

2016 BY-LAWS & GOVERNANCE AGREEMENT

OF

ST. LOUIS BASEBALL FOREVER LEAGUE

I. ARTICLE 1: NAME & PURPOSE

- A. This league shall be known as *St. Louis Baseball Forever League* (STLBFL).
- B. The purpose of the league shall be to:
- To provide older adults with the opportunity to play organized baseball in a competitive environment that promotes fairness and good sportsmanship among its players; and
 - To supervise and regulate the activities of league members and others participating in STLBFL sponsored functions; and
 - To enter into contracts with vendors in order to obtain facilities, goods and services necessary for carrying out STLBFL business; and
 - To collect, raise and expend funds in an efficient and responsible manner that furthers STLBFL activities.

II. ARTICLE 2: MEMBERSHIP, DUES & FINANCES

- A. Membership in this league shall be available to invited teams that agree to abide by the regulations of STLBFL and whose individual members meet league eligibility standards.
- B. Invited teams may apply for membership by filing a written request providing all appropriate documentation with the Executive Council (EC) and paying all applicable fees. The fees including a one-time, nonrefundable Team Participation License (TPL) fee of \$250. These fees and documents must be submitted within time periods established by the EC.
- C. Existing teams within the league which move into a new age division and do not leave a team behind in the previous division thus leaving the league with the same amount of teams do not owe an additional TPL. Any team which moves into an older age division while leaving an existing team in a younger division shall pay a TPL. Any team which splits from an existing team creating an additional team within the league shall pay a TPL. Any reorganizing by a team with the net result being an increase in the number of teams in the league shall pay a TPL. The EC will determine if a TPL is owed by any “new” team as a result of reorganization even if the net result does not increase the number of teams in the league.
- D. Any new team shall be subject to a one-year probationary period. During that period, teams will refrain from any conduct detrimental to the integrity of the league. Team and player conduct will be subject to review by the EC.
- E. The EC shall set team membership dues and the deadline for paying the dues.

- F. The STLBFL expects that annual team fees, minus rebates provided, will virtually reflect the costs of running the league for that season. The intent is to keep league fees at a minimum. The carryover amount from one season to the next shall not exceed the total of all TPL (Team Participation Licenses) ever collected by the league. At the year-end meeting, the league will receive a final expenditure report from the treasurer for approval by the EC. Any unexpended funds in excess of the collective TPL funds (not counting funds obligated but not yet paid) will be provided to teams in good standing as rebates (or credits if a team prefers).

III. ARTICLE 3: GOVERNMENT AND MEETINGS

- A. Control of the league shall be entrusted to a seven-person Executive Council. These are unpaid volunteer positions. The seven-person EC shall consist of a President, Treasurer, Chairman of Fields and Scheduling, (CFS); Chairman of Umpires and Rules (CUR); Chairman of Communications (CC); Managers Liaison (ML) and any other positions as dictated by the EC.
- B. The President and EC for the upcoming baseball season will be selected annually by the EC of the just-completed season. To initiate the process, the current ML or ML's will survey their managers to receive nominations for positions on the EC and submit in writing those nominations to the full EC no later than October 1. In order to be eligible to serve as president, CFS, CC, (or) ML or CUR, a nominee must have been a player or manager during the inaugural season of the age division in which he now participates or have met STLBFL postseason eligibility requirements for at least three seasons. All nominations will be given due consideration. The current EC will select the incoming EC by consensus, or if no consensus is reached, by a majority vote. Prior to November 1st, the sitting CC will present the names of candidates for the position of President and EC to the managers for a ratification vote. Each manager in good standing from the preceding season, will be provided with an opportunity to vote separately on each candidate. The managers will vote whether to ratify each candidate's membership on the EC or selection as President. The manager will be given two choices: either to vote "yes to ratify the recommended candidate or to vote that he has "no confidence" in the proposed candidate. If a proposed candidate receives a vote of "no confidence" from 50% or more of the managers eligible to vote, then that candidate will not be eligible to hold the position on the EC or as President for the upcoming season. In such circumstances, the outgoing EC will propose an alternative candidate to the managers for ratification. This process will continue until the President and all EC positions are filled and ratified by the managers. The President and EC are permitted to succeed themselves in office.
- C. All meetings by the EC in which a vote is required by the members must consist of a quorum. A quorum is defined as more than 50% of the voting members in attendance. Decisions by the EC will be determined by majority vote. The EC will work to attain consensus (i.e. a resolution that all members of the EC can live with, even if the decision is not one in which all members agree is optimal). In cases in which consensus is not reached, majority vote will rule. In the case of a tie vote, the President will decide the matter at issue unless provisions of these By Laws explicitly describe a different process. League managers have the option to vote on any decision by the EC by calling for a vote at a managers meeting.
- D. Regularly scheduled meetings of the EC are open to all members of the league. The EC will hold at least one preseason meeting, one seasonal meeting and one year-end meeting per year on dates set by the President after conferring with the EC. Timely notice of regular meetings will be provided to all members of the EC and published on the league website. EC members who do not attend regular meetings in person or by telephone may not object to matters decided at the meeting. In addition, any member may call special meetings or emergency meetings when the need exists, however, reasonable notice of such meeting shall be provided to each EC member. Meetings may be conducted telephonically or by other electronic means.

