

OHIOMSBL 2012 Frequently Asked Questions

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU READ THIS IN ITS ENTIRETY, ESPECIALLY IF YOU ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE TRYOUTS AND/OR ARE A NEW PLAYER.

Welcome to the 2012 OHIOMSBL!

This document should answer most of your questions concerning the League, tryouts, costs and the operations of the OHIOMSBL. If it doesn't, there are names of contact people at the end of this information who would be glad to provide more information. We are here to help.

What is the OHIOMSBL?

The Ohio Men's Senior Baseball League (OHIOMSBL) is a non-profit adult baseball organization for adults (ages 18-70+) who want to "revisit their youth" and play hardball. This is our fourth year and we expect to have over 20 teams in 4 age divisions: 18 and over, 25 and over, 45 and over, and 55 and over.

Our motto is *"Don't Go Soft, Play Hardball."* The OHIOMSBL is recognized as the premier amateur sports operations in the Northeast Ohio area.

How many divisions are there and how many games are played?

There are 4 age divisions: 18 and over, 25 and over, 45 and over, and 55 and over. Each age division will play 15 regular season games, followed by a year-end playoff which will determine the league champions.

Your age for eligibility is determined during the calendar year 2012. For example, if your 25th birthday is December 31, 2012, you are still eligible for the 25+ division in the 2012 season.

What is the cost?

The cost is around \$15 per game (see 2012 Registration Fees below). Pretty cheap sports entertainment when you compare it to the cost of a round of golf, an afternoon of bowling or a day of skiing, not to mention an Indians game. These fees cover almost everything - use of the best fields, umpires, baseballs, national fees, and eligibility in the World Series in Phoenix, as well as other regional, national and international tournaments.

Players may need to pay for their own uniforms. Each team will have their own policy on who pays for the player uniforms. These run approximately \$40 – 100. This is a one-time expense if you stay on the same team each year. All uniforms emulate (team names and designs) professional Major League, Minor League, or Negro League teams.

Even though we are not the greatest ballplayers in the world, the League insists that we all at least dress and look like baseball players. It is an important image to project, especially to the people who rent their fields to us. Keep in mind, we're granted access to elite fields that are not available to other local adult leagues.

New players to the league must pay a \$26 player registration fee. This is a one-time fee in your first year. If you continue playing the following year, you do not need to pay this fee again. If you leave the league for a year or more, and then return, you must pay the fee again.

Returning players, or players already on an established team, will need to pay a \$12 registration fee which will cover your MSBL National Dues, as well as our player injury insurance. This fee must be paid individually by the player, and is not covered by the team fees.

Each team is charged a yearly participation fee per team. Your share of this cost will be determined by your team manager, and will depend on the number of players on the team, extra team expenses, etc. Most teams charge their players between \$150 and \$250 per player. You should discuss this with your manager when you are drafted.

When must these fees be paid?

New Players looking to join a team:

New player registration fees must be paid (in full) on or by April 27, 2012. For tryout players, it is EXTREMELY CRITICAL you understand that if your payment isn't RECEIVED by April 27, 2012, or prior to your participation in one of our tryouts, your name will be removed from the draft list and you can't play in 2012.

Commissioner George Hughes will have hard copies of Registration Forms as well as Waivers of Liability at the tryout if you cannot register electronically. The League strongly encourages online electronic registration with electronic signature as opposed to filling out the hard copy.

The League has a "No Pay, No Play" policy. Remember, we want players who are serious and no team can or will draft a player who hasn't paid. Teams will not be permitted to pay the fees of a tryout player on Draft Day so they may draft them. If a player is drafted and changes his mind, that team will have been placed in a very difficult position. They'd have to fill that spot at a time when all available players have been drafted. All player fees are non-refundable.

Team Fees:

A non-refundable team deposit of \$500 is due by April 13, 2012 to reserve your spot in the league. Teams fees must be paid (in full) by April 27, 2012.

To whom must you pay?

You must pay online by credit card, or by check. Check payments for your registration fees are payable to the "OHIO MSBL" and should be submitted to:

OHIOMSBL
P.O. Box 35671
Canton, Ohio 44735

Online Registration and fee payment:

You may register online, which includes agreeing to the terms of the Waiver of Liability. It takes only a few minutes. Just go to our home page at www.OHIOMSBL.com and fill in the forms. You can pay fees online as well. Until you pay in full, your registration is considered pending.

Is the Waiver of Liability important?

It's not simply important, it's mandatory (no exceptions).

Will my information be kept confidential?

Your e-mail address we ask for is used only by the League so you may receive pertinent League information. Your e-mail address is not sold to any outside agency. This policy is strictly enforced by League officials.

How many Tryout sessions must I attend?

One is enough; however, it is always better to attend a couple so all the Team Managers get a good look at your skills. It also tells them that you are enthusiastic about playing. And, of course, if you wait until the last tryout session and it rains, you're out of luck.

What must I do at Tryouts?

