

Federal Baseball League Rules and By-Laws
Updated March 22, 2026

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Federal Baseball League is to provide amateur baseball players 35 years of age or older the opportunity to play in a friendly but competitive environment.

Organization

The Federal Baseball League is a Minnesota State registered non-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors (hereafter referred to as the Board) shall consist of one designee from each team in good standing with the Federal Baseball League (hereafter referred to as League or The League). A team “in good standing” shall be a club that has paid in full its League membership fees, is not currently under suspension for any violation of League rules and has furnished all rosters in a timely fashion.

The Board shall select one (1) individual to serve as Commissioner. The Commissioner shall be a voting member of the Board only when necessary to break a tie. The Board shall also select the following Executive Committee officers of the League: President - West, President - East, President - South, President – North, Treasurer, Secretary and Communication. Officers shall be elected by a plurality of the vote of the members present at the winter meeting of the Board and will serve terms of one year or until their successors are duly elected. Officers may be re-elected for any number of succeeding one-year terms. Officers may not hold more than one office. Any vacancy in an officer position due to resignation, death, or incapacity may be filled by appointment of the Executive Committee for the remainder of the term.

The positions and duties for each of the officers of the League are as follows:

Position	Duties	Officer
Commissioner	Responsible for announcing the dates, times and places of any League meetings, the setting of any agendas, and enforcement of League rules and policies. The current commissioner is also responsible for the All-Star game & Hall of Fame.	Cliff Christopherson
Division Presidents	The Division President shall co-preside at all business meetings of the League, lead their fall division meeting and their spring division scheduling meeting (if necessary). The Division President role should try to handle division specific issues including, but not limited to handling game specific issues, handing out penalties or suspensions.	See Below
President – West	The current West President is also responsible for playoff umpires & league fundraising.	Josh Stoll
President – North	The current North President is also responsible for on-site playoff questions & Hickory fall tournament.	Chris Kalina
President – South	The current South President is also responsible for trophies & interleague playoffs.	Paul Jesh
President – East	The current East President is also responsible for playoff fields & PA.	Wade Peterson

Treasurer	The Treasurer shall have charge of insurance, the deposit and disbursement of any funds belonging to the Federal Baseball League, developing the annual Budget and presenting it to the Board for approval. He shall make an Annual Report and be prepared to render other reports as requested by the Commissioner.	Joey Olson
Secretary	The Secretary shall have charge of keeping a written record of all Board meetings and updating by-laws accordingly. The current secretary is also responsible for division structure/schedules, league statistics, and playoff brackets.	Jamie Houselog
Communication	The Communication role shall have charge of the league calendar, website design, and technology & communication enhancements for the League.	Lars Larson

League Meetings

1. In the fall (typically October), after all regular season, playoff, and tournament games have been completed, each Division President will set-up division meetings to review the completed season and discuss any directional changes for the League for the following season. Team board members should reach out to their teammates to ensure the League gets feedback from the entire league. Each Division President will send minutes to the League Secretary for the Executive Committee meeting.
2. In the early winter (typically December), after all division meetings have been completed, the Executive Committee will meet to review the completed season and discuss any Division meeting results and set an agenda for the Feb meeting. The agenda will include: quorum roll call, budget & team fees, league calendar, scheduling & playoffs, division structures (including new/outgoing teams), rule &/or by-law proposals, open forum.
3. In the late winter (typically early February) the full Board will meet to discuss the upcoming season and vote on any rule &/or by-law proposals.
4. In the spring (typically late March) each division may meet to schedule any remaining regular season games.

A minimum of two weeks advance written notification is required for any League meeting. Invitations will be sent to each team's designated Board member.

