

# **BLACKBURN MEN'S FASTBALL LEAGUE**

## **CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND OPERATING RULES**

Amended and approved: December 2008

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# CONSTITUTION

## BLACKBURN MEN'S FASTBALL LEAGUE

### CONSTITUTION

*Amended and approved: November 5, 2007*

#### **ARTICLE 1 - NAME**

- 1.1. The league shall be known as the Blackburn Men's Fastball League hereinafter referred to as "the League".

#### **ARTICLE 2 - AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1. To provide an opportunity for men, primarily from Blackburn Hamlet, to participate in the sport of fast pitch softball in an organized recreational League.
- 2.2. To foster fair play and sportsmanship.
- 2.3. To organize and support its players, umpires and organizers.
- 2.4. To fully support the role and authority of umpires on the field of play and adjacent areas before, during, and following all games.
- 2.5. To ensure that all members have the opportunity to present their views and have them heard.
- 2.6. To adhere to, as much as possible, the objectives and policies of the Provincial and National Associations for Softball.
- 2.7. To operate a non-profit organization which adheres to the principles of volunteerism to benefit the League membership.

#### **ARTICLE 3 - MEMBERSHIP / ELIGIBILITY**

- 3.1. Membership in the League shall be open to any male 18 years of age or older, as of May 1 of the year in which they register. In addition, that each year of the draft, each team be permitted to select up to two players (2) between and including the ages of 18 and 21, to a maximum of three (3) in total on a team. Membership eligibility shall be considered in the following order:
  - 3.1.1. Players returning from the previous season.
  - 3.1.2. Former players from the League.
  - 3.1.3. New registrants.
- 3.2. The Board of Directors, by two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority vote, may accept registrations in an order different than that indicated above to obtain players necessary for the effective functioning of the League (i.e. pitchers and catchers).

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- 3.3. Once accepted as a participant in the League, eligibility will be retained regardless of geographic boundaries as long as annual registration occurs and annual membership dues are paid in full. Returning players (registered in the previous year of play), who are absent for one year can be “grandfathered” and may return to the team last played for. Each team may only “grandfather” one player per season. Pitchers are the only exception. Pitchers cannot be “grandfathered” unless approval is given by two thirds of the Board. All players who are not “grandfathered” must enter the Draft as former players (players not registered in previous year, but have previously played in the League). All new registrants accepted as pitchers must participate as pitchers in their draft year, for a minimum of 30 innings, failing which membership shall cease in the following year. No player can be grandfathered after April 1 of each year.
- 3.4. Subject to there being sufficient players to do so, a team must have no fewer than 12 players on its roster.
- 3.5. Reserve List:
- 3.5.1. Any players that are not selected during the Annual Draft will be placed on a Reserve List in the following order: 1. **Returning Players**; 2. **Former Players**. Within each section, the time & date of application for registration will also determine the order of placement on the Reserve List, i.e. first in is first on the list. Any interested players putting their name on the Reserve list after the Annual Draft will be added on a first come, first serve basis.
- 3.5.2. The President and the Executive Vice President will be responsible for the administration of the Reserve List and will be the only individuals who know the order of potential players. In the event the President and Executive VP are from the same team, the President will designate the duty to someone from the Executive.
- 3.5.3. Team Reps should notify either of these 2 whenever they hear of an interested player. The President or the Executive Vice President will contact that person to verify that they are in fact interested in playing in the League and to notify them that they will be placed in the Draft at the start of the next season.
- 3.5.4. Team Reps must notify the President or the Executive Vice President as soon as the team has fewer than 12 players or they know that their team requires an additional player. Whoever they call will contact the first name on the Reserve List, inform that person of the next scheduled game for that team and give him the name and phone number of the Team Rep. Special consideration will be given to teams needing pitchers and/or catchers.
- 3.5.5. The President and Executive Vice President must notify each other of any additions to or deletions from the Reserve List.
- 3.5.6. If a team requests a player and, more specifically, a pitcher or a catcher, and there are none available, then that team will be placed first on the waiting list for a player, pitcher or catcher. The requesting team must submit such a request in writing to the President and/or Executive Vice President. Such submissions shall be dated and, if necessary, specifically indicate if it is a pitcher or a catcher that is required. Other teams will not be made aware of this situation.
- 3.6. Membership in the League ceases upon any of the following:
- 3.6.1. Players do not pay their membership dues by April 1 each year.

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- 3.6.2. A two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority vote by the Board of Directors supporting expulsion of a member due to non-compliance with the League constitution, bylaws, and or the rules of the League.
- 3.7. To recognize special contributions to the League, honorary members may be appointed by the Board of Directors. An honorary member shall have all the rights and privileges of a member. Honorary members who remain active as players are required to pay the established membership fee.
- 3.8. Only team members who have played a minimum of one-third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) of games during the regular season shall be eligible for playoffs unless approval is obtained from the Board of Directors.
- 3.9. If a member of the League does not attend at least half (50%) of regular season games, not due to injury, he may, at the recommendation of his team, be placed in the Draft the following year.
- 3.10. Consideration of accepting teams from outside the boundaries of Blackburn to the League for any reason requires three-quarters approval of all Board members. Such consideration will only be made at the convenience of the Board and will include a non-refundable deposit. The Board will decide the deposit terms. The number of players accepted as part of a team is subject to Board approval. Once a team is accepted in the League, players will be added to their roster as per Bylaw 7.
- 3.11. Any player selected off the reserve list specifically as a pitcher or a catcher must play a minimum amount of innings at the pitcher or catcher position respectively in order to show that the team required the need for the specific positioned player and to be eligible to play in the playoffs. These players must pitch or catch within the first 3 games and pitch or catch a minimum 30 innings or one quarter, whichever is lesser, of the team's remaining innings.
- 3.12. The [www.bmfl.ca](http://www.bmfl.ca) website shall include recruitment information for new players who may wish to enter the League. The message shall include wording that explicitly states that the League welcomes new players of all ages (18 plus) and all skill levels. The message shall include the contact information of the Executive Vice-President. This link shall be located in a prominent spot on the home page, immediately visible to first-time visitors to [www.bmfl.ca](http://www.bmfl.ca). This link should be available 365 days a year to website visitors.

## ARTICLE 4 - LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION

- 4.1. The League shall be administered by the Board of Directors (hereinafter called "the Board"), which shall be comprised of the Executive Committee, Convenors & Team Representatives as described below.
- 4.2. The Executive Committee (hereinafter called "the Executive") shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Vice President.
- 4.3. Convenors shall consist of the Scheduler, Equipment Manager, Tournament Convenor, Banquet Convenor and Fundraising Convenor (optional).

