



Handbook



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## General

This document is approved by the Board of Managers.

The President of MVAA is responsible for preparation and distribution of this manual.

The policies and procedures in this manual are applicable to all officers, directors, players, coaches, managers, volunteers, and umpires associated with MVAA Baseball.

This manual is distributed in PDF format. The PDF is generated from a source stored in a secure server.

The PDF format does not contain a List of Effective Pages.

This document is distributed electronically via the league website and also to each team. It should be maintained on the team's iPad for use during games, practices, and league meetings.

Revisions are announced at league meetings and published via a Change Notice in an email to each member team. Synchronize company library information regularly to view change notices and new revisions.

To propose a change, submit a revision request to [MVAARules@gmail.com](mailto:MVAARules@gmail.com).

A revision may be published outside of the normal revision process. An Immediate Publication is issued for urgent, new, or revised policies and procedures.

Change bars and Revision Highlights are retained for the existing revision, as well as any Immediate Publication.

Example: Change Bar

Immediate Publications are identified as the second value in the revision number. For example, REV 1.3 indicates there have been three Immediate Publications released since REV 1 was initially released.

## 0.00 REVISION HIGHLIGHTS

# HIGHLIGHTS

A section might display the current revision date despite no apparent change to content. Some reasons for this might include:

- A typo or grammatical error was corrected.
- A proposed change was rejected during the revision process.
- Existing text was linked to identical text in another document (i.e., universal shared content).
- Editor notes were added.
- Hyperlinks were added.

Substantive policy/procedure changes are always marked with a change bar and noted in Revision Highlights.

### Revision 2.1

#### 2.05(a)(2)

##### IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION 2.1

Amended Suspension Appeal policy to align with bylaws requiring Board of Officers to oversee Suspension Appeals.

#### 3.02

##### IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION 2.2

Added penalty language to section outlining penalties for exceeding maximum roster size.

#### **4.04**

Forfeit fee language modified to specify that regular season forfeits result in a fee of sliding severity beginning with a first offense fine of \$150 if the game is forfeited more than four hours prior to the scheduled first pitch. Any subsequent forfeits result in a fine equal to the actual cost of the umpires and field scheduled regardless of whether or not the league is able to cancel without financial penalty.

Four hours or less prior to the first pitch the fine is equal to the actual cost of umpires and the scheduled field regardless of whether or not the league is able to cancel without financial penalty.

For postseason games, any forfeit at any time results in a fine equal to the actual cost of the umpires and field scheduled for the game.

#### **4.06**

Grammatical and syntax errors corrected not affecting the result and enforceability of the rule.

#### **4.07**

##### IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION 2.2

Created new section to outline fee for exceeding maximum roster size limits.

#### **Appendix A**

Postseason Format approved by Managers.



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## 1.00 SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

### Purpose

### Scope



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### **1.01 Purpose**

The purpose behind this policy is to make individuals aware of his or her privacy rights and prohibited conduct with respect to individuals actions and its impact on the League when using social media sites on and off the field. This policy is also intended to minimize any distraction from an individual's tasks and duties. It will allow the League to ensure that League rules are followed and all individuals are treated fair and consistent.

Individuals shall remember they are representing the League and the public holds them to a high standard of professionalism and decorum. The League has an overriding interest and expectation in deciding what is "spoken" on behalf of the League. This policy is not meant to infringe on one's right to free speech, rights under the Constitution, or any other protected activity.

## **1.02 Scope**

All individuals will be subject to and held accountable for any conduct outlined in Social Media Policy. This policy works in conjunction with other related personnel policies and procedures (e.g. harassment).

- (a) Social Media refers to the use of websites such as, but not limited to, Facebook, Myspace, Twitter, Flickr, LinkedIn, Instagram. For purposes of this policy, Blogs and other internet forums of shall also be covered. Nothing in this policy is meant to prohibit access to any social media website or Blog. Players may not engage in the following conduct with respect to the use of Social Media:

