

**CONSTITUTION
of
GARFIELD HEIGHTS BASEBALL LEAGUE**

ARTICLE I:

NAME

The organization shall be known as the GARFIELD HEIGHTS BASEBALL LEAGUE.

ARTICLE II:

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this organization is to promote, develop, supervise and voluntarily assist in all ways, the interest of boys and girls who will participate in the Garfield Heights Baseball League Program.

The aim and objectives of the Garfield Heights Baseball League Program shall be:

- 1) To develop an appreciation of our national heritage and an awareness of the opportunities and responsibilities as an American.
- 2) To develop a spirit of cooperation and a willingness to abide by rules and regulations properly prescribed.
- 3) To develop a spirit of acceptance of both success and failure of oneself and others.
- 4) To develop sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, integrity, courage and reverence as prime virtues of character.
- 5) To develop respect for the rights and property of others.
- 6) To develop the spirit of competition and a proper and wholesome attitude for successful living in this great democracy.
- 7) To develop safety consciousness and fundamental skills in athletics.
- 8) To develop an appreciation not only as a participant, but as a spectator of our national pastime.

ARTICLE III:

MEMBERSHIP

All new members (full memberships) must reside in the territorial limits of Garfield Heights, and meet the requirements prescribed in the by-laws.

ARTICLE IV:

GOVERNING BODY

The governing body of the said Garfield Heights Baseball League shall be a Board of Directors, all of whom shall be elected by the league members.

SECTION 1.

The number of members of the Board, the duties of the Board and of the individual Board members shall be prescribed in the by-laws.

SECTION 2.

The term of office of all members of the Board shall be for a one year term.

SECTION 3.

The Commissioner of the said Garfield Heights Baseball League shall serve as Chair of the Board of Directors, with duties as prescribed by the by-laws.

ARTICLE V:

MEETINGS

That an annual meeting shall be held once every year after the year of incorporation of this document, at such time as prescribed in the by-laws, when annual reports of the Board shall be presented and members of the Board shall be elected for the ensuing year. Regular and special meetings will be called as prescribed in the by-laws. The number of members which shall constitute a quorum at annual, regular or special meetings shall be prescribed in the by-laws.

ARTICLE VI:

BY-LAWS

The said Garfield Heights Baseball League shall adopt by-laws for the conduct of its affairs in harmony and spirit within this constitution.

ARTICLE VII:

AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the voting members present at two (2) consecutive meetings, provided that written notice of the proposed amendment shall have been mailed to all members in good standing, not less than ten (10) days in advance of such meeting.

ARTICLE VIII:

EFFECTIVE DATE

This constitution shall take effect on January 29, 1970.

GARFIELD HEIGHTS BASEBALL LEAGUE

SECTION I:

NAME

The name of this organization is the Garfield Heights Baseball League. For convenience in these by-laws, the organization is sometimes referred to as the "league".

SECTION II:

PURPOSE

The purpose of the organization is a program of service to the youth of the community of Garfield Heights. To the accomplishment of its purpose, the league shall engage in presenting a program of baseball for boys and girls ages 6 through 17. In all activities, emphasis shall be placed on the aims and objectives of this organization as specified in the constitution.

SECTION III:

PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES

The league maintains that the program presented is open to all boys and girls, regardless of race, religion or creed, upon receipt of a proper application and compliance with league rules. The league shall not, through its governing body, its officers or its members, involve the program in any question of a political character. This policy shall be interpreted and understood to mean that the league through its governing body, its officers or its members, shall not involve the league nor use its name in supporting political activities, be it individual or community issues. However, this shall not be interpreted to prevent the teaching of good citizenship as required to fulfill the league purpose. This policy shall also not limit the freedom of thought or action of any official or member as an individual. "A member may state for publication that he or she is (was) a member of the GHBL. He or she shall not state positions held, nor personal accomplishment."

SECTION IV:

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the league shall be in accordance with the constitution and as stated herein:

- 1) There shall be three (3) classes of membership, to be known as "Temporary", "Full" and "Honorary".

TEMPORARY MEMBERSHIP

- A) Playing personnel shall become members upon presentation of proper application.
- B) Males and females under age 18, but over age 16, shall enjoy the right to seek the position of assistant manager, coach or umpire (if permitted in the program). Membership shall commence with date of appointment or date of approval.
- C) Males and females age 18 and over shall enjoy the right to seek the position of assistant manager, coach, umpire or other position (not elected) considered beneficial to league operation. Membership shall commence with the date of appointment or approval.

- D) Temporary membership personnel shall be considered league members in name only and shall not be entitled nor permitted to vote on league matters, nor shall they be eligible to seek office.
- E) Term of membership for “temporary” members shall end at the conclusion of the playing season. These persons 18 or older are eligible for “full membership” by submitting proper application and payment of dues in accordance with the rules for “full membership”.

FULL MEMBERSHIP (Voting Members)

- A) Males and Females age 18 and over shall enjoy the right to seek office, seek the position of manager, assistant manager, coach, umpire, or other positions beneficial to league operation and participate actively in all organizational undertakings.
- B) Membership shall commence after Board approval of proper application and payment of dues for new members, and upon reinstatement for old members.
- C) Term of membership shall be for a period of one (1) year, commencing with January 1st and shall terminate in accordance with the rules for termination.
- D) Full membership members shall be known as voting members and shall enjoy all rights associated with voting members.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP (Non-Voting Members)

- A) All honorary members shall enjoy all the rights of full membership, except for holding Board positions and voting.
- B) All Hall of Fame members shall be honorary members.
- C) All past commissioners shall be honorary members.
- D) All honorary members can become “full members” and “members in good standing” by paying their yearly membership dues. All other requirements shall be waived.

2) TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Except for “temporary membership” (denoted elsewhere), membership in this organization may be terminated by resignation, by non-payment of dues, by expiration (failure to apply for reinstatement), by expulsion, by dismissal or impeachment.

3) RIGHTS OF VOTING MEMBERS

- A) The voting members as a body politic shall have the power to compel the officers of the organization and the Board of Directors to operate the league efficiently, honestly and conscientiously, within the framework of the constitution and by-laws of this league.
- B) In furtherance of their right to compel performance, the body politic of this league shall have the right to veto any act of the officers and the Board of Directors that may be out of scope of the approved program, provided that 75% or more of the members so decide.
- C) The voting members shall have the right to amend an approved program or

budget provided that 2/3 of the membership present so decide.

4) **MEMBERSHIP REINSTATEMENT**

A current league member (full membership) may file for and obtain reinstatement of membership without losing rights of full membership (voting member) if he or she files for same within the period of November 1st through January 31st and meets the requirements of a member in good standing. Failure to reinstate or meet the reinstatement requirements does not deny league membership. The member may apply for membership after January 31st via new member application.

SECTION V:

EXPULSION, DISMISSAL OR IMPEACHMENT

Any member of this organization, after investigation by the Board of Directors, or by special committee organized for that purpose, may be proposed for expulsion, dismissal or impeachment by a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Directors.

- 1) A member may be expelled, dismissed or impeached if found guilty of any of the following specified acts:
 - A) Improperly representing the organization.
 - B) Improperly representing the organization to obtain money.
 - C) Deliberately violating the constitution and/or by-laws.
 - D) Conduct deemed detrimental to the organization.
- 2) Expulsion must be by vote of 3/4 of the members present at a meeting called for this purpose and must have prior recommendation of the Board. At the meeting, there shall be an opportunity for a hearing before the matter is proposed for vote.

SECTION VI:

MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING

A member is considered to be in good standing if he or she has completed the following requirements:

- 1) Taken part in any of the league operating functions, such as league officers, manager, assistant manager, coach, umpire, or serve on various committees.
- 2) Is a full membership member.
- 3) Attends at least 50% of the league's scheduled meetings during his or her period of membership. Excused absences due to illness or for other acceptable reasons and any absence so excused by the Board shall be counted as meetings attended.

