

PAWCATUCK LITTLE LEAGUE

BY LAWS

ARTICLE I – NAME

This organization shall be known as the “Pawcatuck Little League, Incorporated”.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVE

Section 1. The object of the Pawcatuck Little League shall be to implant firmly in the children of the community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, and respect for authority, so they may be well adjusted, stronger and happier children and will grow to be good, decent, healthy, and trustworthy citizens.

Section 2. To achieve this objective, the Pawcatuck Little League will provide a supervised program under the Rules and Regulations of Little League Baseball, Incorporated. All Directors, Officers, and Members shall bear in mind that attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the winning of games is secondary, and the molding of future citizens is of prime importance. In accordance with Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, the Pawcatuck Little League shall operate exclusively as a non-profit educational organization providing a supervised program of competitive baseball games. No part of the net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual; no substantial part of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and which does not participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate of public office.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. ELIGIBILITY. Any person sincerely interested in active participation to affect the objective of this Pawcatuck Little League may apply to become a member.

Section 2. CLASSES. There shall be the following classes of Members who shall be entitled to vote on issues submitted to that class of Members by the Board of Directors.

- a. **PLAYER MEMBERS.** Any player candidate meeting the requirements of Little League Regulation IV and who reside within the authorized boundaries of the Pawcatuck Little League or have an authorized Little League Residency Waiver shall be eligible to compete for participation but shall have no rights, duties, or obligations in the management or in the property of the Pawcatuck Little League.

- b. **REGULAR MEMBERS.** Any person actively interested in furthering the objectives of the Pawcatuck Little League may become a Regular Member. The secretary shall maintain the roll of membership to qualify voting Members. Only Members in good standing are eligible to vote. All Officers, Board Members, Committee Members, Managers, Volunteer Umpires, and other elected or appointed officials must be active Members in good standing.
- c. **HONORARY MEMBERS.** Any person may be elected as Honorary Member by the unanimous vote of all Directors present at any duly held meeting of the Board of Directors.
- d. **SUSTAINING MEMBERS.** Any person not a Regular Member who makes a financial or other contribution to the Pawcatuck Little League may by a majority vote of the Board of Directors become a Sustaining Member.
- e. As used hereinafter, the word "Member" shall mean a Regular Member unless otherwise stated.

Section 3. OTHER AFFILIATIONS

- a. Members, whether Regular or Player, shall not be required to be affiliated with another organization or group to qualify as Members of the Pawcatuck Little League
- b. Regular Members should not be actively engaged in the promotion and/or operation of any other baseball program, unless approved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV - DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Section 1. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- a. Disciplinary action may be commenced against any person involved in the Pawcatuck Little League program, including, but not limited to, Pawcatuck Little League officers, directors, umpires, managers, coaches, parents, players, and those desiring to attend games and/or functions. Activities that may be subject to disciplinary action shall include any violation of the guidelines contained in the Little League Operating Manual, Official Regulations and Playing rules, or Pawcatuck Little League By-Laws. Any activity or conduct, which is determined detrimental to the best interest of the Pawcatuck Little League and/or Little League Baseball by any individual, who is in any way involved in the Pawcatuck Little League, may also be subject to disciplinary action.

Section 2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- a. The Board of Directors shall establish an Executive Committee as set forth in Article X for the purpose of investigating and determining the merit of allegations which may require disciplinary action. Upon finding merit in the allegations, the Executive Committee will turn the matter over to the Board with its recommendations by disciplinary action.

Section 3. FILING OF CHARGES

- a. To initiate an investigation by the Executive Committee, a written complaint shall be filed, setting forth the grounds upon which the complaint is based. The complaint shall contain necessary information so that a proper investigation of the charges can be made. It shall be signed by the complainant and shall be delivered to the attention of the League President or Vice President, within seven (7) calendar days following the occurrence of the alleged violation. Any Board member may initiate an investigation of wrongdoings at any time.

NOTE: Upon request of the complainant, their name will be held in confidence.

Section 4. NOTIFICATION OF CHARGES

- a. Normally within three (3) days of receipt of a complaint alleging the need for disciplinary action, and after the Executive Committee has found merit in the allegations, the President or presiding officer shall give written notice to the alleged violator stating the substance of the charge in concise terms and requesting that the alleged violator appear at a hearing before the Board of Directors to be held no sooner than three (3) days or later than ten days from the date of the notice. The notice shall contain a statement that failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute default and an admission of the conduct alleged in the complaint. The notice shall also state that such a default shall allow the Pawcatuck Little League Board to discipline the alleged violator as it deems appropriate, including suspension or removal from the Pawcatuck Little League program. In no event shall any hearing member have any direct involvement with the alleged violation.