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- 4.4. Team Representatives (hereinafter called "team reps") shall consist of one member designated by each team participating in the League. (Each team shall identify two or three individuals, current on League issues and willing to serve in the capacity of team rep to ensure that their team is represented at all meetings).
- 4.5. A member of the Executive may hold more than one position on the Board. However, no Board member may hold two Executive positions or more than two positions in total.
- 4.6. No member of the Board shall directly or indirectly profit from their position in the League.
- 4.7. All regular board meetings are open to any registered League member.
- 4.8. Money for the League will be kept in a Canadian financial institution (bank or trust company). All disbursements will be made by cheque and must require two signatures of the following three Executive positions: Treasurer, Secretary, and President.
- 4.9. The League may sponsor events through the Fundraising Convenor (See Operating Rule 23 on page 26) that have the potential to generate income for the League. All income being so generated shall be returned directly to the League's funds. The Board must approve exceptional or unusual circumstances concerning the disposition of these funds by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority vote prior to the event being held. Exceptional circumstances are defined as involving a change in the profit/loss-sharing situation with individual teams, organizers or external organizations.

### **ARTICLE 5 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS - POWERS AND DUTIES**

- 5.1. The Board shall:
  - 5.1.1. Have control of the affairs of the League and shall have power to amend all constitutional items (subject to ratification at the Annual Meeting) and bylaws and rules as needed.
  - 5.1.2. Have the authority to interpret or clarify all constitutional issues, bylaws and rules in the event concerns arise which are not clearly delineated in the constitution, bylaws and rules.
  - 5.1.3. Set all League dues and fees.
  - 5.1.4. Have terms of reference, providing these shall be within the aims and objectives, and not contrary to the Constitution. They shall appoint both standing and ad hoc committees, and re-assign other members to other functions should their scheduled task not be implemented.
  - 5.1.5. Be empowered to declare vacant, an office of the Board where the holder is unable or unwilling, in the opinion of the Board, to carry out the duties of the office. Such a declaration requires a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority vote of the Board.
  - 5.1.6. Declare vacant any position on the Board should its holder miss three consecutive Board meetings unless declared otherwise by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority vote of the Board.
  - 5.1.7. Be empowered to fill vacancies on the Board, however caused, through appointment from members of the League. Otherwise such vacancies shall be filled in the regular manner at the beginning of the next calendar year.

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### ARTICLE 6 - EXECUTIVE - POWERS AND DUTIES

- 6.1. The Executive shall be responsible for the operation of the League between Board meetings, during which time they are empowered, with the authority of the Board. All decisions of the Executive must be ratified at the next Board meeting.

### ARTICLE 7 - CONVENORS - POWERS AND DUTIES

- 7.1. Convenors shall:
  - 7.1.1. Work on behalf of the League in an assigned area of responsibility. All Convenors are required to attend Board meetings and are entitled to vote as a member of the Board (as described in Article 9 – see page 5).
  - 7.1.2. Be responsible for preparing, monitoring and summarizing their program area.
  - 7.1.3. Be prepared to submit a brief report (usually verbal) at each Board meeting.
  - 7.1.4. Commit League resources (human or financial) to any outside individual or group (e.g. equipment suppliers, umpires associations, etc.) only with the approval of the Board.
  - 7.1.5. Prepare a brief year-end report concerning their position and its responsibilities, including any recommendations to the Board, to be considered for the following year. The report shall be submitted at the Annual General Meeting each year.

### ARTICLE 8 - TEAM REPRESENTATIVES - POWERS AND DUTIES

- 8.1. Team Reps shall:
  - 8.1.1. Represent their teams at all Board meetings and are responsible for keeping their team members well informed of all League activities and requirements. Team Reps are required to attend Board meetings and are entitled to vote as a member of the Board (as described in Article 9 – see page 5).
  - 8.1.2. Be prepared to submit a brief report (usually verbal) at each Board meeting.
  - 8.1.3. Commit League resources (human or financial) to any outside individual or group (e.g. equipment suppliers, umpires associations, etc.) only with the approval of the Board.
  - 8.1.4. Prepare a brief year-end report concerning their position and its responsibilities, including any recommendations to the Board, to be considered for the following year. The report shall be submitted at the Annual General Meeting each year.
  - 8.1.5. Inform all players on their team of the date of any Annual or Special Meeting once informed by the President or Secretary.

### ARTICLE 9 - MEETINGS, QUORUM AND VOTING PROCEDURES

- 9.1. Various types of meetings shall be used to conduct the affairs of the League. The meetings shall be as indicated in Bylaw 5 a) (See page 13).
- 9.2. Notice of meetings shall be made in accordance with the guidelines indicated in Bylaw 5 b) (See page 14).

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- 9.3. Quorum for meetings of the Board shall be 50% plus one (1) of eligible voters (i.e. 9 members for a board of 16, 8 members for a board of 15, etc.) and must include a minimum of two (2) members of the Executive.
- 9.4. All members of the Board (i.e. executive, convenors, and one (1) team rep) shall have one vote (except as noted in Bylaw 2 a) xii) – see page 9) to a maximum of three (3) votes per team. Where a team has more than three members present, voting privilege shall be as follows: Team Rep, Executive, Convenor, then Executive or Convenor.
- 9.5. All votes at Board meetings shall require a simple majority (50% plus one) in order to be carried except for items listed below:
- 9.5.1. Article 3.2 (See page 1); Article 3.7.2 (See page 3); Article 5.1.5 (See page 4); Article 5.1.6 (See page 4); Article 9.6 (See page 6); (which require two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority vote).
- 9.5.2. Article 9.7 (See page 6); (which requires a three-quarters ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) majority vote).
- 9.6. Subject to Article 5.1, the Constitution of the league shall not be amended except at the Annual General Meeting each year by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of all members (of the current year) present. Notice of the proposed amendments shall be given to the Secretary, in writing, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. The Secretary will arrange for all proposed amendments to be available for pick-up by any League member, seven (7) days prior to the annual meeting.
- 9.7. Notwithstanding Article 9.6, Bylaws and Operating Rules as well as the constitution of the league may be amended at any time by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Board members at a Special Meeting called for this purpose only. In order for a Special Meeting to take place three-quarters ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) of the Board members present must agree to allow the amendments to stand for consideration. Any changes made must be ratified at the subsequent Annual General Meeting.
- 9.7.1. Notice of the proposed amendments shall be given to the Secretary in writing at least fourteen days prior to the Special Meeting. The Secretary will arrange for all proposed amendments to be available for pick-up by any League member seven days prior to the special meeting. The President or Secretary will inform all Board members no more than 21 and no less than 7 days before the Special Meeting.
- 9.7.2. Should a Special Meeting and a regular scheduled meeting fall on the same day, the regular scheduled meeting must take place first.
- 9.8. No proxy vote shall be recognized at any meeting of the Board Executive or grievance committee nor shall any individual ever have more than one vote (e.g. Team Rep also serving as a convenor only gets one vote).
- 9.9. Members of the Board may be recognized by the chair and may address issues on the floor. Other registered League members may also be recognized by the chair to speak to issues on the floor, however they will have no vote.

