



TO: MRL Team Representatives
FROM: Paul Luchowski, MRL Commissioner
DATE: February 10, 2012
RE: 2012 Spring Season Team Pre-Season Update

This administrative and procedural update is being emailed to the Primary and Secondary Contacts as listed by each 2012 MRL Spring Season team. The areas touched on below include:

- A-Pre-Season Information Documents
- B-Schedule
- C-Hosting MRL Games
- D-Team Rosters
- E-Playing Formats - Promotion/Relegation - Wild Card Information
- F-Reporting Game Scores

PLEASE READ THROUGH COMPLETELY AND ADDRESS ISSUES AS NEEDED

A-PRE-SEASON INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

For the 2012 Spring Season, all pre-season team information can be found at:

http://www.midwestregionalleague.com/2012_Spring_Season/forms.htm

Be sure to read all of the documents listed under "Team Pre-Season Information." Each team will need to download copies of the MRL Line Up Card that are to be completed brought to each game, Be sure to provide one copy to the Referee and have one available for the opposing team (if requested). The MRL Referee Report form should also be downloaded and provided to Referees for any games hosted by your team.

B-SCHEDULE

Schedules continue to be updated regularly at www.MidwestRegionalLeague.com

Team contacts can be found for each division can be found at:

http://www.midwestregionalleague.com/2012_Spring_Season/forms.htm

For any team that is hosting multiple games and you have not finalized game times or sites, please do so by Wednesday, February 29, 2012.

Regarding One-Offs (also known as Self Schedule games) the game dates and sites must be determined by Friday, February 24, 2012 or the game will be considered a No-Contest game and both teams will be recorded with a game played and no points earned for such game (see MRL Scheduling Policy). These games are to be scheduled to be played on or before June 3, 2012 for Premier Division games or June 10, 2012 for First Division games.

Additional information on the MRL's scheduling policy found on this page:

http://www.midwestregionalleague.com/2012_Spring_Season/forms.htm

In divisions where two teams from the same club are competing, the game between such teams must be played during the first one-third of each team's games this season. See MRL Scheduling Policy for more information.

With nearly 500 teams in the MRL this Spring Season, field space in Overland Park, Rockford and Muscatine is very tight for MRL hosted weekends. Our schedule is based on field availability and providing equal time between games (where possible) for teams playing multiple games in a weekend. Game times will be set and posted on or around March 1 for any of the MRL hosted weekends, as well as the games scheduled for the Hallmark Sports Complex in Hebron. Field numbers will be posted the week before the play weekends. We have large numbers of teams at both locations thus schedule flexibility is at a minimum.

C-HOSTING MRL GAMES

If your team is listed as a Host (i.e. your team is hosting multiple MRL games), your team needs to complete a Local Site Coordinator Designation Form appointing an individual who is responsible for coordinating all the MRL hosting duties and responsibilities. Hosting Information is posted on our website, click on the 2012 Spring Season/Hosting Information tab or visit:

http://www.midwestregionalleague.com/2012_Spring_Season/hostinginfo.htm

There is no need to complete a LSC Designation Form for One-Offs (self schedule games).

In all cases, if your team is hosting a one-off or a series of games, please be sure to email in game scores to the MRL as soon as possible but no later than that evening to mrlcommissioner@region2.com

Be sure to review the MRL Game Hosting Guidelines and Local Site Coordinator Guidelines. In summary, the key areas of hosting include (1) obtaining and insuring that fields are ready for play, (2) assuring that referees are assigned to your games and (3) communicating with visiting teams.

(1) Host teams need to secure site locations and work with the MRL Office in finalizing game times. While we are cognizant of field time availability, MRL rules require that in situations where teams play multiple games in one day a three hour rest period be allotted between the end of a team's first game and the start of the team's second game. Hosts should forward a proposed game time schedule to the MRL for review, approval and posting. This should be done by Wednesday, February 29, 2012.

