

CENTRE COUNTY
BASEBALL LEAGUE

CONSTITUTION
and
BYLAWS

Latest Revision date:
April 14, 2015

Constitution and Bylaws

Centre County Baseball League

ARTICLE I PURPOSES

- A. To promote and protect mutual interests of amateur baseball players.
- B. To administer a schedule of games to determine the championship of the league.
- C. To promote good sportsmanship between players, umpires, and spectators in the community in which teams are playing.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 --GENERAL

The membership of this league shall consist of teams that will use amateur players and abide by the constitution and bylaws of this league.

SECTION 2--FEES

- A. Annual membership fees shall be required from each team, paid to the league treasurer on or before the last meeting prior to the first playing date. Any team participating in the CCBL must have a \$350, nonrefundable deposit by the final meeting of the year. If the entrance fee and any fines are not paid in full by the last league meeting before the first playing date, that team shall forfeit its first game. A league officer must receive the entrance fee and any fines 24 hours prior to the next scheduled game or a forfeit will be in order. Annual league fees shall be paid in monthly installments, starting in March. The installment amounts are at the discretion of the president.
- B. All entrance fees become the property of the league and none are to be returned for any reason.
- C. It shall take a 2/3 majority of the league membership to draw on funds, except for regular league expenses.
- D. Any team entering the league shall pay two hundred and fifty dollars(\$250) over the regular league fee for the first year and the same as the rest of the league the following years. The entry fee is payable at the final league meeting of the year.

SECTION 3--TEAM MEMBERSHIP, NAMES, ROSTERS

- A. There shall not be more than thirty (30) players on the roster of any club at one time. Servicemen and managers are eligible and do not count as one of the 30 players. Final rosters are due to league officials prior to playoffs. To appear on the final roster, a player must have played one half of an inning in the field (3 outs), or had one plate appearance. A team may not start playoffs without turning in final rosters.
- B. In balloting for membership, a 2/3 vote of all clubs in the league is necessary for admission.
- C. The correct town name of the team must appear on the roster.
- D. New teams seeking membership in the league should make their intentions known at the October league meeting. The following requirements must be met before a vote is taken to grant membership into the league.
 - Team name
 - Manager
 - Home field
 - Uniforms (or plan to buy uniforms)
 - Roster
 - Funding (or plan to raise funds)

SECTION 4--PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. No player shall be eligible if he receives payment from a team.
- B. Once a player has played in a game they must be on the final team roster and that player may not play with any other Centre County league team for the duration of that season unless released, in writing, by his manager prior to the submission of the final roster.
- C. No player may be added to a team's final roster once it is submitted, unless the player to be added is a member of the armed forces who has not played in a game with another County League team that season.
- D. All players must be 16 years of age, as of January 1st to be eligible to play that season..
- E. If a player's name appears on more than one roster, he must play for the team for which he first participated in a game that season.
- F. Any former County League player shall be eligible.

- G. Any player ejected from a game is not eligible to play again until a league officer has been notified of the ejection. If a player is ejected, a team representative must notify a league representative within 24 hours, if a league rep is not notified within 24 hours a \$25 fine will be given. Any player(s) suspended for the remainder of the season must be voted on to become eligible again. A simple majority of team representatives are required for reinstatement.
- H. A player must play in at least 1 regular season game to be eligible for playoffs (1 plate appearance or 3 defensive outs... minimum). A team representative must sign both books at the end of the game.

ARTICLE III GOVERNMENT

SECTION 1--GOVERNING OFFICER

The governing officer of this league shall be the league president.

SECTION 2--TEAM VOTING

Each team shall be allowed one voting representative at all league meetings. There shall not be a motion brought to the floor except by a team representative. Each team is entitled to one vote.

SECTION 3--SCHEDULING COMMITTEE

A committee appointed by the league president, or the president himself, shall arrange a schedule of games for the season, to be voted on and accepted by a majority of team representatives of the league.

SECTION 4--MEETINGS

League representatives and team representatives shall meet at the call of the president.