SECTION VII:

VOTING

- 1) All members in good standing shall be entitled to one vote only on all league matters.

- 2) Voting shall be by secret ballot for officers only. All other voting shall be by acclamation.
- 3) An election or vote shall be declared final when one of the two candidates has received a majority of the votes cast, or a motion has received a majority of the votes cast.
- 4) If there is only one candidate for the office proposed to vote, the chair of the Nominating Committee shall be empowered to cast a unanimous ballot for such candidate, subject to approval of the general body.

SECTION VIII:

DUES

There shall be an assessment of annual dues payable upon acceptance as member or at the time of membership reinstatement (temporary members excluded). The purpose of the dues shall be to help defray the cost of conducting meetings, printing of league membership literature, etc.

SECTION IX:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Powers and Function

- 1) The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of this organization shall manage its affairs and shall be the final reviewing authority with respect to all matters which may arise at any level within the league program, unless otherwise stated in the by-laws.
- 2) The Board of Directors shall consist of the following league officers: Commissioner, Vice-Commissioner, Secretary, Treasurer, Players Agent, Assistant Players Agent, Field Director, Assistant Field Director, Rules and Protest Director, Play Director, Equipment Director, Assistant Equipment Director, Public Relations Director, Fund Raising Director, Assistant Fund Raising Director and Travel Commissioner. The Commissioner shall be designated as Chair of the Board of Directors and shall preside over all Board meetings.
- 3) The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the following:
 - A) Establishment of a program commensurate with recommendations from the league membership at a meeting called for that purpose. The program shall be presented to the league members for approval within 30 days of the annual meeting.
 - B) Establishment of a budget, along with plans for raising the required funds. The budget should be commensurate with the approved program and shall be presented to the league members for reviewing and approval in establishing the budget. The Board shall set umpire rate, scorekeepers' rate, players' fee, backers' fee, etc.
 - C) Monitoring the workings and progress of each league officer by way of reports and offer recommendations or assistance as required.
 - D) Monitoring and approving all league expenditures, providing that such expenditures will not result in exceeding the league approved budget by more than 3%. Expenditures above this amount must be resubmitted for league approval.
 - E) Act as chief enforcer of the constitution and by-laws as well as all rules and regulations of this organization.

- F) For requesting formation of special committees and defining their duties. The special committees shall cease to exist at the end of the term of the Board of Directors or when reason for formation of committee has been fulfilled.
- G) For selecting and arranging for a place to conduct league meetings.
- H) Setting of membership dues, if any, and defining rules for proper application of members.
- I) For obtaining permission for the use of playing fields and other facilities for the conduct of this organization's programs.
- J) For establishing dates for league schedules as covered by the by-laws.
- K) The Board shall have the power to overrule a veto of the Chair of the Board, providing that 3/4 of the members present so decide.
- L) The Board shall set the requirements for application of membership. The application must be within the scope of the constitution and by-laws.
- M) If the league records a surplus greater than \$2,000 at the end of the season, a portion of that surplus should be put into a reserve account set up for capital expenditures.
 - 1) The percentage should be 25% of the surplus to a maximum of \$5,000 per year.
 - 2) The surplus should be deposited into the account prior to the annual meeting.
 - 3) The restricted funds shall be used for major purchases, such as lights and field renovations.
 - 4) At anytime, the Board of Directors with approval of the membership can add additional funds to that account.
- N) The Chair of the Board shall be responsible for presiding over the conduction of the board meetings in accordance with the by-laws. It is the duty of the chair to act as guidance counselor for the other Board members. It is also the duty of the chair to see that the Board operates according to the by-laws and within the scope of the approved program and budget. In furtherance of his or her right to compel performance, the Chair shall have the right to veto any act of the officers and/or Board of Directors that may be out of scope of the constitution, by-laws, approved program and/or budget.
- O) One-third (1/3) of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business. Each member present shall be entitled to one vote, with a majority of those voting required for passage. Any member who fails to attend 80% of the Board meetings will not be eligible for re-election as league officer. Excused absences due to illness or for other acceptable reasons and any absence so excused by the Board shall be counted as meetings attended.
- P) If any Board member should miss 50% of the Board meetings and they are unexcused, he or she shall automatically be removed from office and the position shall be filled in accordance with Section XXII of these by-laws.
- Q) Except to the extent otherwise restricted, any action required or permitted to be

taken at any meeting may be taken without a meeting, if prior to such action a written consent is filed with the minutes of the next meeting.

SECTION X:

MEETINGS

- 1) The annual meeting of this organization shall be held at a place and on a date to be selected by the Board of Directors, not later than November 1st, for the reading of reports and the election of officers.
- 2) Regular and special meetings shall be called by the Commissioner. Members shall be given five days advance notice of the date, time and place, as well as object of said meeting. Additional meetings may be called by the Commissioner upon written request of at least six members of the managing personnel.

SECTION XI:

QUORUM

At the annual meeting and at any other meeting (regular or special) where the voting membership is required to cast a vote, 25% of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum. There shall be no quorum requirement of voting members at regular or special meetings for the conduct of business where only Board action is required.

SECTION XII:

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1) **Annual Meeting:** At the annual meeting, the order of business shall be as follows:
 - A) Opening of meeting.
 - B) Minutes of previous meeting and treasury report.
 - C) Reports of Commissioner, Vice-Commissioner, Secretary, Treasurer, Players Agent, Assistant Players Agent, Field Director, Assistant Field Director, Rules and Protest Director, Play Director, Equipment Director, Assistant Equipment Director, Public Relations Director, Fund Raising Director, Assistant Fund Raising Director and Travel Commissioner. No specific order is required for reports.
 - D) Report of special committees.
 - E) General unfinished business.
 - F) Election of officers.
 - G) Close of business.
- 2) **Regular Meetings:** The order of business at all regularly called meetings shall be as follows:
 - A) Opening of meeting.
 - B) Minutes of previous meeting and treasury report.

- C) Board of Directors meeting.
 - 1) Commissioner, Vice-Commissioner, Secretary, Treasurer, Players Agent, Assistant Players Agent, Field Director, Assistant Field Director, Rules and Protest Director, Play Director, Equipment Director, Assistant Equipment Director, Public Relations Director, Fund Raising Director, Assistant Fund Raising Director and Travel Commissioner. No specific order is required for reports.
 - 2) If Board action is required, it will be performed as the occasion requires with Board members being the only ones required to vote.
 - D) General Meeting. Open discussion between Board members and league members.
 - E) Adjournment.
- 3) **Special Meetings:** At all special meetings, the order of business shall be as follows:
- A) Opening of meeting.
 - B) Purpose of meeting.
 - C) Discussion and vote. If only Board action is required, Board members will vote. If league action is required, then league members will take part in discussion and vote.

SECTION XIII:

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The Board of Directors shall establish a schedule of meeting dates. The dates and topics listed are not to be interpreted as mandatory unless specified elsewhere in the by-laws, but are to be used as a guide for conducting league business.

DATE	SUGGESTED TOPIC	
September	A)	Review of past league programs, along with recommendations for items to be incorporated in next year's program.
	B)	Appointment of nominating committee.
October	A)	Final report of league officers.
	B)	Election of new officers.
November	A)	Board of Directors to present new programs for league approval.
	B)	Status reports.
January	A)	Board of Directors to present budget for league approval, plus plans for raising funds.
	B)	Status reports.
	C)	League membership renewal.
February	A)	Review of playing rules (proposal of changes).
	B)	Manager assignments based on current league membership.
	C)	Status reports (umpires, parade plans, field maintenance, etc.)

March	A) B)	Playing rules finalized. Status reports.
April	A) B)	Rosters and schedules finalized. Status reports.
May	A) B)	Playing rules distributed. Parade finalized.
June, July & August		Meetings to be held as required.

