

**MARLBORO MVP SOFTBALL LEAGUE BY-LAWS &
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**

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MARLBORO MVP SOFTBALL LEAGUE BYLAWS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. League Name and Information

- a) The league shall be known as the Marlboro MVP Softball League (hereinafter referred to as "The League").
- b) The League shall be comprised of 10 teams of 15 players per team, unless otherwise communicated by The Board.
- c) All 10 teams shall compete in a single division.
- d) League games are played Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights at the Union Hill Road fields in Marlboro, NJ
- e) Each team will have a sponsor. 2018 Sponsor fees are \$650/team. From this fee, each team will receive a stipend of \$350 to cover the cost of uniforms. The Board will assist any team in need of securing a sponsor.

II. ADMINISTRATION

1. Commissioner

- a) The League will be governed by an active League player who will serve as the Commissioner. The League Commissioner shall serve a three-year term and may serve more than one term if re-elected or in the event that no one else runs against him in an election year. The current term will begin on January 1, 2017 and end December 31, 2019.
- b) The Commissioner's duties and responsibilities (with the assistance of the League Board as provided herein), shall consist of all aspects of League administration including, but not limited to: (i) obtaining field permits; (ii) the hiring and overseeing of the league umpires; (iii) new player applications and membership; (iv) new player tryouts; (v) the season schedule; (vi) advertising; (vii) organizing and overseeing an annual awards dinner; (viii) the league draft; (ix) assigning and removing captains, and (x) the planning and overseeing of all star games, including the Mayor's Trophy game.
- c) At the end of the existing Commissioner's term, any member of the League who has been in the League for five non-consecutive years may run for Commissioner. In an election year, prior to the end of the season, the Board will notify League members that they may seek election, and any player who wishes to run for the Commissioner position (including the current Commissioner) must advise the Board of his intent to do so no later than a date to be communicated to the league by the Commissioner. Any such candidates for Commissioner shall be publicized to all League members at the direction of the existing Commissioner and Board. In any election year when there is more than one candidate for Commissioner an election will be conducted at the League Dinner after each candidate is given an opportunity to address League members in attendance at the Dinner. Ballots with each candidate's name listed shall be prepared by the Board in advance of the awards dinner. Each League member present at the dinner may cast a single ballot for the candidate of his choice. Any league member unable to attend the Dinner may elect to cast an "absentee" ballot prior to 5:00 pm on the evening of the awards dinner by e-mail to the Board member(s) designated to receive same as posted on the League website. All ballots cast at the dinner, together with all e-mails received by the designated Board member(s) as prescribed herein, shall constitute the total votes for the election. Two Board Members plus one non-Board member will tally the ballots. The candidate receiving a majority of the total votes cast shall be elected the new Commissioner.
- d) It will be the responsibility of the outgoing Commissioner to work directly with the incoming Commissioner to ensure a smooth transition. The outgoing Commissioner shall serve as a Board Member for the following season only at the discretion of the incoming Commissioner.

2. The Board

- a) The Board will be comprised of 8 members, who are not already designated as a Manager or Co-Manager. Board member terms are for two years. Beginning with 2018, four new Board members will run for election each year. Board members shall be appointed and replaced by a majority vote of the Board for "good cause."
- b) Anyone wishing to run for a Board position must have been in the League for 3 non-consecutive years. In an election year, prior to the end of the season, the Board will notify League members that they may seek election for these positions, and anyone interested in running for a position on the Board must notify the Commissioner of their intent to do so by a date to be communicated to the league by the Commissioner during the election year. The election will take place in the same manner as prescribed for the election of the Commissioner. The next scheduled election will take place at the conclusion of the 2018 season.
- c) The Board shall be responsible for discussing and voting on various issues which include but are not limited to: (i) player ratings; (ii) player suspensions; (iii) assigning and removing Managers; (iv) modifications to league rules, and (v) and Player/Manager on/ and off field behavior deemed to be detrimental to the operation of the League. The Board shall oversee and decide all other issues not specifically outlined within the rules. The Board shall have the discretion, when necessary, to interpret the meaning or application of any League rule. **Any league issue that arises not specifically addressed in these By-Laws shall be decided by majority vote of the Board.**
- d) All decisions by the Board shall be by majority vote of all voting members unless otherwise specified herein. The vote of a minimum of five members of the Board shall be necessary in order to make any decision. Any tied vote of the Board shall be broken by vote of the Commissioner. In the event of Player/Manager discipline for on/off the field behavior, the Commissioner will have a full vote in any Board decision.

3. Treasurer

- a) A Treasurer, who shall be a Board member, or a designee approved by the Board, will be named by the Board. The Treasurer shall oversee all League financial matters, together with the Commissioner.

