

INTRODUCTION TO BY-LAWS OF THE LOCUST GROVE RECREATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

"DEDICATED TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS OF OUR COMMUNITY"

The officers of the Locust Grove Recreation Association, Inc. ("LGRA") welcome and appreciate your active participation in this year's youth athletic program. The goals of your LGRA are: (1) to provide the opportunity for young people to engage in competitive sports; (2) to assist in the development of their mental and physical abilities; (3) to encourage and promote a sense of individual team spirit, and (4) to emphasize the principles of sportsmanship and fair play. To those goals, the officers of LGRA pledge their energy and effort.

LGRA is your organization. It is operated solely by volunteers who care enough to devote considerable personal time and effort to make it successful. It is also an expensive program. Insurance, equipment, game officials and facilities are essential costs, which cannot be eliminated. We need and solicit your active support in our many efforts.

We will endeavor to select our coaches carefully. We see men and women who not only know the game they are coaching, but who also have the patience and understanding that is essential to working with impressionable young people. We will not tolerate any physical or verbal abuse of players nor their public embarrassment. We will rigidly enforce the minimum-playing rule and will strongly encourage that the rule be exceeded.

We expect each coach, player, and parent to be treated with respect and dignity. We will encourage the best possible communication between coaches and parents. Only by open, honest and frank discussions can conflicts be reduced. We do ask, however, that parents minimize telephone calls at night to the homes of their coaches and or league directors. If you feel that you have reason for a personal conference with the coach or league director, please make every effort to confine these discussions to the ballpark before or after your game or practice.

Our athletic programs are competitive, emotional and exciting. They match individual and team abilities against each other. Some teams will win and some will lose. If we remain true to the goals we have established, then we need not be ashamed of either victory or defeat.

Our effort will be to maximize the participation and enjoyment in these sports and to minimize the conflicts and disputes. Simply stated, we want to teach these boys and girls to play and enjoy sports.

**BY-LAWS
FOR BASEBALL & SOFTBALL
LOCUST GROVE RECREATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization is the Locust Grove Recreation Association, Inc. ("LGRA")

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose of LGRA shall be to promote the welfare of and assist in developing the moral, mental, academic, and physical well-being of the youth of the greater Henry County, Georgia area through the organization and supervision of baseball and softball and providing fields, equipment, and direction or supervision for such activities.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

A. Membership in LGRA shall be made available without regard to race, color, creed, or national origin to any individual who subscribes to the objectives and basic policies of LGRA.

B. Only members in good standing shall be entitled to vote, coach, manage or hold office in LGRA. The majority vote of members present shall control.

C. No person affiliated with an athletic organization that stands to gain from the park in any way shall be eligible to serve on the Executive Board. Gains may include, but are not limited to financial benefit, preferential field access, discounted rates, or any other special privileges. Examples of such organizations include but are not limited to WOW Factor, Hard Knox, 27 Baseball, etc.

C-1. Individuals who serve solely as coaches, with no administrative, leadership, or ownership role within these organizations may be considered for an executive

role with LGRA. These individuals must undergo a thorough vetting process and receive approval from the Nominating Committee prior to being placed on the ballot.

C-2. If a coach passes the vetting process and is elected, but is later found to show favoritism or take actions which benefit their affiliated organization, they will be immediately removed from the board.

D. Members must attend a minimum of two (2) annual meetings AND be an active member for at least one (1) year (12 months) to be eligible for an elected position.

E. All main motions, resolutions or changes of standing rules shall be discussed as agenda items. Members may petition the Board in writing seventy-two (72) hours prior to the monthly Board Meeting to place items on the agenda. The Board must act on such petitions prior to the second meeting following submission of petition.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

The regular meeting shall be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at such place as determined by the Board of Directors.

Special meetings shall be called by the President whenever s/he shall deem necessary or whenever s/he shall be called upon to do so by a majority of the members of the Board of Directors.

The President will be in charge of the meeting and will call upon each commissioner to report at a given time during the meeting.

All meetings will be conducted in accordance with parliamentary procedure (Robert's Rules of Order), which shall govern LGRA in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws and any special rules of order LGRA may adopt.

ARTICLE V

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Nomination

A. There shall be a nominating committee composed of five members comprising of two executive board members and three association members. The president shall appoint the members of the nominating committee one month prior to the election. The committee shall elect its own chairman.

B. The nominating committee shall nominate an eligible person for each office to be filled and report its nominees at the regular meeting in November at which time additional nominations may be made from the floor.

C. Only those persons who are present at nomination and/or election and have signified their consent to serve, if elected, shall be nominated for election to office.

