

McHenry Pigtail Softball League Bylaws



REVISED 01/16

THE PURPOSE OF THE MCHENRY PIGTAIL LEAGUE IS TO PROMOTE SPORTSMANSHIP, TEAM SPIRIT, AND A FEELING OF ACCOMPLISHMENT THROUGH COMPETITIVE SPORT.

The McHenry Pigtail League is a chartered, not-for-profit corporation, in the state of Illinois under certificate number 66119165 dated September 18, 2007. This organization is organized for the exclusive education and competitive sports purposes under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. As a chartered not-for-profit corporation, the McHenry Pigtail League adopts the Illinois High School Association's Official Softball Rules for all of its divisions with the following additions, deletions, and modifications:

THE MCHENRY PIGTAIL LEAGUE SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE FOLLOWING BYLAWS:

1. The bylaws shall be in effect until amended, changed, or omitted and no rule shall be drawn in contrary to said bylaws.
2. Any changes to these bylaws must be approved by a voting majority of all active board members.

The bylaws may be changed, amended, or omitted through the following procedure:

Divisional Rule Exceptions:

1. Rule exceptions will be made by the Rules Committee/Board of Directors and set by the time of registration for the season.
2. There will be no changes to these exceptions until the conclusion of the season unless special circumstances arise that the Board feels the need to address immediately.
3. New Rule suggestions will then be presented, amended, changed, or omitted by the Rules Committee/Board of Directors.

All other bylaws follow the following guidelines:

1. Motion made for change and seconded by a board member at a regular board meeting.
2. Discussion on said motion.
3. Vote on said motion. At least 50% + 1 (majority) must be present at the vote.
4. A majority of present board members voting in favor of said change.
5. Change entered in original copies of the bylaws held by the League President and Secretary.

Board of Directors' Duties:

1. The Board of Directors is charged with the responsibility of administering League policy, handling League business, and controlling League finances.
2. The Board of Directors shall be elected annually, with staggered two-year positions.
 - a. All board members, coaches, and parent/guardian of any active player will be eligible to vote.
 - b. Two (2) votes per active player will be allowed and will be monitored by the Board members at the voting table when turning in their completed ballots. Valid photo I.D. required.

- c. Candidates for all positions must be nominated at the May General Board meeting. From May to June, candidates will be advised of duties and formally accepted by June board meeting. Official start date for new board members will be at September board meeting.
 - d. Position confirmed upon completion and approval of mandatory background check.
3. Vacancies on the Board of Directors which occur during the year shall be appointed by the President with a majority of the board present and confirming the appointment.
4. Unexcused absences as determined by the MPL Board will not be tolerated and may result in replacement.

The Board of Directors of the McHenry Pigtail League shall consist of the following elected members:

President (Chairman of the Board) votes only to break a tie vote. Secretary/League Vice President, Division Vice Presidents, Player Agent, Tournament Coordinator, Umpire Coordinator(s), Treasurer, Equipment Manager, Field Manager, Sponsor/Uniform Chairperson, Activity Chairperson and Webmaster.

A Board of Directors consisting of the following positions and responsibilities will govern the McHenry Pigtail League:

President – Oversee all League business, Conduct general meetings, Chairman of the Board, approve all League purchases and payment of bills, Coordinate League with cooperating organizations (School Districts, Township, Parks & Recreation, County League, and VFW), Non-voting member of Protest/Code of Conduct Review Board, Vote only to break a tie

Division Vice President – Oversee each division, Preside over divisional meetings, Interface with managers, Keep records of division statistics, Contact managers of their division re: meetings, complaints, and any other new or pertinent business, Present divisional rule changes and/or problems to the Board, Run division tournament tryouts, Responsible for assisting Tournament Coordinator with Opening Day Committee, Responsible for collecting complete background check and code of conduct forms, Coordinate with umpire coordinator for all make-up games.

