

# Allston-Brighton Little League Inc.

## By-Laws

### ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization is the Allston-Brighton Little League, Incorporated (ABLL).

### ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

Allston-Brighton Little League (ABLL) is organized to:

1. Provide a safe and inclusive environment for youth baseball and softball participants.
2. Promote the development of fundamental baseball and softball skills.
3. Foster sportsmanship, teamwork, discipline, and respect for others.
4. Operate exclusively as a nonprofit charitable organization in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
5. Distribute all remaining assets to a qualified youth-serving nonprofit organization within Allston-Brighton upon dissolution.

### ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

1. Members of this organization shall consist of all persons identified by the Board of Directors as being active or supportive members of youth baseball in Allston-Brighton.
2. Members in good standing, as determined by the Board of Directors, may vote in League elections.
3. A \$10 annual contribution is required by October 1 of each year to establish voting eligibility. No cash donations will be accepted.
4. All League positions are volunteer and uncompensated.

### ARTICLE IV: VOLUNTEERS

1. All volunteers serving the League in any capacity, including Board Members, Managers, Coaches, and Coordinators, must complete a CORI screening, as administered by the local Area Office of the City of Boston Police Department, and any other background checks required by the organization at large.
2. Volunteers must attend League training sessions as applicable, including but not limited to: safety procedures, positive coaching workshops, and mandatory abuse prevention programs.

3. Each volunteer must annually complete and sign the Little League Volunteer Application and submit government-issued identification for verification. Volunteers supporting USA Softball programs may submit the corresponding USA Softball background check documentation and training verification, which will be accepted for relevant softball roles.
4. All volunteers must agree to and sign the [League's Volunteer Code of Conduct](#), which outlines behavioral expectations, communication standards, and disciplinary procedures for misconduct.

## ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### SECTION 1. General Duties

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of a minimum of nine (9) and a maximum of fifteen (15) members, including the Executive Board.
2. The Executive Board shall include the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
3. The Board of Directors shall meet no fewer than six (6) times per calendar year. A quorum is one-quarter of Board members.
4. All Board members must attend at least three (3) board or committee meetings per calendar year and actively serve on at least one standing or ad hoc committee.

### SECTION 2. Executive Officer Duties

1. **President:** Oversees the operations of the League, chairs all meetings, ensures compliance with Little League policies.
2. **Vice President:** Assists the President, oversees or delegates oversight of all committees, and supports tournament team administration.
3. **Secretary:** Maintains official records, prepares and distributes meeting minutes, and manages League correspondence.
4. **Treasurer:** Oversees financial matters, prepares financial reports, manages accounts payable/receivable.

### SECTION 3. Financial Management

1. The League shall adopt an annual budget, which must be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
2. A financial report shall be presented at each regular Board meeting and made available to members upon request.
3. All expenditures over \$500 must receive prior approval by the Board.
4. All League bank accounts shall require two authorized signatures.

## **SECTION 4. Financial Policies**

1. All reimbursements and receipts must be submitted within 6 months and approved by the Treasurer.
2. No Board member may authorize a payment to themselves without prior Board approval.
3. Annual financial statements will be reviewed by an independent party selected by the Board.

## **ARTICLE VI: ELECTIONS**

1. Nominations for the Board are accepted during the October meeting.
2. Elections are held at the Annual General Membership Meeting in November.
3. Members in good standing are eligible to vote.
4. Each elected term lasts for a period of three (3) years beginning December 1.
5. Vacancies on the Board are filled by appointment and ratified by majority Board vote.

## **ARTICLE VII: UMPIRES**

1. The Umpire-in-Chief shall be responsible for the recruitment, assignment, and training of umpires with approval from the Board.
2. In the event of a scheduling issue or absence, managers may mutually agree to appoint a substitute umpire.
3. Umpire fees shall be paid on a schedule agreed upon with each umpire. Payment may be issued by the Umpire-in-Chief or Treasurer, depending on League operations and delegation.

## **ARTICLE VIII: DIVISION AND NUMBER OF TEAMS**

### **SECTION 1. General Practice**

1. ABLL shall organize teams in accordance with the official Little League and USA Softball divisions and age groupings.
2. Any amendments to division alignment or team structure must be reviewed and approved by a majority vote of the Board.

