

BYLAWS OF
Lancaster Youth Pony Baseball League

A Nonprofit Corporation Formed Under the Laws of the State of California

ARTICLE I
PURPOSE AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE

1. This non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation shall be known as Lancaster Youth PONY Baseball League (LYPBL). The purpose and objective are to provide the facilities, equipment and supervision necessary for the youth of the Antelope Valley and surrounding areas to facilitate organized baseball.
2. There shall be no discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity or national origin.
3. The fiscal year of the league shall be from August 1 to July 31.

ARTICLE II
BOARD MEMBERSHIP

1. Board membership in the league shall be open to all persons 18 years of age and older. To become a Board Member, a person must be in good standings and be willing to contribute to the betterment of LYPBL. Persons interested in becoming a Board Member shall attend LYPBL's monthly meetings and make it known that they wish to become a Board Member. A Board Member is a VOLUNTEER and expected to donate their time and efforts to helping facilitate the operation of LYPBL. A person wishing to become a Board Member must be voted in by 2/3rds of the existing Board.
2. Board membership in LYPBL shall terminate at the end of the fiscal year and may be renewed annually. The membership of LYPBL shall hold an annual meeting as such place and time, as shall be determined by the Board of Directors. Notice of time and place of the annual meeting shall be made known to the public via LYPBL publications (E-mail, Social Media and/or other forms of communication) not less than 10 days prior to the date of the meeting.
3. Special meetings of LYPBL membership may be called by the President or by majority vote of the Executive Board membership. Notice of time and place of special meetings of LYPBL shall be made known prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE III EXECUTIVE OFFICERS / DUTIES

1. The Executive Officers of LYPBL consist of the following:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Treasurer
 - Secretary
2. If any additional Executive Officer positions are needed, those positions can be added and will be determined by the Executive Board.
3. The Executive Board are members of LYPBL Board of Directors and form the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be responsible to review bids for major purchases and award contracts for such purchases. They shall prepare agenda items for scheduled board meeting. The Executive Board shall review and approve the Treasurer Report to ensure that LYPBL funds are being used appropriately.
4. The President shall preside at all meetings of LYPBL membership and at all meetings of the Executive Board of Director, shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer of LYPBL and shall perform other duties that are normally associated with the office of the President. The President shall not vote on any matter before the Board, except in the event of a tie.
5. The Vice President shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the President, shall assist the President in the performance of the President's duties and shall preside at meetings in the absence of the President.
6. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall keep an accurate account of all funds received and disbursed for LYPBL, shall submit a financial report at each regularly scheduled monthly meeting and at other such times as may be requested by the President. The Treasurer shall arrange for an annual audit of LYPBL financial activities, shall provide an annual report of LYPBL finances, shall provide bank statements/records and such other documentation as requested for the annual audit and shall transmit all financial records to any person elected to succeed him or her in that office.
7. The Secretary shall maintain the records of LYPBL. They shall keep an accurate record of meetings and other activities of LYPBL. The Secretary shall be responsible for or keep record of all correspondence on behalf of LYPBL and shall transmit all records and correspondence to any person elected to succeed him or her in that office.

8. Quorum Requirements:

- For an Official meeting, the minimum number of Board members required to be present and to constitute a quorum, is (2) Executive Board Members plus (3) or more members of the general Board.
- For revisions of these Bylaws, after the changes have been approved by the Executive Board, a quorum of 50% of the standing members is required to vote for adoption of the changes.
- Approval of any matter/motion voted upon by the Board shall require a simple majority of the members present at said meeting, properly convened in accordance with these Bylaws and associated quorum requirements.
- A Board Member must not be present to vote on any business at any meeting, if the Board Member has enough information about what is being voted upon to cast an informed vote. If a vote is being conducted by electronic means, the Board Member has 24 hours to cast their vote, unless a no later than time is specified. If a Board Member fails to cast their vote, within the allotted time, the Board Member forfeits their right to have their vote counted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. Executive Officers positions in LYPBL shall terminate at the end of the fiscal year and may be renewed annually. The membership of LYPBL shall hold an annual meeting as such place and time, as shall be determined by the Board of Directors. Notice of time and place of the annual meeting shall be made known to the public via LYPBL publications (E-mail, Social Media and/or other forms of communication) not less than 10 days prior to the date of the meeting.
2. Prior to the annual meeting, any person that wishes to be nominated to fill one of the Executive Officer positions must be a board member of LYPBL in good standings and/or be nominated by a current member of the Board. Incumbents do not need to be nominated but must notify the Board of their desire to continue to serve in that position.
3. The Secretary shall compile a list of candidates and the positions for which they desire to be elected. The election will be completed by the membership in attendance at the annual meeting. Immediately following the election, the newly voted Executive Members will be announced and post the new results on LYPBL's website. The winners shall be decided by a simple majority vote.
4. Newly elected members of the Board of Directors will take office as soon as possible as part of an interim period in order to learn the roles, responsibilities and general operations of the league officers and functions.

