

# Milan Fastpitch League By-laws

## **Article I – League Name:**

QC Milan Area Girls Softball Association (MAGS) is to be referred to herein as the “League”.

## **Article II – Mission Statement:**

First and foremost no sponsorships are given, no monies awarded, all players are considered amateurs, the board members and coaching staff are all volunteers. The League’s main focus is to promote the development of skills, positive competitive attitude, self-confidence, and the principals of teamwork, character, & respect.

## **Article III - Liability and Protection:**

This League, being of a recreational nature and those who participate recognize the hazards associated with such participation, shall in no way hold the League or their representatives liable for any injury, or damage as a result of their participation in this League.

## **Article IV – Incorporation:**

The League is incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois as a non-profit civic and charitable organization, and ASA tax-exempt organization under Sec. 501(3) of the IRS Code.

## **Article V – Dissolution:**

In the event of dissolution of the League, the assets of the League will be distributed to the Village of Milan Parks District, to be used for the betterment of youth facilities in the Village.

## **Article VI Board Positions:**

**Board Members shall at all times conduct themselves in a professional manner and in a manner which does not reflect poorly on the League or bring discredit to the Village of Milan, League or its Members.**

- **President:**
  - Presides over all League meetings.
  - Non-voting member of all committees unless deadlocked.
  - Liaison between League and Village of Milan.
  - Ensure and maintain compliance of the leagues 501(c) status as well as compliance with all Federal, State and Local laws.
  - Reviews financial reports with the Vice President and approves all payments.
  - Monthly review bank statements and payables.
  - Perform routine audits with the assistance of the Vice President of all financials and report findings at scheduled meetings.
- **Vice President:**
  - Has the authority to act in the President’s absence.
  - In the absence of the President can conduct all business.
  - Organize and implement player and coach clinics.
  - Schedule and keep record of attendance for clean-up days and MIP events.
  - Reviews financial reports with the President and approves all payments.
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  - Perform routine audits with the assistance of the President of all financials and report findings at scheduled meetings.
  - Oversee all committees.
  - Reviews all background checks.
- **Secretary:**
  - Takes minutes at meetings
  - Handles League correspondence

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- o Insures those voting are in accordance with League bi-laws.
- **Treasurer:**
  - o Manage all League finances and accounts.
  - o Manage all receivables and payables then presents the findings to the President and Vice President.
  - o Two board members required to authorize any payments and / or deposits.
  - o Financial reporting and present all statements to the board during scheduled meeting dates.
  - o Maintain necessary records and submit reports as required by the state and federal government for the preservation of the league's status as a nonprofit organization.
  - o Fill out and submit all forms needed to federal and state government.
  - o Present all bank statements and ledgers at meetings.
- **Managers Select Committee:**
  - o Performs year-end review of all Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Managers.
  - o Makes recommendations and reports findings to board.
  - o Handle all disciplinary issues throughout the season.
  - o Has the authority to remove any volunteer at any time by majority vote of the committee.
  - o The Managers Select Committee will be appointed by the League Board.
- **Draft Committee:**
  - o Headed by the Vice President.
  - o Organize both draft days.
  - o Organize and schedule sign up days and times.
  - o 3 members of the committee.
  - o In charge of balancing age groups during the draft to eliminate team stacking.
- **Concession stand committee:**
  - o Hire concession stand workers
  - o The League will pay the cost of obtaining a Sanitization License.
  - o A board member will be in charge of the concession stand committee
  - o Committee will also be in charge of all deposits.
  - o Concession stand manager will be in charge of maintaining inventory
- **Fiscal Year.**
  - o Will be from August 1 thru July 31
- **Removal / resignation:**
- The Board may remove from office any board or committee member or accept the resignation of any board or committee member at any time.
- The board at their discretion may appoint an interim member until yearly elections are held.

## **Article VII - Bi-law Review:**

- Change request to the By-laws can be made by any member in good standing who can vote during a scheduled meeting.
- The change will be discussed and voted on during the meeting that it was presented regardless of the number of members in attendance.
- In the result of the change being ratified during the meeting that change will take effect immediately thereafter.
- Each failed proposed change will not be able to be brought before the board for discussion until the beginning of the next fiscal year.

