

Bastrop Little League By-Laws

ARTICLE I – AUTHORITY, PURPOSE, AND MISSION

SECTION 1 – Authority

The Board of Directors shall be governed by the Constitution of the League on record in Williamsport, Pa. The Bastrop Little League (BLL) operating rules and bylaws shall be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Following adoption of these rules by the Board of Directors, the bylaws may only be changed upon the concurring vote of majority of the Board. These rules pertain to all of BLL.

SECTION 2 – Purpose

The purpose of these bylaws is to supplement the Bastrop Little League Constitution, and the official Little League Baseball Handbook and Operations Manual. These Bylaws are intended to provide direction for the Board of Directors, Coaches, Parents and Players.

SECTION 3 – Mission

The Bastrop Little League mission is to provide the children of our community a program that promotes, develops and teaches baseball and softball skills, along with instilling discipline, teamwork and good sportsmanship. We will encourage healthy competition by providing a safe, fun, learning oriented environment for the children of our community. It is our goal that by espousing these virtues of character, courage and loyalty, the Bastrop Little League baseball and softball programs are designed to develop superior citizens rather than superior athletes.

ARTICLE II - NAME, LOCATION, AND MEETINGS

The name of the corporation is Bastrop Little League, Inc., a Texas corporation, not for profit, hereinafter referred to as the "Local League". The principal office of the location shall be located at 2400 Hill St, Bastrop, TX. 78602. The principal mailing address shall be: P.O. Box 363, Bastrop, TX 78602. Meetings of members and directors may be held at such places in Bastrop County as may be designated by the Board of Directors from time to time.

SECTION 1 - Absence at Board Meetings

The league Secretary shall maintain a log of all Board Members present for each meeting. Any Board Member who is absent from two (2) regularly scheduled board meetings with unexcused absences (no advanced notice by phone or email), will be subject to removal from the Board of Directors following the rules set forth in the Bastrop Little League Constitution.

The Board of Directors, by two-thirds vote of those present at any duly constituted board meeting to have the authority to discipline, or suspend or terminate the membership of any member, of any class, including managers/coaches, when the conduct of such person is considered detrimental to the best interest of the local league and/or Little League Baseball, Inc. The member involved shall be notified of such meeting, informed of the general nature of the charges and given the opportunity to appear at the meeting to be held within 7 days of the notification.

SECTION 2 - Board Member Voting Procedures

Voting will be conducted as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order and the BLL Constitution.

ARTICLE III - BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

The following procedure is followed for election of officers, annually:

1. In the January board meeting, a nominating committee is selected to solicit nominations for all board positions. Anyone who wishes to nominate or be nominated for any position may apply. The board is elected by number of total candidates, not position.
2. Each year in May, a general membership meeting is held for the purpose of election. The meeting may be in person or virtual. Notice of the general meeting should adhere to the Constitution. If an online vote is to be prepared, 10 additional days notice are required.
3. The Election Meeting will have the following format:
 - a. Meeting called to order and secretary determines a quorum (as defined in constitution) is present.
 - b. Election chairperson is appointed.
 - c. Secretary presents list of members in good standing.
 - d. Nomination committee presents list of candidates.
 - e. Nominations are opened to the floor.
 - f. Nominations are closed based on affirmation of membership.
 - g. Ballots presented to members in good standing.
 - h. Ballots counted in presence of membership.
 - i. New Board is announced.
 - j. Board meets for private election to determine position.

ARTICLE IV - ADMINISTRATIVE RULES & REGULATIONS

SECTION 1 - Amendments to the Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended, repealed or altered, only for safety concerns or situations that conflict with the Little League rule book(s), or property agreement in whole or in part by a majority vote at any duly organized meeting of the Board of Directors, provided notice of the proposed change is included in the notice of such meeting.

Whenever BLL engages in regular season interleague play with another chartered little league, the division(s) involved shall play by interleague rules which may be negotiated with the other league and approved by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2 - Player Registration

Players may register in person at the pre-determined registration location and time, online (if available), or by contacting the BLL Player Agent. Any players seeking scholarships or payment arrangements will be required to complete the proper request form and submit the form along with all required documents to the BLL Board of Directors for approval.

SECTION 3 - Refunds

Refunds may only be issued prior to the player draft or team selection. A refund request must be submitted in writing to the President, Vice-President, or Player Agent.

SECTION 4 - Disciplinary Action

The Board of Directors (or a disciplinary committee appointed by the Board of Directors) will review all infractions of the Code(s) of Conduct. Depending on the seriousness or the frequency, the board may assess disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the league.

SECTION 5 – Grievance Policy

All grievances should be directed to the Grievance Officer. The Grievance Officer will determine the nature of the Grievance and involve the appropriate parties or board member and will assist in the resolution of the issue. For example, if there is a draft concert, the Grievance Officer would work with the Player Agent to resolve the issue.