Section 5. DECISION OF THE BOARD

- a. At the conclusion of the fact-finding hearing, the Board shall adjourn for deliberation. The Board must be represented by a valid quorum as stated in Pawcatuck Little League By-Laws. If 2/3 of those present at any duly constituted meeting finds that adequate grounds exist for disciplinary action, then the President or presiding officer shall issue a written decision setting

forth the rule, regulation, or policy violated, and the sanction ordered as a result of the violation. Sanctions may include, but not limited to, reprimand or censure, dismissal, or suspension from any further Pawcatuck Little League Activities.

Section 6. EMERGENCY DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- a. Under emergency circumstances, when immediate action must be taken to protect the welfare of any individual involved in any Pawatuck Little League program, the President or any person specifically designated by the President may suspend an individual from further participation in Pawcatuck Little League activities. Following emergency suspension, a complaint shall be made as set forth in Section 2 above and a hearing shall take place as set forth in Sections 3 and 4.

ARTICLE V – PARTICIPATION FEE

Section 1. A reasonable league participation fee may be assessed as the parents' obligation to assure the operational continuity of the Pawcatuck Little League. At no time should the inability to pay any fee hinder the participation in any league program.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The monthly meetings of the regular members and/or Board of Directors of the Pawcatuck Little League shall be determined by the Board of Directors and advertised on the Pawcatuck Little League website. There will be no meetings scheduled for the months of June and July, unless a meeting is deemed necessary by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors reserves the right to change the time and place as deemed necessary, provided that at least three (3) day's notice is provided to the regular membership and/or Board of Directors, of such change. The regular members and/or Board of Directors will meet for the purpose of reviewing monthly operations, receiving reports, and for the transaction of such business as may properly come up before the meeting. The nomination of officers and the election of officers will occur during the annual October meeting each year.

Section 2. Notice of each meeting may be given in such form as may be authorized by the Board of Directors. At a minimum, the regularly scheduled meetings will be placed on the Pawcatuck Little League website.

Section 3. Special meetings of the members may be called by the Board of Directors, the Secretary, or the President as they deem necessary. In addition, the President of the Pawcatuck Little League shall call a special meeting to discuss a specific subject if

such meeting is requested (in writing) by no less than ten (10) regular members. No business other than that subject specified in the notice of the meeting shall be transacted at any special meeting of other regular members.

Section 4. A quorum is defined as the number of regular members that must be present at a membership meeting for business to be legally transacted. A quorum refers to the number of regular members present at the meeting, not necessarily the number voting (although they can be the same).

- a. For the purposes of the Pawcatuck Little League, a quorum at regular meetings shall consist of not less than one half (1/2) of the then in place Board of Directors. No business can be officially conducted at any regular membership meeting if the quorum is not met.
- b. For the nomination and election of officers (the October membership meeting as defined in Article 5, Section 1 of these by-laws), the quorum shall consist of not less than one half (1/2) of the then in place Board of Directors. No nominations and/or elections of officers can take place if the quorum is not met (this does not apply to Article 6, Section 3, which provides for the Board of Directors to fill a Board vacancy).

Section 5. Voting at any regular membership meeting, election of officers, and any special meetings of the membership, shall only be entitled to those regular members who are in current good standing and have paid their annual dues. Current good standing means that a regular member is not under suspension, terminated, or under any other disciplinary action with the Pawcatuck Little League and/or the Board of Directors as outlined in Article 3..

ARTICLE VII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Authority. The management of the property and affairs of the Pawcatuck Little League shall be vested in the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Increase in Number. The number of Board of Directors so fixed at the Annual Meeting may be increased at any General Membership Meeting or Special Meeting of the Members. If the number is increased, the additional Directors may be elected at the meeting at which the increase is voted, or at any subsequent General Membership Meeting. All elections of additional Directors shall be by majority vote of all Regular Members present or represented by a properly executed absentee ballot filed with the Secretary prior to the election meeting.

Section 3. Vacancies. If any vacancy occurs in the Board of Directors, by death, resignation, or otherwise, it may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining Directors at any regular Board meeting or at any Special Board Meeting called for that purpose.

Section 4. Board Meeting, Notice and Quorum. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held on such days thereafter as shall be determined by the Board.