SECTION XIV:

MOTIONS

Motions shall be used to present items for membership consideration. Any league member (full membership) may make a motion for discussion of an item. To be acted upon, the motion must be seconded. Once a motion has been presented and seconded, it must be acted upon and no new items may be entertained. The motion must either be approved, disapproved, amended or shelved for further study. The Commissioner may set a time limit, number of responses or any other means to limit the discussion prior to taking a vote.

SECTION XV:

APPEALS

If a member, for any reason, wishes to appeal a decision by an officer, committee or the Board, the procedure for appeal shall be as follows:

- 1) Appealing a decision of an officer or committee:

The person(s) making the appeal should submit a written appeal to the Board stating reason for appeal. The person(s) making the appeal may request an open hearing before the Board. The Board, after hearing the appeal, will cast their vote after dismissing the person(s) and the result of the decision will be made known by the chair of the Board in writing within a reasonable period of time.

- 2) Appealing a decision of the Board:

A person(s) may only appeal a Board's decision if the decision is in direct violation of the by-laws, constitution, program or budget. The procedure for appeal shall be as follows:

The person(s) will make the appeal in writing to the membership stating the article of the by-law, constitution, program or budget violated, along with supporting evidence. A vote will be taken of the membership to determine if a violation has taken place. If the vote is negative, no appeal will be made to the membership. If the vote is affirmative, the person(s) making the appeal may state their case before the membership. The Commissioner and/or Board member(s) will state their side. The membership will then be polled and shall have the right to veto the Board's decision in accordance with "Rights of Voting Members".

SECTION XVI:

AMENDMENTS

Any section of the league's by-laws or rules and regulations may be amended, enlarged, added to, modified or repealed by the voting members of the league, provided that written notice of the proposed change shall have been mailed to all members in good standing in advance of such meeting. Any proposed change must be presented in writing to the Board of Directors for recommendation before any consideration by the voting members. Proposed by-law changes must be approved by at least 75% of the voting members present at a meeting called for such purpose; rules and regulations changes must be approved by at least 2/3 of the voting members present at a meeting called for such purpose.

SECTION XVII:

OFFICERS: Powers and Duties

The following elected officers shall assume the duties and responsibilities as noted below and in addition, shall be members of the Board of Directors with duties as prescribed in Section IX. Each officer shall prepare a written, detailed program of operation, along with a budget estimate for his or her specific operation area, to be presented to the Board for approval and incorporation into the overall league program and budget. Deviations from the proposed program and budget estimate will require Board review and/or resubmittal to the league members. Each officer shall enjoy the right to govern his or her own area within limitations of the approved program, budget and by-laws without Board intervention. However, this should not be interpreted to mean that Board members cannot request status or offer suggestions. Unless otherwise specified in the by-laws, each officer may designate an assistant to serve on the Board in his or her absence. However, the assistant will not assume Board member status and shall only be used to report status reports or to convey Board direction.

1) Commissioner

- A) It is the duty of Commissioner to preside at all Board, regular and special meetings of this organization.
- B) It is the Commissioner's duty to notify the Secretary when he or she must be unavoidably absent, so the Secretary can ensure succession of meeting control.
- C) The Commissioner shall be a member of the Board of Directors and shall assume the duties of Chair.
- D) It is the duty of the Commissioner to assign the chair of all committees, whether such be requested by the Board, by the league members or the Commissioner's own, to fulfill the program requirements.
- E) It is the duty of the Commissioner to approve all checks drawn in excess of \$200 and signed by the Treasurer, which are within the scope of the approved program and budget.
- F) It is the duty of the Commissioner to oversee transfer of league records and property at the conclusion of his or her term of office.

2) Vice-Commissioner

- A) It is the duty of the Vice-Commissioner to assist the Commissioner at all times and to act as replacement whenever the Commissioner is unavoidably absent, whether at meetings or otherwise.
- B) It is the duty of the Vice-Commissioner to preside at all meetings of the league when the Commissioner is not in attendance.

- C) It is the duty of the Vice-Commissioner to instruct all special committee chairs of their duties and responsibilities to the league, and to report all negligence to the attention of the Commissioner for proper enforcement.
- D) It is the duty of the Vice-Commissioner to serve as chair of the Management Procurement Committee.

3) **Secretary**

- A) It is the duty of the Secretary to be custodian of all records of this organization, excepting those maintained by other officers. The Secretary shall arrange for permanent, safe storage of league records to be retained. Storage area to be approved by the Board.
- B) It is the duty of the Secretary to act as Commissioner pro tem if there are absences in the office of Commissioner and Vice-Commissioner at the time, and to conduct and continue the business meetings of the league in their absence.
- C) It is the duty of the Secretary to keep all minutes of all meetings held by the league, whether such be a Board, regular or special meeting of the league, in a book for future preservation and referral.
- D) It is the duty of Secretary to keep a complete and up-to-date roster of the membership in the league, together with the latest addresses and telephone numbers.
- E) The Secretary shall notify all members of the time, date and place, as well as object of the meeting, in accordance with the time schedules provided for in the by-laws and/or constitution.
- F) The Secretary shall maintain records of Board members and league members for the purpose of determining quorums and status of league membership. A record shall be maintained on each member showing the date of membership, league assignments participated in (league office, managing personnel, committees, etc.) status of dues, if any, and meeting dates attended.

4) **Treasurer**

- A) It is the duty of the Treasurer to prepare an overall league budget for presentation and approval of the Board and subsequent approval by league members.
- B) The Treasurer shall be responsible, through methods of internal control, for the recording and deposit of all receipts of this organization, and for the proper disbursement of its cash.
- C) The Treasurer shall make arrangements for all funds to be deposited in such depositories as shall be approved by the Board.
- D) It is the duty of the Treasurer to see that financial statements are prepared (also to assist as necessary) and to present these statements at the annual and general meetings.
- E) It is the duty of the Treasurer to report the Secretary's unavoidable absences ahead of time, but no two (2) absences shall be permitted without a written financial status being supplied for reading to the Board. In the case of the Annual Meeting, no absence will be tolerated without a prepared, comprehensive

written report being submitted to the league members.

- F) It is the duty of the Treasurer to sign all drawn checks and/or withdrawal slips. All transactions must be within the scope of the program and budget. Checks drawn for \$200 or more must be approved by the Commissioner. All transactions must be brought to the attention of the Board.
- G) It is the duty of the Treasurer to investigate insurance firms for the procurement of insurance coverage for players and to submit same to the Board for approval and final vote by the league members.
- H) Any expenditure over \$2,000.00 requires at least three bids, unless there is an “only source” provider; subject to Board review and approval before payment can be made.
- I) It is the duty of the Treasurer to keep a comprehensive and accurate statement of the income and expenditures of the organization, as well as detailed accounting of the source of individual revenue.
- J) It is the duty of the Treasurer to keep and hold for the benefit of the Board and league, all records of financial nature, including paid vouchers.
- K) The Treasurer, along with assistance from the other Board members, shall prepare and maintain a record of all property owned by this organization.
- L) It is the duty of the Treasurer to submit costs of scorekeeping, along with a recommended pay scale for Board approval.

5), 6) Players Agent and Assistant Players Agent

- A) It is the duty of the Players Agent and his or her assistant to supervise and carry out the assigning of all players in accordance with league rules.
- B) It is the duty of the Players Agent and his or her assistant to maintain records deemed necessary to perform their function.
- C) It is the duty of the Players Agent and his or her assistant to bring to the Board’s attention any conflicts arising in placing players on team rosters.
- D) It is the duty of the Players Agent and the Assistant Players Agent to serve on the Management Procurement Committee.

7) Field Director

- A) It is the duty of the Field Director to secure Field Commissioners for the play areas as approved by the league membership, and to coordinate the workings of Field Commissioners to assist in the overall program of this organization.
- B) It is the duty of the Field Director with the aid of his or her Field Commissioners, to check on the condition of fields, set up a program of maintaining and, if costs are involved, submit same.
- C) It is the duty of the Field Director to secure permits for the use of playing fields, and to arrange for delivery and pick-up of portable toilets at all fields in accordance with city and/or school guidelines.
- D) The Field Director is responsible for coordinating requests for action,

information, instructions, etc., from managers via Field Commissioners. The Field Director, through the Field Commissioners, is the line of communication between managers and the Board of Directors and vice-versa.