## **Article VIII - Meetings:**

- Those present will comprise a quorum at regular league meetings.
- Special meetings can be called by the President or Vice President.

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- The August Meeting will be held on the first Sunday in August.
  - Elections for board positions will be held at the August meeting.
- MIP Months will meet on the second Sunday of the month.
- IF a holiday falls on the meeting date the meeting will be moved to the next Sunday.
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## **Article IX - Voting:**

- Each team will have a maximum of 1 vote on motions or during elections.
  - In order to vote each member must meet the following:
    - Attend at least 50% of all scheduled meetings.
    - Attend all coaches' clinics.
    - Attend all clean up days.
    - Attend all fundraising activities.
    - Attend sign up days.
    - Attend draft day.
    - Or send representative for each member

## **Article X – Code of Conduct:**

- There shall be certain standards of conduct associated with and expected from any person involved with a team. Teams will be held responsible for their followers. A player, manager, coach, parent, or person connected with a team shall not commit acts that are in violation with the Code of Ethics or the League's Coach's Contract.
- In the event of such violation of conduct, the umpire and/or other official will immediately make a report to the Board or Managers Select Committee for further consideration regarding the status of the offending person or team.
- Each member of the Board and the Managers Select Committee shall be considered an "official" person in accordance with the above item. Any field suspensions will remain in effect until reviewed by the Managers Select Committee. The Managers Select committees decision is final.
- Any applicant for any type of a coaching position must not have previously displayed any un-sportsman-like conduct or any other conduct that does not meet with the Code of Ethics outlined below.
- The following is the League's Coach's Code of Ethics:
  - Managers, Coaches, Assistant Coaches and parents will treat players, coaches, parents, umpires, administrators, and opponents with respect and dignity.
  - Managers, Coaches, Assistant Coaches and parents will never physically or verbally abuse players, coaches, umpires, Board members, spectators or opponents regardless of the situation.
  - Managers, Coaches, Assistant Coaches will strive for improvement by positive reinforcement.
  - Managers, Coaches, Assistant Coaches will treat all players equally. Will conduct practices and games so that all players have the opportunity to improve their skill level thru active participation.
  - Managers, Coaches, Assistant Coaches must understand that if violations to this Code of Ethics occur the Managers Select Committee finds after review that any violation(s) did occur, the coaching staff will be subject to dismissal from their respective positions immediately.

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## **Article XI - Coaches responsibilities:**

- All coaches must abide by the “Coaches Code of Ethics as outlined previously within this document.
- Attend preseason meetings, player evaluations, clean up days, fund raising events and coaches’ clinics.
- Teach and implement the appropriate division level “Player Expectations” as outlined by the League.
- To demonstrate the highest standard of sportsmanship for the benefit of their team regarding the umpires.
- Coaches are to address the umpires politely and constructively at all times and will communicate with the umpires only to:
  - Determine the nature of the call (safe/out, strike/ball, count, etc.)
  - Ask the umpire to speak up if the coach cannot hear.
- Coaches will not challenge a call made by an umpire at the time of the call.
  - A coach seeking a better understanding of a rule may ask permission to speak with the umpire between innings provided such communication does not interfere with the flow of the game. It is preferred that such communication involve the opposing head coach as well.
  - Coaches questioning an umpire’s call will communicate with the Managers Select Committee after the completion of the game. The Managers Select Committee will involve the Umpire-in-Chief to provide any necessary communication or clarification to the umpire and coaches.
- Unless as part of an approved communication outlined above, coaches will not leave the bench/dugout area or coach’s box at any time to communicate with or confront an umpire, and will not make nor tolerate from players or parents, negative comments and gestures about the umpire or the call in question.
  - For the first offense, the coach will be suspended for the next game.
  - For the second offense, the coach will be suspended and possibly dismissed from their position with the team.

## **Article XII - Suspension/Dismissal**

- When coaches are not adhering to league rules, and/or complaints have been registered with the League, member of the Managers Select Committee will meet with the individual(s) involved to resolve all such situations.
- If compliance is not met by the individual(s), or additional complaints come to the attention of the League, the matter will be brought before the Managers Select Committee for review and a decision on the appropriate corrective action will be made.

