

2011 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. Beginning in the 2013 season, 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.
- D. The EC shall set team membership dues and the deadline for paying the dues.
- E. 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 league President and a five-person Executive Council. These are unpaid volunteer positions. The five-person EC shall consist of a treasurer and four committee chairs as follows: Chairman of Fields, Scheduling and Tournaments (CFST); Chairman of Umpires and Rules (CUR); Chairman of Communications (CC); and Coaches Liaison (CL).
- B. The founders of the league will select the initial President and EC. In subsequent years, the President and EC for the upcoming baseball season will be selected annually by the EC of the just-completed season. This selection process will be completed at the regularly scheduled pre-season meeting for the upcoming season. Prior to voting for EC positions, the current CL will survey the coaches to receive nominations for positions on the EC and submit in writing those nominations to the full EC. In order to be eligible to serve as president, CFST, CC or CL, 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 STLBFLL postseason eligibility requirements for at least five 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.

Within one week of the annual pre-season meeting, the sitting CC will present the names of candidates for the position of President and EC to the coaches for a ratification vote. Each coach in good standing (fees timely paid and paperwork filed) for the upcoming season will be provided with an opportunity to vote separately on each candidate. The coaches will vote whether to ratify each candidate's membership on the EC or selection as President. The coach 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 75% of the coaches 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 coaches for ratification. This process will continue until the President and all EC positions are filled and ratified by the coaches. The President and EC are permitted to succeed themselves in office.

- C. Decisions by the EC will be determined by consensus if possible. 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, the President will decide the matter at issue unless the provisions of these by-laws explicitly describe a different process.
- 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.

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.

- 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. 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 CL to solicit coaches 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.

- D. The Chairman of Fields, Scheduling and Tournaments (CFST) shall recruit league members, as needed, to assist the Chairman in carrying out his duties. The CFST chairman will develop contracts for playing fields and propose to the EC for their approval a playing schedule for each upcoming season. The CFST will coordinate field maintenance activities. The CFST 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 STLBFL. The CFST will serve as Tournament Director for these events.
- E. The Coaches Liaison (CL) shall serve as the coaches' advocate and voice of the coaches in matters under consideration by the EC. The CL will survey coaches' opinions on game-related matters and communicate those positions to the EC. The CL is also responsible for bringing concerns expressed by coaches to the attention of the EC for appropriate action.

VI. ARTICLE 6: SCHEDULE AND POSTSEASON PLAY

By March 15 of each year, the CFST 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 CFST shall submit for approval, a proposed post-season playoff format and schedule.

VII. ARTICLE 7: TEAM ROSTERS & PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

A. STLBFL 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. The EC may establish additional age divisions for older players if it determines that demand will support another age division and that expansion will not compromise operations of the 45 plus division.

For participation in the 52+ Division, players must be at least 52 years old or have their 52nd birthday on or before December 31, 2012. Each 52+ Division team will be allowed to have on their roster two (2) players who meet certain criteria and who will play with some limitations but do not meet the age limitations of the Division, these players will be called (referred to as) **Exception Players**. The criteria for **Exception Players** are that they must be at least 50 years old or have their 50th birthday on or before December 31, 2012. The limitations, with respect to play, for **Exception Players** is that they may never pitch (be in the Pitcher's position in the team's defensive lineup) in a 52+ Division game. The EC will make no other exemptions or waivers for anyone under 52 years of age, except under the most extraordinary circumstances. Beginning with the 2013 Season, the 52+ Division's age-restriction will rise to 53 years of age or older, and in 2014 the age will rise to 54 years of age. In 2015 the Division will reach its permanent age-restriction of 55 years of age or older. In all years after the 2012 season, as prescribed above, the provision for **Exception Players** will move in proportion, with respect to its age requirements, to the movement of the Division's over-all age-restriction.