SECTION 5--MANAGERS TELEPHONE LIST

All team managers shall turn in to the president their names and telephone numbers before the start of the season.

SECTION 6--RULE CHANGES(VOTING)

2/3 of the teams must be present to vote to change or make an addition to a rule or regulation. 2/3 of the league membership must be present to make changes to the constitution and bylaws.

SECTION 7--REPEALING RULES

No rule or regulation adopted by the league to govern the conduct of the game, eligibility of the players, or other matters of vital importance shall be changed or repealed during the playing season, or playoffs.

ARTICLE IV POWER OF THE OFFICERS

SECTION 1--DISPUTES

The president shall have the power to settle all disputes and enforce all of the rules and regulations in the league.

SECTION 2--APPEALS

All appeals shall go to the president of the league.

SECTION 3--TIE BREAKING VOTE

In case of a tie vote in the affairs of government, the president shall cast the deciding vote.

SECTION 4--ASSESSING FINES, PENALTIES, AND SUSPENSIONS

The president shall have the power to assess fines or penalties of suspensions to either team or any member of any team not complying with the rules and regulations set forth in these league bylaws.

ARTICLE V PENALTIES

SECTION 1--INELIGIBLE PLAYER

Any game in which an ineligible player participates shall be forfeited to the opposing team.

SECTION 2--FISTICUFFS

Fisticuffs that occur during a game, shall draw for the player(s) involved a suspension for the remainder of the season, if convicted by the league representatives.

SECTION 3--TEAM ABSENCE

Any team not represented at a league meeting shall be fined fifty dollars (\$50) with no exceptions. The fine is reduced to twenty five dollars (\$25), if the team provides prior notification of their absence.

SECTION 4--PLAYER INTOXICATION

Any team member appearing on the field or bench in an intoxicated state shall be removed from the game and field immediately, and reported to the president. Said player could face suspension. No alcohol is permitted in dugouts, or on the field during games.

SECTION 5--PLAYER ALIASES

All players must play under their real names. Offenders will be expelled from the league and all games played while using the alias will be forfeited.

SECTION 6--TEAM FORFEITS

Any team forfeiting a game shall be fined the present umpires fee. Subsequent forfeits shall double the previous fee. Any team forfeiting 3 or more games, for not having at least 9 players for a game, will be suspended for the remainder of the season and must apply to the league for reinstatement the following year. A team can finish a game with 8 players, if the 9th player had to leave the game because of injury.

SECTION 7--NOTIFICATION OF POSTPONED GAMES

In case of adverse weather conditions existing at the home field and making the game unplayable, the visiting manager and both umpires should be notified two (2) hours prior to game time as to playing conditions on the field, or a forfeit may be in order.

ARTICLE VI PROTESTS

SECTION 1---NOTIFICATION OF PROTESTS

The league president must be notified by phone, writing, or e-mail of any protest. This must be accomplished within twenty-four hours(24) of the occurrence of the protest.

SECTION 2--PROTEST ANNOUNCEMENTS

Team managers may protest at the time of the incident any offense against the rules and regulations of the league or interpretation of the rules of the game, but the game must be finished "under protest" and such protest announced immediately by the umpire and/or manager(s) and reported immediately after completion of the game to the president.

ARTICLE VII FINANCES AND PLAYING REGULATIONS

SECTION 1--TEAM FINANCES

All clubs shall manage their own finances.

SECTION 2--GROUND RULES

Prior to each game, while going over ground rules, each team is to announce who the manager and coach is for that game.

All fields must be lined before the start of the game...from home plate to the start of the outfield, the only reason it does not have to be lined is if the both teams agree that the markings on the field, from a previous game, are sufficient. All playing fields must be kept in the proper playing condition at all times, including the pitching rubber and bases. Failure to do may result in a forfeit.

No inning shall start after 8:30 p.m. (unless the field has lights). The ground rules pertaining to each field shall be explained to the managers and umpires before every game.

