

2023 Pocono Mountain Men's Sunday Softball League By-Laws

2023 League Officers

President, Tony Woltal 516-661-3985 - Vice President, Tim Gallagher – Treasurer, Peter Beyer 570-236-9588
Player Reps – Edwin Medina 570 369-8637, Bryan Turner 732 207-9192

1. **Base length** is 65 feet from tip of home plate.
2. **Pitching distance** is 50 to 55 feet from the tip of home plate.
3. **Pitching arc** is 6 to 12 feet.
4. **ASA approved softballs** to be used for all games. a. 300 compression / .52 Core
5. **Start time** for all regular season games is 11:00.
6. **Home runs limit** over a fence is 5 per game. If a field has a partial fence any home run that does not go over a fence will not count towards the 5 limit.
7. **Age Limit** - Each player must be 18 to play. If their 18th birthday is July 9th they cannot play before that but can play after that date. Females are permitted but there are no rule changes regarding a female player.
8. **Team Change** - A player has 3 weeks to request a change, Players may not change teams after 7th game (4th week) of the season. NO EXCEPTIONS. Any team changes must be brought to the attention of the board and approved by the league managers.
9. **Minimum Games for playoffs** – Each year this will change based on the number of teams in the League. The Rule will ALWAYS BE 1 less than half. Ex. in 2023 we have 18 teams so we play 34 games. $34/2=17 - 1 = 16$ so a player must make 16 games to be eligible for playoffs.
10. **Mercy Rule** – If the winning team is up by 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings or 10 runs after 5 innings. The game will be declared complete. THERE IS NO MERCY RULE IN THE PLAYOFFS.
11. **Courtesy Runners** – teams can use 1 runner per inning as a courtesy runner. If the courtesy runner is on base when his turn in the order comes up, he will be declared an "out". Any player can be used as a courtesy runner. Also See **Rule 30** adopted in 2022
12. **Re-Entry Rule** - Any eligible player in the line-up may re-enter the game 1 time. This also includes substitutes.
13. **The Homer Rule** – Each Player must have a uniform (Shirt only) to participate in a game. NO SHIRT NO PLAY.
14. **Game Play** - Each team must have a minimum of 9 players to start a game. If a team has 9 at the game start time, the game must begin. The 10th batting spot in the order will be an automatic out for the duration of the game. If a 10th player shows up, he can be added to the lineup in the 10th spot. If a team starts with 10 (or 11 or 12) and a player is injured and must be removed from the game, a player may take the injured players spot. However if there is not a replacement for the injured player the first time his batting spot comes up in the order it will be an out. Sequential at bats WILL NOT be an out.
15. **League Structure** – The League will consist of 3 divisions, Miken, Monsta and DiMarini. Teams will be placed in divisions based off the previous year's standings. New teams to the league will be placed into the Monsta or DeMarini divisions. Each division winner gets a playoff spot. The remaining playoff spots will be determined by overall record with no consideration given to divisions.
16. **Awards** - Division winners, Champion and runners up will all receive 1 team trophy or Plaque.
17. **Playoffs** - Playoffs will be 8 teams seeded by Record. Each division winner gets a playoff spot. All playoff series are best of 3 format. a. Round 1 – 1 vs 8, 2 vs 7, 3 vs 6, 4 vs 5.
b. Round 2 – winner of 1 vs 8 vs winner of 4 vs 5, Winner of 2 vs 7 vs winner of 3 vs 6
c. Round 3 – winner of 1,8,4,5 vs winner of 2,7,3,6.
d. In 2020 the Last chance tournament was started for every team to have a last chance to make playoffs. Top 7 teams are in and all remaining teams play a single elimination 1 day tournament to declare the last team in
18. **Standings** are based off – A. Overall Record, in the event of a tie seeding will go, B. Head to head C. Runs differential for the season. D. Win % of teams lost to (difficulty of schedule) E. Coin Flip.
19. **Minimum Games for playoffs** – Each year this will change based on the number of teams in the League. The Rule will ALWAYS BE 1 less than half. Ex. in 2023 we have 18 teams so we play 34 games. $34/2=17 - 1 = 16$ so a player must make 16 games to be eligible for playoffs. As of 2018 there are 2 exceptions to the games played rule -

a. **Military Service** - Any Player that has previously played in the PMSSB that is away during the season for Military Service will be allowed to play upon their return providing that 1. Prior notice was given to the league by the team manager that they would be away during the season and missing games. If no prior notice was given the player will be ineligible.

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b. **Medical/Major Injury** – Any player that is active on a current team that suffers a major injury during the season may be eligible for playoffs based off a manager vote. If a player is injured the injury must be brought to the attention of the board ASAP. The board will review and it will be put to a vote. NOTE: Major injury means Surgery/Broken Bone(s). Sprained ankles and turf toe will not be considered.

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20. **Score Reporting** - Game scores will be posted to the league Facebook page.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1916581921961576/> Pictures of each team's scorebook for both games must be uploaded. Pictures not uploaded will be a loss with 0 runs and players will not receive credit for game played. Please make sure the score is clearly written on the page. All scores must be reported by 8 pm the following Wednesday of games played. Each team will be allowed 1 late book posting per season.

21. **Forfeits** – the team with enough players can submit their lineup for credit towards games played. All forfeits will result in a 7-0 win. Umps must be paid by both teams.

22. **Rainouts** will be left up to the team managers, with the home team taking the lead. Teams have 3 weeks from date of rain out to make up the game. If there is a problem with this reach out to the board.

23. **Umpire issues** will be brought to the attention of the league officers.

24. **School fields**- There is NO ALCOHOL, DRUGS OR TOBACCO TO BE USED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE! ANY VIOLATIONS WILL RESULT IN A 2 GAME BAN for first offense PERMANENT ban for a second. This includes the parking areas. Coaches are responsible to make sure their teams are aware of this rule.

25. **Fighting** – Anyone that makes ANY hostile contact with another person for any reason will automatically get a 4-game suspension and a possible a ban for the season. This will be addressed with the league officers and involved managers/players that witnesses the incident.

26. **Any hostile contact with an umpire will be an AUTOMATIC full season suspension.**

27. **Shared Bat rule** – Shared Bat rule was removed starting 2020 with the start of bat testing. All Bats must have been tested and stickered by the PMSSB Board and All bats must be ASA certified.

28. **Board Positions Elections.**

President – 2023 and every 2 years after - Vice President – 2024 and every 2 years after

Treasurer – 2024 and every 2 years after

If you want to run for President/Vice President/Treasurer, you must notify the board by January 1st of the year of the election. EX. You decide you want to run for president for the 2023 season, you must make the board aware by 1/1/23 of your interest to run for President.

If a board member abruptly resigns, there will be a special election held to fill the position.

Team managers will only vote for board members.

Starting in 2022 we will be dropping the number of player reps from 4 to 2.

Player Rep positions will also be put up for a player vote (on the Facebook page) as has been done in the past starting in 2023 and every 2 years after that. A post will be made (January) asking if anyone is interested in running for a player rep and all interested parties will be put up for a vote with the 2 highest winning the positions.

29. **Suspensions** – Any decisions regarding suspensions may NOT be handled by a board member if they are on the same team as a player in question. A minimum of 3 people is necessary to hand out suspensions. 2 Player Rep positions have been created starting 2019 for this purpose.

30. **Designated runner rule** was adopted for 2022. A team can choose 1 player per game to get a courtesy runner every time they reach base. This does not affect the 1 courtesy runner per inning.

31. **Any rules not covered by these by-laws are covered by the ASA rule book.**