

2024 CMSBL All Hands Meeting

Virtually held on March 4, 2024

Agenda:

1. League Structure
2. League Information Review (Opening day, playoff format, playoff start and end)
3. Fields/Game times
4. Playoff Format
5. Hall of Fame
6. Tryouts
7. Rule Changes for 2024
8. Line Sharing
9. All-Star Game
10. Player Requirements (forms)
11. Ejections/Player Conduct
12. Field Maintenance Reminders
13. Umpire Do's and Don'ts
14. Questions?

1. League Structure

Alex Brunet - President -45 White Sox

Mike Largent - Vice President -21 Orioles

Billy Sansing - Treasurer - 21 Iron Birds (Replacing Wayne Vance. We thank Wayne for his service)

Joe Dimonda - Secretary - 45 Bulls

Mike Miller/Todd Perry - Scheduling Department

Division Reps:

Tim Biggs -21 Orioles

Alan Keitz -21 Giants

Brandon Mullens (21 Division alternate) - Angels

Karl Kemp - 35 Spartans (need alternate)

Ron Ebelin - 45 White Sox (need alternate)

1. League Structure (Teams for 2024)

21 American (11): Angels, Bandits, Blue Wave, Brew Crew, Expos, Hawks, Iron Birds, Orioles, Patriots, Red Sox, Yard Goats

21 National (6): Blue Crabs, Cubs, Giants, Mariners, Tides, Rattlers (fmr Yankees)

35 Division (6): Reds (fmr 35 Braves), Cubs, GroundsHog, Hooks, Red Sox, Spartans

45 Division(10): A's, BlueClaws, Braves, Bulls, Cardinals, Fire, Bay Bombers, Pirates (fmr Orioles), Rays, White Sox

2. League Information

BASEBALLS AND SCOREBOOK WILL BE HANDED OUT MARCH 17 @ BESTGATE

Opening Day: April 28, 2023

Season Length: 20-24 games per division. Last day of regular season is August 9.

League fee: Final Balance due April 1. Invoices were sent out Feb 29.

Add/drop date: July 9, 2024

Umpire Fees: new contract, Fees TBD (AAUA or someone else)

2. League Information

No games will be scheduled for Mother's Day or Memorial Day Sunday per usual. Father's Day will be left open if teams want to use that date for a make up game but both teams have to agree to that. Note that we will not play on July 3, 4 and 5 but there WILL be games on July 2 and July 7.

As part of the continuing requirement to improving umpire quality, an agreement was made with AAUA that each umpire desiring to work adult games must pass a proficiency test on the league white sheet rules. Also umpires are being trained in game management to improve consistency in warnings and ejections. Please note that a warning for conduct (trash talk, arguing balls and strikes, etc) is not always a guarantee.

Manager MUST know the rules as well!!!!

3. Fields/Game times for 2024

Fields: Joe Cannon, Bachman, Arundel HS, Annapolis HS, Northeast HS, North County HS, Southern HS, Bestgate, Glen Burnie HS, Meade HS (Possibly Crofton HS and Hot Sox Park). Sawmill and Generals Highway (if necessary). Old Mill is closed due to school construction. A new OM HS is being built where the fields are.

Game times for weeknights at Joe Cannon will remain 6 and 8:30. **AA county HS games start at 4:45 and have no time limit. During the month of May at the HS weeknight fields, games will begin at 8:30 pm to avoid running up to the HS teams. Once their season ends, games will be at 7 or 7:30 pm as in 2023. Some fields had 7:30 starts to minimize sun setting. Playoff games will be at 7 pm weeknights as they are 9 inning games. **

Regular season time limits: No new inning after 2:15 for a 7 and no new inning after 2:45 for a 9 inning game. (Joe Cannon has a hard stop after 2.5 and 3 hours to maximize field usage and keep games on time).

Playoffs: There is a time limit of no new inning after 2:45 for all games including championships. The only caveat is if the game is tied, the game continues until there is a winner.