5. Any LYPBL Board Member / Executive Officer may be removed from their position by an affirmative vote of 2/3rd's of the number of members present at any official board meeting that has enough attendance to satisfy quorum requirements. The Board Member in question shall be notified by the President or Secretary of the intent to vote to remove the Board Member, 48 hours prior to the vote via electronic means or phone, so they may present their case to remain in their position, prior to the vote.
6. If a Board Member misses (3) scheduled meetings and fails to communicate with the LYPBL that they are unable to participate in the meetings, that Board Member will automatically be removed from the Board. The lack of participation will be deemed and viewed as a resignation from their position as a Board Member. No vote to remove that Board Member from their position of notification to that Board Member, from LYPBL, is required.

ARTICLE IV

FINANCIAL / REFUND POLICY

1. All disbursements must be approved by the Treasurer (other than petty cash items of less than \$200.00).
2. Purchases or requests for disbursements shall include the item, quantity, description, cost and vendor. All purchases must be either budgeted expense item or approved by the Board Membership. Purchases of over \$1,500.00 must include a minimum of (3) competitive bids, unless waived by the Board of Directors. Bids must be in writing, delivered to the Treasurer and reviewed by the Executive Board membership, which will award the purchase contract.
3. The Executive Board shall institute a policy relative to the preparation and acceptance of an annual budget and monthly/annual presentation of financial reports. The Executive Board shall ensure that annual tax filings are done to be in compliance with State and Federal regulations, relative to non-profit status and Federal Tax ID number. Use of a Third-Party CPA firm for State and Federal tax filings must be approved by the Executive Board membership.
4. Player Registration may be cancelled by the parent / guardian and a refund of registration fees, minus a \$40.00 processing fee per each player registration, will be allowed up until a player is drafted and/or placed on a team. Once a player has been placed on a team, **NO REFUND** will be given. There will be **NO EXCEPTIONS** to this policy, regardless of the circumstances.

ARTICLE V

MANAGER SELECTION / PLAYER SELECTION / REGISTRATION

1. Manager/Coach is a volunteer that oversees their baseball team operations. Their job responsibilities include: keeping control of their team, coaches, team parent and parents at the fields. They are responsible for attending all Manager/Coaches meetings and be held responsible for the conduct of themselves, their teams and their player's parents in accordance with LYPBL's Bylaws and the rules of PONY Baseball.
2. Any person that wishes to be a Manager/Coach must complete the Volunteer registration portion on LYPBL's registration website. A background check will be completed on all volunteers and Managers/Coaches are required to complete the concussion protocol training.
3. The Manager/Coach is responsible to ensure that anyone who is assisting them and working with players registered with LYPBL during practices or games has registered as a volunteer on the LYPBL website and completed the online Concussion Protocol Training.
4. **Note: The draft process below, is designed to have the best opportunity to have evenly talented teams, at the start of the season. LYPBL wants players to enjoy the game of baseball and the competition. Managers/Coaches should have the goal of helping their team become better baseball players, throughout the season. This is not MLB and Managers/Coaches do not benefit from having a better win/loss record. This is about the kids, having fun and playing the great game of baseball.**
5. Team selection will be made from an open draft. Each team will be allowed (2) Manager/Coach options only. (**Exception:** If one of the Manager/Coach has (2) players, that are siblings and playing in the same division. Under these circumstances only, that team would have (3) Manager/Coach options and that team will forfeit their 1st round pick.) The Manager/Coach option players will be placed on the respective team first. A Manager/Coaches option is the child/legal guardianship of the manager and the coach's option is the child/legal guardianship of the coach. If no such relationship exists for the Manager/Coach option at the time of the draft, there is no option. The remaining players shall be selected by the "snake draft". The managers will pick a number out of a hat to determine order of draft selection. Numbers will not be chosen until all managers, from their division, have arrived. The managers will draft in order of their number and reverse number order. If a manager does not have a Manager/Coaches option, the manager will select players, based on their draft order. This will continue through the first (2) players (option round) are chosen.
6. A parent or legal guardian may request, in writing to LYPBL, before the draft begins, that their child not be drafted or randomly placed with a particular manager/coach. The parent or guardian may submit only one written request, per division per season.

