



**Monroe County Volunteer Firefighters Slow-Pitch League**  
**145 Grandview Lane**  
**Rochester, NY 14612**

## 1. Organization

- a. All business will be conducted by the team managers.
- b. Each league member will send its team manager to each and every meeting.
- c. In lieu of the team manager, a team representative may be sent to a meeting, the representative is an eligible voting member.
- d. League meetings will be held monthly, (February-September) unless otherwise notified. The time, date and place are to be set for the next year's meeting, will be announced at the annual election meeting, which will be held in September. NO meetings will be held in the months of January and May.
- e. A \$100 deposit for meeting shall be made by each team, if five (5) meetings are attended by the manager or a team representative, the deposit will be returned to the team. If the required meetings are not made, the deposit will be absorbed by the league.

## 2. League Officers

- a. The elected officers shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. These elected officers shall be known as the Board of Directors. Each officer elected will serve a one year term. The election of officers will take place at the annual election meeting held in September. Teams may have more than one representative on the board. Board members do not have to be a team manager to be eligible for election.
- b. The President will preside at all league meetings. He will coordinate the efforts of the board, assist other officers when needed, call all board meetings and be responsible for the organization of the annual banquet. *(See Section IV,F)*
- c. The Vice President will take over the Presidents responsibilities whenever the President is not available. He will assist the President and help him perform his duties during his term of office. Should the President, for any reason, vacate his

office, the Vice President shall automatically become President. The Vice President will also serve as the Umpire Coordinator, who will schedule umpires for each and every league game. He will coordinate the league schedule with the umpire's organization and assign umpires to any rescheduled games. Any complaints of umpire's incompetence will be directed to him, so that he may take appropriate action, which shall include notifying the umpire organization. He will notify the umpire's organization of the names of any umpires not acceptable to the league.

- d. The Secretary will be responsible for any and all correspondence between this organization and any other. He will record the minutes of each board meeting and league meeting. He will notify the team managers or representative of monthly meeting dates, the dates and time of any special meetings. He will keep records of scores and compile a weekly league standing sheet and distribute it to each team.
- e. The Treasurer will be responsible for the collection of entry fees and any funds collected by special promotions or any other means. He will dispense funds for the purchase of softballs, the payment of umpire fees and any other incidental expenses. He will establish the price of the banquet tickets and will collect the funds from ticket sales. He will issue an annual report showing income and expenses at the first meeting following the annual banquet. He will assist with an annual audit of the league books to be conducted by two special auditors elected from the league membership. This audit is to be conducted prior to the first league meeting of the new year.(see section XI, Treasury & Dues)
- f. Past Presidents of the M.C.V.F.S.P.S.L. shall be considered honorary life service members of the league. Past Presidents must still follow all rules, regulations and by-laws established by the league.

### 3. Powers and Duties of the Board

- a. The Board may call special meetings or general league meetings at any time, as the need arises.
- b. The Board will enforce the by-laws and rules of the game.
- c. All protests, disputes and controversies will be presented to the boards for disposition, within 24 hours of the game. PROTESTS REQUIRE A \$50.00 FEE

WHICH IS REFUNDABLE IF THE DECISION IS IN YOUR FAVOR.

- d. In resolving disputes and exercising its duties the Board may call witnesses it deems necessary. The Board will notify, in writing, each league member, through its team manager, of the decision reached and the result of any protest or dispute.
- e. The Board will make up the annual schedule and distribute it as early as possible. This will include tentative playoff dates and the annual all-star game/banquet.
- f. Each team will be responsible for chairing the annual banquet. The committee will consist of the league board and a team representative. The teams Will rotate this responsibility on an annual basis beginning in 1993 and starting alphabetically. *See league roster or listing. (See section III B, officers).*

4. Rules:

- a. All rules will be followed as stated in the official softball rule book as adapted by the United Joint Committee. *(The league will give each team a rule book.)*

Exceptions to the rules as adapted to this league are as follows:

- b. If there is a major fire a reasonable time before the start of a game, it is the managers (with the fire) responsibility to notify the other manager of the cancellation of the game.
- c. If there is an emergency situation requiring manpower during the game, it will be replayed from the point of suspension, unless five (5) innings have been played, or four and one half (4 ½) with the home team leading, in which case shall be a complete game.
- d. The minimum amount of players needed to make a game “official” shall be eight (8), a team must play with a catcher. Courtesy runners will be the player making the teams last out and will be used as a courtesy runner if one is needed. There will be NO exceptions.
- e. All ten (10) players can re-enter the game at the same position in the batting order only once.
- f. The diamond dimensions will be amended to have sixty five (65) foot base paths.
- g. The pitching arc will be limited to twelve (12) feet maximum.
- h. Extra hitter (EH); another offensive player will be allowed, but is not mandatory.