## ARTICLE 10 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 10.1. The Annual General Meeting shall:

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- 10.1.1. Be conducted each year following the completion of all play and no later November 30.
- 10.1.2. Be held in accordance with Article 9.6 and Bylaw 5 (See page 13).
- 10.1.3. Be open to all registered and honorary members of the League who shall also be entitled to vote on any motion considered at the meeting.
- 10.1.4. Be limited to business concerning the election of officers and convenors, constitutional amendments, League bylaws and rules.

### **ARTICLE 11 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND CONVENORS**

- 11.1. All Executive positions shall be eligible for election at the Annual meeting. If more than one individual is interested in filling an Executive or Convenor's position, there shall be an election by secret ballot for the position.
- 11.2. The Secretary must receive nominations for Executive and Convenor positions at least two weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting. Nominations must be seconded and the person nominated must agree to the nomination. Incumbents need not be nominated, however, if they do not wish to serve another term in their current position they must advise the Secretary no later than September 30. The Secretary will then advertise the position.
- 11.3. The President of the League shall enter office immediately following the Annual Meeting (unless the post is vacated earlier) and shall remain League President until immediately following the next Annual General Meeting.
- 11.4. The Vice President shall be directly elected at the League AGM.
- 11.5. The Executive Vice President shall be directly elected at the Annual General Meeting. Qualifications for standing as Executive Vice President are:
  - Good standing in the League; and
  - Minimum of 2 years of service in the League as a Board Member.
- 11.6. In the event the Presidency cannot be filled by election, the Board will appoint a President from available and interested individuals at the first meeting in the calendar year. The Executive Vice President, or his designate, shall act as President until a new President is appointed.
- 11.7. All Executive and Convenors who have not been elected at the Annual General Meeting, shall be appointed by the Board at the first Board meeting each calendar year, their position becoming effective December 1 and valid until the next Annual General Meeting.

### **ARTICLE 12 - ANNUAL EQUALIZATION DRAFT**

- 12.1. The annual equalization draft, (hereinafter called "the Draft"), shall be conducted to ensure all new players and any returning players who wish to change teams are distributed equitably.
- 12.2. The Draft Meeting shall be chaired by the Executive Vice President and shall occur within two weeks following the assessment camp organized in conjunction with registration.

## **CONSTITUTION**

- 12.3. The Executive Vice President, or his designate, shall be responsible for verifying the assessments performed at the camp and for those of returning players (provided by the teams).
- 12.4. The draft shall follow the procedures as described in Bylaw 7 (See page 15).

### **ARTICLE 13 - AWARDS**

- 13.1. The League shall:
  - 13.1.1. Award a trophy to the teams that are in first and second place following the regular season and shall award a trophy to the teams that finish first and finish second in the playoffs.
  - 13.1.2. Provide trophies for winners in any League sanctioned tournaments (typically covered in the tournament budget).
  - 13.1.3. Provide an award to be given to the most Sportsmanlike player by the League.
  - 13.1.4. Endeavour to provide an annual award to a deserving volunteer within the League.
  - 13.1.5. Be empowered to provide other awards from time to time to recognize various groups or individuals.
  - 13.1.6. Include the costs of such awards in the budget for early approval (when they are apparent).

### **ARTICLE 14 - COMPENSATION FOR LEAGUE DUTIES**

- 14.1. Volunteers serving the League will be awarded compensation for the successful completion of their duties in the form of shares. The value of these shares will be decided at the Annual General Meeting by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority vote.
- 14.2. Subject to Bylaw 9 below, the disbursement of shares will be the responsibility of the Treasurer. He will plan for the allocation of shares in his budget and make recommendations to the Board to cover any costs of these shares.

### **ARTICLE 15 - POWER OF THE CONSTITUTION**

- 15.1. Should any part of the Constitution differ from any Bylaw or Operating Rules in this document, the Constitution shall take precedence.

# BYLAWS

## BLACKBURN MEN'S FASTBALL LEAGUE

### BYLAWS

*Amended and approved: November 5, 2007*

#### **BYLAW 1 - AMENDMENTS**

The Board and members may, at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special Meeting by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority of those present and voting, establish and/or amend the Bylaws.

#### **BYLAW 2 - RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF LEAGUE OFFICERS**

- a) The President shall:
- i) Be charged with the general management and supervision of the affairs and operations of the League.
  - ii) Exercise the power and authority of the Board (should he deem it necessary), subject to ratification by the entire Board at the next meeting.
  - iii) Be the official spokesman for the League.
  - iv) Be an ex-officio member of all standing and ad hoc committees.
  - v) Be responsible for the notification of appropriate individuals of, and preside at, all Board, Executive and Special Meetings.
  - vi) Prepare an agenda for all such meetings.
  - vii) In the absence of the Secretary, co-sign cheques signed by the Treasurer.
  - viii) Remind (when necessary) all officers and convenors of their duties.
  - ix) Have the authority to delegate any of the above.
  - x) Not vote except when such a vote is significant (e.g. to create or break a tie vote which passes or defeats a motion or to carry or defeat a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority vote).
  - xi) Maintain a waiting list of players seeking entry into the league (in co-operation with the Executive Vice President).
- b) The Vice-President shall:
- i) Perform the duties of the President (in his absence or at his request) and he shall then have all the powers and rights of the President.
  - ii) When acting as the President, have voting rights accorded to the President.
  - iii) Assist the President in performing his duties and may hold the position of chairman of an ad hoc or standing committee.
  - iv) Act as League statistician while serving as Vice-President utilizing a system of collecting and circulating standings as required to keep all teams well informed. Scores should also be submitted to all local papers and circulars.
  - v) Be responsible to ensure all league diamonds and adjacent areas (e.g. the "gully" at the Blackburn Diamond) are kept in good playing condition. This may entail organizing a pre-season clean up and weed removal day and regular upkeep.
  - vi) Establish and maintain good contact with the City works department responsible for the playing fields.

