

**MT. OLIVE BASEBALL &  
SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION  
BY-LAWS  
(2022 Season)**



# **MT. OLIVE BASEBALL & SOFTBALL**

## **ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS**

(2022 Season)

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**MT. OLIVE BASEBALL & SOFTBALL**  
**ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS**

(2022 Season)

**1. INTRODUCTION**

**1.A. NAME**

The name of this association shall be the Mt. Olive Baseball and Softball Association, herein referred to as either “The Association” or “MOBSA”.

**1.B. MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of MOBSA shall be to provide a supervised program, under league rules and policies, stressing sportsmanship and the development of baseball and softball knowledge and skills.

**1.C. AFFILIATION**

MOBSA shall be affiliated with Babe Ruth League, Inc. and American Legion.

**1.D. PURPOSE AND USE OF THE BY-LAWS**

The By- Laws shall be used to guide the administration and operation of the Association.

**2. THE ASSOCIATION**

**2.A. PROGRAMS AND SEASONS**

MOBSA supports two types of Programs, Recreation and Travel, and multiple seasons for each program. Each Program, with the concurrence and oversight of the MOBSA Board of Directors, will establish appropriate fees for participation. MOBSA Supports all programs with equipment and field maintenance and upgrades funded from the general fund. The association also supports all programs with Administrative (Player Agent, Treasurer, Publicity, Web Site, etc.) and Executive Oversight as described in the bylaws.

**2.A.1. PROGRAMS**

**2.A.1.A. RECREATION PROGRAM**

Leagues and teams are established for play within or representing the Township of Mount Olive. Teams are formed based on the number of players registered for play within a specific league age bracket. Whoever signs up is assigned to a team regardless of skill or experience, and is guaranteed playing time. For the recreation league, league age brackets may be combined depending on the number of players available to form teams.

**2.A.1.B. TRAVEL PROGRAM**

Traveling Teams will be established based upon open tryouts. Open tryouts will be established for each season to accommodate interests in players wishing to participate in other programs as well as baseball or softball. Quantities of travel teams per league for any season will be limited only by the interest and qualifications of players and coaches,

support by parents, and availability of fields. Games are played against teams from other towns or regions.

**2.A.1.C. PRIORITY FOR USE OF FIELDS**

Priority of field allocation will always be awarded to the Recreation program, when conflicts with a Traveling Team cannot be resolved.

**2.A.2. SEASONS**

**2.A.2.A. Recreation Spring (Regular) Baseball and Softball season**

The Spring season shall begin as stipulated in the Association Calendar submitted by the President and approved by the Board, and end no later than July 4th. This will include playoffs and All Star Games.

**2.A.2.B. Recreation Summer Baseball and Softball season**

Starts at the end of the spring season and runs through July 31.

**2.A.2.C. Recreation Fall Baseball and Softball season**

Shall be considered to run from August 1 through November 1 of each year

**2.A.2.D. Traveling Spring/Summer season**

The traveling spring / summer season shall run from January 1 through August 31, in conjunction with the funds and parental support available.

**2.A.2.E. Traveling Fall season**

The traveling fall season shall run from August 1 through the end of the year; in conjunction with the funds and parental support available.

**2.B. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATING PROCEDURES**

**2.B.1. Association Boundaries**

The association boundary shall include all of Mt. Olive Township, located in Morris County, New Jersey.

**2.B.2. Governing Board**

The Association shall be governed by a Board of Directors composed of a President, Vice President, Travel Director, Secretary, Treasurer and Player Agent who shall serve as League Officers. The balance of the Board of Directors shall be composed of Umpire in Chief, Equipment Manager(s), Publicity Director, Activities / Fundraising Directors, Head Grounds Keeper, Sponsorship Director, Web Administrator, and Concession Director.

**2.B.3. Meetings**

The Association shall meet no less than seven (7) times per year. Meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of the month. The meeting dates and times are subject to change. Any resident of Mt. Olive Township may attend the General Association meetings and is free to express opinions at the meetings when given the floor by the

presiding Association officer. Only voting members will be permitted to vote on issues before the membership. In addition, special meetings may either be called by the President or at least three (3) voting members of the Association (those members must make the special meeting request to the President at least 48 hours in advance of the proposed special meeting date).

**2.B.4. Quorum**

At all meetings, six (6) Board Members, three (3) of which must be Officers, must be present to constitute a quorum.

**2.B.5. Sunday Activities**

No Association sanctioned activities for the Recreation Program can take place on Sundays within Mount Olive prior to 12 noon without special approval by the Board.

**2.B.6. Rules and Regulations**

Except for rules stated in these By-Laws or in the Association League Rules for Baseball or Softball, the Babe Ruth League, Inc. Rules and Regulations or American Legion for each shall be in effect. The order or precedence shall be 1) MOBSA By-Laws, 2) MOBSA League Rules for Baseball and Softball, 3) Babe Ruth League, Inc. Rules and Regulations, American Legion, or ASA Rules and regulations as applicable.

**2.B.7. Disbanding the Association**

If the Association disbands for any reason, all remaining funds and assets will be turned over to the Township of Mount Olive Recreation

**2.C. ELECTIONS AND VOTING**

**2.C.1. Nomination, Election and Term of Board of Directors**

Nominations shall be made by voting members at the May or June Association Meetings, and elected by a simple majority of voting members at the June Association Meeting. A nominee shall be a certified member of any applicable certified coaching program approved by the Mt. Olive Township Recreation Department (e.g. NYSCA, the National Youth Sports Coaches Association) and may have to have successfully passed a State Police Criminal History Record Information Background Check. The one year Board terms shall start in September and run through the following August. In the event that a Board Member resigns or otherwise cannot fulfill his/her duties, the President shall appoint a replacement with the approval of the Board.