The opposing team must be notified before the game begins, of this condition.

He or she may bat anywhere in the batting order. He or she may during the game be assigned to a defensive position, he or she may not re-enter as EH. If a defensive player replaces the EH, he or she may not re-enter the game defensively. If a player comes from the bench to become the EH, provided that he or she has not played any position in the game, he or she will be considered as if he or she started the game as EH. The regular re-entry rule will apply once the EH becomes a defensive player.

- i. Metal cleats are prohibited. The use of these types of shoes will force the forfeiture of the game by the violating team.
- j. The league operates with no run limit, foul ball, or strike limitations. All games are played to their entirety, (7 innings) unless interrupted by weather or darkness.
- k. Effective from the 2001 season, a rubber mat will be used to assist the umpire in calling balls and strikes. "If the ball strikes any part of the mat or home plate including the black of the plate, it will be considered a strike." The mat should be the size of the batters box.

VI. Eligible Players:

- a. Eligible players must be active firefighters, either paid or volunteer, a social members of the Fire Department with at least (5) years of active status, of the respective team, or an exempt member, whose NYS exemption papers were issued by the team department for which he/she plays. Ordained chaplains of the league teams may play. A member who has obtained his/her exemption status as stated above may play for the team of which he/she is an active firefighter, or play for the team from which his/her NYS exemption papers were issued, if the team is other than that of which he/she is presently an active firefighter. The term exempt is not meant to infer the social membership an exempt club or other social clubs.
- b. Each team must submit a roster of eligible players ay or before the April league meeting. If a roster is not submitted by the April league meeting, or prior to the season beginning, it will result in the forfeiture of all games until a roster is submitted. *(All league managers will supply copies of the team's roster to the Vice Presidents, and also be notified of any roster change.)* (See

section VI,D)

- c. A player can appear on one (1) and only one (1) roster. If a player wants to change teams during the season, and has a legitimate reason, he/she should request the change in writing to the Board of Directors
- d. The rosters may be added to, during the season, by submitting in writing, the notification of the new players status with his/her department, signed by the Chief of his/her Department , on Department letterhead, to the league President, who will then contact the league managers with the updated roster change. The new player does not become an eligible player until the President has advised, the team making the change, that all managers have been notified. (See section VI,E)
- e. A player is ineligible until his/her name appears officially, on the teams roster and they have been cleared by the league President.(See section VI,D)
- f. The use of an ineligible player will result, in the forfeiture, of the game, to the offended team.
- g. No roster additions will be accepted after the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) last game of the year.
- h. If a team would like to have other players join their team, but from another department, the two (2) teams must be within their mutual aid. In other words, the teams must share a common border line within, the two (2) departments. Both teams must have a written from their Chief, on department letterhead, stating the two (2) are eligible to play, on the team together, and also stating which players will be playing, on the team.

VII. Rules and Conduct:

- a. Managers are responsible for the conduct of their players and coaches as well as their spectators.
- b. If a player, manager or coach is ejected from the game he/she is automatically suspended for the following two (2) games. If the same player is ejected again during the season he/she will be suspended for one (1) year from the date of the second ejection. It is the mangers responsibility, to inform the league, of the ejection, on the night of the ejection.
- c. Once an INDIVIDUAL is ejected from the game and asked to leave the field, the manager will consult with the umpire to determine a satisfactory distance

for the player to be removed. And will enforce the umpire's decision. In any case, the ejected player must be far enough away that his/her voice may not be heard by the umpire.

- d. If any manager, player or coach makes physical contact with an umpire or his property, before, during or after any game, he/she will automatically be suspended for one (1) year. The Board of Directors will review the case, to determine his/her right to re-enter the league.
- e. The Board of Directors will consider any suggestions made by the umpire association, for disciplinary action and will notify all concerned parties, of its decision.

VIII. Playing Rules/Fields, Make-ups, Cancellations:

- a.** All games will start at 6:30 pm sharp, unless otherwise stated on the official league schedule.
- b. Playing fields will be relinquished by the home team, to the visiting team Twenty (20) minutes before game time. Failure to do so will mean forfeiture, of the game by the home team. Home teams will play on their regular side of the field, for both regular season and play-off games.
- c. Make-up games must be rescheduled within two (2) weeks of the postponed game and must be played by the end of the regular season. It is the home team's responsibility to reschedule postponed games; failure to do so may result in a forfeit by the home team. If there is a problem, after a two (2) week period, rescheduling a postponed game, the President, will reschedule the game, for the teams. If the game is not played at this point a forfeit will be given to one or the other of the teams by the Board of Directors after reviewing all of the facts. Notification of the Boards decision will be made to the concerned parties in writing, by the Secretary.
- d. All postponements and cancellations, the Vice President, Secretary, and opposing manager must be informed by phone, of the game cancellation.
- e. Regular season games may be played without an umpire if both managers can agree, on a suitable replacement. If a replacement cannot be found, the game will be rescheduled. No post season games are to be played without an umpire.