Secretary/League Vice President – Notify all members of meetings, Keep notes, maintain official rules/bylaws, Write necessary correspondence, Conduct meetings in president's absence, Responsible for completed background checks and code of ethics and conduct for all volunteers in their division, Update the voicemail as needed, Responsible for the Travel Division

Treasurer – Submit an annual budget, Write checks, Keep the books, Apply for League insurance, Pay umpires,

Activity Chairperson: Select picture company and schedule picture date(s), organize spirit wear, facilitate training clinics (ie. pitching, hitting, catching, etc)

Umpire Coordinator – Make the schedule of games for the year, Schedule umpires for the games, Schedule rainouts, Conduct umpires instructional clinic

Field Manager – Coordinate with field organizations pre-season for field usage, Determine and coordinate necessary field improvements, Oversee field conditions during playing season and schedule necessary work, determine the condition of the playing fields.

Player Agent – Maintain player database, coordinate draft night, sign up and assign late registrations to teams, accept and mediate player/parent comments and/or problems and report to Board, Oversees practice field schedules, Responsible for coordinating Fall Ball along with divisional VPs

Tournament Coordinator – Research tournament information, suggest and prepay for entry, Oversees league sponsored tournament, Coordinate Opening Day Committee with Division Vice Presidents.

Sponsor/Uniform Chairperson – Prior to the season contact and mail letters to last year's and new potential sponsors, Select uniform company in conjunction with Board approval, Manage sponsors, Order trophies and distribute to team managers/players

Equipment Manager – Oversee and evaluate condition of all League equipment, Order new and replacement equipment needed with Board approval, Prior to season distribute equipment to managers, Replace broken equipment as necessary during the season, Collect all equipment at the end of the seasons, Put equipment into storage at the end of the seasons, Keep accurate records of League equipment and what each division requires

Webmaster - Develop and maintain content for the mchenrypigtail.com website, Provide timely updates to schedules, calendar information, pictures, statistics and other content as appropriate, manage email accounts for board members.

Note: In addition to the specific duties of each position, each Board Member is required to attend all meetings, both Board and General. All Board Members are expected to assist with registration and other League functions and to support the rules and bylaws of the League. All information discussed in a closed session will remain confidential.

OVERALL LEAGUE BYLAWS APPLYING TO ALL DIVISIONS:

Eligible Players:

1. Any girl regardless of boundaries is eligible to play on a first come first serve basis.
2. Daughters of League managers, coaches, and Board of Directors are guaranteed the right to play providing they are within the correct age limitations.

Division Age Cutoffs:

1. Based on a January 1st birthday.
2. Player may forego the last year in the division she is currently in and move up to the next highest division.
3. The Board reserves the right to allow a player to either play up or down a division under special circumstances.
4. The age divisions shall be as follows:
 - a. 6U
 - b. 8U
 - c. 10U
 - d. 12U
 - e. 14U
 - f. 16U
 - g. 20U

Insurance:

The League shall purchase a supplemental excess accident insurance policy to cover the players, managers, coaches, and umpires should they be injured during the course of a game or practice, or going on a direct route to or from a game or practice. This insurance shall operate as excess to any other collectable medical insurance provided for or by family of the injured

individual. The League shall maintain a liability insurance policy to protect the League should it have a claim presented against it for negligence by any party.

Fees:

1. Sponsor fees shall be an amount determined by the Board of Directors to be combined with registration fees and fundraiser fees to keep the League solvent.
2. The Board of Directors shall determine registration fees.
3. Any player who withdraws from the Pigtail League prior to draft night will be refunded 100% of the registration fee upon written request. Refund requests after draft night and prior to Opening Day will be refunded 50% of the registration fee upon written request. No refunds will be granted after Opening Day without Board approval.
4. Any questions or requests for financial assistance should be directed to the League President

MPL volunteers will be eligible for positions based on the following:

1. Board approved application and background check.
2. No documented and confirmed violation of MPL bylaws and / or code of conduct.
3. Previous participation in the league (points.)
4. Board recommendation.

Managers are awarded teams based on the following priorities in the following order:

1. Previous year's returning manager in same division as long as child is still in that division.
2. Any Board member with a child in that division.
3. Manager moving into a different division with their children.
4. A parent of an active player.
5. Board member without a child in the league.
6. Adult without a child in the league.

