

Mid West Buckeye League
Baseball and Softball Association Constitution
(Updated as of 05/05/2021)

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be “Mid West Buckeye League”, an independent, non-profit, corporation.

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVE

The “Mid West Buckeye League” is to provide the opportunity for each participant to develop their athletic skill to the fullest potential by participating in baseball/softball games that will encourage the spirit of teamwork and sportsmanship as athletic competition.

ARTICLE III: ORGANIZATION

SECTION A: The immediate jurisdiction of the “Mid West Buckeye League” shall be limited to Directors of the Board and other participating organizations.

SECTION B: Any team or other association desirous of being included in the schedule may do so with the approval of the Board of Directors. Participating associations will have input on items of common interest and must abide by the organization and game rules of this constitution.

1. Goal of the organization is to limit drive from any community to any playing field to thirty (30) miles or less.
2. The MWBL association members of the current season need to give the MWBL association a commitment by the following **December 1st** or December’s Board Meeting to be **included** or **excluded** by the MWBL association.
3. The team or other association desirous of being **included** must make request known by **March 1st** of the current season.
4. After March 1st of the current season: The Board has the right to request payment for any expenses that have occurred on the behalf of the team or association after the deadline.
5. Members of MWBL can be voted out by majority.

SECTION C: The sponsoring association of each team included on the schedule is required to contribute to the following common game activity costs an amount equal to that contributed by all teams

1. Player sign-up fees, fundraisers, sponsor fees and concession stand income will be used to provide equipment, uniforms, umpire fees, field maintenance, lighting, etc. Each participating association will be responsible for these items at their respective playing sites. Playing fields

must be kept safe as determined by the playing rules governing baseball and softball.

2. Each participating association will contribute at least their “fair-share” of playing field use for recreational league games. “Fair-Share” is determined by the number of teams entered in each league from a given participating association in ratio to the total number of teams in that league. This ratio of teams should match the ratio of home field games played by a team on their sponsoring association’s playing fields. “Fair-Share” will also apply to end of season league tournaments.
3. If a participating association has more than their fair-share of the playing field availability to offer, the excess availability will be used by the “Mid West Buckeye League”, Director of Scheduling.
4. Each participating association will provide field availability to the Director of Scheduling in the time frame given by the Board of Directors.
5. The regular season will begin no later than Memorial Day weekend and finish with tournament play by the last week of July. There will be games played through July 4th. Rainouts can be scheduled on Sundays at 1:00 p.m. or after. Saturdays in July will be open for team to schedule all-star games. Exception will be to reschedule rained out games.
6. Common expenses, such as trophies, will be apportioned as per league to participation. For example, if an association sponsors 2 out of the 10 teams in a league, they would be responsible for 20% of the common expense.
7. Trophies will be awarded for both the overall season and the end of season tournament. First place teams in regular season will receive individual trophies in all divisions. If there is a tie for 1st place in any division, both teams will receive trophies. End of season tournament champions in all divisions will receive individual and sponsor trophies; Second place teams in all divisions will receive medals.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Membership is automatically granted to the parent or legal guardian of a child enrolled in their participating association, or by donating time through coaching, administering or sponsoring activities for the participating associations.

ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION A: COMPOSITION

All directors must be active or retired members of the participating associations. The board of directors “board” shall be constituted as follows: **President – Vice-President, and Commissioners of each level of baseball/softball league** of the participating associations.

SECTION B: PROCUREMENT OF DIRECTORS, ELECTED AND NON-ELECTED

There are two types of directors: Elected and Non-Elected.

ELECTED

Elected directors for the upcoming year activities shall be chosen by majority vote of the composition.

Each participating association of Presidents and Vice President cast 1 vote to elect a Co-Chairperson. In order to be eligible for the Co-Chairperson position, the person must have been actively involved in the MWBL for one full season. The Co-Chairperson position should be rotated amongst member associations to allow equal participation by all member associations.

- o Chairperson
- o Co-Chairperson

***** The Chairperson and Co-Chairperson cannot be representatives from the same participating association.**

The Chairperson may serve an unlimited number of 1 year terms. A serving chairperson must be re-nominated and reelected by a majority vote of the composition each year.

The Co Chairperson may serve an unlimited number of 1 year terms. A serving co-chairperson must be re-nominated and reelected by a majority vote of the composition each year.

It is encouraged that a newly elected chairperson has previously served as a co-chairperson prior to taking on the chairperson's position.

NON-ELECTED

The participating associations choose non-Elected Commissioner(s). They will be considered part of the Board of Directors. These include the following:

- o Commissioner(s) of Baseball (all levels)
- o Commissioner(s) of Softball (all levels)

Each participating association can determine its appropriate representation within Mid West Buckeye League. It is the belief of this organization that more involvement will make a better environment for the players.

OTHER NON-ELECTED POSITIONS

The board will choose non-Elected Directors. They will be considered part of the Board of Directors. These include:

- o Director of Tournaments
- o Director of Umpires
- o Director of Scheduling

SECTION C: The above will take recommendations from each participating association for the betterment of the kids (players) and game. Chairperson will decide on dates and times for monthly meetings. **However, all rule changes will be made by APRIL 1st of the current season. EXCEPTION WILL ONLY BE FOR THE SAFETY OF THE KIDS AND/OR THE BETTERMENT OF LEAGUE PLAY, (PLAYER) and NFHS Rules changes.** All other recommendations will be tabled until the next season.

ARTICLE VI: BOARD OF DIRECTORS – DUTIES

SECTION A: CHAIRPERSON- It shall be the duty of the Chairperson (Eligibility dependent on maintaining the position in present association as in Article 5 Section A.)

1. Serve as Chairperson of the Board of Directors
2. Preside at all Board of Director meeting
3. To call a board of meeting as described in Article VII, Section B
4. To develop and maintain a master schedule of Board events.
5. To ensure that the constitution of the Mid West Buckeye League is up to date and distributed to all board members and participating association's Presidents.
6. Will only vote to break a tie vote
7. Can ask and should ask for more discussion before voting.
8. Ask the vote be tabled to the next meeting - to allow for more thought and possible cool down.
9. Assign a Secretary per meeting

SECTION B: CO-CHAIRPERSON- It shall be the duty of the Co-Chairperson (Eligibility dependent on maintaining the position in present association as in Article 5 Section A.)

1. Act in the absence of the Chairperson when requested by the chairperson, when chairperson cannot attend meeting or in case of an emergency.
2. Succeed the Chairperson in office in case of resignation.

SECTION C: SECRETARY- It shall be the duty of the Secretary

1. Assigned per meeting by Chairperson.
2. Record minutes and distribute to all members.

SECTION D: COMMISSIONERS - It shall be the duty of the Commissioners (Eligibility dependent on maintaining the position in present association as in Article 5 Section A.)

1. The Commissioners will be divided by BASEBALL / SOFTBALL.
2. They will only vote on their governing topics, unless he/she is the chairperson, and in that case will not have a vote unless a tie.

3. Each participating association will have only 1 vote.
Example 1: Association has 4 commissioners in softball to represent each level. The association is only allowed 1 vote on softball items.
Example 2: Association has a director of baseball and 4 commissioners in baseball to represent each level. The association is only allowed 1 vote on baseball items.
Example 3: Association has President, Vice-President, baseball and softball commissioners. The association is only allowed 1 vote on organizational items.
4. Serve on Protest & Disciplinary committees.

SECTION E: Directors of Events - It shall be the duty of the Commissioners to appoint the following.
(Eligibility dependent on maintaining the position in present association as in Article 5 Section A.)

- o Director of Scheduling
 - o Director of Tournaments
 - o Director of Umpires
1. Shall be a current commissioner to represent each sport (baseball or softball),
 2. Shall be approved candidate by the Board of Directors.
 3. The Candidate will have no voting rights.
 4. Will have a voice to better the game.
 5. Goal is to have a Director from different participating association (Fair Share). Position can be shared (Co—Directors).

Director of Scheduling

1. Receive field availability by participating association by ***April 1st*** of the **current season.**
2. Receive number of teams by level per participating association by ***April 1st*** of the **current season.**
3. Creates regular season schedule and tournament schedule and distributes **by *May 1st*** of the **current season.**
4. Set schedule by level.
 - a) Request additional support from participating association.
 - b) Set date for schedule to be final.
 - c) Print schedule for board approval
 - d) Schedule to each commissioner
 - e) Place Tournament time & place by levels
5. Publish results by league
6. Publish results in Local participating association's newspaper.

Director of Tournaments

1. Decide on tournament dates by league before schedules are final
2. Coordinate tournaments with host associations

3. Any special request must be brought to the Board of Directors

Director of Umpires

1. Coordinates consistent officiating across associations
2. Serve on Protest committee

ARTICLE VII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OPERATING GUIDELINES

SECTION A: ETHICAL BEHAVIOR

1. Each participating association will be responsible for ensuring that their Respective players, Coaches, Parents, Sponsors, Fans, and Board of Director Members uphold the spirits of sportsmanship.
2. The Mid West Buckeye League and each participating association will be responsible for maintaining a spirit of teamwork among associations and their representatives and supporters.

SECTION B: REGULAR MEETINGS: Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be scheduled at least monthly. The Chairperson shall determine the time and place.

SECTION C: SPECIAL MEETING: Special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held whenever called by the Chairman or the majority of the Board.