Season Calendar

Oct-Nov – Division Meetings – open discussion / ideas
Jan 1 – Exec committee book playoff fields; New/existing team deadline
Jan 26 – Executive Committee Meeting (finalize agenda for Board Meeting)
Feb 15 – Board Meeting
Feb 15 – April 15 – Teams Begin Scheduling
March 1 – Hall of Fame and Ron Cottone Award Nominations Due
March 15 – Team Payment Due to Treasurer
March 30 – League Field Insurance Application Due
April 22 – July 22 – Regular Season Games (thru July 28 for make-ups only)
April 22 – Team schedules and rosters must be listed on website
May 15 – Hall of Fame Inductee Notification
June 27 – Hall of Fame / All-Star Day @ Dundas
June 30 – Final Roster Deadline
July 22 – Last day for originally scheduled games, only make-ups after this date
July 28 – Regular Season Complete (or teams receive losses)
July 28 – Teams Submit Playoff Status & Player eligibility requests due
July 28 – Website Stats are finalized
July 29 – August 19 -- Playoffs at various sites

Rules of Play and By-Law Changes

Each team is required to send a representative to each League meeting. A quorum of 2/3^{rds} of the teams in good standing is required at all League meetings. Changes to Rules of Play require a simple majority of the quorum present at a Board Meeting to be ratified. Changes to League By-Laws require a 2/3^{rds} majority of the quorum present at a Board Meeting to be ratified

League Fees

Each team is required to pay an annual fee to the League. The amount of this fee will be determined by the Board after reviewing the suggested Budget provided annually by the treasurer (recommended to maintain budget to cover insurance payment for next year – which is due before league fees are collected). This league fee will include all expenses: league fee, insurance, and playoffs. Teams that dissolve any time after paying their League fee will not be entitled to any refund. League fees should be paid prior to the season (e.g. March 15th). Send payment to the address below:

Mail
Federal League
c/o Joey Olson
16430 Territorial Road
Maple Grove, MN 55369

New Teams

Executive Committee to send potential new league teams the league by-laws and if they are willing to follow the by-laws they can present a proposal at the December meeting including: What league are you coming from? Why are you changing leagues? How did you perform in previous league? What home field do you have secured? Do you have a full roster? Do you have a manager/administrator for league stats, etc?

The Executive committee will determine if any new teams will be added to the league by January 1st new team deadline. Accordingly, the Executive committee will propose a division structure with these teams prior to the February meeting, where the Board will vote on division structure.

League Structure

Important Board goals in considering league division structure: 1) Opportunity to play for a championship (equal talent across divisions/schedules), 2) Geographic division rivalries, 3) Play a variety of teams; 4) Play ~ 18 games.

Here is the current 4 division structure:

North: Capital City Cannons, Metro Loons, Minnoka Grays, RC Rockets, Rockford Rail Splitters, St. Anthony Norsemen, St. Louis Park Snappers, St. Michael Angels

East: Bloomington Biscuits, Cannon Valley Kings, East Metro Mammoth, River Falls Groupers, Rosemount Pipers, South Metro Saints, St. Croix Valley Silverbacks, St. Paul JTs

West: Apple Valley A's, Chaska Diamonds, Chaska Voyageurs, Eden Prairie Flyers, Minnetonka Mustangs, Minnetonka Saints, Tonka Bay Lakers, Waconia Islanders

South: Elko Chuggers, Hastings Hurricanes, Lakeville Bulldogs, Lonsdale Jokers, Milltown Outlaws, New Market Northerns, Northfield Millers, St. Patrick Shamrocks, Veseli Vulcans

Scheduling

The number of games that constitute the regular season schedule for each team will be determined and approved at the winter league meeting. All teams may begin tentatively scheduling after the winter meeting (e.g. February). Then, there may be a scheduling meeting prior to mid-April for each division to finalize schedules. Penalty for not attending is your schedule could be changed/set without your agreement. Some teams still might not have field dates at this time, so there still could be some minor final changes after this meeting. Each team is responsible for entering their schedule information and initial roster into the League website no later than opening day of the season. The regular season dates are listed above in Calendar section. After opening day of the season, teams that fail to play on the scheduled date of a game will receive a forfeit. The forfeit will remain in place until the game is played. If the game is not played by the end of the regular season, the forfeit shall remain on the team's record.