The League President and Secretary will keep track of all points for seniority purposes. *If a manager quits, is removed, or is unable to continue in the position, the first coach does not automatically become the manager. The MPL board will appoint the new manager.**

As one basis for appointing volunteers, a point system will be maintained by the League President and Secretary. Points are given in the following manner:

1. Manager – 2 points per season. (Daughter(s) automatically on team)
2. Designated 1st Coach – 1 point per season. (Daughter(s) automatically on team)
3. 2nd Coach – 1 point per season.
4. 3rd Coach (6U and 8U only) – 1 point per season.
5. Board Members – 1 point per season. This point is added to points earned managing or coaching.
6. Manager of the tournament teams – 1 point per season.

Each year missed results in the loss of one point. Missing 3 years in a row nullifies all points earned. No points will be awarded if a team is not represented at all 4 spring manager meetings.

Managerial Duties:

1. Each manager and coach must be at least 18 years old and not attending High School.
2. The manager or approved designated representative MUST be present at all general meetings

3. A manager is allowed only one team per season.
4. To instruct to the best of your ability the game of fastpitch softball in accordance with the rules adopted by the McHenry Pigtail League.
5. To attempt to instill in these young people the meaning and practice of team participation and sportsmanship.
6. To coordinate their team's participation in all Leagues sponsored activities.
7. To keep correct attendance and playing records for all team members and to have them available at game time for opposing manager's review.
8. Rainouts need to be rescheduled through the Umpire coordinator and Divisional VPs within 48 hrs of the scheduled game. Failure to do so will result in game rescheduled by the Umpire Coordinator.
9. To immediately notify Player Agent and Division Vice President to replace resigned player.
10. To prepare field and equipment for all games.
11. To inform the parents of the player as to the possible penalties for unacceptable actions.
12. To pick up equipment and return equipment on designated dates. Failure to do so will impact future managerial eligibility.
13. To play each player in accordance with the playing rules of the McHenry Pigtail League.
14. To be sure the scorebook is kept accurately.
15. One manager and two coaches will be allowed to participate in the game.
16. The team managers are responsible for making sure all attendees connected in any way to their team act in accordance with the league rules. Failure to do so will result in ejections or possible end of the game.
17. Only approved volunteers will be allowed to assist in games and practices.

Player Draft

1. The League Player Agent and the respective Division Vice President will run the Draft. Once a player is drafted by a team she will remain on that team. **NO TRADES ARE ALLOWED!**
2. Each player has the right to designate one manager who she does not want to play for but may not specify a choice of manager she will play for. The Division Vice President will simply say pick again. You will then select a different player (no explanation will be given).

An open draft will be followed.

1. Deck of cards will be used to pick range of draft order.
2. Lists given include name, age, and years of experience.
3. The pick will be designated by the number selected with the playing card and will start with number 1 and the next round will start with the highest team number and will select by ending the round and begin the next (example Team number 11 will have the 11th and the 12th pick.)
4. The 3rd round pick will be for the Manager's daughter.
5. The 4th round pick will be for the Coach's daughter.
6. The 5th round pick is open except for additional children of the manager or the first coach.

Rosters:

1. A minimum of 10 players per team in each division with the exception of 20U.
2. Late registered players not selected in the draft shall be placed on a waiting list. This may only be done by the League Player Agent. When multiple roster openings occur or when there are more than two players on the waiting list the Player Agent will then place the players on teams through a random drawing following the order of the draft.

3. Managers must report roster reductions to the Player Agent and their Division Vice President as soon as possible, but no more than one week after their knowledge of such reduction. The team will be assigned a replacement in accordance with the above rule if applicable. The team shall accept this replacement.

Players playing up.

When calling up additional players from the lower divisions, Managers must follow these guidelines:

1. Borrowed players may play anywhere, manager's discretion.
- 2 They must wear their team jersey and bat at the end of the line up.
3. Any borrowed player must sit before any rostered team player. Borrowed player may play 3 defensive innings, but must be rotated in by using a different rostered team player each inning. Only enough players may be called up to have a team of 10 players. Manager's discretion applies when call up players result in extra defensive players, due to unforeseen circumstances.