SECTION D: QUORUM: There shall be a majority of attendees and representation from participating associations required for any meeting of the Board of Directors.

SECTION E: VOTING RIGHTS: Each association will have one (1) vote for any item brought in front of the Board of Directors. Any changes to this Constitution or its Addendums will require a majority vote by those in attendance at the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII: CODE OF ETHICS

SECTION A: Vandalism: defacing, destroying property or any other type of vandalism will result in the prosecution of the guilty parties! No second chances will be given!!!!!!

SECTION B: All players, parents, coaches, umpires, and fans of the Mid West Buckeye League must abide by the code of conduct agreement in the front of the program.

SECTION C: UNDESIRABLE BEHAVIOR

1. **No player or coach shall show any form of open hostility.** The umpire will issue a team warning note on the umpire card. If it occurs again during the game, the player/coach will be ejected from that game and the player/coach will be required to attend a disciplinary hearing to determine appropriate corrective measures.
2. **Balls and strikes are not open to question.** These are an umpire's judgment call. Players/coaches cannot argue these calls.
3. **Umpires shall not award a game forfeit due to unsportsmanlike conduct.** The player, coach or spectator will be ejected from the game per guidelines established in article VIII, Section B of this constitution. The umpire will note any ejection on the score card that will be turned in at the end of the game
4. **If a coach is ejected from a game** that coach may appeal before the board for a disciplinary hearing. Failure to attend this meeting can result in dismissal for the coach. If the coach is found at fault for the offense, then the Board will suspend the coach for remainder of current season, including tournament.
5. **Fans can be told to leave the playing facility by the umpire.** If the umpire determines it to be necessary to maintain a sportsmanlike atmosphere, the disruptive fan will receive 1 warning, the second addressing of the issue will result in the fan's ejection from the playing facility. **Failure to comply with an ejection order will result in enforcement by the local authorities!**
6. **Fans should remember that the development of players' sense of sportsmanship is of the utmost importance.** At the core of all sportsmanship is the respect for individuals. Personal attacks will not be tolerated. Cheering for your team is encouraged and highly welcomed.
7. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages are permitted on school property or at any Mid West Buckeye League game or practice site! Any coach violating this code of ethics will be subject to disciplinary action by the board.
8. The use of tobacco products in any form is strictly prohibited while in contact with our youth on the playing field. Any coach violating this code of ethics will be subject to disciplinary action by the board.
9. Any league or team using "gentlemen agreements" of variance to the rules agreed upon by the Mid West Buckeye League will be subject to a minimum 1 (one) game suspension and possibly more depending on the severity of the infraction.

ARTICLE IX: FORMAL HEARINGS

SECTION A: PROTESTS

1. There will be no protest of judgment calls.

2. All notices of protest shall be submitted by the head coach, in writing within 48 hours to their association's president or designated person. Both head coaches will be notified by their respective presidents or designated person of the date that the issue will be reviewed.
3. Each participating association's president or designated person, the Mid West Buckeye League Chairman and one properly certified umpire for baseball or softball depending on the league, will convene to hear and rule on all protests. If the protest is by same associations teams, there will be appointed commissioners by the Board. This meeting must be scheduled within one week of notification of the protest.
4. It is the responsibility of the Chairman to communicate the results. The results given to each party involved. Director of Scheduling for accurate record keeping. Report to the Board of Directors at the next scheduled meeting.
5. The result of a protest will either be upheld or not upheld. If a protest is upheld, the outcome of the game under protest will be overturned. Further action may be administered depending on the severity of the infraction or conflict.

SECTION B: DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS: All notices of disciplinary hearing shall be submitted by the head coach, in writing within 48 hours to their association's president or designated person. Affected coach will be notified by their respective president or designee of the date that the issue will be reviewed. Each participating association's president or designee will convene to hear and rule on all disciplinary hearings. This meeting must be scheduled within one week of notification of the issue.

Discipline will be aggressive, and will include any of the following steps:

- a) Warning- Taken place on the field by the umpire
- b) Dismissal- Remaining of current season including tournament play
- c) Expulsion- Participation in the summer league is conditional, based on all participating teams and associations compliance to the ruling made by the Board of Directors at any aforementioned hearing.

Each association will be responsible for punishment and/or disciplinary action regarding their own players, coaches, and fans. Any disciplinary action taken will be immediately reported to the MWBL chairman.

Disciplinary Action must be to the minimum and/or satisfaction of the MWBL board of directors. The MWBL board reserves the right to overturn or increase the level or disciplinary action taken by the association.

ARTICLE X: PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Recreational league player's geographic areas are determined by public school assignments. Participants asking guidance regarding location of sign-up shall be sent to the appropriate association according to the location of residence first.

Extenuating circumstances will be considered second. Players must be signed up at least 1 day prior to the draft date.

ARTICLE XI: PROGRAM

SECTION A: PLAYER DISTRIBUTION

1. Governed by participating association
2. Each association must distribute travel players across all teams within the age group they are playing in. Exceptions to this rule may be considered by the MWBL if there is a good reason this cannot occur.

SECTION B: PLAYER ELIGIBILITY (AGE AND DATES ARE FOR PARTICIPATING YEAR)

Recreational Baseball League

15U: must be 13, 14, 15 by 5/1
12U: must be 11 or 12 by 5/1
10U: must be 9 or 10 by 5/1
8U: must be 7 or 8 by 5/1

Recreational Softball League

16U: must be 13 - 16 by 1/1
12U: must be 11 or 12 by 1/1
10U: must be 9 or 10 by 1/1
8U: must be 7 or 8 by 1/1

SECTION C: COACHING GUIDELINES: Governing by participating association with recommendations.

1. A coach must be at least 18 years old.
2. A coach must show good sportsmanship on the field and as a spectator.
3. A coach must have a thorough understanding of league rules.
4. A coach may not trade or recruit players but shall work through the board of directors to acquire players.
5. Only the head coach may approach the umpire. In the event of the head coach's absence, the assistant coach or other pre-determined person may fill in. **The umpire must be notified who is the head coach of each team prior to the game starting.**
6. Coaches shall keep an accurate score book of the games or assign a responsible person to this duty. The home team shall keep the official score, checking with the opposing team each ½ inning to ensure accuracy.
7. Home coach is responsible to confirm proper field set-up.
8. Coaches must consider the welfare of each player.
9. **WINNING OF GAMES MUST BE SECONDARY!**
10. Both coaches will report the game result on the MWBL website.

11. MWBL encourages out of season practice under NFHS/OHSAA guidelines however the out of season practice WILL NOT be limited to only returning team members. The out of season practice should be open to any NON Returning team member to participate. Otherwise the out of season practice will be reviewed and a ruling will be made by MWBL Board to the offending association of the MWBL.

Examples of Potential Penalty: The Penalties are not listed in order and are only recommendations to MWBL. Additional Penalties may be recommended by the MWBL Board.

1. Coach suspended from coaching game(s) or season.
2. Team suspended game(s) or season.
3. Team member(s) will be re-drafted by the association.

SECTION D: PLAYING RULES:

1. The Board of Directors approves all playing rule changes.
2. The following rules will apply to the applicable Leagues.
3. Except where noted, Baseball and Softball play is governed by **Official RULEBOOK of National Federation of High School Sports.**
4. TRAVEL PLAYERS
 - a. Travel Players are encouraged to play in the MWBL rec league.
 - b. Travel players must be distributed evenly between all teams within the age group they are playing in, exceptions to this may be made with approval from the MWBL board.
 - c. Travel players are considered travel players in the MWBL only if the player has been listed on a roster in any travel game.
 - d. BASEBALL ONLY - A rostered travel player that pitches on any travel team will be ineligible to pitch in any game in the MWBL. Said travel player may play any other position at any time during any game.
 - e. SOFTBALL ONLY - A rostered travel player that pitches on any travel team may PITCH **after** the third (3) inning of a regulation game. This is regardless of the time limit imposed on games.
 - f. A rostered travel player that DOES NOT pitch on a travel team may play any position, including pitcher at any time in any MWBL game.
 - g. 16 year old players are not allowed to pitch at any time in 16U Softball
5. In all levels, there is free substitution on defense.
6. **All players play a minimum of two (2) innings of defense unless the player is being disciplined for just cause.**
7. Pick-up players are permitted. Pick-up players must be members of the participating associations and be listed on MWBL Rosters (exception: players being picked up for 8U games from T-Ball/Instructional League teams). For both Regular Season and Post-Season Tournament games, pick-up players must come from the next lower level. The "level" that a player is playing at is dictated by the MWBL league in which they are registered to and playing in, not by their actual league age. Thus if a

- player is “playing up” at a league level beyond their league age, they are unable to serve as a pick-up player at that level. Pick-up players must be picked-up from the same sport of registration. Pick-up players must play in the outfield and bat last in the lineup. A team may pick-up a maximum of three (3) players to field a legal team.
8. If rostered players arrive just before OR during the game, the pick-up player **MUST** come out of the game **ON DEFENSE**, and the rostered player entered on defense and be placed **AT THE END OF THE BATTING ORDER**. **THE PICK UP PLAYER WILL CONTINUE TO BAT IN THEIR SPOT IN THE BATTING ORDER** for the rest of the game.
 9. The only team personnel allowed on the field while the ball is in play are:
 - a. **Offense**- batter, base runner(s), 1 on deck batter, 1 first and 1 third base coach.
 - b. **Defense**- players placed in defensive playing positions.
 - c. Bullpen pitcher, catcher, and 1 spotter.