**2.C.2. Consecutive Term Limits**

A League Officer shall not hold the same position on the Board of Directors for more than five (5) consecutive years.

### **2.C.3. Voting Member**

A voting member shall be any person who has attended no less than three (3) of the past six (6) regularly scheduled monthly Association meetings, inclusive of the present meeting. Attendance records shall be kept by the Association Secretary.

### **2.C.4. Board of Directors Approvals**

Requires a 2/3 majority vote of Board members in attendance unless otherwise stated in the By-Laws.

### **2.C.5. Authority of the Board**

Notwithstanding anything in these By-Laws to the contrary, the Board shall be the final arbiter of any disputes, questions, issues and/or challenges concerning the conduct and/or operation of the Association and/or programs sponsored by the Association, including, but not limited to, the interpretation and/or implementation of these By-Laws; the interpretation and enforcement of Babe Ruth League, Inc, American Legion, and MOBSA League Rules; player selection; selection of managers and coaches; expenditures and other financial matters; and player, manager, coach and member conduct and/or discipline. All decisions and/or rulings of the Board shall be final.

### **2.C.6. Revisions to By-Laws**

Revisions to these Bylaws require the proposed changes be read and discussed at 3 consecutive meetings, and be voted on by the Association at the third meeting. Only those changes voted on and approved by a 2/3 majority vote shall take affect for the coming season. The Board of Directors shall review all proposed changes and either add or remove it from the voting agenda if the Board determines that the proposed change is, or is not, in the best interest of the Association. If it is removed from the voting agenda, the Board shall provide feedback to the Association as to why.

### **2.C.7. Revisions to Baseball and Softball League Rules**

Revisions to each of the Association League Rules shall be voted on after discussion, by the voting members present at the appropriate League meeting, after the General Association meeting. In order for a rule change to take effect for the coming season, it must be voted on and approved by a 2/3 majority vote, no later than at the regularly scheduled March Association meeting. The Board of Directors shall review all proposed changes and either add or remove it from the voting agenda if the Board determines that the proposed change is, or is not, in the best interest of the Association. If it is removed from the voting agenda, the Board shall provide feedback to the Association as to why.

### **2.C.8. Method of Voting**

The method of voting shall be via a show of hands, a roll call, or written ballot, as deemed necessary by the Secretary.



## **2.D. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **2.D.1. PRESIDENT**

The President shall coordinate activities with all members of the Board and shall preside at all Association meetings. The President shall direct the Association in a manner consistent with the Mission Statement. The President shall create an Association Budget and Activity Calendar, which is to establish target dates for all major events. This Calendar is to be approved by the Board on or before the December meeting. The President shall appoint committees as necessary to address Association issues, with Board approval.

### **2.D.2. VICE PRESIDENTS**

The Vice Presidents shall supervise the Baseball or Softball League within the guidelines of the By-Laws, and shall establish, with approval of the Association, game rules for that league. The Vice-President, in conjunction with the President, shall select Managers and Coaches consistent with the Mission of the Association. The Vice President shall appoint Division Coordinators to assist with the administration of the Recreation Program. The responsibility to create game schedules and to reschedule make-up games for the Recreation Program lies with the Vice President. The Vice-President may also designate a Travel Program Coordinator, subject to approval by the Board of Directors. The Vice-President shall preside at a meeting directly following the General Association meeting each month on the first Tuesday of each month.

### **2.D.3. SECRETARY**

The Secretary shall notify all board members of scheduled Association Meetings and shall record and read or distribute the minutes of the preceding meeting. The Secretary will provide official correspondence for the Association. The correspondence shall include registration in any national and local affiliation, (e.g. Babe Ruth League, Inc., American Legion, ASA, and New Jersey State affiliations, with all supporting paperwork including team rosters, league schedules, jurisdiction maps, etc.), or registration in post season tournaments if requested by a Vice-President. The Secretary shall maintain the By-Laws, and the Association's Baseball and Softball League Rules.

### **2.D.4. TREASURER**

The duty of the Treasurer is to control and report finances at monthly meetings. This will include distribution of approved funds to umpires, equipment suppliers, national or local affiliations as directed by the President. All expenses shall be discussed and approved by the Board consistent with these By-Laws and shall be summarized at Association Meetings. The Treasurer, with Board approval, shall hire the necessary professional staff to prepare yearly income tax returns for MOBSA and to provide financial advice.

### **2.D.5. PLAYER AGENT**

The Player Agent is to control the registration and selection of Players in fashion consistent with these By-Laws. Responsibilities include player representation of all

grievances and the coordination of the bump-up listing and assignments.

**2.D.6. ACTIVITIES / FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR(S)**

The Activities Specialist(s) shall work closely with the President and other Board members as assigned by the President, to execute major Association events, i.e. Opening Day, All Star Games, Pictures, Golf Outing and Special Events.

**2.D.7. EQUIPMENT MANAGER(S)**

The Equipment Manager(s) shall control all Association owned equipment. All distributed equipment is to be logged out. Strict accountability is necessary to reduce loss and control expenditure. The Equipment Managers are also responsible to recommend to the Board where equipment is to be purchased, on an item for item basis, after obtaining three (3) bids. Purchases should be made from Mt. Olive suppliers, if at all possible. The Equipment Manager(s) will work closely with the Vice-Presidents to evaluate needs and requisitions. Board approval is required on all purchases.

