

By-Laws  
Of the  
Chicago Central Men's Senior Baseball League, Inc.  
An Illinois not- for- profit tax exempt corporation

Adopted February 2, 1993  
Last Amended October, 2012

- 1) Name of the Organization  
The organization, originally established as: Chicago Central Suburban Men's Senior Baseball League, Inc., is now recognized as Chicago Central MSBL and is an Illinois not for profit and federal tax-exempt corporation under IRS code 501 (c)(7)("League").
- 2) Notification
  - A. The league's official mailing address shall be:  
4423 Cascara Lane, Lisle, Illinois 60532
  - B. The registered Agent and Registered Office to be filed with the Secretary of State of Illinois shall be:  
Eugene Tashjian  
4423 Cascara Lane  
Lisle, Illinois 60532
- 3) National Affiliation  
The League shall be affiliated with the National organization: Men's Senior Baseball League, Inc., One Huntington Quadrangle, Suite 3N07, Melville, NY 11747 ("MSBL")
- 4) Principles and Purposes of the League
  - A) To provide the opportunity to play organized baseball for four different age groups within the organization.
    - 1 -25 League- players must turn 25 during the calendar year.
    - 2 -35 League- players must turn 35 during the calendar year.
    - 3 -45 League- players must turn 45 during the calendar year.
    - 4 -55 League- in this inaugural year of the 55 League, players who turn 52 during the calendar year are eligible to play. In 2013, the age will be 53, in 2014, the age will be 54 and in 2015, players must turn 55 during the calendar year to be eligible.
  - B) To promote a competitive environment and playing schedule.
  - C) To encourage good sportsmanship among its players.
  - D) To assure a fair opportunity for all to enjoy playing the game we have learned to love.
- 5) Membership and Nature of Affiliation
  - A) The corporation shall have no members

- B) Affiliation with the league is a privilege and not a right. No team or player has any contractual or property right for continued affiliation with the league.
- 6) Definition of Parties
- A) Player- An individual whose name is on the roster of an affiliated team.
  - B) Manager- A player who has been designated, and annually reaffirmed by a majority of team members to represent them in all league matters.
  - C) Team- A group of players approved for affiliation by the League that has paid all required participation fees in a timely manner.
  - D) Board of Directors-
  - E) Officer- A title given to a board of directors member which has assigned administrative tasks.
- 7) Eligibility
- A) There are currently 4 different age groups for teams in the Chicago Central MSBL. There is a 25 and over, 35 and over, 45 and over and 55 and over.
  - B) Currently, for the 25, 35 and 45 leagues, all players must be at least 25, 35 or 45 years old within the calendar year. Players can be 24, 34 or 44 years old, as long as they have a birthday any time in the present year up to December 31<sup>st</sup> of that year.
  - C) In 2012, the eligibility for the start up 55 league is 52 years old or 51 with a birthdate in calendar year 2012. Eligibility will remain progressive for each year until it becomes a true 55 and over league. 53 in 2013, 54 in 2014 and 55 in 2015.
  - D) The manager is responsible for making sure his players meet the age requirements by supplying the proper documentation to the Board of Directors before the beginning of each season. A copy of each player's drivers license is required to be on file for every player.
  - E) All players affiliated with the league shall sign a Code of Conduct and a waiver that will go on file by the board member in charge. These forms will become valid for the length of each players involvement in the league as long as he remains in good standing.
  - F) Teams in good standing with the League are invited back to participate in the following season by being present at the Winter Meeting held annually in December after each season. Deposits may be required as determined by the Board.
- 8) Ineligibility
- A) Teams who do not have a good standing with the League, Board of Directors, Umpires, Players or any of the facilities we contract will not be invited back as can be determined by majority vote of the Board.
  - B) The Board will have the authority to discipline, suspend, or terminate the eligibility or affiliation of any team, manager or player in the

League. This is done by majority vote of the Board and is not subject to appeal or review by the team, manager or player.

