

# CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS OF THE COLLEGIATE BASEBALL LEAGUE

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## ARTICLE I - PURPOSE

### Section 1.

- a. This organization shall be known as The Collegiate Baseball League (hereafter referred to as the CBL).

### Section 2.

The purpose of this League is to promote the traditional values of baseball through high quality competition, and simultaneously develop local talent, accordingly.

## ARTICLE II - ADMINISTRATION

### Section 1.

- a. The League shall be controlled by the officers.
- b. The League shall be administered by an Executive Board (hereafter referred to as the EB) which shall consist of a Commissioner (Tim Croker) and those members appointed by said Commissioner.

### Section 2.

- a. There shall also be a League Advisory Council (hereafter referred to as the LAC), which shall consist of one representative from each team in the League, whose name will be submitted to the EB in writing prior to the start of the season on the LAC Form.
- b. The LAC will assist the EB by voting on League issues, solely at the request of the EB.

### Section 3.

The control and management of the League shall be vested with the EB. It shall be the governing body of the League and have jurisdiction over any and all matters pertaining to League policy.

### Section 4.

The EB shall have jurisdiction over any and all matters that arise during the playing season. It is empowered to take any action it deems desirable in the interest of fairness to the players, the good of the game, and the proper conduct of the League. EB decisions are final.

### Section 5.

The Commissioner shall preside over all League meetings. In the absence of the Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner or another assigned official will preside.

### Section 6.

- a. The EB will keep minutes of all meetings and make copies of said minutes available to all teams.
- b. The EB will also keep records of all performance statistics of the League through the use of *Scorebook.com*. All teams will be provided access to *Scorebook.com*.

- c. The EB will give said statistics, as well as all other information pertinent to the League, to the appropriate media on a regular basis.
- d. The EB shall receive the rosters of all teams prior to their first game, and record any and all changes up to the final roster date utilizing *Scorebook.com*. Each team will have it's final roster posted on *Scorebook.com* by midnight of July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Section 7.**

Any changes to the Constitution and By-Laws must be approved by the EB.

**ARTICLE III - MEETINGS**

**Section 1.**

Regular League meetings will take place as deemed necessary by the EB.

**Section 2.**

Special League meetings may be called by the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, or by petition of no less than fifty percent (50%) of the teams in good standings in the League. Notice and purpose of such meeting will be given to the membership at least one week in advance.

**Section 3.**

Minutes will be kept of all meetings of the League.

**Section 4.**

Any team failing to be represented at three regular League meetings will be considered to be disinterested in the League and will have to seek reinstatement through the payment of all team debts and fines, plus be granted reinstatement by the EB.

**ARTICLE IV - FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Section 1.**

**LEAGUE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The League shall be responsible for:

- a. Providing liability insurance for each team.
- b. Providing adequate supply (4 per home game) of new baseballs for each team.
- c. Providing twelve (12) new bats per team.
- d. Tournaments; selection of players.
- e. Administration of Special Games; All-Star, Promotional, etc.
- f. League Play-offs; administration thereof.
- g. League Trophies.
- h. Expenses for Officers.
- I. League operation; administration thereof.

**Section 2.**

**TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Teams shall be responsible for:

- a. The financial support of the team.
- c. Payment of at least one half of the League entrance fee by the scheduling meeting, and any balance remaining thereof by May 30<sup>th</sup>. Failure to meet either of these payment deadlines will result in the loss of membership in the League.

- d. Each team must furnish four (4) new League approved baseballs to the Umpire-In-Chief for each home game. In addition, new or like new balls must be furnished said Umpire thereafter upon his request. An official League ball shall be designated by the EB. Use of any ball other than those approved by the CBL will result in a forfeit of that game by the offending team.
- e. Each team will share the cost of Umpires at their games. Umpires are to be paid prior to the start of the game. Any team failing to do so will forfeit that game. Umpires will be those designated as League Umpires or those certified for High School level or higher competition.
- f. Funds accumulated by each team shall be their property and responsibility.
- g. Each team shall be responsible for the operation of their home games.
- h. Each team is responsible for inputting game stats into Scorebook.com **within seventy two (72) hours of game completion.**
- i. Each team shall be responsible for the replacement of uniforms. Uniforms must be of the same style, color, and trim for each and every player, manager, and “on field” coach(es). Uniform numbers must be a minimum height of 6”. Exposed undershirts must be consistently alike for all team members. Rule h. herein is subject to a team fine of ten dollars (\$10.00) per infraction following a one week allowance to comply...commencing with their first game played in the season.

