



MEMO

To: All 2020 MSBL World Series Team Managers

From: Steve Sigler

This is a very hectic time for all. Below, please find a list of important matters that need your understanding and review.

2020 WORLD SERIES TEAM/PLAYER/FAN Protocols: See attached for full explanation (Same as previously sent)

AGE EXEMPTIONS: 2020 was to be the start of no new age exemptions for all age divisions 50+ and higher. You could only have “grandfathered” age exemptions from the 2019 World Series. On April 22, 2020, we expanded the age exemption rule to assist teams affected by COVID, so they were able to recruit a sufficient number of players to be able to form a team. Beginning in 2021, we will reinstitute the no new age waiver rules for age divisions 50+ and higher again.

In regard to expanded numbers of age exemptions, please note the following rule:

- If your team has a roster of 18 or more for any given game, you can ONLY have 2 age exempted players in your lineup (either offensive or defensive) at any one time. We have really attempted to help teams in need, but not to take advantage of the leniency. Again, starting in 2021 we are phasing our age exemptions for all age groups 50+ and higher. We appreciate your patience and understanding on this matter.

EX-PRO GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS: These rules are all clearly stated in the tournament package and we request that every team manager sign and remit to indicate their understanding and accordance of these rules (Blank Copy Attached). There can be NO misunderstanding of any of these specifications, as it will result in possible forfeiture of games won. Please review your rosters to ensure you are in full compliance with these rules.

70+/73+ TEAMS: You all should have the specific rules covering these divisions. Please see attached for another copy. 3 age exemptions are allowed at all times but NOT to exceed 3 at any given time in the offensive or defensive lineups.

NEW WORLD SERIES OFFICIAL ROSTER: See attached, which must be given to the opposing Manager before each game. It is a sheet listing all of your players including numbers, age and any ex-pro experience.

COURTESY RUNNER / SHARED RUNNER RULE: See attached for full explanation

CENTRAL / CACTUS DIVISION SPECIFIC RULES: See attached for full explanation

REVIEW OF IMPORTANT RULES CARRYING FORWARD FROM 2019:

- Run Rule – 15 run differential after 7 completed innings
- Any World Series playoff and/or Championship game protests must be lodged at the field before, during or at the immediate conclusion of the game. No other protests will be considered.
- To reiterate, each team manager **MUST** have their player photo ID's with them at all games. Failure to provide, upon proper protest, will result in a forfeiture of the game and all games the protested player participated in.
- 50+ Cactus and 55+ Cactus Divisions **ONLY**, the minimum 14 player hitting rule will remain in effect for all playoff and Championship Games.



2020 MSBL World Series COVID Protocols

- **All Stadiums** – All players and spectators must wear masks upon entering and leaving the Stadium. Masks are to be worn until the playing field is reached. While visiting the restrooms and restroom areas, as well as concession stands, everyone must wear masks. The same rules apply to all auxiliary field complexes.
- Fans, while watching the game, must wear masks while sitting in a group of 10 or more. In a group of 10 or less, they can remove their masks.
- On the field, wearing a mask is an option to the players but should be strongly considered.
- All players to have their own masks available to them at all times.
- Dugouts:
 - 6 foot social distancing must be maintained. Players can spread out, outside the dugouts and stands if necessary. Best to have the next 4 hitters in the lineup remain in the dugout and all others remain outside. Highly suggested but not mandated.
- All players/teams at this point, should be fully educated on Social Distancing and to do what they are supposed to do. You must implore everyone to be diligent.
- No Sharing of Equipment. Any disinfectant must be team provided.
- All Managers and umpires must wear masks at Home Plate meeting when reviewing ground rules and exchanging lineups.
- No Post Game Handshakes (We will leave it to the teams to find an appropriate form of recognition)
- Umpires will NOT hold game balls, defensive team will provide balls to their pitcher. After the 3rd out is recorded for each inning, the defensive team will carry the ball back to their dugout and the offensive team will bring a new game ball out for the next ½ inning.
- When holding a meeting on the mound all participants need to maintain safe distances from each other. The meeting would be limited to a maximum of 3 people.
- Extended liability waiver to be signed by every participating player noting the risks of COVID (Online Waiver)
- Pitcher will not be allowed to go to their mouth between pitches. If this is done, the ball must immediately be replaced by the defensive team, and the ball discarded. If this happens again, a balk will be called. If no one is on base, a ball will be added to the count.
- If a MSBL World Series participant were to test positive for COVID during the tournament, the team manager MUST immediately report this to the tournament office. That individual player would need to quarantine himself according to local Arizona guidelines and would be ineligible to participate the balance of the tournament.
- Team Managers are responsible for leaving a clean dugout after each game.
- Players that are not in the field as either a fielder, batter, on deck hitter or base coach, are encouraged to wear masks if in close proximity to teammates.
- It is optional for all Base Coaches to wear masks unless specifically in close contact with runner.
- If a MSBL official or MSBL appointed field monitor sees an infraction to the above stated rules, a warning will be issued. A second violation will mean ejection from the game and possible forfeiture of the game.