- (b) Policy

- (1) In-Game Conduct – While in-game, an individual may only access social media websites, Blogs and/or other internet forums of communication during breaks.
- (2) On- and Off-Field Conduct – An individual enjoys no expectation of privacy to information posted into cyberspace even when off the field. This includes anything posted to a social media website, Blog, or other similar internet forum of communication. Although information may be posted to a “private” webpage, the individual should be aware this information can still be accessed by the public and other sources in a number of ways. Because of this, an individual needs to use “common-sense” when posting comments, photos, opinions, or any other information related to his or her affiliation with the League. Any social media activity which portrays the League in a negative light will be evaluated and may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension. Examples of prohibited conduct include, but are not limited, to:
  - (A) Posting one’s photograph while wearing the League or Team’s uniform (or other similar attire, which could be misidentified as the official uniform);
  - (B) Posting pictures, videos, or comments that are insubordinate with respect to the individual’s affiliation
  - (C) Posting pictures, videos, or comments that constitute or could be construed as unlawful behavior;
  - (D) Knowingly or recklessly posting false information about the League, directors, managers, players, umpires, field managers, sponsors, or those who have a relationship with the League. This also includes disparagement of a fictitious character or computer-generated likeness that resembles the above.
  - (E) Posting, transmitting, or disseminating any pictures or videos of official training, activities, or statements about or naming affiliates without the express permission of the League.
  - (F) Posting pictures, videos, or comments that are sexual, obscene, violent, offensive, harassing, or pornographic in nature along with any reference to the League or individual’s affiliation.





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- (3) Individuals shall not imply they are speaking on behalf of the League unless authorized to do so. Should an individual speak on matters of affiliation, the individual shall include a disclaimer.
  - (4) Confidential Information – An individual shall not disclose any league-related confidential or proprietary information on any social media website, Blog, or other internet forum of communication. This can include information that may eventually be obtained through a valid public record's request.
  - (5) Individuals are encouraged to follow the internal complaint procedure and not take to the internet to voice league-related complaints.
  - (6) Individuals found to have violated any part of this policy may be subject to discipline up to and including suspension.
  - (7) Any deviation from the above policy shall be approved by the League in writing.
  - (8) Any questions regarding the policy should be directed to the individual's manager.
  - (9) Individuals shall take note of the following: DELETE DOES NOT MEAN DELETE. Once something is posted into cyberspace it remains there.



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## 2.00 PLAYER

[Eligibility](#)

[Player Age](#)

[Proof of Eligibility](#)

[Unsportsmanlike Conduct](#)

[Suspension](#)

[Player Release](#)



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## 2.01 Eligibility

- (a) Players must sign a liability waiver annually prior to participating in MVAA league activities.
- (b) Players must sign a contract with their team prior to participating in team activities.

**NOTE:** Liability waiver and contract provisions apply to substitute players (e.g., SUB 1, SUB 2) as well as rostered players.

- (c) Players remain under the control of the team with whom they have signed a contract, unless released by the team's manager.
- (d) Players in possession of team-issued uniforms or equipment, or owing any debt to a team or the league must settle all debts prior to participating with a new team following release.
- (e) Players appearing for a team with whom they have not signed a contract will be suspended from all MVAA activities for the remainder of the season.
- (f) Players participating for any team, or in any league, where players are compensated for baseball are ineligible for MVAA Baseball.



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## 2.02 Player Age

- (a) Players must reach their eighteenth (18<sup>th</sup>) birthday by the beginning of the Championship Season to sign a contract and liability waiver.
- (b) Players who will not reach their eighteenth (18<sup>th</sup>) birthday by the beginning of the Championship Season must have their contract and liability waiver signed by a parent or legal guardian.



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### **2.03 Proof of Eligibility**

Players must have valid photo identification available at game sites.

If a player does not have valid photo identification on his person when requested by an opposing Team or Umpire, the game may be played under Protest if desired by the opposing Manager.



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#### **2.04 Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

Players are not permitted to engage in any physical exchanges or threat of physical harm or danger to players, umpires, and/or spectators.

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## **2.05 Suspension**

- (a) Players will be suspended for two games following a single game ejection.
  - (1) Players may appeal a suspension within 24 hours of the incident.
  - (2) Player suspension under appeal will be deferred until the Board of Officers meets to decide the outcome.
- (b) Players ejected from a game for a second time in a single season are suspended for the remainder of the season.

**NOTE:** Players suspended under (b) above must appeal to Board of Managers for reinstatement following a season-ending suspension.

**NOTE:** Players ejected for abuse of equipment will not have their suspension overturned at appeal.

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## **2.06 Player Release**

### **(a) Off Season**

- (1) A player wishing to be released must first contact his manager to request the release. Two outcomes are possible:
  - (A) Manager grants release – Manager will sign release form and player becomes a free agent.
  - (B) Manager does not grant release – Player either accepts their obligation or may appeal to the Board of Managers to request the release be granted. A  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote by the Board of Managers may grant the player a release.

