

# MARLTON TOURNAMENT BASEBALL

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If you have any questions concerning Marlton Tournament Baseball or any of the information set forth in this document, please contact:

MRC Tournament Baseball Coordinator  
**E-mail:** [tournament@marltonbaseball.org](mailto:tournament@marltonbaseball.org)

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## Objectives and Goals

The objective of the Marlton Tournament Baseball Program (“Program”) is to provide children who participate in the Marlton Recreation Council, (“MRC”), in-town, baseball program with an opportunity to compete at a higher level of competitive baseball. We have a **Double-Goal** approach. While winning district championships and tournaments are the inherent goal of the Program, those goals are balanced with player development, lessons of sportsmanship, the thrill of participation, and the continued proud representation of the MRC and Marlton Baseball.

## General Policies: Time and Participation Commitment Obligations

1. To field one or more competitive, tournament teams for play in Cal Ripken, Babe Ruth and independent tournament and travel play at each of the following age groups: Cal Ripken 8, 9 10, 11 and 12; Babe Ruth 13, 14 and 15.
2. Tournament teams, including all the coaches, players and parents, are the public face of the MRC, Marlton Baseball and the Program. As such, it is incumbent upon all to uphold the integrity and basic ideals of sportsmanship which are missions of the MRC and Marlton Baseball.
3. With the sole exception of a scheduled conflict with an in-town, MRC baseball game, it is the responsibility and obligation of each Tournament team’s manager, coaches and players to make their involvement with an MRC Tournament team their #1 baseball priority during the tournament baseball season, (the “Tournament Season”). Failure to follow this rule will result in suspension for current and subsequent tournament seasons. The Tournament Committee, appointed by the MRC Baseball Commissioner, is the entity that makes final decisions on player eligibility.
4. The Tournament Season begins in the middle of May and ends the later of August 1 or when the player’s tournament team is eliminated from their district, state, regional or World Series play.
5. Playing for another tournament level baseball team, whether it be Cal Ripken, Little League, AAU or other independent team, **during** the Tournament Season is contrary to the commitment we ask of our players, coaches and parents and is not allowed without the approval from the tournament committee in conjunction with the respective Team Manager.
6. Participation in the Program is a significant time commitment by all participating players, coaches and parents. We ask that all those who participate in the Program agree to commit to put forth their best efforts towards attending all team practices, scrimmages and games for the good of their tournament team and the Program. The failure to make and honor the required commitment as described in paragraph 3 above, is a basis to: (1) not select a player for a tournament team; (2) to remove a player from a tournament team; and (3) not select a player for a tournament team in the future.

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7. It is not uncommon to have 6 to 7 baseball events per week during the height of the Tournament Season. Some of the tournaments may require traveling up to several hours and perhaps even an overnight stay.
8. Based on the Double Goal approach of the Program and the time commitment outlined above, managers and coaches are expected to make a best effort to provide equal playing time to all players during the course of the weekend tournaments (non-District, State, Regional).
9. Playing time during the District, State and Regional tournaments is at the discretion of the manager with each player getting a minimum of 3 defensive outs and one at bat in the first 4 innings.

## Manager/Coach Eligibility and Selection

1. The selection Tournament Team managers will be made by a committee comprised of the MRC Tournament Baseball Coordinator(s), the MRC Baseball Commissioner and any other person(s) the MRC Baseball Commissioner selects, (the "Selection Committee").
2. All candidates to manage a tournament team are asked to submit an e-mail or other notice by **January 8 of the current tournament season year** to the following e-mail addresses:

**Tournament@marltonbaseball.org**

The e-mail should state the candidate's desire to manage a tournament team, the age group which they are requesting to manage, and, if they choose, a summary of the candidate's coaching background and qualifications, and any other information they would like the Selection Committee to consider.