Awards

Hall of Fame – Nominees due end of March. Ideally good players, but most important good teammates, opponents and role models. Must have 10+ years with 35+ league experience in any league and 5+ years in the Federal Baseball League.

All-Star Game – Same day as HOF induction. Field location should have concessions, and ideally an announcer, music and lights (if needed) to support league games (ideally with teams of HOF players). Potential structure – League game, HOF, AS game (N and S vs E and W), League game.

Ron Cottone Award – Annual award given to the player who "best exemplifies the game of baseball, sportsmanship, community involvement and the individual's contribution to his team."

Playoffs

- Regular season must be complete by Sunday prior to tournament weekend.
- 2-3 week tournament bracket of 8 AAA, 8 AA, 8 A and rest B (will adjust based on # of teams).
 - Seeding based on tie-breaker rules below. Play-in game winners and losers will not be reseeded.
 - AAA – Top 4 each division winner & 4 play-in game winners as wild cards. Seeds 5 – 12 will compete in 4 play-in games to determine wild cards.
 - AA – 4 play-in game losers and next 4 regardless of division.
 - A – next 8 regardless of division.
 - B – Remaining teams.
 - Division winners will be top 4 seeds.

- Playoff schedule tentatively set 2 weeks prior to season end with fields/umps/game times/match-ups, etc, then just drop team names in (regardless of division).
 - Adjustments made if reasonable &/or parties involved OK the change (e.g. hosts playing at home field – try to avoid home field games after day 1).
 - Ideally the field would be – nice, central, lights, concessions, music, PA & live streaming, reasonably priced (with field maintenance), not home field resource dependent.
- Trophy with each level champion (past & current engraved).

July 15th is the deadline for all teams to announce if they will not field a team for the playoffs (all teams have paid for the playoffs in advance). The playoffs will generally be in August. Hosts are allowed to keep any fundraising money from tournament. 2 umps will officiate championship games.

Tie-breaker for regular season record & playoff seeding

- 1) Regular Season Record (winning %); Tie games are 0.5 win and 0.5 loss;
- 2) Head-to-Head (if 3 teams are tied and 1 team is 2-0 in the group, they are 1st, then the 1-1 team, then 0-2);
- 3) Division Record (if in the same division);
- 4) Head-to-Head Run Runs Against (if 3 teams and they are all 1-1, team with the biggest run differential in those games is the highest seed);
- 5) Regular Season Runs Against (per game);
- 6) Regular Season Run Differential (per game).

Federal Baseball League Player Eligibility

Federal Baseball League players must be at least 35 years of age to be eligible for game play. However, a 34 year-old is eligible for play if he will turn 35 by December 31 of the year he intends to play. Team managers are responsible for ensuring that every player on his team's roster is an eligible player. At each regular season and playoff game, each player is required to have their State-issued driver's license (or copy) or other suitable form of government-issued photo identification containing date of birth, such as passport, etc. The opposing manager can ask to see a player's identification at any time. If the requested information on any player cannot be produced, the player shall be ineligible to play in that game until the requested identification is presented.

No player may receive financial compensation from a team or team manager, including salaries, bonuses, or other monetary rewards, for their participation. Exceptions are allowed for reimbursement of actual travel and lodging expenses, and provision of necessary equipment and apparel. Sponsorships and donations must be allocated solely towards operational and non-compensation-related expenses. Any form of payment to players, outside of these exceptions, will result in player ineligibility.

Team rosters are limited to a maximum of 30 players, with 5 spots reserved exclusively for players at least 50 years of age. Changes and additions to the roster are permitted until 11:59 p.m., June 30 of each year, provided that each player's Participation Agreement and identification is added to the team binder as described above. To be eligible to play in a regular season game, a player must be on the online roster at least 24 hours prior to the start of that game.

Any player with previous professional pitching experience shall be disqualified from pitching in the Federal Baseball League until that player has been retired from professional baseball for three calendar years.