All other players and personnel are required to be within the dugout area (see exceptions in 8U league).
 10. The umpire may halt play in a game after completion of one (1) or two (2) less innings than a full game of play if considering the run rule, the team behind cannot score enough runs to win or tie the game.
 11. **If there is a rules dispute at any game, the home field association will decide.** If the dispute cannot be decided there, the MWBL Chairperson will be contacted. A decision will be made based on the information given and that will be final. If the Chairperson is unavailable, then the appointed representative of the home field organization will make the decision, which will be final.
 12. **There will be a mandatory home plate meeting with the head umpire and the 2 head coaches prior to every MWBL game.** The ground rules and age specific rules will be discussed, and fully understood by both coaches prior to the game beginning.
 13. 10u, 12u, 15u/16u only: Games can start with 8 players, but an out must be taken at the 9th spot in the order. Once the 9th spot is filled in the batting order, the out will no longer need to be taken (8U has a specific rule about this under age specific rules below)
 14. Players may arrive late to a game and must be added to the bottom of the order upon arrival. If you are expecting a late arrival, the opposing coach and umpire **MUST BE** notified prior to the start of the game and also when the player arrives. *If a pickup player is already in the lineup see rule #8 above.*
 15. An injured or sick player that starts a game may be skipped in the lineup without taking an out when that position comes up in the batting order if they are unable to bat. This would be in effect for the remainder of the game. If able, the player may re-enter the game after 1 complete inning. This exception can only happen once per player per game. If the player re-enters the game and then it is determined the player cannot continue and comes back out of the lineup, then an out will be taken at that position

- for the remainder of the game. If a player leaves the lineup for any other reason (ie: 4-H meeting, other sport, etc) then every time that position comes to bat, an out will be taken for the remainder of the game. This rule will be in effect for all age groups for baseball and softball
16. Metal cleats can only be worn at the 15U/16U level only. No other age divisions may wear metal cleats (baseball or softball)
 17. No shiny helmets are allowed in MWBL, This is mainly metallic or chrome helmets that act as a mirror. It will be at the discretion of the head umpire to decide if a helmet is not allowed to be worn in the game.
 18. All softball batting helmets at all age levels must have a face guard. Chin straps are recommended but are not mandatory for all age groups
 19. Chattering is allowed, but cannot be directed at any member of the opposing team. The only type of chatter that is allowed is positive and directed toward your own team. If chatter becomes offensive toward the opposing team and/or is directed at an individual player on the opposing team, then the umpire will issue a warning to the team chattering and all chatter must stop immediately.
 20. When a player is warming up a pitcher on or off the field, a catcher's mask must be worn. All catchers must wear an athletic cup and cannot catch without same. All players must wear safety equipment during practice at all times just as they would in a game.
 21. **RUN LIMIT Per Inning** A team's half of an inning will end after three (3) outs or six (6) runs have been scored, whichever shall occur first. Any runs above six (6) will not be recorded in the official score. For example, if the team already has five (5) runs scored, bases are loaded and the batter hits a home run, only one (1) additional run will be added to the score. If a team is down more than six (6) runs in the last inning of the game, they cannot score enough runs to win the game (the team can only score six (6) runs in any inning).
 22. **Run Rule - The game is complete:**
 - 6 inning game**
After completed innings
4th inning = 13 runs
5th inning = 7 runs
 - 7 inning game**
After completed innings
4th inning = 19 runs
5th inning = 13 runs
6th inning = 7 runs
 23. **TIME LIMIT:** For 8U, 10U and 12U games, one hour and forty five minutes (1:45) of play is the time limit for all games in the league. For 15U/16U games, two hours (2:00) of play is the time limit for all games in this league. However, all games must end on complete inning.
No new inning may start at or after 1 hour and 45 minutes (8U/10U/12U) or after 2 hours (15U/16U) (EXCEPTION: Tie games will

utilize the following tie-breaking procedure.) CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT GAMES (ONLY) HAVE NO TIME LIMIT FOR ALL AGE GROUPS.

24. **TIE BREAKING PROCEDURE:** If a tie occurs after all regulation innings are played during a regular season game or a tournament game, or if a tie exists at the end of a complete inning and the time limit has been met (regardless of how many innings have been played), the following tie-breaking procedure will be followed:
- For the first extra inning exceeding the time limit, the inning will be started with runners on second-base and third-base with no outs. Each batter will start with a 0 ball, 0 strike (new) count. All other league-specific rules remain in place (run limit, etc.).
 - Should the game remain tied after one extra inning is played, a second extra inning shall be played. For the second extra inning, the inning will be started with the bases loaded and no outs. Each batter will start with a 2 ball, 1 strike count. All other league-specific rules remain in place (run limit, etc.).
 - For regular season games, should the game remain tied after the second extra inning is played, the game shall be recorded as a tie.
 - For post-season tournament games, should the game remain tied after the second extra inning, additional innings shall be played using the 2nd extra-inning format described in Paragraph b. above (bases loaded, 2-1 count on the batter) until a winner is decided.
 - The base-runners required by the above procedure shall be placed in the following manner:
The player in the batting order immediately before the first batter of the extra inning shall be placed at the base furthest from scoring, the player two spots in front of the first batter of the extra inning shall be placed on the next furthest base, etc.
(EXAMPLE: The 7th batter is the lead-off batter in the second extra inning. The runner at first base would be the 6th batter, the runner on second base would be the 5th batter, and the runner on third base would be the 4th batter.)
25. **LIGHTNING & THUNDER RULE:** Safety of the players is of the utmost concern. Upon sighting lightning OR hearing thunder, the head umpire shall delay the game by thirty (30) minutes. If the head umpire does not see the lightning OR hear thunder, coaches may make the umpire of aware of the situation. In any case, the game should be immediately delayed for thirty (30) minutes. If during the delay additional thunder or lightning is seen or heard, the 30 minutes will start over each time.
26. **CANCELLATION:** Home team head coach will call opposing team and notify umpires. If in doubt, call the home team coach. Before the playing season starts be sure to know the contact information for all fields within

the schedule to avoid the uncertainty of any game in question. If in doubt, double check with home team head coach.

27. **HEART GUARD/8U PITCHER HELMET:** The league strongly recommends that all players purchase and wear a heart guard while playing their respective sports. It is mandatory that the player playing the “pitcher” position at the 8U level wear a batting helmet with face mask while playing in the field due to the limited reaction time and slower reflexes for players of this age. The MWBL and its member associations will not be held responsible for accidents that occur that could have been prevented if the players had been wearing a heart guard or other safety equipment.
28. **LIMIT ON STEALING:** If a team is ahead by eight (8) or more runs at any time, that team will not be allowed to steal or advance on passed balls/wild pitches until the run difference is below eight (8) runs.
- Penalty for the RULE infraction:
1. Warning
 2. Out
 3. Excessive Lead-Off with an 8 run lead. In the Umpire's Judgment this will be considered an out.
29. **Throwing bats is a serious concern for the MWBL and offenses will not be taken lightly. PENALTIES WILL BE APPLIED TO THE ENTIRE OFFENDING TEAM, NOT INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS:**
- 1ST OFFENSE BY THE TEAM –TEAM WILL BE ISSUED A WARNING
 - 2ND OFFENSE BY THE TEAM (EVEN IF A DIFFERENT PLAYER IS INVOLVED) - BATTER IS OUT
 - 3RD OFFENSE BY THE TEAM (EVEN IF NEITHER THE FIRST NOR SECOND OFFENDING PLAYER IS INVOLVED) – BATTER IS OUT AND THAT THIRD PLAYER MUST SIT OUT REMAINDER OF GAME. AN OUT SHALL BE CALLED WHEN HIS/HER SPOT IN THE ORDER COMES UP FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE GAME.
30. **Tournament Seeding-** A special MWBL board meeting will be held to determine seedings for the end of season tournament. Tournament brackets will be released after this meeting. Higher seeded teams will be the home team in each tournament game, including the championship game.
31. **Time Outs / Stalling Tactics:**
- DEFENSE CONFERENCES:** A charged conference is a meeting which involves the coach or his non-playing representative and a player or players of the team. A defensive charged conference is concluded when the coach or non playing representative crosses the foul line if the conference was in FAIR territory. If the conference was in FOUL territory, the conference concludes when the coach or non-playing representative initially starts to return to the dugout/bench area.

Each Team, when on defense, may be granted NOT more than 3 charged conferences during a game and NO more than 2 charged conferences in 1 given inning. Extra inning game each team is granted 1 per inning without penalty.

*After 3 charged conferences in a game or for any charged conference in excess of 1 (one) in each extra inning game, the PITCHER must be removed

OFFENSE CONFERENCE: Each team, when on offense, may be granted not more than 1(one) charged conference per inning to permit the coach or any team's personnel to confer with base runner, the batter, the on-deck batter or other offensive team personnel. The UMPIRE SHALL DENY subsequent offensive team requests for charged conference. The offensive charged conference is concluded when the coach or team representative initially starts to return to the coach's box or dugout/bench area. RESTRICTED to BENCH/DUGOUT area that conference shall end when the players involved initially start to return to their positions on the field.

*** When either team has a charged conference, the other team may also have a conference, which is not charged, provided the conference concludes when opposing team's charged conference concludes, so the game is not further delayed.

