



2026 MYBA Coaches Meeting

Agenda

- Introduction
- Operations
- Risk Management
- Equipment
- Improving Player Experience
- Questions
- Appendix



Contacts

- President - Dave Oehler, president@mplsmillers.org
- Travel Director - Rob Privratsky - 415-794-3081, rob.privratsky@mplsmillers.org
- Practice Field Coordinator - Andy Kummer
- Equipment - Luke Neuville, luke.neuville@mplsmillers.org
- Uniforms - Nicole McDonald, nicole.mcdonald@mplsmillers.org
- Coach/Player Training - Joe Larson joe.larson@mplsmillers.org and Josh Larson josh.larson@mplsmillers.org
- Team Manager Coordinator - Sarah Bianucci, sarah.bianucci@mplsmillers.org
- Treasurer - Heidi Lellman, treasurer@mplsmillers.org
- Social Media - Nicole McDonald, nicole.mcdonald@mplsmillers.org
- 9-11U League Commissioner - Joe Wallace, joe.wallace@mplsmillers.org
- 12-14/15U League Commissioner - Cap O'Rourke
- Umpires - Ken Walerius - MN Umpire Association - (612) 518-0547



Documentation

All documentation discussed today
can be found at

www.mplsmillers.org

More > Coaching Corner





Operations

Important Dates

- 3/23 - Blackout dates due (Can't assign fields without this info)
- 4/1 - Add Assistants/Team Manager, and Players to www.MBL.BZ
- 4/7 - League scheduling begins at 6:00 pm
- 4/10: All games have to be entered on MBL website
- 4/11 - All Coaches Training at Carew
- 4/13 - League games can begin
- 5/2-5/3 - Millers Opening Weekend
- 6/29 - Last day to play league games that count towards playoff standings
- 7/1 - Playoff brackets released
- 7/5 - Last day to play regular season league games
- 7/6-7/9 - Playoffs begin



Scheduling Your Season

- **3/23:** Turn in team blackout dates to Rob
- **4/4:** Coaches will receive home field dates/times assignments from Rob
- **4/7:** MBL assigns your Region and provides the opposing coaches contact info
- **4/7:** Scheduling will occur starting at 6:00 pm among coaches via phone, email, or remotely via Google Sheet (recommended [sample](#))
- **4/10:** Enter home games into your MBL team page
- Additional information:
 - MBL FAQs: <https://www.mbl.bz/pages/faq-scheduling>
 - Try to schedule home games early in the season
 - Friday and weekend game slots are readily available
 - As scheduling progresses, more home slots may open up
 - Provide Rob with the fields you **DID NOT** use after your schedule is complete so they can be offered to other teams



Metro Baseball League (MBL) Website

[WWW.MBL.BZ](http://www.mbl.bz)

- All Head Coaches should have received invite to take control of their team.
- New to MBL website? Have all AC's and Managers register for an MBL account before adding them to your team page.
- When adding players to the rosters, **do NOT add accurate address information.** 123 Main Street, Minneapolis, MN, 12345 will suffice.
- Coaches must enter game results and pitch counts on the MBL website by **10:00 am** the following day.
- MBL League Rules: <https://www.mbl.bz/pages/rules-home-mbl>

ACTION ITEM: Add Assistants, Team Manager and Players by 4/1



Additional Field Info

9-13U: 19 Teams

- Potential field crunch this year in June - consider Saturday games.
- Opening weekend – May 2nd and 3rd at Neiman. We have invited 612 softball to play on our unused fields
- **ALL** Millers travel teams are expected to schedule a game on opening day

14U & 15U: 5 Teams

- Opening day – May 2nd and 3rd at Neiman
- Additional weekend Parade time for each team possible
- All April/May games will be scheduled late at 8:15 to avoid high school conflicts. **I will look to move these earlier, to 7:30, if there is no one scheduled earlier on the same field.**