D. No husband and wife shall serve on the Board as President and Treasurer at the same time.

Section 2. Directors and Their Election

A. Officers (Directors) shall be elected by ballot in the month of November. However, if there is but one nominee for any office, election for that office may be by voice vote.

B. Officers (Directors) shall assume their official duties beginning December 1 of the same year for a term of two (2) years. They may serve for as many consecutive terms as elected.

C. Newly elected officers must be willing to work with incumbents for the remainder of the year, beginning December 1 of that year.

D. Members must serve a minimum of two (2) years (24 months) to be elected President or Vice President.

E. Officers (Directors) can be removed from office prior to his/her term expiring. Removal of an officer requires a majority vote of the Executive Board, the president only votes in the case of a tie.

Section 3. Vacancies

A person elected by a majority vote of LGRA with approval by the Board of Directors shall fill a vacancy occurring in any office for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1

A. The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of LGRA and will consist of Baseball Commissioner and Softball Commissioner; and the Executive Board consisting of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

B. The Board of Directors shall plan the calendar of events of LGRA, interpret the bylaws, and present its recommendation to the membership for approval.

Section 2: Duties of the Board of Directors

1. To transact necessary business between meetings and other business as may be referred to by the organization.
2. To create committees.
3. To approve the plans of work of the committees.
4. To attend a monthly meeting of the Board of Directors prior to the regular monthly meeting.
5. To determine the ability of a participant to pay registration fees on a confidential basis after strict investigation.
6. To approve all coaches and appointment of assistant coaches.
7. To suggest the teams' sponsor fee for each sport annually and recommend the purchase of a plaque for the sponsor by the team.
8. To determine fees to be charged for each sport and/or age group.

ARTICLE VII

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The President shall preside at all meetings of LGRA and at all meetings of the Board of Directors. S/he shall exercise general supervision over the interests and affairs of this organization, subject to the direction of the Board of Directors, and shall have the duty of promoting the purposes of this organization. The President will vote only in case of a tie.

The Vice-President shall act as second in command to the President. The Vice President shall control practice and game scheduling. This can include assigning scheduling duties to a board member or members. A board member who is a coach of a team or a parent of player on a team is prohibited from assuming scheduling duties of the respective sport.

Baseball Commissioner

1. Shall assume the responsibility of all baseball-related activities.
2. Must be present at all meetings and report on all activities concerning baseball.
3. Shall be present at all related meetings.

Softball Commissioner

1. Shall assume the responsibility of all softball-related activities.
2. Must be present at all meetings and report on all activities concerning softball.
3. Shall be present at all related meetings.

Secretary

1. Must be present at all meetings and will record the minutes of all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors. S/he shall have a current copy of the bylaws. S/he shall perform all other duties given to them from the Board of Directors.
2. S/he shall provide a copy of the minutes to all Board of Directors.
3. S/he shall notify all Board of Directors prior to called meetings.
4. A copy of the last month's minutes must be available for the membership to review at the next regular meeting.

Treasurer

1. Must be present at all meetings and have custody of all funds of LGRA. S/he shall keep an accurate account of receipts and expenditures and shall make disbursements as authorized by the Board of Directors.
2. Shall present a financial statement at every meeting and at other times when requested by the Board of Directors and/or membership.
3. Shall receive or collect all fees, dues and other monies constituting the revenue of this organization, which shall be deposited in such a manner as is designated by the Board of Directors. S/he shall disburse these funds in the manner authorized by the Board of Directors. His/her accounts and books shall at all times be open to the inspection of the Board of Directors and any auditor authorized by the Board of Directors, or called for by the membership.
4. Monthly reports and annual reports shall be presented at meetings and given to the Secretary and President, and must be available to the

membership for their review.