SECTION 3--RESCHEDULING POSTPONED GAMES

The managers involved in any game that is postponed or not played to its entirety must contact the president within 24 hours. A postponed game should be rescheduled within two (2) days of the postponement. The new game should be played within seven (7) days of the original game, if possible. The home teams are responsible for contacting the other team and scheduling make-up games. The home team will also contact assigned umpires to notify of cancellation, and offer them the makeup dates. If original umpires cannot do the game, it is the responsibility of the home team to find umpires. If a disagreement arises, the president must be notified and the president will reschedule the game upon his discretion. The game must be played on the date the president chooses or a forfeit may be charged against the team(s) unable to participate. The rescheduling procedure is repeated if the re-scheduled game is again postponed. Postponed games should be made up in the order of postponement,

if possible. The president will monitor the make-up game schedule to ensure teams complete their regular season games in a timely manner.

SECTION 4--GAME RESCHEDULING DUE TO FIELD CONFLICTS

If a scheduled game must be rescheduled due to a field conflict, it is the responsibility of the home team to contact the away team and come to a mutually agreeable playing date. The home team will also contact assigned umpires to notify of cancellation, and offer them the makeup dates. If original umpires cannot do the game, it is the responsibility of the home team to find umpires. Please keep league officials notified of all schedule changes. If a disagreement arises, the president must be notified and the president will reschedule the game upon his discretion. The game must be played on the date the president chooses or a forfeit may be charged against the team(s) unable to participate. The rescheduling procedure is repeated if the re-scheduled game is again postponed.

SECTION 5—BASEBALLS AND BATS

All home teams must supply two (2) new baseballs for each game. More baseballs will be provided, if called upon by the umpire-in-chief. Only baseballs of the type that is adopted by the league shall be used. A different type of ball can be used only if agreed upon by both teams.

The bat shall be a smooth, round stick not more than $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter at the thickest part and not more than 42 inches in length. The bat shall be one piece of solid wood, laminated wood, or composite wood. No metal, metal composite, or carbon composite bats are allowed.

Cupped Bats. An indentation in the end of the bat up to one inch in depth is permitted and may be no wider than two inches and no less than one inch in diameter.

SECTION 6--PLAYOFFS

- A. Playoffs will be determined each year in accordance with the type of schedule and the number of teams. The final series shall not exceed 5 games. Teams with better regular season records will always have home field advantage.
- B. The proceeds from fund raisers (except concessions) at an all-star game shall become the property of the league and shall be turned over to the treasurer after expenses, if any are paid. Income from concessions shall become the property of the team hosting the all-star game.
- C. No team shall be allowed to start playoffs without first settling all debts to the league. Failure to comply will result in that team being re-placed, and

replacement will proceed by all teams moving up one position in the standings. Teams not involved in the playoffs must settle all league debts at the first announced meeting of the following season, or will not be permitted entry into league the following year.

- D. In the event of ties, as determined by season records, the following procedures will be used to determine playoff position and settle such ties.
1. Head-to-head competition
 2. Record --vs-- teams above you in the standings
 3. Determining who beat the highest place team
 4. Record sequentially --vs-- teams below you in standings
 5. Flip a coin

SECTION 7--TEAM BENCHES

Only players in uniform, manager, coaches, and scorekeepers will be permitted to occupy a seat on the players' bench, unless agreed upon before game time by the managers of both teams.

SECTION 8--OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

This league shall be conducted according to the American League Official Baseball Rules and Regulations, except for league approved amendments.

- Use of composite wood bats
- 7 inning games
- Free Substitution Rule
- Courtesy Runner for Catcher and Pitcher. This runner must be a player who is not in the lineup.
- Extra Hitter. A team may chose to use 10 offensive players during a regular season game only. The 10th player shall be called the (EH) Extra Hitter. The EH is subject to normal reentry rule. The EH can go into the field for any of the other nine defensive players in the game and that defensive player will then become the EH. The batting order will stay the same. You do not need to use the EH, you can use 9 offensive players. Once first pitch has been thrown, the lineups cannot be changed. If you start with an EH, you must end with the EH. Conversely, you may not add an EH during a game if you start with 9 offensive players. The only exception is injury while using the EH. If there is an injury to a defensive player, and there are no substitutes, the EH will take the place of the injured player in the field, when the injured players turn to bat comes, it will be an automatic out. If the EH is injured and there are no substitutes, when it comes to the EH spot in the lineup, it will be an automatic out. The use of the DH and EH in the same lineup is allowed.

