

Mabel League Operating Rules

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1. Constitution and By-Laws

(1) The Mabel League Operating and Playing Rules and Regulations are to be read in conjunction with the Mabel League Constitution and By-Laws. Where there is a conflict the Constitution and By-Laws prevail.

2. Definitions

(1) Definitions for the following terms used throughout this document and League communication is as follows:

- a) “Game Time” means the time at which a game is scheduled to commence;
- b) “Rules” means these Mabel League Operating and Playing Rules and Regulations;
- c) “League” means the Mabel League Fastpitch Association;
- d) “New Team” means a team that was not registered to play in the League in the immediately preceding Season;
- e) “Rain Out Game” or “Rained Out Game” means any game that is called (ie cancelled) by the UIC, Fields, or Umpire due to bad or unsafe weather conditions or bad or unsafe field conditions;
- f) “Umpire” means the person charged with officiating the softball game, including beginning and ending the game, enforcing the Rules of the game and making judgment calls on plays;
- g) “Regular Season” means the regularly scheduled League games within the defined softball Season for the Mabel League. It does not include the LIL Tournament or the Finals Tournament. For clarity of the Forfeit Bond, a Regular Season game includes a game that is rescheduled by the Executive due to Rain Out or other reason;
- h) “Home Team” is the team listed second in the schedule, and is responsible for accurately setting up bases at the games, prior to Game Time for Regular Season games;
- i) “Returning Team” means a team that was registered to play in the League in the immediately preceding Season;
- j) “Season” means an individual softball Season;

- k) “SPN” means Slo Pitch National;
- l) “Kick Off” means the year's starter social event; and
- m) “LIL Tournament” or “LIL” refers to the three (3) to four (4)-day tournament founded outside of the Mabel League, but operated by the Mabel League, which outside teams are welcome to register and participate in. Results from the LIL Tournament have no bearing on Regular Season standings.

(2) Terms defined in the Mabel League Bylaws have the same meaning when used in these Rules.

3. Mabel League Structure and Divisions

(1) The Mabel League is a senior D level orthodox fastpitch League.

(2) The Mabel League consists of multiple divisions separated by skill level:

- a) the highest skilled division shall be called A, and subsequent divisions in alphabetical order: e.g., in a Season with four (4) divisions, the lowest division would be D.

(3) Returning Teams will be placed in divisions by the Statistician and Scheduler according to the previous Season’s final standings, as follows:

- a) weighted average of rank in Regular Season (100%);
- b) if tied, determine standings by comparing the Regular Season win/loss/tie record between the tied teams;
- c) if still tied, determine standings by comparing the runs differential in all of the tied teams’ Regular Season games; and
- d) if still tied, determine standings by comparing run against in all of the tied teams’ Regular Season games.

(4) On or before a Team Registration Date, a Returning Team wanting to play in a division other than where it is allotted under paragraph three (3) above must submit a written request to the Executive with an attached copy of its roster. The Executive will review the Returning Team's letter, roster, player experience in the League and other Leagues, and any other relevant factors to determine whether an adjustment should be made.

(5) On or before the Team Registration Date, a New Team registering to play in the League must submit a written request to the Executive with an attached copy of its roster, stating in which division it wishes to be placed. The Executive will review the New Team's letter, roster, player experience in the League and other Leagues, and any other relevant factors to determine in which division the New Team will be placed. Failure to submit such information will result in the team being placed in the bottom of the lowest division.

(6) Quality of fields will be distributed equally among teams of all divisions.

(7) A Member may not register to play on more than one (1) team, except at the discretion of the Executive. Additionally, the following restrictions apply to playing for teams on which a Member is not a registered player:

(a) eligibility to play in different divisions:

(i) members may not play as a substitute more than five (5) times per Season with any specific team;

(ii) members may not play as a substitute against any teams ranked more than one

(1) division below the team on which the Member is registered:

1. example: if a Member's primary team is in the top (A) division, they may play substitute with a secondary team in the (B) division, but not with a team in the (C) division. If a (B) division team is seeking substitute

players, they may accept a player from the (A) division, unless their opponent is in the (C) division, in which case their substitute players may not be from any division higher than (B);

(iii) rule (7)(a)(ii) applies for registered team members as well as substitute players;

(iv) if a good faith attempt to utilize the subs list and other players no more than one (1) division below the division of the team and their opponent's team has been made, a request for an exception to this rule may be made to the Executive.

