

Milan Fastpitch League By-laws

Article I – League Name:

Milan Girls Fastpitch Softball is to be referred to herein as the “League”

Article II – Mission Statement

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

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, a 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 Advisory Board:

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

- **General Managers:**

- Appointed by the Village of Milan.
- Authorize and disperse all monies.
- All federal and state reporting obligations.
- Appoints board members.
- Liaison between League and Village of Milan
- Oversees the concession stand
- Tree farm

- **Advisory Board Members:**

- Preside over all League meetings.
- Non-voting member of all committees unless deadlocked.
- Organize and implement player and coach clinics.
- Schedule and keep record of attendance for clean-up days and League events.
- Oversee all committees.
- Reviews all background checks.
- Handles League correspondence.
- Takes minutes at all meetings.

- **Managers Select Committee:**

- Performs year-end review of all Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Managers.
- Makes recommendations and reports findings to board.
- Handle all disciplinary issues throughout the season.
- Has the authority to remove any volunteer at any time by majority vote of the committee.
- The Managers Select Committee will be appointed by the Advisory Board.

- **Fiscal Year.**

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- Will be from August 1 thru July 31

- **Removal / resignation:**

- The General Managers may remove from office any board or committee member or accept the resignation of any board or committee member at any time.

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 at a general meeting and voted on by the board members.
- In the result of the change being ratified 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 General Managers or the Board
- General meetings will be held as needed and coaches will be given at least 1 week's notice of meeting times/ locations..

Article IX – Coaches' Qualifications:

- All head and assistant coaches must be at least 18 years of age.

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 Manager's Select Committee for further consideration regarding the status of the offending person or team.
- Each member of the Board and the Manager's 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 Manager's Select Committee. The Managers Select committee's decision is final.
- Any applicant for any type of a coaching position must not have previously displayed any unsportsmanlike 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:

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- 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. Chants/cheers used by teams should be positive and shall not be directed at personnel from the other team including batters, pitchers, etc. No member of a team including but not limited to coaches, players and other dugout personnel will be allowed to make negative comments directed to/about the other team or single out players from the other team at any point before, during or after a game.
- 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 through active participation.
- Managers, Coaches, Assistant Coaches must understand that if violations to this Code of Ethics occur the Managers Select Commit finds after review that any violation(s) did occur, the coaching staff will be subject to dismissal from their respective positions immediately.

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, fundraising 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 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 Manager’s Select Committee after the completion of the game. The Manager’s Select Committee will

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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. In addition players, parents and other spectators, shall not direct negative comments and gestures at 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, the Manager's 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 Manager's 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 Manager's 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 are moving up or new to the league will be randomly assigned to team(s).
- No Hardships
- 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 pitching and catchers only after the final registration date.
- 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.

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- All players may only play for MGF and cannot play for competing leagues, including but not limited to, travel ball, ASA and other rec leagues.
- 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 for Juniors and Seniors

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

- **No intentional walks.**
 - First offense the coach will meet with the board.
 - Second offense the coach will no longer be allowed to coach a team.
- **Pinch or Courtesy runner:**
 - **May only be used in the case of illness, injury or other medical reason** (such as heat exhaustion, inability to breathe or for the safety of the player)
 - The girl who made the last out will be designated as the courtesy runner.
 - Violations of this rule will result in:
 - First offense the coach will meet with the board.
 - Second offense the coach will no longer be allowed to coach a team.
- No penalty or minimum number of players needed to field a game (a team can play with the number of players who show up for the game regardless of whether this satisfies the suggested number of players for the level of play).
- Game time limit of 1 hour and 15 minutes.
 - The game will start with the first pitch thrown.
 - The umpires clock will be considered the official time of the game.
 - The score at the end of the previous inning will be considered the final score at the time limit
 - If time expires and batting has not been completed for both teams during the current inning, if one team has more than a 5 run lead and the other team cannot catch up even if they completed their batting, time will be called when time expires even if this is part way through the current inning. If there is less than a 5 run lead then the teams will complete the inning with teams batting. The inning will be considered complete if both teams have completed their at bats and there is at least a 1 point lead or may be ended when a lead has been established that the other team cannot overcome.
- Distance to pitcher's mound:
 - 12U – 40 feet
 - 17U – 43 feet
- Ball size
 - Juniors 11" ball
 - Seniors 12" ball
- During tournament and regular season play 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.
 - Any girl(s) called up will bat at the bottom of the order.
 - If a regular team player shows up before the team lineup has been distributed she can be added to the bottom of the lineup.

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- After lineup cards have been distributed no additions will be allowed
- 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:
 - For all age groups there will be a 5 run limit per team per inning.
- 10 and 15 run rules:
 - 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 and umpires. The score will be recorded as it was at the time the run rule was invoked.
- Tie breaker:
 - At 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 legal batter to make an out in the previous inning is placed on second base. One full inning will be played, allowing each team the same chance to score. If the score remains tied, the team with the most defensive outs scored during the game will be the winner. If both teams have the same amount of defensive outs the outcome of the game will be decided by a coin toss performed by the plate umpire.
- 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:
 - Removing bases and installing base plugs, raking and tamping the batter's box and pitching areas on the field and locking the shed as well as all equipment in the shed after the final game of the night. – home team for the final game of the night
 - All teams - picking up all trash and debris from their respective bleachers.
- All gear and keys 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 sit out two consecutive innings unless due to extenuating circumstances such as illness or injury.
- No metal cleats allowed.

Article XVI – Rules for Peewees

- Minimum age for any player 4 years old by January 1st.
- 11-inch safety ball will be used in all practices and games.
- Coaches will keep track of outs and runs scored per inning.
- 3 outs or 5 runs whichever comes first.

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- Time limit of all games to be one hour.
- All ties will be decided by a coin flip.
- Each batter will be pitched up to five balls and swing from a tee until hit fair.
- No stealing bases.
- One base on an overthrow.
- All girls will bat and field.
- All girls will rotate through positions.
- Seven infield positions.
- Outfield positions will be required to be behind the baseline
- Pitcher will be required to be behind the chalked line in the pitcher's circle
- Line will be chalked in a 3-foot radius in front of homeplate. Balls hit past this line will be considered in play.