SECTION 9--WARM-UP SCHEDULE PRIOR TO GAMES

The home team is to have their warm ups completed by 5:45. Visitors may have the field at 5:45 for warm-up, but may not have batting practice. Weekday games are to start at 6:00 p.m.

During playoff games, the home team will have the field available to the visiting team no later than 5:30 (weekday) and 1:45 (weekend).

SECTION 10--NOTIFICATION OF GAME SCORES

The home team shall send the scores into the Centre Daily Times the same day that the game was played. Failure to comply may result in a \$25 fine for the first offense and a \$30 fine each time thereafter. All team managers are to also notify the league reps the same day of a game. Failure to comply may result in a \$25 fine for the first offense and a \$30 fine each time thereafter.

SECTION 11--FREE SUBSTITUTION

- A. Any member of the starting nine may leave the game at anytime and re-enter once at his original spot in the batting order. The starting nine includes those players who hold a defensive position at the start of the game.
- B. The designated hitter (DH) is not a member of the starting nine. If a team elects to have a DH, then the DH must appear in the starting batting order at the beginning of the game and he must bat for one of the starting nine defensive players. The DH may be replaced with a subsequent DH as the game progresses. Any DH who is replaced is no longer an eligible player for the remainder of the game. The defensive player for whom there is a DH is an eligible replacement for the DH. The DH may become a defensive player but must keep his spot in the batting order. If the DH replaces the defensive player he was batting for then the team forfeits its use of the DH rule for the remainder of the game and the DH has all the rights and privileges of a substitute. The member of the starting nine is eligible to re-enter the game at his original spot in the batting order.
- C. Any player who has pitched and is subsequently removed from the game, may re-enter in their original spot, but may not take the position of pitcher for the remainder of the game if another player takes the mound and throws at least one pitch. For example, a pitcher can be pinch-hit for and then re-enter the game as the pitcher, as long as no one else has taken the mound prior to his re-entry.

SECTION 12--BATTING HELMETS

Helmets must be worn by all players while batting and running the bases, and will be free of cracks, breaks, and will be servicable.

SECTION 13--REGULATION GAME

If darkness, rain, or other cause interferes with play so that the game is called (ended) by the umpire, it is a regulation game: (A) if five full innings have been played, or if the team second at bat has scored an equal or greater number of runs in four or four and a fraction turns at bat than the opponent has scored in five turns at bat: or (B) if play has gone beyond five full innings. If both teams are tied, and the game ends because of darkness, rain, or other causes and it interferes with play so that the game is called (ended) by the umpire, after 5 complete innings, the game must be restarted again, at a date mutually agreed upon by both managers. If darkness, rain, or other cause interferes with play so that the game is called (ended) by the umpire before it is a regulation game (regular season only) the game will be rescheduled.

Any game (playoff) that is delayed due to darkness, rain, or other causes, and it interferes with play so that the game is called (ended) by the umpire before being a regulation game will start the next day at the last pitch that was thrown. The only exception to this rule is if the team that is losing, at that point, wishes to concede the rest of the game.

In (B), if the game is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed terms at bat, the score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning; except that if the home team, in it's half of the incomplete inning, scores a run (or runs) which equals or exceeds the opponents score, the final score shall be as recorded when the game is called.

15-Run Rule – A baseball game (including playoffs) shall end any time after four innings or after three and one-half (3-1/2) innings when a team is fifteen or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat.

10-Run Rule - A baseball game (including playoffs) shall end any time after five innings, or after four and one-half (4-1/2) innings when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat.