Ejection/Suspensions – If a player is ejected from a game, they will be ineligible (suspended) for the following game for their first offense of the season. For the second offense, the suspension is four games; for the third

offense, the suspension is 12 months. Any physical altercation will result in an immediate suspension for 12 months; any physical altercation involving an umpire will result in an immediate suspension for 24 months, and reinstatement will only occur after the player presents himself to the Board of Directors at an official Board Meeting and receives approval by vote of the majority of Board of Directors members in attendance. All ejections are to be reported by email or text message to the league commissioner and secretary by both team managers within 24 hours of the ejection.

Any team that uses an ineligible player shall permanently forfeit any game in which the ineligible player appeared. In addition, the ineligible player will be suspended from participating in any Federal Baseball League regular season, playoff, and tournament games until December 31 of the year following the year they would have ordinarily qualified as an eligible player. The manager of the team will also be suspended from the League until December 31 of the year following the occurrence of the violation. For example, if the violation occurred in June of 2018, the manager would be suspended until December 31, 2019.

Any team that has more than one violation of the eligibility rules in a calendar year will be expelled from the League, with all games of that season becoming Permanent Forfeitures. No player from an expelled team will be eligible to play in the League for a period of one year.

Playoff Eligibility / Website Stats

Players will be eligible for playoffs if they play in 6 official league games (not scrimmages). This is a flat game requirement for all teams, regardless of number of team games (35% of games was the rule prior to 2022). A game will be considered “played in” if the player had at least 1 PA or 1 IP or the game is forfeited by the opposing team. This rule is intended to limit ringers. Players who have historically met the requirement, but has a unique situation (player/coach, injury, military service, utility player) that does not allow him to make the required # of games, the team can petition to the league to adjust the game requirement that player was healthy/available. If the petition is approved, the league will make a list of these adjustments publicly available by listing the player’s name and team. Within one week from completion of each game, batting and pitching stats must be entered into the Federal League website for game attendance. Otherwise, that game will be excluded from the 6 game participation requirement for playoff eligibility.

If a player who does not meet the 6 game minimum requirement participates in a playoff game, that team will be immediately eliminated from the tournament and will forfeit any game yet to be played. In addition, that team will be expelled from the Federal Baseball League and subject to the penalties described above.

Non-league games will not count toward final standings, statistics or eligibility. These scrimmages can have stats entered into the website, but please do not check GS or GP. League leaders will be based on Minnesota Amateur “townball” guidelines of 2.1 PA and 1 IP per game calculated by average games played across teams in the league.

At the Field

Prior to the start of each game, managers shall exchange a list of eligible players available for that game. Only players that are included on that list are eligible to play in that game, regardless of when they arrive at the game. Use of a suspended player in a game is treated the same as the use of an ineligible player and shall result in the imposition of the penalties described above.

The home team is responsible for securing the playing field and the umpire(s). The field is required to have the following characteristics:

- A full-sized backstop within reasonable distance from home plate
- A pitcher's mound of regulation height, complete with pitching rubber
- Bases of official size which are safely and securely affixed to the ground
- An outfield fence of reasonable height and distance

The home team is responsible for communicating to the umpire(s) the Rules of Play and Safety Rules utilized during Federal Baseball League games.

If the umpire fails to show up by game time, the contest shall begin and continue to its conclusion with a replacement umpire. However, if no replacement umpire is available, each batting team will officiate for its half-inning.

During the regular season, the home team shall provide four new baseballs for the game. During playoff and tournament games, each team will provide two new baseballs for each game. Prior to each season, the Board shall determine the sole official baseball for use in all Federal Baseball League games. Diamond D1 Pro (DS, HS or LS) is the official ball used in regular season and for playoffs. Southern teams may use Rawlings when they play within their division and in the playoffs if they are playing another southern team.

