

WHITMAN
BASEBALL & SOFTBALL
ASSOCIATION
(WBSA)



CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Whitman, Massachusetts

March 13, 2011

Approved by 60-1 vote @ Open Member Meeting

WHITMAN BASEBALL & SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1 – The name of the association shall be: **WHITMAN BASEBALL & SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION**.
(For the purposes of brevity, may be referred to as **WBSA** throughout this document.)

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

Section 1 – The purpose of this association shall be to encourage and enable the youth of Whitman to participate in baseball and softball; to promote good will and sportsmanship among its members.

Section 2 - To achieve this objective, the Local 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 the 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 Federal Internal Revenue Code, the Local League shall operate exclusively as a non-profit educational organization providing a supervised program of competitive baseball and softball 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 for public office.

Section 3 – In case of dissolution of the WBSA, all monies, equipment and other assets shall be donated to another 501 C3 entity only; wishing to organize another youth baseball and youth softball organization in Whitman.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Eligibility.

Any person sincerely interested in active participation to further the objective of this Local League may apply to become a Member.

Section 2 – Classes. There shall be the following classes of Members:

(a) Player Members. Any player candidate meeting the requirements of Little League Regulation IV shall be eligible to compete for participation. Player Members shall have no rights, duties or obligations in the management or in the property of the Local League.

(b) Regular Members. Any adult person actively interested in furthering the objectives of the Local League may become a Regular Member. Only Regular Members in good standing are eligible to vote at General Membership Meetings. All Officers, Board Members, Committee Members, Managers, Coaches, Parent or Guardian of player member Volunteer Umpires and other elected or appointed officials must be active Regular Members in good standing.

Note: Regular Members of the league automatically include all current Managers, Coaches, Volunteer Umpires, Board Members, Officers of the Board and any other person who is recognized by the Board as a volunteer in the Local League, including those volunteers with the following titles (Examples: Team Parent, Field Maintenance, etc.):

ARTICLE IV – ELECTIONS

Section 1 – The nominations of officers for the Board of Directors will be accepted annually at the regularly scheduled meeting in the month of August.

Elections will be held annually at the general membership meeting in September. All members, as determined by Article III, Section 1, will be eligible to vote in these elections.

Section 2 – The term of office shall be for one (1) year from October 1st through September 30th.

Nominations to be held at the end of the regular order of business at the August meeting and Elections just before the regular order of business at the September Meeting. Public notice to both meetings shall be made.

ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1 – A Board of Directors meeting will be held at least once a month for the twelve (12) months of the year, with open general meetings at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Anyone wishing to address the Board must, in writing, state their concern or problem. The issue will be reviewed by the President and Executive Board, and they will decide if it is to be presented to the entire Board.

The Board of Directors shall transact any normal business of the organization.

It is the responsibility of the Secretary to notify the members if a quorum is present, and a record of those in attendance will also be kept.

A quorum consists of a minimum of four (4) members at an Executive meeting, and a minimum of nine (9) members at a general Board meeting.

Meetings will be conducted by the President or his authorized representative, and will follow the Roberts Rules of Parliamentary Procedure.

Section 2 – Voting members of the Executive Board of Directors will consist of the President, Vice President of Baseball, Vice President of Softball, Treasurer, Player Agent and Secretary. The Executive Board shall have the power to enforce the rules of the WBSA, and its Constitution and By-Laws.

If an individual is running for an office on the Board of Directors of the WBSA, he or she can run only for one (1) position.

The following is a description of the duties:

A. PRESIDENT

- ~ Oversees the running of the League.
- ~ Maintain records and documents of all divisions of the WBSA
- ~ Presides at monthly meetings.
- ~ Oversees all offices of the Board of Directors.
- ~ Insures all duties are being done in an efficient and expedient manner.
- ~ Chairs the Safety Office.
- ~ Delegates all changes in duties and responsibilities.

B. VICE PRESIDENT BASEBALL

- ~ Will assist the President in all matters pertaining to the league.
- ~ Chair all committees organized within the WBSA (except fundraising).
- ~ Assume all duties of the President, in case of illness or absence.
- ~ Give committee reports when needed.
- ~ The Vice President can manage in all levels.
- ~ Coordinate the activities of the division of baseball play. Coordinate activities of traveling teams.

