

# Atlanta Weeknight Baseball League Policies & Procedures

## Ensuring Fair Play and Consistency

Our mission is to promote a friendly, competitive, and enjoyable environment for all participants. This document outlines our policies and procedures to ensure clarity, fairness, and consistency across all league activities.

### Eligibility

To participate in the Atlanta Weeknight Baseball League, players must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Must be at least 18 years of age to participate in 18+ weeknight league.
- Must be at least 32 years of age to participate in 35+ weeknight league. Waivers may be granted by league president only after a full investigation of the players baseball background is reviewed.
- Must not be currently enrolled in a professional baseball league in the past 3 years.
- You must complete the league registration form and pay the associated fees.

**SEE ADDITIONAL 35+ ELIGIBILITY RULES BELOW**

### Registration

Registration for the league opens approximately 2 months before the start of the season and closes one week prior to the first game. Players may register individually or as part of a team only if they are paying. All registration forms must be submitted online through the league's official website.

### Rosters

Teams must submit their rosters one week before the season starts. Each team must have a minimum of 14 players. Changes to the roster are permitted only if a player has not stepped on the field. All drop/adds must be approved by the league commissioner. The deadline for adding players to the 35+ roster ends after the eight games are played. The deadline for 18+ is after the seventh game is played.

### Uniforms

Teams are required to wear matching uniforms during games. Uniforms must clearly display the team's name and player numbers. All players must wear appropriate protective gear, including baseball, caps, and sleeves.

## Scheduling

Games are scheduled on weeknights, from Tuesdays to Thursday. Each team will play one game a week. Tuesday nights are reserved for 35+. The 18+ main nights are Wednesday & Thursdays with an occasional Tuesday night.

## Conduct

All players, coaches, and spectators are expected to uphold the league's code of conduct, which emphasizes respect, sportsmanship, and fair play. Any form of unsportsmanlike behavior, such as arguing with officials or using offensive language, will result in disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion from the league. The league has a ZERO tolerance policy for fighting, smoking, drinking or drug use at any field. These are the big 4 which are automatic suspensions or expulsions. All managers are responsible for their players & fans. The league reserves the right to have unruly fans removed and barred from future games.

## Umpires

The league provides qualified umpires for all games. Umpires are responsible for enforcing the rules and ensuring fair play. Any disputes or questions regarding calls should be addressed respectfully and through proper channels. Only the team manager is to approach the umpires. Once the game starts, the umpires are in full control of the field and the only ones who can call a game. The game clock starts once the plate meeting ends.

## Scorekeeping/Lineup Cards

Each team is responsible for providing a scorekeeper for their games. The scorekeeper must record all runs, hits, errors, and other relevant statistics. Scores must be posted to the league website within 24 hours of the game's conclusion. The home team is responsible for the official scorebook. All disputes with scores are resolved by the home team scorebook. All lineup cards must include last names & uniform numbers. If a player is not in the lineup but is either pitching or playing defense, he must be included on the lineup card.

## Regular Season

The regular season consists of 10 games for each 18 + teams, and 12 games for the 35+. League standings are calculated by games that are won, lost, and tied.

## Playoffs

At the end of the regular season, all teams advance to the playoffs. Playoff games follow a single-elimination format, culminating in the championship game. The winning team receives the league trophy, t-shirts and recognition on the league's website.

Teams will not dictate when a playoff or championship game is scheduled. All teams must be ready to play on the night the playoff game is scheduled. The league does not recognize any non-MSBL tournaments. The league will not reschedule playoff schedules around tournaments.

## Fees and Finances

### Player Fees

Each player is required to pay a registration fee, which covers the cost of umpires, fields, baseballs, liability insurance and maintenance equipment/supplies needed. Payment must be made online at the time of registration.

Teams must have 14 players paid in full at the beginning of the season, before any discount for additional players is considered.

The league does not require players to pay national dues for weeknight, since most of the players participate in other leagues & tournaments. If a non-MSBL player would like to affiliate with MSBL, there will be an additional fee of \$25.00.

## Health and Safety

### Injuries

All injuries must be reported immediately to the game officials and the league commissioner. Each team is required to carry a first aid kit. In case of serious injuries, players are advised to seek professional medical attention. The league doesn't carry medical insurance, but individual teams have the option to buy it. The cost per team is \$300.00.

### Weather Policy

Games may be postponed or canceled due to inclement weather. The league commissioner will make the decision and notify teams at least one hour before the scheduled game time. Rainouts: Teams have 7 days to get with their opponents from the

night of rainout to agree on a makeup date. If teams can't agree on a date, the league will schedule it. Makeup days may include Monday nights.

## Weeknight Eligibility/Time Limit/Run Rules

### 35+ Division

- All players must turn 32 during the calendar year to participate in the 35+ division.
- Teams may have three players under the age of 35 but over the age of 32. All underaged players must be approved by the league.
- Teams may only have 1 pitcher under the age of 35, but over the age of 32. All underaged players must be approved by the league.
- Pitchers under the age of 35 can only pitch 2 innings per game. Any pitcher grandfathered in due to COVID is considered a 35+ (unlimited innings per game).
- If a team has a grandfathered pitcher who is still under 35, the team is not eligible to add another underaged pitcher.
- Any team caught with an unapproved underaged player will forfeit games and the manager could face suspension.
- There will be no adding of players with than 4 regular season games remaining.

### All games Length & Run Rules

- All Games are 2 hrs. 30 minutes
- 15 runs after 5 innings
- 12 runs after 6 innings
- 10 runs after 7 innings
- No time limit is placed on this midweek run rule.
- Teams may continue playing after the run rule has been declared, but without umpires.

### • Conclusion

- We hope this document provides a comprehensive overview of the policies and procedures for the Atlanta Weeknight Baseball League. Our goal is to create a positive and enjoyable experience for all participants, fostering a sense of community and sportsmanship. Thank you for being a part of our league, and we look forward to a fantastic season ahead.