4. Scheduling, Cancellations, Scores and Standings

(1) The Scheduler:

- a) will present a draft Regular Season schedule to all Team Representatives at or before the April Team Representative meeting, barring any extraordinary circumstances causing delay;
- b) will present a final Regular Season schedule to all Team Representatives within one (1) week of the April Team Representative meeting, barring any extraordinary circumstances causing delay;
- c) will endeavor to schedule each team to play each other team in its division at least once per Regular Season;
- d) will endeavor to schedule cross-divisional play that will make up no more than one third (33.3%) of each team's games each Season;
- e) will prepare game schedules for the LIL Tournament and Finals Tournament;

- f) will reschedule all Rained Out games, and any other games which are rescheduled at the sole discretion of the Executive, and notify the relevant Team Representatives and the Vancouver Softball Umpires' Association (VSUA) of the rescheduled game; and
- g) will track forfeited games and report any violations of the forfeit bond to the Executive.

(2) The Statistician:

- a) will, at the time of Team Registration, propose Team placement in divisions based on previous year's ranking, current make-up of the Team and even distribution of teams across divisions;
- b) will receive all game scores, calculate Regular Season standings and ensure they are posted on the League website on an ongoing basis, and calculate final standings at the end of a Season and ensure they are posted on the League website; and
- c) will ensure all tournament game scores are collated and determine teams to play in the Final Tournament.

(3) Scheduling Transparency:

- a) special accommodations for scheduling must be submitted in writing to the Executive prior to the due date announced at the first team rep meeting for the Season;
- b) special accommodations will be decided on by the Executive; and
- c) all requested accommodations and decisions will be made available to League members on the website, including team name and accommodation dates, on or before the date that the draft schedule is released.

(4) Rained Out/Called Games:

- a) three hours prior to Game Time, the UIC and Fields will decide whether to call a Rain Out Game. If a game is postponed due to a Rain Out, the UIC must notify the teams,

Scheduler, Fields, and Statistician using a form of communication accessible to all League members and commonly used for League-wide communications (e.g. social media, email, or other);

- b) at Game Time, the Umpire will decide whether to call a Rain Out Game;
- c) a game may also be called by the Umpire at any time if, in the Umpire's sole discretion, the any of following conditions are present:
 - (i) end of daylight playing time;
 - (ii) unsafe field conditions; or
 - (iii) any other situation that justifies calling the game following SPN Rules;
 - 1. for example, the umpire may call a game due to rain, darkness, lightning, panic, or any other reason that puts the players or the umpire in danger.
- d) when a game is called by the Umpire, the final score is the score listed at the end of the last complete inning played. If fewer than five (5) complete innings were played before a game was called for any reason other than end of daylight or playing time, the remainder of the game will be rescheduled, starting from the last complete inning;
- e) Rained Out games called by an Umpire at the field must be reported by the Home Team to the UIC and Scheduler;
- f) the Scheduler will initiate rescheduling of a Rained Out Game within a reasonable time after the Rain Out takes place, and with at least two (2) weeks notice in advance of the new scheduled date;
- g) the Statistician, Fields and/or Scheduler will reschedule Rained Out Games according to availability of park, Umpires, and other such conditions; and

h) whenever possible, Rained Out games will be rescheduled for within two (2) weeks of the originally scheduled game, or within the next available field time slot.

(5) Once the Regular Season game schedule has been approved by the League Committee, no team will be allowed to reschedule any game. Games will only be rescheduled due to Rain Outs or other extraordinary circumstances at the sole discretion of the Executive.

(6) At fields where double-headers are scheduled, the first game must end by the scheduled starting time of the second game.