## **ARTICLE V - EQUIPMENT**

### **Section 1.**

- a. Balls: League approved baseballs only - Rawlings R100, Wilson A1001 or A1010, MacGregor ML97, Diamond D1, Pro Nine NFHS.
  - b. Bats: Single piece, Wood bats only (including Louisville Slugger’s composite model) . No metal alloy or ceramic bats of any kind. Any other composite wood bat requires Commissioner’s approval.
  - c. Helmets: Players must wear a helmet with at least one ear flap towards the pitcher. NOCSAE approved. No cracked helmets will be permitted.
  - d. Catcher: Must wear a throat protector connected to mask.
  - e. Shoes: Metal, rubber, and plastic spikes allowed. No sneakers will be permitted.
  - f. Uniforms: Refer to Article IV, Section 2. for specifications.
- Usage of any equipment contrary to these specifications must be approved by the EB.

## **ARTICLE VI - ROSTERS AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

### **Section 1.**

- a. Prior to midnight, July 1, players may be released from a team and may join another team in the League. Any player released from a team shall be considered a “Free Agent”, and may play for any other team in the League. Players remain the property of their respective team until they are formally released through the use of a Player Release Form. All releases from a team shall be accompanied by a remittance to the player of the team’s copy of the Player Application Form along with a fully completed Player Release Form, signed and dated by the manager of the releasing team, and approved by the EB. Any player not formally released by their respective team may become a “Free Agent” by sitting out for a full year.
- b. In the case of players moving from one team to another, the League expects direct communication resulting in a mutual agreement between the managers of the teams involved, as well as the affected player(s). Therefore, any such player must submit a completed Player Release Form, signed and dated by the manager of the releasing team, and approved by the EB

before appearing in any games. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the suspension of the violating player(s) for three (3) games along with a seventy five dollar (\$75.00) fine, and the forfeiture of any games in which he appears by his team. The League prohibits the recruiting of any players affiliated with one team, by the manager/coach of another team, without the prior consent of the player(s)' current manager. The League reserves the right to intervene in any situations whereby disputes arise concerning the ownership rights of players.

### **Section 3.**

- a. Each team shall file an initial roster with the EB prior to their initially scheduled first regular season game via *Scorebook.com*.
- b. Each team shall have no more than a maximum of twenty five (25) players on their roster. Any roster changes shall be communicated immediately to the EB.
- c. Each team shall forward to the EB a completed Player Application Form for each player on their roster prior to their appearance in a regular season game. The form is for providing player information, confirming player's awareness of league rules, and to verify a team's claim to players.

### **Section 4.**

- a. No player may play in the League unless his name appears on a team roster, and the EB has a signed Player Application Form from same player.
- b. No player may be added to a team roster after midnight, July 1st, unless he is replacing another player on the roster with the following agreement:
  - 1) The team has the consent of the EB.
  - 2) The player removed from the roster is designated "Inactive Reserve" and is ineligible to play for the remainder of the season.

### **Section 5.**

The age group of the League is seventeen (17) years and over, and is meant to cover High School and College players. A player under the age of 17 may participate only if the manager feels he can compete at the appropriate level of League play.

### **Section 6.**

A member of a High School or College Baseball Team shall be eligible to play in the League in accordance with their respective school rules.

## **ARTICLE VII - GAME REGULATIONS**

### **Section 1.**

- a. A schedule will be drafted and approved by the EB. All teams must complete all scheduled games. Games will be seven (7) innings in length.
- b. Any team failing to play all of its regularly scheduled games by a deadline date set by the EB shall be ineligible to participate in the League Play-Offs. The one and only exception will be if a game is cancelled due to no umpires showing up during the last two weeks of the season with no possible way for the teams to make it up. This exception requires approval from the Commissioner.

