

**MINNESOTA
SENIOR MEN'S AMATEUR
BASEBALL ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED**

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
AND
STATE TOURNAMENT RULES
2019**



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Troy Mahoney cell (612) 207-3288
909 Trellis Street Ets 3-15-2022
Jordan, MN 55352
troymahoney88@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Brad Busch cell (612) 644-5160
105 Mill Street home (952) 492-2521
Jordan MN 55352 Ets 3-15-2021
buschwack2001@yahoo.com

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Jeff Knutson
6111 Kerry Court cell (507) 469-0691
Madison Lake MN 56063 Ets 3-15-2020
jeffk@saintpetermn.gov

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER

Lynn Schwarz home (507) 388-3442
240 Stoltzman Road Ets 3-15-2020
Mankato, MN 56001
schsulyn@hickorytech.net

LEAGUE DIRECTORS

Sam Baumgartner
P.O. Box 418
Lake Crystal, MN 56055
buckhunter222@yahoo.com

cell (507) 360-4512
Ets 3-15-2020

Mike Grossman
708 Prairie Street
Northfield, MN 55057
mgrossman1@charter.net

cell (507) 321-1484
home (507) 645-6521
Ets 3-15-2021

D.J. Noyes
848 Forest Edge Drive
Jordan MN 55352
noyesdj@gmail.com

cell 952-237-7472
Ets 3-15-2021

Neil Kulevsky
Saint Louis Park
nkulevsky@gmail.com

cell 651-334-9818
Ets 3-15-2022

Dave Hjelm
903 4th Ave N
Wheaton MN 56296
ffriverdogs@gmail.com

cell 218-295-4467
Ets 3-15-2022

LEAGUE SECRETARIES

NORTHWEST MINNESOTA LEAGUE

David Hansen

cell (218) 731-6970

215 64th Avenue SE

Elbow Lake, MN 56531

dave@hansenelevatorservice.com

RIVER VALLEY LEAGUE

Ken Schmidt

cell (507) 351-4956

10 West Spors Street

Le Center, MN 56057

507-357-4435

cls@frontiernet.net

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
MINNESOTA SENIOR MEN'S
AMATEUR
BASEBALL ASSOCIATION**

Article 1 NAME:

The organization shall be known as the Minnesota Senior Men's Amateur Baseball Association. The home office shall be the home of the State Secretary.

Article 2 PURPOSE:

The purpose of the organization shall be:

1. To encourage and offer a baseball program for persons 35years of age and older.
2. To establish special rules for league and state play.
3. To provide annual state tournaments to determine state champions.

Article 3 MEMBERSHIP:

Any baseball leagues are eligible for membership providing said leagues are in good standing and comply with the rules set forth by this organization.

Article 4 GOVERNMENT:

1. The governing board shall consist of nine (9) board members. Six board members shall be elected from at-large membership. Three board members shall be representatives of each of the individual leagues in the association. The Board members shall elect an Executive Committee and those members shall be: the President, the Vice President and the Secretary.
2. Each board member shall be elected to a term of three (3) years.
3. Elections for board members will be held at the annual winter meeting on the 1st Saturday in March of each year.

4. At the annual winter meeting, one (1) representative from each MSMSABA approved league, together with present board members, shall have voting rights. Members must be present to vote.
5. Immediately following the state meeting, the board shall meet to elect one board member to each of the government positions for the following year.
6. A quorum shall be constituted if any five (5) of the state board members are present at any regularly called meeting.
7. The State Board shall have the power to adjust matters at any meeting to best serve the interest of the Minnesota Senior Men's Amateur Baseball Association.

Article 5 AMENDMENTS
RULES CHANGES

1. Proposed amendments and rule changes must be submitted to the state, through the league representatives prior to February 15th of the current year.
2. A copy of the agenda for the state meeting shall be made available to each representative in good standing prior to the state meeting.
3. Proposed amendments on the agenda shall be acted on at the annual meeting. Proposed amendments shall require a 2/3 majority of eligible voters present for passage.