**2.D.8. UMPIRE IN CHIEF**

The Umpire in Chief shall assign, instruct and supervise all field assignments and umpiring activities for the Seniors (SB), Majors (BB&SB) and Minors (BB&SB) Divisions, once the regular season starts. Pay practices are to be recommended to the Board for approval. The Association Treasurer is to distribute all umpire fees, after authorization by the Umpire in Chief. The Umpire in Chief will head the Protest Committee. Two (2) other participants on the committee will be selected by the Umpire in Chief from the existing Board of Directors.

**2.D.9. PUBLICITY DIRECTOR(s)**

The Publicity Director(s) shall coordinate all media coverage for the Association. Most media coverage should be directed toward reward and recognition of the players and sponsors. The Association' major events such as registration, Opening Day and All Star Games should be coordinated with the League Secretary and/or other Board members.

**2.D.10. HEAD GROUNDS KEEPER**

The Head Grounds Keeper(s) will communicate with the Recreation Department regarding all matters related to field condition and maintenance. The Head Grounds Keeper(s) shall control all maintenance equipment and requisition needs through the Equipment Managers. The pre-game decision on all rainouts and the communication through the Association's Rainout Phone System and the pre-game preparation of the fields by Managers and/or Grounds keeper volunteers shall be under the direction of the Head Grounds Keeper(s).

**2.D.11. SPONSORSHIP DIRECTOR**

The Sponsorship Director shall recruit sponsors for teams in all levels of play. Additionally, the Sponsorship Director shall recruit sponsors for field signage, league website and any special events deemed necessary by the board.

#### **2.D.12. CONCESSION MANAGER(S)**

The Concession Manager(s) shall plan, organize and control the successful operation of food and drink concessions at game sites during Opening Day, Regular season games, All Star Games and home post season events.

#### **2.D.13. WEB ADMINISTRATOR**

The duties of the Web Administrator shall include being responsible for maintaining the information on the website, including team rosters, schedules, and publicity.

#### **2.D.14. NON-VOTING POSITIONS**

Any Board member may appoint assistants to help in their respective areas of responsibility, with Board approval.

### **2.E. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

#### **2.E.1. RECORDS**

The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining appropriate budgetary and financial records to identify revenue and expenses associated with all Programs within Board Oversight of MOBSA. Revenues and expenses specifically for the Travel Programs must be individually identified as such. A yearly income tax return shall be filed.

#### **2.E.2. PARTICIPATION FEES**

Each Program will establish appropriate participation fees to cover expenses from, as a minimum, the following categories:

- Player Equipment (batting helmets, bats, catcher equipment, balls, etc.)
- Uniforms
- Field Support Equipment (rakes, shovels, infield mix, bases, chalk and line machines, batting cages, etc.)
- General Field Improvement Capital Fund (as needed)
- Select Tournament Fees

The respective fee structure to be assessed directly by MOBSA will be developed by the Vice Presidents, President and Treasurer, and approved by the MOBSA Board of Directors. The fee structure must take into account all appropriate fundraising revenues. Families is financial strain can seek assistance with fees/charitable events by notifying the MOBSA Board of directors of a rationale for such assistance. Proof of the need for financial assistance may be requested by the MOBSA Board of Directors.

For the Travel Programs, an additional participation fee for each Travel player may be assessed directly by MOBSA. This fee may be used to cover Association expenses and may not cover all expenses associated with Travel play. Any additional participation fees

that will be assessed by the individual Travel Team managers to cover additional expenses must be submitted to the respective Vice President for review, along with proposed fundraising activities (Note: the purpose of this oversight is to ensure that the additional participation fees and fundraising activities are within a reasonable nature to allow all eligible players to participate in the Travel Program).

### **2.E.3. TOURNAMENT FEES**

The Association shall pay the Babe Ruth Tournament entrance fees for each Travel Team to be entered in the Tournament, plus the cost of all mandated associated equipment (such as balls).

### **2.E.4. REVENUE**

Association revenue shall be generated from, but not limited to, the following: participation fees, fundraising activities, donations, concession sales, Township grants. All methods of revenue generation shall be approved by the Board.

- **Concessions** - Revenue from all concession stands shall go back into the general Association funds unless otherwise approved by the Board.
- **Travel Programs** - Revenue generated by Travel Programs may be specifically designated by the Board to fund Travel Programs only.

### **2.F. INSURANCE**

Liability insurance is provided through the Township of Mt. Olive. In addition, certified members of Mt. Olive Township Recreation Department approved coaching certification programs may be provided with additional coverage (e.g. members of the National Youth Sports Coaches Association, NYSCA, are provided with excess liability coverage - refer to NYSCA policy for details).

### **2.G. INDEMNIFICATION**

The Association shall indemnify all Directors (as defined elsewhere in these by-laws) of the Association, to the extent permitted by law, against all expenses and liabilities in connection with any proceeding involving said Director, other than a proceeding brought by or in the right of the Association, if: (a) such Director acted in good faith in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be not opposed to the best interest of the Association; and (b) with respect to any criminal proceeding, such Director had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. It is intended that the rights of indemnification provided hereunder shall be as broad as permitted under the laws of the State of New Jersey.

The Association may, in its sole discretion, procure a policy or policies of insurance to indemnify and /or otherwise reimburse it, or its Directors, with respect to said indemnity obligations.