### **Section 2.**

All games will be played under the official rules of the American League with the exception of rules drafted for the League by the EB.

**Section 3.**

Teams shall alternate in batting practice. Batting practice shall cease twenty (20) minutes prior to the game starting time, at which time the visiting team will take seven (7) minutes of infield practice, followed by the home team taking infield practice for seven (7) minutes. If batting practice is waived, infield practice shall take place as prescribed herein. If infield practice is waived, batting practice will cease six (6) minutes prior to game starting time.

**Section 4.**

Line-ups, including listing of non-starting players, will be presented to the plate umpire and opposing scorekeeper at least ten (10) minutes prior to start of the game. However, a player may be inserted into the line-up at any time prior to the start of the game, but he must be inserted in the same batting order as the player he replaced. Any player so replaced is eligible to later enter the game as a substitute. All substitutions/player changes must be reported to plate ump and opposing scorekeeper prior to player entering game.

**Section 5.**

A team failing to field a completed team of nine (9) eligible players within fifteen (15) minutes following the scheduled starting time of the game shall forfeit the game. By acknowledged agreement of the opposing team, this waiting period may be extended, but is not to exceed thirty (30) minutes beyond the scheduled starting time.

**Section 6.**

A game may be postponed only due to 1.) weather or unplayable field conditions or 2.) no umpires showing up for game. Postponed games must be re-scheduled immediately on the designated "make-up night" of the following week, with the EB being notified within forty eight (48) hours of canceled game. Otherwise the EB will re-schedule game with no option for further postponement by either of the involved teams.

Schedule changes require at least 72 hour advance notification, unless mutually agreed upon by both teams affected. Failure to give said notice will result in a forfeit for offending team.

**Section 7.**

A tied legal game (4 1/2 innings or more) is considered a suspended game and shall be played onward from the point of suspension at the same field of said suspension, except as agreed upon by the involved teams, with home team rescheduling date and time.

**Section 8.**

A Mercy Rule is in effect whereby one team is leading by twelve (12) or more runs after opposing team has completed five (5) innings at bat. Game is declared as victory for leading team.

## ARTICLE VIII - PLAY-OFF FORMAT

### Section 1.

- a. A team may be ineligible to participate in the League Play-offs in accordance with Article VII, Section 1.b.
- b. A player must officially appear in a minimum of five (5) regular season games to be eligible for the playoffs.

### Section 2.

Ties in the standings affecting status or position in the League Play-offs will be decided in the order of the following priorities:

- 1) Result of the season series between the tied teams.
- 2) The net result of the differential of runs scored vs. run allowed in the season series between the tied teams.
- 3) Divisional record.
- 3) A coin flip by the tied teams, supervised by the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner.

### Section 3.

League play-off series, up to the championship series, shall consist of a best two out of three game format. The championship series will be a best three out of five game format. Higher Seed is Home Team in odd numbered games throughout play-offs.

- a. The teams with the four best records will make the play-offs. The first round of the play-offs consist of the following series:
  - 1) Seed number one (1) vs. Seed number four (4), and
  - 2) Seed number two (2) vs. Seed number three (3).The two remaining teams will then meet for the League Championship.
- b. All play-off and championship games are to be scheduled prior to the start of the regular season. Any game that is postponed due to bad weather, etc., must be rescheduled immediately for the following day, or as soon as possible thereafter. A rescheduled game takes priority over the next scheduled play-off or championship game.
- c. In the circumstance whereby a team involved in the League play-offs or championship series has difficulties in scheduling home games for its field, or has no lighting available to play night games, the EB has the power to select a neutral field for a home team to play, based on the pressing need to conclude a series because of the lateness of the season, weather conditions, or other justifiable reasons deemed by the EB to be in the best interests of the League.

## ARTICLE IX - FINES & VIOLATIONS

### Section 1.

A fine of twenty five dollars (\$25.00) shall be assessed to a team not represented at any meeting of the League.

### Section 2.

A fine of ten dollars (\$10.00) shall be assessed to a team failing to update *Scorebook.com* of its game stats within seventy two (72) hours following each home game. In addition offending team will be fined one dollar (\$1.00) per day per game for each additional late day.

