

## **BASEBALL BY-LAWS** (Updated 1/30/2024)

1. The Flint Metro League is comprised of two 6-Team Divisions; Stars (Small schools) and Stripes (Large Schools). Division Champions are determined based on Record within their Division.
  - BASEBALL will play a 3-game series with each division school. Doubleheaders will be scheduled on Monday and Single game on Wednesday.
  - A Single cross-over game will be scheduled based on Division Standings to determine the Flint Metro Champion (1v1, 2v2, etc..) and played at a neutral site when possible (such as Mott CC, Whaley or Broome Park). Sub-varsity teams will play at the opposite of the Varsity.
2. In case the first game of a varsity League game double header is completed, but the second game is stopped and not a complete game, it should be completed on another day from the start of suspension, and not started again from the first inning. If the game is rained out, the next date is automatically the makeup date at the original home site. If on the next date the home varsity site is unplayable but the away site is playable, the original away site will be used for the varsity game(s), keeping the original home team in all other respects. (i.e. batting last, paying for umpires, etc.)
3. If a game is called and one team is ahead after five (5) innings of play, the game is complete.
4. Scorebooks should be carefully compared at the end of each game before leaving the field. The home book is official.
5. Softball and baseball are to play the 10-run mercy rule after 5 innings of play and 15-run mercy rule after 3 innings of play.
6. **For all sub-varsity (Freshman/JV) doubleheader games, teams will play two (2) 7-inning games and have set a time limit, with no new inning to start after 1 hour 45 minutes (1:45). *\*approved January 2024***  
The International Tiebreaker Rule will be used for all sub-varsity games. (For one inning, the last official batter of the previous inning goes to second base and the inning and game continues.)
7. Any postponed games affecting championships must be played.
8. Base line coaches must be in uniform. (baseball only)
9. Junior varsity baseball and softball are on the same schedule as varsity at the opposite site of varsity games. Freshman teams play at the same site as varsity teams one day later. All sub-varsity games will be scheduled as doubleheaders.
10. Baseball and Softball: The home team is to be the home team for both games of a double header.
11. Standings Tie Breaker - If 3-way (or more) tie occurs, tiebreaker criteria would be as follows:
  - Combined league record between the 3+ teams involved.
  - League runs allowed between only the teams involved in the tie.
12. Pre-game Warm-Up Schedule

Home team batting practice:	20 minutes - 1 hour and 5 minutes before game time.
Visiting team batting practice:	20 minutes - 45 minutes before game time.
Home team infield practice:	10 minutes - 25 minutes before game time.
Visiting team infield practice:	10 minutes - 15 minutes before game time.
Ground rules with umpires:	5 minutes before game time.

13. All Flint Metro League selections for baseball will be as follows:

- A. The athletic director in charge will arrange a meeting of all head coaches to select All-Metro First and Second Teams.
- B. The statistics that are needed that should be kept for All League nominees are: (From only League games)

Regular

Official at bats  
Runs scored  
Hits  
Batting average  
Runs batted in  
Home runs  
Three base hits  
Two base hits  
Stolen bases  
Errors  
Attempts

Pitcher Statistics

Games won  
Games lost  
Strike outs  
Walks  
Hits given up  
Innings pitched  
Earned runs  
Earned run average  
(Figured on 7 innings)

Catcher Statistics

Runners Thrown Out  
Steals Against

- C. The number of All-League Nominations will be determined by where you finish in your division. First (7), Second (6), Third (5), Fourth (4), Fifth (3), Sixth (3).
- D. Only League game statistics will be used to determine all-League players. Baseball Coaches will submit stats using the MHSBCA All-District Stat form. (*\*this was approved in Nov. 2018*)
- E. Players considered for All League selections must have played in that position at least Seven (7) League games. (One less than half the League games.) Baseball Only- The minimum game appearance requirement for All-League Pitcher will be 4 games. (*\*This was approved in Nov. 2018*)