- E) The Field Director, along with the applicable Field Commissioners and managers, is responsible for maintenance of the various fields of play for All Star tournaments. The group will be responsible for:
 - 1) Daily Field Maintenance
 - 2) Scorekeepers
 - 3) Public Address Announcers
- F) The Field Director is responsible for seeing that ground rules are established at each field and are properly distributed.
- G) The Field Director is responsible for playing equipment (bases, pitching rubber, batting helmets, etc.) at each playing field. However, replacement of such shall be coordinated with the Equipment Director via Board action.

8) **Assistant Field Director**

The Assistant Field Director shall assist the Field Director and represent the Director in his or her absence.

9) **Rules and Protest Director**

- A) The Rules and Protest Director shall be the chair of the Rules and Protest Committee.
- B) It is the duty of the Rules and Protest Director to see that the committee functions according to the rules established by the by-laws.
- C) It is the duty of the Rules and Protest Director to bring to the Board's attention any negligence, violations or misconduct of members on the committee.
- D) It is the duty of the Rules and Protest Director to maintain a record of protests, the format of which is subject to Board approval, for the purpose of reviewing playing rules and recommending changes for future modifications.
- E) It is the duty of the Rules and Protest Director to keep the Commissioner and the Board informed of all protests and decisions reached by the committee.

10) **Play Director (Umpire)**

- A) The Play Director shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining an umpire staff. The director shall appoint a staff of umpires to the play areas, as approved by the membership. The Play Director may elect to perform his or her duties alone, or may appoint one (1) umpire to serve as head umpire to work with the specified Field Commissioner for the purpose of assigning umpires for all games in accordance with the by-laws.
- B) It is the duty of the Play Director to bring to the Board's attention any personnel issues or problems encountered during the play of games so that an early solution to the problem can be worked out.
- C) It is the duty of the Play Director to submit cost of umpiring along with presenting such to the Board for approval.

11) **Equipment Director**

- A) The Equipment Director shall be responsible for the procurement of all equipment necessary for league operation. The director shall submit detailed plans for procurement and costs of all equipment to the Board of Directors for approval.
- B) The Equipment Director may elect to perform his or her procurement duties alone or with the help of an equipment committee. If a committee is selected, it must be in accordance with the by-laws.
- C) He or she shall also disburse and collect all equipment via managers and Field Commissioners, subject to Board approval.
- D) The Equipment Director and his or her assistant shall be responsible for maintaining league property records.

12) **Assistant Equipment Director**

The Assistant Equipment Director shall assist the Equipment Director and represent the Director in his or her absence.

13) **Public Relations Director**

- A) The Public Relations Director will be responsible for all league advertisements, publication of team standings, championships, etc., subject to Board approval.
- B) The Public Relations Director shall be responsible for investigating the use of all media to accomplish this function.
- C) The Public Relations Director may elect to perform these duties alone, or with the help of a committee. If a committee is selected, it must be in accordance with the by-laws.

14) **Fund Raising Director**

- A) The Fund Raising Director shall be responsible for using all means of fund raising to meet the league budget.
- B) The Fund Raising Director may elect to perform his or her duties alone, or with the help of a committee. If the director selects a committee, it must be in accordance with the rules for a fund raising committee, and the director must also serve as the chair of the committee.
- C) The Fund Raising Director shall be responsible for proposing and supervising all fund raising events approved by the membership.
- D) The Fund Raising Director shall maintain records for the purpose of evaluating fund raisings and making recommendations for improvements.

15) **Assistant Fund Raising Director**

The Assistant Fund Raising Director shall assist the Fund Raising Director and represent Director in his or her absence.

16) **Travel Commissioner**

The Travel Commissioner is the Chair of the Traveling Team Committee.

SECTION XVIII:

COMMITTEE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1) Management Procurement Committee

The Management Procurement Committee shall be comprised of at least five (5) members and a maximum of nine (9) members. The Vice-Commissioner will be a member and shall also serve as chair. The Players Agent, Assistant Players Agent and Field Director are mandatory members of the committee. The remaining members, if required, can be selected by the chair, subject to approval of the Board. The duties of this committee shall be the selection of adults who are of good reputation and character to serve and act as managers.

The procedure for selection of managers shall be as follows:

- A) The previous year's managers shall be polled to determine the positions desired, manager positions desired and manager positions to be filled.
- B) The committee shall screen the list of manager applicants and shall make appointments on the following basis: NOTE - Only previous season should be considered in evaluation.
 - 1) Ability to work with players.
 - 2) Performance of managerial tasks, such as pick up and return of equipment, handling of team during games, participation in league functions (meetings, fund raising, field maintenance, etc).
 - 3) Abides by league rules and supports league programs even though he or she may not be in agreement.
- C) The committee should refrain from appointing managers who are abusive, show lack of sportsmanship and/or whose actions and manners are a detriment to the league image.
- D) All committee actions must be approved by the Board of Directors.
- E) Upon approval by the Board, applicants denied manager positions shall be notified in writing by the committee chair. Such notification shall state reason for rejection.

2) Rules and Protest Committee

- A) The Rules Committee shall be comprised of six (6) members, one of which shall be the Rules and Protest Director, who shall also serve as chair. The chair will select the remaining members. The selection shall be limited to one from each of the league divisions: Colt, Pony, Major, Minor and Pee Wee. The duties of the committee shall be to monitor the "Regulations and Official Playing Rules" of the GHBL and to introduce and seek to enact those rules unique to the needs of the league and not specifically covered. All decisions are subject to approval by the voting membership.
- B) The Protest Committee shall be comprised of four (4) members, one of which

shall be the Rules and Protest Director, who shall serve as the chair. The chair shall select the remaining members, none of which may be managing personnel. The duties of the committee shall be to provide a forum for hearing all sides to the game dispute lodged by any managing personnel. The procedure for handling disputes of protest as follows:

- 1) The dispute must be presented to the Rules and Protest Director, or in the director's absence, any member of the committee, within 24 hours.
 - 2) The Rules and Protest Director will screen the protest and, if it involves another party, will so advise the party charged with the protest and afford said party 24 hours for a written response.
 - 3) The Rules and Protest Director will present the protest to the committee. The protest will be read as written, with the teams and managers' names being excluded. The response (other party) if any, will be read, again excluding names and teams. The committee will discuss and, if necessary, consult other parties, but resolve the dispute within a period not to exceed 72 hours from the time the protest was lodged. The Rules and Protest Director will not enter into the decision unless required to break a stalemate.
 - 4) The Rules and Protest Director will notify, in writing, the parties affected by the results within the time limit specified.
- C) The decisions of the Protest Committee are final and are not subject for reversal unless the decision arrived at is in direct violation of the constitution and by-laws, at which time, the Board will set up a committee of three (3) to investigate and resolve the dispute.

3) **Umpire Procurement, Equipment, Publicity and Fund Raising Committees**

- A) The committees should have a minimum of three (3) members.
- B) The league officer who sets up the committee shall obtain Board approval of the committee members and shall serve as chair of the committee.
- C) The duties of the committees shall be specified by the chair.

SECTION XIX:

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- 1) Special committees may be formulated at the request of the Board, the Commissioner or the league members. The Commissioner will define their duties and appoint one person to act as chair. The following are examples of special committees:
 - A) League Parade Committee
 - B) League Queen Contest Committee
 - C) Garfield Heights Invitational Tournament Committee
 - D) Nominating Committee
 - E) Scholarship Committee.
- 2) The GHBL Division Schedule Committee shall consist of a director and one person from each division appointed by the Board of Directors. They shall formulate, print and circulate the GHBL regular season schedule.
- 3) The GHBL Tournament Committee shall consist of a director and one person from each

division appointed by the Board of Directors. They shall contact tournament teams, formulate and publish all tournament schedules, collect fees and work in harmony with respective Field Commissioners.