PITCHING: Starting Pitcher or Relief Pitcher may warm up by NOT using more than 5 (five) throws completed in 1 (one) minute (timed from the first throw). At the beginning of each subsequent inning, the pitcher may warm up by using not more than 5 (five) throws, completed in 1 (one) minute (timed from the 3rd (THIRD) OUT of the previous half inning). In either case, the umpire-in-chief may authorize more throws because of an injury or inclement weather.

PENALTY: The BATTER shall be awarded 1 (one) ball for each pitch in excess of 5 (five). Exception applies if the umpire delays the start of play due to substitution, conference, injuries, etc.

BATTER: Delaying the game by failing to take her position promptly in the batter's box within 10 (Ten) seconds. The batter MUST keep at least one foot in the batter's box throughout the time at bat.

Exception:

- The batter swings at a pitch
- The batter is forced out of the box by the pitch
- The batter attempts a "BUNT"
- The pitcher or catcher feints or attempts a play at any base.

- The pitcher leaves the pitching mound (circle) or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher's plate (rubber) after receiving the ball
- A member of either TEAM requests and is granted "TIME"

The Reason for the above rule is to encourage TEAM HUSTLE and coaches are encouraged to avoid STALL TACTICS.

SECTION E: GAME START TIMES

1. Games start time will be established by predetermined schedules.
2. All weeknight games will be a 6:15pm start time. The 2nd game on the same field(s) will begin at 8:00pm or 15 minutes following the first game.
3. Warm-up periods begin 15 minutes prior to the start of the first scheduled game and immediately following the vacating of the dugout by the prior games teams.
4. The visiting team will be allowed 7 minutes of warm-up followed by 7 minutes of warm-up by the home team. Immediately following the home team warm-up, the home players shall assume their defensive positions.
5. Teams that do not begin warm-ups within their allotted time frames will have their time reduced proportionately to their delay.
6. Teams arriving early should NOT take the infield for warm-ups until 15 minutes prior to the schedule start of the game.
7. Batting practice should never be conducted on the infield prior to a game.

SECTION F: MAKE-UP GAMES: Make-up games shall be played on the date and time as scheduled by the teams' coaches involved. The home team association will be responsible for ensuring field and official availability and scheduling.

Games shall be rescheduled for the following reasons ONLY:

- o Weather conditions,
- o Playing field conditions,
- o Field scheduling conflicts.
- o School Activities

The coaches shall notify the commissioners of both associations (baseball/softball) involved in the rescheduling. The home team association must notify the Director of Scheduling of the rescheduled date/time. **COACHES ARE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE UP GAMES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST WEEKEND OF THE SEASON TO TRY TO RESCHEDULE MAKE-UP GAMES.** If a coach is unable to contact an opposing coach about rescheduling a game that coach should work through their association president or representative to ensure the game gets rescheduled. Games that are not played due to coach's inaction will be counted as a loss for both teams (exception: clear documentation of the non-responsiveness of one coach).

There will be three reasonable attempts by the home team to make up a postponed game. If those three attempts by the home team are denied by the visiting team then that team will forfeit that particular game. If necessary the president/director of each association will discuss this and make a decision on a forfeit. If necessary the MWBL director will help make a decision on whether a forfeit will occur.

ARTICLE XII: CHANGES TO GENERAL AND SPECIFIC RULES

SECTION A: Changes CAN be made during the season for the safety of the players by the approval of the Board of Directors. All other rule recommendations will be tabled to the following season.

ARTICLE XIII: END OF SEASON TIE BREAKER

SECTION A: If 2 or more teams are tied at the end of the regular season:

1. Season Record
2. Head to head records.
3. Runs allowed in the regular season
4. Runs scored in the regular season
5. Coin Toss
6. Games that are not played or are not reported by the tournament seeding meeting will be counted as a loss for both teams, and 15 runs assigned to Runs allowed to each team.

NOTE: No attempts will be made during Tournament seeding to gather Wins or Loss.

(Exception will be if the association can prove reasonable attempt was made to play the game.)

BASEBALL ADDENDUM:

LEAGUE DEFINITIONS

- 15UB:** (fields 9, bats entire roster, 7 innings)
- 12UB:** (fields 9, bats entire roster, 6 innings)
- 10UB:** (fields 9, bats entire roster, 6 innings)
- 8UB:** (fields 10, bats entire roster, 6 innings)

FIELD DIMENSIONS: (QUICK REFERENCE ONLY)

- 15UB:** Base distance set at 90 feet.
- 12UB:** Base distance set at 70 feet.
- 10UB:** Base distance set at 65 feet.
- 8UB:** Base distance set at 60 feet.

PITCHING PLATE DISTANCE (QUICK REFERENCE ONLY)

15UB: Pitching Plate distance 60'6"

12UB: Pitching Plate distance 50 feet.

10UB: Pitching Plate distance 46 feet.

8UB: Pitching Plate distance 46 feet.

GENERAL RULES AND GUIDELINES:

1. Mid West Buckeye League playing rules in Article XI, Section D govern all play
2. Home team is responsible for supplying one (1) new leather game ball (meeting specifications of NFHS/OHSAA) and one (1) slightly used leather game ball at the start of each game.
3. Pitching Control: SEE INDIVIDUAL DIVISIONS FOR RULE
4. No slug bunting shall be allowed *other bunting techniques are allowed*. If a Slug Bunt is called by the umpire, the batter will be declared out and a dead ball will result with runners returning to the base(s) from which they started.
5. Baseball cleats are restricted to rubber only at all levels except 15U/16U.
6. (BASEBALL) ONLY Pitcher is removed from the pitching position. The pitcher CANNOT Re-enter as a Pitcher.

LEAGUE SPECIFIC RULES:

15UB

1. The team's entire roster bats
2. Defense fields 9 players and is free substitution on defense
3. Pitching Control: Once a pitcher hits three (3) batters in a single game, they must be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the current inning and the next full inning. They may return to the pitching position after that. If they hit one (1) more batter in the game they must be removed from the pitcher position for the remainder of the game.
4. Once the pitcher is removed from the pitching position, the pitcher CANNOT Re-enter as a Pitcher. **(exception- if rule 3 above is in effect the pitcher may re-enter under this rule)**
5. Pitcher's plate will be set at (60'6"). (Elevated mound is recommended.)
6. A player may pitch no more than four (4) innings in a single game.
7. Big barrel bats (up to and including 2 5/8") are permitted in this league. With a DROP 3 or (-3) example 33" bat 30oz.

12UB

1. The team's entire roster bats.
2. Defense fields 9 players and is free substitution on defense

3. Pitching Control: Once a pitcher hits three (3) batters in a single game, they must be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the current inning and the next full inning. They may return to the pitching position after that. If they hit one (1) more batter in the game they must be removed from the pitcher position for the remainder of the game.
4. Once the pitcher is removed from the pitching position, the pitcher CANNOT Re-enter as a Pitcher. **(exception- if rule 3 above is in effect the pitcher may re-enter under this rule)**
5. Pitcher's plate will be set at 50 feet. (Elevated mound is recommended)
6. A player may pitch no more than three (3) innings in a single game.
7. All games will be six (6) innings, unless tied or halted by rain or other inclement weather. In case of rain, four (4) innings, three and one half if the home team is leading, will constitute a complete game.
8. Base Runners may lead off (and steal) per NFHS/OHSAA Rules.
9. Only 1 base is permitted on an overthrown pickoff attempt by the pitcher OR catcher.
10. Balks – One (1) warning PER TEAM will be given, after the warning, balks will be called for the remainder of the game.
11. A runner at 3rd base cannot advance to home on a balk: with the exception – IF the bases are loaded, then the 3rd base runner can advance to home plate.
12. Bat barrel size may not exceed 2 1/4" in diameter except for those bats that are manufactured to the specifications established by the USABat Standard of 2018 and are stamped with the official USA Baseball logo.

10UB

1. The team's entire roster bats.
2. Defense fields 9 players and is free substitution on defense
3. Once a pitcher hits four (4) batters in a single game, they must be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the current inning and the next full inning. They may return to the pitching position after that. If they hit one (1) more batter in the game they must be removed from the pitcher position for the remainder of the game.
4. Once the pitcher is removed from the pitching position, the pitcher CANNOT Re-enter as a Pitcher. **(exception- if rule 3 above is in effect the pitcher may re-enter under this rule)**
5. Pitcher's plate will be set at 46 feet.
6. A player may pitch no more than three (3) innings in a single game.
7. Pitchers can only throw a fastball, changeup or knuckleball. No other pitches are allowed to be thrown. Infractions will be handled as follows:
 - a. 1st time: BALL
 - b. 2nd time: BALL & pitcher will be taken out of pitching position.
8. If a pitcher throws a breaking ball and it is hit into fair territory, it will be considered a live ball. If the batter is safe at any base, then the play

will stand AND illegal pitch will be called; if the batter is out at any base, then illegal pitch will be called. The batter will resume his at bat and the pitch will be called a ball (if first offense), or a ball and removal of the pitcher (if second offense)

