

# **CHIPPEWA RIVER BASEBALL LEAGUE CONSTITUTION “ESTABLISHED 1968”**

***Updated: January, 2019***

## **ARTICLE 1 - NAME**

**Section 1.** The name of this organization shall be the Chippewa River Baseball League (CRBL).

## **ARTICLE 2 - PURPOSE**

**Section 1.** The object of this organization shall be to create an interest in baseball.

**Section 2.** To organize baseball teams in a community and to promote, organize, and schedule a series of games each year.

## **ARTICLE 3 - GOVERNMENT**

**Section 1.** The officers of this organization shall consist of the following positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer.

## **ARTICLE 4 - OFFICER DUTIES**

**Section 1.** A league officer shall preside over all meetings of this organization, appoint all committees, set dates for all meetings, and perform all such executive and administrative work as would fall within the duties of this office.

**Section 2.** The Vice-President shall exercise the powers and duties of the President when he is absent or should become permanently inactive.

**Section 3.** The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep a record of all meetings of this organization and forward same to the President. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be entitled to such fixtures as books, stationary, printing supplies, and clerical help as his duties may require. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be custodian of all funds. He shall make disbursements of all funds by check. All bills and disbursements are subject of the approval of the President.

**Section 4.** It shall be the duty of the President and Vice-President to audit the Secretary/Treasurer's books if requested by any manager.

**Section 5.** The Secretary/Treasurer shall act as the statistician and historian for the league.

**Section 6.** It is the duty of the league officers to relay league events and information to the local media.

## **ARTICLE 5 - RESIGNATIONS AND VACANCIES**

**Section 1.** Any officer resigning during his term of office shall present his resignation to the Secretary/Treasurer or President. The President shall call a meeting with the remaining officers and managers within 30 days to appoint a replacement.

## **ARTICLE 6 - ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- Section 1.** The order of business at all meetings shall be as follows:
1. Roll call.
  2. Secretary/Treasurer reports
  3. Unfinished business.
  4. New business.
  5. Good of the organization (miscellaneous).
  6. Adjournment.

## **ARTICLE 7 - AMENDMENTS**

- Section 1.** This constitution in part or whole may be changed or amended by a majority of managers (or appointed team representative) at the annual meeting.
- Section 2.** Any manager or team representative may initiate or propose an amendment to the Secretary. The Secretary shall then present the amendment for consideration at the annual meeting for that purpose.

## **ARTICLE 8 – OFFICERS & MEETINGS**

- Section 1.** Officers at this organization shall be elected each year at the annual meeting which will be held prior to February 10<sup>th</sup>. Team managers or duly appointed representatives, active the previous year, are eligible to vote. However, there shall be only one vote per team present. The representative must be given full power to act by their ball club or committee at all league meetings.
- Section 2.** No person may hold office in this league until he has been an active player or manager for at least two years.
- Section 3.** No scheduled meeting can be held unless more than half of the current year's teams are present.
- Section 4.** The annual meeting, held prior to February 10<sup>th</sup>, should consider at a minimum: scheduling, fund raising, WBA participation, baseballs, and other activities essential to league function.
- Section 5.** All subjects or proposals that are put forth in the form of a motion at any meeting will be either rejected or approved by a majority vote of eligible voters present.
- Section 6.** League managers shall be given a minimum one-week notice for all regularly scheduled league meetings. Special league meetings shall only be held if team managers of all teams directly involved in an incident have been personally contacted (answering machines are not considered personal contact).
- Section 7.** Any changes to this constitution must be instituted and clarified at the annual league meeting.
- Section 8.** Only managers, team representatives, and league representatives shall be in attendance at league meetings.
- Section 9.** Failure by a team to submit complete statistics to the CRBL at the All-Star meeting for the All-Star game will result in a \$75 fine. None of that team's players shall be eligible to play in the All-Star game. Failure by a team to submit complete statistics to the CRBL at the end of the season or All-League meeting will result in a \$150 fine. None of that team's players will be eligible for selection to the All-CRBL team. A penalty of \$5 a day will be assessed for every day after the scheduled All-League meeting that the statistics are not received by the Secretary/Treasurer.