**NOTE:** Teams conflicted in the release are prohibited from voting.

### **(b) In-Season**

- (1) Players may be released outright, or contested.
  - (A) Outright – Players released outright are free agents and may sign with any team.
  - (B) Contested – Players released as contested are restricted free agents and may only sign with the team who is in the lowest place in the standings (by winning percentage) at the time of the contested release.

**NOTE:** If the team in the lowest place in standings does not wish to sign the player under contested release, he may sign with the next lowest place team. The player may continue to contact the next lowest place team until he is signed.

**NOTE:** Players released are not guaranteed to be signed by any team.

- (2) Players released more than one time in a season will be restricted from MVAA activities for the remainder of that season.





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### 3.00 MEMBER CLUB

[Roster Submitted](#)

[Roster Size](#)

[Use of Ineligible Player](#)

[Forfeit](#)

[Complaints](#)



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### 3.01 Roster Submitted

Each team must post their roster on their team website.

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### **3.02 Roster Size**

Each team is limited to an active roster of 30 Players.

Any game played while a team maintains an active roster in excess of the maximum number of players will be forfeited and subject to the forfeit rules in [3.04](#), and the fees in [4.04](#) and [4.07](#).



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### **3.03 Use of Ineligible Player**

Teams using an ineligible player will forfeit all games in which that player(s) was credited with an official appearance.



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### 3.04 Forfeit

(a) Teams forfeiting three (3) games are removed from the league for the remainder of the season.

**NOTE:** The team may appeal to the Board of Managers who may, upon a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote, rescind the removal.

(b) Forfeiting a scheduled doubleheader will only count as one forfeit for the purposes of 4.04(a).



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### **3.05 Complaints**

Team Manager will file complaints with League on behalf of concerned individuals.

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**4.00 FEES**

**Player Fee**

**Team Fee**

**Fines**

**Forfeit**

**Protest**

**Appeal**

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#### **4.01 Player Fee**

- (a) Players' fees must be paid by cash, check, or social payment services (e.g., Venmo, PayPal).
- (b) Payments are to be submitted to the League President or Treasurer prior to a player participating in his first game.

**EXCEPTION:** If a player is submitting payment at a field just prior to a game, the player's Manager will notify the opposing Manager directly and the league President via electronic communication immediately.

- (c) When players' fee(s) are submitted, a list containing the name of the player paying must accompany the check(s) or cash. A receipt for the check/cash will be provided by a League Officer.
- (d) There will be no refunds of players' fees except the case of a season-ending injury that would occur prior to the fourth game of the season in which the player participates and keeps him from being able to participate for the remainder of the season. The player will be ineligible to return later in the season.
- (e) Players participating as necessary (e.g., ninth player, eighth and ninth player) to help a team avoid a forfeit do not need to remit a player fee unless they participate in four (4) or more MVAA games.

**NOTE:** The player does not have to play all four games for the same team to be subject to the player fee for the season.

**EXCEPTION** – A coach or manager may participate as a team's ninth player without paying the Player fee, to avoid a forfeit.





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#### **4.02 Team Fee**

- (a) Each team, prior to beginning league play, must submit a league fee to the league office.
- (b) Failure to Pay Team Fee
  - (1) Teams failing to pay their fee will forfeit all games scheduled until the fee is paid.
  - (2) If a team fails to pay their fee for a duration of five games, they shall be disqualified from league play for the remainder of the championship season.

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#### **4.03 Fines**

(a) Players ejected from games will pay a fine prior to their next appearance.

(1) First ejection - \$25

(2) Second ejection - \$100

**NOTE** – Players appealing to the Board of Managers for reinstatement the following season will be denied for failure to pay fines assessed.

(b) Should player conduct cause an umpire to end a game due to safety, the affected team will be fined \$165 and will record a loss for the game in question.

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#### **4.04 Forfeit**

- (a) Teams that forfeit any game will pay a fine prior to their next scheduled game.
- (b) Regular Season – Forfeits of regular season games result in the following fines.
  - (1) More than 4 hours prior to first pitch
    - (A) First Offense – \$150
    - (B) Subsequent Offenses – Actual cost of umpires and field scheduled.
  - (2) Four (4) hours or less prior to first pitch – Actual cost of umpires and field scheduled.
- (c) Postseason – Forfeit of any postseason game results in a fine equal to the actual cost of umpires and field scheduled for that game.