Just relax and have fun. You will be asked to demonstrate your skills as related to your desired position(s). This may mean hitting, running, throwing and fielding. Running will be voluntary, but if you show off good foot speed, it is an excellent skill for senior players. If you are a pitcher or catcher, you will, of course, be asked to pitch or catch. You should try out for all the positions you want to play in the OHIOMSBL.

What if you do not get drafted after trying-out?

It can't happen. If you come to the tryout, you will be assigned to a team. The tryouts are really just a way for the coaches and players to get to know each other and to see where your talents fit the team's needs.

Tryouts - When and Where

If you wish to play (and you are not on a team yet), you must attend at least one (1) tryout to be eligible to be drafted. All tryouts will be held at Thurman Munson Stadium, 2501 Allen Road S.E., Canton, Ohio 44707. All age levels try out at the same time.

Directions to Thurman Munson Stadium:

From the North: Follow Interstate 77 South through Canton to Exit 103, S.R. 800/Cleveland Avenue. Follow the curve of the exit ramp to the right onto Cleveland Avenue Southbound. Turn left at the second traffic light, Mill Road. Turn left on Mill and go one block to the stop sign. Turn left, stadium is on the left.

From the South: Follow Interstate 77 North to exit 103, S.R. 800/Cleveland Avenue. Turn right at the stop light onto Cleveland Avenue. Turn left off Cleveland Avenue at the first traffic light, Mill Road. Turn left on Mill and go one block to the stop sign. Turn left, stadium is on the left.

From the West: Follow U.S. 30/62 East to I-77 South. Use directions "From the North."

From the East: Follow U.S. 62 West to I-77 South. Use directions "From the North."- OR - Follow U.S. 30 West to the Cherry Avenue Exit, S.R. 43 North. At the end of the exit ramp, turn left onto 11th Street, SE. Follow 11th Street to the second traffic light, Market Avenue, and turn left. Follow Market Avenue to the yellow caution light at Kimball Road and turn left. Take Kimball to Allen Avenue and veer right. The stadium is on the right.

OHIOMSBL Tryout #1

Date- TBD

OHIOMSBL Tryout #2

Date- TBD

OHIOMSBL Tryout #3

Date- TBD

OHIOMSBL Annual Draft – Date- TBD.

What if you get drafted by a team and refuse to report or quit during the season?

Simply put, you don't get to play and you don't get a refund. The OHIOMSBL wants to ensure parity, which is the reason for the OHIOMSBL Draft. Before the actual Draft, you need to decide if you really have the time, desire and money to play. Certainly not after! To be fair to the team drafting you, you should be available to play in at least 75% of the games. If you refuse to report after being drafted, you will not be able to play in the OHIOMSBL for two (2) years. And there will be no refund of your registration fees. If you "drop out" on the team that drafted you, that team loses a valuable draft pick and will be without a player for a full season. Thus, the severe penalty.

Do you need to be in shape?

Like John Kruk of the Phillies once said, "I'm not an athlete, I'm a baseball player." So there is hope for all of us. At this senior level, the player who is in good condition often times outperforms a more skilled player.

What if you have not played for awhile?

Welcome to the crowd. Almost everyone now playing in the OHIOMSBL had not played for a number of years. If you played some high school baseball, you probably won't have any trouble competing. Actually, there are some good players in the League who were outstanding athletes in other sports, but never played baseball during their youth.

What about equipment?

Besides purchasing your uniform, there's your glove, cleats (metal or plastic) and other personal gear that you must have. Most teams will have bats to use, but these usually belong to individual players. You

are encouraged to have your own bat and batting helmet. A helmet that fits can be purchased for \$15-40 from a baseball catalog or a sporting goods store. Wood bats or composite wood bats are mandatory. If you haven't played in a while, and don't have your own bat, it's a good idea to wait for a few practices to buy one. You can use a few of the team bats to see what size suits you before you go and buy your own. Be prepared to break a bat during the season! Most players have 2-3 bats at any one time.

For the Tryouts, you are strongly encouraged to bring your own bat and helmet if you have them. Generally, each catcher has his own equipment. Don't forget to mark your equipment in case it gets misplaced.

Where are the games played?

As the premier adult league in the area, we are privileged to play on the best field available in Northeast Ohio. We are using Munson Stadium (the former home of the Cleveland Indians minor league team as our home field. The league will play approximately 150 games here this season. We continually strive to improve the overall field quality in our game inventory through feedback from teams and by working with the schools and communities who provide the venues.

When are the games?

Generally, teams will average one (1) game per week over the regular season with fewer games in May and June and more games in July and August. Weekday games on unlit fields usually begin at 6:00 pm and at 7:00 pm or 7:30 pm at lighted fields. Weekend games begin at 9:00AM, noon, 3:00PM, or 6:00PM. Most games will last a full nine innings; a few will end earlier due to darkness or field-specific time limits.

Is there a minimum playing time rule?

The OHIOMSBL does not have such a League-wide rule. However, we do encourage all our teams to be fair about playing time because everyone pays to play. Many teams have policies of playing every player who shows up for the game both offensively and in the field. Check with your team manager to see what his rules are.