**Section 10.** Complete hitting statistics will include at-bats, hits, average, doubles, triples, home runs, runs, RBI's, stolen bases, and walks. Complete pitching statistics will include wins and losses, innings pitched, ERA, strikeouts, saves, and shutouts.

**Section 11.** A player must appear in a minimum of half of the scheduled league games at a non-pitching position in order to be considered for an All-CRBL award at that specified position. For example, if 20 league games are scheduled, 10 league games would be needed at the position of shortstop in order to be nominated for an All-CRBL Award at shortstop. The All-CRBL Utility award would not be defined by this rule.

#### **ARTICLE 9 - ELIGIBILITY OF TEAMS**

**Section 1.** Any team that was an active member of the previous year shall be eligible. Eligible teams must attend the annual meeting in order to be considered part of league play for the current year.

**Section 2.** New or additional teams that wish to enter this league must attend the annual meeting. The team must have a home diamond available. A roster of players must be presented to the league Secretary/Treasurer prior to or at the annual league meeting. Team approval will be decided by a majority vote at this meeting.

**Section 3.** If for any reason a team has left or dropped from this league for a period of one baseball season, its procedure for re-entry would be the same for that of a new team.

**Section 4.** Each team is allowed a maximum of 25 players on a team roster, with a 26<sup>th</sup> player being designated as the player/manager. This 26<sup>th</sup> player would not be eligible for the WBA tournament. All 25 players (and the player/manager) will be eligible to play throughout the CRBL season and the CRBL playoffs, provided they meet all eligibility requirements.

**Section 5.** If any team should become a detriment or disgrace to this league, then this team can be voted out of the organization at a special meeting called for this purpose.

**Section 6.** All league dues, fees, and fines need to be paid in full before the start of the league season by every league team. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of league games until outstanding balance is paid to a league officer.

#### **ARTICLE 10 - PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

**Section 1.** An eligible player is one who resides within a 30 mile radius of the home ballpark with the radius to be determined by the GPS method. This residence shall be the players voting residence (parents voting residence in the case of a minor player) and shall be established by April 1 of the current baseball season.

**Section 2.** All players in this league are subject to entry upon approval of the league officers.

**Section 3.** A college player, teacher or student shall be allowed to play at his hometown or at the college or school he is working at or attending, providing he continues to maintain residence within 30 miles of the team he is under contract to.

**Section 4.** A player returning after discharge or on furlough from the armed services shall have the same eligibility status as he enjoyed at the time he entered the service, and shall not be required to establish a new residence.