5. Treasurer's and President's signatures are required on all checks disbursed.

ARTICLE VIII

MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. Basic Policies

A. Coaches:

1. Shall select their team parent.
2. Shall select their assistant coach or coaches subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.
3. Shall be responsible for preparation of playing fields prior to his/her game. S/he shall be responsible for storage of equipment at the conclusion of the game, such as bases and lime machine. If another game follows, then the last game coach will be responsible for storage of all equipment in the proper place.
4. Shall be responsible for all equipment and supplies issued to them, such as uniforms, keys and all equipment, which will be turned in to the appropriate commissioner no later than two (2) weeks from the conclusion of the season. Failure to do this will result in their being held liable for equipment at the discretion of the Board of Directors and going before the Disciplinary Committee to determine their status as a Coach with LGRA.
5. Shall issue all necessary uniforms and equipment for participants to engage in said sports activities.
6. Shall attend all practices and ensure that all actions should promote the sport.
7. Shall teach all players to respect the dignity of the game, officials, opponents and the institution which they represent.
8. Shall be in control of his/her players at all times in order to prevent any unsportsmanlike acts toward opponents, officials, opponents and the institution which they represent.
9. Use of profanity will not be tolerated during league games, practice games, or practice sessions.
10. Use of tobacco products and/or alcoholic beverages on playing fields or dugouts will not be tolerated. Violation of Policy 10 or 11, Article VII, Section I, will result in immediate suspension from that game with the Board of Directors being notified. Second occurrence will result in manager or coach being released from LGRA as to the discretion as recommended by the Disciplinary Committee.
11. Any coach being ejected from a game shall serve a one game suspension for the team's next game (including tournament games). If

ejected again, the coach shall serve a two game suspension for the team's next two games (including tournament games). Subsequent ejections will result in disciplinary action as determined by the disciplinary committee.

12. Coaches will be responsible for providing practice equipment, including but not limited to: tee (if age-appropriate), practice balls, catcher's gear (if age-appropriate).

13. Complete required background check and Code of Conduct.

B. Team Parent

1. Complete required background check and Code of Conduct.

2. Shall handle the payments for team and individual pictures, should the team decide to have them.

3. Shall work with the coach to determine other team responsibilities or needs.

C. Players

1. Use of profanity, tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drugs or violence on field, dugouts or premises of LGRA will not be tolerated. Violation will result in a penalty to be determined by the Board of Directors as recommended by the Disciplinary Committee.

2. Misuse or deliberate damage to any property or facilities of LGRA will result in suspension subject to the discretion of the Board of Directors as recommended by the Disciplinary Committee.

D. Registration

1. Birth certificate or copy will be required for registration.

2. At least one parent or guardian of a participant must be a member in good standing of LGRA. The membership fees are to be determined by the Board of Directors.

3. Anyone deliberately altering eligibility of any participant will be immediately released from LGRA, and the coach will be subject to a lifetime ban from LGRA.

4. The number of players registered in any age group will determine the number of teams formed. Maximum number of players will be thirteen (13) with the minimum number being the number of players required to fill the team. **Disclaimer: this rule may be changed by a majority vote of the Board and affected coaches.**

5. All registration fees must be paid in full by the end of registration. See Article VI, Section 2, A, 5.

6. Returning players must sign up within the first two weeks of registration to receive first consideration on the roster.

E. Playing Field and Equipment

Use of any field for practice or other use including use of lights will be only by authorization from the Commissioner of said sport.

F. General

1. No team shall have individual funds and/or fundraisers except those:
(a) Approved by Board Of Directors, membership and Henry County Parks & Recreation; and, (b) Have satisfied the Board with LGRA fundraisers.
2. Spectator interference, harassment or intervention with a coach, player, umpire or disruption of the games will result in the removal of said spectator from the premises by the proper authorities. Continued violation will result in a penalty imposed at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

G. Player Freeze and Assignment Rules

Recreational Teams: A team that has 6 or less freezes to their roster will receive the rest of their players via random assignment set up by LGRA.

Select Teams: Any team that has 7 or more freezes to their roster will be considered a Select team. This is NOT based on the talent of the players. There will be no random assignment of players for these teams. These teams need to bring a full roster of players.

Section II. Complaint Procedures

A. Parent or guardian complaints shall be handled in the following order by:

1. Manager or head coach of the respective team.
2. An appeal to the Commissioner of that sport.
3. An appeal to the Disciplinary Committee.
4. If dissatisfied with the decision of the Commissioner and/or Disciplinary Committee, the parent/parents may appeal to the Board of Directors in writing.

B. Manager/coaches' complaints shall be made to the Commissioner of that sport. If dissatisfied with the decision of the Commissioner, the manager/coach may appeal to the Board of Directors in writing. If the complaint involves a team directly associated with the respective commissioner, the complaint shall be made to the Vice President.

C. Disciplinary Committee will be composed of the respective Commissioner and two peers from baseball/softball, and two alternates in case one of the committee members are involved in such a matter. The Disciplinary Committee members will be elected at the first regular meeting after sign-ups are conducted. They will have an open meeting with all parties involved to determine if disciplinary

action is necessary. If disciplinary action is deemed necessary, a meeting will be held consisting of Board and Disciplinary Committee to determine disciplinary action. The decision of this meeting is final.

D. Ruling by LGRA Board of Directors is final.