In all cases, when an umpire does not show, for a game, the umpire coordinator (Vice President), must be notified.

- f. The managers of both teams will call in the score, to the Secretary within 24 hours of the completion of the game. Failure to do so will result in both teams showing a loss for the game, NO EXCEPTIONS.

## IX. Final Standings

A. At the end of the regular season, the team with the best win/loss percentage will be ranked #1. All subsequent rankings will also be based on the win/loss percentages.

B. If two (2) teams are tied for that position, the team with the best win/loss percentage in head to head competition shall receive the higher ranking.

C. If there are three (3) teams or more tied for a position, the following tie breaker format shall be used.

- 1). Head to head competition

- a). Of all the teams tied for a said position, if one (1) team has beaten all of the others, tied for that position, it will be ranked the higher team.

- b). the remaining teams tied for that position, will then be re ranked starting with *Section 9.b.*

- c). of all the teams tied for the said position, if one (1) of them has beaten none of the other teams for that position, it will be ranked the lower team.

- d). the remaining teams tied for that position will then be re-ranked starting with *Section 9.b.*

D. If there are three (3) or more teams still tied for that position, the team having the highest total of runs scored against the other teams tied for that position, shall receive the higher rank.

- 1). If two (2) teams are tied for the most runs then refer to *Section 9.b.*

- A). The remaining teams tied for that position will be re-ranked starting with *Section 9.b.*

E. If three (3) or more teams are still tied for that position, the teams having allowed the fewest total runs scored against them, by the other teams tied for that position shall receive the higher ranking.

- 1). If two (2) teams are tied for the most runs then refer to *Section 9.b.*

A). the remaining teams tied for that position will then be re-ranked starting with *Section 9.b.*

F. If three (3) or more teams are still tied for a position, the teams having the highest total runs scored against the other teams, tied for a position and the teams in the next lower ranked position shall receive the higher ranking.

1). If two (2) teams are tied for the most runs then refer to *Section 9.b.*

A). the remaining teams tied for that position will then be re-ranked starting with *Section 9.b.*

G. If three (3) or more teams are still tied for that position, the teams having the fewest total runs scored against the other teams tied for that position and the teams in the next lower ranked position shall receive the higher ranking.

1). If two (2) teams are tied for the most runs then refer to *Section 9.b.*

A). the remaining teams tied for that position will then be re-ranked starting with *Section 9.b.*

H. If three (3) or more teams are still tied for that position, repeat *Section 9.F. and 9.G.* adding subsequent ranked teams, one at a time until the tie is broken.

I. If the tie is for last place and you need to add teams for the run totals, refer to *Section 9.F.*; add the team with the next highest ranking.

J. Upon completion of the regular season it will be the Secretaries responsibility to rank all of the teams, in the league and produce the final standings. The final standings will then be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors and published by the Secretary. The final standings will be used to determine:

1. The league Champion (#1 ranked team)
2. Seeding for the post season play-offs

#### X. Post Season Play-offs

A. The play-offs will be overseen by the Board of Directors, who may appoint a play-off director.

B. All teams will be eligible for the post season play-offs.

C. The play-off format shall be a single elimination tournament.

1. The exception to this will be the finals, which will be double elimination.

D. The seeding for the tournament shall be based on the final standings. (*Section IX*)

E. The top four (4) seeded teams shall receive a first round bye, based on an odd number of teams in the league. If there is an even number of teams in the league, the top three (3) will receive the bye in the first round. All other teams will be scheduled according to the seeding chart.



F. The home team shall be the team the higher seed.

G. All play-off games will consist of a minimum of seven innings. If play is interrupted by rain, darkness, time limit, etc., the game will be completed from the point of suspension on the following night. ANY and ALL exceptions to this MUST be approved by the Board of Directors or play-off Director, if one is appointed.

H. All regular season rules, regulations and by-laws are in effect during the play-offs.

I. The finals will consist of a double elimination format, with the teams having the best regular season record being the home team for games one (1) and three (3), if necessary.

J. The finals will be played, at the higher seeds home field, for games one (1) and three (3) (if necessary). The higher seeded team will be home team for games one (1) and three (3) (if necessary). The second game will be played, at the other team's field and they will be home team for game two (2). This will eliminate the coin toss to determine who home team is.

XI. Treasury/Dues

A. All entry fees/dues (\$650.00) will be paid on or before the April meeting. Fees/dues include league fees, 200 club tickets and \$75.00 meeting deposit. If not done by the April meeting it will result in the forfeiture of all games played until due are paid.

B. The amount of the Treasury shall be unlimited.

C. *See Section III E for the Treasurer duties.*