

The Constitution of the Big Rapids Men's Softball
Association Of Big
Rapids, Michigan

Revised: April 11, 2024

We, the members of the Big Rapids Men's Softball Association in cooperation and unity, do hereby enact, ordain and establish the following constitution.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Big Rapids Men's Softball Association (BRMSA)

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

This association is organized for the purpose of providing an organized recreational activity, promoting good sportsmanship, exercise, fun and competition for the men and women of this community.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

1. Be it resolved that any member of the BRMSA. must:
 - a. Possess good sportsmanship.
 - b. Have a regard for the welfare of the members.
 - c. Cooperate with the other members of the BRMSA.
 - d. Uphold and obey all the rules of the BRMSA.
 - e. Participate in the functions and special events and assist in the promotion of BRMSA.
2. Men's League: Members must be at least 15 years of age by August 1st of the current season. Younger players may participate with a completed Minor Waiver form with a parent or guardian signature.
3. A team must consist of at least 10 members/players and a maximum of 25 members/players
4. All rosters must be submitted by a pre-arranged date set by the Executive Board. The roster must include the name, address, phone number, age and the resident city/township of each player. It must also be signed by Captain(s) and abide by the attached liability waiver.
5. The team membership fee shall be determined by the Executive Board with approval of the general membership.
6. The team membership fee must be paid before the season begins unless prior arrangements have been made with the Executive Board.
7. Any team membership fee may be refunded or transferred up to the date of the completion of the schedule. After that date and prior to the first game of the official

season, a refund will be issued less any rescheduling fees and other expenses incurred by BRMSA. After the first game of the official season, no refunds will be made.

8. Any team, that is entered on a schedule who drops out and has not paid, will be assessed a fee, which will be limited to ½ of the season fee for rescheduling division.
9. After the first game of the official season, a player may transfer teams but must wait seven days to play for the new team. New players or transfers can be added at anytime during the season in accordance with the seven day waiting period. (Note: Teams will not be allowed to add any new players after Game 8. Teams will also not be allowed to add any players for the purpose of tie-breakers and/or play-offs.)
10. Player additions after 8-game mark must be approved by BRMSA Board for unforeseen situations(i.e. long-term injuries, players moving, players work shift changes etc.)
11. Players Eligibility:
 - a. Rec League: No Upper players are eligible.
 - b. Lower League: No more than 3 Upper players can be in the Lineup at a time.(No restrictions to amount of Upper players on Roster)
 - c. Coed: Men are limited to one team. Females may sub for other teams to attain 5 females.

Section 1 - In order to participate, each team must pay a lump sum membership fee, to be determined by the Executive board.

Section 2 - Each team shall be allowed one vote, with the exception of the President who shall be allowed to vote in case of a tie vote. In cases of election of officers all members present will be allowed to vote.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

The Officers of BRMSA shall be the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Chief Umpire, Trustee and At-Large Trustee:

1. The duties of the President shall be:
 - a. To conduct all meetings or appoint a designee to do so.
 - b. To appoint all standing and special committee chairmen and committees.
 - c. The President has the prerogative to attend any meeting.
 - d. To oversee the Violations Committee or serve as an active participant.
 - e. To keep in contact with the membership of the previous season and inform them of the first meeting of the year.
 - f. To notify current team representatives of all regular meetings.
 - g. To annually revise/update the By-Laws of the BRMSA
 - h. Appoint a Chief Umpire when position is vacated.
2. The duties of the Vice President shall be:
 - a. To perform the duties of the President in his absence.

3. The duties of the Treasurer shall be:
 - a. To present to the BRMSA for approval a budget for each fiscal year and to maintain the budget once it has been approved.
 - b. To pay all bills incurred by BRMSA
 - c. To keep an itemized account of all receipts and expenditures of BRMSA
 - d. To be responsible for the notification of and collection of all team fees and to keep an accurate and permanent listing of the members of BRMSA

4. The duties of the Secretary shall be:
 - a. To take minutes of each meeting and prepare them in permanent form for the files.
 - b. To take charge of all correspondence of BRMSA and to keep on file all pertinent documents.
 - c. To pay any bills incurred by BRMSA in the absence of the Treasurer.
 - d. Coordinate a pre-season practice schedule.

5. All officers upon retiring from office shall deliver all accounts, record books, papers or other property belonging to BRMSA, to the President in office within 10 days following retirement from the office.

6. All Officers must be participating members of the Association and a member of a team within the Association.

7. The Treasurer shall be paid the amount of \$599 per season plus any reimbursement for the long distance phone calls (for collection fees or verifying membership). This payment can be made at any time during the season. President is paid \$500. Chief Umpire is paid \$500.

ARTICLE V - ELECTIONS

1. Nominations will be taken from the floor for the Executive Board positions at the first annual meeting with elections to be held during the second pre-season meeting.
2. Candidates must be prepared to serve their full term of office.
3. Officers and board members shall serve a two-year term and are eligible for re-election upon expiration of the term. The President, Secretary and At-Large Trustee shall serve concurrent terms while the Vice President, Treasurer and Trustee will serve on alternating years/terms, opposite years of President and Secretary.
4. A majority of all votes cast shall constitute an election. For purpose of clarification, any and all members or perspective members shall each have one vote per election of each position.
5. Vacancies shall be filled by special election. However, the Vice President shall automatically fill the office of the President if a vacancy occurs.