Game Day Guidelines

- No new inning after 1:45 minutes of play at Neiman
- No more than 5 warm up pitches between innings
- These rules should be stated clearly in pregame umpire meeting
- Call out the time of first pitch so everyone is aware
- At Neiman:
 - 9-13U teams place mounds in batting cages after the 8:15 game or if there isn't a MYBA game after the 6:00 pm game
 - 14U-14/15U teams must cover the mound after the game when starting at 8:15 or if there doesn't appear to be a game after the 6:00 pm game



Rain-Out Procedures

BEFORE THE GAME

- MPRB will determine whether to close Neiman (usually by 3:30)
- Travel Director notifies coaches by email and phone/text
- **Exception: On weekends, it's the coach's call, 2-3 hrs before game time.**
- Coach notifies families and opposing coach and changes game status to "Cancelled" on MBL website
- Reschedule games ASAP – work with Travel Director and opposing coach.

DURING GAME

- Coaches and umpire make determination to suspend
 - If suspended, mark as "suspended" on MBL website
 - Work with Travel Director and opponent to complete game – MBL expects this
- *MYBA does not maintain an inventory of unused fields so try to secure 2 or 3 possible makeup dates to limit back and forth.**



“Panic Procedures” at Neiman

Fields Double-Booked

1. Contact Travel Director (Rob)
2. Contact President (Dave)
3. Be prepared to reschedule

Facilities Issues (Lights, Bases not set, Field locked, etc)

1. Have parents help measure and set bases if needed.
2. Contact Travel Director (Rob)

*** MPRB turns the lights on remotely when needed. 2025 wasn't a great year for lights at Neiman. ***

Umpire No-Show

1. Contact MN Umpire Association (Ken Walerius - 612-518-0547) and Rob
2. Be prepared to begin game with parents/coaches umpiring



Practice Scheduling

- Coaches/Managers will receive a Google Sheet from Andy Kummer asking for your practice dates for the entire season after your MBL schedule is finalized
- MYBA will request additional practice fields if necessary after April 15th
- The goal is to provide your entire season practice schedule to you by May 1st
- Practices are from 5:30 - 7:00 or 7:00 - 8:30.
- Coordinate with seasoned coaches to share ideas or co-op
- Reach out to Josh and Joe Larson if you need practice support

Note: we may not be able to accommodate the exact field size for every practice



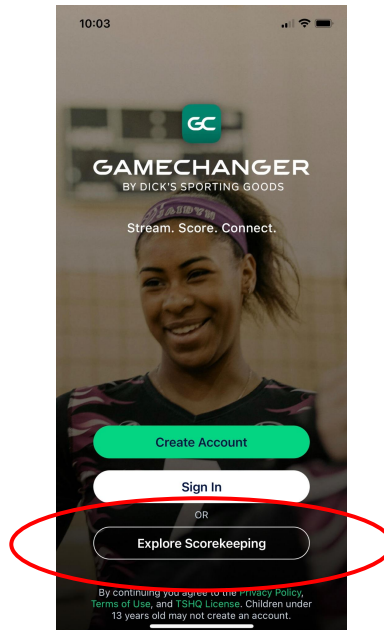
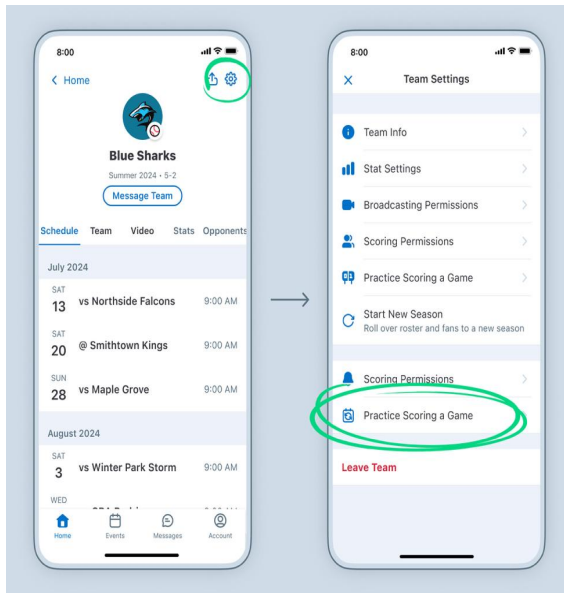
Practice? We're talking about practice?!