- Section 5.** Where a player had been classified as a legal resident ballplayer for a period of two continuous years of playing he may be continued to be classified as such until he stops playing with that particular team, regardless of his future residence. If his team folds he may continue to play for any team in that league, providing the new team is within 30 miles of his original team's ballpark. Any player who played for a team and moved away and is fifty years old or older, can return to his original team and be a player on the roster. *(The "Grandfather Clause")*
- Section 6.** All players must sign a Player Agreement Form to play with a particular team in this league. No player shall jump an agreement or sign an agreement with another team in this or another WBA league unless he is first released from his agreement by the first team. Player Agreement Forms must be downloaded from the WBA website at <http://wisconsinbaseball.org>. Each team must generate three copies that will be completed accurately, entirely, and legibly. One copy is to be kept for team records while two are to be submitted to a league officer by June 1<sup>st</sup> or by the roster exchange meeting. The league secretary shall forward 1 copy to the WBA secretary by July 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Section 7.** Once a player has signed a contract with a C.R.B.L. team, he shall not shift from that team to another in this league, unless a written agreement by both managers and a signed consent of a league official is obtained.
- Section 8.** After the first of June, the league Secretary or President must be notified of any new player 10 days prior to his first league game.
- Section 9.** Any player who was released by a team to play with another team in the same or different WBA league will not be permitted to return to the first team or league during the current season.
- Section 10.** Anyone appearing in a team line-up prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> must appear on the player agreement form, within a limit of 5 roster moves.
- ~~**Section 11.** No team's roster can be changed after the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, except by approval of league officers. Any new player added after this point will not be eligible for postseason league play or WBA play. *(Struck from constitution in February of 2017)*~~
- Section 12.** If a player is present for and not allowed to play in 3 consecutive games, he may apply to the CRBL officers or the WBA Board of Directors for his release from his contract if the manager of the team refuses to release him.
- Section 13.** A player must play in three league games during the regular season to be eligible to play in the league playoffs and championship games. American Legion players and WIAA summer players are exempt from this rule providing that they meet WBA and league rules and sign a player contract with the involved team prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
- Section 14.** The Roster Exchange meeting will take place the first week of June. Each league team must supply every other league team with a photo copy of their roster. The Secretary/Treasurer will be given 2 photo copies (one original) of the downloaded, completed, and accurate WBA roster form. It may be handwritten, but a typed version is suggested. All roster challenges and questions must be received by a league officer within one week of the roster exchange meeting.
- Section 15.** For league play, a player will be considered "active" for a season after appearing in one league game, and/or when they have been marked as one of their team's final 20 active players on the WBA Player Agreement form. The final version of the player agreement form must be clarified by the team manager with the league Secretary/Treasurer by July

1<sup>st</sup>. It is entirely the responsibility of the team manager to notify the league Secretary/Treasurer of exactly who the final 20 “active” players are for their team.

**Section 16.** A player is permitted to change CRBL rosters once within a league season. In other words, a player may not play for more than two CRBL teams within a league season. Once a player is given his release by his original team, he must wait 10 days before playing for his new team, regardless of the point at which he is released during the CRBL season. No roster changes will occur after June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Section 17.** If a player decides to switch teams prior to playing a league game in the current season, he will need to be granted a release from his original team provided Article 12, Section 3 has been met. The released player must then subsequently wait 10 days prior to playing with his new team. “Day of” release and play will not be allowed.

**Section 18.** CRBL Flex Player rules and regulations. See attachment containing 18 sub rules. Instituted in 2016.

**Section 19.** CRBL July Call Up rules and regulations. See attachment containing 12 sub rules. Instituted in 2019.

#### **ARTICLE 11 - PLAYERS INELIGIBLE**

**Section 1.** Any player who has played in professional ball in Class A or higher, as listed by the National Professional Baseball Leagues, will not be eligible to play in the CRBL for a period of 6 calendar months from the time he played his last professional game. This rule shall not apply to any person who played professional ball on a trial basis only for the period (or combination of trial periods) of not more than 60 days.

**Section 2.** *“Ringer” Rule/“Dave Hephler” Rule/“Cavalier” Rule removed in January of 2014.*

**Section 3.** No player in this league may receive pay in any way, shape, or form except through the league who can present trophies to the teams or individual players.

**Section 4.** Any team using an ineligible player shall forfeit the game or games in which the player participated in.

**Section 5.** All player information must be filled out in full on the WBA Player Agreement Form (roster) upon submission of the form at the CRBL Roster Exchange meeting. A listed player will not be eligible until their personal information is fully and accurately completed. This information will include but not be limited to first name, last name, date of birth, home address, and player signature.

**Section 6.** Any player added at (before, after, or during) the CRBL Roster Exchange meeting will not be eligible to play until 10 after the Roster Exchange meeting, regardless if that player has or has not appeared in a league game prior to the CRBL Roster Exchange meeting.

#### **ARTICLE 12 - CONDUCT OF PLAYERS & MANAGERS**

**Section 1.** Any player initiating contact in the form of pushing, tackling, punching or other types of physical contact against an opposing player or coach while on the playing field or at the game sight shall serve a minimum one game league or playoff game suspension. The physical nature of the conflict shall be documented by at least one umpire and the suspension shall be served immediately following the notification of the conflict to the league President. More severe suspensions and penalties could be imposed depending on the

severity of the conflict as determined by the league officers.