C. VICE PRESIDENT SOFTBALL

- ~ Coordinate all levels of the Softball program.
- ~ Assist the Vice President (Baseball) in league matters.
- ~ Chair of all sub-committees involved with Softball, but not limited to, as directed by the League President.
- ~ Coordinate activities of travel Softball teams and Softball Tournaments.

D. SENIOR LEAGUE DIRECTOR – BASEBALL

- ~ Coordinate the activities of Junior Senior/Senior Senior baseball play.
- ~ Attend all meetings pertaining to the Junior Senior/Senior Senior baseball division.
- ~ Assist in the setup and coordination of Junior Senior/Senior Senior regular and summer schedule.

E. SENIOR LEAGUE DIRECTOR - SOFTBALL

- ~ Coordinate the activities of the division of softball play.

F. TREASURER

- ~ Keep all records pertaining to the financial situations of the WBSA, and surrender such records for purposes of an audit by a WBSA member annually.
- ~ Will handle all money.
- ~ Maintain accounts payable and receivable.
- ~ Read financial reports at each meeting.
- ~ Maintain a check and balance of auxiliary checking account.

G. SECRETARY

- ~ Maintain and record minutes of the Executive Board and general Board of Directors meetings
- ~ Conduct the business of the WBSA with respect to letters and messages that are sent out and received by the Executive Board or the Board of Directors.

H. PLAYER AGENT

- ~ Set up for divisions, where needed, a Board approved draft system of available players. In divisions where players are assigned, this will be done by the Player Agent.
- ~ Coordinate registration
- ~ Represent players of the WBSA in their dealings with Coaches, Managers, Umpires or other members of the WBSA.
- ~ Supervise the selection of the ALL STAR TEAMS.

I. SAFETY OFFICER

- ~ The safety officer coordinates all safety activities including supervision of ASAP (A Safety Awareness Program).
- ~ Ensures safety in player training.
- ~ Ensures safe playing conditions.
- ~ Coordinates reporting and prevention of injuries.
- ~ Solicits suggestions for making conditions safer, and reports suggestions to Little League International through the ASAP system
- ~ Will assist the Equipment Manager in continuous inspection of all equipment during the seasons, and supplying teams with the necessary equipment.

Section 3 – Remaining voting members of the Board of Directors are as follows:

Umpire-in-Chief (Major/Minor League Baseball, Farm League Baseball), Umpire-in-Chief (Softball), Field Maintenance Coordinator, Equipment Manager, Major League Director Baseball, Major League Director Softball, Minor League Director Baseball, Farm League Director BB, Fall Ball Director, Farm League Director Softball, Instructional League Director Baseball, Instructional League Director Softball, Fundraising Director, Concessions Director, Field Scheduling Coordinator, Director of Internet Information and past sitting President.

ARTICLE VI – UMPIRES

Section 1 – The training and assigning of umpires will be handled by the Umpire-in-Chief, with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Umpires must be approved by the Umpire-in-Chief. When umpires are not available for a game, an umpire may be selected by **mutual consent** of both participating managers.

ARTICLE VII – DIVISION AND NUMBER OF TEAMS

Section 1 – Teams will be determined by the current Little League Rule Book, unless amended by vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII – MANAGERS & COACHES

Section 1 – As volunteers in our League are in short supply, there will be one (1) manager and one (1) coach assigned to each team where possible.

- a.) One (1) Manager, two (2) Coaches allowed. If any particular team can obtain more than two (2) volunteer coaches, this is allowable, but only one (1) will have official status with the WBSA. Due to coaching shortages, Officers of the WBSA will be allowed to coach or manage in the WBSA with certain restrictions listed under each office. A vote of the General Body will be taken each year at election time, to continue or discontinue the practice. All Coaches and Managers will be re-appointed by the Board of Directors each year.

Section 2 – Coaches

- a.) Selected by the Manager, appointed by the President, and approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 3 – Managers' Responsibilities

- a.) Be responsible for any collection of money and uniforms, as directed by the Board of Directors.
- b.) Be responsible to the Board of Directors.
- c.) Be responsible for the safety of all players.