We highly encourage everyone to practice scoring before live game action, using one of the following options:

From your team page
Team Staff only

From the app login screen
Anyone!

Game Changer (*max 2 per team*)



- Need 1-2 volunteers to run game changer (GC) for the season for each team.
- Limiting to 1-2 volunteers keeps consistent stats.
- If you are interested, please coordinate with your coach or team manager
- GC will fulfill your dibs requirement!



Please refer to the appendix for additional information



Risk Management

Risk Management

- **Background Checks**

- Sarah Bianucci (Mgr Coordinator) has sent instructions
- MYBA teams can have up to 4 official coaches. **All require a background check.**

- **Certifications**

- Links to trainings were sent out with background checks
- **Concussion training** - refresh **every year** from date of completion
- **Abuse awareness** - (a.k.a Safe Sport) refresh **every year** from date of completion
- Required for all bench coaches.
- Training certs should be with team at all times
- Risk manager and Travel director receive copies of certs

NEW - Managers need a background check, concussion, and abuse certs in 2026



Risk Management – Requirements Matrix

Role	Background Check	Concussion Awareness	Safesport
Head Coach	Yes	Yes	Yes
Asst Coach (in dugout)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Practice-Only Coach	No	No	No
Scorekeeper (if in dugout)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scorekeeper (if in stands)	No	No	No
Manager	Yes	Yes	Yes



Additional Coach Certification

[USA Baseball Certification Pathways](#) (hyperlink)

- “A” Certification - Health and Safety, Creating a Positive Environment, Arm Safety, and Misconduct Awareness
- “B” Certification - 9 courses covering position-specific skills, game fundamentals, and team management.
- “C” Certification – online classes + USA Baseball Clinic, builds on “B”

ASK: Please complete the “A” certification and start the “B” certification.





Equipment

Coach Shirts and Hats (travel)

- **MYBA provides shirts and hats for up to four coaches per team**
 - Travel hat (matches player uniform kit)
 - Athletic style t-shirt with Millers 'M' logo
 - This year you have the option to choose **navy blue, orange, or white**
 - If a team has more than four coaches, team is responsible for paying for additional items:
 - Travel Coach hat: \$25
 - Coach shirt: \$35
 - Small additional fee if paying by Venmo
- **Order process**
 - MYBA Asset Team sent order form on 3/12 to coaches and Cc team managers
 - One order form per coach needed indicating sizes and shirt color
 - Asset Team will coordinate with Team Managers when items are ready for distribution
 - **Orders are due by 3/20/26**



Equipment (travel)

- **Every team's bag contains:**
 - 36 new game balls
 - 45 practice balls + bucket
 - 2 sets catcher gear
 - Socknet
 - First Aid Kit
 - Measuring Tape
 - 1 Tee
 - 1 Base digger
- **Optional Gear (Upon Request)**
 - Throw Down Bases
 - Cones
 - Fungo and/or Accubat (limited quantity)
 - L-screen
 - Bat weights
 - Left handed catcher mitt
 - Field Rake



Get Your Gear! (travel)

- **Equipment Pickup is Wednesday, March 25 and Thursday, March 26 6:00 pm-8:00 pm**
 - Location: MSA Batting Cages, 2020 W 98th St, Bloomington MN 55431
 - Equipment will be distributed from the loading dock behind the building, drive around to #2030. The garage door will be open.
 - Can't make it? Send an assistant or manager or parent.
 - Contact Luke.Neuville@mplsmillers.org if alternate arrangements are needed.
- 12U -14/15U uniforms will be available soon, date TBD.
- 9U - 11U uniforms have been ordered, and will have a separate pick up date/time.
- **Uniforms SHOULD NOT BE HANDED OUT until you have verified with the Registrar that every player has paid their fees.**



Equipment Headaches – Lost Balls and Gear

In-season:

- Up to 50% of practice balls are lost each year
- Some truly will be lost or unplayable, but most are not
- The ask: After every practice, all players sweep the outfield for strays
- Please save game balls as backup game balls or practice based on their condition
- Check for all gear after games and practices.
- Contact Luke.Neuville@mplsmillers.org if gear changes are needed in season

End of season:

- Return gear in good condition and/or let us know if there are any broken or missing items.
- Clean out your bag! - Take personal equipment, and we don't want your half eaten seed bags or leaky water bottles



Equipment Additional Reminders

- **No metal cleats on any MYBA turf mounds—practice or games.**
- This applies to home and visiting teams, including Neiman
- For 13U and up, remind pitchers and opposing coaches:
pitchers must wear plastic/molded cleats or tennis shoes
- If you see a non-MYBA team using them, please intervene immediately and firmly ask them to stop.





Improving Player Experience

What Makes a Successful Season?

- Kids are excited to come to the field
- When the season ends, they're already looking forward to the next one
- Players feel valued and supported
- Players show clear improvement from the start of the season
- Kids learn respect for the game, opponents, umpires, and teammates
- Parents feel their kids had fun and made progress
- Players enjoy themselves and build new friendships



Improving the MYBA Experience: Feedback and Action Items

Common Complaints

- #1 – Playing a variety of positions
- #2 – Spending time at critical positions
- #3 – Appropriate redirection and discipline
- #4 – Effectiveness of teaching baseball skills
- #5 – Player development feedback

MYBA Actions

- Coaching certification program
- MYBA Codes of Conduct for players/parents
- Trainings and resources for coaches to support effective development
- MYBA created guidelines for playing time and positioning
- Mid-season Player Evaluations
- Address disciplinary issues quickly (we will have a formal process for that this season)
- Guiding coaches on supporting neurodivergent players
- Postseason meetings with coaches to review parent survey feedback



2026 Spring Coaches Training and Celebration

- Date: April 11, 2026 (weather permitting)
- Time: 10:00-12:45 pm
- Location: Rod Carew All Star Field
- Groups
 - Group 1: MM-10U
 - Group 2: 11U-15U
- Structure
 - Hitting/Fielding Stations
 - Pitching/Catching
- Goals
 - Provide ideas for practice stations
 - Develop pitching/catching knowledge
 - Coaches sharing information
 - Strengthen coaching pool
 - Build community



MYBA-sponsored Coaches celebration to follow at 56 Brewing

Mid Season Player Evaluations

Player	Defensive	Offensive	Offensive stats	Baseball IQ	Base Running	Pitching	Catching	Commitment	Placement	Overall Comments
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										
11										
12										
Above Level	1-Elite	1-Elite	1-Elite	1-Elite	1-Elite	1-Elite	1-Elite	1-Exceed Expectations	Should Move Up	
At Level	2-Above Average	2-Above Average	2-Above Average	2-Above Average	2-Above Average	2-Above Average	2-Above Average	2-Meets Expectations	Could Move Up	
Needs Impr	3-Average	3-Average	3-Average	3-Average	3-Average	3-Average	3-Average	3-Does Not Meet Expectations	Placed at Right Level	
	4-Below Average	4-Below Average	4-Below Average	4-Below Average	4-Below Average	4-Below Average	4-Below Average		Could Move Down	
	5-Overmatched	5-Overmatched	5-Overmatched	5-Overmatched	5-Overmatched	5-Overmatched	5-Overmatched		Should Move down	
						6-Did not Pitch	6-Did not Catch			
Player	Defensive	Offensive	Offensive stats	Baseball IQ	Base Running	Pitching	Catching	Commitment	Placement	Overall Comments
Joe Larson	At Level	At Level	At Level	Above Level	At Level	At Level	At Level	Above Level	At Level	Joe is a great teammate and joy to have on the team.



