

SOUTH MIDDLESEX MEN'S FASTBALL LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

As Amended beginning in 2023 SEASON

1. The league will follow the CASA rulebook, except as listed below. (League rules take precedence). The League will use the ISC pitching rule.
2. a) The league entry fee is \$350.00 which is due in full by the start of the season. This fee includes Liability Insurance paid by each team to the O.R.S.A. which is mandatory for each league team.

b) In addition, each team shall deposit a refundable performance bond (if they have not already). The bond amount will be \$500. If no games are forfeited the bond will be left in the league account to be used year after year. The league may waive the fee in certain circumstances. The league may increase the bond depending on the circumstance, which is to be decided by the President, if there is a conflict of interest the league reps will make the decision.
3. All players lists must be submitted to the President by June 1st with a final roster being submitted by Aug 13th. at which no time a player may be added to the team list
4. Any player may move freely to and from our league to another but **MUST** play in 5 games to be eligible for playoffs. (if a player is unable to meet eligibility due to an injury, the team must notify the league executive at time of the injury)
5. Player eligibility – No current restrictions.
5a- Any player rostered to another team who is 23 years old and younger (U23) pitcher or position player. May assist another team in the league when they are short players. The team of the U23 player must agree as well as the opposing team, players must play with their own team first. U23 players are only eligible for playoffs with rostered team.
6. All games will be 7 innings in length. The C.A.S.A International tie-breaking rule will be used at the start of the 8th inning in regular season games and at **the start of 8th inning in play-off games. No TIES. If at some point, a tied game is stopped due to uncontrollable circumstances (i.e. rain, fog) the game shall be replayed from where it left off, and the teams will share the umpire's fees for the replayed game.**
7. If at any time after five (5) complete innings of play, one team is leading by 7 or more runs, the game shall be deemed a MERCY and over.
8. If an umpire calls a game due to rain/fog after 5th innings (after 4.5 complete, if the home team is winning), it is considered a complete game. If called earlier, the game must be replayed
9. Each team will receive 2 points for each win. The final standings will be based on total points (not win %), with the top 8 teams (depending on size of the league, the President will make final call on playoff seeding) qualifying for the playoffs. For play-off seedings any ties will be broken by head-to-head competition of the teams in question. If still tied the total runs scored differential in the head-to-head series will determine the higher seed. If still tied; a one game play-off will be played with the winner of a coin flip being the home team, teams would split any umpire's fees for the game.
10. All league and playoff games **MUST** be played on their assigned dates and times. There will be no cancelling or postponing of games, except for the following: Weather, wet diamond conditions, or Covid-19 Outbreaks, a team tragedy (i.e. Death), tournaments. Home team **MUST** notify visiting team, Umpire, assignor, President and statistician(website/twitter) of any cancelled

games (only reasons above apply). Two hours' notice **MUST** be given to cancel games. Failure to comply will result in the team forfeiting the game and payment of 100% will apply (Umpire fees, and travel fees)

11. If games are cancelled, they must be rescheduled with a new date within 10 days of the postponement. The home team must offer three (3) dates. League President will settle any disagreements.
 - a. Any game not played due to a team not rescheduling within the 10 days, the league President will determine if a forfeit should be awarded (one team to be awarded two points, and players on the winning roster will gain a game played)
12. Four-point games count as two games for the eligibility for playoffs.
 - a. 5 inning Double Headers will be allowed in place of a four-point game.
13. If a game is forfeited at the park, only the non-forfeiting team will get credit for games played. Everyone on the non-forfeiting team's player's list will get credit for a game played.
 - a. If the forfeiting team is the visiting team, they must pay the umpire fees.
14. If any game is not played due to any circumstances (i.e. home team did not offer two or three dates) games for players on rosters will be decided per circumstance by League President.
15. Any decision related to League President or Vice Presidents teams is required, league reps will take their place in decision making process.
16. Injury reserve is subject to league approval. President **MUST** be notified at the time of the injury. Any major injuries and convalescence time will be reviewed by the President in order for the player to maintain playoff eligibility. The President must also be notified when the player is fit to resume playing again. Only teams complying with this rule may get eligibility for those players. (a doctor's note may be required).
17. Only the coach, manager and/or captain may discuss a call with an umpire. Any other player attempting this may be ejected. (Umpire discretion)
18. Any player, manager, or coach ejected for any reason may receive a suspension. It will begin at the next game after the ejection. The suspension rule will be at the discretion of the Umpire and Umpire association and reviewed by League Executive.
19. The Home team Must provide two new AND one nearly new Green "K Master"(CASA approved). Two suitable game balls must be available at all times, ALL game balls are to be approved by umpires before the game begins. If a new game ball enters play it is to be inspected by the umpire.
20. The HOME team is required to phone, text, or email scores to the statistician or **post on twitter account, within 24 hours of the game**. Info to include: teams, score and home runs, Pitchers. Also state any ejections.
21. In case of lack of players, the 15-minute grace period is by the UMPIRE'S WATCH ONLY, (15 minutes from the game start time). If the 15 minute grace period is used due to lack of players, no inf. d practice is allowed by the offending team after this time. If the game is late due to another previous game, BOTH teams will be allowed a short infield at discretion of the umpires.
22. We will be using scorebooks to determine play-off eligibility. Please print clearly the first and last, name of the player in the scorebook. Failure to do so can result in the player(s) not getting credit for the game played.
23. At the beginning of the playoffs all teams **MUST** have a secondary home night available. If team has secondary home night, it will be used in scheduling. Any diamond scheduling conflicts will be

reviewed by The President. (In a case where a team does not have a secondary home night, scheduling conflicts Will be resolved by the President).

24. A higher place team in the final standings does not guarantee the first home playoff game. It does however retain home field advantage with the extra home game.
25. If for any reason, there is a dispute between teams (in a non-protest situation), a scheduled face to face meeting or a ZOOM call will be called by the President (with ONE representative from each team). Failure to be present at the scheduled meeting will result in the decision going in the favour of the present team.
26. The Umpires must be paid in full before the start of the game, failure to do so will result in game being delayed and risking having the game forfeited. It is the home team's duty to pay the umpires, even in the event of a split game, the home team needs to collect the money from the away team and pay the umps.
 - a. Umpire Fees are to be determined at the start of each season.
27. Protests must be filled in 24 hours of game, Protests must be forwarded to the League President.
 - a. If the President's team is involved in the conflict, submit the protest to the League reps.
 - b. Protests come with a \$100 fee. If the team loses the protest, they will not receive the money back, if the protest is won, they will receive the \$100 fee back.
28. Playoff structure and payouts will be determined at the start of the season depending how many teams the league has for the season.