- C) The manager shall have the initial responsibility and authority to discipline players who demonstrate poor sportsmanship or compromise the principles and purposes of the League.
- D) The umpires shall have authority to eject a player from a game. The umpire may eject a player, manager or fan from any facility for fighting, abusive and foul language, personal taunts and threats, equipment throwing and anything they deem disruptive to the game or the players. The ejected person must leave the facility at once. The umpire has the authority to stop the game should the person ejected refuse to leave the facility. Regardless of the score of the game, refusal to leave the facility by the offending ejected player could result in a forfeit by that team, even if they are winning the game. This is determined solely by the umpire if he feels it necessary.
- E) Ejected players, managers or fans can not appeal their ejection to the board. They will also be banned from the next game, regardless of the offense. Playoffs are not an exception. Last game of the year is also not an exception and the offender will be ineligible to play the first game of the season the following year, regardless of whether he changes teams.
- F) The umpire must file a written report to the board for any ejection. These ejections will be kept on file and also reviewed by the Board. The Board has the power to add additional games to the suspension as they see fit.
- G) The Board may also discipline, suspend or ban any player, manager or fan from the League. A ban from the League may be for a determined period of time as voted by the Board. The Board can discipline, suspend or ban a player or manager for continued disorderly conduct to any player, manager or Board member both in the form of written abuse or verbal abuse.
- H) The Board will ban a player or manager from the League for any threat made to a player, manager, fan or umpire.
- I) Additional violations of eligibility include:
  - Violations of the By-Laws
  - Non payment of fees or fines as levied by the Board.
  - Repeated and continued violation of field rules.
  - Failure to abide by the principles of good sportsmanship.
  - Conduct that endangers the safety of players, umpires, managers or spectators.
  - Failure to comply with the principles and purposes of the League.
  - Failure to abide by a disciplinary action by the decision of the Board.
- J) A player's eligibility is also terminated when the manager or a majority vote from the Board removes his name from the team's roster.

- K) A player's eligibility is terminated when his team's affiliation is terminated by a majority vote of the Board.
  - L) A player's eligibility is terminated when the team resigns its affiliation. No money or fees will be refunded to any team who resigns their eligibility to the League.
- 9) Playoff Qualifications.
- A) There is an unlimited amount of players who can be added to the roster at the start of the season.
  - B) All players on the roster must meet certain criteria in order to qualify for the playoffs.
  - C) Players or managers who falsify the stats for the purpose of illegally qualifying a player will be suspended, ejected or banned from the league by majority vote from the Board.
  - D) If a Playoff game is played with players who are knowingly unqualified to participate in the Playoffs, and appears in a Playoff game, the games will result in a forfeit and the playoffs will proceed as if that team had lost the game in a normal fashion.
  - E) A player becomes qualified when he appears in the same amount of plate appearances as the number of regular season games or pitches the same amount of innings as the number of regular season games. Pitchers also must make an appearance in 1/5 of the regular season games minimum.
  - F) There are no appeals for players to become eligible for the Playoffs if they do not meet the plate appearance or pitching requirements. There can be no exceptions unless the player was on the Disabled List (DL).
  - G) The manager must e-mail or inform the opposing manager and the Board when a player becomes unable to play due to injury. The opposing manager must allow the player to sit out the game and not participate and that player becomes ineligible for at least the rest of that game. He can become eligible to play in game 2 of a double header the same day however.
  - H) By notifying the Board of an injured player, the Board member will log the player onto the DL with the date noted. Qualifications for playoffs will count as 1 plate appearance per game on the DL or 1 inning pitched per game while on the DL.
  - I) Forfeit Qualifications will be as follows.  
Any team who forfeits a regular season game also forfeits any plate appearances or innings pitched towards their player's qualifications. The team who is forfeited against, who has at least 8 players in attendance after the 20 minute grace period allowed after the official start time of the game, will be allowed to count 2 plate appearances for their 8 players or, up to and not to exceed 10 players, regardless of how many players the team has in attendance. The manager may pick the 10 players at random and it will be noted by the Board. This must be done by an e-mail to the Board. The team who is forfeited against,

who had a minimum of 8 players may also choose a pitcher to receive 2 innings pitched and 1 appearance.

- J) If neither team is able to field a team of 8, no eligibility allowance for either team will occur.

#### 10) Complaints

- A) Complaints against a player, team, manager or umpire can be presented to the Board in writing by the manager of a team by e-mail or as a letter. A player in the League is not allowed to file a complaint unless the complaint is to rid the manager from his duties. (See Mutiny Ruling Below)
- B) The Board will review the complaint and reply back after a decision, ruling or suggestion for handling the resolve of the complaint is agreed upon. The Board has the authority to take disciplinary action without a complaint being sent.
- C) Complaints may be filed by a player for only one purpose. The only time a complaint will be reviewed by the Board from a player, is when the player or players from a team are seeking to terminate the manager of their team. For this, a Mutiny Ruling is in effect as follows:  
A player or players from any team who have decided amongst themselves that they no longer wish to be led by the manager in charge, can petition the Board to act as a mediator to assist. The Board has no responsibility in this task but as to only tally a vote from each player who sends his request to keep or oust a manager via e-mail to the designated Board member in charge of the tally.  
For a successful Mutiny of a manager to occur, there would have to be an overwhelming majority of at least 70% of the roster players. Any financial ties between the manager leaving and the new manager are the business of the team. The League or Board assumes no responsibility for any financial compensation to either party as a result of this action. Any uniform or equipment compensation due either party is not in any way the responsibility of the Board to cover, justify or rule in favor of either party.

#### 11) Age Violations.

Age violations will have an immediate resolution. If a manager or Board member is made aware of an age violation, the Board will seek quick resolution to include suspension or expulsion of the player, manager, team or any combination of the three in violation.