### **SECTION 2. Local Rules and Ground Rules**

1. Each division may propose local rules, which must be submitted for Board approval prior to the start of the season.

2. Ground rules for each field must be communicated to all coaches and umpires before the season begins.
3. Each division will set up a meeting prior to the start of the season where all the ground rules, playing rules and particular problems will be discussed. Each year these rules will be reviewed by the Divisions.

## SECTION 3. Mandatory Play Rules

1. **Regular Season (Standard Lineup):** Every player listed on the lineup at the start of the game must play a minimum of six (6) consecutive defensive outs and bat at least once.
2. **Regular Season (Late Arrivals):** Players who arrive after the game has started must bat at least once but are not guaranteed six defensive outs.
3. **Tournament Play:** When using a continuous batting order (CBO), every player bats in the lineup regardless of defensive position; there is no minimum defensive play requirement under CBO rules.
4. **USA Softball:** When USA Softball rules differ from Little League minimum play rules, USA Softball rules take precedence.

## ARTICLE IX: COORDINATORS, MANAGERS AND COACHES

1. One Division Coordinator shall be assigned per division by the Board of Directors. A Coach or Manager may also be appointed as a Coordinator with Board approval.
2. Each team shall be assigned a Manager and at least one (1) Coach. A Coach may also be appointed as the team's manager with Board approval.

### SECTION A. Duties and Responsibilities

1. **Division Coordinators:** Serve as liaisons between the Board and divisions, responsible for field condition reports. Assist the Player Agent and Vice President in managing All-Star selections.
2. **Team Managers:** Responsible for player safety, communication with families, team discipline, and the care of equipment. Must be approved by the Board and have a minimum of one (1) year prior coaching experience.
3. **Coaches:** Must be approved by the Board and accepted by the Manager. Support the Manager in all team-related responsibilities and may serve as acting Manager when necessary.

### SECTION B. Conduct & Replacement Policies

1. No alcohol, drugs, tobacco or vaping products are allowed on or near the field or in dugouts during practices or games.

2. Inappropriate conduct or use of profanity may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or dismissal, as determined by the Board.
3. Replacements for vacant positions are appointed by the President or the Board as authorized.

## **SECTION C. Protests**

### **A. Filing a Protest**

Formal protests involving rule violations—not judgment calls—must be submitted in writing to the League within 24 hours of the game in question. Judgment calls made by umpires (e.g., balls/strikes, safe/out) are not eligible for protest.

### **B. Protest Committee**

The Protest Committee shall be chaired by the League Vice President and include the Division Coordinator(s) of the teams involved. If the protest concerns a game within a specific division, that Division Coordinator may participate in the hearing but must recuse themselves from voting on the outcome.

### **C. Review Process**

The Protest Committee shall meet promptly to review all relevant facts, including umpire reports and statements from the involved Managers. The committee will determine whether the protest has merit and recommend appropriate action.

### **D. Escalation to Board**

If the protest concerns an issue outside the scope of baseball rules or cannot be resolved by the Protest Committee, the matter will be referred to the full Board of Directors for review and resolution.

## **ARTICLE X: PLAYERS**

### **SECTION 1. Child Safeguarding Policies**

#### **A. Mandatory Reporting Requirements**

All personnel, including staff, volunteers, and affiliated individuals, are required to report any known or reasonably suspected incidents of child abuse, including but not limited to sexual abuse involving a minor, to the appropriate legal authorities within 24 hours or as soon as practicable. Reports must be made in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws.

#### **B. Non-Retaliation for Reporting**

The organization strictly prohibits any form of retaliation against individuals who, in good faith, report suspected child abuse or cooperate in related investigations. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, intimidation, harassment, adverse employment action, or any other form of

discrimination. Violations of this non-retaliation policy will result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination or dismissal.

### **C. Prohibition of One-on-One Interactions with Minors**

To ensure a safe environment for minors, one-on-one interactions between adults and minors are prohibited unless conducted within an observable and interruptible distance from another adult. Exceptions must be approved in advance by authorized leadership and must include appropriate safeguards. This policy applies to all organizational programs, events, and activities involving minors.

## **SECTION 2. Player Conduct**

These by-laws are supplemental to, and must be interpreted in accordance with, the Official Regulations and Playing Rules of Little League Baseball, Incorporated. To ensure a positive, safe, and respectful environment for all participants, the following policies govern player conduct and the consequences of infractions during Allston-Brighton Little League activities:

### **A. General Expectations**

All players are expected to:

- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and respect toward teammates, coaches, umpires, and opponents.
- Follow the rules of the game and league.
- Refrain from any conduct detrimental to the team, league, or community.