### **3. IMPLEMENTATION - RECREATION PROGRAM**

#### **3.A. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- **Residency** - The player must reside within the Association boundaries as described in Section 2.
- **Age** - Player eligibility shall be determined by school grade during that select season for both Baseball and Softball.
- **Attendance at Practices and Games** - Any player failing to attend at least 50% of the team practice sessions, league games, or is not playing for disciplinary reasons, must be referred by the Manager to the Player Agent and the appropriate Vice President for action.

#### **3.B. LEAGUE AGE BRACKETS - BASEBALL**

- **Farm League** - Players eligible for participation in the Farm League shall be in Pre-K/K and the age of 4 before April 30.
- **Rookie League** - Players eligible for participation in the Rookie League shall be in grades 1/2.
- **Minor League** - Player eligible for participation in the Minor League shall be in grades 3/4.
- **Major League** - Players eligible for participation in the Major League shall be in grades 5/6.
- **Junior Babe Ruth League** - Players eligible for participation in the Jr. Babe Ruth League shall be in grades 7/8.
- **Senior Babe Ruth League** - Players eligible for participation in the sr. Babe Ruth League shall be in grades 9/10.

#### **3.C. LEAGUE AGE BRACKETS - SOFTBALL**

- **Farm League** - Players eligible for participation in the Farm League shall be in Pre-K/K and the age of 4 before January 1.
- **Rookie League** - Players eligible for participation in the Rookie League shall be in grades 1/2.
- **Minor League** - Player eligible for participation in the Minor League shall be in grades 3/4.
- **Major League** - Players eligible for participation in the Major League shall be in grades 5/6.
- **Junior Babe Ruth League** - Players eligible for participation in the Jr. Babe Ruth League shall be in grades 7/8.
- **Senior Babe Ruth League** - Players eligible for participation in the sr. Babe Ruth League shall be in grades 9/10.

### **Playing at a Higher Level League**

For both baseball and softball, in the event that players can clearly demonstrate playing skills that are far in excess of those typical for the league level appropriate for their grade, the President, Vice President and the Player Agent shall be authorized, but not required, to designate such players as eligible to participate in the older league. This exception shall be limited to approximately not more than 5% of the registrations for the lower league. The President, Vice President and the Player Agent can require evidence of the necessary playing skills, which can include on-field evaluations. Any player that becomes eligible for a league by application of this section shall not be eligible for retention under Section 3.D.3.

### **3.D. FORMING TEAMS - PLAYER SELECTION, RETENTION & DRAFT**

#### **3.D.1. PLAYER SELECTION - BASEBALL**

##### **3.D.1.A. FARM LEAGUE**

The Farm league shall be split into 2 Divisions if needed as follows: The Gold Division shall consist of all 5 year olds; The Red Division shall consist of all 6 year olds. In forming both Farms Divisions, the Vice-President, with the assistance of the Player Agent, assigns players to teams based on an even distribution of age, and by geographical location within the township. Where feasible, assignment shall accommodate special requests from parents. (Same team as...etc.) No more than 12 players per team may be initially assigned. Additional players may be assigned to Farm League teams, after the initial team assignments, in order to even-out the number of players, and to provide the maximum opportunity for township children to play baseball. Additional player assignments shall be agreed upon by the Association President, Baseball Vice-President, and Player -Agent.

##### **3.D.1.B. ROOKIE LEAGUE**

In forming the Division, the Vice-President, with the assistance of the Player Agent, assigns players to teams based on an even distribution of age, and by geographical location within the township. Where feasible, assignment shall accommodate special requests from parents. (Same team as...etc.) No more than 12 players per team may be initially assigned. Additional players may be assigned to Rookie League teams, after the initial team assignments, in order to even-out the number of players, and to provide the maximum opportunity for township children to play baseball. Additional player assignments shall be agreed upon by the Association President, Baseball Vice-President, and Player -Agent.

##### **3.D.1.C. MINOR LEAGUE**

The Players shall be selected in a draft held in accordance with Section 3.D.4. If enough players are available to make up more than ten (10) teams, the Minor League shall be split into 2 Divisions (as required by Babe Ruth League, Inc.) as follows: The Red Division shall consist of all of the 9 year olds, plus a very limited number of equal additional slots per team, as determined by the Vice-President, President and Player Agent, for 8 year olds. All 8 year olds that are interested in playing in the 9 year old division shall participate in a player evaluation.

### **3.D.1.D. MAJOR LEAGUE**

The Major League shall consist of 3 Divisions (if needed), Black, Red and Gold, each with its own separate player draft.

- Majors Black will participate in Cal Ripken 50 / 70
- Majors Red and Gold will participate in Cal Ripken 46 / 60

The Vice-President shall recommend the number of teams in the Black and Red divisions, not to exceed 10 teams, based upon the number of 12 year old players (not to exceed 8 twelve-year olds per team) and the distribution of skill level of the eligible players. Returning players who have participated in Red Division shall be automatically eligible for the Red or Gold Divisions, and do not have to attend evaluations. At the Association meeting prior to the Black and Red division Drafts, the Vice-President shall recommend to the Association Board the names of the proposed managers and coaches for the Black and Red Division teams, for Board approval. Criteria for approval shall be manager's/coach's prior experience, and the skill level of the manager's/coach's children. All 10, 11, 12 year old players not selected in the Black or Red Division drafts shall be eligible for the Gold division draft.

- The player's grade governs the leagues' composition.

### **3.D.1.E. BABE RUTH**

The Players shall be selected in a draft held in accordance with Section 3.D.4. The players shall be split based on age into a Jr. Division (age 13), and a Sr. Division (age 14-16) if needed. The Vice-President shall recommend the number of teams based on registrations. At the Association meeting prior to the Black and Red division Drafts, the Vice-President shall recommend to the Association Board the names of the proposed managers for the Division teams, for Board approval.