(2) Please contact your local referee assignor immediately and notify the assignor of the game dates, times and sites. (If game times have not been finalized at least notify your assignor of the number of games and game dates). Be sure to emphasize that these games are Regional League games. A list of approved assignors in many states are posted on the MRL Referee page. If not listed, go through your local assignor. Please refer the assignor to the Referee section on our website in regards to specific game rules and procedures for referees. Assignors are paid \$12 per game by the MRL. MRL Referee information including the Assignor form is available at: <http://www.midwestregionalleague.com/referees.htm>

(3) As for communicating with visiting teams, we suggest that you provide your visitors with everything that you would look for when visiting a site (i.e. directions, hotel information, emergency contact information etc.). The team contacts for teams within your division are posted on our home page under Premier or First Division contacts IT IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED THAT THIS BE DONE IMMEDIATELY AS TEAMS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF SECURING HOTELS FOR THEIR VISITS (in fact, we know that many teams have already secured hotels for their trips). For teams playing in Hebron, Rockford or Muscatine, please check the MRL hosting page for hotel info.

Again to review, if your team is hosting games, please be sure to review the hosting guidelines and information at http://www.midwestregionalleague.com/2012_Spring_Season/hostinginfo.htm

We will post any information provided by the host team such as to maps, field maps etc. If information is not posted contact the team hosting games for more information. Each team that is hosting multiple games on a day or weekend must designate a Local Site Coordinator (LSC). Please use the form provided on the hosting information page and send to the MRL. A LSC is not needed for one-offs as the host team manager is simply designated at the LSC. Be sure to get LSC forms to us!

About ten days prior to your hosting event, the MRL will email to each Hosting Site/Local Site Coordinator a packet of information. As mentioned above in the SCHEDULE section, we have the ability to post directions, field maps etc. on our website. If you would like information posted for your host site, please email the information to me in Word or PDF format, or provide a web link to the information and we will post at: http://www.midwestregionalleague.com/2012_Spring_Season/hostinginfo.htm If your site is already listed, please review the information that is posted as information may need to be updated.

D-TEAM ROSTERS

MRL rules require teams to file a Team Roster with the League no later than seven (7) days prior to your first game. Be sure to read both the Roster Rules Memo and the Team Roster and Player Guide found on this page: http://www.midwestregionalleague.com/2012_Spring_Season/forms.htm

Look under the RULES AND POLICIES section for the forms and guide. All rosters must be approved by your state association before filing with the MRL. The MRL does not approve rosters—your state association does.

With the recent rules changes to Rosters in the National Championship Series Policy, there have been some modifications to MRL terminology and the size of Team rosters permitted at Under 14 and Under 15 for MRL competition.

--Effective immediately, the maximum number of players on an Under 14 or Under 15 Team Roster is now 22. This means that the maximum number of players on all Team Rosters in the MRL is 22.

--We will now refer to "Guest" Players and Rosters as "**Club Pass**" Players and Rosters. This is consistent with NCS Policy. There are no changes to the MRL method of operations as we will continue to permit additional players as per our rules for teams, provided that such players come from within your club and subject to our Team Roster & Player Rules and Policy. (3 to 7 Club Pass, formerly Guest, players are permitted). Nothing really changes except for the terminology.

To summarize, Club Pass (formerly Guest) player rules for Under 14 and Under 15 now mirror our Under 16 through Under 18 rules so that all roster rules and policy are consistent through all MRL age groups. Teams can continue to use up to 25 players during the course of the season in accordance with our rules and policy that were previously in effect.

E-PLAYING FORMATS – PROMOTION/RELEGATION – WILD CARD INFORMATION

A summary of the playing formats for each division, Regionals wild card information and promotion/relegation information is available here ("2012 Spring Season – Competition Formats & Promotion and Relegation Policy"): http://www.midwestregionalleague.com/2012_Spring_Season/forms.htm

F-REPORTING GAME SCORES

Host should report scores following games (that day) to mrlcommissioner@region2.com

Should you have any questions, please contact me.

Thanks,
Paul Luchowski
MRL Commissioner
mrlcommissioner@region2.com