

# La Grande Little League Constitution

## ARTICLE I – THE ORGANIZATION

### Section 1 - NAME

This organization shall be known as the La Grande Little League (hereinafter “Local League”).

### Section 2 - OBJECTIVE

- A. The objective of the Local League shall be to use the power of youth baseball and/or softball to positively impact our local youth, to teach important life lessons, and to build strong individuals and communities.
- B. To achieve this objective, the Local League will provide a supervised program of baseball and/or softball consistent with the Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Operating Policies of Little League International. All Directors, Officers, and Members shall consider and incorporate the values of Little League: Teamwork, Community, Inclusion, Integrity, and Fun. The molding of future citizens is of primary importance, while the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the winning of games is secondary.
- C. In accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code, the Local League shall operate exclusively as a nonprofit educational organization providing a supervised program of competitive baseball and/or softball games. No part of the net earnings shall benefit any individual or be used in any substantial part to influence legislation or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

### Section 3 - INTENT

It is the intent of the Local League to comply with this Constitution and with the Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Operating Policies of Little League International to the fullest extent possible. The Local League shall be self-governing. This Constitution shall be the foundation for directing the affairs of the Local League, and the Board of Directors shall be the primary decision-making body.

### Section 4 - EQUAL TREATMENT AND RESPECT FOR ALL

Little League International and the Local League do not limit participation in its activities on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, national origin, gender, sexual preference, socioeconomic background, or religious preference. We believe that all types of people create a robust organization, and we celebrate these differences.

## ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

### Section 1 - ELIGIBILITY

Any person sincerely interested in active participation to further the objective of the Local League may apply to become a Member.

### Section 2 - CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

#### A. Generally

The Secretary shall maintain the membership roster for the purpose of qualifying Voting Members. Only Members in good standing are eligible to vote at General Membership Meetings. Each Member is entitled to one vote.

#### B. Player Members

Any player candidate meeting the requirements of Little League Regulation IV shall be eligible to compete for participation. Player Members shall have no rights, duties, or obligations in the management or in the property of the Local League.

**C. Regular Members**

1. Regular Members shall include:
  - a. Current year Managers, Coaches, Members of the Board of Directors, Local League Officers, and any registered volunteers who have passed a background check.
  - b. One (1) parent or legal guardian of children playing within the Local League who do not participate as a coach, volunteer umpire, League Official, Board Member, or Committee Member. This also includes one (1) vote for any sponsors that contribute to the sustainment of the organization.
2. All Members listed in Article II, Section 2(C)(1)(a) must annually complete the "Little League Official Volunteer Application," submit to a background check pursuant to Regulation I(c)(8) & (9), and complete Abuse Awareness Training pursuant to Regulation I(c)(10) before the commencement of the season.

**D. Board Members**

Any person that was elected to serve on the Board of Directors will be considered Board Members through the duration of their term.

**E. Voting Members**

1. All classes of membership, except Player Members, are eligible to vote during the Annual Meeting during the election of the Board of Directors.
2. All Board Members, Committee Members, Managers, Coaches, volunteers, and other elected or appointed officials must be active Regular Members in good standing to cast a vote.

**F. Honorary Members (Optional)**

Any person may be elected as an Honorary Member by the unanimous vote of all Directors present at any duly held meeting of the Board of Directors, but shall have no rights, duties, or obligations in the management or in the property of the Local League.

**G. Sustaining Members (Optional)**

Any person not a Regular Member who makes financial or other contribution to the Local League may, by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, become a Sustaining Member, but such person shall have no rights, duties, or obligations in the management of or in the property of the Local League.

**Section 3 - OTHER AFFILIATIONS**

Members, whether Regular or Player, shall not be required to be affiliated with another organization or group to qualify as members of the Local League. Members shall disclose any potential conflicts of interest prior to actively engaging in the organization, operation and/or leadership of any other nationally recognized baseball and/or softball program.