ARTICLE VIII UMPIRES

SECTION 1--APPROVAL, FEES, RULE ENFORCEMENT, AND DISPUTES

- A. Substitute umpires must be agreed upon by both teams.
- B. Umpires fees will be set each year. Umpires will be paid after each game by the home team. Play off games will be paid at the earliest possible time by the league.
- C. It shall be the duty of the umpires to enforce the rules and regulations as they are written, regardless of personal opinion as to their merits, subject to the president's instructions as to their proper interpretation.
- D. Any umpire that does not uphold the rules and regulations of the league shall be suspended from the league.
- E. It shall be the duty of the umpire-in-chief, in case of an argument, to try to settle it with the team managers or team coach only. No other player shall take part in arguments with umpires.
- F. The umpire-in-chief may banish from the playing field immediately any player, manager, or coach who is involved in profanity, fighting or under the influence of alcohol. If they refuse to leave the playing field, the game may be forfeited, and turned in to the league president for further action.

SECTION 2--NO-SHOWS, FORFEITS, PROTESTS, EXPULSIONS

- A. Upon failure of an umpire to appear in time for the game, or not appear at all, then one member of the participating teams, or a spectator, may be assigned to umpire the game, if it is agreed to by both managers.
- B. All protests, forfeits, or ejections shall be filed with a league official by the team manager and the umpire within 24 hours after the close of the game.
- C. The umpire shall, in the event that the visiting or home team is late, grant a 30 minute grace period, if the team does not have 9 players after 30 minutes then the game will be forfeited. If a doubleheader is to be played the first game will be forfeited, then an additional 30 minutes will be implemented for the second game. If, after the second 30 minutes, said team does not have 9 players that game will also be considered a forfeit.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Any questionable conduct on the part of a player or players during a league game will result in ejection from the game. Players ejected are suspended from playing in the remainder of that game only. A second ejection causes a player to miss the remainder of that game and the next scheduled game. A third ejection causes the player to miss the remainder of that game plus an additional three games. A fourth ejection disqualifies the player from further competition for remainder of the season, including playoffs. Additional games may be added to any suspension, if deemed necessary by the league officers.

Umpires have the right to eject any player for unsportsmanlike conduct without question. Umpires may also clear the sidelines at anytime for misconduct on the part of players or spectators. Any question regarding a rule interpretation must be taken up by the coach or manager with the umpires prior to any succeeding play. The only legal protest is one that involves violation of playing rules or the use of an ineligible player. Protests of an umpire's judgment call are not permitted and will not be acted upon.

MLB CONTACT RULE

(1) A runner attempting to score may not deviate from his direct pathway to the plate in order to initiate contact with the catcher (or other player covering home plate). If, in the judgment of the Umpire, a runner attempting to score initiates contact with the catcher (or other player covering home plate) in such a manner, the Umpire shall declare the runner out (even if the player covering home plate loses possession of the ball). In such circumstances, the Umpire shall call the ball dead, and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the collision.

Comment: The failure by the runner to make an effort to touch the plate, the runner's lowering of the shoulder, or the runner's pushing through with his hands, elbows or arms, would support a determination that the runner deviated from the pathway in order to initiate contact with the catcher in violation of this rule. If the runner slides into the plate in an appropriate manner, he shall not be adjudged to have violated this rule. A slide shall be deemed appropriate, in the case of a feet first slide, if the runner's buttocks and legs should hit the ground before contact with the catcher. In the case of a head first slide, a runner shall be deemed to have slid appropriately if his body should hit the ground before contact with the catcher.

(2) Unless the catcher is in possession of the ball, the catcher cannot block the pathway of the runner as he is attempting to score. If, in the judgment of the Umpire, the catcher without possession of the ball blocks the pathway of the runner, the Umpire shall call or signal the runner safe. Notwithstanding the above, it shall not be considered a violation of this, if the catcher blocks the pathway of the runner in order to field a throw, and the Umpire determines that the catcher could not have fielded the ball without blocking the pathway of the runner and that contact with the runner was unavoidable.