- 4) The GHBL Hall of Fame Committee:
 - A) The Hall of Fame Committee shall be appointed by the Commissioner. It shall consist of six (6) members, three (3) that are currently in the Hall of Fame and three (3) current league members.
 - B) The committee shall review and recommend to the Board no later than March 31st at least two (2) but no more than six (6) candidates for the Hall of Fame.
 - C) The Board shall have final approval of the Hall of Fame candidates. Hall of Fame approval shall take place no later than April 30th. The Hall of Fame inductees shall be honored at a ceremony during a league function before the end of that year.
 - D) Eligibility Requirement: The Hall of Fame is open to any person who made significant contributions of their time and effort toward establishing, building and sustaining the GHBL and its purpose and objectives, as defined in the GHBL constitution. Persons who have made these contributions over a minimum of eight (8) years can be nominated and/or considered for the Hall of Fame. These would include Board Members, Managers, Coaches and Umpires.
- 5) Traveling Team Committee:
 - A) The Travel Commissioner is the chair of the Travel Team Committee.
 - B) The committee shall be approved by the Commissioner.
 - C) The committee shall interview and select all managers and approve all coaches by August 10th.
 - D) The committee shall establish guidelines in the selection of players and roster sizes.
 - E) The Board of Directors shall have final approval on all committee actions.

SECTION XX:

NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES

- 1) A Nominating Committee of five (5) shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and announced by the Commissioner at the August meeting. This committee shall interview prospective candidates for the officers of the league, prepare a list of candidates and present same at the annual meeting, at which time elections will be held. The Commissioner shall appoint one (1) member of the committee to serve as chair.
- 2) There will be permitted nominations from the floor without regard of number for each and every office.
- 3) There shall not be permitted to be more than two (2) candidates for the final vote for any one office. Should there be more than two (2) candidates for any office, a run-off ballot will be had. The two (2) receiving the largest number of votes shall then be regarded as finalists, and the one who gains the majority of votes on the second ballot shall have won the election, and shall be entitled to assume the office for which he or she was a candidate.

- 4) There shall not be any limit to the number of consecutive terms a Board member can be re-elected to serve. The term of office for the members of the Board of Directors shall be for an unlimited time period. "They shall have to be re-elected to their Board positions."

SECTION XXI:

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS (League Officers)

The chair of the Nominating Committee shall conduct the election with the assistance of a committee and shall be held at the annual meeting of the league. The order of election of officers shall be as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1) Commissioner | 9) Rules and Protest Director |
| 2) Vice Commissioner | 10) Play Director |
| 3) Secretary | 11) Equipment Director |
| 4) Treasurer | 12) Assistant Equipment Director |
| 5) Players Agent | 13) Public Relations Director |
| 6) Assistant Players Agent | 14) Fund Raising Director |
| 7) Field Director | 15) Assistant Fund Raising Director |
| 8) Assistant Field Director | 16) Travel Commissioner |

SECTION XXII:

VACANCY IN OFFICE

If there shall be a vacancy in any of the elected offices in the league and six (6) months or more of the term is remaining, that position shall remain vacant until the next regularly scheduled meeting, at which time an election shall be held. If the remaining term of the vacated office is less than six (6) months, the Board may appoint a member of the league to finish the unexpired term of office.

SECTION XXIII:

SUITS AT LAW

- 1) No suit or action at law shall be commenced by any officer of this organization except by authority of the Board of Directors and approval by the general membership.
- 2) Any cost for prosecuting a suit or in defense of a suit shall be borne by the organization.

It will be within the discretion of the Board of Directors to seek adequate and competent counsel.

SECTION XXIV:

MANAGERS AND MANAGING PERSONNEL

- 1) Each manager shall enjoy full and final control over his or her team without interference from officers of the league, so long as their management shall not become the controversy or subject matter of a grievance or protest.
- 2) Each manager shall have the right to pick his or her own coaches and other assisting personnel.
- 3) Each manager is responsible for his or her conduct on the field of play, as well as the conduct of their coaches and assistants, as well as the team they manage.

- 4) Every manager should have a copy of and working knowledge of the GHBL constitution, by-laws, regulations and official playing rules, accepted as governing rules of play.
- 5) Every manager or acting manager of any team shall be the only one empowered to raise and submit a protest.
- 6) A manager may suspend a player for disciplinary reasons, but must take a full record, containing:
 - A) The player's name
 - B) Reason for such action.
- 7) Each manager is responsible for the pick up and return of all equipment given to him or her. Failure to return same at the time designated or arranged shall be reported to the Management Procurement Committee for future consideration as manager. NOTE - All equipment must be turned in no later than 45 days after completion of the playing season.
- 8) Each manager is responsible for assisting the Field Commissioner (in charge of the field) in maintaining the field in playing condition when called upon. Refusal to assist is subject to removal as manager, pending Board action.
- 9) Each manager is responsible for taking part in league affairs when requested (parade, fund raising, etc.). Refusal to take part is subject to removal as manager, pending Board action.
- 10) Any officer of the Board may manage a team. However, he or she is forbidden to use their power of office during the course of the game. Violation of this rule is subject to removal as manager and the Board membership, pending Board action.
- 11) All managers must be full membership voting members, paying dues.
- 12) No manager may manage a baseball team outside of the league during the period of three (3) weeks prior to the start of the season to the end of the season in which he or she manages in. Violation of the above shall lead to suspension and removal of manager after proper hearing by the Board of Directors.

SECTION XXV:

FIELD COMMISSIONERS - Duties and Responsibilities –

- 1) Field Commissioners are secured by the Field Director, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- 2) It is the duty of the Field Commissioner to take charge of the field(s) assigned. It is his or her duty to bring to the attention of the Field Director any problems related to the condition of the playing field and playing equipment.
- 3) It is the duty of the Field Commissioner to oversee league play at the field(s) assigned. He or she shall be responsible for seeing that the field dimensions are laid out, fences installed, game equipment is there, umpires and scorekeepers are scheduled, ground rules established and playing schedules are adhered to.
- 4) The Field Commissioner shall be responsible for rescheduling postponed games in accordance with the rules and regulations of the league.
- 5) The Field Commissioner is responsible for reporting to the Field Director any personnel or player problems encountered.

- 6) The Field Commissioner may request the assistance of all managing personnel at his or her field in the preparation of the field, maintenance thereof, etc. Any unexcused absences or refusals to cooperate by managing personnel should be reported to the Field Director.
- 7) The Field Commissioner shall assign team practice rules.

SECTION XXVI:

HEAD UMPIRES/UMPIRES - DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES –

- 1) Head Umpires are secured by the Play Director, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- 2) It is the duty of the Head Umpire to oversee umpiring at assigned field.
- 3) It is the duty of the Head Umpire to assign umpires for each game and to work with the Field Director to reschedule postponed games, in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the league.
- 4) Umpires shall be on the field at least 15 minutes before the game, dressed and ready to go. Umpires should gather for a pre-game conference while getting dressed to help them prepare for the game.
- 5) The Head Umpire is responsible for reporting to the Play Director any personnel or player problems encountered.
- 6) The High School Umpires Manual is applicable for guiding umpires in all GHBL games.
- 7) Each umpire is responsible for taking part in league events when requested (parades, fund raising, etc.). Refusal to take part is subject to removal as umpire, pending Board action.
- 8) Any league officer of the Board may umpire. However, he or she is forbidden to use their power of office during the course of the game. Violation of this rule is subject to removal as an umpire and Board member, pending Board action.
- 9) All umpires who qualify, must be full voting league members, paying dues.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

SECTION I:

LEAGUE CLASSES AND DIVISIONS

1) The GHBL will accommodate boys and girls ages 6 through 17. The league shall be divided into two classes, "Junior" and "Senior". It is the duty of the Players Agent and his or her Assistant to supervise and carry out the assignment of all players.

