

2025 CMSBL All Hands Meeting

Held virtually on March 3, 2025 at 8:30 PM

Agenda

1. League Secretary Nominations/Confirmation
2. 2024 Recap
3. League Information Review (Opening day, playoff format, etc)
4. Fields/Game times
5. Scheduling
6. Tryouts
7. Player Requirements (forms)
8. Field Maintenance Reminders
9. Player Conduct Reminders
10. What's next?
11. Proposal Vote

League Secretary Nomination/Confirmation

Last year Joe Dimonda stepped down as league secretary. We have a vacancy, so Patrick Miller has volunteered and been nominated to serve in that capacity.

Are there any other nominations to serve?

After all nominations are presented the board will vote to confirm a new Secretary.

2024 Recap

Champions:

21+ Mick Myers Division: Patriots

21+ Fred Gore Division: Baltimore Blue Crabs

35+ Jeff Wolf Division: Reds

45+ Andy Bowie Division: Pirates

45+ Silver Bracket: Blue Claws

League Information

Teams for 2025 (new teams in Bold. 35 Div teams merged with 21B+)

21A+ Mick Myers Division: (10) (based on last year's standings teams will be divided into east/west) Angels, Blue Crabs, Blue Wave, Brew Crew, Hawks, Iron Birds, Patriots, Orioles, Red Sox, Backyard Goats

21B+ Fred Gore Division: (13) Baysox, **Big Dogs**, Cubs, Expos, Giants, Groundshog, Hooks, Mariners, **Marlins**, Tides, Spartans, Rattlers, Reds

45+ Andy Bowie Division: (10) A's, Bay Bombers, Blue Claws, **Blue Jays**, Braves, Fire, Hellcats (formerly Cardinals), Pirates, Rays, White Sox

League Information Review

BASEBALLS AND SCOREBOOK WILL BE HANDED OUT @ TBD - Pending delivery of baseballs, probably in April.

Opening Day: Beginning approx. April 22, 2025 (weeknight so not everyone will start on same day)

Season Length: 21A: 22 games, 21B: 24 games, 45: 22

League fee: Final Balance due April 1. Invoices were already issued.

Add/drop date: July 1, 2025

Umpire Fees: \$115 for 9 innings/\$100 for 7

Gamechanger/Book Keeping

*****The league provides a scorebook but it's highly encouraged that teams download and use GameChanger when scoring games. It's free to set up. All you need is a smartphone or tablet to use and it calculates stats and everything for you. Highly encouraged*****

I set up a CMSBL account and will invite all teams that have a team set up into that. Have to see what kind of access the free version gets but the league will look into cost and it could be where stats can be seen to verify games played. When submitting playoff rosters, it's easy to show games played rather than filling out dates.

It's very important that you keep an accurate book. Not just of your team (as a couple teams told me they did) but for the entire game. This is why Gamechanger is recommended. With a smartphone or tablet, keeping the book is very easy. We can't interface with the website because SE uses iScore, which in my opinion is subpar compared to GC.

League Information Review

No games will be scheduled for Mother's Day or Memorial Day Sunday per usual. Father's Day will be left open if teams want to use that date for a make up game but both teams have to agree to that. Note that we will not play on the July 4th holiday (Which will include July 3rd and 4th and we will attempt to avoid July 6) but there will be games on July 1 and 2.

REMINDER: This was covered in the 2024 meeting but I still got questions about this during the course of the season. If you're unable to field a team, that is a forfeit. We are rescheduling for weather, field conditions and other county related issues (We had a cancelation due to sprinklers going off and drowning Northeast). We are not rescheduling games for not enough players.

League Information Review

Rule change for Courtesy Runner: Prior rule mandated last batted out. MSBL National made a change for their tournaments in 2024 so we will adapt the same. Courtesy Runners are now the LAST OUT. No longer the last batted out.

Playoff Format - Approximately 50% of teams per division. Games will reseed after the Wild Card rounds.

