

### **Baltimore Beltway Senior Softball League (BBSL)**

In 1985 there was a senior softball league called the MARVA league that consisted of teams from Maryland and Virginia. It was short-lived, because travel was so complicated maneuvering through traffic on the Washington Beltway.

When the MARVA league folded, the Baltimore Beltway Senior Softball League came into existence in 1986, with four teams from the MARVA league: Howard County Seniors (Became the Maryland Old Liners in 1990); Dundalk; Greenbelt; and, Montgomery County. In those days the league was a Coed league with several women playing. To play men over 60 and Women over 55 were eligible. Games were nine innings in duration; there were no umpires; no balls, nor strikes were called; no sliding; after 10 runs were scored the inning ended. In 1986, the league was known as the Baltimore County Senior League and it took form with six Charter teams: Howard County Seniors, Catonsville, Dundalk, Parkville, Greenbelt and Montgomery County. A number of players from this era played in local and national tournaments under the name of the Montgomery Marauders.

Around 1987-88, a team from Holabird entered the league. At the end of the 1991 season Commissioner Flavio Nardone kicked the Holabird team from the league because they did not want to play any games away from Holabird. In other words, they only wanted to play home games.

In 1990, when the Howard County Senior became the Maryland Old Liners, a second team was formed and they were called Howard County Red. At this time the Montgomery County team dropped out.

In 1992, one new team, Bowie Sixties and one of the Charter Members, Montgomery County re-entered the league. Montgomery County played for two years, 1992 and 1993 and then dropped out, but came back for another year in 1998.

1994 saw two more new teams, Carroll County and Bowie Gold (formed from people on the Bowie Sixties team). Bowie Sixties became Bowie Silver.

In 1995, Arthurs entered the league and eventually changed their name to Glen Burnie.

A new Bowie team, Bowie Bronze and Harford County entered teams in 1999.

Crownsville, later called Glenelg, entered in 2000.

Bel Air was added in 2001.

Two new teams were added in 2008, the Howard Hitters and a second team from Carroll County. The original team became Carroll Blue and the new group Carroll Gray.

Finally in 2010, the Howard Hawks were added to bring the league total to seventeen teams.

The league is divided into three divisions depending on their level of competitiveness. The "A" division never plays against the "C" division. Only the "B" division plays against all the other divisions.

It was decided that all inter-division play would be doubleheaders. The teams were divided into three divisions with 4 "A" , 8 "B" and 6 "C".

In 2012, the league reformed into a 6-6-6 structure with Glen Burnie and Bowie Silver moving from B to A. One team folded and another group reformed and called themselves Harford. Reisterstown was added to the league in the C division. Minimum age for women was lowered to 50. At the end of the season, Carroll Gray moved from B to A and Glen Burnie from A to B.

During 2013, the league was inducted into the Maryland Slow Pitch Softball Hall of Fame. Glenelg and the Shoremen were added to the league in the C division. At season's end Dundalk and Greenbelt moved from C to B, Oldliners from A to B and Catonsville and Bowie Silver moved from B to A.

In 2014, instead of a single elimination playoff at season's end, the league established a double elimination tournament and called it the Post Season Tournament. Joe Valonis retired as Treasurer and webpage master after many years of service. Larry Gellar of Reisterstown agreed to serve in both roles. At season's end Dundalk moved from B to A and Bowie Silver from A to B.

In 2015 adopted the principle of helping to eliminate forfeits by allowing one team to provide a "retriever" and an outfielder to the team that is short. In addition, allowed the teams to use a limit of two players from adjoining states. At season's end, Glen Burnie moved from B to A and Catonsville from A to B.

In 2016, because there were 8 teams in the "C" division, they played only teams in their own division. The B and A divisions continued their inter-divisional play. At season's end Shockers moved from B to A and Carroll Blue from A to B.

In 2017 two new teams were added for 2018, SHOWTIME to Division "A" and Bowie Legends to the "C" division. Harford moved from A to B, Catonsville from B to A and Bowie Gold from C to B. Jim Ganz retired as Commissioner and was replaced by Tom Brown

During the life of the Baltimore Beltway Senior Softball League there have only been four Commissioners: Flavio Nardone, Charlie Renner, Skip McAfee, Jim Ganz and now Tom Brown.

The league plays a schedule of approximately 44 games per year. The season begins in the third week of April and plays through the end of August and includes playoffs. All games are now double headers. There is no Fall League. The Board of Directors, consisting of the Managers of the seventeen teams with the Commissioner chairing the meetings, meets at least twice a year, nominally in February before the season begins and again in the fall in either September or October after the season ends. There is a Rules Committee that meets at least yearly and an Ad Hoc Committee is formed to handle protests when they arise.

Teams pay an Annual Franchise Fee of approximately \$135 and each team is required to provide a field for playing the games, providing umpires and balls and coordination for any emergencies like potential rainouts, wet field conditions or traffic delay problems. A Cell Phone network has been established for this purpose.

We have an excellent webpage: [baltimoreseniorsoftball.com](http://baltimoreseniorsoftball.com) that contains extensive information about the league and its many teams. League results and standings are posted the same day the games are played.

Jim Ganz, Commissioner Emeritus

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