Playoffs

Divisional standings for playoffs to be determined by the following:

1. Win/loss record.
2. Ties to be broken by
 - a) Head to head record.
 - b) Team's total runs allowed in the season.
 - c) Coin toss

Determination of home team is as follows:

Standings for regular season finish will determine home team. Home team will be the higher seed. Playoffs will be a single elimination bracket. Last team will play first and so on...
Playoff brackets to be created by the Division VP.

Playing Time:

Each player on the roster shall play not less than three defensive innings.

Games:

Official Game Home Ahead Home Behind

6U, 8U: 4 4

10U, 12U: 3 ½ 4

14U, 16U, 20U: 4 ½ 5

Regulation Game:

6U, 8U, 10U, 12U: 6 innings

14U, 16U, 20U: 7 innings

Advantage Rules:

10U, 12U– 15 runs after 4 innings

14U, 16U, 20U- 15 runs after 5 innings

Control of the game:

Once an umpire arrives at the game location, the umpire is in control of the game and shall have sole responsibility as to the beginning of the game, continuation of the game, and termination of the game.

Time Limit:

1. Game times are to be announced by Umpire.
2. All games begin at the scheduled time.
3. The forfeit time will be fifteen minutes after the scheduled game time.
4. Game times shall be 1 ½ or 1-¾ hours depending on Division. Umpire is the official time keeper. No inning shall start after this time limit, however, any inning in progress will be completed.
5. A new inning starts immediately after the Home team makes the 3rd out.
6. In case of a tied game, one tiebreaker inning will be played if time allows. International tie-breaker rules shall apply. Should a regular season game remain tied, it shall end in a tie. Championship games shall be played until a winner is determined with one team score greater than the other.

Suspended Games:

1. A game will be suspended and restarted from the point of suspension only if rain, darkness, or unsafe conditions prohibit the continuation of the game and if the game is not an Official game or has not exceeded the time limit.
2. If the game has exceeded the time limit but is not an official game by definition, it shall be considered official and the game is over.
3. If the Umpire sees lightning, the field will be cleared and play will be stopped for 15 minutes. A game will not be paused for more than 30 minutes.
4. For suspended or rescheduled games a pitcher is eligible to pitch only the remaining innings she has left in that game. Batter will start with a fresh count. Violation of this rule is forfeiture.

Playing Field:

Division - Pitching - Bases

6U - None - 60ft.

8U - 30 ft. - 60 ft.

10U - 35 ft. - 60 ft.

12U - 40 ft. - 60 ft.

14U, 16U, 20U - 43 ft - 60 ft.

1. Ground rules are determined by the field layout.
2. **BOTH** teams are responsible for making sure that the field is prepared for playing and for putting the equipment away.
3. **Turn out the lights.**

Equipment

1. All base runners, batters, catchers, and players acting as coaches must wear protective full helmets. Playing equipment as described in the National Federation Rules and NOCSAE Helmets will be provided. All player provided equipment must meet the above safety standards. Exception: Little League bats are ok in the 6U, 8U, 10U divisions.

2. All players shall wear rubber sole non-slip shoes or all-purpose rubber spiked shoes and long pants or shorts with regulation sliding pads.
3. All players shall be issued their uniform jersey The issued jersey must be worn to participate in the game.
4. All batters and runners must wear helmets during practices and games. All catchers must wear protective equipment issued to the team during practices and games. Pitchers (8U division on up) must wear protective face masks when pitching. The corner infielders will also wear protective facemasks. Protective equipment is to be worn at all games and practices!
5. Multi walled bats are not allowed in McHenry Pigtail League. All bats must be ASA/NSA approved.
6. \$25.00 equipment deposit will be required of all managers.