If the age violation occurs during the regular season, the game just played and any other games played while the player was in violation will be changed as a forfeit. The offending player will remain ineligible for the season and also the entire first season where his eligibility becomes of official age. If the manager is aware of, and party to the violation, he too will be suspended for the remainder of the season as well as the entire following season.

If the age violation is found during the Playoffs, the standings of the team in violation will be nullified. This includes a Championship Victory. The runner up in this case will be declared the Champions.

12) Expansion

- A) Any team wishing to participate in any of the 4 Age Group Divisions in the League may contact the Board for consideration. The team requesting affiliation must meet criteria in order to become affiliated.
- B) New teams MUST attend the Winter and/or Spring Manager's Meeting in order to be considered for the upcoming season. No new teams will be added after the Spring Manager's Meeting for any reason other than a disband and new formation, which, will be voted on by the Board.
- C) New teams will be required to pay in full at or before the Spring Manager's meeting unless there is grace decided on by the Treasurer. This can only occur when the Treasurer notifies the Board by e-mail that this has been allowed. Dates for receipt of final payments due will be followed closely. Teams then not able to pay will have their money refunded in full with the exception of a \$200 non-refundable fee and be taken off the schedule.
- D) A team made up of current roster players may not disband and dissolve a current team and re-register as a new team without showing the Board their intentions and rosters. The Board will vote to allow or disallow the team re-affiliate under a new name at its discretion.
- E) New teams can not use a team name already used by an affiliated team in any age group.

13) Roster additions and player moves.

- A) A team may add a player without penalty up to and including the game date of the half way point or less of the total amount of regular season games. For example, the player may be added at Game 10 of a 21 game schedule but, not Game 11, unless a player is dropped from the roster. The player dropped from the roster to allow a player to be added after the half way point, must have at least 5 plate appearances or innings pitched, regardless of the number of games played or scheduled.
- B) Any player added to a roster either before, during or after the half way point of the season, starts fresh on his stats to qualify for the playoffs. There will be no carry over stats when a player goes to a new team during the season, unless the Board finds the situation in favor of the transferred player.
- C) No player may be added to the roster during the Playoffs. There are no exceptions.
- D) No more than 3 players may move from one team together to the same team they are wanting to move to. Additional players wanting to move to this same team must wait until the following season in order to move.

E) Exceptions to By-Law 13D can occur due to the disbanding of a team or disqualification of a team where no particular offenses were placed on the players.

14) Board of Directors

A) The Board of Directors shall: manage the League's affairs,

B) be responsible for its finances,

C) have government and policy making responsibilities,

D) schedule games and make up games at all fields,

E) schedule and plan playoffs, take care of the League's MSBL National requirements and responsibilities,

F) obtain the necessary insurance certificates for field use, liability, injury and property damage,

G) schedule meetings including 2 with the managers in the winter and spring and any others that are deemed necessary,

H) provide guidance, instructions and rulings in writing or posted on the League website,

I) provide a rain line that is maintained as a way to cancel games due to inclement weather,

J) schedule and co-ordinate all games with the umpire organization(s),

K) seek to acquire better fields while also attempting to rid the league of fields that are poorly maintained or run,

L) communicate with all managers on a timely basis with information relevant to their team,

M) always seek to better the League, provide a safe environment for players, managers and selves and uphold the integrity and responsibilities that have established Chicago Central MSBL as an organization providing the best baseball experience at a reasonable cost while still maintaining a budget that ensures the League is above compromise that otherwise diminishes these standards.

N) The Board shall establish reasonable compensation for the services of its members.

O) The Board shall consist of at least 4 members at all times. Should a member quit during the time between the Winter meeting and the end of the next season, attempts will be made to replace him for either immediate duty or before the next Winter meeting.

P) The Board member positions will be voted in by the governing Board.

Q) Managers can vote at the Winter meeting to replace a Board member by a 75% majority or greater vote with a replacement that also is in agreement with the other Board members. The replacement candidate must also come before the Board and managers at the Winter meeting to also voice his reasons for how he can better the intended position if the member is voted out.

R) If a board member vacates his position at any time, the president shall appoint an existing member to cover his responsibilities or, appoint, with the rest of the Board's approval, another person to take his place.

15) Managers Responsibilities

- A) Manage its team affairs including player rosters, uniform purchases or co-ordination of uniform purchases, basic equipment purchases where applicable or co-ordination of basic equipment purchases, timely entering of all game stats, communication with the Board in a professional manner and ensuring the team's understanding of the By-Laws, League Rules, principles and Guidelines and to ensure the players abide by and understand these rules, guidelines and principles.
- B) Manager must also set an example for his team at all times by abiding by all of the above.
- C) Manager must also be present at league meetings or instruct a coach to take his place who will forward information vital to his team's understanding.