- The player's grade governs the leagues' composition.

## **3.D.2. PLAYER SELECTION - SOFTBALL**

### **3.D.2.A. FARM LEAGUE**

The Vice-President, with the assistance of the Player Agent shall assign players to Farm League teams based on an even distribution of age, and by geographical location within the township. Where feasible, assignment shall accommodate special requests from parents (same team as...etc.) No more than 12 players per team may be initially assigned. Additional players may be assigned to Farm League teams, after the initial team assignments, in order to even-out the number of players, and to provide the maximum opportunity for township children to play softball. Additional player assignments shall be agreed upon by the Association President, Softball Vice-President, and Player Agent

### **3.D.2.B. ROOKIE LEAGUE**

The Players shall be selected in a draft held in accordance with Section 3.D.4.

### **3.D.2.C. MINOR LEAGUE**

The Players shall be selected in a draft held in accordance with Section 3.D.4.

### **3.D.2.D. MAJOR LEAGUE**

The Players shall be selected in a draft held in accordance with Section 3.D.4.

### **3.D.2.E. SENIOR LEAGUE**

The Players shall be selected in a draft held in accordance with Section 3.D.4.

## **3.D.3. PLAYER RETENTION**

### **3.D.3.A. Retention of Previous Year's Players - Baseball**

Player retention pertains to Minors and Majors only.

Prior to the regularly scheduled draft of players, a manager may select up to 3 players from previous year's team (inclusive of Managers/Coach's children). These selected player(s) shall be assigned to the manager's team for the coming season, provided the following conditions are met:

- The selected player(s) were placed in the draft of the next higher league, if applicable, and not selected during the draft.
- Managers not returning and not moving up a level may be replaced by the Coach of the previous year's team for the subsequent year(s).
- A new manager (new to MOBSA, not having acted in a managerial or coaching capacity in MOBSA the previous year), may retain up to 3 players from that team's previous year's roster.

### **3.D.3.B. Retention of Previous Year's Players - Softball**

For Minors and Majors divisions only: "Prior to the draft, the VP of Softball, Player Agent, and Managers from each Division will meet to identify the top players in the division. They will assign players based on skill level to ensure teams are equally matched and pitchers are evenly distributed. Thereafter, normal draft rules for player selections shall be followed

### **3.D.3.C. Retaining Less Players than the Maximum Allowed**

Managers either unable to select 3 players from the previous year's team or choosing to select less than 3 players, shall select from the available draft list before managers with a greater number of selected players begin their draft selections. Regardless of the rating of the selected players, the selected players shall take the 1<sup>st</sup> draft round slot down to the 3<sup>rd</sup> draft round slot. Once all managers have an equal number of selected/drafted players, the



normal draft process will resume. Any eligible siblings shall be included in the 3 players selected.

### **3.D.3.D. Player Retention - Softball**

Due to a limited number of pitchers in softball, prior to the draft the VP Softball will consult with previous year's managers and/or coaches to equally distribute pitchers and highly skilled players across the teams in each of the divisions. These players, taking into account the managers daughters, will constitute the base of each team in each division where a draft is conducted. Managers will follow the draft policies in section 3.D.4 to round out their rosters. The intention of this process is to facilitate equally balanced teams at each age level.

## **3.D.4. DRAFT RULES FOR PLAYER SELECTION**

### **3.D.4.A. General**

It is the responsibility of the Player Agent, respective VP, and the managers involved to conduct a fair and impartial draft. Consequently, it is incumbent on all parties to enter the draft knowledgeable of the rules governing the draft. Any questions on interpretation of the bylaws, used in implementation of the draft procedures, will be raised and resolved at the start of the draft. No protests will be entertained after the completion of the draft. No re-draft will be entertained.

### **3.D.4.B. Player selection drafts**

Player selection draft shall be held in Minor, Major and Senior (Softball only) levels of League. All drafts shall be supervised by the Player Agent and or a Board Member designee.

### **3.D.4.C. List of Available Players**

Managers shall select players from a list that contains the player's name, age and last season's rating, where available. (Note: all rating lists shall be returned to the Player Agent at the end of the draft. No players shall be present during the draft.)

### **3.D.4.D. Order of Draft**

Prior to the start of the player selection, each team representative shall select a number, which determines the team order of selection.

### **3.D.4.E. Sequence of Selection**

Odd draft rounds (1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, etc.) are run low number to high. Even draft rounds (2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th, etc.) are run high number to low.

### **3.D.4.F. Retained Players**

Teams that retain players (inclusive of Manager/Coach children) shall have those players occupy the 1st through N draft rounds, where N is the total number of players retained.

### **3.D.4.G. Siblings**

Siblings of a previously selected player, if selected by a different team, shall be

assigned to the first sibling's selected team, as that team's last draft round selection.

#### **3.D.4.H. Baseball Majors only**

All 12 year olds shall play in the Black or Red Divisions (unless in conflict with Cal Ripken rules, late registration or otherwise requested by the player's parent or guardian).

#### **3.D.4.I. Number of Players per Team**

All levels shall follow Babe Ruth restrictions as to the maximum and minimum numbers of age levels of players on a team. Initially, the number of players drafted per team should be a number less than the maximum allowed, as determined by the Player Agent, in order to accommodate late registrations. The player's age as determined by Cal Ripken rules (By-law section 3.A.) governs the team composition.