21A: Top 3 in each pool with the #1 seed in each getting a first round bye. Pool 1 #2 v Pool 2 #3 and Pool 2# 2 vs Pool 2#3. (proposed)

21B: Top 7 with the #1 seed getting a first round bye or Top 8 (proposed)

45+: Same as 21A. Bottom 4 teams will compete in the Silver Bracket tournament.

Best of 3 series for all rounds. 45 division will continue with Silver Bracket playoff for those who don't qualify (single elimination)

Fields/Game times

Fields: Joe Cannon, Bachman, Arundel HS, Annapolis HS, Northeast HS, North County HS, Southern HS, Bestgate, Glen Burnie HS, Possibly Meade HS as we have guys from the 45 division on staff. Glen Burnie also has lights as of this year. Sawmill and Generals Highway (if necessary). We won't have Old Mill, and we would like to get on the new Severn Run HS. It's unlikely we will be able to get on Crofton HS.

Game times for weeknights at Joe Cannon will remain 6 and 8:30. **For the HS Season that runs until Mid May: AA county HS games start at 4:45 and have no time limit. During the month of May at the HS weeknight fields, games will begin at 8:30 pm to avoid running up to the HS teams. Once their season ends, games will be at 7 or 7:30 pm as in 2024. Some fields had 7:30 starts to minimize sun setting/player safety. Playoff games will be at 7 pm weeknights as they are 9 inning games. **

Something the league is aware of and tracking for 2026: By then all HS fields will have lights. Rumor is that HS games would have start times of 6 pm. We will keep an eye on this and let you know what potential impacts that would have for 2026.

Playoffs: There is a time limit of no new inning after 2:45 for all games including championships. The only caveat is if the game is tied, the game continues until there is a winner.

Scheduling and FYSA

Certain teams have volunteered as “home teams” for certain fields. If you wish to volunteer for a field let Alex or myself know. This year we hope to use AI to generate our schedule. This will be our best chance to get some program to do what we want it to do.

To those teams, the field will only be as nice as the effort you put in. If you do the minimum, it will be minimally good. Some fields may need more than one team anchors you all need to work together to keep it up. It requires time outside just your games. See me, Alex or Danny you have questions on expectations. I volunteered to meet people last spring and had 1 manager come out. This is also dependent on what we have access to. Fields like Bestgate we have more equipment than a field like North County. Scheduling will be done around any anchor teams with the expectations that that team plays a majority of games at that field.

Also, weeknights will be loosely separated by age groups. We have fields Tuesdays thru Friday so games will be laid out on those dates. We will try to keep the 3 divisions on “core” nights Tues-Thursday but that is dependent on field availability.

FYSA: During the HS season I coach. So on days where I have a game during our season I will notify teams of an alternate POC if an issue comes up. If things like the lights don't come on, etc I can't answer my phone in the middle of a game so teams will contact the alternate POC to get that resolved.

Tryouts

1. Tryout/Draft - Tryouts will be held on March 9 (Rain date March 16) at Joe Cannon Stadium. A player draft will be held immediately after. Draft order is reverse regular season standings. Teams will pay \$10 to cover the rental cost in order to draft a player.
 - a. All divisions will tryout at the same time. Tryouts will be 10 am to 1 pm. Players will have different color jerseys to separate age groups.
2. Volunteers needed to help with tryouts. *Talk to Joe Dimonda*

Player Requirements (forms)

All players are required to have a SportsEngine account and complete the New Player Registration. (*Players who have been in the league since 2019 have already done this)

All players must complete the online smart waiver. If they are on multiple age divisions' rosters, they will need to complete one for each team.

Instructions on how to do this were included in the Season Information Packet.

Rosters are being updated so managers should be checking frequently to ensure players are signed up properly. Players are rostered after they complete both requirements. The waiver went out in January so there's no reason to not get this done timely. There were a couple instances of guys not playing opening day because despite all the emails, they were not confirmed eligible by the manager. Make sure your team is sorted before Opening Day so we all can enjoy it. Please do not text me on OD wondering where Player X is. For OD and roster ads, players must be rostered 48 hours prior to be eligible to play.