Article 6 BY-LAWS:

1. Only organized leagues consisting of four or more teams are eligible for membership.
2. Only teams who play a minimum of 8 scheduled season games in an MSMABA organized league will be eligible for state tournament play.

3. Membership shall be voluntary and once accepted, each league and its officials shall agree to abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the state board.

4. Each league shall be clearly defined and registered with the state association by June 15th to be eligible for state tournament play. Leagues or teams withdrawing during the season shall not be eligible for the state tournament.

5. Annual dues to the state association shall consist of \$300 per team. State dues must be paid before June 1st and the state tournament entry fee of \$350 before July 15th for teams to be eligible for the state tournament.

6. *Insurance:* Each player participating in the program shall be responsible for their own health and accident insurance. The State and League Association officers, and directors shall not be held

responsible or assume liability for any illness, accidents, or injury to participants or fans.

7. Team protests or appeals during the regular season shall not be heard by the state board. Each league shall adopt a policy for deciding protests during its season.

8. During state tournament play, protests shall be resolved by the state board members at hand and during the game if possible by suspending the game and delivering a ruling before play is resumed.

Article 7 ELIGIBILITY AND CONDUCT:

1. All players are required to be 35 years of age or older by December 31st of the current year and be willing to provide proof of age at each game.

2. Any professional baseball player, coach, batting practice pitcher, or manager shall be inactive for at least 3-years before playing in the MSMABA.

3. No former Major League pitcher shall be allowed to pitch in the MSMABA.
4. No player may be paid for their services or accept any form of gratuity.
5. Each player must sign a MSMABA contract before playing in any league game.
6. No player's release or contract may be signed after June 30th and before September 1st of the current season.
7. The Minnesota Senior Men's Amateur Baseball Association fully endorses the Minnesota Baseball Association and encourages players to remain active in the MBA until released. Any player while under contract or rostered with the MBA shall not be permitted to play in the Senior Men's Association.

Therefore any player who plays in any MBA League game during the Senior Men's season shall not be allowed to play in a MSMABA League game until obtaining a proper release. The release must be signed and dated by the Minnesota Baseball Association. Said player must then sign a Senior Men's contract, and file both the release and the contract with their respective league secretary before playing in a league game.

Exception: Two (2) MBA players per MSMABA team between the ages of 40 and 49 will be allowed to play and play any position. MBA players, age 50 and above, are all eligible. Any such MBA player must be identified on both his contract and team's roster as an amateur player.

All other contracts and releases shall be in the hands of each league secretary by June 30th. No release or contract shall be recognized beyond that date. Any team who plays an illegal or ineligible

player during the regular season shall forfeit all games in which said player participates and the team may be disqualified from participating in the state tournament. Any team who plays an illegal player in the state tournament shall forfeit all games in which said player participates and may be disqualified from further play. In the case of an age infraction, the player involved shall incur a penalty of at least one year beyond eligibility for each year of the infraction.

8. Home field and dugout selection: During State Tournament play the home team and dugout shall be at the discretion of the highest ranking team.

9. Players must have appeared in the line-up (offensive or defensive line up) of at least 3 league games during the regular season to be eligible for state tournament play.

10. Players shall wear a complete uniform during

State Tournament play. This includes a cap, numbered jersey, and full length pants. No player shall be allowed to play in shorts or cut-offs during the regular season. Defensive players shall be required to wear caps or helmets while on the field, Coaches shall be required to wear caps or helmets in the coach's box. All offensive players shall wear approved helmets while on the bases.

11. Players shall not consume alcoholic beverages before or during the game. Players under the influence shall not be allowed to participate in the game. Smoking shall not be allowed in dugouts or in sight of fans.

12. Good sportsmanship and conduct by gentlemen on and off the field is a mark of distinction.

13. *The MSMABA expects that the players and coaches associated with our organization will conduct themselves in a proper manner at all times (before, during and after). Should the conduct of a player or a team come into question a review by the*

three (3) League Presidents (River Valley, Central and Northwest) will be conducted to determine if a player or team is to face further disciplinary action.

