

## **By-Laws of the Dakota-Rice-Scott Baseball League**

### **ARTICLE ONE: NAME**

The name of this league shall be the D-R-S League.  
(DAKOTA-RICE-SCOTT)

### **ARTICLE TWO: PURPOSE**

The purpose of the league shall be:

1. To form a league of baseball teams to compete in regular scheduled games under the Minnesota Baseball Association (MBA). [www.mnbaseball.org](http://www.mnbaseball.org)
2. To determine League Champions to play in Regional and State Tournaments
3. To encourage and improve the standards and sportsmanship of baseball in our communities.

### **ARTICLE THREE: MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the league shall be by a 2/3 vote (currently 9 or more votes) of the current organized teams in the league as defined by the Minnesota Baseball Association. Once admitted for membership, a team can only be expelled by a majority vote of the member teams. Those voting must be members of the league at the time of instigation of such action.

### **ARTICLE FOUR: GOVERNMENT**

The government of the League and the Management of its affairs shall be vested in a Board of Directors, to be comprised of Player Managers, Managers or Business Managers of member teams. Each member team shall have one representative on the Board of Directors. A majority of the directors shall constitute a quorum. At the first meeting of the Board of Directors, to be held not later than January, the Board shall:

1. Elect a League President, One Vice-President per Division, a League Secretary and a League Treasurer of whom only the League President shall be a member of the Board of Directors.
2. Arrange the schedule, determine the type of playoff, arrange umpires, and determine what type of baseball is to be used in League play. All of this will be done with input from members of the league.

### **ARTICLE FIVE: DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS**

**1-1-2009** The President (or in his absence, the Secretary or Treasurer) shall preside over all meetings. The President shall appoint committees and perform such other duties as may fall within the scope of his office. He will be given a salary of \$50.00 per year. The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Board of Directors. He shall file a copy of the by-laws with the State Secretary. Salary of the Secretary shall be \$75.00 per year. The Treasurer shall collect dues from the member teams of the league, which amount shall be set by the League President

and shall pay into the State Baseball Association annual dues. He shall give a complete financial statement of the year's operations at the annual meeting. The Treasurer will be given a salary of \$50.00 per year. A position of Contract Manager will receive a stipend of \$200 for managing player contracts and releases and managing all items related to team rosters. The duties of this position if not separated will be performed by the League Secretary. Official travel by league officers to MBA meetings will be reimbursed at the mileage rate used by the MBA Board of Directors for their officers.

**12-30-14** Salary increases were voted by league members as follows: President - \$250. Secretary - \$200. Treasurer - \$200. Web Master/Contracts Control - \$500.

#### ARTICLE SIX: COMMITTEES

The Arbitration Committee shall consist of thirteen (13) league members who shall rule and settle all protests entered by league members. The By-Laws Committee shall closely observe the effectiveness of the rules application with the purpose of submitting proposed improvements at the annual, or any special meeting of the Board of Directors. Other committees deemed necessary to the welfare of the league shall be appointed. All committees shall be appointed by the President.

#### ARTICLE SEVEN: MEETINGS

Special meetings may be held at any time by call of the Secretary or President. A majority of the Board of Directors shall be necessary at any meeting to amend the present By-Laws.

#### ARTICLE EIGHT: SCHEDULE

Each team in the league will play a straight or split schedule of games. All dates for regular scheduled league games must be reported to the League's Secretary as to time and place of playing. All postponed games must be attempted to be rescheduled as soon as possible after postponement date with home team manager responsible for scheduling playing site and coordinating with opposing team manager. He will also notify League Secretary. Any team not being able to set a date and field to play said game will notify the League Secretary who will set a date and field for the game. Any team refusing to play this game will forfeit game and be fined \$50.00. Game will count as a win for opposing team. Transfer of dates and fields may be made by the Directors of concerning teams, with the approval of the League Secretary. Teams dropping from the League during regular playing season must forfeit all scheduled games previously played and won for the entire season.

10-29-15 By 8-4, vote it passes that a team must have a game scheduled within the first two weekends of the start of the season schedule. If both teams agree to reschedule the game, it can be done without penalty.