6. Field Maintenance Reminders

Field Maintenance procedures are posted in the Managers Bullpen section of the league website. They will also be emailed to each team prior to the start of the regular season. It is important that they are followed in order to attempt to maintain the quality of the fields. If you're not sure of something, you should check with Alex, Danny or myself before your game. If it's not done properly then either someone else has to fix it or it never gets fixed, making the field worse. I had people try and call me after games at 10 or 11 pm wondering where things are. You should have knowledge of procedures before you show up.

Dragging the infield can prevent low spots for water to pool. If a field has water access watering home plate, the mound and the infield is important for maintaining moisture. **RESPECT THE FACILITIES. Teams who don't take the time to do things right will not be on certain fields. Things like cleaning the dugout, picking up trash, etc go a long way. Taking pictures is great for CYA, but we also want you to do something about it.**

Player Conduct Reminders

MUSIC: If you wish to play music on your speakers before a game, use the clean versions only. You're in a public setting so keep that in mind.

Please note this is an adult recreational league. You all should be promoting good sportsmanship toward players, coaches and umpires. The league waivers you sign affirm that you will abide by those rules.

Act like someone is watching us at all times. You represent the league. Our reputation has improved over the years and you and your players help keep it that way.

What's Next?

Managers should expect an email from your division rep around June 1st in order to see if anyone has any feedback or questions on the season so far. This is to increase “two way street” communication between the reps and the rest of the managers. The reps will report to the league VP. The goal is to address questions at the end of season meeting. Please refrain from “this umpire sucks” type questions as that’s what the review form is for.

Expect to have an end of year meeting. This will be again be proceeded by the division reps emailing managers again to solicit rule changes or other feedback. Also an email will go out to all league members if there is interest in becoming more involved with league operations. The next wave to run the league must be found and developed. At this meeting new board members can be voted on and confirmed. Current board members can resign without an interruption to league operations. New rules can be discussed and voted on. Expect this meeting to occur in October.

Who are your reps?

Mick Myers Division - Tim Biggs tbiggs18@gmail.com, need alternate

Fred Gore Division - Alan Keitz alankeitz@yahoo.com

Karl Kemp (alternate) karl.kemp79@gmail.com

Andy Bowie Division - Ron Ebelein ronebelein@gmail.com

Tom Finch (alternate) finch.th@gmail.com

Help Wanted

At some point, eventually, there is going to be turnover in league BOD. The goal of having post season meetings moving forward is to allow those who no longer wish to continue in their role to step down, and put out a call for possible replacements. This would ensure a smooth transition into a new season and cause minimal disruptions. Please be communicating with any of your players who eventually may wish to be involved in running the league. It's a lot of work, you get more complaints than thanks and your salary is \$0 but without people willing to sacrifice their time and energy, a lot of what happens wouldn't be possible. If the county ever took it over it would not be anywhere close to what it is today, so having volunteers ensures that we can control our own destiny. (I have heard this directly from rec and parks, so there is truth to it).

Proposal #1: Game Length Vote

Proposal #1: 45 Division: All regular season games would be 7 innings with the 2 hour and 15 min time limit. Playoffs would be 9 innings.

General note: When excessive heat warnings or high temps hit during the summer, the league will notify teams if games are shortened for player/umpire safety.

Proposal #2: Return playoff eligibility to 5 games

Submitted by VP: Return minimum games played to 5 games instead of 7 or (33%). After conducting a season with 7 games we spent more time adjusting or wavering people. This would increase competition as well. Also, considering that games were scheduled and then re-scheduled last season multiple times AND the fact that we cannot guarantee 100% completion of all games, increasing the games played rule created undue burden on teams, managers and the League Board. Teams will still be required to submit playoff rosters to the league VP with games played listed.

The End

Questions?