#### **3.D.4.J. Handling of Registrations after the Draft**

Should sufficient additional player registrations be received after the draft, the Player Agent and respective VP will decide on how best to incorporate those players into the Recreation Program. Normally, these players will be assigned to teams in accordance with extending the draft selection process. However, should sufficient numbers of new players exist, it may be necessary that a new team should be established for the good of the program. Consequently, all Draft Day team assignments are tentative for a period of time announced by the VP at the Draft conclusion; normally 2-3 weeks to account for large influx of late registrations. If advised by the Player Agent of the need for a new team, the VP will identify the new Manager and Coach, and advise all of the affected Managers that their team structure will be altered from the draft selection process. The Player Agent will determine how many players from the existing team will have to be re-assigned to the new team to augment the recent registrations. The goal is to create a new team that has the hope of being competitive.

- If the team retained 3 players, their 3<sup>rd</sup> draft pick (7<sup>th</sup> round pick) will be transferred.
- If the team retained 1 or 2 players, their 4<sup>th</sup> draft pick (5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> round pick) will be transferred.
- If a second player from a team is required to be transferred to a new team, the player to be transferred will be the player that was drafted two rounds after the first transferred player.

### **3.E. MANAGERS AND COACHES**

#### **3.E.1. ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION**

The Vice-Presidents, in conjunction with the President, are responsible for assigning managers/coaches to teams. For managers or coaches, their participation in the league support operations, Board of Directors membership, association meeting attendance, and their past performance shall be considered when deciding to assign them to a team. Managers are responsible for the behavior of their team, coaches, parents, and themselves. A manager evaluation questionnaire may be distributed by the Vice-Presidents to the parents of the players on each team; the overall purpose of the evaluation is to give feedback to the managers, through the Vice-Presidents, to help the

managers improve their skills.

### **3.E.1.A. Certification**

All managers and coaches must be certified as Youth Sports Coaches, as required by NJ State law, prior to the first game. Certification can include Rutgers, NAYS (National Alliance of Youth Sports), or Babe Ruth Certification. In addition all managers must be concussion certified in order to coach a team.

### **3.E.1.B. Background Check**

All potential managers and coaches are required to participate in and pass a State Police Criminal History Record Information Background Check to qualify. The qualifications/disqualifications shall be determined by the MOBSA Board of Directors and Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth. The League President shall be the single point of contact for any information made available by the background check, and shall be the only MOBSA member informed of the person's name attached to the criminal information. The cost of the background check will be incurred by MOBSA. Individuals who refuse to participate with the background check will not be allowed to manage or coach in the league.

### **3.E.1.C. Player Evaluations**

Managers / Coaches who do not update the past season's player evaluation ratings by the December Association meeting may not be eligible to manage. The Coaches in the Majors Black & Red division, with consultation from the outgoing Manager are responsible for the player rating update.

### **3.E.2. PRIORITY FOR SELECTION**

As a guide, the following is the selection priority for selecting team managers:

1. Returning manager in same level.
2. Returning coach in same level.
3. Manager moving up into level.
4. Coach moving up into level.
5. Manager / coach with previous experience.
6. New Volunteers

Managers are encouraged to regularly attend monthly association meetings and participate in league support activities (i.e. field maintenance),

### **3.F. RULES OF CONDUCT**

Managers/Coaches, Players, Parents and Spectators shall abide by the Codes of Conduct as published by the Mt. Olive Township Recreation Department (see Appendix C). Managers/coaches, players and parents/guardians shall sign a copy of the respective Codes of Conduct at the beginning of each season. In addition, Managers and Coaches shall also abide by the code of ethics/conduct as per their coaches' certification program (e.g. the NYSCA Coaches' Code of Ethics). Anyone violating these codes of conduct or

ethics, the MOBSA By-Laws, or the MOBSA Baseball or Softball Rules (see Appendix) will be subject to review and potential disciplinary action by the MOBSA Board of Directors. Potential violations of these codes shall be brought to the attention of the appropriate Vice-President; the Vice-President shall investigate and present to the Board a recommendation for action, if any, for approval.

### **3.G. GAMES**

#### **3.G.1. Schedules**

- Game schedules will be created under the direction of the Vice-Presidents and submitted to the President for approval by April 1. Field Assignments will be made by the President after consultation with the Umpire in Chief and Head Grounds keeper.
- Approved game schedules will be distributed to the Head Grounds-Keeper, Concessions Mgr. (s) and the Umpire-in-Chief on or before the April Association Meeting.

#### **3.G.2. Rescheduling**

Games must be played when scheduled, with no exceptions, other than official rainouts or other cancellations approved by the Board of Directors. Official rainouts are determined exclusively by the Head Grounds keeper before game time, and suspended games are determined by the umpire once the game begins. Any games played in opposition to this rule shall not be counted and the umpire shall not be paid.

- Rescheduling of rainouts and suspended games will be handled by the respective Vice President. These games must be rescheduled to be played within 14 days.
- Rescheduling will be accomplished by the respective Vice President allocating the next available field time slot for the game to be played that is not in conflict for either team based on existing Recreation League schedule. If neither team is able to field a team, bump-ups included, then the Vice President will reschedule once within the prescribed 14 day period. If either team is unable to assemble a team for play, bump-ups included, it will be declared a forfeit to the team available to play. If neither team is able to play the game, both will be charged a loss via forfeit. If at the end of the season, there is insufficient time for the Vice President to reschedule a game within the prescribed 14 days (ex. Last week before the playoffs and no field openings exist.), the respective VP may decide to either postpone the start of the playoffs to allow the game to be played, or cancel the game.