**Section 4 - MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Dues for Members, if any, may be fixed at such amounts as the Board of Directors shall determine for a particular fiscal year. Dues for Members are separate from registration fees for Player Members, which are determined annually by the Board of Directors in accordance with Little League Regulation XIII(c).

**Section 5 - SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION**

- A. Membership may be terminated by resignation or action of the Board of Directors as follows:
1. The Board of Directors, by a two-thirds vote of those present at any duly constituted Regular or Special Board meeting, shall have the authority to discipline, suspend or terminate the membership of any Member of any class, including Managers, Coaches, Board Members, Local

League Officers, and other volunteers, when the conduct of such person is inconsistent with the values of Little League International and is considered detrimental to the best interests of the players, the Local League and/or Little League International. The Member involved shall be notified of such meeting, informed of the general nature of the charges, and be given an opportunity to appear at the meeting to answer to such charges.

2. The Board of Directors shall, in the case of a Player Member, give notice to the Manager of the team for which the player is a Player Member. Said Manager shall appear, in the capacity of an adviser, with the player before the Board of Directors or a duly appointed committee of the Board of Directors. The player's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may also be present. The Board of Directors shall have full power to suspend or revoke such player's right to future participation in the Local League by a two-thirds vote of those present at any duly constituted Board meeting.
3. If membership dues are collected, Members who fail to pay their fixed dues may, by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors present at any duly constituted Board meeting, be dropped from the rolls membership roster and shall forfeit all rights and privileges of membership. The Board of Directors will establish the number of days within which applicants have to pay membership dues which shall be voted on at the first Board meeting of each fiscal year.

### **ARTICLE III – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **Section 1 - LEAGUE GOVERNANCE**

- A. The Local League will be governed by a Board of Directors elected in accordance with the Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Operating Policies of Little League International. The Board will establish policies and procedures for administering the affairs of the Local League in accordance with this Constitution.
- B. The management of the property and affairs of the Local League shall be vested in the Board of Directors.

#### **Section 2 - NUMBER OF OFFICERS**

- A. The Board shall be made up of no fewer than seven (7) and no more than twenty (20) Members in good standing. In accordance with Little League Regulation I(b), the Officers of the Board of Directors shall include, at a minimum: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Player Agent, Safety Officer, and Coaching Coordinator.
- B. The Officers shall be elected annually by a majority vote and upon election shall immediately enter upon their duties and continue in office until their successors are elected and qualified.

#### **Section 3 - BOARD VACANCIES**

If any vacancy occurs on the Board of Directors by death, resignation, or otherwise, it may be filled for the balance of the absent Board Member's term of office by a majority vote of the remaining Directors at any duly constituted Board Meeting or Special Board Meeting called for that purpose.

#### **Section 4 - MEETINGS**

- A. Rules of Order
  1. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of all Local League Meetings, including Board of Directors Meetings. Any action taken by the Board of Directors at a meeting at which a quorum is present will be deemed the action of the Board of Directors, except where the same conflicts with this Constitution. Minutes of all meetings shall be recorded and will accurately reflect the action(s) taken.
- B. Regular Meetings of the Board of Directors shall commence immediately following the Annual Meeting, and on such days thereafter as shall be determined by the Board.

1. The President or Secretary shall, at the request in writing of three (3) Directors, issue the call for a Special Board Meeting. In the case of Special Board Meetings, such notice shall include the purpose of the Meeting and only matters so stated in such notice may be acted upon at the Special Meeting. Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held in person and/or by telephonic or electronic means, and such means shall be clearly stated in any meeting notice.
2. Notice of every Board meeting shall be given by the President or Secretary personally, electronically or by mail, to each Director at a minimum of fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the time appointed for the meeting to the last recorded address of each Director.
3. At any meeting of the Board of Directors, the presence of at least five (5) members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of regular business. If a quorum is not present, no business shall be conducted.
4. Only members of the Board may make motions and vote at meetings of the Board of Directors. However, the Board of Directors may invite, admit, and recognize guests for presentations or comments during such meetings.
5. A simple majority vote of the Directors present during a duly constituted Board of Directors meeting is necessary to approve any action relating to the general business of the Local League.
6. No Director shall be allowed to vote by proxy at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