Rainouts

We'll have rainouts, no doubt. The League Rainout Line is 330-671-3339. Every effort is made to post rainout information at least 2 hours before the scheduled first pitch. Obviously, at times this is impossible. Be patient. Remember, you're not the only one playing on any given day. Some Saturdays or Sundays we'll be playing over 30 games league-wide, so there are a lot of field conditions to monitor. The rainout hotline can be called 24 hours a day. Some days it will be updated numerous times. An effort will be made to contact the manager of a team whose game is rained out, but at times this can't be done. Every player is encouraged to call the Rainout Line several times throughout the day.

What is the role of the Team Manager (TM)?

The TM is the key to the overall success of this League. He is the main link between you and the League, especially with respect to communications. He must attend all monthly OHIOMSBL General Meetings, and handle all administration and managerial functions. The TM may appoint an on-the-field manager,

but in the eyes of the League the TM is the boss of his team. He is responsible for all team player/league communication.

Once on a team, can I change teams?

No, not within your division, unless a suitable trade can be worked out. You can request to be traded at any time as long as both Team Managers agree and the League approves it. If you are unhappy at the end of a season, you may go back into the Draft the following year by trying out again and, if you are selected, you can join another team within that division. Once you are on a team's roster, you are no longer a free agent within that division.

When is the Men's Senior Baseball League (MSBL) World Series?

The MSBL World Series is played in Arizona and Florida during the months of October and November. Participation is voluntary. Some teams will bring an "All-Star" team that is different than their regular season team.

What umpires are used in the OHIOMSBL?

The best available. The same professional umpires are used by the local high schools and colleges. Like the players, they make mistakes, but experience has proven that overall they make fewer mistakes (both mental and physical) than the players. OHIOMSBL schedules our own umpires, so if you are an umpire and are interested in being used by our league, please contact OHIOMSBL for more information.

How does the OHIOMSBL deal with discipline?

The best approach is not to find out. We are very severe to those who choose to not obey our rules. If the rules say you can't do something, don't do it. Because we are all adults, every player is expected to conduct him or herself beyond reproach. The excellent reputation of our League allows us to play on the best fields available. The OHIOMSBL has established itself as being more than just a "beer league", so there are enormous penalties (and possible expulsion from the League) for any bad conduct on or near the playing fields. Ask for a set of rules if you have any questions. Your Team Manager has a copy. They are on the website as well. When administering any punishment, the League will assume that you were fully aware of these rules before any such violation occurred. It's not possible to register online without agreeing to the Rules of Conduct

When does the season begin and end?

It generally runs from early-May to the end of September. OHIOMSBL Divisional Playoffs run for several weeks in September. Starting our season earlier would meet with too many rainouts and a lack of playing fields which are occupied by youth teams.

How about Holidays during the OHIOMSBL season?

There normally are no regular season games scheduled on Mother's Day, Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day weekends. It is up to the team to request to play on a holiday weekend before the game schedule is finalized. Some OHIOMSBL teams choose to play in tournaments over the Memorial Day Weekend, July 4th and Labor Day Weekend.

What Division(s) can you play in?

It depends on your age. Whatever your age, you can always “play down” into a lower age bracket, assuming you are good enough. Unless you are an exceptional player, we encourage you to stay in your own age category. On the registration form you may indicate whether you hope to play in the most competitive division regardless of age or that you prefer to play with players your own age.

Again, your calendar age applies in order to be eligible to play. In other words, if your birthday is on December 31st, whatever your age is at that time qualifies you to play in the appropriate Division / age bracket during that preceding summer season.

Can you play in two (2) Divisions?

You can do this, however, you must pay two (2) registration fees, and both Team Managers must approve of sharing your time. You must indicate which Division will be your priority team in the event there is a game conflict in the schedule. This enables the TMs on both teams to know your intentions in advance.

What about Medical Insurance?

Each player is personally responsible for any medical expenses as a result of an injury while playing in the OHIOMSBL. While the League has a medical and liability policy, it will provide medical insurance for players injuries only as a second coverage to your main insurance coverage.

Whom should you contact if you have any further questions?

Our website address is www.OHIOMSBL.com. Our mailing address is: OHIOMSBL, P.O. Box 35671, Canton, Ohio 44735. The national organization's (MSBL) website is www.msblnational.com. Questions should be only directed locally, however.

Joe Sidor, League President, and George Hughes, League Commissioner, will be in charge of the tryouts. Joe may be reached at 330-673-7748 (home) or 330-671-8811 (cell). George may be reached at 330-904-5456.

The OHIOMSBL telephone has a voice mail system which will have important information and updates on the Tryouts, Draft and other issues. The League telephone number is 330-671-3339.

If and when you are drafted by a team, your main contact will be your Team Manager. In addition, your Commissioner can also help. All these names are on the home page.

All tryout sessions are FREE. Under no circumstances will a player be allowed on the field prior to filling out and signing a Registration Form. For this, there are no exceptions.

Thank you for interest and/or participation in the OHIOMSBL. We hope to see you at the tryouts!

E-mail: info@ohiomsbl.com