- Section 2.** ~~A player may be suspended from league play by the league officers if three written complaints of his conduct are recorded by different umpires in one season.~~ A minimum suspension equaling one third of the current season's total game length (ex.: 21 games = 7 games) will be given for the first offense of bumping an umpire. A second offense will be a one calendar year suspension. (*Wording struck in February, 2018*)
- Section 3.** A manager cannot refuse a player if the player asks for his release in writing before April 1<sup>st</sup> of that season, and the player has returned his uniform(s) and all team equipment to the manager, and owes no money to that team. Consent from the previous or "old" manager must be given to the current or "new" manager.
- Section 4.** All players must use an approved protective helmet while batting and running the bases.
- Section 5.** No alcoholic beverages may be consumed or in the possession of a player while he is on the playing field or in the dugout.
- Section 6.** Provided Article 12/Section 3 has been met, any player who is not recorded as one of his team's final 25 active players on the player agreement form for league play AND did not make an appearance in league play will be allowed to move to another team without a formal release.
- Section 7.** Any player selected to play in the CRBL All-Star game will be required to attend the game. Any selected player who cannot attend the CRBL All-Star game will have 48 hours from the completion of the CRBL All-Star meeting to notify a league officer that they are unable to attend the CRBL All-Star game. A player's manager may also notify league officers of the player's absence. Failure to give notice within the defined 48 hour grace period will result in a suspension for the immediately following CRBL game for the offending player and his team. See Article 9, Section 6.
- Section 8.** Collisions at home plate will be governed directly in accordance with current MLB rules.
- Section 9.** Any post-game confrontation by team personnel (player, manager, coach, etc.) with an umpire within the vicinity of the baseball field (parking lot, concession stand, restrooms, etc.) will result in a one game suspension from league play. The severity of the incident will be defined by the observations of the involved umpire or umpires.
- Section 10.** Any player, manager, coach, or other team personal ejected from a CRBL game a 2<sup>nd</sup> time within the same season shall serve a one game suspension during their team's next played CRBL game. The ejected and suspended individual may not sit in the dugout, cannot participate in the contest, and cannot be at the site of the field. Each subsequent ejection within the same season – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, etc. – will result in the same penalty.

#### **ARTICLE 13 - DUTIES OF THE HOME TEAM**

- Section 1.** It is the home team's responsibility to have some form of first aid and supplies present at the playing field.
- Section 2.** Game results must be forwarded to the local television, newspaper, radio, and/or designated media forums in time for their next addition or broadcast. Failure to comply will result in a \$20.00 fine assessed to the home team.
- Section 3.** The home team shall fix their admission prices if it so chooses.

- Section 4.** The home team shall provide the baseballs for the game. The umpires shall decide if a ball is usable.
- Section 5.** In the case of inclement weather conditions, which would cause a delay or cancellation, the home team must notify the visiting team and each team must notify an umpire 2 hours before game time, if possible.
- Section 6.** The home team shall be responsible for starting day games at 1:00 and night games at 7:30, unless otherwise agreed upon by both managers.
- Section 7.** All home teams will have their baselines and the batter's box lined and the field will be appropriately prepped at the start of each game.

#### **ARTICLE 14 – RAINOUTS, SCHEDULING, & RESCHEDULED GAMES**

- Section 1.** Rainouts and rescheduled games must be played within 30 days of the scheduled game. Rainouts and rescheduled games in the last 30 days of the season must be played by the WBA seeding meeting. If the two teams cannot come to an agreement on a date, a league officer and the two managers will converse to set a new date.
- Section 2.** Games rescheduled for any reason other than weather must be approved by the league officers.
- Section 3.** Teams shall not play more than two doubleheaders within their own division within a given season.
- Section 4.** If a scheduled doubleheader (two 7 inning games) is changed in to two separate games on two separate dates, these games will be 9 innings in length.
- Section 5.** If two separate 9 inning games are rescheduled in to a doubleheader, those games can be played in a “two 7 inning game format”, provided Article 14, Section 3 has not been exceeded.