We are extremely fortunate to have the MLB facilities and Stadiums, and though lengthy, these protocols are not invasive and need to be 100% adhered to. We are all in this together and with cooperation, we will ensure a healthy and safe environment for all!



2020 MSBL/MABL World Series & Fall Classic Ex-Pro Guidelines and Requirements

Ex-Professional Ballplayers Requirements

A player must be out of professional baseball (A, AA, AAA, or Major League) for three complete seasons before becoming eligible to participate in MSBL/MABL National Tournaments. Therefore, for the 2020 World Series and Fall Classic, any player who received compensation AND participated with a professional baseball team (A, AA, AAA or Major League) during 2018 or more recently is ineligible unless given special permission to participate by the National Tournament Rules Committee.

A player who played in a Rookie League, Independent League or who was invited to a Major League Spring Training and then released without playing for a minor league affiliate will not be held to the requirements listed above, except for Central Division and Cactus Division. See specific Ex-Pro rules by Division.

If a particular player played in a "Foreign Professional League" in Japan, Mexico, Puerto Rico or Venezuela, and was compensated, that player must be out a minimum of 3 complete seasons (2017 and prior) to participate. These players will be eligible to participate in the Central Division if out a minimum of 10 years. These players will not be eligible to participate in Cactus or Desert divisions regardless of length of time out. All other foreign professional leagues are NOT recognized when determining ex-pro status.

For all Central Divisions - If a player has played pro ball (with the exception of Major Leagues) and has been out of pro ball for 20 years, this player is eligible to play in the **Central** Division. Ex-Pros are limited to 2 per team with no restrictions to position or limitation to round robin, playoff or Championship appearance.. *In reference to players who played Rookie or Independent League baseball only, these players are ineligible unless they are out 10 years for Central. No allowed Independent/Rookie League players would be eligible to pitch, even if they did not pitch in their pro careers except for the 45+/50+/55+/60+/65+ Central Divisions.*

For all Cactus Divisions - For **Cactus** Division, Ex-Pro (AAA, AA, A) players are not allowed no matter the length of time out unless out of Pro Ball 30 years and played no higher than A ball. Ex-Pros are limited to 2 per team and may NOT pitch in round robin or playoffs. *In reference to players who played Rookie or Independent League baseball only, these players are ineligible unless they are out 15 years for Cactus. No allowed Independent/Rookie League players would be eligible to pitch, even if they did not pitch in their pro careers, except for Divisions 45+ and higher.*

Ex-Pro Guidelines

- A Level – Any Player who appeared on a AAA or Major League Roster
- B Level – Any Player who appeared on a A or AA Roster

Division	Allowances of Ex-Pros
National	No limit on number of Ex-Pros, as long as out 3 years
American	Two A Level & Two B Level Ex-Pros, as long as out 3 years
Federal/Mountain	2 B Level Ex-Pros as long as out 3 years
Central	See Above
Cactus	See Above

The fact that a player has played professional baseball at any level for any length of time must be disclosed on the roster submitted to MSBL tournament organizers. Failure to disclose a player's ex-professional status may result in disqualification of the player and forfeiture of any games in which the player participated.

I have evaluated and attest to the ex-pro status of all listed players on my roster. I further verify that all players on my roster qualify under the specific rules regarding ex-pros set forth above.

Team Name: _____

Division: _____

Manager Name: _____

Signature: _____

2020 MSBL/MABL World Series Ex-Pro Rule Summary By Division

National Divisions	No Limit on number of ex-pro players as long as out 3 years
American Divisions	Can have 2 players who are out at least 3 years who played AAA or higher and 2 players who played A or AA
Federal/Mountain Divisions	Can use up to 2 players who played A or AA and are out at least 3 years
A player who played in the Rookie League, Independent League or who was invited to MLB Spring Training and released without any minor league affiliation will not be considered as Ex-Pro for the above 4 divisions only.	
Central Divisions – All	If a player has played pro ball (with the exception of Major Leagues) and has been out of pro ball for 20 years, this player is eligible to play in the Central Division . Ex-Pros are limited to 2 per team with no restrictions to position or limitation to round robin, playoff or Championship appearance. The above includes any professional affiliate above Rookie Ball. (Includes all levels of “A” ball)
Cactus Divisions – All	No Ex-Pros (MLB, AAA, AA, A) are allowed no matter the length the time out unless out of Pro Ball for 30 years and played no higher than “A” ball. Ex-Pros are limited to 2 per team and may NOT pitch in round robin or playoffs.
Independent/Rookie League Players	
Central Divisions – All	Ineligible unless out 10 years. Can only pitch 45+/50+/55+/60+65+/70+/73+ Divisions
Cactus Divisions – All	Ineligible unless out 15 years Can only pitch 45+/50+/55+/60+65+/70+/73+ Divisions
Foreign Professional Players (Japan, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Venezuela)	
Central Divisions – All	Ineligible unless out 10 years. Can only pitch 45+/50+/55+/60+65+/70+/73+ Divisions
Cactus & Desert Divisions – All	Ineligible regardless of length of time out