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- vii) Be responsible to ensure that all League diamonds are clearly and properly marked for all League games, including regular season, make-up and playoffs.
  - viii) Perform other duties as assigned.
  - ix) Be a full voting member of the Board.
- c) The Secretary shall:
- i) Be responsible to maintain complete and accurate records of all Board, Executive and Committee meetings.
  - ii) Have Board Meeting minutes available for pick-up by board members either at ten (10) days following a board meeting or at the following board meeting.
  - iii) Ensure that the appropriate league official attends to all correspondence (of which he is made aware) and keep an accurate record of all business transactions of the Board. He shall also have custody of all documents and records, except financial, pertaining to the affairs of the league.
  - iv) Notify individuals of other meetings as described in Bylaw 5 b) (see page 14).
  - v) Co-sign cheques signed by the Treasurer.
  - vi) Be the official liaison between the league and other groups and ensure that all correspondence is brought before the Board.
  - vii) Be responsible for the proper recording of all league award recipients and the location of all league trophies.
  - viii) Perform other duties as assigned.
  - ix) Be a full voting member of the Board.
- d) The Treasurer shall:
- i) Prepare and submit for ratification, an annual operating budget for the League, including a recommendation of required dues and/or fees. This must be approved or accepted in principal before advertising in the BANAR or other media, therefore the first league meeting will take place before February 1 each year.
  - ii) Be responsible to see that all accounts are paid by cheque, signed by him and one of either the Secretary or President (or in his absence the Secretary and President).
  - iii) Keep complete and accurate records of accounts in which shall be recorded all receipts and disbursements of the League, and report at League meetings.
  - iv) Advise the team responsible for player registration of the required accounting procedure to follow during registration and assist in the process if deemed necessary.
  - v) Maintain an accurate accounting of all players who have paid dues and accounts receivable chart of outstanding fees.
  - vi) Retain the record of keys distributed for the "Equipment Box".
  - vii) Perform other duties as assigned.
  - viii) Be a full voting member of the Board.
- e) The Executive Vice President shall:
- i) Act as an advisor to the Board.
  - ii) Organize and chair the Annual Equalization Draft meeting.
  - iii) Be responsible to co-ordinate, with guidance from the Treasurer, the registration process in the spring of each year.

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- iv) Facilitate the assignment of players to teams of 12-15 members. Veteran players have the option of remaining on the team they played with in the previous year or entering the equalization draft. New players shall be equally distributed within the limits identified.
- v) Co-ordinate the pre-season "Assessment Camp" and provide assessment forms and summary lists and membership eligibility (as outlined in Article 3.1) of all players who are eligible for the draft in order to allow for a fair and equitable draft meeting.
- vi) Ensure the assessment camp takes place in April.
- vii) Each fall before the playoffs end; provide each team with a rating form to enter their players' ratings to assist the following seasons' draft process. The ratings are to be supervised by the Executive Vice President and kept as confidential as possible.
- viii) Maintain a waiting list of players seeking entry into the league (in co-operation with the President).
- ix) Perform other duties as assigned.
- x) Be a full voting member of the Board.

### BYLAW 3 - CONVENORS

- a) The Scheduler shall:
  - i) Prepare a League schedule for pre-season, regular season, and post season play.
  - ii) Reschedule all games cancelled or postponed due to weather and mutual conflict.
  - iii) Present a draft schedule to the Board at the first meeting each calendar year. The schedule must be reviewed and approved prior to pre-season play commencing. The schedule must include spare dates to allow for make up games.
  - iv) Advise the Treasurer prior to the second meeting each year, of the number of games projected for that year
  - v) Book all necessary softball diamond space required for the next season prior to the completion of the playoffs each year.
  - vi) Reschedule playoff games (as required) in consultation with the Team Reps of teams affected.
  - vii) Be responsible for coordinating the contact with the Umpires Association contracted to cover all League games (regular season and playoffs). He shall also provide the Umpire-in-Chief with a current copy of the League constitution and rules.
  - viii) Convey to the umpires, if deemed necessary, a formal request that they exercise their option to warn coaches/managers prior to any ejection.
  - ix) Collect from the umpires, a written account of any ejection of any team participant (regardless of potential follow-up) and submit it to the Board at the next meeting.
  - x) Coordinate, if requested by the Tournament Convenor, umpires for use during the Annual Tournament.
  - xi) Prepare a budget indicating the projected costs to the League, and a payment schedule for the Umpires' services, and submit it to the League Treasurer prior to the second League meeting each year. Close liaison must be maintained with the Treasurer for correct accounts payable disposition.
  - xii) Correspond with the Umpires Association and maintain accurate records of games covered and payments for services rendered.
  - xiii) Promote the updating and distribution of the rules.
  - xiv) Perform other duties as assigned.
  - xv) Be a full voting member of the Board.

## BYLAWS

- b) The Equipment Manager shall:
- i) Be responsible for the records of inventory of all League equipment.
  - ii) Provide each Team Rep with an equipment inventory form by the end of the playoffs each year.
  - iii) Prepare an annual inventory of League equipment and projected costs to maintain and/or replace equipment and submit it to the League Treasurer prior to the second league meeting each year.
  - iv) Establish a relationship with a reputable supplier who provides competitive pricing and purchase equipment as approved in the budget.
  - v) Make available annually, to each team, a complete outfit of equipment as described in Bylaw 10.
  - vi) Be provided with a key (on loan) to the "Equipment Box".
  - vii) Maintain two (2) good sets of bases in the "Equipment Box".
  - viii) Perform other duties as assigned.
  - ix) Be a full voting member of the Board.
- c) The Tournament Convenor shall:
- i) Be responsible to bring to the League for endorsement:
    - (1) The tournament rules and regulations.
    - (2) The budget for the tournament (a deficit budget will not be endorsed, i.e. the tournament must break even or be slightly profitable).
    - (3) The tournament schedule.
    - (4) The procedure for solving disputes.
  - ii) Be empowered by the League to act on behalf of the League with respect to the tournament organization and decision making, providing he has complied with point i) above.
  - iii) Be a full voting member of the Board.
- d) The Banquet Convenor shall:
- i) Co-ordinate the season end social activity.
  - ii) Be responsible to bring to the League for endorsement:
    - (1) The plan and dates for the Banquet.
    - (2) The budget for the event (a deficit budget will not be endorsed, i.e. the year-end event must break even or be slightly profitable).
    - (3) Be empowered by the League to act on behalf of the League with respect to the Banquet organization and decision making, providing he has complied with point ii) above.
  - iii) Be a full voting member of the Board.
- e) The Fundraising Convenor shall:
- i) Be responsible to bring to the League for endorsement:
    - (1) Any proposed activities, which the League will use to raise funds.
    - (2) The budget for these activities along with a profit & loss projection for consideration by the League.
    - (3) The activity schedule.

## BYLAWS

- ii) Be empowered by the League to act on behalf of the League with respect to the fundraising activity and decision making, providing he has complied with point i) above.
- iii) Be a full voting member of the Board.

### BYLAW 4 - TEAM REPS.

Team Reps shall:

- i) Represent the views of their team to the Board and vote on behalf of their team.
- ii) Disseminate information from the Board to their team members.
- iii) Be responsible for the equipment issued to their team by the League (all equipment issued to teams shall remain the property of the League).
- iv) Encourage responsible use of League equipment (e.g. proper care and basic maintenance), and convey the onus of responsibility to repair or replace any League equipment, which is lost or damaged due to inappropriate use while in their possession.
- v) Prepare an annual inventory of equipment to be submitted to the Equipment Manager, and a player rating to be submitted to the Executive Vice President by the Annual General Meeting.
- vi) Report game score as soon as practical after each game.
- vii) Report to the Umpire Convenor, if only one umpire participates in their game or if no umpires are present.
- viii) Record details surrounding any team member ejected or other controversial situations in order to be able to report them to the Board.
- ix) Represent their team for a twelve (12) month period from the December meeting to the Annual General Meeting of the following year.
- x) Be a full voting member of the Board.