F. Baseball All-League Per Division are:

First Team

2- Pitchers  
3- Infielders  
1- First Baseman  
1- Catchers  
3- Outfielders  
1- At-Large Player

Second Team

2- Pitchers  
3- Infielders  
1- First Baseman  
1- Catcher  
3- Outfielders

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12 Players

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10 Players

First team selections receive gold medals, second team selections receive silver medals, (12 gold medals, 10 silver medals)

G. Voting Procedures for All-League

1. All First Team nominees receive 2 points; all Second Team nominees receive 1 point

Examples Pitcher = 2-2, 1-1

Outfielders = 2-2-2, 1-1-1

2. All League Honorable Mention

- a. Any Player that is nominated for All-League automatically receives Honorable Mention, even if they do not receive any votes. (*\*This was approved in Oct. 2023*)

- H. The Athletic Director in charge of the meeting will get all information and final standings to the news media.

### **PERTINENT GENERAL BYLAWS FOR ALL F.M.L. SPORTS**

12. In case of a school being closed due to inclement weather, all non-varsity events may be postponed or canceled. The playing of all varsity or combined varsity and JV matches will be determined by the athletic director and administration of the schools involved.
15. Noise making devices, including the human voice, will not be allowed to be used in an unsportsmanlike manner. The home team management will have the right to remove any such object, or person, from the sporting activity.
16. The Flint Metro League takes the position that the practice of good sportsmanship is essential and that all members should adopt a common policy. Member schools are expected to implement a plan to promote responsible behavior by fans and all persons associated with athletics. It is suggested that schools use contest programs, the media, bulletins, and meetings as a means for promoting good sportsmanship. Member schools should also have plans for the monitoring of home and away contests and for dealing with those persons who violate the principles of responsible behavior.
17. During league competitions and tournaments, the host school administration, the sport administrator, and/or designee of either, is charged with the authority to act on any situation that might arise that is not covered herein.
18. Home school will contact league-approved media to report contest results.
20. Grievance and Protest Procedure:
  - A. All protests must use the following procedure:
    1. The principal/designee of the protesting school will notify the League president and its opponent(s) by phone the following school day of the intent to protest.
    2. All violations and protests will be directed to the League president in writing. This protest must be done in writing by a school administrator within 72 hours of the event.
    3. The League president will appoint a three member committee of non-involved schools to determine whether the protest is valid and make a recommendation for a course of action to be voted on by the conference membership not involved in the protest.

- B. Courses of action possible when a violation is determined and a protest is upheld include:
    - 1. Letter of censure (duplicate will be sent to each member school and any game official who may have been involved)
    - 2. Forfeiture of League contest(s)
    - 3. Probation for one year in the sport involved
    - 4. Ineligibility for championships (such ineligibility to be in the sport involved only, for one year only, and the year involved to be determined by the membership); no all-sports points awarded that year
    - 5. Other courses of action as deemed appropriate to the violation
  - C. All contests in which an ineligible player or players are used shall be forfeited and the score be that of a forfeited contest. This includes League championship tournaments.
  - D. If use of an ineligible player or players by a League champion is determined, and forfeitures under section C above prevent a team from maintaining its championship, the championship for that sport for that year will be awarded to the second-place team and All Sports Award points adjusted accordingly. In the event of co-championships, the remaining championship team would maintain its championship.
22. The only League awards to be made in any sport are the ones sanctioned by the League.
23. The FML will NOT recognize an MVP athlete for each sport.
24. Each varsity sport will be allowed a Coach of the Year selection. That coach will be presented a certificate.
25. If a coach or designated representative is not present at an All-League voting meeting, athletes from that school are not eligible for All-League recognition beyond honorable mention.
26. To receive FML honors, an athlete has to finish the season in good standing. The definition of “good standing” is to finish the season on the team and meet minimum requirements for that sport’s awards.