

Southeast McLean County Travel League

Bylaws

Southeast McLean County Travel League (SEMCL): Consists of two sports, Boys Baseball and Girls Softball. The SEMCL is a not-for-profit volunteer organization for youth to participate in baseball and softball activities, following National Federation Rules, adopted by the Illinois High School and Elementary Associations, with amendments adopted by the league. Playing season shall begin in May and end in early July each year with an end of the year tournament.

Objectives of Southeast McLean County Travel League: To provide a safe environment for youth, to participate in the sports of baseball and softball. To teach good sportsmanship, as well as keep the season 'fun' for the individuals participating in this League. The Southeast McLean County Travel League is designed to be a *Participation League* that will help develop self-esteem and the concept of team sports in each child who participates. The philosophy of each community in the League should emphasize this purpose. To that end, League policy requires that each participant in the League will play a minimum of ½ of the total innings in all games during the season.

Member Communities: League members are communities who pay annual dues and are in good standing. League members shall have the right to vote at League meetings on all business as presented that pertains to the sport(s) that they represent. Each member community should designate one voting member on behalf of that League member. If a member community only represents either baseball or softball, then they shall only vote on League matters concerning the divisions of the sport they represent. New member communities may be invited to join the League upon a majority vote by existing League members.

Participation and Registration: For consistency in participation and registration throughout the league, each community in the League should encourage the same procedures as outlined below:

- Boys and Girls Divisions defined by age:

8U: Players 8 or under as of April 30.

10U: Players 10 or under as of April 30.

12U: Players 12 or under as of April 30.

14U: Players 14 or under as of April 30.

*Players may play up a division, but not in a lower division (*or move back to a lower division*) unless approved by the League Commissioners prior to playing the season.

- Each participant is to have a copy of his or her birth certificate on file with the local commissioner. Any questions regarding eligibility will be addressed to the League Commissioner, who will then ask for a copy of the birth certificate of any player in question.
- Registration should be an open registration and should develop consistent guidelines for all levels of play in the league. All league participants must register in the town in which they live. The local commissioner will determine if they have enough players to participate at each league level. In the event that they do not, they will contact the nearest or most logical secondary community commissioner in the conference and determine whether a cooperative team can be arranged. In the event, the team with the lesser number of players will transfer their registered players to the town with the greater number of players in that playing level. If there are an equal number of participants in the two or more communities the local commissioners will determine the arrangement for the domicile of that team for that level of play. In all cases the co-op of players will be filled by players from members of Southeast McLean County Travel League communities only. The goal of this is to try to accommodate all the players registered while avoiding any all-star, handpicked teams in the conference.
- The policy for moving any minority number of players in a community that cannot field a team at any level of play is that they should be transferred to a neighboring community with the majority of players at that same level. That combination of teams would be structured to try to follow the consolidated school district combinations first. Any other combination would require approval of the two local commissioners and approval of the League Commissioner following recommendation of the voting League members.
- Requirements for umpires are outlined in the League Rulebook.
- The Southeast McLean County Travel League will continue to support the philosophy of prohibiting all-star teams from playing in the conference and to encourage participation by players of all abilities.

Rules of Conduct: Coaches in each community should be aware of their responsibilities to help provide a pleasant learning environment for league participants; as outlined in the following list of rules of conduct:

1. Coaches are expected to set good examples for their players. They are to demonstrate good sportsmanship, attitude, and appropriate appearance at all practices and games.
2. The League does not expect to field complaints regarding playing time of each player. We are a participation league and will remain one. To avoid problems with playing time, we have outlined what is expected of each coach:
 - ALL Players will be included in a playing rotation.
 - ALL Players will be expected to rotate between starters and subs.
 - Every Player should get to play at least one full game.
3. If a coach is having a problem with a player's attitude or attendance at practice, this may reduce their playing time. However, the coach is required to notify the parent of the situation before reducing playing time.
4. Since tournaments are not seeded, a team's win/loss record has no effect on the tournament pairings. Win/loss records should therefore not be the highest priority in the regular season.
5. The League Rulebook outlines sportsmanship expectations, requirements, and penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct for coaches of any League team.
6. During the playing season, the League Commissioner will review any violation of these rules as they occur. Depending on the degree of the violation, a player, coach, or League member may be removed from his/her responsibilities immediately. Any coach or assistant coach that does not comply with these requirements may not be allowed to coach future seasons.

League Commissioner: The League Commissioner will oversee coordination of all League activities. The League Commissioner will serve a term of two years, rotated among all League members alphabetically by town name. Each community is responsible for identifying a League Commissioner during their term. Specific duties of the League Commissioner are described below in the League Commissioner Handbook.

League Commissioner Handbook

League Meetings

Schedule meetings (November--Rules, January--Season Preview, March—Scheduling, July—Season Wrap-Up)

Find and reserve meeting location

Attend and lead meetings

Record votes

Record minutes

Post minutes on website

Coordinate game scheduling

Maintain Rulebook

Update rulebook each year based on rule changes

Post rulebook on website

Financial

Balance monthly statements

Collect fees at March meeting and make deposits

Propose fee changes

Pay out for trophies & medals, and tournament directors, website maintenance, and other miscellaneous expenses (meeting rooms, food, etc).

SEMCL Website Maintenance

Identify webmaster and coordinate updating of League website

Ensure that game schedules are uploaded and kept current on website

Collect Data from Towns

Coach contact info

Team counts

Local commissioner contact info

Tournament brackets

Rule change proposals

Take "Problem Calls" and work with Local Commissioners to resolve