## ARTICLE NINE: PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

A "Home Player" is one who resides within a specified radius of his own team, but in no event is such; radius to exceed twenty-five miles to the nearest city limits, or to extend into the cooperate limits of another municipality having a team affiliated with the Minnesota Baseball Association, Inc., except by written consent of the home team Management, regardless of any local league rules to the contrary. **1-1-2009:** All player eligibility is governed by the MBA Handbook. Refer to MBA Handbook for complete rules of eligibility.

## ARTICLE TEN: ROSTER

Each team shall be limited to a roster of not more than 25 players, under contract at any one time. Changes in the roster of players may be made and the Secretary must be notified by mail, postmarked no later than the Saturday preceeding the first Sunday, in which the new player or players shall appear in uniform. No new players may be added after June 15. All games shall be forfeited until rosters are on file with the League Secretary. **1-1-2009:** Roster rules will follow any rules and/or changes to the MBA Handbook. **1-3-2013:** The following addition was voted on and approved by league members and passed by a 11-0 vote (St. Benedict absent; Elko abstain). A \$25 per player fine will be imposed on teams that are over the 25 player roster limit with their active/current roster. In addition to the fine, that team will forfeit each game that is played with the illegal roster. Any league team that has been classified as Class B, would be exempt from this rule. **1-12-2021:** Passed by a 13-0 vote, in-season Roster limit moved from 25 players to 28 players, pre-June 30 deadline.

## ARTICLE ELEVEN: CONTRACTS

All League players shall be required to sign contracts, provided by the league through the home team, indicated players are member of said team. Duplicates shall be filed by the home team with the League Secretary. Managers releasing players shall provide involved players with contract releases. Players cannot be released between June 15 and March 15. Players in uniform and with a team, but not participating in play for three consecutive games, may be dealt with in accordance of provisions of the State rules. Only the current manager is authorized to sign and release players on his team, whenever a mid-season change in managers is made, the League Secretary will be notified. **1-1-2009:** Contract rules will follow the current MBA Handbook.

## ARTICLE TWELVE: MINNESOTA BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

The League shall become a member of the Minnesota Baseball Association (MBA) and shall pay the annual dues set by the Minnesota Baseball Association. The League and the Minnesota Baseball Association shall provide mutual assistance for the betterment of amateur baseball in Minnesota.

## ARTICLE THIRTEEN: FINANCES

**12-30-2014** Each team shall deposit an annual fee of \$100.00 to the League Treasury when called for by the League Secretary. In the event a team drops from the League, their fee stays in. Admission for children, together with age specification, grandstand, parking and other fees shall be optional with home teams. **1-1-2009:** Regular season and playoff game admissions will be set by a league vote at the beginning of each year.

## ARTICLE FORTEEN: PROTESTS

Protests to rule interpretations must be entered with the Umpire-In-Chief at the time of play, with briefs to be submitted to the League Secretary in writing, within twenty four hours of the protests, by the manager of the team. Action on protesting player eligibility must be started within forty-eight hours of game time. Duplicate copies of the protest to be forwarded to the League President, Secretary and Treasurer. A protest must be accompanied by a fee of \$50.00 which shall be used for expenses incidental to the meeting, with any remaining balance to be placed in the League's operations fund. Appeals from League decisions may be made to the Minnesota Baseball Association.

## ARTICLE FIFTEEN: PLAYOFF REGULATION

All playoff regulations are to be determined by the Board of Directors and League Secretary. No player shall compete in the playoff who has not participated in four or more league games with the team with which he is affiliated.

## ARTICLE SIXTEEN: ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business at any League meeting shall be: Roll call, Reading of the Minutes and Communications, Reports of Officers and Committees, Unfinished Business, New Business, Good of the League, and Adjournment.