**Section 3.**

Any player, manager, coach, or person directly affiliated with a team is fined ten dollars (\$10.00) for such action which constitutes undue harassment of League Umpire(s) before, during, or after a game, as reported by the Umpire-in-chief, of such game. Anyone threatening the welfare of any League Umpire faces suspension and potential expulsion from League.

**Section 4.**

Any Team whose players, manager, coaches, or person(s) directly affiliated with the Team, conduct themselves in a manner unbecoming to the League (i.e.: vulgarity, obscene action(s), etc.) as reported by any of the League Umpires, will be fined ten dollars (\$10.00) per incident.

**Section 5.**

Any player caught throwing equipment (bats, helmets, etc.), endangering the welfare of other players, will be automatically ejected from game.

**Section 6.**

Any player instigating, in the judgment of the Umpire(s), and actually engaging in a physical fight, will be ejected from the game, fined in the amount of twenty five (\$25.00) dollars, in addition to his ejection fine, and be ejected from League pending a hearing with the EB. Said hearing to take place prior to next regularly scheduled game.

**Section 7.**

Any player, manager or coach is fined twenty five dollars (\$25.00) for direct ejection from a game, as reported by the Umpire-in-chief of such game, must leave playing field/park at umpire's discretion, and is suspended for one (1) additional game. A second infraction of this rule shall result in a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) and one (1) game suspension. A third infraction shall result in a fine of seventy five dollars (\$75.00) and suspension from the League for a period of games to be determined by the EB.

**Section 8.**

- a. All fines must be paid before an individual may continue participation in the League.
- b. In the case of an ejection fine, upon notification the offending team is required to submit the specified fine payment to the EB prior to the start of the next scheduled game. Failure to comply in a proper manner may result in further disciplinary action.
- c. Should an ejection, report, and fine occur wherein the team has no further games to play in the season, failure of the offending team to pay the fine within thirty (30) days following notification will result in the doubling of the fine.
- d. Failure of the offending team to pay their fine in the specified manner renders it ineligible to further participate, makes it liable to additional fines or penalties as decided by the EB, and may have to forfeit any games until such matter is resolved to Commissioner's satisfaction.

**Section 9.**

A team forfeiting a game due to failure to field nine (9) eligible players, or any other reason for that matter, is fined fifty dollars (\$50.00), *in addition* to the Umpire's fees, of which twenty dollars (\$20.00) shall go to the League, and thirty dollars (\$30.00) to the offended team. Two (2) forfeits will result in that team's expulsion from the League.

**Section 10.**

All fines may be appealed in writing to the EB.

**Section 11.**

Procedure for payment of fines unless specified above, is as follows:

All fines shall be paid directly to the EB for deposit in the League account.

The EB shall immediately notify delinquent team(s) of the fine for failure of attendance at a League meeting, with payment to be made within ten (10) days following such notification.

The EB shall notify delinquent teams of the fine for failure to submit a properly completed *Scorebook.com* update within the specified time period in Article IX, Section 2., with payment to be made within ten (10) days of such notification. Upon receiving an Umpire's report of undue harassment, or ejection, the EB shall immediately notify the team manager of the fine, and payment is to be made immediately. The EB shall immediately notify the Commissioner of all forfeited games in accordance with Article IX, Section 7. Upon notification, payment by the forfeiting team is to be made to the Commissioner within ten (10) days, with offended team receiving their portion in turn.

**ARTICLE X - CONDUCT**

**Section 1.**

The EB is given broad powers to take whatever action it deems necessary in the best interests of the League against any player, manager, coach, or person directly affiliated with a team, that acts in a distinct unsportsmanlike manner to the detriment of the League at any time during the season.

**Section 2.**

Umpires shall have the power to submit the names of any player, manager, coach, or person directly affiliated with a team, that acts in a distinct unsportsmanlike manner to the detriment of the League, to the Commissioner for his immediate action. Such action(s) can result in the forfeit of a game subject to umpires' discretion.

