ORANGE LITTLE LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

(Revised November 2024)

ARTICLE I – NAME

This organization shall be known as ORANGE LITTLE LEAGUE, INC.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Orange Little League shall be to instill in the children of the community of the Towns of Orange, Woodbridge and Bethany, Connecticut strength of character, the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty and courage, patience, and perseverance so that they may achieve health, and happiness and progress toward maturity and in so doing, attain a full and complete appreciation of our democratic way of life. These objectives will be achieved by providing supervised competitive baseball/softball games.

ARTICLE III – STRUCTURE

(a) The Board of Directors of Orange Little League shall consist of the following: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Stand Operations, Communications Director, IT Director, Safety Officer, Facilities Director, Executive VP-Counsel (Executive Board), Vice President of Hardball, Player Agent of Hardball, Secretary of Hardball, Umpire in Chief of Hardball, Equipment Director of Hardball, Hardball Fund Raiser, Vice President of Softball, Player Agent of Softball, Secretary of Softball, Equipment Director of Softball, Umpire in Chief of Softball, Softball Fund Raiser, and the Vice President of Challenger Division. All of same shall be deemed Directors.

(b) There shall be three divisions: Hardball Division, Softball Division, and Challenger Division. The Hardball and Softball Division Officers shall be their respective Vice President, Player Agent, Fund Raiser, Equipment Director and Umpire in Chief. Each Division may select additional members of that Division by a majority vote of that Division. These individuals shall be deemed Members of the organization and accordingly be entitled to vote in the election of officers/directors/members at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE IV – GOVERNMENT

(a) The government of the Orange little League shall be under the supervision of the Board of Directors.

(b) The government of the Hardball, Softball, and Challenger Divisions shall be under the supervision of their respective Division Officers. Matters for which each division shall act upon include: selection of Managers and Coaches, scheduling of games, recruitment and scheduling of umpires and scorers, selection of rules committee, allocation of players and teams within the several leagues, distribution of playing equipment, maintenance of fields, All Star team rosters, and post season awards. Each Division shall hold separate meetings as set forth herein and all matters which receive a majority vote shall be presented to the Board of Directors, by the respective Vice Presidents, at the Boards next meeting, for approval by the Board of Directors (except as noted in Article VII (c)). Once said approval is granted, the respective Division may act in accordance with said approval.

(c) At least two months prior to the annual meeting the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of no less than five (5) individuals nor more than seven (7), provided that no more than three may be sitting officers/directors. One member of the nominating committee shall serve as its Chair and may vote on all matters.

The Nominating Committee shall be charged to present, at the annual meeting, a slate of Officers/Directors/members for the upcoming year as outlined in Article III and Article VII. The Nominating committee shall arrange to have notice sent electronically to all members at least six (6) weeks prior to the annual meeting and to have notice appear in the local newspaper(s) at least three (3) weeks prior to the annual meeting seeking candidates for all positions. The position of President shall, if possible, come from with-in the current Board of Directors to maintain continuity of the league's operations.

(d) The Nominating committee may interview perspective candidates prior to determining the slate, at their option. The process used by the nominating committee to pick the slate shall be determined by the nominating committee. Any member of the Nominating committee under consideration for a position in the annual election shall be excused from any and all portions of the process used by the nominating committee to pick their nominee for that position, including, but not limited to, interviewing and voting for the nominee for that position.

(e) The nominating committee shall release the slate of proposed officers/directors/members no less than seven (7) days prior to the annual meeting. Individuals wishing to run but not chosen for the slate by nominating committee may have their names placed on the ballot for a particular position by submitting to the nominating committee, with a copy to the League President, a request to be placed on the ballot for that position. Such requests must be received by the nominating committee or League President no less than four (4) days prior to the annual meeting.

(f) There shall be no nominations of officers/directors/members from the floor during the annual meeting.

(g) The nominating committee shall be charged with administering the election, establishing procedures not outlined herein, and tallying the vote. Said process/procedures shall be at the discretion of the nominating committee, but any candidate wishing to speak at the annual election shall be given the opportunity under guidelines set forth by the nominating committee.

(h) Officers/directors/members entitled to vote at the annual meeting may do so by way of absentee ballot. The Nominating committee shall prepare an absentee ballot and same shall be the exclusive method for absentee voting. The absentee ballot may at the discretion of the nominating committee be identical to any written ballot used for the election at the annual meeting, but must include the "slate" candidates as well as all candidates who have submitted their names for consideration pursuant to paragraph (e), above. All absentee ballots must be received by the Chairman of the nominating committee or the League President prior to the start of the annual meeting and must be signed and dated by the person so voting to be considered. Proxy votes shall be received by the Chairman or the President in a sealed envelope and shall not be opened until the tally of all votes at the annual meeting.

(i) In the event of a vacancy on the Board, the President shall, with the approval of the Board of Directors, appoint a suitable replacement for the remainder of such term.