**NOTE:** Fines are due to the league regardless of whether or not the league is able to cancel umpires and/or the scheduled field without financial penalty.



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#### **4.05 Protest**

A protest fee of \$25 will be charged. Should the protest be upheld, the fee will be returned to the team.



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#### **4.06 Appeal**

Players appealing suspension resulting from ejection will pay a \$25 fee. Should the suspension be overturned, the fee will be returned to the player.



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#### **4.07 Exceptional Roster Size**

Teams exceeding the maximum roster size limit of outlined in [3.02](#) will be subject to a fee of \$100 for each game the maximum roster size is exceeded.

This fee is in addition to forfeit fees outlined in [4.04](#).



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## 5.00 MVAA SEASON

[Player Draft](#)

[Preseason](#)

[Championship Season](#)

[Postseason](#)

[NABF Tournament Play](#)

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## 5.01 Player Draft

### (a) Player Pool

- (1) Any player selected from the league's player pool must play for the selecting selected.
- (2) Players who do not appear for the selecting team are prohibited from participating in MVAA play unless they are released.

**NOTE:** Players who do not appear for the selecting team remain under the control of the selecting team for the purposes of MVAA activities.

### (b) Forfeit Draft

Players from teams that have been removed due to excessive forfeits are eligible to be selected in a player draft. The draft order is as follows:

- (1) For the first round, the last place team selects first, the draft continuing consecutively through the first-place team.
- (2) Subsequent rounds are repeated with the previous round's last selecting team selecting first in the following round.
- (3) Players not chosen in the draft are free agents and eligible for selection with any team.

**NOTE:** Board of Managers will determine when to terminate the Forfeit Draft.

- (4) Players of teams subject to removal for excessive forfeits (3 in any one season) will be eligible for draft selection by the teams remaining in the league. The draft format is as follows.

#### (A) First Round:

Teams will select players, in order, based on their current standings with the last place team going first.

#### (5) Subsequent Rounds:

Teams will select players, in order, inversely compared to the previous round with the last team in each round getting two consecutive choices (i.e., the last selection in Round 1 and the first selection in Round 2).

**NOTE:** The Board of Managers will determine when the draft has ended. Players not selected will become free agents and may enter into contract with any team.





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## 5.02 Preseason

Teams are free to schedule practices at any time with contracted players.



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### 5.03 Championship Season

- (a) The Board of Managers will create the Championship Season (Regular Season) schedule and approve the same at a regular meeting.
- (b) Official baseball determined by Board of Managers
- (c) Games unable to be completed due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances will be rescheduled by the League.

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## 5.04 Postseason

### (a) Player Eligibility

- (1) Two-way or position-only players must have recorded an appearance in at least  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the games in which their team plays.
- (2) A Pitcher-Only (PO) must have recorded a pitching appearance in at least four (4) games.
- (3) The total number of games played shall include all forfeited games but will not include games canceled and not rescheduled.

**NOTE:** For the purposes of determining the number of appearances is required of two-way or position-only players, the requirement will round up to the next whole number based on the following formula: (Games played / 3).

**EXAMPLE:** The Ducks are scheduled for 27 games, but due to cancellations they only play 25. The required number of appearances for a two-way or position player to be postseason eligible is 9. ( $25/3 = 8.33$ ).

**EXAMPLE:** Team A is scheduled for 31 games and plays 25. For a player on Team A to be postseason eligible they must have appeared in 9 games. (e.g.,  $25/3=8.33 \sim 9$ )

- Postseason Format
- (1) Postseason Format will be determined by the Board of Managers prior to the start of the season.
  - (2) Number of postseason games per series will be determined by the Board of Managers



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### 5.05 NABF Tournament Play

(a) MVAA Tournament representatives be determined by:

- (1) Regular season finish, or
- (2) Teams that are competing in the MVAA League Championship Series (LCS)

**NOTE:** The winner of the MVAA League Championship Series from the previous season will be guaranteed a birth in the MVAA Regional Tournament.

(b) Teams that qualify for tournament play will be allowed to add players to their roster, subject to that tournament's rules & regulations.

## Appendix A – 2025 Postseason Format

