



---- Notes on SMLL DRAFT Constitution ----

The draft SMLL constitution was adapted from the Little League Constitution Template provided by Little League International on www.littleleague.org. About ninety percent of the language in the Constitution Template was adopted directly into the SMLL Draft Constitution.

The differences between the SMLL Draft Constitution and the LL Constitution Template (Template) include primarily additional language that serves to codify existing SMLL practices, primarily in operations but also in the conduct of the Annual Meeting and Board Election. These differences are summarized as follows.

Changes made to reflect longstanding SMLL operational practices

- **Categories of Members (Article III, Section 2):** The Template includes four categories of members: Player, Regular, Honorary and Sustaining. The last two categories are designated via Board vote and have no rights, privileges, authority, etc. SMLL has had no Honorary or Sustaining members for at least ten years. The SMLL Draft Constitution removes those last categories, leaving only Player Members and Regular Members.
- **Adjournment in the Absence of a Quorum (Article V, Section 3; Article VI, Section 4):** A motion is required to adjourn meetings where a quorum is not present. The Template does not provide for an official motion to cease the conduct of business when a quorum is absent. SMLL has a long-standing practice of requiring a motion to adjourn.
- **Appointment of Special Advisory Committees (Article VII, Section 2g):** The Template provides for the formation of specific committees with delegated responsibilities, but does not provide for the appointment of advisory or investigative committees. The SMLL Constitution has a section providing for such committees, including the addition of members with special expertise, whose sole responsibility is to take on a task/project at the behest of the league President and report back on findings. Such committees possess no authority and serve in a strictly advisory capacity. In the past, SMLL has formed such committees to research potential capital improvements, investigate LL rules/policies, determine impact of City projects on LL operations, etc.
- **Description of Board Member Responsibilities (Article VII, Sections 8-9 and 12-14):** The SMLL Constitution provides descriptions of the following Board Member roles: Registrar, Communications Officer, Chief of Umpires, Equipment Manager and Fields Manager. The Template includes a single position (League Information Officer) which encompasses Registrar and Communications Officer, so those roles were adapted by splitting the responsibilities provided in the template. The responsibilities of Chief of Umpires, Equipment Manager and Fields Manager were based on prior SMLL Constitutions and Board member responsibilities.



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- **Description of Committees (Article IX):** The SMLL Constitution provides for committees and their responsibilities in accordance with what SMLL has found useful and necessary over the past ten years. So, for example, the SMLL Constitution provides for a Concessions Committee which does not exist in the Constitution Template. As another example, the SMLL Constitution provides for a Disciplinary Committee to handle on field disciplinary matters in accordance with LL Rules (the Green Book).

Changes made regarding the Annual Election of the SMLL Board of Directors

The Template provides for the election of Directors at large from among all nominated candidates. In other words, if there are 13 Board positions, then the candidates who receive the 13 highest vote totals are elected to the Board. The Template then provides that this newly elected Board meet privately to elect from among its number the new league President and other Officers.

SMLL has a longstanding practice of directly electing Board Members. That is, SMLL has a practice of empowering league members to vote directly for the League President and other Board Members. The SMLL Draft Constitution therefore provides for the direct election of Board Members by Office. Based on past experience, this practice has two distinct advantages over the election process provided in the Template.

1. It allows SMLL league Members to have direct role in the election of the President
2. It allows the Nominating Committee to recruit new Board Members who have a specific area of interest, or skill set, to serve in specific roles. This is particularly relevant to positions such as Treasurer, Communications Officer, and Concessions Manager.

The process for electing the SMLL Board is described in **Article V, Section 6c**. It should be noted that this section also references league bylaws. Local league bylaws are intended to incorporate Little League rules governing specific aspects of local league operations in accordance with Little League rules. Bylaws are adopted by the local league Board of Directors and typically address formation of teams, division alignment, selection of tournament teams, local rules of play, ground rules, qualification of members, meeting rules, election procedures, etc. -- ALL in accordance with Little League rules. Bylaws governing election processes are based on the "14 Steps" for elections processes found in the LL Operating Manual.

For those interested in learning more about local league bylaws, go to www.littleleague.org.