### BYLAW 5 - MEETINGS

- a) Various types of meetings shall be used to conduct the affairs of the League.
  - i) The Meetings shall be as follows:
    - (1) Annual General Meeting: - open to, and with voting privileges, all registered players and honorary members - policy setting purpose.
    - (2) Board Meeting: - open to all Board members, registered players and honorary members. Voting privileges to Board members only in compliance with Article 9.4 - administrative function
    - (3) Executive Meeting: - open to members of the Executive - league administration functions.
    - (4) Special Meeting: - open to all Board members - rule and bylaw changes.
    - (5) Draft Meeting: - open to all Board members, registered players and honorary members. Voting privileges to Board members only in compliance with Article 9.4 - conduct the equalization draft.
    - (6) Grievance Meeting: - open to members of the Executive - discuss protests and grievances and take appropriate action.

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- (7) Investigation Meeting: - open to all Executive members and one Team Rep of each player/team being investigated for unsportsmanlike behaviour and/or conduct or intent to injure. Takes action based on findings.
- b) Notice of meetings shall be made in the following manner and time frame.
- i) Annual General Meeting: - date set by President, all Board members notified by phone or in person by the President or Secretary, no later than three weeks (21 days) prior to the meeting, all Team Reps responsible to contact their team members
  - ii) Board Meeting: at the previous Board meeting, by phone or in person by the President or Secretary to all members of the Board, no later than five (5) days prior to the meeting.
  - iii) Executive Meeting: by phone or in person by the President or Secretary to all members of the Executive, no later than one (1) day prior to the meeting.
  - iv) Special Meeting: at the previous Board or Special meeting, by phone or in person, by the President or Secretary to all members of the Board, no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.
  - v) Draft Meeting: at the Board meeting prior to the draft, with any member of the Board not in attendance being notified by phone or in person, by the Secretary to all members of the Board, no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.
  - vi) Grievance Meeting: notice given to all Executive members by the Secretary by phone or in person, within three (3) days of receipt of a protest or grievance.
  - vii) Investigation Meeting: by phone or in person by the President or Secretary within two (2) days of receipt of a report of unsportsmanlike behaviour and/or conduct or intent to injure.
- c) Board meeting must be rescheduled, not cancelled. Board meetings will be held on the first Monday of the month. If the meeting falls on a holiday, it will be rescheduled to the second Monday. The May Board meeting is elective.

### BYLAW 6 - STANDING COMMITTEES

- a) The Standing Committees of the League shall be the:
- i) Grievance Committee
  - ii) Investigation Committee
- b) The Grievance Committee shall consist of the at least 3 members of the Executive, one of which is to be the President or Vice-President, and two (2) Team Reps (appointed by the Executive at the time of the grievance). No more than two (2) members from any team may sit on the Grievance Committee and the Executive shall replace any member of the committee named in the grievance.
- c) The Investigation Committee shall consist of 3 members of the Executive, one of which must be the President or Vice President, and up to two (2) Team Reps from non-involved teams.
- d) All other committees are to be commissioned by the Executive, as needs arise, from within the League.
- e) The duties of the committees are as follows:

## BYLAWS

- i) The Grievance Committee shall:
  - (1) Review submissions made by or on behalf of League participants with respect to disputes, protests, or grievances and they are empowered to take disciplinary measures (e.g. suspension). The Committee's decisions can be appealed to the full Executive.
  - (2) Consider protests concerning League games, rules or umpires provided the opposing team and umpire(s) are notified of the intent to protest before the conclusion of the game in question.
  - (3) Only consider those submissions made known, verbally or in writing, to the Executive within two days (48 hours) of the incident in question.
  - (4) Consider only clearly legible documentation, which is dated and signed, supporting point (2) above, provided it is received within twenty-one (21) days of the notice of protest.
  
- ii) The Investigation Committee shall:
  - (1) Interview the member accusing a player of unsportsmanlike conduct or attempt to injure, the player being accused of unsportsmanlike conduct or attempt to injure, Team Reps and if deemed necessary, the officials umpiring the game of the supposed incident.
  - (2) Take action, if required, based on their findings. The Committee's decisions can be appealed to the full Executive.

### **BYLAW 7 - ANNUAL EQUALIZATION DRAFT**

- a) The Equalization Draft shall:
  - i) Serve to keep the League competitive, but balanced (recreational).
  - ii) Be chaired, at all stages, by the Executive Vice President or his designate.
  - iii) Take place within sixteen days of the "Assessment Camp", as determined by the Executive Vice President.
  - iv) Necessitate that the Board rate all players (on a form provided to them) and to have the Board verify/validate the ratings.
  - v) Require Team Reps present at the assessment camp to rate all the new players.
  - vi) Occur in phases as follows:
    - (1) **Phase 1 - Player Rating**
      - (a) The Board will rate all players in two distinct categories: offence and defense. These ratings will be verified and approved on a player-by-player basis no later than the March Board meeting.
      - (b) Players are to be rated in both categories from a level of 1 to 5 in increments of .5. The highest rating of 5 reserved for players who are capable of positively affecting

## BYLAWS

the outcome of many games and 1 for those who can negatively affect the result of many games.

- (c) All teams as part of the player evaluations will rate pitchers. Each team rep will be issued a list of declared pitchers from the previous season as well as anticipated declared pitchers from the upcoming season (i.e. An injured pitcher is returning). Each team rep will rate the pitchers first to last assigning a score of 1 to their top rated pitcher, 2 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> rated pitcher and so on. The pitcher list will be handed out to the to the team reps at the first player rating meeting and then returned to the Executive VP at the second player rating meeting. The Executive VP and the President and/or VP will then collect and tabulate the results. Each pitcher will have eight scores. These eight scores will be added up. The pitcher with the lowest score is rated the highest pitcher in the league (ranked 1) and so on. The executive will have the authority to discard any team's pitcher evaluation if they believe it is clearly "corrupt" or self-serving.