- a. The President may, whenever he deems it advisable, or the Secretary shall at the request in writing of three Directors, issue a call for a Special Board Meeting. In the case of Special Board Meetings, such notice shall include the purpose of the meeting and no matters so stated may be acted upon at the meeting.
- b. Notice of each Board meeting shall be given electronically or by mail to each Director at least three (3) days before the time appointed for the meeting to the last recorded address of each Director.
- c. Fifty percent (50%) of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. However, members of the Board of Directors may vote electronically at a special Board Meeting and such member voting electronically shall be considered when determining a quorum. If a quorum is not present, no business shall be conducted.
- d. Only members of the Board of Directors may make motions and vote at meetings of the Board of Directors. However, the Board of Directors may invite, admit, and recognize guests for presentations or comments during Board Meetings.

Section 5. Duties and Powers. The Board of Directors shall have the power to appoint such standing committees as it shall determine appropriate and to delegate such powers to them as the Board shall deem advisable and which it may properly delegate.

The Board may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its meetings and the management of the Pawcatuck Little League as it may deem proper, provided such rules and regulations do not conflict with this Constitution.

The Board shall have the power by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present at any regular Board or Special Board Meeting to discipline, suspend, or remove any Director or Officer or Committee Member of the Pawcatuck Little League in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article III, Section 4(a,b).

Section 6. Rules of Order for Board Meeting. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of all Board of Directors meeting, except where same conflicts with this Constitution of the Pawcatuck Little League.

ARTICLE VIII – DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE BOARD

Section 1. Appointments. The Board of Directors may appoint such other officers or agents as it may deem necessary or desirable, and may prescribe the powers and

duties of each. Appointed officers or agents shall have no vote on actions taken by the Board of Directors unless such individuals have been elected to the Board by the membership or have been elected to fill a vacancy on the Board.

Section 2. President. The President shall

- a. Conduct the affairs of the Pawcatuck Little League and execute the policies established by the Board of Directors.
- b. Present a report of the condition of the Pawcatuck Little League at the Annual Meeting.
- c. Communicate to the Board of Directors such matters as deemed appropriate, and make such suggestions as may tend to promote the welfare of the Pawcatuck Little League.
- d. Be responsible for the conduct of the Pawcatuck Little League in strict conformity to the policies, principles, Rules and Regulations of Little League Baseball, Incorporated, as agreed to under the conditions of charter issued to the Pawcatuck Little League by that organization.
- e. Designate, in writing, other officers, if necessary to have power to make and execute for/and in the name of the Pawcatuck Little League such contracts and leases they may receive and which have had prior approval of the Board.
- f. Investigate complaints, irregularities, and conditions detrimental to the Pawcatuck Little League and report thereon to the Board or Executive Committee as circumstances warrant.
- g. Submit an annual budget to the Board of Directors and be responsible for the proper execution thereof.
- h. Examine the application and support proof-of-age documents of every player candidate and certify to residence and age eligibility before the player may be accepted for tryouts and selection.

Section 3. Vice President. The Vice President shall:

- a. Perform the duties of the President in the absence or disability of the President, provided he or she is authorized by the President or Board so to act. When so acting, the Vice President shall have all the powers of that office.
- b. Perform such duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Board of Directors or by the President.

Section 4. Secretary. The Secretary shall:

- a. Be responsible for recording the activities of the Pawcatuck Little League and maintain appropriate files, mailing lists, and necessary records.
- b. Perform such duties as are herein specifically set forth, in addition to such other duties as are customarily incident to the office of Secretary or as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.
- c. Keep the minutes of the meetings of the Members, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee, and cause them to be recorded in a book kept for that purpose.
- d. Conduct all correspondence not otherwise specifically delegated in connection with said meeting and shall be reasonable for carrying out all orders, votes, and resolutions not otherwise committed.
- e. Notify Members, Directors, Officers, and committee members of their election or appointment.

Section 5. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall:

- a. Perform such duties as are herein set forth and such other duties as are customarily incident to the Office of Treasurer or may be assigned by the Board of Directors.
- b. Receive all monies and securities, and deposit same in a depository approved by the Board of Directors.
- c. Keep records for the receipt and disbursement of all monies and securities of the Pawcatuck Little League including the Auxiliary, approve all payments from allotted funds, and draw checks therefore in agreement with policies established in advance of such actions by the Board of Directors. All disbursements by check must have dual signatures.
- d. Prepare an annual budget, under the direction of the President, for submission to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting.
- e. Prepare an annual financial report, under the direction of the President, for submission to the Membership and Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting, and to Little League Headquarters.