4. Playoff Format

21 American: Top 6 in. First and second place get a bye to the semifinals. 3v6 and 4v5 have a one game Wild Card Round. Semi finals and finals are best of 3 series.

21 National: Top 4 in. Best of 3 semi finals and finals

35+: same as 21 National.

45+: Will be split into 2 pools. Top seed in each pool gets a bye to semis. Next 4 teams with best record regardless of pool would get in. ****Proposed**** having the final 4 teams play in a consolation bracket. To be discussed offline.

5. Hall of Fame

Purpose: To recognize individuals that consistently demonstrate good sportsmanship, character and respect towards teammates, opponents and umpires; competitive skill; and provides unselfish devotion to the continuing improvement to the quality and experience of Amateur Adult Baseball within the Chesapeake MSBL and the community at large.

Eligibility Criteria: Must have been in the league for a minimum of 10 years.

Hall of Fame Chairman: Bob Englemeyer

Voting Score: Submissions are subjected to 4 criteria: Playing ability, Character, Service to the League, Service to the Community. Candidates must score at least 70% of the total points to qualify for induction.

6. Tryouts

Tryout/Draft - Tryouts will be held on March 17, 2024 (Rain date March 24) at Bestgate Park. A player draft will be held immediately after. Draft order is reverse regular season standings.

- a. 21+ Division will be held from 10 AM to 12 PM
- b. 35/45+ will be held from 12:30 to 2:30 PM

7. Rule Changes for 2024

Maximum number of players on the roster is **26**. **Number of games required to be eligible for playoffs is 7.** **NOTE:** Approximately 1 week before playoffs begin, managers of the playoff teams must submit their playoff eligible roster. This will be a standardized form that will be sent out to the teams.

It must include, Full name, uniform number, date and opponent for the minimum number of games played to meet the requirement. The playoff eligible rosters will be posted on the league website for teams to review.

35+ Division to allow 3 age exempt players. These players are 32-34 years old and are not able to pitch.

Slaughter Rule 10 runs after 5 for a 7 inning game. For 9 innings: 10 after 7 and 15 after 5

7a. Clarifications

If teams do not have enough players to field a team, this is a forfeit. Notification should be made to the umpire scheduler, president and vice president and league scheduler as well as the other team 90 mins before game time to avoid paying the umpire show up fee. Teams should use email, phone or text until confirmation is received from umpires.

Clarification on Inclement Weather procedures - it is up to both teams to determine whether a field is playable. This must occur more than 90 mins before gametime to avoid show up fees. This excludes bachman. Cannon should remain open as it is turf except under extreme weather conditions.

Scheduling Rules: Games should be rescheduled within 24-48 hours. Teams must notify the umpires, other team and the scheduler. Teams should not play more than 4 games in a week and 2 in a 24 hour period. (exception would be games at the end of the season that are vital to playoff standings) Schedule will be front loaded and make ups will be tacked on the end. If teams wish to make up the game sooner they can be provided a list of dates and fields by request, and mutually agree on a date.

8. Line Sharing

To be considered a “game played”, defensive substitutions are no longer included as those substitutions are never recorded and easily fudged. The goal for the league is to close this loophole to ensure that players actually play in the games and eliminate the “unwritten rule”. In order to have a game played, a player must have a recorded at bat, pitching appearance (with a recorded outcome), or pinch running. Last year a vote on line share was put out and it was defeated with many non-responses. The league will be implementing line sharing with modifications in order to allow for additional flexibility to get players in the game. When making subs, teams should ensure that the other team receives the substitution and records it in the scorebook.

(Continued on next slide)

8. Line Sharing Continued

5 maximum

Can be used instead of courtesy runners but not in addition to courtesy runners. Also replaces A/B. Designated at the plate conference (courtesy runners or linesharing). Must have players on the bench to use lineshare.