3. The Selection Committee may, in its sole discretion, request any manager candidate to submit to an interview by the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee may, again in its sole discretion, choose not to interview any manager candidate.
4. The Selection Committee may consider, among other things, the following criteria in selecting Tournament Team Managers:
  - a. Prior coaching history both within and outside of the MRC. Any manager must also be an in- town MRC baseball coach in the age group for which he seeks to be a tournament team manager. The amount of games coached at the MRC in-town level must be at two-thirds of his in town team's games throughout the in-town baseball season.
  - b. A willingness to commit time and planning to the Tournament Program beyond the summer tournament season. It is preferred that a manager have some level of commitment to assembling a team for play in a fall baseball league and make arrangements for winter workouts. The Selection Committee will not adversely consider the inability to head coach if the prospective manager also coaches another MRC fall or winter sport.
  - c. A willingness to cooperate with other Tournament team managers and coaches. It is expected that each Tournament team manager be willing to work together with other

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managers in assembling tournament documents and sharing knowledge about past experiences regarding specific tournaments. The manager must be willing to partner with other Tournament team managers in his age group in establishing tryouts, selecting players, practice regimens, overall baseball approach and assembling teams for play in fall baseball.

- d. For District Team Tournament managers and coaches, the successful completion of the Babe Ruth League Coaching education Program as well as the Positive Coach Alliance Double Goal Coach 1 workshop.
  - e. Prior Tournament Team coaching experience and results.
  - f. General demeanor, past behavior as an MRC coach in both in-town MRC games and Tournament games.
  - g. General baseball background and experience.
  - h. Any other criteria the Selection Committee deems appropriate to further the goals and objectives of MRC Tournament Baseball.
  - i. The Selection Committee has the authority and discretion to consider other factors and criteria with the overriding objective of selecting the best possible coaching candidates so as to strive to meet the goals and objectives of the Program.
  - j. For the purpose of this section, "COACHES" will be defined as Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Scorekeepers, Bullpen Catchers or any other person on the field with the players during practices, games, try-outs, ratings sessions, etc.
    1. ALL Coaches must be approved by the Marlton Recreation Council (MRC). At the beginning of EACH season, the baseball commissioner will submit all coaching candidates to the MRC Executive Board for approval.
    2. Coaches may be added to teams after teams have been formed as long as the Age Coordinate determines there is a need for additional coaches and the coaches have been approved by the MRC Executive Board (see #1 above).
    3. Parents and other Volunteers are eligible to help out with Field Maintenance, Scoreboard Operation, In-Game PA Announcing, etc. but CANNOT be present on the field with players during games, practices, try-outs, ratings sessions and/or warmups without being approved by the MRC Executive Board (see #1 above).
5. Following both the selection of each District Tournament Team manager and the selection of the players on their respective District Tournament teams, each manager shall submit to the Selection Committee the names of those persons he wants to be selected as his assistant coaches. The appointment of those coaches will be subject to the advice and consent of the Selection Committee which will also consider the criteria set forth above in Paragraph 3 as part of that consent.
  6. Following the selection of the District Tournament Team for each age group, the Selection Committee will then name the managers of the remaining non-District level Tournament teams

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utilizing the same criteria set forth in paragraph 3 above. Those managers will submit the names of their prospective coaches following the same procedures set forth in paragraph 4 above.

7. All person selected to manage or coach a tournament team will be required to execute a Background Check Release Authorization Form which authorizes the MRC to conduct a background investigation so as to comply with the MRC's policy regarding excluding participation of persons as coaches of teams in the Program those persons convicted of crimes of violence, crimes against children, drug related crimes and sexually related crime. **The failure of any manager or coach to execute either the Background Check Release Authorization Form, shall in and of itself form the basis to disqualify that person for a Tournament Team manager and/or coaching position.**
8. Tournament Team managers are responsible for maintaining their teams' finances in accordance with MRC's policies and procedures, scheduling their teams' participation in tournaments and making all required filings and submissions as required by Cal Ripken, Babe Ruth, American Legion or other organization's Rules. The Tournament Director will assist and work with each manager to assure that each of these obligations are met.
9. Managers and coaches are eligible to manage or coach on only one MRC Tournament baseball team in any one year.
10. The selection of a manager and coach is only for a single tournament baseball season. In other words, being selected to manage or coach a Tournament Team does not in any way assure that person that they will be a manger or coach of a tournament team the following year.