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. As of 1/8/12 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, coach, 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 STLBFL Code of Ethics for players and coaches (posted on the league website). 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 coach 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 11 regular season games for the team with which they finish the season in order to be eligible to participate in STLBFLL league playoffs. Players that fail to play in 11 games due to severe injury may apply for extraordinary relief under Article 10 of these provisions. A player that does not officially appear in a game may be credited for an appearance if they are present, in uniform 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, including proof of date of birth, and 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 the team roster after the first day of June of the season will be subject to a \$20.00 registration fee and will not be eligible until all appropriate paperwork is filed with the CUR. If a player is dropped from the active roster of a team and wishes to continue to play he will be entered into the league player pool and will be available to other teams in the reverse order of the standings. If a team wishes to drop an injured player from the active roster without risk of losing the player to the waiver process, a team may place the injured player on the injured reserve list by notifying CC and CUR. A player on the injured list may not be reactivated to the roster for at least 30 days and must obtain prior approval of the CUR (with notice provided to the full EC) prior to playing in a game. CLARIFICATION – In keeping with the league’s contract with Roy Hobbs Baseball, each team will be allowed a maximum of 25 players to be entered into the Roy Hobbs Baseball database, in exchange for their initial league fee or dues. So, anytime the addition of a player to a team’s roster necessitates the entering of a 26th player into the Roy Hobbs data base, then the team will be charged a \$20 registration fee. In addition, for each successive player (27th, 28th .. and so on) a team needs added to the RHB data base the team will be charged a \$20 registration fee for each. And, any player added to the RHB data base after the first day of June of the season will require the team adding the player to be charged a \$20 registration fee, regardless of the number of players the team has on its league roster or in the RHB data base, previous to the addition in question.
- F. Any player desiring to switch teams during the season or from the team he played in the immediately preceding season must follow these procedures and obtain the consent of the CUR. A player seeking to switch teams may apply for a *general* transfer.
- a. The option for a player wishing to change teams during the season is to apply for a *general* release and transfer. In this situation, the player would obtain approval of his current coach for a “*general* release and transfer”. Coaches are expected to grant requests for a *general* release as long as the player is in good standing. A player may appeal to the CUR a decision of a coach to deny a request for *general* release and transfer. If the CUR approves the request for general release and transfer, the player is placed in the league player pool and may be drafted by any team having space on its roster. The reverse order of the league standings will determine the order of the draft (ie. the last place team has the first option to sign the player.)

- b. In the event a team disbands during the course of a season, all players will be placed in the league player pool. A draft will be held to distribute the players to new teams. The reverse order of the league standings (from the previous season if it is a preseason draft) will determine the order of the draft . . . After the seasons, all players in the league become free agents until Feb. 1 of the following season.
- c. Individuals not associated with existing teams who are interested in playing in the league (and not recruited by a specific team) will be placed in the league player pool and subjected to draft procedures. These players may be respondents to general league sponsored tryouts or other league sponsored marketing events.

VIII. ARTICLE 8: EQUIPMENT

- A. All STLBFLL players are required to wear appropriate safety-related baseball equipment while participating in STLBFLL league games. Batters and runners are required to wear helmets. Catchers are required to wear a skullcap or helmet when catching.
- B. All STLBFLL participating players and coaches 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 coaches the type and brand of baseball that will be the official baseball used in all STLBFLL 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 STLBFLL Addendum to Superseding Exceptions (League Rules).

IX. ARTICLE 9 : LEAGUE RULES

The Official Rules of Baseball plus the “STLBFLL Addendum of Superseding Exceptions” will be the code of rules governing the playing of baseball games by teams of STLBFLL. The EC will ensure that the “STLBFLL Addendum of Superseding Exceptions” is posted on the league web page. The Official Rules of Baseball may be viewed online at www.baseball-almanac.com/rulemenu.shtml. The Official Professional Baseball Rulebook may be purchased by calling 1-800-825-8508.

X. ARTICLE 10: EXTRAORDINARY RELIEF

A player or team may apply to the EC for extraordinary relief from enforcement of a provision in these provisions or league rules if special circumstances exist, the request is made in good faith and if the requested action would not compromise the welfare or interests of the league. The EC will publish on the league website all instances where extraordinary relief is awarded. The publication should include a description of the special circumstances and the reasons the relief was granted.

XI. ARTICLE 11: MODIFICATION OF GOVERNANCE AGREEMENT

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