If a resolution cannot be achieved, a Grievance Hearing may be called.

SECTION 6 - Grievance Hearing

Both the person filing the complaint and the person against whom the grievance is filed, may produce witnesses to speak on their behalf (no children witnesses). The witnesses must provide their written statements to the Chair no later than 24 hours prior to the hearing.

The Committee shall hear testimony in the following order:

1. The parent/guardian filing the complaint (10 min max);
2. Witnesses for the parent/guardian (2 min each);
3. The person against whom the grievance is filed (10 min max);
4. Witnesses for the person against whom the grievance is filed (2 min each).

Statements should be recorded by the Secretary and should only address the issue at hand and not reference any past accusations or violations, if any. Only facts may be presented, not assumptions or preconceived conclusions. No questions shall be allowed during testimony.

After the statements are made, the Chair may allow questions from Committee members. The parties shall then be dismissed.

After the parties are dismissed, the Grievance Committee shall then discuss the case in private and reach a decision as to the imposition of any disciplinary action by majority vote. The Chair shall issue a letter to the person against whom the grievance is filed as soon as practical after the decision of the Committee, informing the person whether the complaint was dismissed, if there will be disciplinary action, or know the issues raised in the complaint were resolved by the Committee. The person filing the complaint shall also be promptly informed in writing of the Committee's decision.

The Grievance Committee may impose sanctions as follows:

1. Dismiss the action without sanction;
2. Written warning from the Chair;
3. Suspension from one or more games or practices;
4. Recommendation against post season positions;
5. Removal from League position;
6. One year suspension from League;
7. Recommendation for criminal prosecution or civil action.

The decision of the Grievance Committee shall be final unless the person against whom the grievance the action is filed decides to appeal the Committee decision to the full BLL Board. If so, the person must appeal by written request to the President of the BLL Board within 48 hours of receiving the decision of the Grievance Committee.

ARTICLE V - DIVISION STRUCTURE

SECTION 1 - Tee ball

Tee ball is open to league age 4, 5, and 6 year olds as determined by the Little League Age Calculator. 7 year olds MAY play in the division with board approval. The purpose of tee ball is to introduce young players to the game and encourage a fun, safe atmosphere. At no point should winning and losing be the primary consideration.

SECTION 2 - Coach Pitch

Coach pitch is available to league age 6-8 year olds. Fundamentals of throwing, catching, and fielding should be stressed. The environment should be fun but should introduce more competitive elements to the players.

SECTION 3 - Minors Player Pitch

Minors are available for league age 8-11 year olds. Minors MAY be split into two divisions if enough players are available. Minors is still a developmental division. The primary purpose is to develop pitchers and catchers and continue to work on fundamentals.

SECTION 4 - Majors

Major league is available for league age 11-12 year olds. Pitchers and catchers should develop technique. This is a competitive division. Players should be introduced to strategy and tactics required to win as well as continue to hone their fundamentals.

SECTION 5 - Intermediate (50/70) BASEBALL ONLY

The Intermediate Division is available to league age 11-13 year olds. Its intent is to ease the transition to a full-sized baseball field. Leads and base-stealing are introduced. Players should work on advanced baserunning, pickoffs, stealing, and strategy. Fundamentals should continue to be a focus in this division.

SECTION 5 - Juniors

The Juniors Division is available to league age 12-14 year olds. A full sized baseball field is used. Players should have solid fundamentals. Advanced strategies, pitching, and catching should be stressed.

SECTION 6 - Seniors

The Seniors Division is available to league age 15-16 year olds. It is offered as an additional outlet for high school players.

ARTICLE IV - FACILITY RULES AND USAGE

All field usage must be approved and scheduled by the league. Field preparation and usage by BLL will follow and adhere to any contract or agreement with BLL and other property owner(s).

SECTION 1 - Game Rules and Schedules

No games shall be canceled or rescheduled by managers, coaches or parents without the approval of the Board of Directors. In the case of weather delays or cancellations the Board of Directors will examine all fields to make a determination, taking into account the safety of the players. A decision will be made by the Board of Directors no later than four (4) hours prior to the game. The BOD shall inform the coaches, players and parents through approved media outlets. In the event of field availability issues, the Board Member on Duty will make any necessary adjustments to game start times and the length of games.

SECTION 2 – Other baseball and softball organizations

All BLL field maintenance, practices, games and activities take precedence over field usage by other baseball and softball organizations. All other baseball and softball organizations will have to complete the BLL field usage agreement and receive approval from the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V – VOLUNTEER SCREENING PROGRAM

The following section is mandated by the official Little League rule book. It is duplicated here in an effort to provide as much visibility and clarity as possible on this important topic.