4. Teams

- a) The League shall consist of 10 teams of 15 players on each team. Any alteration in the number of teams or players per team shall be decided by the Board.

5. Managers

- a) All teams shall have a League member serve as team Manager. The Manager of a team must be an active player and must have played in the League for at least three non-consecutive seasons.
- b) Any player meeting these qualifications may inform the Commissioner of his interest in managing a team, and will then be placed on a waiting list. When a team becomes available, the Board shall determine whether the individual at the top of the manager waiting list shall be approved to be a Manager. In determining approval of a proposed Manager, the Board shall consider: the number of years the individual has been in the league; previous experience in being a Manager/Assistant Manager; overall knowledge of the league; personality/temperament of the individual; and any other factor the Board deems relevant. The selection of a Manager will require a majority approval vote by the Board.
- c) Each Manager shall be required to choose a league member to serve as their co-Manager. The Assistant Manager shall also be an active player, It is preferred, but not required, that the Assistant Manager have played in the league for at least three non-consecutive seasons. Neither a Manager nor Assistant Manager may serve on the Board while in these positions. For the 2018 season, Assistant Managers will be selected after the completion of drafted players, as no protections will take place.
- d) At the discretion of the Board, any Manager may be replaced who is not satisfying his obligations as team Manager, or is otherwise acting in a manner that is deemed not to be in the best interests of his team or the league. Factors for consideration by the Board may include poor team records, performance, attendance, team leadership, submitting of statistics, proper equipment maintenance, expressed, implied or initiated actions,

written or verbal, in whatever forum chosen, which attempts to circumvent/undermine/discredit the rules of the League and/or decisions of the Board, and any other factors the Commissioner and the Board deems relevant.

Removal of a Manager requires a majority vote by the complete Board.

e) Any league issue may be brought to the league Managers for a vote at the discretion of the Commissioner and the Board. In a case where a Manager's vote is requested by the Commissioner and Board, the majority of the responding Managers shall rule. In the event of a tie, the Commissioner shall break the tie.

f) Equipment and Maintenance – The Board will supply each Manager with equipment, such as Softballs, Bases, Helmets, a Catcher's Mask, and a Pitching Rubber. All Managers are responsible for maintaining their team's equipment and for returning to the Board any damaged or non-usable (i.e., worn out) equipment for replacement. If any pieces of equipment are lost or stolen it is the responsibility of the Manager to replace those items with equal parts they received from the League. At the start of each season, the Managers shall advise the Board whether any of the previously provided equipment needs to be replaced due to its condition.

III. LEAGUE ENTRY

1. Requirements, Fees

a) The League shall be open to any male who has turned 30 years of age by September 1 of the calendar year of that season. Proof of age may be requested at the discretion of the Commissioner or Board.

b) There shall be no residency requirement for membership into the League.

c) League fees shall be determined annually by the Commissioner and the Board based on league expenses and financial report provided by the League Treasurer.

2. Applications, Waiting List

a) League membership shall be on a first come, first serve basis, and shall be overseen by the Commissioner of the League. Every player who finished the prior season on a team roster is guaranteed league entry for the following year, as long as their application and fee are postmarked **before** January 1st of the upcoming season. After January 1st, any available spots in the League will be filled by new players from the waiting list. The remaining applicants will be placed on a waiting list to be maintained by the Commissioner and the Board. The Commissioner and the Board reserve the right to deny entry of any player into the League when doing so is deemed in the best interest of the league.

b) If any two members of the League are "immediate or close family members" (i.e., brother, father, son, brother-in-law, father-in-law) they shall indicate so on their application and if they wish to play on the same team may be drafted as a "Group Pick." The Board will review and consider requests to play together from other "family members" (i.e., cousins, uncles, nephews) on a case-by-case basis and will advise Managers if the players can be protected as a "Group Pick."

d) For the 2018 season the league will not honor non-family requests to play with another player.

e) Once each spot in the league is filled, and prior to the draft taking place, if an application is withdrawn, the available spot shall be filled at the discretion of the Board.

3. New Players

a) New players must go into the draft in their first year of play, with the exception of "Immediate Family Members" as defined above or otherwise determined by the Commissioner and the Board.

4. Tryouts

a) All new players who have been admitted to the League shall be advised that they must attend a tryout, to be organized by the Commissioner, and shall be given the date(s) when the tryout will be held. At the Board's discretion, any individual placed on the waiting list may be requested to attend a tryout.

b) Any individual that does not attend a tryout may lose his eligibility to play. This shall be determined by the Board.