Umpires

1. Umpires shall be under the jurisdiction of the Umpire Coordinators.
2. Umpires will be assigned to Divisions based on their skills or a test as administered by the League.
3. Umpires are not allowed to umpire in games in their immediate family's Division except in the case of an emergency.
4. There shall be one umpire assigned to games except for playoff semifinals and championship games, use two only in 12U, 14U, 16U and 20U Divisions.
5. The League will determine the pay for the umpires.
6. Umpires must arrive at the game 15 minutes prior to the starting time. If no umpire shows up prior to the game time, both managers may select an umpire.
7. Umpires should conduct a conference at home plate to go over ground rules and check the players for jewelry prior to the start of the game.
8. Each Umpire will be issued a rulebook and a set of Divisional rules.
9. Umpires shall finish a game if asked to do so by managers. For example, a team shows up with only seven players. Team forfeits but still wants to play. The Umpire will call the full game.
10. The Umpire shall/may eject any player, manager, coach, or spectator for any undue, unsportsmanlike conduct at any time at their discretion. This includes but is not limited to throwing bats and helmets. When a player, manager, coach, or spectator is ejected from a game, he or she must leave the park entirely until the conclusion of the game.
11. Let it be noted that only an Umpire can call time out. Only rule interpretations may be discussed with the Umpire.
12. Umpires are required to wear appropriate attire.
13. Umpires must meet the same criteria as a volunteer.

Protests and Code of Conduct:

1. Protests will not be allowed in any division.
2. The Board of Directors will handle Code of Conduct issues.

Tournaments:

1. Participation in tournaments either during or after our League schedule shall be determined on an individual basis by the Board of Directors.
2. Managers of tournament teams will be determined by a vote of the Divisional Managers.
3. Selection of tournament team members will be done in the following fashion:
 - a) Tryout dates will be scheduled and posted by registration.
 - b) Teams will be picked no later than halfway through the regular season.

- c) Tournament judges will evaluate players and will not evaluate their own child.
 - d) At least two tryout dates will be scheduled.
 - e) Managers child does not automatically make the team.
 - f) Up to four discretionary players may be selected by the tournament team manager with the remaining players selected based upon the score of the tryout evaluations.
4. All players may try-out for the tournament team. Players are eligible based on a January 1st age cut off date.
 5. Each team will consist of no more than 15 rostered players. All players must try-out.
 6. Players are welcome to tryout both dates. Their best evaluation of the two days will be used.
 7. Tournaments sponsored by the McHenry Pigtail League shall be run by Tournament Coordinator.
 8. The Board shall oversee tournament teams with all fees handled in the normal manner.
 9. The league will pay no more than \$35 per player.

Zero Tolerance Policy

The MPL is committed to providing a safe environment for its members and participants. And to prevent abusive conduct in any form. Every member of this organization is responsible for protecting our participants and ensuring their safety and well-being while involved in sponsored activities. To this end, we have established guidelines of behaviors and procedures for volunteers and participants. All members of this organization, as well as parents, spectators, and other invitees are expected to observe and adhere to these guidelines. These guidelines are available on our website.

Disciplinary Action:

McHenry Pigtail League (hereinafter referred to as "MPL") is comprised of volunteers. These volunteers include, but are not limited to the players, parents of the players, coaching staff and Board members. Any volunteer associated with the MPL can express, in writing, a valid complaint about another volunteer associated with the MPL. All valid complaints must be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors of the MPL. A valid complaint is a complaint that is in violation of any of the rules or regulations stated in the Bylaws or Code of Conduct of the MPL.

The MPL Board will discuss it at a time and place set by the MPL President. This will be done as quickly as possible. The named party will be notified and allowed to appear on their behalf at the meeting. The MPL Board reserves the right to impose disciplinary action to any player, manager, coach, or parent who is found to have violated any of the MPL administrative or local rules. The disciplinary action will be determined on a case by-case basis by the MPL Board.

Fall Ball

1. Fall ball will follow the same guidelines and procedures as stated in the bylaws.
2. Any rule exceptions will be finalized prior to the beginning of registration for this part of the season.
3. No Travel Teams (50% of roster).