### (2) Phase 2 - The Draft

- (a) Returning players must indicate to their team representative, who is ultimately responsible for getting the information, whether they will be returning to that team for the coming year by April 1. All players who are unable to make that commitment will be placed automatically in the Draft (if they register). Should circumstances change and a player wants to return to a team, it will be voted on by the Board at the Draft meeting, otherwise, that team will have to find alternative methods (e.g. a trade) to procure the services of that player.
- (b) Returning players entering the Draft can indicate up to two (2) teams maximum, including their previous team, for whom they would prefer not to play. They cannot choose to play for any specific team. The League shall ensure they do not return to the same team and shall endeavour to prevent their assignment or drafting to the other team identified. Any player indicating a desire to play for only a specific team, other than in accordance to this Bylaw, shall be eliminated from the Draft.
- (c) Each team must indicate to the Executive Vice President which of their players are returning and how many players are going to the Draft. The Executive Vice President will then assign each Team a point value based on the following formula: ***Point Value = SUM of all Ratings (2 per player) divided by the number of players.*** Teams will then draft from all eligible players (except pitchers - see point Bylaw 7 a) vi) (3) below) in reverse order of Point Values, i.e. the Team with the lowest point value average selects first.
- (d) New players will be prevented from choosing to play with a specific team and shall ensure that they are assigned or drafted as deemed necessary. Any player indicating a desire to play for only a specific team, other than in accordance to this Bylaw, shall be eliminated from the Draft.
- (e) Drafted players refusing to play or deciding to quit once they have been drafted will not be allowed to enter on to the Reserve list in the same year. If they wish to register the following year they may do so.

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(f) STEP 1 – TOP-UP DRAFT

All teams must have a minimum of 9 players to participate in the Draft. If a team has less than 9, the Executive will fill the vacancies from any players eligible for the Draft. This will take place prior to the commencement of the actual Draft. This will be done based on the rating of returning players compared to the average ratings of the other established Teams. Also, consideration will be given to the specific needs of the partial Team, (e.g. pitching and catching). No player with a ranking of five in hitting or fielding can be chosen in the equalization Draft. The only exception will be when teams need a pitcher or catcher and no other option is available. Even then, if by selecting a player of a high calibre, the balance in the League is affected; alternate solutions might be made to achieve equity in the League. For example, a team might be required to skip the first round of the draft. At the end of the top-up draft the team point values will be recalculated.

(g) STEP 2 – THE PITCHER DRAFT

Based on the pitchers that are returning, the Executive Vice President will provide each team with their order for selection of pitchers. Adding up the placement of each team's top rated pitcher will arrive at the order. The team with the highest number will select first from any available pitchers. If a team does not have a registered pitcher they will automatically have the first selection. Any team may select a pitcher if they so choose. Any pitchers not selected will be included in the regular Draft. If possible, each team will be required to have at least two rated pitchers.

- (i) If, in either (b) or (c) above, there are 2 Teams tied re Point Value or Pitching, the Team which finished lower in the standings during the previous season will select before the other Team.
- (ii) Selection of available pitchers will still take place prior to the Draft of other players. At the end of the pitcher draft, the team point values will be recalculated.
- (iii) Any player not registered or declared as a pitcher cannot pitch more than 23 innings in the season and is not eligible to pitch in the playoffs. Only under exceptional circumstances and through League approval (i.e. A team's registered pitcher gets injured) will exceptions to this rule be granted.
- (iv) Any declared pitcher who does not pitch the minimum 23 innings in a season will not be able to be declared a pitcher in the following season unless the board gives approval.

(h) STEP 3 – THE ADJUSTMENT DRAFT

All remaining players will be distributed to teams requiring players to bring them to required numbers. All players accepted by the League must be placed on teams. Teams may "pass" on their right to draft in a given round, however, should all teams "pass" remaining players will be assigned by the League in appropriate draft order.

- (v) Before the start of the adjustment draft, teams must declare the number of players they will be carrying. All teams must have a minimum of 12 players.

## **BYLAWS**

- (vi) Players returning from the previous season will be permitted to return to the team they played with in the previous season (this is indicated on the registration form) as long as they state their intent by April 1.
- (vii) One player will be drafted at a time in the draft order determined in Bylaw 7 a) vi) (2) (c) until all eligible teams have reached the declared number of players on their roster.
- (viii) Returning players who have missed one season will be permitted to return to the team they played with in the most recent season played in the league providing all of the following conditions apply:
  - 1. The team requested accepts the assignment.
  - 2. The assignment does not violate the maximum number of players permitted on the team roster.
  - 3. The assignment does not violate article 3.4 of the constitution.

Pitchers will be the only exception. They will not be permitted to be grandfathered at all unless approval is given by two thirds of the board.
- vii) Encourage and recognize trades between teams as a suitable manner to attempt to satisfy friends, relatives and neighbours.
- viii) In lieu of a first round Draft pick, a team can bring in the parent, Son or Brother of a fellow team member. The new player must still participate at the Evaluation camp so the League can rate him. If the player is rated low, the Board has the option of allowing this player to be used as a top-up, if applicable, without losing a first round Draft pick. This cannot be done during the season.
- ix) Trades may only be made from evaluation till the end of the preseason.
- x) A team cannot trade a draft pick or trade draft positions.

### **BYLAW 8 - AWARDS**

- a) The League shall award trophies to the teams that place first and second in the regular season and shall award trophies to the winner and runner-up in the playoffs.
- b) A special volunteer recognition award shall be awarded annually, should one or more suitable candidates be found deserving, the award shall be comprised of an individual plaque for the recipient and inclusion on the League's honour scroll plaque.
- c) The selection process for the volunteer recognition award mentioned above, should be by secret ballot vote at an August Board meeting.
- d) The league retains the right to recognize special achievement, in a suitable manner, to any League member, past or present, or other individual or group (e.g. sponsors, community people etc.).

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### BYLAW 9 - DISTRIBUTION OF SHARES

- a) Teams will be assigned duties on a rotating basis.
- b) Volunteers serving the League will be awarded compensation for the successful completion of their duties in the form of shares. The value of these shares will be decided at the Annual General Meeting by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority vote
- c) The following table delineates the number of shares to be distributed for the assigned duties:

<i>Position</i>	<i>Share Value</i>
President	3
Vice President	3
Secretary	3
Treasurer	3
Executive Vice President	3
Scheduler	2
Equipment Manager	2
Tournament Convenor	3
Banquet Convenor	3
Fundraising Convenor	2-4 depending on performance
Team Reps	2
Webmaster	2

- d) Further to Article 4 of the Constitution above, no Member will be allowed to accumulate more than 4 shares during the course of a calendar year.
- e) Volunteers within the League will be given shares **at the end** of the successful completion of their duties. Members serving 12 month terms of office must attend two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of all regular board meetings in order to qualify for their shares. Teams must send representatives to at least two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of all regular board meetings to qualify for their shares.
- f) Convenors tasked with specific duties that require volunteer assistance from League Members will submit a budget to the Board (in co-operation with the Treasurer) for the number of shares required for their tasks. For example, if the Executive Vice President requires 2 volunteers to assist with the registration and evaluation camp, he would present the Board with a request for up to 6 additional shares for his volunteers. The Board may then approve, adjust or refuse the requested share allocation.