A) The Junior class shall accommodate players aged 6 to 12 and be divided into three divisions:

- 1) Pee Wee, age 6 - 7 - 8
- 2) Minor, age 9 - 10
- 3) Major, age 11 - 12

B) The Senior class will accommodate players aged 13 to 17 and be divided into two divisions:

- 1) Pony, age 13 - 14 (15 if no Colt Division)
- 2) Colt, age 15 -16 - 17

C) The blind draw method will be used prior to each season to place the 6, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 year olds into their respective divisions.

- 1) All returning 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 17 year olds shall play on the same team as the previous year.
- 2) All new 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 17 year olds shall be drafted separately from the 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 year olds.
- 3) A manager is guaranteed his or her son or daughter only.
- 4) The Players Agent shall determine rules regarding the number of trades to be allowed, which players are eligible to be traded, etc., and shall approve all trades.
- 5) A trade must be approved by all parties involved.

D) The guidelines for traveling teams will be set up by the Travel Team Committee.

E) In the event there is no Colt Division, 15 year olds may play in the Pony Division, but may not pitch.

SECTION II:

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL RULES

- 1) The rules and regulations found in the League Rules and Regulations and Division Rules and Regulations supercede all other baseball rules.
- 2) Any rules and regulations not found in League Rules and Regulations and Division Rules and Regulations shall be found in the latest edition of the "Baseball Rules Book"

published by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

However, the Re-Entry Rule 3-1-3, is not in effect in the Garfield Heights Baseball League, except for the Pony and Colt Divisions, as follows:

Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-entered once, excluding a player who is the extra hitter, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he or she is in the lineup. If the player is the starting pitcher, he or she cannot re-enter as a pitcher. Players may be substituted after a full inning. Players must still play a “minimum” number of innings.

3) Junior Class Only:

If an umpire deems a legitimate injury has occurred to a player on the playing field, the umpire may call “time out” so that the injured player may be attended to. Before resuming play, the umpire will award the batter and base runners bases they would have reached had play not been suspended.

SECTION III:

LEAGUE PLAYERS

1) Age Requirements:

A) League Age: League age is that age attained by a player prior to May 1st in any given season. Thus, a player whose 12th birthday is on April 30th or earlier, has a league age of 12; a player whose 12th birthday is on May 1st or later, has a league age of 11. The principle applies regardless of age, except for the Colt Division. In the Colt Division, any 17 year old who turns 18 during the GHBL season is ineligible to participate in the GHBL as a player.

B) A player shall submit a birth certificate or facsimile to the Players Agent upon request. Any player found in violation of the league age rules shall be immediately prohibited from further league play. All other age violations shall be referred to the Board of Directors.

2) Minimum innings requirement:

A) All players in uniform, present and not injured, must play a minimum of three (3) innings of every game, including playoffs and championship games. Definition of three (3) innings played is 18 outs, or 15 outs if the home team does not bat in the last inning.

B) Any player not playing the prescribed minimum innings per game will cause his or her team to forfeit the game in which the violation occurs. A manager violating this rule will be brought to the attention of the Management Procurement Committee.

3) Pitching Requirements - Rest Rule:

A) Rest Rule:

1) A player, after pitching in a regulation game, shall not pitch again until he or she has rested one day for each inning pitched. Maximum rest for any pitcher is five (5) days.

2) Delivery of a single pitch shall constitute an inning pitched.

- 3) Innings pitched in a game declared “no contest” or non-regulation game (see division’s official game requirements) shall not be charged against the pitcher.
 - 4) In the case of a game to be partially or totally replayed because of a protest, or for completion of a game suspended due to weather, darkness or curfew, pitching eligibility goes back to the original date of the contest. Pitching eligibility is then counted from the day of the completion of the game.
 - 5) Pitching Rest Rules are not carried from the regular season to the one and out elimination or the championship games. Any tie-breaking games required to determine percentage will be considered as part of the regular season and pitching rules apply.
- B) A player shall not be returned to the mound after once having been removed as a pitcher, even if he or she is replaced in another position.
 - C) No pitcher may pitch more than nine (9) innings in one game.
 - D) Violation of any section of these rules will result in forfeiture of the game in which it occurs.

5) Borrowing Players:

It is the responsibility of the Players Agent and Assistant Players Agent to enforce these rules.

The borrowing players pool shall consist of the following:

- A) For each division, all younger age players in that division: Pee-Wee, 6 & 7 year olds; Minor, 9 year olds; Major, 11 year olds; Pony, 13 year olds; Colt, 15 year olds
- B) For Minor through Colt divisions, all older age players in the next lowest division: Pee-Wee, 8 year olds; Minor, 10 year olds; Major, 12 year olds; Pony, 14 year olds. Every attempt should be made to exhaust the borrowed players list from your own division before borrowing players from the next lowest division.

The Players Agent and Assistant Players Agent shall establish a borrowing list for each division after the draft is completed. In the event a manager cannot field the minimum amount of players needed, the manager may borrow from the pool, by notifying the Players Agent and/or Assistant Players Agent no later than twenty-four (24) hours from the start of said scheduled game; if such notification is not made, the game is automatically forfeited.

- A) Each manager must keep a current record of each time one of his or her players is borrowed, and by which team.
- B) Each player may be borrowed only once during the season by each team, including playoffs.
- C) A borrowed player may not pitch.
- D) In the event a borrowing manager can field enough players of his or her own, borrowed players shall play a maximum of three (3) innings, and shall not start

the game.

- E) Borrowed players who start the game shall bat in the last position in the batting order.
 - F) Round robin batting order applies to borrowed players in the Pee Wee and Minor Divisions. Such borrowed players will be placed at the end of the batting order and bat in turn the entire game, whether or not they play in the field the inning they come to bat.
 - G) In the event of extra innings, all regular players must be returned to the lineup.
- 6) Extra Hitter:
- A) A lineup “can” be ten (10) players consisting of nine (9) fielding positions and a designated “extra” hitter.
 - B) A player in this “extra” hitter role must play the entire game as the EH and cannot be used as a defensive substitute during the game, except in the Pony and Colt Divisions. Also, an exception is allowed for all divisions to avoid forfeit.
 - C) The use of the EH in the lineup is the sole discretion of the manager.
 - D) A player can be used as an EH once every three (3) games.
 - E) A borrowed player is not permitted to be used as an EH, nor will the EH be permitted in the lineup if that team is using a borrowed player(s) in that game.

SECTION IV.

LEAGUE GAMES

- 1) No team shall be scheduled to play two (2) games in one day, except with the approval of the Commissioner.
- 2) In the Pee Wee, Minor, Major and Pony Divisions, no inning may start two hours after the official start time (as noted by the umpire), and two and a half hours in the Colt Division.
- 3) Rained-out and suspended games must be made up on the next available open make up day, weather and field conditions permitting.
 - A) To avoid conflict, when two divisions play on the same field, the league having regular scheduled games has the preference. Rain-out make-ups and suspended games on these fields will be played in the order of cancellation and at such times as to avoid interference with regular scheduled games.
 - B) Failure of managers to schedule the make up game with the Field Commissioner within 24 hours for the next open make up time, will result in immediate forfeiture by the defaulting manager or managers.
- 4) A league game shall be considered complete and be terminated when:
 - A) The home team is ahead by 15 or more runs after 3 1/2 innings in Pee Wee and Minor.
 - B) The visiting team is ahead by 15 or more runs after 4 full innings in Pee Wee and

Minor.

