

BY-LAWS OF LEOMINSTER LASSIE LEAGUE, INC.

PREAMBLE

The name of the organization is Leominster Lassie League, Inc. The organization has not been formed for the making of any profit, or personal financial gain. The assets and income shall only be used to promote corporate purposes. This organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from federal income tax. The organization shall not endorse, contribute to, work for, or otherwise support (or oppose) a candidate for public office. The organization is organized exclusively as a 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE I NAME

This organization shall be known as "LEOMINSTER LASSIE LEAGUE, INC."

ARTICLE II OBJECTIVES

Section 1. The objective of the League shall be to teach youth of this community the fundamentals of softball keeping in mind that installing the ideals of good sportsmanship, courage, honesty, loyalty and respect for authority are of prime importance and that winning of games shall be secondary to these principles.

Section 2. The object of the Women's division is to afford the opportunity for graduating members of the youth division as well as women of the community a chance to play recreational softball.

Section 3. To promote the LEOMINSTER LASSIE LEAGUE, INC. by obtaining volunteer personnel to supervise every phase of the League and to comply strictly by the rules and regulations as set forth by the LEOMINSTER LASSIE LEAGUE, INC.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. All persons residing within the geographical boundaries of the city of Leominster and surrounding communities shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2a. Playing members shall consist of the girls and women living within the authorized boundaries of the corporation who meet the requirements of the rules and regulations of Leominster Lassie League, Inc. Playing members in the youth division shall have no rights, duties, obligations in the management or in the property of the corporation and no voting rights.

Section 2c. Honorary members. The Board of Directors may from time to time elect honorary members of the corporation, who need not be residents within the geographical limits referred to in Sect. 1. The Board of Directors may bestow honorary membership upon any persons in recognition of meritorious services or other contributions made by such persons to the League. Honorary members shall have no rights, duties, or obligations in the management or in the property of the corporation and shall have no voting rights. They may be members for life or any time so designated by the Board.

Section 3. Any member may resign from the corporation at any time for any reason by submitting his/hers resignation in writing to the Board of Directors; and such member's membership shall cease upon the submission of such resignation letter.

ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the following: Six officers of the Corporation: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Youth Player Agent (1 to be voted on), Women's Player Agent (1 to be voted on), and 5 at-large members. The Board of Directors will have the only voting rights but will confer with coaches and other members of the league. All Board of Directors voted in need to have been involved in the Leominster Lassie League for at least the past year as a parent/guardian, coach, and/or volunteer. The Board of Directors shall have a term of two years.

Section 2. The management of the property and affairs of this corporation shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors. Newly voted Board of Directors will begin their duties on January 1st and the outgoing Board of Directors shall continue in office until December 31st.

Section 3. *Two weeks prior to the start of the new term in January, the outgoing officers MUST be able to transfer and transition all the league items. This includes but not limited to checking and savings accounts, all paperwork from the secretary as well as keys for the Post Office box and other keys. New bank account signature cards will be signed by the President and the Treasurer within two (2) weeks*

Section 4 . The Board of Directors may designate committee members and delegate duties and authorities to committee members as the Board of Directors may deem advisable.

Section 5. The Board of Directors shall have general supervision over the League and the teams in the League see to it that the officers perform their duties, and enforce the by-laws and regulations of the corporation. Board Members may be expelled from the Board by a 2/3 affirmative vote of those members voting. An abstaining vote will be considered not voting.

Section 6. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held immediately following the annual election, and on such days thereafter as determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Board of Directors may vote via email when time is of the essence on an immediate issue that cannot wait for the next board meeting. All email votes need to be sent as reply-all. Email receipts are to be printed and verified at the next meeting and attached to the meeting minutes.

Section 8. Any Board of Director who misses 3 consecutive meetings without contacting the president prior to the meeting will be subject to removal from the Board of Directors pending Board approval.

ARTICLE V DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. *The President shall preside at all meetings of the league and the Board of Directors, and shall have the power to call meetings when he/she determines the business of the League requires such meetings, shall be subject to the Board of Directors who manage the affairs of the League, and shall perform such duties as required by law; shall make an annual report to the members of the all transactions of the League, meet with the Leominster Recreation Department on an annual basis or as needed, and shall be a non-voting member but shall have the power to cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie. The President shall ensure that all CORI checks are completed before the start of the season and must provide a list of all adults who are CORI checked. The president shall be bonded and have crime insurance for the faithful performance of his/her duties as may be required by the Board of Directors.*

Section 2. *The Vice-President shall preside at all meetings in absence of the president, and shall perform all the functions of the President if the President resigns, or is removed, or is unable to discharge the powers and duties of said office.*

Section 3. *The Secretary shall keep the records of the League archived; shall attend to all correspondence and properly file all records for inspection at any time; shall notify the members as to the time and place of all meetings and shall keep the minutes of all meetings. The secretary will make past records available upon request in a timely manner.*

Section 4. *The Treasurer shall have custody of all monies, securities and evidence of indebtedness of the League; shall have proper account for all receipts and disbursements; shall receive all Monies payable to the League and shall disburse the same in accordance with the instructions or order of the Board of Directorss. All books, account and records shall be subject to an audit and inspection and control with the rules as set down by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer must present a written financial report at each meeting and will make past records available upon request in a timely manner. The Treasurer shall be bonded and have crime insurance for the faithful performance of his/her duties as may be required by the Board of Directors.*

Section 5. The Player Agent shall conduct annual tryouts and oversee the draft, check birth records and eligibility of players if necessary in the event of a dispute; shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors and shall generally supervise and coordinate the transfer of players. The Player Agent will oversee scheduling games and any games to be re-scheduled must go through the Player Agent.