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS

1. Membership meetings shall be held by the call of the President or on the request of any 10 members in good standing.

ARTICLE VII - CONDUCT

1. Any player(s), team captain, spectators or non-playing coach is subject to ejection for unsafe play or unsportsmanlike conduct towards an umpire, the opposing team or spectators, either during, before, or after a ballgame. An ejected participant for the above reasons will be assessed a minimum one game suspension beyond the ejected game. Further disciplinary action may be taken at the discretion of the board. A participant guilty of a second ejection will serve a minimum two game suspension plus a possible additional penalty(fine) at the discretion of the board.
2. Alcohol is allowed only in a can or plastic container; BEER items only! Hard liquor items in cans, etc. are NOT allowed! It is the Captain's responsibility for discretion in the consumption of alcohol by his team/players. An umpire or official also has the right eject an intoxicated player and can request a stop to any further alcohol consumption by a team or player(s).
3. Marijuana is not allowed on the fields, in the dugouts, spectator areas subject to enforcement by Big Rapids Public Safety.

ARTICLE VIII - OFFICIAL SEASON

1. The official season begins as designated by the Executive Board with approval by general membership
2. The length of the season shall be determined by the Executive Board based on the number of teams participating with approval by general membership.
3. The schedule shall be distributed at a special meeting set by the Executive Board.
4. 4Rainout Reschedules will be determined by Executive Board.

ARTICLE IX - TIES AND PLAYOFFS

1. If at the end of regular season, two or more teams are tied for first place, head-to-head play will determine place. If the teams are equal in head-to-head play, Runs Scored in head-to-head games will be the tie-breaker, if still tied, runs against, if still tied then decided by coinflip. The winner of the game will be known before the teams leave that evening, if games have not been stopped due to weather or darkness.
2. Any game tied at the end of seven innings will be played out to determine a winner. If darkness or poor weather causes an extra inning game to end, the game will be finished at a later date and will resume play from the point of suspension.
3. Extra innings will be started with last out on 2nd base with 1 out.

ARTICLE X - POSTPONEMENTS

1. Playing conditions will be determined by the Chief Umpire at least one hour prior to game time. After any game has started, the umpires assigned to the game will normally determine if the conditions are playable. The City of Big Rapids Recreation Department and Director of Recreation or his designee reserves the right to overrule the umpires at any time concerning playing conditions.
2. In case of postponement or suspended games, games will be rescheduled, same night if open, and resume play from the point of suspension. Each game shall be seven innings unless the mercy rule is in effect.
3. If lightning is seen or thunder is heard within 8-10 mile radius, play must be suspended for 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder or lightning strike.
4. All games will be postponed or suspended if a tornado warning is in effect anytime after 5:30pm.

ARTICLE XI - PROTESTS

1. Rule interpretation protests: Refer to the U.S.A. Softball Rule Book. Protests are not allowed for judgement calls, only rule interpretations.
2. Eligibility protests: Eligibility protests may be filed if there is question or doubt as to whether an individual is an eligible rostered member of the team who said player is playing for. (See Article III - rule 11.)
3. All protests must be made prior to the last out of the game being played. A \$10.00 protest fee (refundable upon protest being upheld) will be assessed and provided to the umpire. BRMSA shall keep the protest fee if the protest is found invalid.

ARTICLE XII - INFIELD PRACTICE

1. No infield practice on prepped fields.

ARTICLE XIII - EQUIPMENT

1. Equipment to be used must fit the official description as stated in the U.S.A. Softball Rule book and/or BRMSA By-Laws.
2. The use of a catchers mask or team uniforms is not mandatory.
3. NO metal spikes are allowed. If a member wears metal spikes once the game has started, it will result in the ejection of the offending player(s). (Note: Player knowledgeable of rule, ejection; player ignorant to this rule, warning and needs to change shoes)

ARTICLE XIV - SUBSTITUTIONS

1. Lineup must be set prior to first pitch. No new players can be added to the lineup after the bottom of the 4th inning.

2. Umpires and opposing Captain/Scorekeeper must be notified of all substitutions.
3. Any team may begin play with 8 players and end with as few as 8 players.
4. Players exiting due to injury will not be considered an out each time at bat.

ARTICLE XV - ALCOHOL

1. Team Captains are responsible for player conduct.
2. No coach, scorekeeper or roster member may consume alcohol on the playing field, or in the dugout during a regulation game. A warning will be issued to the offending player(s). A second warning will result in the ejection from the game of the offending player(s). Third team warning will result in a forfeit. Team captain(s) are responsible for behavior of their players.

ARTICLE XVI - UMPIRES

1. Each game is 'controlled' by the umpires assigned to the game. Any questions regarding an umpire's interpretation of rules should first be filed according to the U.S.A. Protest guidelines. Any general questions should be made directly to the Executive Board.

ARTICLE XVII - AWARDS

1. Sponsorship plaques with team pictures will be given for 1st and 2nd place in each division.
2. T-shirts for League Champs

ARTICLE XVIII - VIOLATIONS COMMITTEE

1. The Violations Committee shall consist of the Chief Umpire, three members of the Board and an umpire-at-large as appointed by the chief umpire.
2. The Violations Committee shall meet to investigate and consider all formal protests brought against any member, coach, or umpire of BRMSA as follows;
 - a. Alleged infraction of the Constitution or By-Laws.
 - b. Games placed under protest according to the A.S.A. Rules as interpreted by the umpires of that game.
3. The Violations Committee shall prepare and present it's decision to all affected parties.
4. Upon receiving a formal charge, the President or Treasure of BRMSA. shall notify the committee members, the defendant, and the umpires, if involving a softball ruling, of the hearing.

ARTICLE XIX - AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

1. This constitution may be amended by a majority vote of all present members at any general membership meeting.