Section 6. Player Agent. The Player Agent (if appointed) shall:

- a. Record all player transactions and maintain an accurate and up-to-date record thereof.
- b. Receive and review applications for player candidates and assist the President in verifying residence and age eligibility.
- c. Prepare the Player Agent's list.
- d. Prepare for the President's signature and submission to Little League Headquarters, team rosters, including players' claimed, and the tournament team eligibility affidavit.
- e. Notify Little League Headquarters of any subsequent player replacements or trades.

ARTICLE IX – OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Board of Directors may appoint an Oversight Committee which shall consist of not less than three (3) Directors, one of whom shall be the President.

Section 2. The Oversight Committee shall advise with and assist the Officers of the Pawcatuck Little League in all matters concerning its interests and the management of its affairs, and shall have such other powers as may be delegated to it by the Board, but in no event will the Oversight Committee have authority over the Board of Directors.

Section 3. At any meeting of the Oversight Committee, a majority of the total number of members then in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and the act of a majority present at any meeting at which there is a quorum shall be the act of the Committee.

ARTICLE X – OTHER COMMITTEES

Section 1. Building and Property Committee. The Board of Directors may appoint a Building and Property Committee consisting of three (3) Directors. The Committee shall investigate and recommend available, suitable sites and plans for development, including ways and means, the latter in cooperation with the Finance Committee. It shall be responsible for repair and improvement recommendations, other than normal maintenance, and supervise the performance of approved projects.

Section 2. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of three (3) Directors, the President, Umpire Director, and Director of the respective league. The Protest Committee shall be responsible to determine the proper application of the rules

and other sanctions in the event of protest or other rule violation by managers, coaches, players, or other affected parties.

Section 3. Other Committees. The Board of Directors may appoint any other committee(s) as it deems necessary consisting of three (3) Directors.

ARTICLE XI – MANAGER AND COACHES

Section 1. Team Managers and Coaches shall be appointed annually by the their respective League Director, and be approved by the Board of Directors. Managers shall be responsible for their actions on the field. In addition, Senior and Majors Managers are responsible for the selection of their teams in accordance with established draft procedures of the Rules and Regulations of Little League Baseball, Incorporated, unless there are two (2) or less teams in a division. Minor Managers and the individual Minor team shall be determined by the Minor’s Director. It is desirable that the managers and coaches be fathers/mothers of a player on the team.

When determining a Manager, factors to be considered include, but are not necessarily limited to:

1. Previous managerial or coaching experience.
 2. Past performance (e.g. substantiated letters of complaint, disciplinary actions by the Board of Directors, game ejections) in positions of similar responsibility.
 3. Knowledge of the game, Little League rules, and Little League philosophies.
 4. Willingness to support the Pawcatuck Little League and promote the philosophies of Little League Baseball.
 5. Prior service does NOT guarantee re-appoint.
- a. It shall be the responsibility of each Manager to select their own coach and/or coaches and submit the name of each coach, or coaches, to the respective League Director for appointment and approval by the Board of Directors.
 - b. In the event a Manager’s vacancy occurs during the current playing season, a new Manager shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors to finish the current season.
 - c. All Managers, Coaches, and league volunteers are required to submit to a background check, in accordance with Little League Rules and Regulations.

Section 2. While holding such office, the President, Player Agent, and Vice President may manage, coach, or umpire in any division, including their respective divisions as well as All-Star tournament play.

Section 3. In addition, to all managerial decisions, the managers shall be responsible for the following:

- a. The distribution of uniforms at the beginning of the season and the collection of uniforms at season's end.
- b. Field preparation before the game, and all field maintenance after the game, including, but not limited to: pulling bases, dragging infield, cleaning the dugouts and press box, as well as picking up any garbage.
- c. Each team will be assigned a minimum of one (1) or maximum of two (2) nights to cover the concession stand during the season. Coaches will be responsible for getting six (6) people to cover an assigned night.

ARTICLE XII – General Selection of All-Star/Tournament Team Representatives

Section 1. General Selection Criteria

- a. Little League Rules and Regulations shall govern the selection of tournament team players. The President or Player Agent shall meet in separate private sessions with the current league managers to select All-Star/Tournament team players.
- b. All votes for tournament team players should be secret ballot. The President or Player Agent should count and record the ballots. The results of all votes shall remain confidential from the General Membership until announced by the President or respective League Director
- c. Only those players who satisfy the following criteria shall be eligible for All-Star/Tournament play:
 1. Must meet criteria as so stated in Official Rules and Regulations handbook.
 2. All league-supplied equipment/uniforms have been returned to a league representative.
 3. Displayed good sportsmanship on and off the field.
 4. May not have declined promotion to the major division
 5. Must have played sixty percent (60%) of games during regular season.
 6. If an All-Star player quits an All-Star team, he or she may not be eligible to play All-Stars the following year.
- d. Subject to appointment by the President and approval by the Board of Directors, the All-Star/Tournament managers shall be selected by the

respective League Director. Subject to appointment by the President and approval by the Board of Directors, the All-Star Tournament managers shall select the coach(s) from the remaining current season's managers/coaches.