9. All games will be six (6) innings, unless tied or halted by rain or other inclement weather. In case of rain, four (4) innings, three and one half if the home team is leading, will constitute a complete game.
10. No balks shall be called. Coaches must call time to address the balk immediately with the pitcher to correct it. This will be considered a charged timeout within that inning,
11. Infield fly rule does not apply.
12. A baserunner may steal at the release of the pitch
If runner leaves base early when stealing:
1st offense: one (1) warning per game per team, player is sent back.
2nd offense: player will be out.
13. A runner may only advance to home by a batted ball or by a batter being hit by the pitch with the bases loaded (may not steal home or advance home on a passed ball/wild pitch). Each runner may only advance one base on a steal attempt (no advances on overthrows from the catcher to encourage catchers to try to make a play on the runners).
Exception is after the 3rd base runner has established the base. The runner may advance at his own risk when a PLAY is made on the 3rd base runner.
14. Batter CANNOT advance on a drop 3rd strike.
15. A batter cannot be walked. If a pitcher throws ball four, the offensive coach will throw a maximum of three pitches. The batter must hit one of the pitches or they will be retired (recorded as an out). The strike count will remain in effect. Additionally, the umpire will continue to call strikes on pitches by the coach that are not struck at by the batter but cross the plate in the strike zone, and will also call strikes swinging.
Example 1: If a batter has 2 strikes when the coach comes in to pitch and throws a pitch that is a strike called or swinging, the batter is out after only 1 pitch.
Example 2: If a batter has 2 strikes when the coach comes in to pitch and throws a called ball, the batter has two remaining pitches to put the ball in play or be out.
Example 3: If a batter has 1 strike when the coach comes in to pitch and two swinging or called strikes then the batter is out.
Example 4: If a batter has 0 strikes when the coach comes in to pitch then the batter will get the maximum three pitches to put the ball in play.

If the third and final pitch is fouled off then the batter gets another pitch, this will be the case on any additional foul balls until it is put in play or the batter is out on strikes.

If a coach pitched ball hits a batter, the batter shall not get to take 1st base and the pitched ball will be considered one of the maximum three pitches.

The offensive coach that comes into pitch must start the pitch with at least one foot on the pitching rubber. THE PLAYER IN THE PITCHING POSITION MUST BE IN LINE WITH THE RUBBER WITHIN 5' LEFT OR RIGHT OR WITHIN 5' BEHIND THE RUBBER

If the batted ball hits the coach then it is declared a dead ball/no pitch and does not count against the maximum of three pitches

No stealing or advancing on passed balls/wild pitches is allowed during coach pitch situations.

No bunting during coach pitch situations

16. Bat barrel size may not exceed 2 1/4" in diameter except for those bats that are manufactured to the specifications established by the USA Bat Standard of 2018 and are stamped with the official USA Baseball logo.

8UB

The league is an instructional league and should be coached and conducted as such. The basic fundamentals and sportsmanship along with participation and exercise should be some key ingredients to having a safe and fun time on the ball fields, not how many runs are scored. Although that adds to the excitement, should not be the main reason for it.

1. The team's entire roster bats.
2. Pitcher's plate will be set at 46 feet.
3. Coaches pitch in this league. A chalk mark or pitching plate will be used to mark thirty five (35) feet and forty six (46) feet from the back edge of home plate. The coach must pitch overhand only between these two points of reference. (The chalk mark can be a DOT or a line equal in width to the width of the pitching plate.) The player playing the pitching position must be within five (5) feet left, right, but must be between the pitching reference marks .
4. All games will be six (6) innings, unless tied or halted by rain or other inclement weather. In case of rain, four (4) innings, three (3) and one half if the home team is leading, will constitute a complete game.
5. Ten (10) fielders may play at one time; **no more than six (6) may play in the infield (Catcher, pitcher, first baseman, second baseman, third baseman and shortstop)**. All other fielders must play in the outfield, at a minimum of 5' behind the outfield dividing line.
6. A team may field a minimum of 7 players with no out taken for the vacant positions in batting line up. *(1of 7 must be a catcher)*

7. Each batter has seven (7) pitches or three (3) strikes to hit the ball. If the ball is not hit by the 7th pitch then the batter is recorded as an out. If on the last pitch the ball is fouled off an additional pitch is awarded.
8. No bunting shall be allowed. First time will result in a strike and a warning; second time shall be an out.
9. There shall be no bases on balls.
10. The coach who is pitching may not tell the player when to swing or run and he cannot coach the player on the base path.
 1st offense: warning
 2nd offense: out for the game
11. Two (2) adult coaches will be allowed in the outfield on defense.
12. No lead offs. Runner cannot go until the ball is hit.
13. Infield fly rule does not apply. If a flyball in the infield is caught, base runners may not advance and may not tag-up. If not caught they may advance one base with the liability of being put out, as with any infield hit ball.
14. If a batted ball hits a coach/pitcher the ball is declared dead, all runners return to their positions and the pitcher may re-pitch the ball (the original pitch that was hit will not be counted against the batter's count).
15. Infield/Outfield "dividing" line shall be 10' behind the baseline at all fields. If the grass outfield is at 10' behind the baseline that may be used as the dividing mark. If not, the infield/outfield "dividing" line must be drawn with chalk or paint prior to the start of the game.

INFIELD HIT BALL- This is defined as a batted ball that does not completely cross the dividing line. Base runners may advance a maximum of one base.

OUTFIELD HIT BALL- This is defined as a batted ball that completely crosses the dividing line, regardless of who fields the ball. Base runners may advance at will, however once the ball reaches the infield area and is CONTROLLED by an infielder within the infield area, the player may continue only to the next base with the liability of being put out.

If a base runner mistakenly continues to the next base on either an infield or outfield hit ball, they advance at their own risk. If they are put out advancing or retreating to any base, this will be considered as an out. Coaches should NOT attempt to correct the wrong while the play is still live.

Outfielders must start a minimum of 5' behind the "dividing" line.
An outfielder cannot make an out at a base or on a baserunner. The outfielder must transfer the ball to an infielder regardless of where it was fielded.

If an infielder fields the ball beyond the dividing line, then it will be considered an outfield hit ball (as stated above). Once the infielder has control of the ball on the infield part of the field, the runners must stop at the base they are on, or be sent back to the base at the umpires discretion

Infield/outfield hits and runner location at the time the ball is controlled by an infielder is a judgment call by the umpire and will not be debated. The umpire's ruling is FINAL!

Examples of this rule:

- a. No runners on, batter hits infield ball to shortstop, shortstop overthrows first:
 - i. Batter must stop at first base and cannot continue to second regardless of where the overthrow ends up
 - b. Runner on first, batter hits infield ball to shortstop, shortstop overthrows second:
 - i. Batter must stop at first base
 - ii. Runner from first must stop at second base
 - c. Batter hits infield or outfield ball to outfielder, outfielder throws ball to shortstop (and shortstop controls the ball) before batter reaches first:
 - i. Batter must stop at first base (batter may be put out if shortstop makes throw to first before batter reaches first)
 - d. Batter hits infield or outfield ball to right field, right field throws ball to first base before batter reaches first:
 - i. Batter is out
 - e. Batter hits outfield ball, outfielder throws ball to shortstop and shortstop controls the ball (after batter rounds first):
 - i. Batter may continue to second base with the liability of being put out by the shortstop.
 - ii. If the shortstop overthrows the second baseman, batter may not advance beyond second base. Batter must stop at second base regardless of where the ball ends up.
 - f. Batter hits outfield ball, outfield throws ball to shortstop, and shortstop controls the ball (prior to reaching first base):
 - i. Batter must stop at first base
 - ii. If shortstop makes throw to first base, batter cannot advance
16. Any player that is unable to bat for any reason may skip his/her position in the batting order without an out being called. The MWBL will monitor use of this rule to ensure coaches do not abuse this rule. The idea of this rule is to not penalize a team for a player who is afraid to bat or must leave before the game completes.
17. If any player becomes injured, the next scheduled batter will take his/her place and assume the same count as the injured batter.

18. Coaches will be allowed to call for time and to instruct players on the field when they see coaching points. This should be done in a way to better the player or teams, not to stall the game. Nor should we use this time to single out players. This is an instructional league and it will be conducted as one! Use this league to instruct and teach our young athletes to become students of the game. Instructing during games at this age level will benefit players and coaches tremendously, provided it is done correctly.
19. 8U pitchers position must wear a batting helmet with a face guard to protect against injury from a line drive hit directly back to that position.
20. Bat barrel size may not exceed 2 1/4" in diameter except for those bats that are manufactured to the specifications established by the USABat Standard of 2018 and are stamped with the official USA Baseball logo.

SOFTBALL ADDENDUM:

LEAGUE DEFINITIONS

- 16US:** (fields 9, bats entire roster, 7 innings, uses a 12" ball)
- 12US:** (fields 9, bats entire roster, 6 innings, uses a 12" ball)
- 10US:** (fields 10, bats entire roster, 6 innings, uses a 11" ball)
- 8US:** (fields 10, bats entire roster, 6 innings, uses a 11" ball)

FIELD DIMENSIONS: (QUICK REFERENCE ONLY)

BASES AT ALL LEVELS WILL BE SET AT 60 FEET

PITCHING PLATE DISTANCE (QUICK REFERENCE ONLY)

- 16US:** Pitching Plate distance 43 FEET.
- 12US:** Pitching Plate distance 40 FEET.
- 10US:** Pitching Plate distance 35 FEET.
- 8US:** Pitching Plate distance 35 FEET. Coach MUST start pitch with at least one foot within the circle.