The three (3) League Presidents will review the situation presented and will make a recommendation to the MSMABA Board of Directors for action. The Board President will inform the player or team of the decision and action to be enforced.

If a player is ejected from a game, they will be ineligible (suspended) for the remainder of the game plus one additional game which is the next scheduled game for their first offense of the season (1+1). For the second offense, the suspension is six games (1+6); for the third offense, the suspension is 12 calendar months.

Any physical altercation will result in an immediate suspension for 12 calendar months and reinstatement will be considered once the suspended member has appeared before the Board of Directors and requested re-instatement; any physical altercation involving an umpire will result in

an immediate suspension for 24 calendar months, and reinstatement will only occur after the member presents himself to the Board of Directors at an official Board Meeting and receives approval by vote of the majority of Board of Directors members in attendance.

Article 10 TEAMS:

1. Each team roster is allowed twenty (20) players, a team roster may reach (25) players providing that 5 players are 50 years of age or older. Each roster must be certified by the manager of the team and by the secretary of their league. No substitutions will be allowed. Such lists must be made available to the team manager of competing teams during the state tournament games.

Article 11 PLAYER CONTRACTS:

1. All players must sign permanent individual player contracts before they participate as players in any

game with a team affiliated with the MSMABA. Once signing a contract, said player cannot participate with any other team, until properly released by his team under the conditions set out under these by-laws.

2. No team shall sign a player to a contract who does not present a release from another team, unless they have not been under an association contract in the previous year. Any player jumping a contract or signing a second contract with another team without a proper release, shall cause his team to forfeit all games in which he participates. The player shall be suspended from participation with any team in any league in the MSMABA for the remainder of the season, unless earlier reinstated by the State Board.

Article 12 PLAYER RELEASES:

No player once signed to a team contract, shall participate with another team until they have been duly released by proper authority unless they have not been under contract for the previous year. This includes the Minnesota Baseball Association. Any player failing to meet these requirements shall cause their team to forfeit all league and state tournament games in which they participate.

Article 13 RULES:

- 1. American league rules shall apply unless superseded by state rules.*
- 2. Only games played under the rules of the Minnesota Senior Men's Amateur Baseball Association shall be used to determine league standings.*
- 3. Seven innings shall constitute a completed MSMABA game.*
- 4. Full Count Baseball is the rule. Exception: During the regular season, if both managers agree, hitters may begin their turn at bat, with a count of one ball and one strike. If the managers can't agree, full count is the default.*
- 5. Re-entry Offensive: A manager may substitute for and later re-enter any starting or substitute player in the line-up, including the DH, the re-entered player must return to his original position*

in the batting order. Once a player is removed from the line-up for the second time, they can no longer be re-entered.

6. Courtesy or Pinch Runner: A player not currently in the batting line-up may be used as a substitute runner once and only once during a game. Teams who can field only 8, 9, or 10 players and are using all available players in the offensive line-up may use the player who is most distant in the batting order as a runner [once]. Each subsequent runner must be the next in line. Running for the catcher or any other designated player is not an automatic option.

Being used as a courtesy runner does not count as being used in the line-up. Any player having been used as a courtesy or pinch runner may only enter the game a second time in the offensive lineup as a hitter or as a pinch hitter. However, once established in the batting order he may also re-enter one time as a runner for his pinch hitter.

7. Intentional walks: Pitchers are not required to throw all pitches to intentionally walk a batter.

8. Legal line-up: Nine players shall constitute a legal line-up. Exception: teams may play with as few as eight players in all games during the regular season and (1) game in post season play without penalty. In all subsequent games the ninth position in the batting order shall be considered an automatic out, unless the 8th player receives a walk. In the case of a bonafide injury, teams may continue the game with 8 players without penalty.

An injured 9th player who misses their turn at bat may not be re-entered. Teams may insert a late arriving 9th player into the line-up. However, if he misses his first turn at bat the team shall be charged with playing with eight and any future games played with 8 players will incur an automatic out for the missing 9th player.