## **Section 6**

- A. The Board of Directors shall have the power to appoint such standing committees as it shall determine appropriate, and to delegate such powers to them as the Board shall deem advisable and which it may properly delegate.
- B. The Board may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its meetings and the management of the Local League as it may deem proper, provided such rules and regulations do not conflict with this Constitution or the Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Operating Policies of Little League International.

## **ARTICLE IV – DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE BOARD**

### **Section 1**

The Board of Directors may appoint such other officers or agents as it may deem necessary or desirable, and may prescribe the powers and duties of each. Appointed officers or agents shall have no vote on actions taken by the Board of Directors unless such individuals have been elected to the Board by the membership, or have been elected to fill a vacancy on the Board.

### **Section 2 - DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS**

#### **A. President**

1. Conduct the affairs of the Local League and execute the policies established by the Board of Directors.
2. Present a report of the condition of the Local League at the Annual Meeting.
3. Communicate to the Board of Directors such matters as deemed appropriate and make such suggestions as may tend to promote the welfare of the Local League.
4. Be responsible for the conduct of the Local League in strict conformity to the Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Operating Policies of Little League International, as agreed to under the conditions of the charter issued to the Local League by that organization.
5. Investigate complaints, irregularities, and conditions detrimental to the Local League and report thereon to the Board or Executive Committee as circumstances warrant.

6. With the assistance of the Player Agent, examine the application and supporting proof-of-age documents of every player candidate, and certify residence or school enrollment and age eligibility prior to accepting the player candidate for tryouts and selection.
7. Complete the required background checks in accordance with Little League Regulation I(b) and I(c)(8) & (9), or delegate this responsibility to the Local League Safety Officer, or other designated Board member.
8. Ensure that all individuals who submit the "Little League Official Volunteer Application" complete the Abuse Awareness Training as outlined in the Little League Child Protection Program, or delegate this responsibility to the Local League Safety Officer, or other designated Board Member.
9. Ensure the Local League's compliance with the requirements of the Little League Child Protection Program, or delegate this responsibility to the Local League Safety Officer, or other designated Board member.

**B. Vice President**

1. Perform the duties of the President in the absence or disability of the President, provided the Vice President is authorized by the President or Board to so act. When so acting, the Vice President shall have all the powers of that office.
2. Perform such duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Board of Directors or by the President.

**C. Secretary**

1. Be responsible for recording the activities of the Local League and maintain appropriate files, mailing lists, email lists and necessary records.
2. Perform such duties as are herein specifically set forth, in addition to such other duties as are customarily incident to the Office of Secretary or as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.
3. Maintain a list of all Regular Members, Sustaining and Honorary Members, Directors, and Committee Members, and give notice of all meetings of the Local League, the Board of Directors, and the Committees.
4. Maintain a current list of all Regular Members in good standing, and determine the number of Regular Members needed to constitute a quorum.
5. Issue membership cards to Regular Members, if approved by the Board of Directors.
6. Keep the minutes of the Meetings of the Members, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee, and cause them to be recorded in a book kept for that purpose.
7. Conduct all correspondence not otherwise specifically delegated in connection with said meeting and be responsible for carrying out all orders, votes and resolutions not otherwise committed.
8. Notify Members, Directors, Officers, and Committee Members of their election or appointment. Provide each of these individuals with a copy of the Local League's Constitution.

**D. Treasurer**

1. Perform such duties as are herein set forth and such other duties as are customarily incident to the Office of Treasurer or may be assigned by the Board of Directors.
2. Receive all monies and securities, and deposit the same in a depository approved by the Board of Directors.
3. Keep records for the receipt and disbursement of all monies and securities of the Local League, approve all payments from allotted funds, and draw checks in agreement with policies and procedures established in advance of such actions by the Board of Directors.
4. Together with the Purchasing Agent, prepare an annual budget, under the direction of the President, for submission to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting.