- E. All meetings of the EC shall have a designated facilitator. The President or a member of the EC designated by the President shall act as facilitator.
- F. During all votes by league managers, the voting manager must be the manager of record of a team which has paid a TPL, is in good standing with the league and is participating in the current season or most recent season immediately preceding the voting meeting. A league member who is the manager of record of multiple teams is allowed a vote for each team he represents.
- G. A manager of record may elect to be represented at league meetings by a person other than himself. In such instances, the EC shall be notified prior to the meeting that a team will be represented by a person other than the manager of record. During the meeting, the representative shall have full voting rights as the manager of record.

IV. ARTICLE 4: DUTIES OF THE LEAGUE PRESIDENT

The league President shall be the chief executive officer of the league. The President will generally oversee league operations and facilitate procedural efficacy of the EC. He shall execute contracts in writing on behalf of the league. He shall enforce the provisions of these by-laws, and perform such additional duties as are incidental to his power as the executive officer of this league. The President or an individual acting as the President's designee will chair league meetings. The President will decide matters about which the EC is unable to reach a consensus unless these by-laws dictate otherwise.

V. ARTICLE 5: DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Council will be responsible for overseeing the activities of designated workgroups and the handling the day to day operations of the league. The EC will recommend vendors and whether the terms and conditions of contracts under consideration are in the best interests of the league. The EC shall enforce the provisions of this governance agreement and perform such additional duties as are appropriately incidental to the responsibilities falling under the EC scope of responsibility. The EC retains the right to provide corrective action to any situation not specifically covered by the By Laws.

- A. The Treasurer shall execute contracts in writing on behalf of the league and be responsible for keeping an account of all league revenue and expenditures. He shall submit a financial report at each meeting of the EC. The treasurer shall have authority to make disbursements of funds, not to exceed \$ 1,000.00 in any single disbursement. Any disbursement over \$1,000.00 must have prior approval of the EC. The treasurer shall have custody of all of the funds of the league and shall keep full and accurate records of the receipts and disbursements.
- B. The Chairman of Communications (CC) shall recruit league members, as needed, to assist the Chairman in carrying out his duties. The CC shall monitor and oversee all external communications of the league and ensure that the league brand is protected. The CC will ensure that a website for the league is maintained. The CC shall ensure that minutes are kept at each meeting of the EC and all EC minutes are published on the website. The CC will work with the EC to develop marketing strategies.
- C. The Chairman of Umpires and Rules (CUR) shall recruit league members, as needed, to assist the Chairman in carrying out his duties. The CUR will supervise the process for evaluating umpires and will make recommendations to the EC about league contracts for umpiring services. The CUR will develop a process for filing and reviewing protests. The process will be approved by the EC and published on the league website. In addition, the CUR will work with the ML to solicit managers input about proposed rules changes and shall propose to the EC for approval the "STLBFL Addendum of Superseding Exceptions" that will govern league play for the upcoming season. The approved set or rules will be published or linked at the league website. Due to the contract between the STLBFL and the Umpires Association, a conflict of interest would exist if an umpires were to serve as the CUR, therefore no umpire can serve as the CUR.

- D. The Chairman of Fields and Scheduling (CFS) shall recruit league members, as needed, to assist the Chairman in carrying out his duties. The CFS chairman will develop contracts for playing fields and propose to the EC for their approval a playing schedule for each upcoming season. The CFS will coordinate field maintenance activities. The CFS will submit to the EC a plan for the post-season league championship tournament, the league all-star game and, if applicable, any national tournament sponsored by STLBFLL. The CFS will serve as Tournament Director for these events.
- E. The Manager's Liaisons (ML) shall serve as the managers' advocate and voice of the managers in matters under consideration by the EC. The ML will survey managers' opinions on game-related matters and communicate those positions to the EC. The ML is also responsible for bringing concerns expressed by managers to the attention of the EC for appropriate action.

