatMarks7-10-14.pdf>

- a. 15U and up –
 - i. Must be NHSF approved with the appropriate BBCOR certification mark OR
 - ii. Be a Wood Bat
- b. 14U –
 - i. Have the USSSA Thumb Print Mark on its taper and NO MORE than a -5 length to weight differential OR
 - ii. Be a Qualified BBCOR bat OR
 - iii. Be a Wood Bat
- c. 13U and under –

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- i. Have the USSSA Thumb Print Mark on its taper OR
- ii. Be a Qualified BBCOR bat OR
- iii. Be a Wood Bat

Should a team suspect an illegal bat is being used, time should be called and both managers shall meet with the umpire. The offending team will receive a warning for the first infraction and the result of the play is an out. All runners return to their original bases (if applicable); subsequent infractions will result in a forfeit and the manager ejected for the next played game.

20. 8U – NO lead-offs, NO infield fly rule, NO pickoffs, NO balks, and NO dropped third strikes. A runner cannot steal until the pitched ball crosses the plate and may not advance on an overthrow made on a steal. A runner may only score on a bases loaded walk, or a batted ball in play.
21. 9U – NO lead-offs, NO infield fly rule, NO pickoffs, NO balks, and NO dropped third strikes. A runner cannot steal until the pitched ball crosses the plate. A runner may only score on a bases loaded walk, or a batted ball in play.
22. 10U thru 14U – full baseball rules apply (e.g. infield fly rule, balks, dropped third strikes).
23. **Pitching rules:** It is strongly encouraged teams keep track of pitch counts to ensure the safety of pitchers.
 - a. 8U and 9U – 6 outs per game
 - b. 10U - 6 outs per game, 9 outs per day
 - c. 11U - 9 outs per game, 12 outs per day
 - d. 12U – 9 outs per game, 15 outs per day
 - e. 13U – 15 outs per game, 21 outs per day
 - f. 14U – 18 outs per game, 24 outs per day
24. Pitcher's are allowed 8 warm up pitches between innings or when coming in relief.
25. Pitchers may not wear any wristbands, batting glove, reflective sunglasses or white-sleeved clothing that may cause distraction to hitters. Additionally, they may not chew gum or seeds while pitching. Sports goggles with transition lenses are legal.
26. One free trip to mound per inning is allowed by a coach or manager. On the second and all subsequent trips the pitcher must be removed.
27. Once a pitcher is removed from the game as a pitcher he/she may not re-enter as a pitcher.
28. A pitcher must be removed from the mound if two (2) batters are hit by a pitched ball in an inning, or, if the same pitcher hits three (3) batters in a game.
 - a. 14U and older – if the same pitcher hits three (3) batters in a game.
29. **Balks:**
 - a. 8U and 9U – there will be no balks called.
 - b. 10U, 11U, 12U, one balk warning will be given per pitcher per game. Subsequent balks runners will be advanced. 13U and up, the umpire will give no warning.
 - c. Fake to 3rd throw to first is still legal in the MCBL.

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30. **Courtesy Runners:** Will be allowed for pitchers and catchers of record (i.e. the previous inning) and injury to a player. The courtesy runner must be the last batted out.
 - a. – It is recommended to have a courtesy runner for the catcher of record (i.e. the previous inning) after two (2) outs.
31. Base runners must move appropriately to avoid interfering with the fielder, at the base where a play is being made, or in the field, whenever possible, in order to avoid contact. If the offending player is ruled out, the umpire may eject the player from the game for any flagrant or intentional contact. The play is defined by the umpire's judgment and should be discussed as part of the pre-game ground rules. The umpire's decision is final.
32. Fielders are not allowed to fake tag. The offending fielder may be ejected from the game after the umpire has issued one warning per game (not per team). The umpire's decision is final.
33. Hitters are not allowed to "show bunt" and then swing away. The hitter will be called out.
34. Teams must use a continuous batting order for all players showing up. Free substitution is in effect except for pitchers. Once a player is removed as a pitcher, he or she may not return as a pitcher for the rest of that game, suspended or otherwise.
35. A player removed from a game due to injury or sickness does not result in an out when it is their turn at bat.
36. Metal cleats
 - a. 9U thru 12U metal cleats are not allowed.
 - b. 13U and up metal cleats are allowed.
37. Courtesy is the rule regarding warm up and use of the fields between teams. When the game field is eligible for practice use - each team is entitled to a minimum of 10 minutes and a maximum of 15 minutes of use before each game. It is suggested that the home team uses the field for practice first, thereby allowing more travel time for the visiting team to arrive to the field.
38. Managers are responsible for the conduct of their coaches, players, parents and fans. Umpires are authorized to eject violators out of the game and may request the individual(s) to leave the park prior to proceeding with the game. Failure to leave the game or park, at the umpire's request, will result in the team's forfeiture of the game, as well as potential further disciplinary actions, i.e. game ejections, game suspension, league suspensions, or league expulsion. Both managers of the teams involved will report anyone ejected from any game to the league coordinator/administrator. The league coordinator/administrator decisions are final in these matters. Sportsmanship and appropriate community conduct are what we are judged on. Please keep things in perspective!
39. At the end of the season a single elimination tournament can be played, if possible, at a neutral site. If no neutral site is available the higher seeded team will host the game. The highest seeded team will be the home team throughout the bracket. Seeding for this tournament will be based on a points system (1 point for a loss, 2 points for a tie and 3 points for a win), and then head-to-head play, then runs allowed, then runs scored, then a coin flip. This format encourages teams to play all of their games.

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40. The fee will be \$300.00 plus fees for payment processing. We found it necessary to do this as the league received many invoices for the league year-end tournaments. Although this was never the intent as it was to be handled by the division coordinators, it seems as though administratively this is a better option. The fees collected will cover the following: League website, League insurance, meeting room rental; End-of-year single elimination tournament costs: 1st and 2nd place trophies each division, tournament umpires, tournament baseballs.

McCBWL