### BYLAW 10 - ISSUED EQUIPMENT

- a) Each team is issued with equipment prior to the commencement of each season or provided remaining articles shortly after the season is under way (based on availability). Each team is

## BYLAWS

responsible for the equipment in their possession and must repair or replace any equipment, which is damaged or lost due to negligence, misuse or abuse (regular wear and tear, consumption or premature breakage due to defect shall not be the responsibility of the team).

- b) Equipment issued by the league to any team remains the property of the league and must be returned on demand. Equipment issued is as follows:

<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Article</i>
5	Practice balls
12	Game balls
1	Catcher's mask with throat protector
1	Catcher's chest protector
1 pair	Shin guards
1	Catcher's helmet
1	Equipment bag
1	Score book
5	Batter's helmets
1	Bat bag
1	First aid kit

# BYLAWS

## BYLAW 11 - LEAGUE CALENDAR OF EVENTS / DUTIES

### JANUARY

- Establish budget.
- Elections (if required).
- Player ratings
- Submit registration ad to BANAR

### FEBRUARY

- Review playing schedule.
- Banquet Convenor to book facility.
- Review team duties and responsibilities.
- Audit.
- Player ratings (if required)

### MARCH

- Registration.
- Vote on playing schedule.
- Invite Umpire-in-Chief to April meeting.
- Complete equipment inventory.
- Review draft procedures.
- Book batting clinic (if required).

### APRIL

- Evaluations.
- Purchase required equipment.
- Update Board of Directors regarding city insurance.
- Draft.

### MAY

- Executive visits.
- Welcome new Team Reps.

### JUNE

- Banquet Convenor reports.

### JULY

- Review play-off rules.
- Review Tournament status.
- Discuss Year-End Event.

### AUGUST

- Tournament.
- Len Bourdeau Award nominations.

### SEPTEMBER

- Vote on Most Sportsmanlike Player.
- Book fields for next year.

### OCTOBER

- Year-end Banquet
- Review Constitutional, Bylaw & Rules
- Amendments.

### NOVEMBER

- Annual General Meeting.
- Book meeting dates/locations.

### DECEMBER

- Establish registration date.
- Start player ratings

# **OPERATING RULES**

## **BLACKBURN MEN'S FASTBALL LEAGUE**

### **OPERATING RULES**

*Amended and approved: November 5, 2007*

All rules shall be in accordance with the current Official Rulebook of Softball Canada with the following additional rules, clarifications, emphasis or amendments.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

1. Shortage of players for a game
  - i) All teams must field a minimum of six of their own players in order to play an official game. If a team is unable to field the required minimum within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled start time, the game is forfeited.
  - ii) A team will automatically lose one point in the standings when it forfeits a game. A second forfeit will result in two additional points being lost. A team will automatically take a player off the Reserve list following a third forfeit.
  - iii) In the event a team cannot field nine of its own players, then it must obtain approval from the opposition to use substitute players. The opposition has the right to refuse any proposed substitutes. All substitute players must bat at the bottom of the starting batting order. Once the game has started, the team with the substitute player(s) may still use the substitute(s) even if other team members arrive late.
  - iv) If a team has fewer the nine players in their batting order, they will be charged with an automatic out at the bottom on their batting order.
  - v) If a team does not have a pitcher, or their own pitcher cannot pitch at the start of a game, then that team is allowed to pick up a pitcher from another team (approval from the opposition is not required). If any team pitcher arrives before the completion of the game, then the substitute pitcher may be replaced at any time.
  - vi) Teams may use substitute players, other than pitchers, in the play-offs, so long as the League rates these players no higher than an overall rating of 6. To the extent possible, such substitute players must be taken from a team already eliminated from the play-offs.
  - vii) Regular team members, who arrive after the game has started, must bat at the bottom of the order.
  - viii) Anyone who is not registered in the League shall not be permitted to play in any games or coach on the field in any game.
  - ix) For the regular season, in the event that a team cannot field nine of it's own players, and was not able to obtain substitute players; the opposition must in the spirit of the League provide fielders to the other team when they are in the field.

## OPERATING RULES

2. The designated visiting team (the team listed first on the schedule) shall:  
Determine, in consultation with the opponents, whether their game only should be postponed due to weather. They must also call the Umpire Convenor at least two (2) hours before scheduled game time. (We pay for umpires if they have not been notified).  
The designated home team (the team listed second on the schedule) shall:
  - i) Provide one (1) new game ball (the visiting team shall provide a decent second ball).
  - ii) Report to the Scheduler if less than two (2) umpires officiate the game.
  - iii) Occupy bench along 3<sup>rd</sup> base line.
3. Lining the Fields  
The designated visiting team (the team listed first on the schedule) shall line the fields.
  - i) The visiting team scheduled to play the first game at either the Arena or Tauvette diamonds for all regular season, rainout or play-off games is responsible for lining and maintaining the field.
  - ii) The Scheduler will endeavour to make sure that each team will have the same number of visiting games at both the Arena and Tauvette diamonds for the 5:00 p.m. Sunday games and 7:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday games.
4. Equal opportunity to play
  - i) All players must bat.
  - ii) All players must have the opportunity to play a minimum of three (3) innings in the field.
5. Injured base runners  
Each team may designate one and only one player per game for whom a courtesy runner will be permitted. Any safe base runner injured while running may have a one time only per game courtesy runner. The courtesy runner will start on the same base as the replaced injured base runner. The injured base runner unless designated as per above, must run the bases starting at his next at bat and for the rest of the game without a courtesy runner or withdraw from the game.
6. No courtesy runners are permitted from first base onward unless the batter/runner is injured while running the base path (as per rule 5). The player last out and not on base will be the courtesy runner (even if the last out was in the previous inning).
7. All players will run the bases except catchers when there are two outs in an inning. The catcher on base with two outs will be replaced on base by the batter last out so as to speed up play.
8. A complete game
  - i) Five innings constitutes a complete game. During the regular season, if a team is trailing by ten or more runs after five complete innings, a mercy rule will apply and the game will be considered complete. If fewer than five innings have been played and there is less than a fifteen (15) run differential, the entire game will be replayed at a later date.
  - ii) Games shall have a two-hour time limit. No inning may start after one (1) hour and forty-five (45) minutes has been played. If a game is called due to a time limit, the score of the game shall stand and shall be the score at the end of the last full inning played (subject to 8-i) above).