VI. ARTICLE 6: SCHEDULE AND POSTSEASON PLAY

By March 15 of each year, the CFS shall submit to the EC for approval, a proposed regular season schedule of league games. After the schedule is approved, no changes may be made without approval of the EC. By July 15 of each year, the CFS shall submit for approval, a proposed post-season playoff format and schedule.

VII. ARTICLE 7: TEAM ROSTERS & PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. STLBFLL team rosters must consist of players that meet the following criteria:

- 1. Age Limitations

For participation in the 45+ Division, players must be at least 45 years old or have their 45th birthday on or before December 31 of the year in question.

For participation in the 53+ Division, players must be at least 53 years old or have their 53rd birthday on or before December 31, of the year in question.

For participation in the 60+ Division, players must be at least 60 years old or have their 60th birthday on or before December 31, of the year in question. Each 60+ Division team will be allowed to have on their roster three (3) players who meet certain criteria but do not meet the age limitations of the Division. These players will be referred to as **Exception Players**. The criteria for **Exception Players** are that they must be at least 58 years old or have their 58th birthday on or before December 31 of the then current season. **Exception Players** in this division will have no restrictions regarding pitching or catching.

- 2. Contract Status

Players must sign a league approved contract and insurance waiver form and provide age identification per means established by the EC prior to competing. The EC requires that each player provide the league a photocopy of their driver's license or some other government issued photo I.D.

- 3. Good Standing

- a) The EC by a consensus of its members or majority vote and ratification by the President if consensus is not reached shall have the authority to discipline, suspend or terminate the eligibility of any team, manager, player or EC member who compromises the principles and purpose of the league.
- b) Players must be in good standing with the league in order to be eligible to compete. In good standing includes substantial compliance with the STLBFLL Code of Ethics for players and managers. (Rule 10.00 of the Addendum of Superseding Exceptions). Players sanctioned by the EC for transgressions must satisfy corrective actions meted out by the EC (e.g. serving suspensions for ejections, paying outstanding debts to former teams, etc.) before being in good standing with the league.

- B. STLBFLL is open to players who meet the age eligibility requirements as defined in these provisions. Players may participate in other adult baseball leagues. No player shall be on the roster of more than one STLBFLL team in a designated age division at the same time.
- C. Any player who violates the eligibility regulations shall be expelled from STLBFLL for at least one season and for as long beyond that term as may be determined to be appropriate by the EC. In addition, any manager who willfully uses an ineligible player shall be expelled from STLBFLL at least one season and for as long as is determined to be appropriate by the EC. All games in which the ineligible player participated will be forfeited.
- D. Players must be on the roster and have appeared in at least 50% of regular season games for the team with which they finish the season in order to be eligible to participate in STLBFLL league playoffs. A player that does not officially appear in a game may be credited for an appearance if they are present for at least 3 innings, in uniform (at a minimum, must wear his team jersey) and listed on the lineup card.
- E. Team rosters shall consist of at least 12 players and not more than 25 players. If a team has players that play on more than one team, it must have a sufficient number of core players exclusively or primarily dedicated to the team so that no forfeit will occur if dual-involved teams play on the same date. Team rosters shall be submitted to the CUR at least one week prior to opening day, along with proof of date of birth and signed player waiver forms. Rosters will be published on the league website. Rosters may be modified after the first league game as long as the roster remains at or below 25 players. Any player added to a roster after the first game of the regular season will be ineligible for game play until appropriate paperwork is filed with the CUR.

VIII. ARTICLE 8: PLAYER MOVEMENT - PLAYERS POOL - DRAFT PROCEDURE

- A. For the purposes of the article, the "Season" for the Forever League is defined as that calendar time period between the leagues first regular season game and the final game of the post season. Also, all players are free agents after the last game of the post season until a player signs and dates the league liability waiver for the season in question and the waiver is submitted to the league.
- B. Any player desiring to change teams within the same age division during the season must apply for a general release and transfer. In this situation, the player would obtain from his current manager a "general release and transfer". Managers shall grant requests for a general release as long as the player is in good standing. A player may appeal to the Chairman of Umpires and Rules (CUR) a decision of a manager to deny a request for general release and transfer. Upon the approval of a players general release and transfer, the player is placed in the league player pool and may be drafted by another team under the provisions of Article 8, paragraph F.
- C. In the event a team disbands during the course of a season, all players wishing to continue league play for the season in question will be placed into a special draft. The remaining teams within the division will have the right to select these players using the reverse order of the current season standings. The Executive Council (EC) will determine the date of the standings and any tie breakers which may be applied in determining the order of the draft. Any player not selected in this draft will be placed into the league players pool and will be subject to the procedures set forth in this article. Players which are selected in the special draft are obligated to play for the selecting team for the remainder of the season.
- D. Individuals who respond to league sponsored tryouts or league sponsored marketing events will be subject to the following draft procedure. The teams from the preceding season will be ranked in reverse order from last to first. The EC will decide the draft position of new teams in the division which do not have a record from the previous season. Each team has the right to select a player from the tryout or event in this order until all desired players are selected. Any player who is not selected will be placed in the league players pool and may be drafted by another team under the provisions of Article 8, paragraph F.