Section 5a. Division player agents for the youth shall not manage, coach or have a child play in the division they wish to represent.

Section 6. Umpire in Chief. The Umpire in Chief (UIC) shall assign and evaluate certified umpires for the following divisions: Youth and Women's; shall serve as official rules interpreter for the League, and review player/manager ejections. UIC must be a certified umpire of the Softball Organization chosen at the annual meeting, in good standing, approved by the area UIC. UIC to receive an annual assigning fee to be established by the Board of Directors.

Section 7. The Board of Directors shall have the ability to make decisions for the board of directors outside of a meeting or calling a special meeting where an immediate decision must be made and cannot wait until a scheduled meeting. Officers must be in a majority vote and the issue will then need to be presented to the board at the next scheduled meeting. If this is not an emergency situation then the item can wait until the next scheduled Lassie League meeting.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

Section 1. *The annual meeting of the board of directors of the corporation shall be held in September for the purpose of electing the board of directors, receiving reports of funds and progress, and any other League business to be discussed. The meeting shall be held at the time and place designated by the Board of Directors. Anyone in attendance at the Annual meeting is eligible to vote for the Board of Directors as long as they currently have a child in the League, are a player in the Women's League or have been a volunteer during the current year. Anyone interested in becoming a board member must submit their interest in writing to the current board at leominsterlassieleague@gmail.com prior to September 1st for the 6 officers and the 5 at-large members. The general membership will vote by ballot for these positions. A neutral person should be designated to oversee/count the votes. All ballots will be put into an envelope and attached to the Annual Meeting minutes.*

Section 2. Special meetings of the member or of the Board of Directors may be called at any time by the President or by the Secretary upon request of three members of the Board of Directors. The meeting shall take place within 7 days with at least a 48 hour notice. During special meetings, regular business may be discussed as necessary.

Section 3. *Roberts Rules of Order* (revised) shall govern the proceedings of all meetings except where such rules conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of this cooperation. The order of business of any meeting may be changed by a vote of the majority of the members present; a motion to change the order of business shall not be debatable. The order of business shall be as follows:

- a) Call to Order.
- b) '(Voting) Reading the minutes of the last meeting.
- c) Reports to the Board of Directors and Officers
- d) Communications
- e) Old Business
- f) Reports of the Committees
- g) New Business
- h) Adjournment

Section 4. *Capital improvements over \$2,000 must be presented with at least three (3) quotes for products or services and must have a second reading for the vote to be official.*

Section 5. Any changes to the by-laws should be handled by a by-law committee who will submit recommendations and then will require a second reading for the vote to be official.

ARTICLE VII QUORUM

The Quorum shall consist of one half plus one of the active membership of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting by a majority of votes cast by the *current sitting board members* who are entitled to vote.

Section 2. All Officers of the corporation shall be elected by and from the new Board of Directors as elected in section 1 by a majority vote. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, the top two candidates with the most votes will move on to a second ballot. If there is a tie between two candidates in any position, ballots will be cast no more than three times. If after the third attempt there still remains a tie, that position will be tabled until the next scheduled meeting. Only those board of directors who were elected under section 1 may vote.

Section 3. If any vacancy occurs in the membership of the Board by death, resignation, or otherwise, such vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining Directors at any regular or special meeting.

ARTICLE IX Umpiring and Playing RULES

Section 1. The Official Playing Rules and Regulations for the Leominster Lassie League, Inc. shall be the Official Rules of the Softball Organization chosen at an annual meeting. Women and Youth Divisions may use different umpiring organizations.

Section 2. *The rules committee shall formulate the local rules of the League and those rules must be presented for discussion at the annual coaches meeting and approved by the Board of Directors. Any modification or amendments to the rules must be brought to the rules committee to follow the same approval process as above (discussion at coaches meeting and vote by the board of directors).*

Section 3. Any modification or amendments to the rules, once approved by the Board, must be brought by the divisional player agent upon request of the divisional managers to the rules committee.

ARTICLE X MANAGERS AND COACHES

Section 1. *The player agent of each division will submit a list of all managers/head coaches and assistant coaches when available to be approved by the board.* The League officers shall approve managers and one coach for each team and then elected by a majority vote of the Board. They shall be responsible for their teams and will be expected to instill into the youngsters the highest ideals of sportsmanship. League officers shall approve any other coaches at least 2 weeks prior to the first game.

Section 2. Player/Manager Discipline: Managers and coaches will be responsible to the Board for the conduct of their teams and their own behavior while engaged in League activities.