**ARTICLE XI - CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION OR RE-ADMISSION OF TEAMS**

**Section 1.**

A team seeking entrance into the League must give evidence of the ability to meet the following criteria:

- a. Annual Entrance Fee as established by the EB.
- b. Full and conforming uniforms for all team members.
- c. A suitable playing field, including permit, for home games.
- d. A sufficient number of players to sustain team for duration of season.
- e. Equipment meeting the League specifications.
- f. The willingness to accept and abide by the provisions of the CBL Constitution & By-Laws.

**Section 2.**

A team suspended by the League seeking re-admission shall give evidence of their ability and willingness to conform to the criteria noted in Section 1 above.

### **Section 3.**

A fifty percent (50%) or greater affirmative vote of the LAC is required to admit new teams or re-admit suspended teams. The EB reserves the right to overrule when it deems such action to be in the best interest of the League.

## **ARTICLE XII - MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Section 1.**

A forfeit claim by means of a verbal confirmation must be submitted to the EB with an official score of 7-0 inputted into Scorebook.com.

### **Section 2.**

The EB reserves the right of site selection for League All-Star games.

### **Section 3.**

The EB reserves the right of site selection for all League Awards Banquets.

### **Section 4.**

- a. Protests will be considered only in accordance with American League Baseball Rules or upon such applicable League Rules.
- b. The EB shall be notified within twenty four (24) hours, via telephone or email, of such action by the protesting team. They shall then forward a written report within forty eight (48) hours (postmark) of protest claim to the EB, accompanied by a twenty five dollar (\$25.00) fee, payable to the League.
- c. Protests will be decided by an impartial committee appointed by the EB as quickly as possible.
- d. If a protest is upheld, twenty five dollars (\$25.00) shall be refunded to the protesting team. If the protest is denied, the League shall retain the entire fee.

### **Section 5.**

Each team is responsible for its own local publicity, and shall promptly report the results of their games, either home or away, to the proper media coverage. They shall further supply their local media with other publicity as they deem appropriate.

### **Section 6.**

Umpires shall be paid one half (1/2) the regular rate recommended by the EB, or that agreed upon by the home team and said umpires, for a forfeited game at which they appear, and for their able appearance at games that are subsequently postponed prior to their official start because of inclement weather or unplayable field conditions.

## **ARTICLE XIII - AWARDS**

### **Section 1.**

The following awards will be presented by the League after the season:

**LEAGUE CHAMPIONS** - A Trophy emblematic of such stature will be awarded to the team winning the League Championship Series.

**ACE HURLER AWARD** - A Trophy emblematic of such stature shall be awarded to the pitcher so adjudged by vote of the LAC to have exhibited the highest degree of excellence, taking into consideration all facets of pitching performance statistics.

***MOST VALUABLE PLAYER*** - A Trophy emblematic of such stature shall be awarded to the player so adjudged by vote of the LAC to be the most valuable player in the League for the season.

***Amendments to the Constitution & By-Laws***

A1) **MANDATORY SLIDE OR AVOID RULE**

Offensive players trying to score a run, looking to avoid being tagged by the opposing player, must either slide into home plate or avoid contact with the opposing player. Players are prohibited from deliberately colliding with any opposing player in hope of dislodging the ball from his person. Any action(s), as judged by the Umpire(s), to be “with malicious or injurious intent” will result in an out being called (with any run scoring as a result of the play disallowed), the offending player’s ejection from the game, and possible suspension from the League, upon review by the EB. Base runners looking to break up double plays must also slide, and are not permitted to go out of the baseline in order to knock down the opposing player. Again, any player so judged by the Umpire(s) to be “with malicious or injurious intent” in these circumstances will be subject to the same disciplinary actions as above.

A2) **TOBACCO PROHIBITED (Including smokeless chewing)**

The use of any tobacco products containing nicotine (cigarettes, cigars, chew, dip, etc.) is prohibited during any CBL affiliated activities (games, practices, exhibitions, etc.). Any player, manager, or coach found to be using any such product will be fined in the amount of twenty five (\$25) dollars **per violation** and be declared ineligible to participate until the removal and discontinuance of use of same product. Non-nicotine substances (i.e.: herbal or mint chew, bubble gum) are allowed.