

HERNDON OPTIMIST YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

We the people of Herndon, Virginia and the surrounding areas, in order to effectively establish and maintain a youth baseball league for the benefit of the greater community and common good, do establish this Constitution of the Herndon Optimist Youth Baseball League.

ARTICLE I — NAME

The name of the league is the Herndon Optimist Youth Baseball League. It may also be referred to as HOYB.

ARTICLE II — PURPOSE

The Herndon Optimist Youth Baseball (HOYB) League in Herndon, Virginia, provides boys and girls between the ages of four (4) and twelve (12) an opportunity to play in an organized baseball program. The HOYB program is a chartered league under the Cal Ripken division of the national Babe Ruth organization. The Optimist Club of Herndon holds the local charter.

Our league is designed to serve the children of our community. As such the emphasis is on creating a positive culture where children learn valuable life lessons and enjoy the many advantages of a sports program that is inclusive towards players of all backgrounds and abilities. Our league values participation above the “winning at all costs” approach.

ARTICLE III — MEMBERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

Section 1: Membership Boundaries. Our leagues cover the geographic areas of: Herndon, Reston, Chantilly, Oak Hill (including surrounding western Fairfax County areas), the City of Fairfax, plus all of Loudoun County. All games take place on our Herndon baseball fields. The league boundaries are determined by the Virginia State Babe Ruth organization.

Membership in the league is open to all residents of these areas.

Section 2: Governing Body. The league is governed by the HOYB Board of Directors. The HOYB Commissioner who is more commonly referred to as the league President is elected by a majority vote from the Board of Directors and with the subsequent approval of the Optimist Club of Herndon. His term of office is two-years unless a majority of the Board votes to extend his term.

The league President is the ultimate authority and decision maker on all HOYB matters. However, most league decisions of a non-trivial nature are voted on by the HOYB Board. Each Board member has one vote. The league President does not vote unless there is a tie vote that needs to be broken.

The President can create new board positions as he sees the need. Once all nominations for a Board position are made, the position will be filled by a majority Board vote. The term of all Board members is one year. Typically, all Board elections take place during the first Board meeting each November.

Section 3: Quorum. One-half of the Board of Directors, represented in person, shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Board. If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of the majority of the Board represented at the meeting and entitled to vote on the subject matter shall be the act of the entire Board.

Section 4: Board Positions. The number of Board positions may change as the needs of the organization changes. The President, Vice-President, Secretary and League Commissioners comprise the Executive Committee. The role of the Executive Committee is to settle any appeals brought forth by a team manager or parent. Decisions of the Executive Committee are final.

Typically, the Board is composed of the following positions.

President: Responsible for the overall operation of the league. Secures field permits, prepares annual budget, coordinates with national, state and local officials and is the official spokesman for the program.

Vice-President / President-Elect: Assists the President in all league matters including budgeting, approving invoices for payment, and acting on behalf of the President when he is not available.

Secretary: The league Secretary takes the minutes of all Board meetings and is responsible for league registrations.

League Commissioners: There shall be a commissioner appointed for each league by the President with the approval of the Board. The duties of the commissioner shall be to handle any and all assignments pertaining to their respective leagues as outlined by the President. Some of the duties shall be protests or grievances within the league, conduct of managers and coaches and arbiter of the league standings (for the competitive leagues). None of the league commissioner duties may supersede or overrule any league policy pertaining to the operation of the league, conduct of players, managers, coaches, league draft policy, player eligibility, or league activities. The All-Star Commissioner is considered a league commissioner.

Treasurer: The Treasurer is responsible for paying all approved receipts, invoices and claims. He tracks all costs and revenues against the yearly budget and must present a *Treasurers Report* during each regular Board Meeting.

Umpire Coordinator: The person responsible for training, selecting, scheduling all umpires for league games. The Umpire Coordinator keeps track of all games so that payments may be made at the end of the season.

Equipment Coordinator: The person responsible for all league equipment matters. This includes purchasing, distributing, collecting and inventorying all equipment.

Uniform Coordinator: This person is responsible for all uniform matters. This includes purchasing, distributing, collecting and inventorying all uniforms.

League Scheduler: This person is responsible for scheduling all games and assigning practice times and fields.

Field Maintenance Coordinator: This person is responsible for ensuring the field facilities are appropriate for games and practices. He is responsible for stocking the locked equipment boxes at each of the ball fields.

Bat-a-Thon• Fundraising Chairperson: This person is responsible for coordinating all aspects of our annual *Bat-a-Thon•* fundraising tournament.

Training Coordinator: This person is responsible for coordinating all aspects of our training program. This includes training for coaches as well as for players.

Parent-at-Large: This person is responsible for assisting in various volunteering assignments such as Opening Day, distributing registration forms to the local schools, publicity with local newspapers and placing ads for general registration.

Section 5: Removal from Board. The President may remove a Board member for gross misconduct or gross negligence of duties subject to a majority vote by the Board of Directors. The President may also be removed from office due to gross misconduct or gross negligence subject to a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 6: Removal of Managers or Coaches: The Board has the authority to remove via majority vote, a manager or coach because of violations of the *Coaches Code of Conduct*, violations of league policy or gross negligence, as judged by the Board.

A manager or coach removed by the board may appeal the decision to the Executive Committee provided the appeal is made to the league secretary or President within three (3) days of the decision. A special meeting will be called and the removed manager may personally present his appeal before the Executive Committee. The decision of the Executive Committee is final.

Managers and coaches must be men and women of good character as their conduct influences the children on their team and within the league.

Section 7: Removal of Players: The Board has the authority to remove via majority vote, a player because of violations of the *Players Code of Conduct* or violations of league policy, as judged by the Board.