#### **3.G.3. Length of Game Restrictions**

No new inning, of a regular season game being played on Sunday through Thursday, shall begin after 8 PM for Farm and Minor leagues, 8:30 PM for Major and Seniors leagues (Daylight permitting). Terminating play due to lack of daylight is the Umpire's decision, is not negotiable and will not be considered as a suspended game unless the losing team has not batted in the 4<sup>th</sup> inning.

### **3.G.4. Substitute Umpires**

If the regular umpire does not show up by the normal game time at a regularly scheduled game in a league that normally has umpiring supplied by the association, and it has not been called off by the association due to inclement weather, a substitute umpire can be assigned by the agreement of both managers. The substitute umpire shall have sole responsibility for the conduct of the game, defining ground rules; interpreting rules, calling balls & strikes; deciding plays in the field, with the exception of calling a game due to inclement weather or loss of daylight, which will be decided upon by the majority vote (2/3) of the umpire and the 2 team managers. If the association appointed umpire arrives before the completion of the game, he/she shall replace the volunteer umpire.

### **3.G.5. Protests**

- Notice that the game is being played under protest must be filed with the Chief Umpire at the game, by the manager immediately at the time of the disputed decision and before the next pitched ball to the batter or the next day.
- Written report setting forth all the facts of the protest must be filed with the League President within 48 hours of the date of the protest.
- League President shall convene a non-partisan, 3 member Protest committee as recommended by the Umpire-in-Chief.
- Final decision on the protest shall be decided by the League President and the Protest Committee.

### **3.G.6. Suspended Games**

Any game started but not completed shall be considered a suspended game. The game shall be rescheduled as per Section 3.G.2 above and resumed from the point of completion of the last full inning. Any player who was not present when the game was suspended but is present for the resumption of the game, shall be inserted in to the batting order following the last position of the original order.

## **3.H. PLAYER BUMP UP PROGRAM**

### **3.H.1. PURPOSE AND USE**

By Opening Day, the Player Agent shall establish a list of players eligible to be “bumped up” to the next higher level. No Bump-up player may participate at any higher division practice or game if there is a conflict with the original (lower division) team’s practice or game schedule. The goals of the Bump-up Program are:

- Ensure a Bump-up program that allows teams to have sufficient players on the field to allow games to be played for the kids, without depriving the playing time of regular team members.
- Ensure a Bump-up program that allows for flexibility and ease of use by Managers.
- Ensure a Bump-up program that allows players of all levels to improve their skills by competitive play.

### **3.H.2. IMPLEMENTATION**

#### **3.H.2.A. SETTING UP THE BUMP-UP LISTS**

- **Candidates** - The Player agent will maintain a listing of candidate bump-up players for allocation to managers when needed. The list shall be comprised of names submitted by the Farm, Rookie, Minor, and Major Divisions' Managers. Each Manager shall provide at least one name, provided that the player is deemed qualified to safely play at the next higher level.
- **Parental Consent** - The Player Agent will ensure that the registration forms include a description of the “bump-up” program and indication for parental consent of the child to be considered for the program. A caveat will be included that either parents or coaches may change the initial option should situations warrant. Prior to designating a player as a “bump-up candidate”, the Player Agent will provide notification to respective parents via telephone, direct mail, or handout distributed through the respective managers, thus providing approval options to the parents or guardians.

#### **3.H.2.B. ALLOCATION OF BUMP-UP PLAYERS**

The Player Agent shall compile and maintain a list of eligible Bump-up players, organized by each league and including the player’s names, parent’s names and phone numbers, which will be used on a rotating basis for managers who believe there will not be enough players to field a team for a specific game. The following rules shall apply to the allocation of Bump-up players:

- A maximum of 3 Bump-up players can be used by a team in any one game.
- A Bump-up player can play a maximum of 3 games for the same team
- A manager will only be able to request a maximum of 3 Bump-up candidates at a time for any given game. If a Bump-up candidate is not available, the next available candidate will be presented to the manager.
- Each Bump-up player shall play at least the same minimum number of innings as required for a regularly assigned player on the team.
- No bump-up player may play more innings in the field than any regularly assigned player on the team.
- Bump-up player(s) shall be placed in the last slot(s) in the batting order.
- No bump-up player may pitch at the higher level.
- Bump-up players shall not be used in a playoff game.
- The use of all Bump-up players will be validated by the opposing coach following the game.
- Misuse of the Bump-up Program will result in the manager losing the privilege of using Bump-up players.

## **4. IMPLEMENTATION - TRAVEL PROGRAM**

### **4.A. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Travel Program is to provide a more competitive environment to further develop the baseball and softball knowledge and skills of the more highly skilled players, further develop their sportsmanship by teaching them to play in an environment where a cohesive, balanced team is more important than the individual, and to represent Mount Olive with dignity in competitive play with teams from other towns/leagues.

### **4.B. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

All players selected to play on any Travel Team may participate on a team in the regular season Recreation Program or can choose to “opt out” of the recreational season. Travel teams should be made up of players residing within the Township of Mount Olive unless permissions have been granted by the MOBSA Executive Board. A maximum of two players residing outside of the Township of Mount Olive may be permitted to join each travel team level.

### **4.C. FORMING TEAMS**

#### **4.C.1. Number of Teams**

If enough qualified players and managers are available, more than one Travel (non-Babe Ruth Tournament) team can be created per each age bracket.

All players on the Babe Ruth tournament teams must be selected from the same division. For example: Players that participate in the Majors Gold should not play on a team formed in Minors Red.