## **OPERATING RULES**

- iii) Each team will record the score and include the number of innings pitched by each pitcher in the game. This is to be reported to the League's statistician by both teams.
9. Rescheduling games
- i) Games called due to weather shall be re-assigned to an available time slot, and shall then be treated as a regular game for the purposes of cancellation.
  - ii) Games called for any reason, other than weather, must be arranged with the Scheduler and opposition team at least two (2) weeks prior to the game. The Scheduler shall notify the Umpire Association of the changes.
10. The Umpires and Coaches or Captains will determine the ground rules prior to game time.
11. The breaking of ties in standings for the regular league play:
- i) When two (2) or more teams have an equal number of points after the completion of regular league play, the following shall be followed in sequence until the tie is broken (i.e. one team is eliminated from the tie). Once one (1) team is eliminated from the tie, the procedure reverts back to a).
    - a) Most wins in the season.
    - b) The winner of the most games between each other during the regular season will be declared the highest position.
    - c) If still tied, best run differential (+ / -) between the tied teams during regular season play.
    - d) If still tied, best run differential (+ / -) between all league games played.
    - e) If still tied, fewest runs against for all league games played.
  - ii) This procedure, in most cases will declare the team in the highest position. However, in some cases, the procedure will declare the lowest position between tied teams and that team shall be dropped from the tie breaking procedure. In these cases, the procedure shall also revert back to i), in order to break the tie between those teams that remain tied.
12. Games must not be scheduled on the Tuesday proceeding and the Tuesday following the Annual Blackburn Invitational Tournament.

## **RULES OF PLAY**

13. Helmets
- i) All batter/base runners must wear an approved batting helmet.
  - ii) All catchers must wear a League-approved catcher's helmet while playing catcher.
14. Unlimited substitution is permitted while on defence.
15. All players are permitted to wear metal cleats.
16. All games must to be played with a safety base at first.

## **OPERATING RULES**

17. A three-foot wide pathway shall be indicated, running parallel with the first base line. The path will extend from first base towards home plate twenty (20) feet. The umpire may call out a runner not staying within the boundary of the path.
18. A batter-runner, who is safe at first base and subsequently wanders out of bounds due to their momentum, shall not be called out.
19. A player who gets ejected from a game by the umpire for any reason is automatically suspended for 1 games. If the same player gets ejected from another game in the same year, the suspension will be an automatic 3 games. If the same person gets ejected from a third game, then there will be an automatic suspension for the remainder of the season. These automatic suspensions are in effect during the pre-season, regular season and play-offs. The League has the option of handing down a severe suspension at anytime as long as an investigation as described in By-law 6 Standing Committees is used. At the AGM each player whom had been suspended during the season will be up for review. At the meeting the league will decide at what level the player will remain at for the following season.

## **PLAY-OFFS**

20. During the play-offs:
  - i) The length of games
    - a) The length of games shall be as stated in the Official Rules (seven innings).
    - b) If the home team is winning at the end of six (6) and one half innings or at any point before the third out in the bottom half of the seventh inning, the game shall be completed and official.
    - c) All games will be played until a winner is declared
    - d) If the score of a game is tied at the end of regulation time (seven innings), there will be extra innings played according to the International Softball Federation tie-breaking procedure. The procedure is as follows. Following the completion of seven innings of play, if the score is tied, the game will continue until a winner is determined. Each extra inning, beginning with the eighth, is played initiated with a runner at second base. The runner shall be the player in the line-up who precedes the leadoff batter for the inning. If neither team scores during the inning or if the score remains tied at the end of the inning, there will be successive innings played using the same procedure until one team is ahead at the end of the inning.
    - e) No player will be allowed to pitch during the playoffs unless they have pitched in a minimum of 8 regular season games and be pitched a minimum of 24 innings. The only exception to this rule would be due to injuries or defections and prior approval of the Board.
    - f) Teams may use substitute players, other than pitchers, in the play-offs, so long as the League rates these players no higher than an overall rating of 6. To the extent possible, such substitute players must be taken from a team already eliminated from the play-offs. (See Administrative Rules 1, vi)

## **OPERATING RULES**

- ii) The Executive shall make a decision to default or to reschedule, based on the circumstances.
- iii) Teams will play a best-of-three game series with the team winning two (2) games to continue to the next round of play.
- iv) The highest remaining team will always play the lowest remaining team in the playoff.

## **POWERS OF UMPIRES**

- 21. Immediately before, during or following a game, the home plate umpire has full and final judgement on all Softball Canada Rules.

## **FUNDRAISING EVENTS**

- 22. The League authorizes or sponsors the following potential fundraising events each year:
  - a) Blackburn Invitational Fastball Tournament,
  - b) Year-End Event/Banquet.

The League at the recommendation of the Fundraising Convenor may sponsor other events. These events require Board approval and are subject to the conditions of the Convenor's position as noted in Bylaw 3 e) on page 12.

## **Tournament**

- 23. All registered BMFL players are eligible to play and pitch for their own teams in playoff rounds regardless of how many innings or games they have played in the round robin.

## ANNEX

### **Annex 1 – Len Bourdeau Award Winners**

1987	Marv Swanson	1999	Des Pigeon
1988	Ken Dimock	2000	Alan Booth
1989	Kris Birchard	2001	Stew Shonfield
1990	Wayne Brown	2002	Dave Moryas
1991	Don Gray	2003	Glenn Morris
1992	Doug MacQuarrie	2004	Dennis Murphy
1993	Rick Sheasgreen & Ron Root	2005	Steve Bovey
1994	Dave Henderson	2006	Rene Steenbergen & Wayne Hunter
1995	Jim Kennedy	2007	Rob Searle
1996	Bill Gloss	2008	Rick Thompson
1997	André Cloutier		
1998	Gerry Stinson		

### **Annex 2 – Play-off Champions**

1982	Black	1996	Guzzlers
1983	Maroon	1997	Guzzlers
1984	Green	1998	Guzzlers
1985	Brew Crew	1999	Ballbangers
1986	Gray Matter	2000	Mustangs
1987	Guzzlers	2001	Satlink
1988	Tri-Co Printing	2002	Guzzlers
1989	Gray Matter	2003	Satlink
1990	Gray Matter	2004	Knights
1991	B&N Transmission	2005	Guzzlers
1992	Ballbangers	2006	Good Ol' Boys
1993	B&N Transmission	2007	A's
1994	Tri-Co Draughts	2008	Knights
1995	Good Ol' Boys		

**Annex 3 – Regular Season Winners**

1982 Gold Team  
1983 Blues Brothers  
1984 Blues Brothers  
1985 Guzzlers  
1986 Gray Matter  
1987 Guzzlers  
1988 Tri-Co Printing  
1989 Gray Matter  
1990 Tri-Co Draughts  
1991 Good Ol' Boys  
1992 Tri-Co Draughts  
1993 Ballbangers  
1994 Lacroix Sports  
1995 Good Ol' Boys  
1996 Tri-co Draughts  
1997 Guzzlers  
1998 56 Fence-All  
1999 Guzzlers  
2000 Guzzlers  
2001 Guzzlers  
2002 Guzzlers  
2003 Guzzlers  
2004 Satlink  
2005 Blues  
2006 Good Ol' Boys  
2007 Knights  
2008 Knights

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