(j) Elected officers/directors/members terms shall begin upon the close of the annual meeting, or upon the election of such officer/director/member if same does not occur at the annual meeting. Elected officers and directors terms shall end at the close of the annual meeting so long as a successor has been elected. In the event that no successor has been elected, officers/directors terms shall continue until a successor is elector. Rostered managers and members terms shall end following the annual meeting.

(k) There shall be no term limits for officers/directors/members.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

(a) An annual meeting of the membership shall be held in October each year for the election of the Board of Directors, officers, and members. Notice of the annual meeting shall be given no less than three days in advance, and such notice shall be sent to all members.

(b) Meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President at any time, but no less frequently than bi-monthly, and shall be called upon written request of at least three members of the Board of Directors.

(c) Separate meetings of the Hardball and Softball Divisions shall be held before the end of November for the selection of Division members. Additional Divisional meetings may be called by the Division Vice Presidents at any time or upon written request of at least three Division Officers and/or members.

(d) Notice of all meetings shall be given three days in advance, unless such notice is waived in writing, or electronically and such notices shall be sent to all Board members.

(e) A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum at any meeting (including the annual meeting) and a majority vote of those present shall govern, except when otherwise especially provided. The president shall be entitled to a vote to break a tie if necessary.

(f) Except as otherwise indicted in this Constitution, Robert's Rules of Order shall apply to all meetings and votes held.

ARTICLE VI – MANAGERS

(a) Managers of ALL teams, including, but not limited to regular and post season teams, shall be selected annually by the respective Divisions and approved by the Board of Directors.

(b) Managers will be selected upon the following criteria: knowledge of the game, coaching ability, character, integrity, manner of interacting with players and parents and ability to promote the objectives of Orange Little League as set forth in Article II. Managers shall also meet any specific requirements or restrictions imposed by Little League or the Fourth District of Connecticut.

(c) Managers will be responsible for the selection of their team and coaches and for their actions on the field. The Board of Directors has the right to disapprove of coach selection after such a recommendation by the respective divisions based on the criteria set forth in Article VI (b). Managers shall also comply with all requirements set forth by the Board of Directors.

(d) All rostered regular season managers shall be deemed members of the organization and accordingly be entitled to vote in the election of officers/directors/members at the annual meeting. In the event a person manages more than one team, he/she is only entitled to once vote. Any officers/director/member who also manages and/or coaches is only entitled to one vote.

ARTICLE VII – MEMBERSHIP

(a) 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.

(b) Members. Any adult person actively interested in furthering the objectives of the Local League may become a Member upon election as hereinafter provided. Members are subject to the background checks mandated by Little League. The secretary shall maintain the roll of membership to qualify voting members. Only Members are eligible to vote at Annual Membership Meetings. All officers and directors as set forth in Article III, Section (a) and members as set forth in Article III section (b) shall be deemed as Members. All regular season rostered managers shall be deemed Members. Their terms expire following the annual meeting as set forth above.

(c) The Board of Directors shall, by a two-thirds vote at any duly constituted meeting, have the authority to suspend or remove any member or member of the Board of Directors, manager or coach whose conduct is considered detrimental to the best interests of the league.

(d) Any board member who misses three (3) consecutive meetings is removed from their position. At the next board meeting, if the board member is present, the board member must either be re-voted into their position by a majority of the board or a replacement appointed.

(e) Members of the Board of Directors shall, upon evidence of the misconduct of any child, notify the manager of the team of which the child is a member as promptly as possible. Said manager shall appear, in the capacity of an advisor, with the child before a duly constituted meeting of the respective Division which shall have full power to suspend or revoke such child's right to future participation.

(f) The Board of Directors has established a separate written policy for handling complaints and all complaints shall be handled in accordance with said policy. Any Division bylaw, rule or otherwise is void if it is in contradiction with this policy.

ARTICLE VIII – FINANCIAL POLICY

(a) The Board of Directors shall decide all matters pertaining to the finances of the league and it shall place all income in a common league treasury, directing the expenditure of same in such manner as will give no individual or team or Division an advantage over any other individual, team, or Division.

(b) The Board of Directors shall not permit the contribution of funds to individuals or teams and shall solicit same for the common treasury of the league.

ARTICLE IX – RULES

(a) The Official Playing Rules and Regulations as published by Little League Baseball, Inc. shall be binding on this league.

(b) The local rules of this league shall be adopted by each respective Division and approved by the Board of Directors at a meeting to be held not less than one month prior to the first scheduled game of the season but in no way shall conflict with the rules of Little League, Inc.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

This constitution or any section thereof may be amended or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors present at any duly constituted meeting; provided that notice of such proposed changes shall be given to each member of the Board of Directors at least fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting at which such proposed changes shall be submitted to vote.

Adam Dinihanian, President

12/1/24
Date