- C) Furthermore, if a game is called in the Pee Wee or Minor Divisions after 3 ½ or 4 innings because one team is ahead 15 or more runs, or 10 or more runs after 4 ½ or 5 innings in the other divisions, each team (winner and loser) shall start every player who could not play three complete innings in the next scheduled game. Violation of this rule shall result in an automatic forfeiture.
- 5) In the event a manager is unable to field a complete team (9 players), as a result of injury or expulsion by an umpire, the manager shall be permitted to recall a player(s) who has already played. Players thrown out of the game, however, may not be recalled in order to avoid a forfeit.
- 6) No manager or coach may umpire in his or her own division unless approved by the two participating managers.
- 7) Any player ejected from a game will serve a mandatory one-game suspension (in addition to the game he or she was ejected from) and may be subject to further action from the disciplinary committee or the Board of Directors.

SECTION V:

FIELD DECORUM

- 1) Manager or adult coaches may warm up a pitcher at home plate or in the bullpen. They may stand by and watch the pitcher being warmed up.
- 2) Only the manager of a contesting team (or in his or her absence, a coach) may protest a game.
 - A) Managers and coaches are to do everything possible to avoid protests. Example: If a manager sees the opposing team is going to use an ineligible pitcher, that manager must advise the umpire and opposing manager before the player throws the first pitch.
 - B) Protests shall be made as follows:

The manager (or designated coach) shall before any succeeding play begins, notify the umpire-in-chief that he or she is playing the game under protest. The manager must also assure that the official scorekeeper records the exact circumstances of the protest in the scorebook and signs same.

SECTION VI.

DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 1) The Major, Pony and Colt Division Championships shall be determined in a two losses and out format. Pitching restrictions, in the two and out format, shall be established by the Board of Directors, after meeting with the Major, Pony and Colt managers, before the season starts. All other divisional championships shall be decided in a best of three games series between:
 - A) The season's percentage winner and
 - B) The winner of the one and out elimination tournament between the other teams in

the division, which is held at the end of the regular season.

C) Opponents for the one and out will be determined by the following:

1) If seven (7) teams are involved, 2nd place team receives the bye. Remaining teams are seeded by regular season finish: 3rd plays 8th; 4th plays 7th; and 5th plays 6th. Winner of 3 vs. 8 plays winner of 4 vs. 7, and 2nd place team plays winner of 5 vs. 6. Ties for 3rd through 7th place in regular season standings will be decided on results of head to head competition between tied teams, and if still tied, by coin flip.

If seven (7) teams or less are involved in the one and out tournament, 2nd place regular season finisher shall receive a first round bye. All other byes that are necessary shall be awarded by blind draw.

If six (6) teams are involved, 2nd and 3rd place teams receive byes. Remaining teams are seeded by regular season finish: 4th plays 7th, and 5th plays 6th. Second place bye plays winner of 5-6 and 3rd place bye plays winner of 4-7. Ties in positions 4th through 7th to be determined as in (1) above.

- 2) In the event of a first place tie, head to head regular season competition results will be considered first. (Example: Team #1 beats team #2, two games to none or two games to one. Team #1 is then deemed percentage champion. If two teams split in regular season competition, then a tie-breaking game will be held immediately following the regular season to determine the percentage champion.
- 3) All playoff and championship games must be played to their full extent (6 innings for Pee Wee and Minor, and 7 innings for Major, Pony and Colt; extra innings are permissible). If any game is suspended at **anytime** for rain, darkness or curfew, the game must be resumed from the exact point of suspension with all pitching eligibility rules reverting back to the original date of the contest. Pitching eligibility is then counted from the day of the completion of the game. The 15 run rule is in effect for Pee Wee and Minor Divisions, and 10 run rule for all other divisions.

SECTION VII:

ALL STAR MANAGERS

- 1) The All Star manager of any division is to be the manager from the previous year's championship club. If the manager is no longer in the division or if he or she declines, then the manager from the runner-up team will be asked. If he or she is no longer in the division or declines, then the All Star manager will be selected by a majority vote of managers in that division.
- 2) League participation in any All Star activity, whether inter or intra league, must be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors prior to the beginning of the regular playing season. Any necessary detail of the All Star activity not otherwise outlined in this section, shall be determined by the Board of Directors prior to approval. Special or emergency approval of an All Star game or tournament after the start of the playing season may be obtained by a minimum 75% majority vote of the Board members.

SECTION VIII:

COURTESY RUNNERS

A courtesy runner may be used for a player temporarily injured on the base paths. This substitute player must be one who is not in the lineup at the time of the substitution (unless there are none, in which case the batter who made the last out will be used). The player substituted for may return to the lineup once the substitute is off the base paths, due to scoring, put out, or end of inning. NOTE: The umpire shall use discretion when allowing the courtesy runner, and shall be the final judge in this matter.

SECTION IX:

BEFORE A LEAGUE GAME BEGINS

- 1) It is the responsibility of both managers to prepare the field for game conditions. Also, they are both responsible for putting out game equipment and for its safe return to its appropriated storage location. Failure to comply with this rule can result in the manager/managers being required to replace any damaged or missing equipment due to their negligence.
- 2) The managers of both teams shall agree on the fitness of the playing field before the game starts. In the event that two managers cannot agree, then the umpire-in-chief shall make the determination after responsible discussion.

PEE WEE DIVISION RULES AND REGULATIONS

1) **THE GAME**

The game shall consist of six (6) innings, and a round robin batting order shall be used. The round robin batting order is defined as an order where all players in attendance on each team bat in turn the entire game, whether or not they play in the field in the inning they come to bat. Ten (10) players must play the field, but nine (9) players may be used if the team can only field nine (9) players. Each player in uniform must play a minimum of three (3) innings in the field, or nine (9) outs, unless the home team is ahead at the bottom of the last inning. Any player not playing the prescribed minimum innings in the field per game will cause his or her team to forfeit the game in which the violation occurs. A manager violating this rule will be brought to the attention of the Management Procurement Committee.

2) **REGULATION GAME**

A regulation game shall be defined as four (4) full innings or three and one-half (3 1/2) innings if the home team has more runs than the visiting team after the visiting team bats in the top half of the fourth inning. No inning shall begin on an unlighted field in the Pee Wee Division after 8:30 p.m.

3) **FIELD DIMENSIONS AND EQUIPMENT**

- A) Bases in the Pee Wee Division shall be 60 feet apart.
- B) The front side of the pitcher's plate shall be 40 feet from the point of home plate.
- C) The batter's box shall be rectangular in shape and measure 5 feet 6 inches by 3 feet. The inside line shall be parallel to and 4 inches away from home plate. It shall extend 2 feet 6 inches forward from the center of home plate and 3 feet to the rear.
- D) Bats may be wood or non-wood products, shall not be more than 33 inches in length, not more than 2 1/4 inches in diameter and not less than 1 1/16 inches at its smallest. Bats may be taped for a distance not exceeding 16 inches from the small end.
- E) No metal spikes or cleats are to be worn. Molded rubber cleats are permitted.

5) **INFIELD FLY RULE**

Does not apply in the Pee Wee Division.

6) **DROPPED THIRD STRIKE BY CATCHER**

In the Pee Wee Division, the batter is out and cannot advance to first base.

7) **BUNTING**

Bunting is not allowed in the Pee Wee Division. Any bunts or attempts to bunt shall count as no pitch or play.

8) **LEAD OFFS AND STEALING**

- A) In the Pee Wee Division, there is no leading off and no stealing.
- B) A runner cannot leave a base until the ball reaches home plate. If a runner leaves a base before the ball is hit, the ball is dead immediately. Each team may be granted one warning for the first offense. For any further offenses, the ball is dead immediately and runners leaving early are called out.

9) **BALKS**

There are no balks in the Pee Wee Division.

10) **MANAGERS AND COACHES**

Managers and coaches shall not encourage, instruct or teach their players in the throwing of any curve ball or any pitch which puts unnatural spin on the ball, which would cause additional strain on the arm or elbow or both. Violation of this rule will be reported to the Board of Directors for possible suspension.

11) **UMPIRES**

One (1) umpire is to be used during regular season play. No less than two (2) umpires are to be used at all playoff and championship games.