Disciplinary Standards

- Coaches must enforce the rules regarding player behavior
- The following behavior is unacceptable while wearing a Millers jersey:
 - Disrespect of teammates. This includes bullying and denigrating playing ability
 - Disrespect of opponents
 - Any emotional display which reflects poorly on the Millers
 - Insubordination
 - Obscenity
 - Mistreatment of equipment
 - Mistreatment of umpires
 - Any other violation of Player Code of Conduct



Disciplinary Standards - Consequences

- First offense (Mulligan) – Coach discusses violation with player and parents
- Second offense – Coach benches player for remainder of game and discusses violation with player and parents
 - If violation outside of game, player is benched for next game
- Third offense: Benched for remainder of game AND next game, coach discusses with player and parents, MYBA President notified
 - If violation outside of game, player is benched for next game
- Fourth offense: Player is removed from game/practice, matter is referred to MYBA President
- We will be providing coaches with a way to document disciplinary issues and commitment/attitude/effort concerns so we can support and address any problems prior to the end of the season.



Coach Evaluation and Feedback Process

- Post-season survey distributed to parents at the end of July
 - Families provide feedback on HC, ACs, and team dynamic.
- Post-season reviews with all Head Coaches in September/October



Practice Recommendations

- **Preseason**
 - Define preseason practice schedule at kickoff meeting
 - 4-5 practices/wk – Bad weather? Go to an indoor facility!
- **In-Season**
 - Define full in-season practice schedule once games are finalized
 - 2-3 practices/wk
 - Never have 2 straight days off – fit a practice in there
- At least 3 coaches running practice to increase productivity
- Encourage parent participation as needed
- Need support at practice? Contact Joe and Josh Larson
- Need Resources? <https://www.mplsmillers.org/drills>



League Playing Time and Positions

NOTE: These are **League Game** GUIDELINES and not POLICIES. But if a parent complains the guidelines aren't being followed, historically MYBA is inclined to side with the parents

9U-13U Guidelines:

- All players should have at least 7 games with 3 innings played in the infield
- All players should have at least 7 games with 2 innings played in the outfield
- No player should sit more than 2 innings in a game (assumes 11-12 player roster)
- All players should have at least 5 games in top half of batting order
- Players interested in pitching with enough control to do so safely should be allowed at least one opportunity to pitch a complete IP, those too wild should be developed for future use
- Strive to develop at least **2 Catchers** and **6 Pitchers (>20 innings pitched)**



League Playing Time and Positions

14-15U Guidelines

- No player should sit more than 3 innings in a game (assumes 11-12 person roster)
- Players interested in pitching with enough control to do so safely should be allowed at least one opportunity to pitch a complete IP, those too wild should be developed for future use
- Strive to develop at least **2 Catchers** and **6 Pitchers (>20 innings pitched)**



Recommend Playing Time and Positions

- League play = More balanced approach
- Tournament play = More competitive approach
- Balanced approach
 - Continuous batting order
 - Large pitching rotation - Entire team pitches
 - First 4 innings: All players have 2 innings IF, 1 OF, 1 bench
 - Last 2 innings: Dictated by situation
 - Give all players token opps at key positions they want to play
- Competitive approach
 - Optimized batting order and defensive positions
 - Narrower pitching rotation



MYBA/MBL Arm Care Policy

- Adopting modified MBL standards as follows:
 - Rest days enforced during league play
 - Rest days carry over from league to tournament
 - MBL rest days otherwise waived during tournament
 - Rest days carry over from league to tournament. Rest days aggregate to max of 3
 - **Example: 10U team has Thursday league game followed by tournament. Zach throws 30 P Thursday. He cannot pitch the tournament Friday. He throws 50 P Saturday. He is eligible to pitch tournament Sunday and throws another 50 P. His 100 P in the tournament = 3 days rest. He must rest until Thursday**
- To ensure compliance, coach/manager must enter pitch counts on MBL website by 10:00 the following morning AND before start of tournament. Tournament compliance mechanism TBD
- When your players report arm pain, **listen to them and rest them**
- Develop at least 6 pitchers to throw at least 20 IP. “I have no pitching depth” is NOT an acceptable answer for grinding down a young arm



Arm Care

New 2026 Pitching Restrictions

- Focus is on REST Days for pitchers
- MBL League Game Restrictions

Level	Daily Max	Week Max	1 Day Rest	2 Days Rest	3 Days Rest	Consecutive days max
9 - 11U	50	75	21-40	41-55	56+	3
12-13U	50/65	90/100	26-40	40-55	56+	3
14-15U	75	105	26-40	41-60	61+	3

- MBL/MBT Maximums

Level	League Game/Wk Max	Tourney Game/Tourney Max
9 - 10U	50/75	75/100
11U	50/75	85/110
12U	50/90	85/110
13U	65/100	95/120
14 - 15U	75/105	95/130



Best Practice for Substitution Player Request

Consider: multiple teams to choose from, team availability, player availability, position availability, personal preference.