### **B. Infractions and Penalties**

<b>Infraction</b>	<b>First Offense</b>	<b>Second Offense</b>	<b>Third Offense</b>
<b>Use of Abusive or Inappropriate Language</b>	Verbal warning from umpire or coach	1-game suspension	Subject to Board disciplinary review
<b>Bullying (verbal, physical, or online)</b>	Warning from umpire or coach, and board notification with parent meeting	2-game suspension	Subject to Board disciplinary review
<b>Smoking, Vaping, or Use of Tobacco Products</b>	Immediate ejection by umpire or coach	Immediate ejection and 2-game suspension	Subject to Board disciplinary review
<b>Unsportsmanlike physical conduct (e.g., assault, spitting, punching,</b>	Immediate ejection by umpire or coach and 1-game suspension	Immediate ejection and 2-game suspension	Ineligible for remainder of season, including tournaments, subject

or other violent behavior)			to Board review
<b>Throwing Equipment in Frustration</b>	Immediate ejection by umpire or coach and 1-game suspension	Immediate ejection and 2-game suspension	Ineligible for remainder of season, including tournaments, subject to Board review
<b>Ejection from Game by Umpire (for reason not outlined above)</b>	Official warning by Board or league official	3-game suspension	Ineligible for remainder of season, including tournaments, subject to Board review

**Temporary Removal:** In cases where an incident involves multiple players, the Board of Directors reserves the right to temporarily remove any or all involved players from attending practices or games while the matter is under review. This may be done to preserve team morale and ensure a safe, respectful environment.

**Off-Field Misconduct:** Players who engage in inappropriate or disruptive behavior outside of official League activities but within League facilities (e.g., dugouts, fields) may be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension.

### C. Player Withdrawal and Tournament Eligibility

1. A player who voluntarily withdraws from a team may be ineligible for League play for the remainder of the season, subject to review and potential exception by the Board of Directors due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., family emergency, medical condition)
2. Any player who has been suspended for multiple infractions during the regular season may be deemed ineligible for All-Star or Tournament play. Final eligibility is subject to a vote by the Board of Directors.

### D. Uniform Policies

1. All players are required to wear the full League-issued uniform—including pants, jerseys, and caps—during all games. Jerseys must be tucked in at all times to maintain a consistent and respectful team appearance.
2. Tournament players must return all issued tournament uniforms at the end of the season. Failure to return uniforms in good condition, or to reimburse the League for lost or damaged items (as determined by the Board), may result in ineligibility for participation in future seasons or tournament play.

### E. Dugout Access Policy

1. Only players on the team roster, officially assigned coaches, division coordinators and board members are permitted in the dugout during games and practices.

2. Parents and guardians are not allowed in the dugout unless specifically requested by a coach for medical, safety, or administrative reasons.
3. Violation of this policy may result in the individual being asked to leave the field area and, if repeated, could lead to game disruption or forfeiture.

#### **F. Enforcement & Appeal Process**

1. The Plate Umpire (Umpire-in-Chief) is responsible for enforcing conduct rules during games. League officials and the Board of Directors will review all reported infractions and may administer additional disciplinary actions as deemed necessary.
2. Players and/or guardians may submit a written appeal to the League President within 24 hours of a disciplinary decision. The Board of Directors will review the appeal and aim to render a decision within three (3) days, but no later than seven (7) days. All disciplinary decisions are final after appeal.
3. **Player Grievances:** Players or their guardians may bring concerns to their Division Coordinator. If unresolved, the Coordinator will elevate the issue to the Board. A representative will be assigned to speak on behalf of the player during Board review.

### **SECTION 3. Player Draft and Protection Policy**

#### **A. Player Protections**

1. A manager or coach can protect their own child, a sibling, or the sibling of a team member.
2. Protected players must be picked by the **4th round**. If not, they can be drafted by any team—unless managers agree otherwise based on skill level.
3. If more than one player is protected, the manager may need to use earlier round picks to keep those protections. This will be decided before the draft.

#### **B. Trades**

1. Trades after the draft are allowed but must be:
  - a. Done within 48 hours,
  - b. Fair for both teams,
  - c. Approved by the Division Coordinator, Player Agent and League President.
2. The Board can step in if there's any disagreement.