(7) Reporting scores:

a) scores shall be reported via the Mabel League website "Report Scores" function;

b) the winning team (forfeit games included) must report the score within twenty four (24) hours of the conclusion of the game. (Example 1: The game is played on the 14th and ends at 8:10 p.m., the score must be reported by 8:10 p.m. on the 15th. Example 2: The game is declared a forfeit by the Umpire on the 14th at 6:40 p.m., the forfeit must be reported by 6:40 p.m. on the 15th);

c) in the case of a tie, both teams must report the score within twenty four (24) hours of the conclusion of the game; and

d) scores not so reported shall be recorded by the Statistician as a 0-0 tie.

(8) Forfeits:

a) by the League Fee Due Date of a Season, each team must submit to the Executive a refundable Forfeit Bond, in an amount to be determined each Season by the Executive;

b) generally, a Forfeit Bond is kept by the Executive and is rolled over to following Seasons, and will be returned to a team that departs the League if this team does not violate the Forfeit Policy. This is not mandatory and a team is welcome to request this back at the

end of each Season, but will then be required to submit the forfeit bond the following Season;

- c) if a team forfeits fewer than three (3) Regular Season games, that team's full Forfeit Bond will be returned to the team at the end of the Season upon request;
- d) if a team forfeits three (3) or more Regular Season games, that team's full Forfeit Bond will be surrendered to the League, and they will be required to resubmit a new Forfeit Bond the following Season; and
- e) if a team communicates its intention to forfeit a game but the game would have been Rained Out if not forfeited, then the game is considered a Rain Out and not a forfeit, and will be rescheduled in accordance with Rain Out policies.

(9) Standings throughout a Season will be determined as follows:

- a) defeating a team within their division will award the winning team three (3) points;
- b) defeating a team one (1) division above theirs will award the winning team four (4) points;
- c) defeating a team one (1) division below theirs will award the winning team two (2) points; and
- d) if there is a tie, teams will get half as many points as if they had won. EG: A tie game between A4 and B2 results in one (1) point for A4 and two (2) points for B2.

5. Zero-Tolerance Alcohol Policy

(1) in accordance with BC's Liquor Control and Licensing Act, alcohol is not permitted to be consumed by players, coaches, managers or scorekeepers on or near

fields where the Mabel League holds playing permits. A good faith attempt must be made to request that guests and/or visitors also not consume alcohol on or near fields where the Mabel League holds playing permits:

- a) liquor Control and Licensing Act, Division 7 - General: Division 3 - Possession and Consumption of Liquor:

“Unlawful possession or consumption of liquor

(1) A person must not consume liquor, or possess liquor in an open container, in a place other than

(a) a residence,

(b) a private place,

(c) a service area in respect of which a licence, authorization or permit allows consumption,

(d) as provided under section 11,

(e) as provided under subsections (2) to (4) of this section,

(f) an assisted living residence, community care facility, hospital or other prescribed facility as provided in section 9, or

(g) in a liquor store as allowed under the Liquor Distribution Act.

(2) Subject to subsection (3) and the regulations, a municipality, a regional district or the Park Board, established under section 485 of the Vancouver Charter, may, by bylaw, designate a public place over which it has jurisdiction, or part of such a place, as a place where liquor may be consumed.

(3) A bylaw under subsection (2) must contain the hours during which liquor may be consumed.

(4) Without limiting subsection (2), regulations under that subsection may provide that a bylaw referred to in that subsection may not designate

(a) a specified public place, or

(b) a specified public place for a specified period of time.”

(2) a breach of the Zero-Tolerance Alcohol Policy will be dealt in accordance with Part 2, Section 2 (4) of the Mabel League Constitution and By-Laws.

6. Diversity and Inclusion Policy

(1) The Mabel League is committed to anti-oppressive and anti-discriminatory practices in relation to all people and will ensure that their rights are respected and protected.