## Player Eligibility and Selection

1. It is the Program's objective to conduct at least one open tryout where players will be rated on various baseball skills that may include hitting, throwing, fielding, base-running as well as particular positional skill requirements for pitchers, first basemen and catchers. Each Tournament Team's players will be selected on an evaluation process that includes the player's tryout rating, in-town rec rating and past playing experience. In addition, the evaluations made by the District Tournament team manager and other Tournament team managers in consultation with the Tournament Baseball Committee as approved by the Baseball Commissioner.
2. Tryout dates, times and locations will be posted on the MRC Baseball website. The goal is to achieve maximum participation by prospective Tournament players.
3. It is the Program's objective to select a District Tournament Team of 12 players for each age group. The goal is to select and field the most competitive, well rounded baseball team from those eligible players. Some age groups may field a second District team, as permitted by Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth rules, and that team will be selected on the same basis. If there are a sufficient number of players at any age group to field additional, competitive tournament teams, those teams will be selected based upon the tryouts and in consultation with the respective Tournament teams' managers and the Tournament Committee. **There is NO guaranty that each child who tries out for tournament baseball will make an MRC Tournament Baseball team.**
4. For a player to be eligible to be selected for and play on a tournament team they **must**:

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- a. be a registered MRC baseball participant;
  - b. meet the age, participation and other applicable Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth requirements including having been rostered on an MRC, in-town baseball team;
  - c. Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth player eligibility rules state a player must play in half (1/2) plus one (1) of the league's scheduled games.
  - d. Have been present at a Program sanctioned Tournament Team tryout. Since the tryout is not the sole means of evaluation, this requirement may be waived at the Tournament Committees discretion and approval. For example, if a player is sick or injured at the time of the tryout and/or subsequent make up tryout but has been previously evaluated, they will be eligible.
5. The tryout format for each age group will be established by the Red's District Tournament Team Manager in consultation with the other coaches in his age group and the Tournament Director.
  6. Each age group tryout shall also have an adequate number of raters who will evaluate each player based on the above referenced skills. It is the objective of the process to have at least 4 raters for each age group. Raters shall not have a child who is trying out for a team in the particular age group for which they are rating. It is our goal to make every effort to assign raters who are independent and non-partisan. The rating stations will be staffed by qualified volunteers who will make every effort to show consistency and avoid favoritism in the form of encouragement and or easier opportunities.
  7. The ratings from each age group tryout will be compiled by the Tournament Director and be subject to review by the Tournament Committee and the Baseball Commissioner. If a player's parent is the Tournament Director, a member of the Tournament Committee or the Baseball Commissioner the ratings from those age groups shall be compiled by someone else designated and approved by the Baseball Board. The teams will be selected using the criteria as set forth in paragraph #1 above.
  8. Once the Tournament teams are selected each team manager will contact the players selected to play on their team. The players' names will also be posted on the MRC baseball website. Any Players not selected for a Tournament team will notified in writing by the Tournament Director as soon as possible.

## Financial Commitment Obligations

1. For your child to participate as part of a Tournament team there is an additional financial obligation above and beyond the Marlton Rec Baseball fee.
2. For the most part, each Tournament team is self-funding. There are required financial obligations to cover various costs including uniforms, tournament entry fees, umpire fees, equipment and training costs. The additional financial obligation is **in excess of \$200 per child** and can be considerably more depending upon the number of tournaments your child's team participates in.
3. Failure to pay financial obligations in a PAST Tournament Season makes the player ineligible to participate in the CURRENT Tournament Season.
4. **Refund Policy:**

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- a. Tournament team fees/costs paid are deposited into an MRC escrow account maintained by each team manager and the MRC. A refund of those fees and costs may be obtained only if (1) the player withdraws from the tournament team 7 days prior to the first tournament game; and (2) the fees/costs are replaced in the team escrow account by the addition of another player to the tournament teams roster reflected by payment by the new player of those fees /costs into the escrow account. No refund of uniform costs will be made after a uniform order is placed.
  
