

WestchesterPutnam MSBL
Rules and Regulations - 2021

This league was created to provide men and women, 40 years old and over, an alternative to softball and enable us to play the game we grew up playing. Adult attitudes must always prevail no matter how competitive the league is. The responsibility that this ethic sustains will remain the responsibility of the Board, Managers and the Players. Anyone who abuses the League's code can be suspended or expelled from the league.

RULES

The rules are governed by Major League Baseball except as superceded by WestchesterPutnam MSBL League rules

ROSTER & LINEUPS

1. All players must register via the website to be eligible to play in the league. Returning players will appear on their existing rosters. New players referred to the league by a manager will be assigned to that team if requested. All other players will be assigned to a pool for the consideration of the Managers to potentially add to their roster. If a sufficient number of new players are recruited, consideration will be given towards the creation of a new team. Rosters should be completed prior to the start of the season and changes will be accepted through Memorial Day at the discretion of the President. Replacements for injured players will also be considered and is subject to the approval of the President. Every consideration will be made in favor of strengthening the League and encouraging expansion and recruitment. Only ROSTERED players are allowed to play. Lineup cards should be exchanged before the start of the game. Each player's last name should be legibly written in the lineup.
2. All players must be 40 years old by December 31st of the current season/year. Although the age is identified during the on-line registration process, the information is not audited. The opposing manager has the right to question a player's age and request a copy of their ID. Acceptable ID will be a current drivers' license with a photo. If proper ID is not supplied, the issue should be referred to the President for further action to include potential player and/or manager suspension as well as potential forfeiture of the game. If the issue cannot be resolved prior to the start of the game AND the player in question is on the roster, the game should be played, under protest, for resolution later as described.
3. Former professional baseball players are allowed to participate in the league. Professional baseball refers to Major League and Minor League baseball and any other league that compensates their players for playing.
4. Only Men's Senior Baseball League (MSBL) and Men's Adult Baseball League (MABL) members are eligible for MSBL and MABL events
5. In order to qualify and participate in a team's post season events, a player must participate in at least 50% of his team's regular season games. Participation is defined as one plate appearance or three innings as a defensive player per game. If a player fails to meet this requirement due to injury, an explanation may be submitted to the President for eligibility consideration.
6. Teams must have at least seven (7) roster players for an official game to begin. If the opposing team has an excess number of players, a one day trade may be affected whereby they provide the players to the opposition for the game to establish a 9 player team. Those traded players would play defense and bat in the lineup of the team traded to for the day. The outcome will constitute an official game result. The ultimate goal is that ALL games are played whenever feasible and forfeits are to be avoided at all costs. If a team falls below eight (8) due to injury or unplanned exit of a player, the opposing team will lend one defensive player and the 8th spot in the lineup will be recorded as an out. (The next batter would be #1 so there is no out for the 9th batter slot). If the team falls below seven roster players the game is forfeit. Forfeits will be called within 30 minutes after the scheduled game time. If there is an extraordinary event (ie huge vehicular pileup on the main road) managers and the umpires are expected to use reasonable common sense. If necessary, call the President.
7. Two forfeits by any one team may result in the expulsion of that team. The official score of a forfeit will be 9-0 in favor of the non-forfeiting team. If there is a double forfeit, both teams record a loss and the game is NOT rescheduled.