## ARTICLE SEVENTEEN: MISCELLANEOUS

- National League rules shall govern operation of all league games
- The home city of the Secretary shall be designated as headquarters of the League games.
- 6:15pm games will be treated like rain games if halted due to darkness. If 4 ½ innings are completed and under the umpires discretion the game is called, the game will be complete & the team ahead will be declared the winner. **(4-9-13)**
- If the final game of the year is rained out, that game must be made up on the following day (Monday). **(4-9-13)**
- A regulation game in the League of playoff competition shall be on in which nine (9) innings are played, except in ten (10) run rule. If a playoff game is stopped for whatever reason, it is a suspended game to be continued from STOP POINT. In case of playoff game is called off because of rain after five complete innings for which the home team

collected admission, the suspended games expenses will be 50-50, Home team to keep concessions stand and act as home team.

#### ARTICLE EIGHTEEN: FINES

**12-29-2008:** A \$50.00 fine will be assessed against a team not at a scheduled league meeting, payable before their next league game is played.

#### ARTICLE NINETEEN: FIELD RULES

Home team shall have batting practice until 1:05 pm and Visitors until 1:35 pm for day games. Each team shall have 10 minutes of infield practice and 5 minutes for instructions and ground rules with the umpire(s). Games are to begin at 2:00 pm promptly. Fields are to be in good playing condition. All teams shall have a fence surrounding ball field, clean interior diamond and foul lines lined and marked, infield in good shape and outfield grass cut. Home team is responsible for any police action or protection. In case of rain, notify visiting team by 12:00 pm. Home team is to notify umpires by 1 pm on game day of a cancellation. *The above times and deadlines shall correlate accordingly for any night game and its' start time.*

#### MISCELLANEOUS

New member teams are on probation for one (1) year with no voting rights. The new team will pay double the League Entry Fee for the first year with half of that fee returned if no problems occur during the season. BY ORDER OF DRS LEAGUE OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS – JANUARY 19, 1971

#### *Tie-Breaking Procedure for League Standings*

1. Best record in Head to Head games (amongst all tied)
2. Best Record in Division (if applicable)
3. Total runs scored between the teams that are tied (in head to head games)
4. Total “Zimanske Points” (amended) – beating a team gives the winning team points equal to the number of wins the losing team has at the end of the season. Ex: If Team A beats Team B and Team B ends the year with 6 wins, Team A gets 6 points for their win against Team B. Must be calculated at season’s end; points are a sum of all League wins. Wins against Elko (or any Class B team in League) would be calculated based on Elko’s League winning percentage times 23 games (or the number of League games all Class C teams play). Ex: If Elko finishes 11-1 in the League (.917 winning percentage), a team beating Elko would get 21.08 points (.917 x 23 games). This normalizes the equation.
5. If two teams remain and the tie is still not broken by above, a coin toss will determine the higher seed

*Tie-Breaking Methodology or Order of Operations*

- a. Rule 1: A given tie-breaker rule applies equally to all the teams that are tied at a specific record.
- b. Rule 2: If, after the application of a given tie-breaker, all of the teams are still tied, go to the next tie-breaker.
- c. Rule 3: If not all teams, but one or more subgroups of the team are tied, separate these teams into groups and go back to Rule 1 with each of the groups individually
- d. Example: If teams A, B, C and D are all tied, apply first tie-breaking rule (Head to Head) amongst all teams (Team A's record vs. all of B, C and D. Team B's record vs. all of A, C and D., etc.) Rank teams based on best Head to Head.
  - a. If ties still exist, group them: In head to head, if A was 4-2, B was 4-2, C was 2-4 and D was 2-4, A & B are higher seeds and will move to Rule 2 above as a subset. C & D are lower seeds and will move to Rule 2 as a subset.
  - b. Now A & B's Head to Head vs. each other is calculated. If A wins, A is #1 seed and B is #2 seed.
  - c. C & D's Head to Head vs. each other is calculated. If C wins, C is #3 seed and D is #4 seed.
  - d. In the above, if there were ties in Head to Head with A & B or C & D, then the next tie breaker is used for those 2 teams (Best record in division); do this until complete (un-tied winners are found).

April 6, 1978

1. Schmitz Rule for Playoffs within the division is as follows:  
#1 vs. #4 and #2 vs. #3 will play a best of three games series.

July 22, 1980 and July 28, 1986

The team with the better record during the regular season may take two of three home games during the playoffs. If the two teams have equal number of home games in the playoff series, the final game goes to team with the higher seed.