GENERAL RULES AND GUIDELINES:

1. Mid West Buckeye League playing rules in Article XI, Section D govern all play
2. Home team is responsible for supplying one (1) new game ball (meeting specifications of NFHS/OHSAA) and one (1) slightly used game ball at the start of each game.
3. In all levels, the team's entire roster bats.
4. Pitching Control: SEE INDIVIDUAL DIVISIONS FOR RULE
5. OUTFIELD: Positioning of all outfielders in all leagues must be no closer than 15ft. from bases or base path. (Excluding 8U check league specific rules).

6. HELMETS - FACE GUARDS and CHIN STRAPS BATTER- (SOFTBALL ONLY) The MWBL league requires that 8U, 10U, 12U, 16U softball players wear helmet with a face guard. Chin straps are recommended, especially at 8U & 10U, however wearing a chin strap is no longer mandatory

LEAGUE SPECIFIC RULES:

16US & 12US

1. Pitching Plate distance set at 43feet (16US) and 40 feet (12US).
2. 16U Pitchers may pitch a maximum of five (5) innings per game
3. 16 YEAR OLD Pitchers may pitch after the 3rd inning
4. 12U Pitchers may pitch a maximum of four (4) innings
5. Pitching Control: Once a pitcher hits three (3) batters in a single game, they must be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the current inning and the next full inning. They may return to the pitching position after that. If they hit one (1) more batter in the game they must be removed from the pitcher position for the remainder of the game.
6. Free substitution in both, and may re-enter as pitcher. Any pitches thrown will constitute an inning.

10US

1. Pitching Plate distance set at 35 feet.
2. Each team should field 10 players with 4 outfielders and 6 infielders.
3. Pitchers may pitch a maximum of four (4) innings per game (free substitution, may re-enter). Any pitches thrown will constitute an inning.
4. Once a pitcher hits four (4) batters in a single game, they must be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the current inning and the next full inning. They may return to the pitching position after that. If they hit one (1) more batter in the game they must be removed from the pitcher position for the remainder of the game.
5. No illegal pitches shall be called. Coaches must address the illegal pitch immediately with the pitcher. This will be considered a charged timeout within that inning.
6. A runner may steal at the release of the pitch
7. A 3RD BASE runner may only advance to home by a batted ball or by a batter being hit by the pitch with the bases loaded (may not steal home or advance home on a passed ball/wild pitch). Each runner may only advance one base on a steal attempt (no advances on overthrows from the catcher to encourage catchers to try to make a play on the runners). Exception is after the 3rd base runner has established the base. May advance at own risk if a PLAY is made on the 3rd base runner.
8. Batter CAN NOT advance on a drop 3rd strike.
9. Infield fly rule does not apply

10. Bunting is allowed and is encouraged. However, a batter may not show bunt and draw defense up and then pull back and take a full swing, full power – sometimes referred to as a “slug bunt” actually a fake bunt. This will not be tolerated and any coach found teaching this is in the 10U league will be disciplined. A slap bunt is allowed. Separating the hands to bunt does this, then sliding the lower hand to meet the top hand where the top hand is when in the bunting position. The swing is taken from there. Not drawn back with full power swing, but just the opposite – from the bunting position and no power. The idea is to move the defense and “slap it” where they are not.
11. A batter cannot be walked. If a pitcher throws ball four, the offensive coach will throw a maximum of three pitches. The batter must hit one of the pitches or they will be retired (recorded as an out). The strike count will remain in effect.

Additionally, the umpire will continue to call strikes on pitches by the coach that are not struck at by the batter but cross the plate in the strike zone, and will also call strikes swinging.

Example 1: If a batter has 2 strikes when the coach comes in to pitch and throws a pitch that is a strike called or swinging, the batter is out after only 1 pitch.

Example 2: If a batter has 2 strikes when the coach comes in to pitch and throws a called ball, the batter has two remaining pitches to put the ball in play or be out.

Example 3: If a batter has 1 strike when the coach comes in to pitch and two swinging or called strikes then the batter is out.

Example 4: If a batter has 0 strikes when the coach comes in to pitch then the batter will get the maximum three pitches to put the ball in play.

If the third and final pitch is fouled off then the batter gets another pitch, this will be the case on any additional foul balls until it is put in play or the batter is out on strikes.

If a coach pitched ball hits a batter, the batter shall not get to take 1st base and the pitched ball will be considered one of the maximum three pitches.

The offensive coach that comes into pitch must start the pitch with at least one foot on the pitching rubber. The player playing the pitcher position must stand on either side or behind the coach that is pitching with at least one foot in the circle

If the batted ball hits the coach then it is declared a dead ball/no pitch and does not count against the maximum of three pitches

No stealing or advancing on passed balls/wild pitches is allowed during coach pitch situations.

No Bunting allowed during the coach pitch situations.

8US

This league is an instructional league and should be coached and conducted as such. The basic fundamentals and sportsmanship along with participation and exercise should be some key ingredients to having a safe and fun time on the ball fields, not how many runs we score. Although that adds to the excitement, should not be the main reason for it.

1. Pitching Plate distance set at 35 feet.
2. Coaches pitch in this league and can pitch from any distance within the circle (standard softball circle, 16 foot diameter, centered on pitching rubber), underhand only. However, the player playing the pitching position must have one foot within the pitching circle until the ball is released.
3. All games will be six (6) innings, unless tied or halted by rain or other inclement weather. In case of rain, four (4) innings, three (3) and one half if the home team is leading, will constitute a complete game.
4. Ten (10) fielders may play at one time; **no more than six (6) may play in the infield (Catcher, pitcher, first baseman, second baseman, third baseman and shortstop)**. All other fielders must play in the outfield, minimum 5' behind the outfield line.
5. A team may field a minimum of 7 players with no out taken for vacant position in batting line up. *(1 of 7 must be a catcher)*
6. Each batter has seven (7) pitches or three (3) strikes to hit the ball. If the ball is not hit by the 7th pitch then the bat is recorded as an out. If on the last pitch the ball is fouled off an additional pitch is awarded.
7. No bunting shall be allowed. First time will result in a strike and a warning; second time shall be an out.
8. There shall be no bases on balls.
9. The coach who is pitching may not tell the player when to swing or run and cannot coach the player on the base path.
1st offense: warning
2nd offense: out for the game
10. Two (2) adult coaches will be allowed in the outfield on defense.
11. No lead offs. Runner cannot go until the ball is hit.
12. Infield fly rule does not apply
13. If a batted ball hits a coach/pitcher the ball is declared dead, all runners return to their positions and the pitcher may re-pitch the ball (the original pitch that was hit will not be counted against the batter's count).
14. Infield/Outfield "dividing" line is drawn at 10' behind the baseline at all fields. Outfielders must start a minimum of 5' behind the "dividing" line. An outfielder cannot make an out at a base or on a baserunner. The outfielder must transfer the ball to an infielder regardless of where it was fielded. If the grass outfield is at 10' behind the baseline (see

above) it may be used as the dividing mark. If not, the infield/outfield “dividing” line must be drawn with chalk or paint prior to the game start.

INFIELD HIT BALL- base runners may advance a maximum of one base.

OUTFIELD HIT BALL- base runners may advance at will, however once the ball reaches the infield area and is CONTROLLED by an infielder within the infield area, the player may continue to the next base with the liability of being thrown out.

If an infielder fields the ball beyond the dividing line, then it will be considered an outfield hit ball (as stated above). Once the infielder has control of the ball on the infield part of the field, the runners must stop at the base they are on, or be sent back to the base at the umpires discretion

Infield/outfield and runner location at the time the ball is controlled is a judgment call by the umpire and will not be debated, the umpire's ruling is FINAL!

Examples of this rule:

- a. No runners on, batter hits infield ball to shortstop, shortstop overthrows first:
 - i. Batter must stop at first base and cannot continue to second regardless of where the overthrow ends up
- b. Runner on first, batter hits infield ball to shortstop, shortstop overthrows second:
 - i. Batter must stop at first base
 - ii. Runner from first must stop at second base
- c. Batter hits ball to outfielder, outfielder throws ball to shortstop (and shortstop controls the ball) before batter reaches first:
 - i. Batter must stop at first base (batter may be put out if shortstop makes throw to first before batter reaches first)
- d. Batter hits ball to right field, right field throws ball to first base before batter reaches first:
 - i. Batter is out
- e. Batter hits outfield ball, outfield throws ball to shortstop and shortstop controls the ball (after batter rounds first):
 - i. Batter may continue to second base with the liability of being put out by the shortstop.
 - ii. If the shortstop overthrows the second baseman, batter may not advance beyond second base. Batter must stop at second base regardless of where the ball ends up.
- f. Batter hits outfield ball, outfield throws ball to shortstop, and shortstop controls the ball (prior to reaching first base):