#### **ARTICLE 15 - ADHERENCE OF THE RULES**

- Section 1.** All league rules must be adhered to or a \$75.00 fine will be levied on the team or teams involved, albeit under the discretion of league officers.
- Section 2.** There will be a \$100.00 fine against a team not having a representative at a meeting, albeit under the discretion of league officers.
- Section 3.** A team that forfeits a game due to a lack of players will pay a fine to the opposing team to cover the full price of their umpire for the game/games forfeited regardless of when the forfeit is announced. All fines related to forfeits accumulated prior to the All-Star meeting must be paid at the All-Star meeting. Failure to do so will result in forfeited games until outstanding fine balance is paid in full. Additional forfeited game(s) fines accumulated after the All-Star meeting must be paid in full at the All-League meeting. Failure to do so will prevent players of offending team(s) from being eligible for All-League awards.

#### **ARTICLE 16 - PRE-GAME ACTIVITIES**

- Section 1.** For all games, visiting teams shall have the field and/or batting cage area (when only one batting cage is available) from 45 minutes before the start of the game until 10 minutes before the start of the game (a total of 35 minutes) at which point the home team shall have the field until game time.
- Section 2.** An explanation of the ground rules must be given by the home team to umpires and visiting manager prior to each game.

#### **ARTICLE 17 - RE-ENTRY RULE**

**Section 1.** Any of the starting players may withdraw and re-enter once, including a player who was the designated hitter provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the lineup.

#### **ARTICLE 18 - DESIGNATED HITTER RULE**

**Section 1.** The designated hitter must be named in the starting lineup before the game begins, and can be the designated hitter for a starter in any position. The DH is considered a starter for consideration of re-entry.

**Section 2.** The DH must bat in the spot assigned him on the lineup card and only in this spot. Further, the player for which he was a designated hitter can bat only in the DH spot of the order under the re-entry rule.

**Section 3.** The DH may play in the field after the game begins. Once the DH enters the game defensively, there is no longer a DH, however there still remains the original 10 starters for consideration of re-entry.

**Section 4.** A pinch hitter or runner may substitute for the DH, however the rules for substitutes apply

**Section 5.** The defensive player named for the DH may bat for the DH at any time during the game in his lineup spot, but from that point on, no DH may be used.

#### **ARTICLE 19 - UMPIRES**

**Section 1.** The CRBL Umpire Association will assign 2 qualified umpires for each league game.

**Section 2.** It will be the responsibility of the association to insure that umpires arrive at their assigned games on time.

**Section 3.** It will be the responsibility of the association to insure that umpires are dressed to a code set by the association.

**Section 4.** The umpire assigned to the home team will umpire behind the plate for single games. For doubleheaders, the home umpire shall umpire behind the plate for the first game and the visiting umpire shall umpire behind the plate for the second game.

**Section 5.** Any complaints about umpires should be forwarded by team managers either in writing or verbally to the league Secretary.

**Section 6.** Three similar complaints shall necessitate a hearing before league officials and the head of the umpire association.

**Section 7.** Any player who has signed a league contract shall not umpire a league game for that year.

**Section 8.** All umpires shall be paid a rate to be determined at the annual league meeting. This rate need not go up or down on a yearly basis.

**Section 9.** A separate rate shall be paid for a single game and doubleheader.

**Section 10.** Managers should pay umpires the current rate before the start of a game (s). The rate of pay is currently at \$80 for a nine inning game and \$120 for a doubleheader. This rate was established in 2018 and shall be revisited in 2024.

- Section 11.** In the case of inclement weather, an umpire will be paid a \$25 “appearance fee” if the game does not start as well as a pro-rated “inning by inning” wage up to the fifth inning, at which point the full rate amount will be paid.
- Section 12.** When a weather delay of 75 minutes or more occurs before the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, an umpire will be paid the full game rate.
- Section 13.** In the event that a game must be officiated by one umpire due to another umpire not arriving for whatever reason(s), the one officiating umpire will be paid a rate of \$110 for a single 9-inning game and \$160 for a doubleheader. This rate shall be split evenly by the two teams.