July 8, 1984

If a team protests and wins protest they get their money back. If they lose protest they get nothing back.

June 30, 2008

Three Divisions set up each year based on previous year's records Red 1, 6, 7 and 12  
White 2, 5, 8 and 11  
Blue 3, 4, 9 and 10

June 22, 1986

Each team may be limited to one spokesman at each meeting by the league President.

July 22, 1980 and July 28, 1986

The team with the better record during the season may take home game during the playoffs, if the two teams have an equal number of home games in the playoff series.

January 14, 2008

If a player gets ejected for any reason he must sit out one (1) league game on the bench in uniform before he can play again. The one game will be the very next game that the player attends. This rule applies for playoff games as well. This rule applies to players only and not managers. If a manager is a player as well, they may manage the next game but cannot play.

January 3, 2011 (amendment to above ejection policy)

If a player is ejected from a game for making contact with an umpire, he will be suspended the next two league or post-season games. The player must serve this suspension in uniform and in the dugout. Furthermore, this incident will trigger an automatic review of the situation by the DRS League President, Treasurer and Secretary to determine if additional discipline is necessary. Any additional discipline will be imposed at their discretion.

April 2015: See Appendix of this document for the formal Ejection Policy, instituted April 2015.

Each team will play each other twice (home and home) with the exception of the Elko Express (Class B). Elko will play each DRS team once to accommodate schedule for Class B playoff seeding. Home games will alternate by year.

### **December 30, 2014 Game Starting Times**

In relation to scheduled game start times – the game time is the start time. If a team is short players, they will forfeit the game. The opposing team is under no obligation to offer them additional time to field the required number of players. The opposing team may choose to afford their opponent time, but has sole discretion. The umpire has no say. Forfeiting team has the responsibility to pay the umpire fees.

## APPENDIX

# DRS League Ejection Policy

The DRS League, aiming for a safer and cleaner atmosphere at the ballpark, and to fulfill a requirement established by Northwest Umpires, self-imposed the following sanctions on individuals when they have been ejected by umpires. The intent of the policy is to curtail arguing with umpires, eliminate foul language and fighting, by providing a penalty mechanism for Managers that might control themselves and/or their more disruptive ballplayers. The policy includes ANY league or playoff ballgame played by a DRS League team. *It does not include non-league games.* (clarified 11/3/16).

All player ejections will be met with a minimum one (1) game suspension (see Grade A & B suspensions below), which must be served in the next League game the player attends, and must be served while in uniform and on the bench. This includes Playoff games. This rule does not apply to Managers, if a Manager is a player as well, they may Manage the next game but may not play (per By-Law amendment January 14, 2008).

Per the Umpire Ejection/Incident Report filed to both Northwest Umpires and the DRS League Officers, the DRS League Officers will review the Ejection/Incident to rule if the suspension is a Grade A or Grade B suspension, which are described below:

### **GRADE A SUSPENSION**

Grade A suspensions include, but are not limited to:

- Prolonged arguing, and/or the use of excessive profane language
- Fighting or threatening an umpire, player or fan
- Malicious contact during play

Ejection and subsequent suspensions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The incident will trigger an automatic review by the DRS President, VP/Secretary, and Treasurer to determine discipline. Final decisions will more than likely result in a Grade A suspension if there are questions or grey areas surrounding the incident.

### Grade A Suspension Penalty:

1<sup>st</sup> Incident within one season: Suspended for 3 additional games

2<sup>nd</sup> Incident within one season: Suspended for 6 additional games

### **GRADE B SUSPENSION**

For instances in which an umpire might have been “quick” in making an ejection and when the circumstances and accounts of the ejection support an appeal, the incident may be sustained as a Grade B suspension.

### Grade B Suspension Penalty:

1<sup>st</sup> Incident within one season: Suspended for 1 additional game

2<sup>nd</sup> Incident within one season: Suspended for 3 additional games

3<sup>rd</sup> Incident within one season: Suspended for 6 additional games

4<sup>th</sup> Incident within one season: Suspended for the remainder of the season/playoffs

Dated: 4/27/2015

DRS Officers:

Mike Sticha President

Sean O'Neill Secretary

Chris Hertaus Treasurer