(2) Please see the attached Schedule B for the Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

7. Umpires

(1) All Umpires will be the responsibility of the Umpire-in-Chief, in conjunction with the Vancouver Softball Umpires Association (VSUA).

(2) All Umpires must be certified and insured through SPN.

(3) To encourage the recruitment and retention of Umpires officiating for the Mabel League, the League will reimburse clinic and registration fees for all Umpires who officiate a minimum of five (5) Regular Season League games in the Season in which the clinic was taken:

- a) first year, Level one (1) Umpires will receive full reimbursement for both clinic and SPN Umpire registration fees;
- b) returning Umpires will receive reimbursement for clinic and registration fees up to a maximum of ninety dollars (\$90) per Umpire, regardless of level attained, after

officiating a minimum of five (5) Regular Season League games in the Season in which the clinic was taken;

- c) the Umpire is required to provide a written, detailed request for reimbursement, including the Umpire's name, address, phone number, clinic location, lead instructor and detailed breakdown of costs (i.e. registration fee, clinic fee, etc.). Upon verification by the UIC that the Umpire has officiated a minimum of five (5) Regular Season games that Season, a reimbursement cheque or electronic fund transfer will be issued; and
- d) fees will be reimbursed no later than at the Annual General Meeting following the end of the Season. Requests received after this date will not be considered, barring special circumstances.

8. Tournaments

(1) The playoff format will be decided by the Executive.

(2) Standings in each division's round robin will be determined as follows:

- a) by counting wins (three (3) points), ties (one (1) point), losses (zero (0) points) for each team;
- b) if multiple teams in a division are tied after (a), placement will be determined by comparing head-to-head competition for the tied teams. If there is not an equal comparison of head-to-head games for any of the teams involved in the tie, skip this comparison for all tied teams and go to tie-breaker rule in (c);
- c) if any teams in a division are tied after (b), placement will be determined by comparing the teams' run differentials to a maximum of ten (10) runs per game;

- d) if any teams in a division are tied after (c), placement will be determined by comparing runs against, to a maximum of a ten (10) run differential per game; and
- e) if any teams in a division are tied after (d), placement will be determined by a coin toss.

(3) Game scores will be reported as follows:

- a) the winning team is responsible for submitting game scores, which must be clearly signed off by each team's scorekeeper and must clearly show the runs scored in each inning by each team;
- b) discrepancies in game scores will only be considered if the game score has not been signed off by each team's scorekeeper and has not been submitted; and
- c) the method of reporting scores during tournaments will be decided by the Executive, and may include turning in scoresheets, submitting electronically, or other reasonable methods.

(4) Tournament Rain Out Procedure

- a) Rain Outs will be determined through coordination with the League's Umpire-In-Chief and the Umpire Association's head Umpire for the tournament; and
- b) when some diamonds are playable and some are not, priorities of games will be considered with these factors in mind:
 - (i) Where possible, ensuring teams play an equal amount of games; then
 - (ii) Consider standings and prioritize games that impact who will play in the finals.
 - 1. example 1: if four games are scheduled at the same time, but only one field is in "good condition" as deemed by the Umpire and the UIC to play, the game which will include team(s) who are "likely to make it to the

finals tournament" (as deemed by tournament seeding, confirmed by the Statistician), will be prioritized. If possible, based on Umpire and field availability, the games that are Rained Out will be rescheduled during the tournament timeframe. If multiple divisions have scheduled games where finals will be impacted, the game will be chosen fairly by coin toss or other such measures; no division's play will be prioritized over any other.

2. example 2: if four games are scheduled at the same time and two fields are in "good condition" as deemed by the Umpire and UIC to play but there is only one game that needs to be moved due to the teams being "likely to make it to the finals tournament" (as deemed by tournament seedings, confirmed by the statistician), the games that will be cancelled due to Rain Out will be chosen fairly by coin toss or other such measures; no division's play will be prioritized over any other.

c) if any team in any division is unable to play more than 2 scheduled games or if the finals games during a tournament are cancelled due to field or weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances deemed by the Executive, the finals games will be cancelled and all games that are able to be played will be for fun. Additionally, any prize(s), monetary or other, from said tournament will be donated to the community fund or other such initiatives as deemed appropriate by the Executive.