7. When there are siblings in the same division, unless stated by parent/guardian, the player will automatically be placed on the same team and said sibling will automatically be your next pick in that team's draft.
8. LYPBL will provide managers with the previous Spring season All-Star selection list, even if the player did not participate in All-Stars. This should assist the managers with identifying and selecting players that were among the best in their division. This will be done to attempt to evenly spread these players across the division.
9. All players to be drafted must have participated in the player evaluations, that will take place before the draft. If a player did not participate in the player evaluations for the division that they will be playing in, that player cannot be drafted. Those players will be randomly selected and placed randomly on a team. The random placement will occur immediately after each division draft. The undrafted players will be selected via "Hat Pick" format.
10. There will be **NO TRADING** of players, once a player has been selected or placed on a team.
11. If a division is not full, at the time of the draft, and additional players register for that division, those "Late registration" players will be placed on a team. The players will be assigned to the team(s), following the "snake draft" format, from the original draft order. The players will be placed using the following criteria:
 - The player with the earliest registration date.
12. The player draft procedures outline above only refer to LYPBL's Spring Baseball Season. LYPBL's Fall Baseball Season will not use these draft procedures.
13. If LYPBL determines that a Manager/Coach intentionally attempts to circumvent the draft process, LYPBL Board Members will determine how to deal with that situation. Examples of the repercussions of these actions could include, but are not limited to a Manager/Coach being permanently banned from LYPBL, suspension from their position for the season, suspension from games or loss of their 1st round draft pick.
14. LYPBL reserves the right to refuse service to any volunteer, parent or child.

ARTICLE VI

CONDUCT / DISCIPLINE / DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEES

1. Sportsmanship shall always be of the highest priority. Behavior or actions that a detrimental to our league's operation, will not be tolerated. Un-sportsmanship conduct / or detrimental conduct shall include, but is not limited to:
 - Inappropriate language, profanity, derogatory or argumentative comments or lewd gestures towards any child, umpire, League Officials or any other person.
 - Violence or threats of violence towards anyone.
 - Inciting of others to cause a disruption on the premises.
 - Managers, coaches, players and umpires making comments which result to instigate or incite managers, coaches, players and fans, whether made in jest are considered un-sportsmanlike and disrespectful and subject to disciplinary review/action.
 - Under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
 - Bringing any weapons, drugs or alcohol on the premises.
 - Disobeying any posted sign on the premises.
 - Willful failure to abide by any regulation of the LYPBL.
 - Sexual misconduct and / or any inappropriate physical contact.
 - Willful intent to do bodily harm to another player or official during or after a game.
 - Throwing, kicking or misuse of any baseball equipment. (I.E. - Bat, Helmets, buckets...ETC)
 - Cheering, chanting or excessive noise making to distract players is prohibited.

2. **Conduct during games, practices or other LYPBL events:** The highest standards of conduct must always be maintained. Discipline, during games, shall be up to the Umpire or an Elected Board Member and they shall have the power and authority to eject players, managers, coaches or spectators from the playing area. The playing area will be considered any area within the outer perimeter fence of LYPBL's fields. When any individual is ejected from a game, the person must immediately leave the playing field area, without further comment to the Umpire or League Official. The ejected person will be required to remain outside the outer perimeter fence / playing area and will not be allowed to confront the Umpire or League Official after the game, on or off the premises. Failure to abide by these rules will result in further disciplinary action. Disciplinary action applies for any League function for LYPBL, regardless of the location of the game or

function. The ejected person will be allowed to submit a written statement / response to a League Official regarding any situation that has resulted in their ejection. This policy is intended to avoid any further confrontation between the involved parties.