- E. Players recruited by individual teams outside of league tryouts or league sponsored marketing events do not have to be placed into the league players pool and are not subject to league draft procedures. These players have the right to play with any team in the league.
- F. During the Forever League "Season", players placed into the league players pool or players who fill out the on line registration form will be subject to the following procedure.
 - 1. An automated email notification will be sent out to all teams in the league when a player is registered in the players' pool.
 - 2. Teams of the respective divisions will be ranked in reverse order of the final regular season standings from the preceding season. The bottom 50% of teams within a division will have rights to the newly registered player.
 - 3. The newly registered player will be assigned to the lowest ranking team.
 - 4. The manager of the assigned team will have 1 week to accept or reject the player.
 - 5. If a player is rejected, he will be assigned to the next lowest ranking team. This process will continue until all teams participating have either rejected or accepted the player.
 - 6. If a team accepts a player, this team will be placed highest among the teams in this group for any succeeding assignments of new players entered into the players' pool.
 - 7. Any player not accepted shall remain in the players' pool and will be available for selection by any team within the division. Selection of a player by any team after all participating teams have rejected the player will not affect the team order for future players.
 - 8. Any team which does not have a record within it's age division from the previous season, (new teams which join the Forever League or new teams which form with players within the league or existing teams which move into a different age division) will be placed in the general team population and can only select a player from the pool after a player has been rejected by all participating teams and has been placed into the general players pool.
 - 9. Players who register in the league players' pool outside of the calendar "season" are available for selection by any team in the league.
 - 10. Players who are assigned a team during the "season" are obligated to play for the accepting team for the remainder of the season.
 - 11. Division managers, through their Manager's Liaison, will have the right to modify this procedure during the season if agreed to by the majority of managers in their respective division.
- G. During the time period outside the calendar "season", all league players are considered free agents. Players are free to move between teams and are not subject to the draft procedures or the general release and transfer provisions of this article.
- H. During the "season", any player who is dropped from a roster will be prohibited from playing for the team from which he was dropped for a period of 45 days. If a dropped player wishes to play for a different team within the same age division, the player will be entered into the players pool and will be assigned to another team under the provisions of Article 8, paragraph F.

IX. ARTICLE 9: EQUIPMENT

- A. All STLBFL players are required to wear appropriate safety-related baseball equipment while participating in STLBFL league games. Batters and runners are required to wear helmets. Catchers are required to wear a skullcap or helmet when catching.
- B. All STLBFL participating players and managers must wear numbered baseball uniforms while within the confines of the field of play. Metal spiked baseball shoes are allowed.
- C. The EC shall declare and report to team managers the type and brand of baseball that will be the official baseball used in all STLBFL games.
- D. The EC shall establish guidelines to determine the types of bats that may be used in league games. These guidelines will be specifically addressed in the STLBFL Addendum to Superseding Exceptions (League Rules).

X. ARTICLE 10: LEAGUE RULES

The Official Rules of Major League Baseball plus the “STLBFL Addendum of Superseding Exceptions” will be the code of rules governing the playing of baseball games by teams of STLBFL. The EC will ensure that the “STLBFL Addendum of Superseding Exceptions” is posted on the league web page.

XI. ARTICLE 11: MODIFICATION OF GOVERNANCE AGREEMENT

These provisions may be amended by the EC at any regular or special EC meeting.

XII. ARTICLE 12: EXCESSIVE HEAT POLICY

It is the policy of the STLBFL to consider excessive heat in potentially canceling games. The STLBFL empowers all managers with the right to contact the League President to request cancellation in the event an Excessive Heat Warning or Heat Advisory is issued by the National Weather Service for games to be played between 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm. The League President, or in his absence, the Manager’s Liaison, will have the authority to cancel the game. The request must be made by telephone to the League President no later than 4 hours prior to the scheduled game time, in order to provide sufficient time to make a final decision at least 2 hours prior to the scheduled game time.