#### **C. Late Registrations**

1. Players who register after the draft will be placed by the Division Coordinator, usually on teams that need players or balance.
2. Requests to be placed on a specific team after the draft won't be honored.

#### **D. Conflict of Interest**

1. Managers and coaches must be open about any personal relationships with players.

2. The League can adjust teams if a conflict gives one team an unfair advantage.

#### **E. Final Say**

1. The Division Coordinator and League President have final say on draft issues. Any major concerns go to the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE XI: REMOVAL OF A LEAGUE MEMBER**

### **SECTION 1. Process**

In the event that a Coordinator, Coach, Manager, Volunteer, Umpire, or Official – elected or appointed – is found to be not satisfactory in the performance of duties, that person can be removed from membership in the League.

The steps for removal will be handled as follows:

1. A statement of charges will be presented to a full meeting of the Board of Directors. In cases where Board Members are involved, they will temporarily step down from their office. The individual subject to the charges will be invited to appear but is not required to be present for the hearing to proceed.
2. A full hearing of all facts pertinent to the situation will be heard, after which time the Board will vote for a solution to the case. The solution must carry a majority vote.
3. A written summary of the discussion, as well as a written description of the solution will be entered into the records of the meeting and a copy provided to the person(s) being considered for removal.
4. In serious violations, the President or Board of Directors can temporarily suspend such persons from further League membership, pending an investigation by the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE XII: PLAYER CONCERNS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCESS**

### **SECTION 1. Representation of Players**

If a player has an issue with a League official, including coordinators, managers, coaches, umpires, volunteers, or representatives of another League (e.g., during All-Star or Tournament play), the Division Coordinator—or their designated assistant—shall serve as the player's representative in addressing the matter.

## SECTION 2. Resolution Process

The Board of Directors encourages that all player concerns be resolved at the Coordinator level whenever possible. However, if further action is necessary, disciplinary measures—including removal from the League—may be taken in accordance with the procedures outlined in Article XI.

## SECTION 3. Hearing Representation

The Division Coordinator is responsible for representing the player during any formal hearing or review related to the incident.

## SECTION 4. Temporary Suspension

In cases involving serious rule violations or conduct issues, the President—or a Board member with delegated authority—may impose a temporary suspension on the player, pending a formal review by the Coordinator or a hearing before the Board of Directors.

# ARTICLE XIII: TOURNAMENT SELECTION

1. Tournament selections must comply with the Official Little League Tournament Rules.
2. Each Manager may vote for players within their division based on attendance, effort, performance, sportsmanship, and positional needs.
3. Coordinators and the Player Agent shall oversee the process to ensure fairness and transparency.
4. Alternates will be selected but not notified unless required.

# ARTICLE XIV: SAFETY OFFICER AND SAFETY OVERSIGHT

## SECTION 1. League Safety Officer

The League shall appoint a Safety Officer as a member of the Board of Directors. The Safety Officer is responsible for overseeing all aspects of player, volunteer, and spectator safety in accordance with the **League's ASAP Safety Plan** and Little League guidelines.

The Safety Officer may delegate specific safety-related responsibilities to Division Coordinators, who will assist with monitoring and reporting safety issues within their respective divisions. However, the Safety Officer retains ultimate responsibility for ensuring that safety protocols are implemented and followed League-wide.

## **SECTION 2. In-Game Safety Authority**

During games, the Umpire-in-Chief or appointed coach shall have the authority to stop play if there is a safety concern affecting players, coaches, umpires, or spectators. The Umpire-in-Chief or appointed coach may consult with managers, League officials, and spectators as needed, but shall make the final determination regarding the continuation or suspension of play in the interest of safety.

## **ARTICLE XV: SCHEDULES**

The game schedule will be made up by, and distributed through, the League Coordinators. All scheduled games for the season will be played in all Divisions, where possible. Rainouts, canceled games, suspended games or postponed games must be rescheduled as soon as practicable, subject to field availability.

## **ARTICLE XVI: AWARDS**

All awards shall be determined and granted at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE XVII: EQUIPMENT**

All equipment for a team will be checked prior to the start of a game by the umpire. This equipment must meet Little League standards.

There shall be at least four (4) helmets per team to be carried with the equipment.

All coaches will maintain and be responsible for equipment issued.

Respectfully submitted by the Board of Directors,  
ALLSTON-BRIGHTON LITTLE LEAGUE, INCORPORATED

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Kevin Cleary, President