3. **Minimum Penalty** for any un-sportsmanlike conduct shall be as followed and subject to the severity of the incident:
 - **First Offense:** Ejection and suspension for the next scheduled game.
 - **Second Offense:** Ejection and a (3) game suspension.
 - **Third Offense:** Ejection and suspension from the league for the remainder of the season.
 - **Note: LYPBL could also determine that a specific person be permanently banned from registering or participating in the league, if an offense is so aggregates or displays a pattern of violating the Code of Conduct.**
4. If a Manager/Coach is also a Manager/Coach in any other division, all ejections in any division shall count towards the "Third Offense". This includes any inter-league games played home or away. Any manager, coach or player that has been brought before a Disciplinary Committee and has received disciplinary action (2) or more times during a season, forfeits their eligibility to be selected for the position of player, coach or manager of an All-Star Tournament Team.
5. If a pitcher is found to be pitching in more than the number of allowable pitches, the pitcher will be removed from the line-up for the remainder of that game. The manager will be ejected from that game and suspended from the next scheduled game. If a second offense occurs, in the same season, the manager will be ejected from that game and removed from their position for the remainder of the season.
6. If a player is not allowed to play the minimum of six defensive outs and one at-bat (during regular season play) the offending manager shall be suspended for the next scheduled game. If a second offense occurs, the manager will be suspended for the next (3) games and a third offense will be removed from their position for the remainder of the season. Exception: the penalty does not apply to a shortened game, called game or the result of injury or illness.
7. **Disciplinary Committee's:** A disciplinary committee has the authority to enforce the guidelines of the disciplinary actions defined in the PONY Baseball Rules and Regulations. A disciplinary committee will consist of a minimum of 3 Board Members, designated by the President. They will review statements of the people involved, witnesses to the incident and both LYPBL rules and regulation and Official PONY rules. The committee will examine the circumstances of the incident, within 7 days of the act. The manager shall meet with the committee in the capacity of advisor, with the player / member. If action results in the player leaving the league, no refund of fee shall be provided. In the event, time limit has lapsed, LYPBL Board, with majority vote, can convene a Disciplinary Committee regardless of when the incident occurred.

8. All decisions that are reached by the Disciplinary Committee are considered final, unless an appeal is requested. Those who wish to file an appeal must do so by submitting a written request to the Chairperson of that committee within 48 hours of receipt of the Disciplinary Committee's decision along with a \$250.00 cash fee. The fee may be refunded if the Disciplinary Committee's decision is overturned by an unanimously vote by the Appeals Committee.
9. The Appeals Committee will consist of (2) members of the Executive Board, as selected by the President. The President will chair the Appeals Committee. No member of the Disciplinary Committee will be allowed to sit on the Appeals Committee. The Appeals Committee must hear the issue within 72 hours of the request and render their decision within 48 hours.
10. LYPBL reserves the right to refuse service to any volunteer, parent or child.

ARTICLE VII

PROTESTS / PROTEST COMMITTEE

1. The manager or representative, as agreed upon prior to the game ONLY, will present all protests. Protest of an umpires ruling, or other condition shall be made immediately, and the manager shall verbally advise the umpire that they are playing the remainder of the game under protest. Under no condition shall a protest be made after a game is completed. A protest based on a play which involves an umpire's judgement shall not be permitted or reviewed. A \$30.00 cash fee shall accompany a manager's protest in written form, within 48 hours to the LYPBL Board. It will be refunded if the protest is withdrawn within 24 hours of the protest or if the Protest Committee rules in favor of the manager who has filed the protest.
2. The Umpire, for that particular game, must ensure that they make a written note in the official scorebook that is being kept for that game. The written note should include the time of the game (I.E. Top of 3rd inning with 2 outs) and continue game play. The umpire shall advise a LYPBL Board Member as soon as possible of the protest.
3. In the event of a game being protested, the President shall appoint (2) members of the board, in good standing and with no conflict of interest as the Protest Committee to resolve the protest within (5) days. The league Chief Umpire will assist to provide clarification of Baseball Rules.
4. The decision of the Protest Committee is final and not subject to the appeals process.
5. LYPBL reserves the right to refuse service to any volunteer, parent or child.

ARTICLE VIII

FINAL STANDINGS

1. In the case of a tie between two or more teams at the end of the season, the tie breakers will be as follows:
 - Best overall record
 - Head to head
 - Least number of runs allowed
 - Most runs scored
 - Coin toss
2. Playoff games will follow the same time limits as the regular season, except the Championship game, which will have no time limit.

ARTICLE IX

ALL-STARS

The All-Star selection process is designed to have the best Managers, Coaches and Players, in their division, be selected. This design will give LYPBL the best opportunity to send the best and most competitive team to represent LYPBL, in the All-Star Tournaments.

1. All-Star players will be selected by the LYPBL Board member tasked as the All-Star Coordinator, Managers of the division, along with the League President and/or Vice President, providing there is no conflict of interest. In the case of conflict, the next board member in the chain of command, without a conflict, will oversee All-Star selections.
2. The All-Star Coordinator shall serve as the chairperson and shall not vote, except to break a tie.

3. Each All-Star team shall consist of (12) to (15) players with the principal in mind that the team is to be the best quality the league can provide. The group shall determine the number of players, before the selection commences.
4. The All-Star Coordinator shall maintain a list of All-Star players, according to the number of votes to establish an alternate list of (5) players, in order by the number of votes.