5. Prepare an annual financial report, under the direction of the President, for submission to the membership and the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting, to Little League International, to any state or federally required entity.

**E. Player Agent**

1. Record all player transactions and maintain an accurate and up-to-date record thereof.
2. Receive and review applications for player candidates and assist the President in verifying residence or school enrollment and age eligibility.
3. Conduct tryouts, player draft, and all other player transactions or selection meetings.
4. Together with the President, maintain the Player Agent's list within the Sports Connect software.
5. Prepare team rosters, including players claimed, and the tournament team eligibility affidavit for the President's signature and submission to Little League International.
6. Notify Little League International of any subsequent player replacements or trades.

**F. Safety Officer**

1. Create awareness, through education and information, of the opportunities to provide a safer environment for Players and all participants of Little League.
2. Develop and implement a plan for increasing safety of activities, equipment and facilities through education, compliance, and reporting which may include:
  - a. Education
    - i. Facilitate meetings and distribute information among participants, including Players, Managers, Coaches, League Officials, Parents, Guardians, umpires and other volunteers.
  - b. Compliance
    - i. Promote safety compliance by increasing awareness of the safety opportunities that arise from these responsibilities.
  - c. Reporting
    - i. Define a process to assure that incidents are recorded, information is sent to Local League, District and National offices, and follow-up information on medical and other data is forwarded, as available.
  - d. Background Checks
    - i. If the League President so designates, the Safety Officer will complete the required background checks in accordance with Little League Regulation I(b) and I(c)(8) & (9).
  - e. Training
    - i. If the League President so designates, the Safety Officer shall ensure that all individuals who submit the "Little League Official Volunteer Application" complete the Abuse Awareness Training in accordance with Little League Regulation I(c)(10) and as outlined in the Little League Child Protection Program.
  - f. Little League Child Protection Program
    - i. If the League President so designates, the Safety Officer will ensure the Local League is compliant with all aspects of the Little League Child Protection Program.

## **ARTICLE V – COMMITTEES**

### **Section 1**

- A. A Committee is a group of people that works together on a specific topic or question and reports back to the Board with recommendations. Any combination of Board Members, staff members, and volunteers can make up a Board Committee.

- B. The Board of Directors may appoint such committees as it may deem necessary or desirable and may prescribe the powers and duties of each committee in the Local League's Policies and Procedures. Committee chairs and members of the committees shall have no vote on actions taken by the Board of Directors unless such individuals have been elected to the Board by the Membership or have been elected to fill a vacancy on the Board.

## **ARTICLE VI – MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

### **Section 1 - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

A General Membership Meeting is any meeting of the membership of the Local League which is called in accordance with this Constitution. A minimum of one meeting per year (Annual Meeting, see Section 6) is required. General Membership Meetings may be held in-person and/or by other electronic means which allow for full participation by all Members.

### **Section 2 - NOTICE**

Notice of each General Membership Meeting shall be delivered personally, electronically, or by mail to each Member at the last recorded address at least fourteen (14) calendar days in advance of the meeting, setting forth the place, time, and purpose thereof.

### **Section 3 - QUORUM**

At any General Membership Meeting, the presence in person of twenty (20) percent of the Regular Members or fifteen (15) Regular Members, whichever is less, shall be necessary to constitute a quorum. If a quorum is not present, no business shall be conducted. The Secretary shall be responsible for providing a list of all Regular Members in good standing.

### **Section 4 - VOTING**

Only Regular Members in good standing shall be entitled to attend, make motions, and vote at General Membership Meetings. However, the Board of Directors may invite, admit, and recognize guests for presentations or comments during General Membership Meetings the meetings.