Forfeits

Should the home team lose its rights to a previously scheduled field, a new playing field must be secured as a replacement with the home team notifying the opposing team of the new location at least 24 hours before the originally scheduled game time. If this is not feasible, the game must be rescheduled within three days of the original game time. Failure to comply with these provisions shall result in the home team forfeiting the game.

In the case of rainout (when the game is not official), it must be rescheduled within 72 hours. If this does not occur, both teams will be assigned a forfeit until the game is played. At that point, the Vice President(s) of the affected conference(s) and/or the League Commissioner would intervene to facilitate the rescheduling of the game and, in the absence of the game being played, determine the appropriate assignment of forfeiture(s).

The full allotment of regular season games will be completed by each team in the League. For example, during a 16-game regular season, every team must have a combined total of wins and losses that sums to 16, whether those results are achieved by games played or assigned forfeitures.

Should both teams fail to field a legal lineup by game time, a double forfeit shall be declared and both teams shall be assigned a loss unless the game is played at a later date. The rescheduling process of the game shall follow the protocol of a rainout as described above.

A forfeiture on a team's record that represents a game that may still be played will be considered a "Temporary Forfeiture," and will be removed from that team's record when the game is played. If a temporary forfeiture is not replaced by an actual game by the end of the official regular season, it will become a "Permanent Forfeiture."

In the case of Permanent Forfeiture, regardless of which team is the home team, the forfeiting team shall be responsible for all expenses incurred for field rental or preparation and for umpire fees. Forfeit scores are 0-0

for double forfeit and 7-0 for single team forfeit. Any team that owes another team reimbursement for these expenses is required to make that payment in full before the first date of the playoffs in order to participate in the playoffs and remain in good standing in the League. Forfeiture rules also apply to playoff forfeits.

Any team that incurs three or more Permanent Forfeitures due to the lack of ability to field a team for a scheduled game in the same season shall be ineligible for the playoffs or any other post-season play for the remainder of that year. If a team incurs three or more such forfeitures in consecutive seasons, that team will lose its membership in the Federal Baseball League for the following season. Such teams may reapply for League membership for subsequent seasons.

Rules of Play

2022 Rules of the American League of Major League Baseball shall apply to all League games. Exceptions are confined only to those stated in this document. Once the game has begun, the umpire(s) have responsibility to enforce all Rules of Play. The following is a list of the exceptions to American League rules:

Weather/Suspended Games → All League games, both regular season and playoff/tournament, shall be seven innings in length. Any game scheduled for seven innings shall be considered to be a completed game if weather conditions, darkness, time curfew, etc. forces cancellation after four full innings of play (3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead). If play is stopped in the middle of an inning of a game that has met the requirements of a completed game, and one team was leading at the end of the last completed inning, that team shall be the winner. If no winner can be determined through application of these rules (e.g. tie game), and the game cannot be completed (as listed above) it will end as a tie with both teams receiving 0.5 win and 0.5 loss.

If a game is rained out prior to fulfilling the requirements of an officially completed game, it will be considered a suspended game. Rather than restarting from the beginning of the contest, play will resume in the same manner as any other suspended game. The game is a suspended game that shall be resumed from the precise point when play was stopped. The completion of a suspended game is a continuation of the original game. The batting order of both teams shall match the line-up of the batting order at the time of suspension (exceptions will be granted for players who are not in attendance at the continuation of the game). A player, who was not at the original game when the game was suspended, may be used as a substitute during the re-started portion of the game.

Mercy Rule → A mercy rule is in effect if a team is behind by 10 runs or more at any point after five innings of play have been completed. The game will be officially over at this point; the teams may agree to continue playing, but none of the results of the game beyond the mercy rule point (runs, at-bats, innings pitched, etc.) shall be included in the reporting of the results of the game.

Extra-Innings → For both regular season & playoffs, extra-inning games will follow normal Federal League rules innings 1 thru 9. Then, if the game remains tied to begin inning 10, every subsequent half-inning will begin with a runner on second base. The runner on second will be the player in the batting order — or a substitute for such player — immediately preceding that half-inning's leadoff hitter (not necessarily last batted out).