All-Star Manager/Coach Selection:

1. All Managers/Coaches within the league for the current season, that are in good standing, are eligible to apply for an All-Star position. Any Manager/Coach brought before the disciplinary committee or the Board and has received disciplinary action twice during the season, forfeits their eligibility to be selected. If the LYPBL Board deems that a Manager/Coach would not be a positive representative of LYPBL as a Manager/Coach, they may be ineligible to be selected. LYPBL Board Members can decide by a simple majority vote to exclude a Manager/Coach from being eligible for selection to the All-Star team.
2. All candidates shall address LYPBL Board with their intentions on how they will handle their team and if they have enough time available to manage the team.
3. Once a Manager is selected, he submits his coach's names for Board Approval.
4. Any Manager or Coach selected for All-Star tournament play shall be limited to holding a managing or coaching position for one team only.

All-Star Player Selection:

1. Any Player brought before the disciplinary committee or the Board and has received disciplinary action twice during the season, forfeits their eligibility to be selected.
2. A Player may be considered eligible for All-Star play if that Player has played in at least 50% of their regular season games.
3. Each manager, within the division, will compile a list of the top 15 players, that are **NOT** on their team, with number 15 considered to be the best continuing down to 1. The manager will email the list to the Board. The All-Star Coordinator will gather the lists and the All-Star selection has concluded for the managers. The All-Star Coordinator will total the scores of all players on the lists. The top 15 with the most points will be placed on the All-Star team. The list will be recorded by the Secretary and the All-Stars will be announced.
4. A designated Board Member will also compile a list of the top 15 players from each division, **NOT** from a division that their child plays in. This will allow the All-Star selection process to continue, in the event that managers fail to provide their All-Star selections. If all division managers participate in providing their selection, the list completed by a Board Member will not be used.

5. Replacements of All-Star players shall be handled as follows: the replacement players should be the next ranked players on the All-Star selected list as chosen by the managers.
6. Once a player has committed to play on an All-Star team, that player must willfully participate in that team's functions or they will forfeit eligibility to be on the All-Star team the following year. Exceptions to this rule would be an unexpected hardship or injury.
7. All parents of All-Star players will be required to read, understand and sign an All-Star Commitment Letter. The All-Star Commitment Letter will address that there is no mandatory play rule and consequences of quitting before the All-Star season is over.
8. It is mandatory that the Manager submit an email to the Board with their All-Star selections.

ARTICLE X

UMPIRES

1. Only the Manager or designated Representative, selected prior to the game, shall address the Umpires.
 - Only appeals of Protest requests shall be directed to the Umpires, see ARTICLE VII.
 - Arguments on balls and strikes will not be tolerated (Official Baseball Rules)
 - Arguing these calls will be considered unsportsmanlike behavior and may be subject to disciplinary action.
 - This includes Managers, Coaches, Players, Parents or any other spectator.
2. Junior Umpires are juveniles / under 18 years old.
 - No negative or derogatory comments shall be directed toward Junior Umpires either on or off the fields.
 - Any concern should be addressed directly to League Officials or Chief Umpire. NOT the Junior Umpire. This includes but is not limited to "Constructive Criticism."
 - **The LYPBL Board will have zero tolerance of any verbal or physical abuse of our Junior Umpires.**

ARTICLE XI

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

1. Any concerns should be addressed to the appropriate parties in a respectful and discreet manner. Outward displays of hostility or violence in front of children will not be tolerated. The Board Member of the day will be on duty at all times. Concerns and comments can be directed to these officials. If they cannot be located, go to the Snack Bar and they will be contacted.

ARTICLE XII

RULES

1. The Official rules and regulations of PONY Baseball is issued each year through the office of the PONY Baseball Commissioner, supplemented by Official Baseball Rules. LYPBL also implements "In House Rules" which are used to govern the playing of the games in the league, during regular season play. The "In House Rules" are designed to allow all players to enjoy the great game of Baseball.
2. LYPBL by majority vote of the seating board may suspend the Bylaws for any disciplinary action deemed detrimental to Lancaster PONY or the "spirit" of PONY Baseball. This vote may be in person, phone, text or e-mail. The majority may delegate the Executive Board for final decision.
 - Suspension of the Bylaws is a procedure in which the Board sets aside its normal rules of order to do something that it could not otherwise and is often used to bypass lengthy procedures to approve measures for greatly expediting business.
 - LYPBL reserves the right to refuse service to any volunteer, parent or child.