1. Contact HC for team availability
2. Request contact list and/ player recommendations based on needs
 - a. If no preference, reach out to entire team
 - b. If a preference, reach out to individual family
3. Once player is identified, reach out to Rob for MBL approval.



Questions





Appendix

Team Organization

ALWAYS CARRY IN TEAM BINDER: (<https://www.mplsmillers.org/teammanagers>)

- Key Contacts
- Abuse and Concussion training certification (“A” Certification)
 - Required for anyone on field or in dugout with players
- Birth certificates for all players
 - Required to prove eligibility at tournaments
- MBL Rules (<https://www.mbl.bz/pages/rules-general-mbl>).
- Proof of insurance
- Tournament Rules (Mostly MBT and GS)
- A copy of the practice field MPRB permit.
- Emergency contact form - filled out by parents, kept by coach
- Codes of Conduct
 - Player - signed by player and kept by coach
 - Parent - signed by parent and kept by coach
 - Coach’s - signed by all coaches and given to TD/President



MBL Pitch Count Rules

- Violations have to be reported before the game ends
- The violating team will no longer be subject to forfeiture in regular season or MBT play
 - League Game Violation: Player is removed as pitcher and can't pitch for the remainder of the week. The coach is ejected and suspended for 1 game.
- During MBT tournament play
 - the coach will be ejected from the remainder of tournament
 - the pitcher who violated the pitching rules can continue to play every other position except pitcher for the remainder of the tournament
- Pitch counts were lowered for all ages in MBT and GS tournaments and will remain the same for 2026.



GameChanger Overview

Accurate and consistent GameChanger stats help all players end up on a team where they can contribute, have fun and continue to develop!

For anyone who helps with GameChanger during the season, please consider the following:

- **All teams must use the MYBA assigned GC account.**
- Score the whole game, including opposing team at bats since those are important pitching stats for our players.
- Make sure you have the right players at the right positions for each inning.
- Use appropriate age-level judgement to score errors in the field.
 - ex. A soft ground ball that the pitcher fields and overthrows first when the runner is halfway to first is probably an error vs. a hard-hit ground ball to third that the fielder knocks down but doesn't make a throw is probably a hit.
 - ex. A dropped fly ball hit within 5-10 feet of an outfielder is probably an error, a dropped fly ball that a fielder had to sprint to get to is probably a hit.
 - ex. A single that turns into a home run because of multiple fielding errors should be scored as a single with multiple errors, and not a home run.
 - ex. If the catcher doesn't catch the pitch, a "stolen" base should be scored as a passed ball and not a stolen base. A pitch the catcher can't make a play on is a wild pitch

• And finally, a huge thank you to everyone who pitches in (pun intended). It's hugely helpful for all our players...and all the friends and family who choose to follow games from afar ☺



Important MBL Rules: Conduct Towards Umpires

Item #1: Modification to NFHS 3-3-1-f: Any coach, player or spectator who confronts, abuses, or follows an umpire outside the fenced area or otherwise demarked area of an individual baseball field will be suspended from their affiliated team's games indefinitely.

Item #2: If a coach, player or spectator is ejected from a league or tournament game, they are suspended for the next MBL league/playoff game or MBT qualifying or state tournament game on the team's schedule at the time of the ejection.

Item #3: If a spectator who has previously been warned by an umpire regarding unsportsmanlike or disruptive behavior during a game is subsequently ejected from said game, the head coach of that team is also ejected, and subject to suspension rules regarding coach/player ejections.