- b. Any monies donated and/or fund raised either individually or in a team event on behalf of Marlton Baseball and or a specific Tournament Team will NOT be refunded if a player withdraws from a team.

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Marlton Recreation Council General Offense / Misconduct Penalties are published at the MRC

Website – [www.marltonrecreationcouncil.org](http://www.marltonrecreationcouncil.org)

Below is a referenced list – review the MRC Website for a complete and up-to-date version of this document.

Offense / Misconduct	Penalty – Minor	Penalty – Adult
Gesturing or signaling obscenely or the use of profane language toward an opponent, colleague spectator or MRC Official	1 game	1 game
Verbal abuse of a player, coach, spectator or MRC Official	2 games	1 game
Throwing of equipment by a player in anger	1 game	
Gesturing or signaling obscenely toward a Game Official	2 games	2 games
Entering playing field by player, coach, spectator to argue with a Game Official	2 games	2 games
Verbal abuse of a Game Official	2 games	3 games
Assaulting a Game Official by a player	1-3 years	
Spitting on a Game Official	1 year	1 year
Throwing objects at a Game Official (whether it hits its target or not)	1 year	2 years
Assaulting a Game Official by a Coordinator, Coach or MRC Official		5 years
Any offenses or abuse directed toward a Minor Game Official can result in dismissal		Review
Spitting at or on a player, spectator or MRC Official	2 games	5 games
Verbal threat of bodily harm or property damage to an opponent, colleague, spectator or MRC Official	3 games	4 games
Fighting with an opponent, colleague, spectator or MRC Official by mutually exchanged blows (hand, head, fist, etc.)	Suspension – review	Suspension - season
Throwing of objects (ball, stones, dirt, equipment, etc.) at an opponent	2 games	3 games
Player, Coach, Spectator misconduct not specifically defined above	Review	Review
Non-Conformance by a Commissioner, Coordinator, Head/Assistant Coach of MRC Rules & Regulations.		Suspension – season
Abuse of Property i.e. Township Fields, School Board Fields, MRC Owned Property RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL REPAIR COSTS	Revoke all privileges for 1 week	Revoke all privileges for 1 season

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## Discipline Process / Additional Details

When a coach is found to be in violation of the MRC Code of Conduct and has been suspended for such actions, the MRC Code of Conduct Penalties will be enforced. The Penalties listed are **MINIMUM PENALTIES**. It is at the discretion of the MRC Baseball Executive Board (Baseball Commissioner, REC League Coordinator & Travel Coordinator) to assign Penalties for violations made by a coach, parent, etc. **ALL** suspensions will be communicated to the MRC Executive Board.

Suspensions are to be communicated to the offending coach by email and shall have the following format.

#1 – Coaches Name

#2 – Specific Violation of the MRC Code of Conduct

#3 – Penalty for Violation

#4 – A reminder that a Grievance may be lodged for the discipline action per the Marlton Rec Council Bi-Laws

## Repeated Disciplinary Issues

In the case where a Coach has been suspended **THREE** times violating the MRC Code of Conduct and/or MRC Baseball Rules, the Coach will be evaluated by the MRC Baseball Executive Board (Baseball Commissioner, REC League Coordinator & Travel Coordinator) before returning as a Coach for any team within the MRC Baseball Program – both **REC LEAGUE AND TOURNAMENT PLAY**. This includes **ALL** baseball coaching positions including scorebook coach, bullpen coach, rating session / try-out volunteer, etc.