

# **CONSTITUTION EASTERN MINNESOTA LEAGUES**

APPROVED: February 2, 2025

## **ARTICLE 1. - NAME**

This organization shall be known as the **EASTERN MINNESOTA BASEBALL LEAGUE ('S)**. The home office shall be the address of the Secretary.

## **ARTICLE 2. - PURPOSE**

The purpose of this organization is to promote the Eastern Minnesota Baseball League ('s) and maintain baseball in Eastern Minnesota. The key to this promotion is to strive for organization consistency from year to year to allow players and their fans to build a foundation for a successful community activity.

## **ARTICLE 3. - MEMBERSHIP**

1. The membership of this organization shall consist of at least four teams (per league/division).
2. Each member team must pay annual dues which will be determined each year at the January / February Organization meeting and maintain a forfeiture fee reserve balance with the League based on the current year's game umpire fee plus \$25. The dues payment for new teams will be a two-year payment of the amount set. (Annual dues for 2025 are set at \$300.)
3. Each member team must pay an annual Region Tournament fee as set by the Region Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE 4. - OFFICERS**

1. The Officers of the League ('s) shall consist of: a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary-Treasurer and a Board of Directors.
2. The President shall preside at all meetings of the League, appoint all committees and perform such executive and administrative work as the demands of the organization may require.
3. The Vice-President shall exercise the powers and duties of the President in his absence.
4. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep a record of all meetings and committee action and shall perform all other League work that may fall within his office. As Treasurer he shall receive and disburse League funds and keep records thereof.
5. The Board of Directors shall consist of one representative from each member team. Each team will identify an alternate representative to ensure that all teams are represented at League meetings.

## **ARTICLE 5. - GOVERNMENT**

1. The government of the organization and management of its affairs shall be vested in the Officers and Board of Directors. A quorum of 50% of a League's member teams is required.
2. All issues presented to a vote will be concluded by a majority count of votes cast.
3. One vote per Board Member will be allowed on any issue presented to a vote. In the case of a tie vote, the tie breaking order of voting will be the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer. If the ranking Officer has already voted as a Board Member, the next ranking Officer shall cast the tie breaking vote.
4. On player eligibility issues, only Board Members from the League of the team requesting eligibility will cast votes.
5. Disciplinary action against a player or team. Voting will only be allowed by the teams not being disciplined. The disciplined team may cast a vote of abstention.
6. The League will not involve its authority into the internal affairs of member teams. The only exception to this policy will be when a member team's affairs has caused a financial burden on the League, other member teams or has caused the League's image to be damaged.
7. The League has the authority to assess penalties and fines for issues not covered in the League By-Laws.
8. All member teams will vote on all matters that involve the Eastern Minnesota League.

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## **ARTICLE 6. - MEETINGS**

1. The Organization meeting will be held in February. The agenda for the meeting will include; Election of League Officers, acceptance of the Constitution and By-Laws, addition of new League Members, payment of annual League dues and forfeiture deposits and other organization issues. All teams must declare the address of their team's home field at this meeting.
2. The Spring meeting will be held in March / April and the League schedule will be prepared with April 15<sup>th</sup> being the date that the final schedule changes will be allowed and League playoff formats must also be determined by this date. Any player questionnaires requested for League review after this meeting will require a Special meeting called by the League President.
3. The Playoff Roster Review meeting will be held prior to the deadline required by the Minnesota Baseball Association. This will be the last opportunity to add new players to the Team Rosters. Member Teams will have the opportunity to question the eligibility of new player additions to the respective rosters. If a new player's addition to a roster is disputed, said player's eligibility will be determined at the meeting by a vote of the Member Team.
4. The Playoff meeting will be held no later then two (2) days after the last scheduled League game.
5. Fall meeting will be held in September. The previous season will be reviewed and a committee will be appointed to review changes to the League Constitution and By-Laws. Issues that the League would like addressed at the Annual Minnesota Baseball Association meeting will be formulated.
6. The League President can call Special League meetings as needed.
7. All League meeting minutes will be e-mailed to team representatives within two (2) weeks after each meeting. The meeting notices with the agenda will be sent via US mail or e-mail in advance of the next scheduled meeting.
8. To assure attendance at meetings, a fine of \$25 will be assessed to a member team if a League officer isn't notified prior to a scheduled meeting that said member team will not be able to attend. The second missed meeting in a calendar year will result in a \$50 fine, the third missed meeting in a calendar year will cause a review of that member teams status by the League's Board of Directors. The penalty could result in the dismissal of the member team from the League or a fine of \$50 and/or ineligible for League Playoffs. Fines are to be paid within 10 business days of violation or fines will be doubled. Failure to pay fines within 10 business days will result in forfeiture of all games from the end of the tenth business day until fines have been paid in full.

## **ARTICLE 7. - EXPENSES**

1. The Secretary-Treasurer's annual salary will be \$60 per team.
2. If an Umpire Coordinator is needed, the annual salary will be \$60 per team
3. The League will provide trophies for League and playoff champions.
4. The League will provide a Region Championship trophy in the memory of Andy Saloka.
5. Special disbursement of League funds can be authorized by the League Officers.
6. League Website Administrator fee will be \$500 per year.
7. A League advertisement will be purchased annually in the Minnesota Baseball association Handbook.

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**ARTICLE 8. - WITHDRAWALS AND DISSOLUTION**

1. If a Member Team formally requests a withdrawal from the organization, the funds that will be distributed from the organizations treasury will be the greater of the following amounts: The withdrawing team's forfeiture fee balance as of the requested withdrawal date - or - the withdrawing team's pro rated share of the funds in the League treasury if the total treasury funds are less than the sum of all member teams required forfeiture fee reserve balances.
2. If the organization is dissolved, each Member Team will be distributed a prorated share of the total funds in the treasury. Each member's prorated share will be based on their forfeiture fee reserve balance at the time of dissolution.

**ARTICLE 9. – CODE OF ETHICS POLICY**

1. Individuals who are members or associated with teams of the Eastern Minnesota Baseball Leagues should use best judgement in posting material in social media that is inappropriate or harmful to the Leagues, individual teams, players, coaches or umpires. This policy includes posting commentary, content, or images that are defamatory, harassing, or create a hostile environment that reflects negativity on the image of the leagues, teams or individuals. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action. These disciplinary actions will be determined by members of the Eastern Minnesota Leagues. (i.e., fines, suspensions, etc.)