Batting Lineups → Prior to the start of any game, a team may elect to use nine or more players in the batting line-up. The batting lineup must be declared prior to the start of the game, but teams can add players to the end of the lineup at anytime during the game. A team may play a game with eight players, in which case the ninth spot in the batting order will be considered an automatic out unless/until it is filled with a ninth player. If a

team starts with an eight-player lineup, they are allowed to fill the ninth or more spots with any arriving player(s).

The Federal Baseball League uses the Shared Position rule. The Shared Position rule is stated as follows: offensive substitution is unlimited, provided said player stays in the same spot in the lineup once he is placed there (i.e. a batter and a runner for that batter may occupy the same position in the offensive lineup; the manager must declare who is batting at that lineup position if there is a change. Neither player may appear in any other offensive lineup slot). A manager may use an unlimited number of players in any lineup spot, but those players may not be used elsewhere offensively. Pinch runners entering the lineup in a shared position are not required to make a plate appearance. A shared position may be initiated at any time, at manager's discretion.

A courtesy runner is only allowed for the catcher. If no shared position is in place for that spot in the batting order, the manager may either initiate a shared position substitution or use the last batted out as the runner. If the last batted out is used as the runner, the catcher must catch the entire subsequent defensive inning.

Defensive Lineup → Free defensive substitution (including pitching) shall be permitted throughout the game, without regard to the batting lineup.

Uniforms → Each team in the league must be outfitted with complete and matching baseball uniforms. Every player must wear his team's complete uniform for all games. Players not in team uniform will be considered ineligible to play in that game. A complete uniform consists of cap (all players must have the same color cap with matching logos), shirt/jersey (all players must wear matching jerseys, each with a unique number that is permanently affixed to the jersey and matches the number assigned to that player on the League website), and baseball pants (all players' pants must be the same color). Shorts, sweat pants, jeans, etc. are not acceptable as pants. Athletic shoes shall include steel baseball spikes, rubber or plastic spikes or varying types of tennis shoes. Any player not wearing a fully conforming uniform will be considered ineligible to play in that game and will not be allowed back into the game until they have a fully conforming uniform.

Safety Rules

The National Federation of High School League's baseball slide shall apply. All runners may slide only and directly to the base. No runner may run into any fielder. The runners' options are to slide to the base or to take himself out of the base path and concede the out. This is to include confrontations at home plate. Any runner violating these rules will be called out immediately, with any other runners returning to the prior base safely achieved at the time of the violation. An illegal slide (or failure to slide or move from the base path) by a player during a double play attempt (e.g. at second base) will result in both the runner and the batter/runner being called out. If a runner violates this rule more than once in a game, he will be ejected upon the second occurrence.

A fielder may not "decoy" the runner by pretending to have the ball in his hand or glove when, in fact, he does not have the baseball in his possession. A fielder may not deliberately block the path of the runner when he does not have the baseball in his possession or does not have a reasonable chance to field the ball. No fielder shall deliberately knock over a runner attempting to reach any base or home plate. In these situations, once the play is called "dead," each runner will be awarded one extra base. If a fielder violates these rules more than once in a game, he will be ejected upon the second occurrence.

Batting helmets must be worn at all times while batting or running. All catchers are required to wear complete protection including mask, skullcap or catcher's helmet, shin guards, and chest protector. Any player not

conforming to these requirements will be considered to be in a non-conforming uniform and will be ineligible to play in the game until they are wearing the appropriate protective gear.

During any League, playoff, or tournament game, only wooden bats are allowed. "Wooden" to mean plain solid wood, composite or laminated wood or wood that is covered with a plastic coating to prevent breakage. Composite bats that meet BBCOR standards and contain no metal materials are allowed for play in the Federal Baseball League, both for regular season and tournament games. In addition to this overall ruling, the Demarini S243 is specifically banned from usage beginning in 2016.