**ARTICLE 20 - PROTESTS**

- Section 1.** In protesting a game, a manager **MUST** notify all game umpires of the specific protest prior to the next pitch being thrown. The protesting manager **MUST** then notify a league officer within 24 hours of when the protested game started. The protested game **MUST** be completed. If a team chooses to walk away from a protested game before its completion, that team will forfeit the game. If a protest arises on a game ending play, a league officer may be notified within 24 hours of when the protested play and thus game was completed.

**ARTICLE 21 - PLAY OF THE GAME**

- Section 1 .** All league games shall be played under American League Rules, with the exceptions that are made under the CRBL Constitution.
- Section 2.** All games which have a bearing on the championship shall be played. A forfeit is considered a game played.
- Section 3.** A team must have 9 rostered players to start a game. If a player is lost to injury, illness, or occupational reasons, a team may play with 8 players and the open spot in the batting order is not an automatic out.
- Section 4.** If a team has 9 players and loses any due to disqualification/ejection, the team shall forfeit the game.
- Section 5.** Scheduled single games shall start on time or the liable team shall forfeit. There is a 15 minute grace period from the scheduled starting time. If the scheduled date includes a doubleheader, the second game shall start 15 minutes after the grace period ends or the liable team shall forfeit.
- Section 6.** A 10-run rule shall be enforced after 4 ½ or 5 innings in a doubleheader. In a single game, the 10-run rule shall be enforced after 6 ½ or 7 innings. When the 10-run rule is enforced will depend on whether the home or visiting team is ahead.
- Section 7.** The division from which the host team derives shall be considered the home team for the annual league All-Star game.
- Section 8.** The CRBL tiebreaker format will be as follows:  
 For deciding a *division champion and/or wild card*:
  - 1.) Team forfeiting less.
  - 2.) Head to head record.
  - 3.) Better intra-division record (if applicable).
  - 4.) Least runs allowed head to head.
  - 5.) Least runs allowed in all CRBL games.
 .....  
 For deciding the *last WBA invite*:
  - 1.) Team forfeiting less.

- 2.) Head to head record.
  - 3.) One game playoff with home team decided by a coin flip.
  - 4.) In the case of a *three-way tie*, a three team coin flip will take place with the odd team getting a first game bye.
  - 5.) In the case where a playoff game is not possible prior to the WBA seeding meeting, the last seed or bottom seeds will be determined by weighted wins, or “win points”.
  - 6.) If win point total is tied, we will defer to:
    - Least runs allowed head to head.
    - Least runs allowed in all CRBL games.
- \*\*\* All playoff games will count in league standings and on league stats.

#### **ARTICLE 22 - BASEBALLS**

**Section 1.** The league shall adopt the Spalding Major League Baseball ML/900, Rawlings RON/ROA, Wilson A1010, or Diamond D1-Pro. A ball of this rating or higher may also be used. The color of the ball shall be white.

#### **ARTICLE 23 - EXEMPTIONS**

**Section 1.** An exemption will take place when a manager or player wants to circumvent league rules and/or is not satisfied with a league officers related decision.

**Section 2.** For exemptions requested outside of a league meeting, the exemption process will be as follows:

- 1.) The concerned party must verbally notify a league officer who will document the exemption details. The CRBL must be notified of the exemption request before the WBA, or the exemption will not be considered. See Article 11, Section 1 of the WBA Constitution.
- 2.) The notified league officer(s) will be allowed one week to contact the league teams in order to attain voting results on the exemption request.

#### **ARTICLE 24 – COURTESY RUNNER**

**Section 1.** (Instituted in 2019) The CRBL will allow for courtesy runners in direct accordance with the current NFHS/WIAA rules. See copied and attached NFHS rules pertaining to usage of courtesy runners.