A player removed by the board may appeal the decision (via the parent or legal guardian) to the Executive Committee provided the appeal is made to the league secretary or President within three (3) days of the decision. A special meeting will be called and the parent or legal guardian may personally present his appeal before the Executive Committee. The decision of the Executive Committee is final.

ARTICLE IV — MEETINGS

Section 1: Regular Meetings. The HOYB Board typically meets at least once every month. The date, time and location of all meetings are listed on the league website. Meetings are open to the adult public and league parents are encouraged to attend.

Meetings or portions of meetings that deal with Board, Manager or Player selections are closed to the public. Only Board members are allowed to be present for the discussions and subsequent vote. Player drafts are open to only Board members, managers and assistant coaches.

Section 2: Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board may be called by or at the request of the President, Vice-President, Secretary or any two (2) Executive Committee members.

ARTICLE V — FINANCIAL

Section 1: Compensation. The league is a non-profit, volunteer organization. No Board member shall receive compensation for his service in such capacity but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred on behalf of the HOYB league when approved by the President and/or Vice President.

Section 2: League Fees. The HOYB Board sets the fees and late fees for player participation each season. Scholarships are available for any family for which the league fee represents a financial hardship. The President is responsible for approving scholarship requests.

ARTICLE VI — LEAGUE STRUCTURE

Section 1: Seasons. There shall be two (2) seasons: a competitive spring season and a non-competitive fall instructional season. HOYB maintains an All-Star program for the older competitive children that begins in March and typically ends in July or August.

Section 2: Spring Season. The spring season is our regular baseball season. We typically have eight (8) leagues composed of both competitive and non-competitive leagues.

Typical non-competitive instructional leagues include: *Buddy Ball*, *T-Ball*, *Coach Pitch*, and *Machine Pitch* leagues. In these leagues there are no standings. The primary focus is on fun, baseball instruction and skills development. This is the time for managers to ensure that the players are learning the fundamental baseball skills so that they can be successful once they reach the competitive leagues.

In the *Machine Pitch* league, teams shall maintain a scorebook and game scores are recorded but no standings are kept as all games are considered to be scrimmages.

The *Buddy Ball* league is composed of players with special needs, either of a physical, mental, emotional or other developmental need. Each player is paired with a “buddy” to assist with play.

The competitive leagues include the *Rookie*, *Minor* and *Major* (both NL and AL) leagues. Standings are kept and trophies awarded at the end of the regular season to the league champion and runner-up. All teams are seeded for single elimination playoff purposes and the tournament champion and runner-up team receive league trophies.

The most current rules are available on the league website that governs the play of each of the eight (8) leagues.

Section 3: Fall Season. Our fall baseball leagues are all about player development and fun. There are no standings kept during our fall season and we consider it a chance to take an even more instructional approach compared to our spring season.

Players that may not have pitched or pitched infrequently will have opportunities to pitch during the fall season. The league managers have been instructed to work on developing player skills not be concerned about winning games. Particular emphasis should be on developing new pitchers and catchers. There are no player tryouts during the fall season.

Section 4: All-Star Program. HOYB shall maintain a competitive All-Star program open to all children whom play in our regular “house” league. There will be an additional fee to participate in the All-Star program.

All-Star managers are selected by the Board and serve a two (2) year term except the manager of the Eight and under (8U) team who serves for one year.

Selection to an All-Star team is via two tryouts that take place in April. League managers and coaches evaluate the players using a quantitative skills assessment sheet which can be downloaded from the league website. The managers and coaches whom perform the evaluation select the first eight (8) players for a given team. Then the All-Star manager has the option to select the remaining four (or more) players for his team. The All-Star manager may choose to have the evaluators select or help select the last four (or more) players.

Any player who wishes to “play up” at the next age range (for example a 10-year old who tries out for the 11-year old team) must try out for both All-Star teams (10 and 11). In order to be selected to “play up” the player must be one of the top eight (8) players as scored by the league managers and coaches evaluating the tryout.

For all *invitational* tournaments and scrimmages, league policy mandates a 50% playing time rule. This means that all players must play a minimum of 50% of all *innings played*. There are no maximum playing time restrictions.

For all Cal Ripken *district, state and regional* tournaments there are no minimum playing time restrictions. All-Star managers are free to use players according to Cal Ripken division rules and restrictions.

Managers are not required to “rotate” players to different positions in the All-Star program. For example, a player could play all of his innings as an outfielder. There is no requirement to play in the infield.

The “house league” games and practices have precedence over the All-Star program. All-Star managers must consult with the respective house league managers before using players as pitchers.

ARTICLE VII — LEAGUE POLICY & OPERATIONS

In order to document the established policies and league operations, the board will maintain a *HOYB League Policy & Operations Handbook*.

The *structure* of the league enumerated within this constitution establishes the permanence of the HOYB league form and function. League *policy and operational* decisions that could conceivably change to meet changing requirements are maintained in the *Policy & Operations Handbook* so that they may be more easily modified compared to a constitutional amendment.

ARTICLE VIII — AMENDMENTS

This Constitution or any section thereof may be amended or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.

WE THE UNDERSIGNED AFFIX OUR MARK AND RATIFY THIS CONSTITUTION

ON THE THIRTYTH DAY OF APRIL, 2006

NEIL BONNER
WYN FRANCIS
SHAWN BOYNTON
BOB RHYNE
JAMES JOPPICH
JERRY MADDEN
MICHAEL VIOLETTE
LEON NEWSOME
DON FLYNN
WENDY BOOMA
JAY MCMANN
CHRISTINE COZZA
MARC MARINO
ROGER HILL
DONNA HALLORAN
JON SIMPSON
CAROL KINNEY
PAM GJORMAND