9. Extra (Designated) Hitter: Managers may elect to use up to 10 players in the offensive line up during state tournament games. Teams must establish either a 9 or 10 man batting rotation at the start of the game. The batting line-up may not be expanded or reduced during the course of the game. Batters are locked into the line-up and no amount of multiple substitutions can alter the batting order.

Nine position players plus the E. H. if the 10th batter line-up is reduced for any reason the team shall incur an automatic out for the missing batter unless the previous batter receives a walk. Normal re-entry, substitutions and courtesy runner rules shall apply. There will be unlimited defensive substitutions. A team may play with as few as 8 defensive players.

10. Must avoid contact: It shall be primarily the runner's responsibility to avoid contact with the defensive player making the play. The runner shall attempt to avoid the defensive player or slide directly to the base. If his failure to do so results in a collision with that player, he shall be called out. If the runner

makes any attempt to hinder the completion of a double play, both he and the other runner on whom the play most likely would have been made, shall be called "out." In all such cases the ball is dead, runners may not advance, and no runs may have scored as a result of his action.

Catchers must allow a sliding lane. If a runner attempts to slide directly to home plate and is completely blocked from reaching the base, the umpire may call the runner safe if in his judgement he was not allowed a sliding lane.

11. Obstruction and Decoy: Defensive players may not "obstruct" the runner or "decoy" the runner into an unnecessary slide. If a defensive player feigning to have the ball, or feigning to be catching it, causes a runner to slide or stop at a base unnecessarily, the umpire shall call "obstruction" or "decoy." Each base runner shall be awarded one additional base. The ball is dead and no runners may be put out as a result of his action.

12. Flagrancy: Any deliberate attempt to injure an opponent by either the offense or the defense shall be cause for immediate ejection and if applicable, also be called out.

13. Caps-Helmets: Each defensive player, along with coaches shall wear caps or helmets when in view of fans. Catchers shall be required to wear approved protective head gear

14. Warm up pitches: Pitchers will be allowed only five (5) warm-up pitches when entering the game from the bench and between innings. Pitchers will be allowed as many pitches as the umpire deems necessary in the event of an injury, or when entering from the field.

15. 10-Run Rule: During State Tournament games if a team has an advantage of ten or more runs, all games shall be shortened to 5 innings; 7 innings for scheduled nine inning games, except the championship game in all classes.

16. Suspended Games: If a game is suspended for any reason before it is official, (4 ½ innings) the game shall

be played from the point of suspension. All games in the championship rounds may be resumed and completed if time allows and with the approval of state officials.

17. Tie Breakers: All State Tournament games [other than those in the championship rounds in all classes] shall implement a tie breaker after the 9th inning. At the beginning of the 10th inning, teams will be allowed to place either their 8th, 9th or 10th batter at second base as a runner. Each team will begin the 10th inning at the top of the batting order. At the start of each subsequent inning the batting order shall continue and the runner placed at second base shall be the player whose turn is most distant in the batting order. Leagues may adopt similar tie breaking procedures during the regular season.

18. Protests: During the state tournament, protests shall be resolved by the state board members during the game if possible. A ruling should be made before play is resumed. (Leagues have an arbitration committee)

19. Insurance and contracts: All players will be required to provide their own insurance and sign a contract, which includes a waiver of claims against their league and its members, and the State Association and its officers and members.

20. Helmets: Officials shall require all players to wear approved helmets when batting and while running the bases. Teams shall receive one warning for players discarding their helmets while running. There-after violating players shall be called out (No penalty shall be assessed to batters for pitches taken by mistake without compliance) Catchers shall be required to wear approved protective head gear.

21: Bat boys and girls: All children including bat boys and girls shall be required to wear protective head gear when in the dugouts or on the field.

22. Approved bats: Only approved wood composite, wood, or wood barrel/metal handle bats may be used.

23. Approved baseballs: Only MSMABA approved baseballs shall be used: Rawlings ROLB, Diamond Pro 1, Diamond D-1, and Wilson A1010