SECTION 1 – Little League Volunteer Application

As a condition of service to the league, all managers, coaches, Board of Directors member and any other persons, volunteers or hired workers who provide regular service to the league and/or have repetitive access to, or contact with players or teams, must complete and submit an official “Little League Volunteer Application” and photo copy of their current Driver’s License to the local league. Background screenings must be completed prior to the applicant assuming his/her duties for the current season. Refusal to submit a fully completed “Little League Volunteer Application” must result in the immediate dismissal of the individual from the local league.

SECTION 2 – Background Checks

The League shall conduct background checks on all personnel that are required to complete a “Little League Volunteer Application” prior to the applicant assuming his/her duties for the current season. The league shall not permit any person to participate in any manner, whose background check reveals a conviction for any crime involving, or against a minor. The league may prohibit any individual from participating as a volunteer or hired worker if the league deems the individual unfit to work with minors. The league will conduct a search of the applicable government operated nationwide sex offender registry in addition to any criminal databases. All background checks are completed through Little League International’s child protection program. The President and Safety Officer are responsible for documenting and ensuring all volunteers have completed the appropriate background checks.

ARTICLE VI – REGISTRATION

All player ages will be determined by the Little League Baseball Age Charts as documented in the “Little League Baseball/Softball Handbook and Operations Manual.”

SECTION 1 – Registration Planning, and Process

Spring and fall registration dates shall be determined by the BLL Board of Directors. Announcement of registration dates shall occur as soon as possible, and may include: school mailings, newspaper announcement, web page messages, email, community flyers and banner plaza. Registration shall be closed at the date determined and published by the BLL Board of Directors. Any player (including a returning player) who registers after the final advertised registration date shall be placed on a waiting list until designation to an appropriate team can be achieved.

For planning purposes only, the BLL Spring Season shall begin in March and end in June. The BLL Fall Season shall begin in September and shall end prior to Thanksgiving. These are

tentative dates and provided only as a general guide. Actual League dates will be determined during the winter and late summer board meetings.

Subsection 1a. – Spring Season

The spring season will end to align with BLL District 30's Tournament of Champions for lower divisions and Little League All Star Tournament Play for upper divisions.

SECTION 2 – Fees and Payment

Registration fees shall be set in accordance with BLL guidelines as a non-profit organization. Fees shall be determined to offset all costs associated with running the league.

The BLL may offer scholarships or payment plans to families if they are unable to afford the registration fee in full. This must be approved by a member of the board of directors along with the completion of a scholarship application or payment plan contract. All payment plans will be collected by the BLL Treasurer.

Article VII – Managers and Coaches

SECTION 1 – Selection, Training, and Conduct

Coaches will submit a volunteer application and express intent for a coaching position to the divisional VP prior to tryouts. After evaluation and selection the Coaching Coordinators will present the coaches to be officially appointed by the Board of Directors. Volunteers interested in Managers and coaching positions are encouraged to attend the coaching clinics. A Manager of an existing team will not be allowed to apply for the position of a Manager of a different team. All Managers and Coaches will read, sign and implement the Coaches Code of Conduct (see attached).

Article VIII – Tryouts/Draft/Selection of Players

SECTION 1 – Tryouts

An evaluation conducted by the League to determine the skill level of each Player who wishes to be considered for a draft division. NOTE: No players, under any circumstance, shall be involuntarily dropped or dismissed from the League as the result of any such tryout or evaluation or because they were not available for a tryout session.

SECTION 2 – Spring Season Draft

The Bastrop Little League program utilizes "Plan A" draft rules, as set forth in the Official Little League Operations Manual. All draft outcomes and rounds of selections are to be kept confidential. TEach Divisional VP and the Player Agent will work with the Coaching Coordinators together to select a draft date, contact managers and prepare for the player draft.

If the Divisional VP has a child playing in the division then the draft will be directed/implemented by the player agent and an unattached board member to ensure fairness.

The 1st round will be decided through a numbered hat pick between the coaches. The second round draft order is opposite of the draft order for the first round. Each subsequent round follows accordingly until all players are drafted. This serpentine order is intended to ensure that there is a greater chance of building a competitive team.

Draft order example: Round 1: Team 1, Team 2, Team 3, Team 4, Team 5, Team 6 (Team 1 having picked the lowest number from the hat pick while Team 6 had the highest number chosen).

Round 2: Team 6, Team 5, Team 4, Team 3, Team 2, Team 1.

Round 3: Team 1, Team 2, Team 3, Team 4, Team 5, Team 6.

Round 4: Team 6, Team 5, Team 4, Team 3, Team 2, Team 1.

SECTION 2 – Fall Ball Team Selection

Once registration is closed the Player Agent and Coaching Coordinators will receive a listing of all players related to their division. The board will assign players to teams to create an equal balance of ages and ensure that each team has adequate pitching and catching (if applicable).