### **Section 5 - ANNUAL MEETING**

- A. The Annual Meeting of the Members of the Local League shall be held in September of each year for the purpose of electing the next year's Board of Directors, receiving reports, reviewing the Constitution, appointing committees, and for the transaction of such business as may properly come before the meeting. A minimum of one (1) meeting per year is required.
1. At the Annual Meeting, the Membership shall receive a report, verified by both the President and the Treasurer or a majority of the Directors, showing:
    - a. The condition of the Local League, presented by the President or his/her designee.
    - b. A general summary of funds received and expended by the Local League for the previous year, the amount of funds currently in possession of the Local League, and the name of the financial institution in which such funds are maintained.
    - c. The whole amount of real and personal property owned by the Local League, where located, and where and how invested.
    - d. For the year immediately preceding, the amount and nature of the property acquired, with the date ~~of the report~~ and the manner of the acquisition, the amount applied, appropriated, or expended, and the purposes, objects, or persons to or for which such applications, appropriations or expenditures have been made.

2. This report shall be filed with the records of the Local League and entered in the minutes of the proceedings of the Annual Meeting. A copy of such report shall be forwarded to Little League International.
3. At the Annual Meeting, the Regular Members shall elect the Board of Directors. If the total number of Board candidates exceeds the number of available Board positions, then those Board candidates receiving the most votes will be considered elected to the Board. Regular Members may only cast a number of votes equal to or less than the Board Positions available. In the event of a tie in the number of votes received by two (2) or more Board candidates for unfilled Board positions, a run-off election, in which all Members may vote, will be held immediately for the tied Board candidates.
4. After the new Board of Directors is elected, the newly elected Board Members shall meet to elect the Officers of the Board.
5. After the election, the new Board of Directors shall assume the performance of its duties on October 1st. The Board's term of Office shall continue until its successors are elected and qualified under this section at the next Annual Meeting.

## **Section 6 - SPECIAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

Special General Membership Meetings may be called by the Board of Directors, or by the Secretary or President at their discretion. Additionally, upon the written request of a minimum of five (5) Members, the President or Secretary shall call a Special General Membership Meeting to consider the subject specified in the request. No business other than that specified in the notice of the Special General Membership Meeting shall be transacted at any Special General Membership Meeting. Such Special General Membership Meeting shall be scheduled to take place not less than fourteen (14) calendar days after the request is received by the President or Secretary.

## **Section 7**

Any vote by the Regular Members at a meeting at which a quorum is present will be deemed the action of the Regular Members, except where the same conflicts with this Constitution. Minutes of all meetings will be kept and will accurately reflect the action(s) taken.

# **ARTICLE VII – AFFILIATION**

## **Section 1**

The Local League shall annually apply for a charter from Little League International, and shall do all things necessary to obtain and maintain such charter. The Local League shall devote its entire energies to the activities authorized by such charter, and it shall not be affiliated with or operate any other program or organization or operate any other program.

## **Section 2**

The most current version of the Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Operating Policies as published by Little League International shall be binding on the Local League.

## **Section 3**

The local rules, ground rules and/or bylaws of the Local League shall be adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting to be held not less than one (1) month before the first scheduled game of the season, but shall in no way conflict with the Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Operating Policies of Little League International, nor shall they conflict with this Constitution. The local rules, ground rules and/or bylaws of this Local League shall expire at the end of each playing season and are not considered part of this Constitution.



## **ARTICLE VIII – FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING**

The Board of Directors shall decide all matters pertaining to the finances of the Local League, and it shall place all income in the Local League's common treasury, directing the expenditure of funds in such manner as will give no individual or team an advantage over those in competition with such individual or team.

## **ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may only be amended, repealed, or altered in whole or in part by a majority vote of sixty-six (66) percent of the Voting Members at a duly organized meeting, provided notice of the proposed change is included in the notice of such meeting. A draft of all proposed amendments shall be submitted to Little League International for approval before a vote of the Membership is held.

This Constitution was approved by the Local League Membership on 2/19/2024.

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