- A. A standing sub-committee shall be established to deal with player, manager, coach, or Board Member discipline. There will be 7 committee members (6 permanent and 1 floating). It will include the League President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Umpire in Chief, the Player Agent, and the player agent of the division affected. This sub-committee's decision will be final. In the event that one or more committee member may have to abstain from voting, the president shall have the authority to appoint members to bring the said committee to 7 members.
- B. An infraction occurring during a game. Once the infraction occurs, the Umpire in Chief upon receipt of the game umpire's report will determine the severity of the offense.

1. If the infraction is a violent or inappropriate act (umpire of the game's decision in conjunction with the Umpire in Chief), the incident must come before the sub-committee within 48 hours.
 2. If the Umpire in Chief determines the infraction to be minor he will meet with the offending party at their next game and issue a warning.
 3. If the infraction is a second offense, the infraction will automatically come before the sub-committee.
- A. An infraction occurring outside of a game context. A signed written request detailing the transgression(s) will be submitted to the League President. He will submit the request to the subcommittee.
 - B. All board of directors must behave appropriately in all Lassie League meetings. It is expected that the board members will be respectful of one another and any comments, suggestions, and complaints are not a personalized attack of any board member. If a board member is unable to abide by this code of conduct they will be given a warning. If they are unable to heed this warning the officers have the authority to ask that board member to leave the meeting. The board member may return to the next scheduled meeting providing that they are able to abide by the code of conduct expected of all board members.

Section 3. Managers, coaches and umpires must be acquainted with the rules and regulations and policies, which govern the League before being eligible for,said positions.

Section 4. *The President shall not umpire any division without Board approval.*

Section 5: The division player agent shall not manage or coach a team in the division he/she is a division player agent for, with the exception of the Women's Division. If player agent is also a coach then there will be a second player agent elected for the division of the conflict.

ARTICLE XI FINANCIAL POLICY

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall determine the amount of annual dues for all playing members *in the youth and women's divisions. The fee is payable in advance.*

Section 2. The funds of the organization shall be deposited in a local bank and such funds shall be dispersed as required to maintain the League as well as any other disbursements voted on by the Board.

Section 3. The Board shall decide all matters pertaining to the finances of the League and it shall be a permanent policy to place all income in a common treasury directing the expenditure of same in such a manner as to give no individual or team an advantage over the others as to equipment, etc.

Section 4. *The Board shall discourage the contribution of funds to individuals or teams and solicit it for the common treasury of the League. The above regulation is to discourage favoritism among teams.*

Section 5. The League will only pay bills or invoices to companies who have provided a service to the League and have submitted an invoice for the product or service.

Section 6. The Board of Directors shall approve all sponsors

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS

These by-laws or any section thereof, may be amended or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the board of directors at any meeting provided the Board of Directors has previously discussed such amendments or repeal. This requires a first and second reading of any changes and be voted on.

ARTICLE XIII COMMITTEES

The President will create committees as needed during the year.

Article XIV
DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATION

Pursuant to M.G.L., Chapter 180, Section 11 or 11A, dissolution of the corporation requires two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at the Annual Meeting provided that dissolution is previously discussed by the Board of Directors. A quorum of the membership shall be present for any dissolution vote. The proposed agenda for the Annual Meeting shall contain any notice for dissolution vote. Should this Corporation dissolve, its assets shall be used to settle any outstanding financial obligations. Any and all remaining assets shall be placed in a scholarship Trust Fund. This Fund will be administered by Leominster High School Guidance Department. Scholarship criteria shall be those currently in effect.

Article XIII
AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Section 1. Ruth Piermarini Award: This award is given to one graduating Leominster Lassie League player who has played in the league for at least 5 years who best exemplifies Leadership, Sportsmanship, and Academics.

Section 1a. Nominations of the award: Each Major division team will nominate 1 graduating player from their team who they feel meets the qualifications for this award. (Teams that do not have any graduating players will not nominate a player but will still vote for the award winner) Coaches will submit a short narrative stating why this player was nominated during the June board meeting. All registered Major division coaches who are present for the meeting will then vote for the graduating player that they feel is the best nominee for the award. The winner of the award will receive a plaque during the awards ceremony.

Section 2. Grace Celli Scholarship

The Grace Celli scholarship was set up [by the Leominster lassie League to assist layers from the league with the financial burden of higher education. The league will award up to 10 scholarships of \$200.00 to each graduating senior that meets the scholarship criteria:

1. Must have played a minimum of five years in the Leominster Lassie League youth league.
2. Must have played in the Leominster lassie League during their last year of league eligibility (senior year of high school).
3. Complete and submit the application to Leominster Lassie League prior to the deadline.
4. Submit proof of payment for the first semester's tuition to the Leominster Lassie League treasurer before December 31st during the year of application in order to receive the scholarship award.

Amended March 22, 1998
Amended March 1999
Amended March 2, 2000
Amended February 7, 2001
Amended January 2011
Amended March 6, 2013
Amended June 19, 2013
Amended August 7, 2013
Amended July 11, 2018
Amended June 30, 2019
Amended July 24, 2019
Amended August 10, 2019
Amended September 4, 2019