9. LIL Tournament

(1) In order to play in a final game in the LIL Tournament, a Mabel League player must have played at least one (1) game with that team during the tournament, or three (3) Regular Season games with that team.

(2) For teams outside of the Mabel League, in order to play in a final game in the LIL Tournament, a player must have played at least one (1) game with that team during the tournament.

10. Finals Tournament

(1) A Player must have played a minimum of five (5) Regular Season games for a team to be eligible to participate in the Finals Tournament for that team, or, in the case of an extenuating circumstance, provide a written exemption request at least one (1) week prior to the start of the tournament for Executive approval.

(2) The following prizes may be awarded for the Finals Tournament:

- a) finals Tournament standings: first (1st) & second (2nd) place in each Division; and
- b) additional/alternate awards may be presented at the discretion of the Executive, including cash, gift certificates and gifts within reason considering the Mabel League budget.

11. Executive Member Roles and Job Descriptions

(1) The Directors and Officers of the League will constitute the Executive. The number and roles of the Executive may be changed from time to time as necessary, as decided by the current Executive. As of 2026, there are fourteen (14) Directors and Officers elected at the AGM in the following positions:

- a) Chair;

- b) Co-Chair;
- c) Treasurer;
- d) Registrar;
- e) Secretary;
- f) Umpire in Chief (UIC);
- g) Scheduler;
- h) Statistician;
- i) Fields;
- j) Events
- k) Social Media; and
- l) Member at Large (MAL):
 - (i) Mabel History;
 - (ii) Clinics;
 - (iii) Sponsorships

(2) Please see the attached Schedule A for the current job descriptions and responsibilities for the Executive roles.

12. Subcommittees

(1) DEI Committee;

- a) will be formed annually at the first League Committee Meeting;
- b) will be chaired by the Co-Chair and consist of the Co-Chair and one (1) or more other Members, who will be appointed by the Executive, and will ideally consist of members from each division;

- c) will consider and promote DEI initiatives within the League;
- d) will develop and adopt equity guidelines for recruiting new players that prioritize the recruitment of BIPOC folks; and
- e) the membership of the sub-committee will aim to be composed of BIPOC folks, and will prioritize committee membership based on this need.

(2) Rules & Grievance Committee:

- a) will be formed annually at the first League Committee Meeting;
- b) will be chaired by the UIC and consist of the UIC, Co-Chair and one (1) or more other Members, who will be appointed by the Executive;
- c) will consider and rule on all grievances and protests, including regarding player eligibility;
- d) will monitor and take steps, on its own initiative, to ensure general compliance with the Rules and spirit of the League; and
- e) if a grievance/protest involves the team of a member of the Rules & Grievance Committee, that person must withdraw from considering that grievance/protest.

(3) Other Committees:

- a) other committees may be created at time of need at the discretion of the Executive.

13. Contribution Award

(1) The number of Contribution Points that will be awarded for each activity will be determined by the Executive prior to teams or Members volunteering for activities.

(2) For greater clarity, Contribution Points may be awarded for activities where a team keeps money earned (i.e. raffles).

(3) All Contribution Points awarded throughout the year will be summed up and each team's earned proportion calculated. The total Contribution Award available will be divided proportionally among all teams by their proportion of earned Contribution Points. This Award will be offered as a discount on Mabel League Fees for the next Season. The total amount of the Contribution Award will be determined by the next Season's Executive when producing the League budget.

14. General

(1) In the event that field usage rights are challenged, the field permits will be made available to all Mabel League teams.

(2) Each team must use a proper score book and clearly indicate players' first and last names.

(3) The League will budget a meal allowance of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per person per meeting for Executive meetings.

(4) Ticket prices for any League or LIL Tournament social events will be on a sliding scale where possible, prioritizing financial accessibility, except where the event is hosted by an external venue/organization with a fixed ticket price (ie. a sporting event).