5. Ratings, Protected Players (NOTE: Other than slotting managers, family pairs and pitchers for this year's Open Draft; this section is not applicable for the 2018 season)

6. The Draft

- a) A Draft shall be held on a date to be determined by the Board. The Commissioner shall endeavor to give each Manager at least 30 days notice of when the Draft is to be held. b) The Draft will be held at a time and location to be determined by the Board. For the 2018 season only the manager will attend the draft. If the manager is unable to attend, a designated family paired member or an individual approved by the Board may substitute for the manager missing the draft. No cell phone use will be permitted during the draft.
- c) The Draft shall be a serpentine draft, unless otherwise modified by the Board. The order of selecting players will be determined by drawing numbers out of a hat, with each team being assigned a number from 1 through 10. This will occur the week of the scheduled draft date. Managers will be able to trade draft slots prior to the draft. Proposed trades must be submitted to the Board for review and approval at a date/time to be communicated by the Commissioner. In 2018, with the addition of a pitchers round, the draft process will undergo some modification. This will be communicated to managers by the Commissioner and Board.
- d) Once the draft starts, each team will have three (3) minutes to make a pick. If no pick is made in 3 minutes, that team's pick will be skipped and the draft will move on to the next team. Once the next team makes a pick, the team who was skipped shall have one minute to make their selection. If no pick is made, the draft will move on to the next team, and so on.
- g) At the conclusion of the draft, Managers who wish to make a trade with another team may do so, subject to the approval of the Board. Permission for all trades must be requested of the Board prior to the draft meeting being adjourned. No trades shall take place once the draft meeting has been adjourned.
- h) Following the draft, a player may not request to be traded because he does not wish to play on the team he was drafted by. If such a situation occurs and the player elects not to play with that team, he will be removed from the league and be issued a refund. Furthermore, this player will not be allowed to play in the League that season or during the following two (2) seasons. A Replacement Player will be selected from the Waiting List by the Board. (see below re. "Replacement Players")
- i) Managers are required to make a reasonable attempt to contact each team member selected on the day of the Draft.

7. Replacement Players

- a) Once all players have been drafted, if any member of the league, for any reason whatsoever, resigns from his team, that player will be replaced by a player on the waiting list that is deemed to be comparable to where the withdrawing player was selected in the draft, as determined by the Board. In determining comparability, the Board may consider all information available to it concerning each individual on the waiting list, including, but not limited to, that individual's prior experience and ratings in the league, if any; position(s) the individual is capable of playing; and his offensive/defensive capabilities.
- b) While the Board will endeavor to select a replacement player from the waiting list, should no player on the waiting list be comparable to the outgoing player, the Board, if deemed in the best interest of the league, may open its selection process to individuals who had not previously submitted an application.

The replacement player must have submitted his application and must have been placed on the waiting list prior to the outgoing player's resignation. Any and all disputes regarding same shall be decided by the Board.

- c) Anytime a player indicates to his team Manager that he no longer wishes to continue in the league, regardless of the reason, the team Manager and the player must notify the Commissioner immediately. Moreover, anytime a player indicates to a Manager, that he, for any reason, may not be returning to the team; may be out for at least three weeks or more; has been injured in any way, shape or form; or in any way indicates that the player's ability to continue playing in the league, either in the short or long term, is questionable, same shall be reported to the Commissioner immediately. It is the intent of this paragraph to ensure that anytime any player for any reason advises his team Manager that there is any uncertainty about that player's ability to continue playing, albeit for injury, health reasons, unhappiness with the league, or any other reason, that Manager must notify the Commissioner of same. Any uncertainties by the Manager should

be resolved by his advising the Commissioner of a particular circumstance. Moreover, the Manager of each team shall have the obligation to make contact with any player who fails to show up to two or more games without having contacted the Manager to advise why he has missed said games. Any player who misses two or more games **and** does not make contact with the team Manager, or does not return the team Manager's phone call, shall be reported to the Commissioner, and runs the risk of being removed from the league for the balance of the season. It is a Manager's responsibility to ensure that he is aware of any circumstances surrounding any of his players that may cause them to miss games. Any Manager who is found by the Board to have failed to abide by this rule may be removed as Manager.

d) Sometimes injury, job, or personal/family circumstances may lead to a player having to drop out of the league following the draft/during the season. In all situations, the Commissioner and Board will review the circumstances surrounding this decision. If it is found that a player quit for other reasons (i.e., did not like where he batted, played in the field, left team because of poor Won/Loss record, etc.), the Commissioner and the Board may determine that the player will be removed from the league and not be allowed to play in the League that season or during the following two (2) seasons. All situations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

e) No player of any rank shall be replaced after that team has played 12 official games. The sole exception to this rule shall be a team which, at the discretion of the Board, is so severely undermanned that they either cannot field a team of ten on a weekly basis or otherwise cannot fairly compete with other teams in the League.