8. All players may be substituted in a defensive position at any time without affecting the player's offensive status in the lineup. This includes the pitcher who, if removed, can return to the mound later in the game. If a player has been pinch hit for and removed from the game, they are still eligible to play a defensive position.
9. Each manager has the prerogative of batting as many players as they desire in the initial lineup. A manager may, in this initial lineup, opt to have the batting order positions occupied by 2 players, an A and B. Batters A and B will alternate at bats when their position in the order comes up. Once the A/B option is elected, it must remain in place for the entire game. Players may be added to the bottom of the lineup at any time. If a player is pinch hit for, they may NOT reenter the game as a hitter, but they can remain in the game defensively. Batters cannot be deleted or skipped over regardless of their batting position or when they were added during the game.
10. Courtesy Runners should be identified with the initial lineups. Two courtesy runners are allowed per team for lineups of 11 batters or less. If the lineup is 12 batters or more, a third courtesy runner may be assigned. The last BATTED out – that does not himself have a courtesy runner – must be the courtesy runner. There is no restriction on the courtesy runners regarding stealing. They may steal at any time. The pitchers and catchers are NOT awarded an automatic courtesy runner, save with 2 outs, the catcher can be awarded a courtesy runner. Injured players may be awarded a courtesy runner if available. If weather conditions or other situations create hazardous conditions (ie extreme heat for catchers) managers can mutually agree to award a courtesy runner. This must be by mutual agreement.
11. If a player must leave the game due to injury or other commitment or due to ejection from a game, a reserve player, not currently in the lineup, must hit in his place. If there is no reserve player, that spot is skipped in the lineup and all batters move up accordingly, without penalty (ie there is no automatic out).
12. No player may switch teams without the consent of both managers and the League President. If this does not meet approval, the player must sit for the remainder of the season. Valid reasons to deny a switch may include but is not limited to, monies owed to the current manager, conduct unbecoming the league and/or not being eligible for the league (ie age). If a team disbands, the players will become free agents and entered into a draft pool unless they have made arrangements otherwise with another team. Teams may merge but should first get approval from the League President to do so.
13. In the event a player wishes to leave his existing team and form a new team, he may do so. No other player can be taken from the existing team without the consent of the existing team's manager. No other players may be taken from any other team without the respective team manager's approval. If a release is requested, the manager must decide on it by January 1 of the new year. If the manager does not respond, the release will be considered granted provided the release request was made by December 15 of the prior year.

UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT

14. All teams must have full baseball uniforms
15. The League must approve all team names. Major League and Minor League names are encouraged. Inappropriate names (ie D*ckheads) will not be allowed.
16. All batters and runners must wear a helmet. This is mandatory. Full earflap helmets are strongly recommended. Helmets with one earflap are permitted. Catchers are strongly encouraged to wear a helmet with their mask. Base coaches are also strongly recommended to wear a helmet.
17. The League provides the baseballs. They are official MSBL baseballs. Each team must bring sufficient baseballs to each game. Additional baseballs must be the same or better quality as those provided by the League. If there are any questions, please contact the League. Teams will share baseballs at EACH game, each providing two to start, then alternating first with the Home team, then with the Visiting team providing two additional balls upon request from the umpire as needed.
18. Authorized bats include Major League approved bats and Bamboo bats. Composite, aluminum and any other bats that are not bamboo or MLB approved are considered illegal bats. Use of an illegal bat will result in the automatic suspension of the player. A manager may protest the game if they feel the illegal bat(s) had a significant impact on the outcome of the game. The umpire should both sign the protest in the scorebook and report the incident to the League President.

19. Metal cleats are permitted, however, certain fields that have astro-turf surfaces will not allow metal cleats and you must wear turf shoes or sneakers. No exceptions.
20. The Home team is responsible to ensure a complete set of bases are available for each game.

MANNER OF PLAY

21. All games are 9 innings except for doubleheaders, which are 7 inning games. If a game is shortened due to weather, darkness, curfew or other event, the game will be considered official after five (5) complete innings regardless of whether it is a 9 inning or 7 inning game. ALL post season games must be played to completion. Doubleheaders will be scheduled 3 hours apart with a 2 hour and 45 minute curfew.
22. Pre-game warmups. The home team will have the field 1 hour before the game. The visiting team will have the field ½ hour before the game. If one team is not available, the other team may use the field until the other team is available. If the field is not available 1 hour before game time, the teams will split the available time evenly with the Home team going first. If there is no warm up time available, then neither team will warm up.
23. Mercy rule. For a 9 inning game, the rule is 12 runs and 7 innings complete. For a 7 inning game, the rule is 10 runs and 5 innings complete. There is no mercy rule in the post season.
24. If an infielder fakes a tag, resulting in the runner sliding unnecessarily, the runner is advanced one base. If the same infielder fakes a tag a second time in a game, he is expelled from the game. (The runner again is advanced one base).
25. If a pitcher hits three (3) batters in an inning or five (5) in a game, the pitcher must be removed at that point.
26. Players shall not intentionally collide with any other players. In a case where a runner intentionally collides with a fielder, the runner will be called out and may, at the umpire's discretion, be expelled from the game. All base runners must slide or give up their right to the base (avoid collision by stopping or leaving the base path) if the defensive player has possession of the ball, is in the act of receiving the ball or is about to immediately receive the ball and will be able to make an apparent play on the base runner. If a defensive player is not in possession of the ball, is not in the act of receiving the ball or is not about to immediately receive the ball to be able to record an apparent out, he cannot block the base or be in the base path so as to impede (obstruct) the base runner's right to the base. Under such circumstances, the defensive player shall be responsible to avoid collision. If a collision does occur under these circumstances, the runner will be considered safe and the obstruction rule will be enforced. The defensive player may be ejected from the game if the action is ruled intentional and may be suspended from league play if the obstruction is judged to be flagrant. The umpire will provide a report to the league on all ejections.
27. There is no regulation as to how many innings a pitcher may pitch. No white arm or gray pitching sleeves, no batting gloves or wristbands or any other distracting items will be permitted for pitchers while pitching. Face masks, if worn, should not be white and should be similar to team color. If the face mask is not being worn, it should not be kept around the neck but secured in the pitchers pocket or other location.