- i. Batter must stop at first base
 - ii. If shortstop makes throw to first base, batter cannot advance
- g. Runner on second, batter hits infield ball to shortstop:
 - i. If the runner remains on second base, the runner may not advance regardless of where the ball ends up.
 - ii. If the runner leaves the base before the shortstop makes the throw to first, they may continue to third with the liability of being put out.
 - iii. If the runner advances to third as possible in ii, the runner may not advance past third base and the batter may not advance past first base regardless of any play made by the infield.
 - iv. Infield Fly Ball runner(s) may not advance on the Infield fly ball if caught. If not caught they may advance one base.
- 15. Any player that is unable to bat for any reason may skip his/her position in the batting order without an out be declared. The MWBL will monitor use of this rule to ensure coaches do not abuse this rule. The idea of this rule is to not penalize a team for a player who is afraid to bat or must leave before the game completes.
- 16. If any player becomes injured, the next scheduled batter will take his/her place and assume the same count as the injured batter.
- 17. Coaches will be allowed to call for time and to instruct players on the field when they see coaching points. This should be done in a way to better the player or teams, not to stall the game. Nor should we use this time to single out players. This is an instructional league and it will be conducted as one! Use this league to instruct and teach our young athletes to become students of the game. Instructing during games at this age level will benefit players and coaches tremendously, provided it is done correctly.
- 18. 8U pitchers position must wear a batting helmet with a face guard to protect against injury from a line drive hit directly back to that position

Revision History

Primary Author(s)	Description of Version	Date Completed
Dwayne Walk, Bill Curry	Initial Version	1/15/2005
Bill Curry	Changes from March 13, 2005 meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● remove 9th batter rule from 8u, ● add recommendation for chin straps and face guards for softball, ● softball bat entire roster at all levels, ● baseball and softball provide 1 new, 1 slightly used ball per game, ● remove number of games per week restriction from baseball pitchers (assumption is league will be able to manage number of games per week), ● 8u baseball and softball, 7th pitch not hit is recorded as an out, ● 8u baseball and softball, ball must be controlled in infield to cause runners to stop running (and examples), ● 8u baseball and softball, uninjured or missing player not batting will not generate an out (league will monitor for abuse), ● 8u softball, 6 innings, ● examples of 7 run rule 	3/15/2005
Bill Curry	Changes from April 10, 2005 coaches meeting for oversights on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stealing in 14u baseball, ● 50' pitching rubber in 12u baseball, ● Pitching circle and coach-pitcher location for 8u baseball 	4/10/2005
Bill Curry	Modifications to lightning rule due to Ohio High School Athletic Association revision on lightning rule	5/1/2005
Bill Curry	Changes from September 24, 2005 meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No scheduled games on July Saturdays ● No trophies for 2nd place if tie for 1st ● Chairperson / Co-chair term length ● Discipline for :”gentlemen’s agreements” ● Pick up players must be from same sport ● Clarification on travel players not on recreation league team 	10/19/2005

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time limit rule clarified • Format changes to make it clear which rules are for baseball and which for softball • Removed circle for pitcher in 8u baseball – changed to two reference points • Modified chin strap/face guard recommendation for softball 	
Bill Curry	Changes from Winter 2006 meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairperson / Co-Chair term length • Age cutoff dates for baseball changed to 5/1 (from 8/1) • Travel player positions only matter for pitchers or catchers • Change to 8u infield/outfield rules 	4/20/2006
Bill Curry	Changes from Spring 2006 Rules Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 fielders for 10U Softball 	5/1/2006
Bill Curry	Clarification on big barrel bats for 14u baseball	5/22/2006
Scott Sherer	Changes from Winter/Spring 2007 Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to pick-up player rule • Added Extra Hitter rule to 12UB and clarified free substitution for defense only • Infield Fly Rule removed from 10UB • Modified 8-run lead stealing rule for 10UB and 10US. • Called strikes on 10US coach pitches and no stealing/advancing on coach pitches • Face mask/chin straps required for softball and recommended use of helmets on pitchers at 8U • Moved 8-run stealing rule from 10U to general rules. 	4/17/2007
Scott Sherer	Changes for 2008 Season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changed term limits for chairperson and co-chairperson. • Changed pick-up player rule (must come from lower level) • Increased time limit to 2:30 for 14UB and 14US. • Added extra-inning tie-breaking procedure. • Added emphasis for coaches to reschedule make-up games. 	3/27/2008

- Games not played or reported by the tournament seeding meeting will be treated as losses for both teams.
- Clarified big-barrel bat rule for baseball.
- Explicitly stated one base on steal attempts for 10US (previously an ASA rule but was changed by ASA and MWBL did not want to change).

MWBL Board Changes January 2010

- Association commitment by October 1st to included or excluded from the MWBL association
- Members of MWBL can be voted out by Majority
- The Regular season will begin no later than Memorial Day
- Baseball/Softball playing rule will follow OHSAA. Change from Little League/ASA
- Run Rule to Complete a Game
- Tie Breaker for 10US change to be consistent within the league
- INCLEMENT Weather Policy
- Limited on Stealing Added warning & consequences to the offending team
- End of Season TIE Breaker updated
- 15UB Base path increase from 80ft to 90ft (applicable)
- 15UB pitching distance increased from 55ft to 60'6"
- Baseball ONLY Pitcher cannot reenter as a PITCHER
- 15UB added (EH)
- 15UB Big barrel bat up to including 2 5/8 are permitted
- 15UB Drop 3(-3) bat example 33" bat 30oz =(-3) bat
- 12UB/8UB bat size may not exceed 2 1/4 no big barrel bats
- 8UB/8US Define 10 players
- 8UB/8US Team may play with 7 players with NO OUT taken for vacant position. 1 of 7 player MUST be a CATCHER

- 8UB/8US define adult coaches on defense in the outfield
- 8UB/8US on an infield ball, base runners may advance a maximum of one base. (Re-treat to the base NO Advance).

MWBL Board Changes
2011

January

- A travel player or a (15yr old) may PITCH after the third (3) innings of a regulation game. This is regardless of time limit imposed on games

**CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT GAME
(ONLY) HAS NO TIME LIMIT ALL AGE
GROUP.**

10UB a runner may leave any base after the ball crosses the plate. A runner may only advance to home by a batted ball or by a batter being hit by the pitch with the bases loaded (may not steal home or advance home on a passed ball/wild pitch). Each runner may only advance one base on a steal attempt (no advances on overthrows from the catcher to encourage catchers to try to make a play on the runners).

8UB Infield Fly Ball runner(S) may not advance on the Infield Ball CATCH

10USB No stealing or advancing on passed balls/wild pitches is allowed on coach-pitched balls.

MWBL Board Changes

January 2013

Section C. Coaching Guidelines #12 Added

12. MWBL encourages out of season practice under OHSAA guidelines however the out of season practice WILL NOT be limited to only returning team members. The out of season practice should be and will allow any NON Returning team member to participate. Otherwise the out of season

practice will be reviewed and a ruling will be made by MWBL Board to the offending association of the MWBL.

Examples of Potential Penalty: The Penalties are not listed in order and are only recommendation to MWBL. Additional Penalties may be recommended by the MWBL Board.

1Coach suspended from coaching game(s) or season.

2Team suspended game(s) or season.

3Team member(s) will be re-drafted by the association.

Section D. Run Rule Updated

Baseball Addendum General Guidelines #7 BBCOR Bats update

MWBL Board Changes March 2013

Baseball or Softball Guidelines

Baseball: Offense and Defense Conference

Pitching and Batting Rules and Penalties

1. *****DEFENSE CONFERENCES:** A charged conference is a meeting which involves the coach or his non-playing representative and a player or players of the team. A defensive charged conference is concluded when the coach or non playing representative crosses the foul line if the conference was in FAIR territory. If the conference was in FOUL territory, the conference concludes when the coach or non-playing representative initially starts to return to the dugout/bench area

DEFENSE: Each Team, when on defensive, may be granted NOT more than 3 charged conferences during a game. Extra inning game each team is granted 1 per inning without penalty.

NON – Charge Conference examples Removal of Pitcher, obviously incapacitated player.

Penalty – After 3 charged conferences in a game or for any charged conference in excess of 1(one) in each extra inning game, the **PITCHER** shall be removed as **PITCHER** for the **DURATION** of the **GAME**.

2. *****OFFENSE CONFERENCE:** Each team, when on offense, may be granted not more than 1(one) charged conference per inning to permit the coach or any team's personnel to confer with base runner, the batter, the on-deck batter or other offensive team personnel. The **UMPIRE SHALL DENY** subsequent offensive team requests for charged conference. The offensive charged conference is concluded when the coach or team representative initially starts to return to the coach's box or dugout/bench area. **RESTRICTED to BENCH/DUGOUT** area that conference shall end when the players involved initially start to return to their positions on the field.
3. ******* When either team has a charged conference, the other team may also have a conference, which is not charged, provided the

conference concludes when opposing team's charged conference concludes, so the game is not further delayed.

4. PITCHING

Starting Pitcher or Relief Pitcher may warm up by NOT using more than 8(eight) throws completed in 1(one) minute (timed from the first throw). At the beginning of each subsequent inning, the pitcher may warm up by using not more than 5(five) throws, completed in 1(one) minute (timed from the 3rd (THIRD) OUT of the previous half inning). In either case, the umpire-in-chief may authorize more throws because of an injury or inclement weather.

5. Pitcher failing to pitch or make or attempt a play, including a legal feint, within 20(Twenty) seconds after he has received the ball.
PENALTY: The BATTER shall be awarded 1(one) BALL.

6. **BATTER:** Delay the game by failing to take his position promptly in the batter's box within 20(Twenty) seconds. The batter **MUST** keep at least one foot in the batter's box throughout the time at bat.

Exception:

The batter swings at a pitch

The batter is forced out of the box by the pitch

The batter attempts a "BUNT"

The pitcher or catcher feints or attempts a play at any base.