ARTICLE XIII – AFFILIATION

Section 1. Charter. The Pawcatuck Little League shall annually apply for a charter from Little League Baseball, Incorporated and shall do all things necessary to obtain and maintain such charter. The Pawcatuck Little League shall devote its entire energies to the activities authorized by such charter and it shall not be affiliated with any other program or organization or operate any other program, unless approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Rules and Regulations. The Official Playing Rules and Regulations as published by Little League Baseball, Incorporated, Williamsport, Pennsylvania, shall be binding on the Pawcatuck Little League.

Section 3. Pawcatuck Little League Rules. Local rules, including Local Playing Rules, of the Pawcatuck Little League shall be initially adopted by vote of the Board of Directors. Such local rules shall continue, unless revised and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all current Board of Directors (e.g., if there are 15 Directors, then 10 Directors must affirmatively vote to revise), but shall in no way conflict with the Rules and Regulations of Little League Baseball, Incorporated. In addition to certain local playing rules established for each division, and published in the annual Pawcatuck Little League handbook, the following important rules and regulations shall apply to the Pawcatuck Little League complex:

- a. No dogs or other pets allowed in the complex.
- b. 10 m.p.h. speed limit on league property.
- c. Be aware of pedestrians and children.
- d. No alcohol or tobacco products.
- e. No throwing balls against dugouts.
- f. Respect coaches, umpires, and players.
- g. Pawcatuck Little League is a baseball/softball facility. No Lacrosse, soccer, football, or any other non-baseball/softball activity is allowed
- h. Posted Batting Cage rules must be complied with.
- i. Parents are responsible for the conduct of their child/children and it is strongly encouraged that children are not left unsupervised at the Pawcatuck Little League complex.

Violation of these rules may result in disciplinary action or action by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XIV – FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall decide all matters pertaining to the finances of the Pawcatuck Little League and it shall place all income including Auxiliary funds, in a common league treasury, directing the expenditure of same in such manner as will give no individual or team an advantage over those in competition with such individual or team.

Section 2. The Board shall not permit the contribution of funds or property to individual teams but shall solicit some for common treasury of the Pawcatuck Little League, thereby discouraging favoritism among teams and to endeavor to equalize the benefits of the Pawcatuck Little League.

Section 3. The Board shall not permit the solicitation of funds in the name of Little League Baseball unless all of the funds so raised are placed in the Pawcatuck Little League treasury, unless approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. The Board shall not permit the disbursement of Pawcatuck Little League funds for other than the conduct of Little League activities in accordance with the rules and policies of Little League Baseball, Incorporated.

Section 5. No Director, Officer, or Member of the Pawcatuck Little League shall receive, directly or indirectly, any salary, compensation, or emolument from the Pawcatuck Little League for services rendered as Director, Officer, or Member.

Section 6. All monies received, including Auxiliary funds, shall be deposited to the credit of the Pawcatuck Little League in a local bank and all disbursements shall be made by check. All checks shall be signed by the Pawcatuck Little League Treasurer and such other or officers or person or persons as the Board of Directors shall determine.

Section 7. The fiscal year of the Pawcatuck Little League shall begin on the first day of January and shall end of the last day of December (January 1st through December 31st).

Section 8. Distribution of Property Upon Dissolution. Upon dissolution of the Pawcatuck Little League, and after all outstanding debts and claims have been satisfied, the Members shall direct the remaining property of the Pawcatuck Little League to another Federally Incorporated entity which maintains the same objectives as set forth herein, which are or may be entitled to exemption under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or any future corresponding provision.

ARTICLE XV – AMENDMENTS

These By Laws may be amended, repealed, or altered in whole or in part by a two-third (2/3) vote at any duly organized meeting of the Members and/or Board of Directors, provided notice of the proposed change is included in the notice of such meeting.

All proposed amendments to these By Laws adopted by the Board of Directors and the membership shall be submitted to Little League Baseball, Incorporated for approval before implementation.