OTHER

28. There will be no beer, alcoholic beverages, marijuana or other mind altering substance use permitted before or during the game. If such a situation arises, the player will be expelled from the game and may be expelled from the League. PLEASE REMEMBER – we are guests of the schools, towns, municipalities, communities who allow us to use their fields. We must be respectful and abide by their rules, including cleaning up the field, dugouts and surrounding areas that we utilize after the game.
29. All protests must be lodged with the League within 24 hours. The preferred method is via e-mail. This will document the time and details of your protest. The President will call a meeting of the non-impacted Managers and a decision will be provided promptly. If the President is involved as a party to the protest, he will call the meeting but excuse himself from voting.
30. It is the responsibility of the Home team manager to reschedule rainouts and the league must be notified. A sincere effort must be made to schedule rainouts in the order the games were rained out. If there is the possibility of two rainouts that could be made up the same day, priority is given to the earlier officially scheduled rainout. If a rainout has already been scheduled, the priority can be waived. The visiting team must accept the

rescheduled game, provided it is rescheduled on a weekend, is not on the same day as a previously scheduled game and is not on a holiday weekend when games are normally not scheduled. The manager must be given a 7 day notice of the rescheduled game. If the home team cannot provide a weekend makeup date and time within 2 weeks after the rainout, he must provide the visiting team with the opportunity to schedule a makeup date and time. The Home team would then have to accept the proposed makeup date providing it is rescheduled on a weekend, is not on the same day as a previously scheduled game and is not on a holiday weekend when games are normally not scheduled. The manager must be given a 7 day notice of the rescheduled game. If BOTH teams schedule a makeup date, the Home team gets the choice. A 9am start will take priority provide it is available. ALL single makeup games will be 9 innings (even if it is part of a doubleheader that was canceled). Doubleheader makeup games will be 7 innings (even if they were originally two 9 inning games). All makeup games must be played by the end of the regular season. If makeup games are not played, they will be recorded as 9-0 losses for both teams. If a team has refused a legitimate makeup date, then that team will forfeit. Makeups must not interfere with previously scheduled games.

31. In the event of rain or questionable field conditions, or some other issue resulting in the field not being available, it is the responsibility of the HOME team to examine the field before game time so that the umpires and opposing team can be notified one hour before game time in the event of a cancellation. If notification does not take place, the home team will be solely responsible for any fees imposed by the umpire organization. If field conditions are questionable and the game has not been canceled, the umpires, as agents of the League, will be in control of any decision concerning cancellation or rainout, just as they are during the game in the event of rain. Delays are acceptable, however the opposing team and umpires will not be obligated to accept a delay. Notification of a delay should take place 1 hour before game time.

PLAYOFFS and FINAL STANDINGS

32. Teams will be seeded one through nine based on record. That record will include the effect of any forfeit activity. Should there be any teams that have identical records, the first tie-breaker will be head to head record against each other. If that does not resolve the tie-breaker, the next tie-breaker will be runs scored against the opponent. If A scored 21 runs against B and B scored 18 runs against A, A wins the tie-breaker. Remember, forfeits count as 9-0 wins. If this does not result in a tie-breaker, the next tie-breaker is their record against the top three teams (that are not them). The next tie-breaker after that will be a coin flip by the League President.
33. The ninth seed will have a play-in game against the eighth seed. The winner becomes the eighth seed for the playoffs.
34. The playoffs will break into two divisions, the Commissioners Division and the Presidents Division. The Commissioners division will be comprised of seeds 1 through 4. 1 will play 4, 2 will play 3. The President's division will be comprised of seeds 5 through 8. 5 will play 8, 6 will play 7.
35. The first round will be a one game elimination round. The Championship round will be a best 2 of 3 round with a doubleheader scheduled for the first week and, if needed, the deciding game to be played the following week.
36. The winners of each division will be awarded \$300.
37. There are NO mercy rules in the post season.
38. There are no ties in the post season. All games must be played to a winning result.