## **Article XIII - Player Disciplinary Action**

- When a persistent or significant player problem arises, the head coach’s first responsibility is to communicate with the player and their parent(s) guardian(s) to correct the problem. If the problem persists, the head coach should consult with the Board and the Managers Select Committee.
- If it is determined that removal of the player from the league is required, such notification will be made by the President directly to the player’s parent(s) or guardian(s). The player, through her adult parent(s) or guardian(s), will have the option to request a hearing. There will be no refund of fees to a player removed for disciplinary reasons.

## **Article XIV – Draft and Teams**

- All girls who try out will be drafted first. The names of the girls who did not try out will be randomly assigned to team(s).
- NO Hardships
- Siblings of the player drafted will count as subsequent pick(s) in the following draft round(s).
- The League shall consist of teams of up to 12 players on each team. Any alteration in the number of teams or players per team shall be decided by the Board.
- The Board will establish a skill demonstration / draft date for all registrants as soon as possible after the final registration date.

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- At the skills demonstration, all girls will be rated on their ability to throw, field, bat, and any other skill deemed necessary.
- Teams will be picked based upon a draft system. Coaches' daughters shall be assigned to her parent's team.
- Sisters shall be placed on the same Team, unless her parent(s) shall specifically request otherwise.
- Requests to play on specific teams will not be granted.
- Anyone not signing up to play before the draft date will be randomly assigned to a team by board.
- A spot on the roster will not be held for any player not signing up by the announced skill demonstration / draft date.
- The Board is hereby empowered to modify these draft procedures in the event of an increase or decrease in the number of teams within a division or in the event of a realignment of the Membership.
- Players returning to the same division have the option to return to the team they played with the previous year. Any player not wanting to return to their previous team will have to enter the draft.

## Article XV - Rules

The League shall follow ASA Fastpitch rules with the following inclusions / exceptions:

- No intentional walks.
- No pinch runners unless due to injury sustained during that game and the injured player will be removed from the batting order for the remainder of that game day.
- No penalty or minimum number of players needed to field a game.
- Game time limit of 1 hour and 15 minutes.
  - o The game will start with the first pitch thrown.
  - o The umpires clock will considered the official time of the game.
- Distance to pitcher's mound:
  - o 12U – 40 feet
  - o 17U – 43 feet
- Ball size
  - o Juniors 11" ball
  - o Seniors 12" ball
- During tournament play only; a coach can call up girl(s) from a younger league as needed to fill empty spots on the normal season roster, unless the team has enough regular season players to field all positions.
  - o Any girl(s) called up will bat at the bottom of the order.
  - o If a regular team player shows up before the team has batted thru the order she can be added to the bottom of the lineup.
- Base runners must try to avoid collision if a defensive play is being made at that base. If the runner remains upright and crashes into the defensive player it shall be deemed interference and the runner will be called out.
- Run limits per game:
  - o For all age groups there will be a 5 run limit per team per inning during the first 3 innings.
    - An 8 run limit per team during inning 4 and beyond during normal game play for the senior league only.
- 10 and 15 run rules:
  - o Either team wins if ahead by 15 runs after 3 innings.
    - Either team wins if ahead by 10 runs after 5 innings'.
    - If the game ends due to the above rules, but there is still time remaining the teams may continue to play at the discretion of the coaches. The score will be recorded as it was at the time the run rule was invoked.
- Tie breaker:
  - o Tournament - the end of regulation play and the score is tied the International Tie Breaker rule goes into effect: At the start of the inning, the last batter to make an out in the previous inning is placed on second. At least one full inning will be played, allowing each team the same chance to score. If the score remains tied, the process will continue until a winner is declared.

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- o Regular season – 1 inning ends in a tie
- A game will be considered complete after 3 innings.
- Each team will be responsible for cleaning up their respective areas before leaving the diamond.
- At the end of the last game each team will also be responsible for:
  - o Removing bases and installing plugs in the field. – home team
  - o Picking up all trash and debris from their respective bleachers.
- All gear will be turned in directly after the team's last game of the season. Any coach not turning gear in directly after the game will be charged a dollar per day fine.
- Any player who becomes pregnant shall not be allowed to continue to play softball during her pregnancy. The league will not be responsible for any injury, illness or complication resulting from participation in League sponsored softball activities.
- No player will set two consecutive innings.