Baseball:

15U travel / tournament team: Babe Ruth 14-15U Division

14U travel / tournament team: Babe Ruth 14-15U Division

13U travel / tournament team: Babe Ruth 13U Division

12 U travel / tournament team: Majors Black

11 U travel / tournament team: Majors Red

10 U travel / tournament team: Majors Gold

9 U travel / tournament team: Minors Red

Softball:

14U travel / tournament team: Seniors / Majors

12 U travel / tournament team: Majors

10 U travel / tournament team: Minors

8 U travel / tournament team: Rookie / Farms

#### **4.C.2. Player Selection**

Positions on the team(s) are awarded based on skill, experience and sportsmanship of the candidates. Try-outs are to be conducted for each Travel season (i.e. Spring/Summer,

Fall) in order to encourage full participation by all eligible players. A minimum of two tryout dates over separate weeks shall be advertised and held, and a player shall attend at least one tryout in order to be eligible to be selected. Team members are selected by the respective Managers under an Oversight Panel consisting of the respective league Vice-President, the Player Agent, and/or team's Manager and peer coaches, to ensure that the proper selection process procedures were followed. If more than one team is being created in an age bracket, the more skilled and experienced players, who will make the best fit for a cohesive, well balanced team, shall be selected for the first or 'A' team. It is expected that travel players play at their age-appropriate level unless in the unusual circumstance of the MOBSA Board of Directors allowing a player to 'bump up' to the next level. Once committed, a player should commit to a team through 12U.

Upon selection and approval, the respective candidates' parents shall be appraised by the Manager of additional expenses to be expected for the respective season. If that parent decides not to participate, another candidate in the "order of merit" listing may be offered the opportunity to participate.

#### **4.C.2.A. Babe Ruth Tournament Team**

During the second half of the Spring Recreation Season, the Recreation Managers in each league level shall meet and advise the respective league VP and Travel Program managers of any Recreation players, not on the current Spring/Summer Travel Team, who have the potential skills for, and are interested in playing on, the Babe Ruth Tournament Team. The respective Travel Team Manager shall then arrange to conduct an on-the-field "evaluation" for that player(s), in conjunction with assessing the current Spring/Summer Travel Team, to determine the best team for the Tournament. The Oversight Panel, as noted above, shall ensure that the proper selection process procedures were followed.

#### **4.C.3. Age Brackets**

Players participating on a travel program team must play on a team within their own league age group, as defined in section 3B as long as there is a team in that age group (e.g. If there is an 11 year old team, an 11 year old player is not eligible to play on a 12 year old team), unless they participated in the Recreation Program on a team at a higher level than the player's regular age bracket.

### **4.D. MANAGERS AND COACHES**

#### **4.D.1. Selection**

Vice-Presidents shall recommend to the Association Board, prior to the start of each Travel season, the names of proposed Traveling Team Managers for Board approval. Past managerial performance and the ability to represent both the Association and Mt. Olive Township shall be among the criteria used by the Vice Presidents to select their recommendations. Once a manager is approved by the Board, the manager shall select the coaches, under an Oversight Panel consisting of the respective league Vice-President, the Player Agent and the team's Manager, to ensure that the proper selection process procedures were followed. Only managers and coaches who are certified and have coached in the Recreation Program may manage or coach traveling teams.



## **5. IMPLEMENTATION – LEGION / SR. BABE RUTH PROGRAM**

### **5.A. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Legion / Sr. Babe Ruth Program is to provide a more competitive environment to further develop the baseball knowledge and skills of the more highly skilled players, further develop their sportsmanship by teaching them to play in an environment where a cohesive, balanced team is more important than the individual, and to represent Mount Olive with dignity in competitive play with teams from other towns/leagues.

### **5.B. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

All players selected to play on any Legion / Sr. Babe Ruth Team do not need to participate in any town recreation program.

### **5.C. FORMING TEAMS**

#### **5.C.1. Number of Teams**

Jr. Legion: Ages 15 and up

Sr. Legion: Ages 16-19

Sr. Babe Ruth: Ages 16-19

#### **5.C.2. Player Selection**

Positions on the team(s) are awarded based on skill, experience and sportsmanship of the candidates. Try-outs are to be conducted for each team. A minimum of two tryout dates over separate weeks shall be advertised and held, and a player shall attend at least one tryout in order to be eligible to be selected. Team members are selected by the respective Managers under an Oversight Panel consisting of the respective league Vice-President, the Player Agent, and/or team's Manager and peer coaches, to ensure that the proper selection process procedures were followed. If more than one team is being created in an age bracket, the more skilled and experienced players, who will make the best fit for a cohesive, well balanced team, shall be selected for the first or 'A' team.

Upon selection and approval, the respective candidates' parents shall be appraised by the Manager of additional expenses to be expected for the respective season. If that parent decides not to participate, another candidate in the "order of merit" listing may be offered the opportunity to participate.

### **5.D. MANAGERS AND COACHES**

#### **5.D.1. Selection**

Vice-President shall recommend to the Association Board, prior to the start of season, the names of proposed Team Managers for Board approval. Past managerial performance

and the ability to represent both the Association and Mt. Olive Township shall be among the criteria used by the Vice President to select their recommendations. Once a manager is approved by the Board, the manager shall select the coaches, under an Oversight Panel consisting of the respective league Vice-President, the Player Agent and the team's Manager, to ensure that the proper selection process procedures were followed. Only managers and coaches who are certified may manage or coach teams.

## **6. APPENDICES**

**Appendix A - Baseball Rules**

**Appendix B - Softball Rules**

**Appendix C - Codes of Conduct** (for Coaches, Parents and Players)

**Appendix D - Manager and Coach Additional Responsibilities**