16) Players Responsibilities

- A) Players must agree to play in the league while abiding and following the League's principles, guidelines and rules as per the By-Laws and League Rules.
- B) Players basically, should just play baseball period and should not contact the Board for any reason. Players with concerns should ask their manager to contact the Board with any questions.
- C) Players must not taunt, fight or threaten any spectator, player, manager, umpire or Board member in any way.

17) Meetings

- A) There will be 2 mandatory manager meeting held in the first 2 weeks of December (Winter Meeting) and the first week of April (Spring Meeting).
- B) Meeting are also open to anyone interested in managing a new team after approval to attend by the Board. They will not be allowed to attend or start a team however if it is found that they owe money to another league or left on bad terms with another league.
- C) The Board of Directors will be open to any ruling changes that must be aired during the Winter Meeting only. If the ruling passes a majority vote by the Board and/or managers, it will be implemented the following season and be added to the League Handbook and distributed during the Spring Manager's Meeting. No ruling changes will be implemented for the season that are brought up at the Spring Meeting.
- D) Meetings can be held by the Board at any time convenient of its members.
- E) A quorum is:
  - a) For a Board meeting: 3 directors
  - b) For a General Meeting: majority of the managers who are in good and established standing. Any team not yet established is not eligible to vote during a General Meeting.



- F) A manager can give his proxy vote to a coach or representative of his team if not able to be present.
- G) A Director can give his proxy vote to another Director if not able to be present.

18) Ethics Committee

- A) The Board may ask the Ethics Committee for help with rulings, penalty considerations, advice, player bans or any deadlocked votes, should they occur.
- B) The Ethics Committee will be made up of 5 Managers who have been in the league for at least 5 seasons.
- C) The 5 members of the Ethics Committee must consist of at least 1 manager from each age division.
- D) The Ethics Committee members will not receive compensation for their duties which, should be minimal to non-existent.
- E) The Board will ask for the Ethics Committee members to volunteer at the Winter Manager's Meeting initially. The Board will then review and elect off site, the 5 Ethics Committee members.
- F) The Ethics Committee members MUST have decent communication skills and be able to answer e-mails on a timely manner.
- G) The Ethics Committee may be required to meet between the Winter and Spring meeting if there is a need.

19) Specific duties required for board member positions:

President

- A) Uphold the integrity of the league at all times making sure that the board, teams, players, managers, fans, field personnel, umpires and all involved with any connection to the league understand the importance of good sportsmanship while playing good quality baseball at the finest fields available with a budget that is within the means of its teams and members.
- B) Maintain communication with all involved to assure all duties are on task and followed through to their completion.
- C) Communicate with MSBL National to receive all necessary documents and information pertinent to the League's structural success.
- D) Review and initiate the proper liability and property insurance coverage and distribute the certificates as required to the field personnel.
- E) Set up the Winter and Spring Manager's Meetings to discuss any changes or policies that improve the quality of the League.
- F) Delegate or assume any responsibilities listed below in other Board positions where possible.
- G) Uphold good standing relationships with each field by making sure that the players, managers, fans and umpires abide by all policies including field prep and closure.

Treasurer/Vice President

- A) Create a yearly budget as a non for profit 501C business that maintains a positive cash flow and 10% surplus at all times in reserve.

- B) Write all checks to vendors, administrators, suppliers, umpires and field administrators as required.
  - C) Send an updated budget report to the President bi-monthly or, as required by the President.
  - D) Help with additional duties listed below where possible.
- Webmaster- (This person in charge is not required to fulfill a Board position)
- A) Maintain a quality website that provides accessible stats of all players personal achievements as well as box scores and results of all games played.
  - B) Organize all player personnel records within the website with name, date of birth, address and e-mail address.
  - C) Structure all sponsor ads and help with their personalized website offers or messaging.
  - D) Update all aspects of the websites including and not limited to the By-Laws, League Rules, Directions, Field Maintenance Guides, Leader Board stats, pictures where available and any other click points on the site.

#### Scheduler

- A) Provide a fair and equal schedule to all teams in the league using all designated fields available.
- B) Re-schedule rain out make ups allowing teams 7 days or more where possible. Re-scheduled games within 7 days are subject to team approval.
- C) Help with additional duties listed below where possible.

#### Additional Board responsibilities:

There are a number of additional responsibilities the Board assumes that are shared by all members. These tasks are covered by any available member when work, family or vacation may prevent him from properly following through on tasks. These responsibilities include and are not limited to:

- A) Rain Line updates- to inform the players, managers, field personnel, umpires and scheduler of unplayable field conditions or cancelled games.
- B) Vote on issues involving player discipline and suspensions, rules, league policies, new teams, field options and additions and all league issues.
- C) Organization of special events and planning including All Star Games, League gatherings, banquets, meetings and benefits.