The pitcher leaves the pitching mound or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher's plate (rubber) after receiving the ball

A member of either TEAM requests and is granted "TIME"

PENALTY: For failure of the batter to be ready within 20 seconds after the ball returned to the pitcher, the umpire shall call a **STRIKE**. If the batter leaves the batter's box, delays the game, and none of the above exceptions apply, the plate umpire shall call a **STRIKE** to the batter. The pitcher need not pitch, and the ball remains **LIVE**.

Softball: Offense and Defense Conference

Pitching and Batting Rules and Penalties

7. *****DEFENSE CONFERENCES:** A charged conference is a meeting which involves the coach or his non-playing representative and a player or players of the team. A defensive charged conference is concluded when the coach or non playing representative crosses the foul line if the conference was in **FAIR** territory. If the conference was in **FOUL** territory, the conference concludes when the coach or non-playing representative initially starts to return to the dugout/bench area

DEFENSE: Each Team, when on defensive, may be granted NOT more than 3 charged conferences during a game. Extra inning game each team is granted 1 per inning without penalty.

NON – Charge Conference examples Removal of Pitcher, obviously incapacitated player.

Penalty – After 3 charged conferences in a game or for any charged conference in excess of 1(one) in each extra inning game, the PITCHER shall be removed as PITCHER for the DURATION of the GAME

8 *OFFENSE CONFERENCE:** Each team, when on offense, may be granted not more than 1(one) charged conference per inning to permit the coach or any team's personnel to confer with base runner, the batter, the on-deck batter or other offensive team personnel. The UMPIRE SHALL DENY subsequent offensive team requests for charged conference. The offensive charged conference is concluded when the coach or team representative initially starts to return to the coach's box or dugout/bench area. RESTRICTED to BENCH/DUGOUT area that conference shall end when the players involved initially start to return to their positions on the field.

8. *** When either team has a charged conference, the other team may also have a conference, which is not charged, provided the conference concludes when opposing team's charged conference concludes, so the game is not further delayed.

9. PITCHING

Starting Pitcher or Relief Pitcher may warm up by NOT using more than 5(five) throws completed in 1(one) minute (timed from the first throw). At the beginning of each subsequent inning, the pitcher may warm up by using not more than 5(five) throws, completed in 1(one) minute (timed from the 3rd (THIRD) OUT of the previous half inning). In either case, the umpire-in-chief may authorize more throws because of an injury or inclement weather.

PENALTY: The BATTER shall be awarded 1(one) ball for each pitch excess of 5(FIVE). Exception applies if the umpire delays the start of play due to substitution, conference, injuries, etc.

10. Pitcher failing to pitch or make or attempt a play, within 10(Ten) seconds after she has received the ball.

PENALTY: The BATTER shall be awarded 1(one) BALL.

11. BATTER: Delay the game by failing to take his position promptly in the batter's box within 10(Ten) seconds. The batter MUST keep at least one foot in the batter's box throughout the time at bat.

Exception:

The batter swings at a pitch

The batter is forced out of the box by the pitch

The batter attempts a "BUNT"

The pitcher or catcher feints or attempts a play at any base.

**The pitcher leaves the pitching mound or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher's plate (rubber) after receiving the ball
A member of either TEAM requests and is granted "TIME"**

PENALTY: For failure of the batter to be ready within 10 seconds after the ball returned to the pitcher, the umpire shall call a STRIKE. If the batter leaves the batter's box, delays the game and none of the above exceptions apply, the plate umpire shall call a STRIKE to the batter. The pitcher need not pitch, and the ball remains LIVE.

MWBL Board Changes April 2014

1. **RUN LIMIT Per Inning (2014 change):** A team's half of an inning will end after three (3) outs or six (6) runs have been scored, whichever shall occur first. Any runs above six (6) will not be recorded in the official score. For example, if the team already has six (5) runs scored, bases are loaded and the batter hits a home run, only one (1) additional run will be added to the score. If a team is down more than six (6) runs in the last inning of the game, they cannot score enough runs to win the game (the team can only score seven (6) runs in any inning).
2. **Run Rule the Game is Complete (2014 Change)**
6 inning game
After completed innings
3rd inning = 19 runs
4th inning = 13 runs
5th inning = 7 runs

7 inning game
After completed innings
4th inning = 19 runs
5th inning = 13 runs
6th inning = 7 runs

12U & 15U Baseball

1. The team's entire roster bats. (New 2014)
2. Defense fields 9 players and is free substitution (New 2014)

15U Baseball & Softball

15 year old players can pitch at any time during the game, the inning limit still applies and after 3rd inning rule still in effect for travel players

12U Softball

1. 6 inning game instead of 7 inning games. Pitching limit is now 4 innings

All Divisions - End of Season TieBreaker rule process:

1. Season Record
2. Head to head records. **(skip to #3 if more than 2 teams)**
3. Runs allowed in the regular season
4. Runs scored in the regular season (New 2014)
5. Coin Toss (New 2014)

April 2015

1. If there is a rules dispute at any game, the home field association will decide, if it needs to go beyond that, then a phone call to the MWBL director or ass't director will be made. A decision will be made based on the information given and that will be final. If neither is available then the MWBL rep of the home field organization will make the decision which will be final.. If this needs to be revised, please let me know.

2. There will be a mandatory home plate meeting with the head umpire and the 2 head coaches prior to every MWBL game. The ground rules and age specific rules will be discussed, and fully understood by both coaches prior to the game beginning.

3. There will be three reasonable attempts by the home team to make up a postponed game. If those three attempts by the home team are denied by the visiting team then that team will forfeit that particular game. If necessary the president/director of each association will discuss this and make a decision on a forfeit. If necessary the MWBL director will help make a decision on whether a forfeit will occur.

4. An injured or sick player that starts a game may be skipped in the lineup without taking an out when that position comes up in the batting order if they are unable to bat. This would be in effect for the remainder of the game. If able, the player may re-enter the game after 1 complete inning. This exception can only happen once per player per game. If the player re-enters the game and then it is determined cannot continue then an out will be taken at that position for the remainder of the game. If a player leaves the lineup for any other reason (ie: 4H meeting, other sport, etc) then every time that position comes to bat, an out will be taken for the remainder of the game. This rule will be in effect for all age groups baseball and softball.

5. Metal cleats can only be worn at the 15U/16U level. No other age divisions may wear metal cleat (baseball or softball)

6. No shiny helmets are allowed in MWBL, This is mainly metallic or chrome helmets that act as a mirror. It will be at the discretion of the head umpire to decide if a helmet is allowed to be worn in the game.
7. All softball batting helmets at all age levels must have a face guard. Chin straps are recommended but are not mandatory in all age groups.
8. 8U pitchers position (baseball & softball) must wear a batting helmet with a face guard to protect against injury from a line drive hit directly back to that position.
9. Chattering is allowed but cannot be directed at any member of the opposing team. The only type of chatter that is allowed is positive and directed toward your own team. If chatter becomes offensive toward the opposing team and/or is directed at an individual player on the opposing team then the umpire will issue a warning to the team chattering and all chatter must stop immediately.

May 2016

10U Baseball pitching rules change:

A batter cannot be walked. If a pitcher throws ball four, the offensive coach will throw a maximum of three pitches. The batter must hit one of the pitches or they will be retired (recorded as an out). The strike count will remain in effect.

Additionally, the umpire will continue to call strikes on pitches by the coach that are not struck at by the batter but cross the plate in the strike zone, and will also call strikes swinging.

Example 1: If a batter has 2 strikes when the coach comes in to pitch and throws a pitch that is a strike called or swinging, the batter is out after only 1 pitch.

Example 2: If a batter has 2 strikes when the coach comes in to pitch and throws a called ball, the batter has two remaining pitches to put the ball in play or be out.

Example 3: If a batter has 1 strike when the coach comes in to pitch and two swinging or called strikes then the batter is out.

Example 4: If a batter has 0 strikes when the coach comes in to pitch then the batter will get the maximum three pitches to put the ball in play.

If the third and final pitch is fouled off then the batter gets another pitch, this will be the case on any additional foul balls until it is put in play or the batter is out on strikes.

If a coach pitched ball hits a batter, the batter shall not get to take 1st base and will be considered one of the maximum three pitches.

The offensive coach that comes into pitch must start the pitch with at least one foot on the pitching rubber. The player playing the pitcher position must stand on either side or behind the coach that is pitching. If the batted ball hits the coach then it is declared a dead ball/no pitch and does not count against the maximum of three pitches. No stealing or advancing on passed balls/wild pitches is allowed during coach pitch situations.

MWBL Board Changes March 2018

16U Baseball changed to 15U

changed 16U back to 15U baseball.

MWBL Board Changes March 2019

SOFTBALL ONLY - A rostered travel player that pitches on any travel team may PITCH **after** the third (3) innings of a regulation game. This is regardless of time limit imposed on games.

MWBL Board Changes - May 2021

NO CONTENT OR RULE CHANGES

Formatting changes only for a consistent appearance.

NFHS was coupled with OHSA for clarity

*** Considerations for 2022 - Check for consistency between exceptions in BB/SB, Check XI, Section D, (f) and (g), add reference for travel players that pitch 1 pitch in any travel game is precluded from pitching rec, specifically reference BBCOR, are USSSA standards comparable to USA or are those bats illegal, completely proofread and look for consistency/applicability, can anything be shortened/simplified, there are some inconsistencies regarding dates of play that need cleaned up.