Section 4 – Coaches' Responsibilities

- a.) Become acting manager when the manager is absent or until a new manager can be appointed by the Board of Directors.
- b.) Be responsible for the safety of all players.

Section 5 – Managers & Coaches (Code of Conduct)

- a.) NO alcoholic beverages will be allowed on the playing field or dugout areas.
- b.) NO tobacco products will be allowed on the playing field or dugout areas.
- c.) The use of profane language will call for one (1) warning, and succeeding use of profanity will be cause for ejection from the game.
- d.) Any future use of profanity in subsequent games, and that Manager/Coach may be suspended pending an appeal to the Board of Directors.
- e.) The Umpire-in-Chief in charge of the game will control this rule.

Section 6 – Replacement of Managers & Coaches

- a.) After announcement that a vacancy exists, and review of the qualifications of those interested, the replacement will be appointed by a vote of the Board of Directors, or if empowered to do so, by the President.

ARTICLE IX – PLAYERS

Section 1 – As directed from the current rulebook, with amendments:

- a.) A player quitting a team is no longer eligible for league play.
- b.) A player may ask to be released at the conclusion of the current season.
- c.) All players requesting to be released will be referred to the Player Agent.
- d.) A ruling for release or re-instatement will be approved by the Board of Directors.
- e.) A player not returning a uniform is no longer eligible for League play, unless reimbursement to replace the uniform is given to the league.
- f.) The Board of Directors will determine the value of the uniform.
- g.) A player ejected from two (2) games during the season by an umpire, shall, upon the first ejection, receive a warning. Should the player be ejected a 2nd time, said player will be suspended for the next three (3) regularly scheduled games. This includes playoff games, if applicable.
- h.) If a player is ejected from a third game, the player is no longer eligible for play in the WBSA for the remainder of the year.
- i.) Players fighting in a scheduled game will automatically receive a two (2) game suspension, and will be removed from the game in which the infraction occurs.
- j.) Players using abusive language will receive a warning and the second offense will result in a one (1) game suspension, and be removed from the game in which the infraction occurs.
- k.) The use of ANY tobacco product by a player is prohibited.
- l.) Only players in uniform or players on the team roster will be allowed in the dugout. Infraction of the By-Laws will result in a forfeiture of the game.
- m.) Players abusing equipment will receive a warning, and the second offense will result in a one (1) game suspension, and be removed from the game in which the infraction occurs.
- n.) The above rules will be controlled by the Umpire-in-Chief (Plate Umpire) in charge of the game in which the infraction occurs.

Section 2 – Draft

- a.) At the drafts, a Manager or Coach can protect his/her child, brother or sister. Said child shall then be drafted according to the rating of the combined coaches.
- b.) Children of one family playing in one particular division should, whenever possible, be placed on one team. The interpretation of this rule will be administered by the Player Agent through the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X – REMOVAL OF LEAGUE MEMBERS

Section 1 – In the event that any league member, coach, manager, volunteer, umpire, or official (elected or appointed) whose actions or non-actions are found to be detrimental to the league, that person can be removed from membership in the League.

The manner in which this will be done is:

- a.) A statement of charges will be presented to a full meeting of the Board of Directors (In cases where Board members are involved (they do not step down and are allowed to stay and vote), and the person being charged will be invited to the Board of Directors meeting (this person need not be in attendance).
- b.) A full hearing of all facts pertinent to the situation will be heard, and at that time, the Board will vote for a solution to the case (2/3 vote required).
- c.) In serious violations, the President or Board of Directors can temporarily suspend said person from further league membership, pending an investigation by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI – CASES INVOLVING PLAYERS

Section 1 – In the event that a player in any sub-division has a problem with an official, manager, coach, umpire, safety officer, or volunteer of the WBSA, or any organization that the WBSA would be involved with, such as the WBSA PLAYOFF SERIES, ALL-STAR PLAYOFFS, in district or a duly authorized game with another League or Leagues, the Player Agent, will act on behalf of and represent that player in his dealings with those involved.