2020 MSBL/MABL World Series 70+ & 73+ Rules

1. No Stealing; Runners may still take a lead
2. No Hit and Run allowed
3. One 9 inning game per day
4. 5 games in 5 days
5. For any hit that reaches the outfield grass, the batter cannot be thrown out at first. The outfielders can throw out base runners that are going to second, third or home but not first.
6. If a pitcher fails to go in a stretch position with a runner(s) on base and pitches with a full windup, the runner can advance (steal)
7. With a 3-2 count on the batter and 2 outs, all "forced" runners can break on delivery by the pitcher
8. If a wild pitch/passed ball goes out of the imaginary home plate circle, runners can advance (including to home) one base only without catcher chasing the ball.
9. **SHARED BATTER/RUNNER ONLY**
10. We will use "Shared" A/B Batter Positions. The manager uses two players for one batting position and during the game the manager decides who bats each time the batting position comes up. He can then use the other player to run if he chooses to do so. If the manager runs for the shared batter, the runner **MUST** bat the next time this spot comes up in the lineup. There is no limit to the number of shared line-up positions. Any player sharing a batting order position is locked in that position for the duration of the game and cannot be used in any other batting order position.



MEMO

To: 2020 MSBL World Series Team Managers
From: Steve Sigler

In reference to Courtesy Runners/Shared Runner:

Divisions: 25+/35+/40+/45+/50+ - A/B Batting with Courtesy Runner Only

Divisions: 55+/60+/65+/70+/73+ - Shared Batter Only

Review of Shared Runner Rules – Modified

- All divisions 55+ and above will use the Shared Batting Position Rule
- The rule replaces both the A/B Batter and Courtesy Runner.
- The purpose of this rule is to enable more players to participate as the Manager uses two players to share one batting position in the offensive lineup and during the game the manager decides who bats each time the batting position comes up. This can be incorporated at the start of the game or can be added anytime during the game.
- Managers must notify opposing manager and opponent scorekeeper when players are being switched the first time in the game (Failure to do so results in a ruling of “batting out of order”).
- A player in a shared lineup position may not be used in any other offensive position.
- When a player is used as a base runner in the Shared Position, he **MUST BAT** the next time his position in the order comes to the plate. After that point, either of the Shared Runners may bat in this position.
- If either batter in a Shared Batting Position are pinch hit for, then both players occupying that Shared Batting Position would be ineligible to return to the offensive lineup and the pinch hitter assumes that batting position going forward.
- Should a player enter the game as a Shared Runner in the later innings and his batting position does not come up before the end of the game, no penalty is assessed.
- There is no limit to the number of shared lineup positions.
- For Central and Cactus Divisions, teams still must bat 14 in all Round Robin games.



MEMO

TO: All 2020 MSBL/MABL Central/Cactus Division Teams

RE: 25+/35+/45+/50+/55+/60+/65+/70+ Central, Cactus and Desert Division Rules

The following rules are in place for these respective divisions only!

In these divisions, there are several specific requirements which apply to the Central and Cactus Divisions only. They are as follows:

- A. At least 14 uniformed players must have at least one plate appearance during the game. (only applies in scheduled 9 inning games)
- B. If a team has 15 or more uniformed players, they may elect to bat 14 players only (at least one plate appearance for 14 players).
- C. If a team has 13 or fewer uniformed players, the opposing team will have the option to bat the same number of uniformed players despite the number of uniformed players they have.
 1. Example: Team A has 13 uniformed players and Team B has 21 uniformed players. Team A must get all 13 players at least one plate appearance. Team B has the option of only getting 13 players one plate appearance as well, despite the fact they would normally have to get 14 players one plate appearance.
- D. In the event that the game ends with unbatted players, the violating team, under proper protest, will forfeit any win garnered.
- E. Only in the case of the 14th batter will a plate appearance satisfy the required 14 rule. So long as the 14th batter is announced (steps into the batter's box), and the 3rd out occurs before he completes his at bat then that will satisfy the 14 batters rule. There will be NO other exceptions to this rule.
- F. The rule of batting 14 players is in effect regardless if it is a completed 9 inning game or shortened by time.