Rule: The manager uses two players to share one batting position in the offensive lineup and during the game the manager decides who bats each time the batting position comes up. This can be implemented at the start of a game or can be added anytime during the game. He can then use the other player to run if he chooses to do so. When a player is used as a base runner in the Shared Position, he **MUST** bat the next time his position in the order comes to the plate. After that point, either of the Shared Runners may bat in this position. Any player sharing a batting position is locked in that position for the duration of the game and cannot be used in any other batting order position.

9. All-Star Game?

The league is looking into bringing back the All-Star game in 2024. This would be in Mid september right after the season ends at Joe Cannon Stadium. Possibly we could do a Home Run Derby at cannon as well. The time frame however also conflicts with tournament season so this may be difficult to do from a participation standpoint. Looking for interest in assisting in the organization of an event.

10. Player Requirements

All players are required to have a SportsEngine account and complete the New Player Registration. (*Players who have been in the league since 2019 have already done this)

All players must complete the online smart waiver. If they are on multiple age divisions' rosters, they will need to complete one for each team.

Instructions on how to do this were included in the Season Information Packet.

Rosters are being updated so managers should be checking frequently to ensure players are signed up properly.

11. Ejections/Player Conduct

2023: **15 total** ejections across the entire league. That was easily the most ever and equaled the past couple seasons combined.

Manager punishments for player ejections have been removed as they were ineffective in curtailing behavior. Appeals were also removed and the punishment was reverted back to the county rule.

Punishment for an ejection: 2 weeks per county rules. If violent or threatening conduct toward a player, that is a 1 year suspension. If violent conduct or threats toward an umpire that's 2 years (note years not seasons). If a player is ejected for a second time, he is suspended for the rest of the season.

11. Ejections/Player Conduct (Cont.)

Suspensions could be extended beyond 2 weeks if the conduct is serious but does not meet the 1 or 2 year buckets. In this case, a league committee will be formed, made up of the division reps (4 total). They will be in charge of gathering information from the umpires and both teams in order to determine whether the suspension is 2 weeks or warrants longer punishment. All 4 will discuss the facts of the case, and 3 will vote. The only rep to not have a vote would be the division in which the ejection occurred. After a decision is made, it is deemed final.

11. Ejections/Player conduct (Cont.)

Act like someone is watching us at all times. We had the unfortunate incident regarding outdoor urination while the school band and parents were present, that could have led to losing the field permit at Arundel HS. That field will now have a porta potty during the summer.

AFTER GAMES: This is in response to a couple of incidents over the past couple years. Teams should inform their players not to approach umpires after the game has concluded. Any player who approaches/confronts an umpire in the parking lot is subject to season long suspension. An umpire should be able to change and hang out in the parking lot without fear of being confronted about something that happened in a game that already ended. AAUA has informed their umpires to call the police in the event of a player confrontation.

11. Ejections/Player conduct (Cont.)

MUSIC: If you wish to play music on your speakers before a game, use the clean versions only. You're in a public setting so keep that in mind.

Please note this is an adult recreational league. You all should be promoting good sportsmanship toward players, coaches and umpires. The league waivers you sign affirm that you will abide by those rules.

12. Field Maintenance

Field Maintenance procedures are posted in the Managers Bullpen section of the league website. They will also be emailed to each team prior to the start of the regular season. It is important that they are followed in order to attempt to maintain the quality of the fields.

Dragging the infield can prevent low spots for water to pool. If a field has water access watering home plate, the mound and the infield is important for maintaining moisture. **RESPECT THE FACILITIES. Teams who don't take the time to do things right will not be on certain fields.**

I (Mike Largent) will make myself available in the Saturdays remaining in March and April at Arundel HS for those who wish to see a demo/educate your teams regarding field maintenance. (except March 9). This would be in the afternoon after HS practice. Contact me directly to set a date for your team. **Don't just show up as I'm not waiting every Saturday in hopes someone comes. Weeknights are also possible as long as we don't have a game.**

13. Umpire Do's and Don'ts

Presented by Alex.

The points that Alex will go over will be sent to each manager after the meeting for reference.

The End

Questions?