Section 2 – It is the desire to have these problems resolved at the Player Agent level, but if further action is required, the player can be removed from the WBSA under rules and means set forth in **ARTICLE IX, Section 1h.**

Section 3 – The Player Agent, throughout the hearing, is to continue to represent the player involved. He is the advocate for the player.

Section 4 – In cases where there is a serious violation of rules and articles of the WBSA, the President or Authorized Board member can temporarily suspend said player, pending a conference with the Player Agent or a Board of Directors' hearing.

ARTICLE XII – ALL STAR SELECTION

Section 1 – All Star selection in all sub-divisions of the WBSA will strictly adhere to the current official Little League Rule Book for Little League.

Section 2 – A system of voting will be created, with Board approval, and administered by the Player Agent.

Each manager will be given a ballot and they will count as one (1) vote.

Votes for each player will be counted and the correct number of selections will be put on the ALL STAR TEAM, including alternates.

Alternates selected to any ALL STAR TEAM in any division should not be told of their selection, but a list will be kept by the Player Agent to fill vacancies, if needed.

ARTICLE XIII – SAFETY OFFICER

As the President of the WBSA must bear the responsibility for the overall conduct of the WBSA, it has, therefore, been determined that the President should act as the Safety Officer for the WBSA. Some of these duties can be delegated to other Board members by the President, but the final responsibility still lies with the President's office.

Umpires' duties, with respect to safety of WBSA members:

a.) In the course of a game, if there is a question of safety, the Umpire-in-Chief of that game may stop proceedings and make a determination as to the solution of the problem (he can seek an opinion of the safety officer or his replacement). This rule is intended to cover field conditions, players, equipment, managers, coaches and spectators.

ARTICLE XIV – SCHEDULES

The schedules for all divisions will be made up by the league directors, with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Every effort should be made to play all scheduled games in all divisions where possible.

Rainouts – Cancelled Games – Every effort must be made to play make-up games in the same week that they are postponed. The respective League director will handle scheduling make-up games for Major, Minor, and Farm League. Softball will be done as covered in the Little League Rule Book.

ARTICLE XV – AWARDS

All awards will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XVI – EQUIPMENT

The umpires will check all equipment for both teams prior to the start of a game. This equipment must meet Little League standards. *Exception – Travel Teams

There shall be at least six (6) helmets per team to be carried with the team.

ARTICLE XVII – MISCELLANEOUS RULES

Section 1 – Three Inning Rule

- a.) To insure that all players get the time in the game that is due them, both managers, at the end of three (3) innings, will consult with each other, to see that ALL players not under disciplinary action, get the three (3) inning minimum playing time.
- b.) Exception: **WILLIAMSPORT TOURNAMENT**

Section 2 – Waiting list for League

- a.) The Player Agent will set up and maintain a waiting list for all divisions in the League, and will fill vacancies in the divisions as the need arises under the minimum team roster rule.

Section 3– Ground Rules

- a.) The coordinator of each division will set up a meeting prior to the start of the season, where all ground rules, playing rules and particular problems will be discussed, and a list of these arrangements will be voted on by the Board of Directors, to become part of the By-Laws for that year. Each year, this rule will be reviewed by the division.

Section 4 – Protest Committee

- a.) The Executive Board will handle all situations involving the infractions of rules relating to the game of baseball or softball. All other disagreements must be channeled to the Board of Directors, as per the By-Laws. The protest committee will consist of one member from each division, voted by that division, to represent them. This group will be headed by the Vice President. The representative of a division can partake in the hearing of a protest regarding his division, but must abstain from voting on that particular issue. Judgment calls of an umpire are not grounds for a protest.

Section 5 – By-Law Changes

- a.) Any amendments, additions or deletions of the above By-Laws, will be voted upon at an open general meeting.

ARTICLE XVIII – WHITMAN FALL BALL

Section 1 – Re-branding

- a.) Shall be re-named to WBSA FallBall, and appear in By-Laws as part of WBSA, and shall have a Director.
- b.) All other Board positions to support said Director in their specific duties.
- c.) All divisions of Fall Ball will have their own Home Rules, to be kept in line with LLBB, however, they may differ from the Spring and All-Star season.
- d.) All necessary insurance shall be pursued.