12) **ALL STAR TEAMS**

The Pee Wee All Star teams shall consist of two (2) players from each team with the balance of the 20-player roster to be selected by the All Star manager. The two teams shall meet in an eight-inning game with each player playing either the first four or last four innings of the game. Ten (10) players are to be used in the field. In the event the American and National All Star teams fail at game time to have 20 players in uniform ready and able to play, the opposing manager before the game begins shall have the right to designate which player(s) shall play the entire eight innings. In no event may a player pitch more than four innings.

At the discretion of the manager, each lineup may be altered every two innings. The batting order for each lineup shall be maintained, in order to allow every All Star a chance to bat, at least one time and to play four innings.

MINOR DIVISION RULES AND REGULATIONS

1) THE GAME

The game shall consist of six (6) innings, and a round robin batting order shall be used. The round robin batting order is defined as an order where all players in attendance on each team bat in turn the entire game, whether or not they play in the field in the inning they come to bat. Each player in uniform must play a minimum of three (3) innings in the field, or nine (9) outs, unless the home team is ahead at the bottom of the last inning. Any player not playing the prescribed minimum innings in the field per game will cause his or her team to forfeit the game in which the violation occurs. A manager violating this rule will be brought to the attention of the Management Procurement Committee.

2) REGULATION GAME

A regulation game shall be defined as four (4) full innings or three and one-half (3 1/2) innings if the home team has more runs than the visiting team after the visiting team bats in the top half of the fourth inning. No inning shall begin on an unlighted field in the Minor Division after 8:30 p.m.

3) FIELD DIMENSIONS AND EQUIPMENT

- A) Bases in the Minor Division shall be 65 feet apart.
- B) The front side of the pitcher's plate shall be 46 feet from the point of home plate.
- C) The batter's box shall be rectangular in shape and measure 5 feet 6 inches by 3 feet. The inside line shall be parallel to and 4 inches away from home plate. It shall extend 2 feet 6 inches forward from the center of home plate and 3 feet to the rear.
- D) Bats may be wood or non-wood products, shall not be more than 33 inches in length, not more than 2 1/4 inches in diameter and not less than 1 1/16 inches at its smallest. Bats may be taped for a distance not exceeding 16 inches from the small end.
- E) No metal spikes or cleats are to be worn. Molded rubber cleats are permitted.

4) DROPPED THIRD STRIKE BY CATCHER

In the Minor Division, the batter is out and cannot advance to first base.

5) BALKS

There are no balks in the Minor Division.

6) LEAD OFFS AND STEALING

- A) In the Minor Division, no runner may lead off the base while a pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's plate, and the ball is in his or her possession and the catcher in the catcher's box ready to receive delivery of the ball.
- B) A runner cannot leave a base until the ball passes home plate. If a runner leaves a base before the ball passes the plate, the ball is dead immediately. Each team may be granted one warning for the first offense. For any further offenses, the

ball is dead immediately and runners leaving early are called out.

7) **MANAGERS AND COACHES**

Managers and coaches shall not encourage, instruct or teach their players in the throwing of any curve ball or any pitch which puts unnatural spin on the ball, which would cause additional strain on the arm or elbow or both. Violation of this rule will be reported to the Board of Directors for possible suspension.

8) **ALL STAR TEAMS**

The Minor All Star Teams shall consist of two (2) players from each team, with the balance of the 18-player roster to be selected by the All Star manager. The two teams, American and National, shall meet in an eight-inning game with each player playing either the first four or last four innings of the game. Nine (9) players are to be used in the field for Minors. In the event the American and National All Star teams fail at game time to have 18 players in uniform ready and able to play, the opposing manager before the game begins, shall have the right to designate which player(s) shall play the entire eight (8) innings. In no event may a player pitch more than four (4) innings.

At the discretion of the manager, each lineup may be alternated, every two innings. The batting order for each lineup shall be maintained, in order to allow every All Star a chance to bat, at least one time, and to play four innings.

MAJOR DIVISION RULES AND REGULATIONS

1) THE GAME

No inning in a Major game shall start after 11:00 p.m. Also, no inning shall start after 8:30 p.m. for 6:00 p.m. scheduled games on a lighted field.

2) FIELD DIMENSIONS AND EQUIPMENT

- A) Bases in the Major Division shall be 70 feet apart.
- B) The front side of the pitcher's plate shall be 50 feet 6 inches from the point of home plate.
- C) The batter's box shall be rectangular in shape and measure 5 feet 6 inches by 3 feet. The inside line shall be parallel to and 4 inches away from home plate. It shall extend 2 feet 6 inches forward from the center of home plate and 3 feet to the rear.
- D) Bats may be wood or non-wood products, shall not be more than 33 inches in length, not more than 2 1/4 inches in diameter and not less than 1 1/16 inches at its smallest. Bats may be taped for a distance not exceeding 16 inches from the small end.
- E) No metal spikes or cleats are to be worn. Molded rubber cleats are permitted.

3) BALKS

There are no balks in the Major Division.

4) LEAD OFFS AND STEALING

- A) In the Major Division, no runner may lead off the base while a pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's plate, and the ball is in his or her possession and the catcher in the catcher's box ready to receive delivery of the ball.
- B) A runner cannot leave a base until the ball passes home plate. If a runner leaves a base before the ball passes the plate, the ball is dead immediately. Each team may be granted one warning for the first offense. For any further offenses, the ball is dead immediately and runners leaving early are called out.

5) MANAGERS AND COACHES

Managers and coaches shall not encourage, instruct or teach their players in the throwing of any curve ball or any pitch which puts unnatural spin on the ball, which would cause additional strain on the arm or elbow or both. Violation of this rule will be reported to the Board of Directors for possible suspension.

6) ALL STAR TEAMS

The Major All Star Team roster shall consist of 15 players and shall be selected by all the managers of the Major Division. Each team will have at least one player on the All Star Team. Final balance of the All Star roster will be picked by the All Star manager and coaches.

7) **FOR 2010 SEASON ONLY**

The GHBL, in partnership with Bedford's Recreation Department, will participate in a quasi-traveling league in this division. All playing rules, pitching restrictions, etc., are governed by rules approved by both organizations.

PONY DIVISION RULES AND REGULATIONS

1) **THE GAME**

No inning in a Pony game shall start after 11:00 p.m. Also, no inning shall start after 8:30 p.m. for 6:00 p.m. scheduled games on a lighted field.

2) **FIELD DIMENSIONS AND EQUIPMENT**

A) Bases in the Pony Division shall be 80 feet apart.

B) The front side of the pitcher's plate shall be 54 feet from the point of home plate.

C) No metal spikes or cleats are to be worn. Molded rubber cleats are permitted.

3) **ALL STAR TEAMS:**

The Pony All Star Team roster shall consist of 15 players and shall be selected by the managers of the Pony Division. Each team will have at least one player on the All Star Team. Final balance of the All Star roster will be picked by the All Start manager and coaches.

4) **FOR 2010 SEASON ONLY**

The GHBL, in partnership with Bedford's Recreation Department, will participate in a quasi-traveling league in this division. All playing rules, pitching restrictions, etc., are governed by rules approved by both organizations.

COLT DIVISION RULES AND REGULATIONS

1) **THE GAME**

No inning in a Colt game shall start after 11:30 p.m. Also, no inning shall start after 8:30 p.m. for 6:00 p.m. scheduled games on a lighted field.

2) **ALL STAR TEAMS:**

The Colt All Star Team roster shall consist of 15 players and shall be selected by the managers of the Colt Division. Each team will have at least one player on the All Star Team. Final balance of the All Star roster will be picked by the All Star manager and coaches.

3) **FOR 2010 SEASON ONLY**

The GHBL, in partnership with Bedford's Recreation Department, will participate in a quasi-traveling league in this division. All playing rules, pitching restrictions, etc., are governed by rules approved by both organizations.