

SALEM LITTLE LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – NAME

This organization shall be known as Salem Little League referred to herein as the Local League or SLL.
League ID Number: 02211515

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVE

SECTION 1

The objective of Salem Little League is to allow the children of Salem, MA a safe place to play baseball or softball without regard to race, gender, or ability to pay. Our goal is to have the players learn sportsmanship, respect for authority and develop friendships that last a lifetime.

SECTION 2

To achieve this objective, SLL will provide a supervised program under the Rules and Regulations of Little League Baseball Inc. Directors and members shall bear in mind winning games is secondary to the players learning and simply playing the game.

In accordance with section 501-c-3 of the Federal Internal Revenue Code, SLL will operate exclusively as a non-profit educational organization providing a supervised program of competitive baseball and softball games. No part of the earnings shall benefit any private individual. Salem Little League will not attempt to intervene or participate in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1

Eligibility. Any person interested in active participation to further the objectives of SLL may apply to become a member.

SECTION 2

Members.

(a) Player Members. Any player meeting the requirements of Little League Regulation IV shall be eligible to participate. Player members have no rights, duties or obligations in the management or in the property of Salem Little League.

(b) Regular Member. Any adult person who has a player member and or unless qualified as stated in this article in Section 2, Part c, who is actively interested in furthering the objectives of Salem Little League may become a Regular Member. The secretary shall maintain the roll of membership to qualified voting members.

(c) Only Regular Members in good standing are eligible to vote at General Membership meetings, these individuals shall be considered **‘Voting Members’**. **‘Good Standing’** will be defined as an individual who has attended at least 50% of the prior year’s regularly scheduled **General** SLL meetings. A regularly scheduled general meeting, which is not cancelled in advance, but upon arrival, does not have a quorum to conduct official business, will still count as a meeting when determining if a member met the 50% threshold. Volunteers who assist at 2/3 of league wide non-game events (i.e. in-person registrations, league winter clinics, etc.) during the SLL year will receive a one meeting attended credit toward reaching the threshold to be considered in **‘good standing’** (2019). The SLL year defined as October through September (2008). The outgoing president shall have a one-year exemption.

(d) Regular member of Salem Little League automatically includes all current managers, coaches, volunteer umpires, board members and any person recognized by the Board as a volunteer in SLL.

(e) As used hereafter, the word ‘member’ shall mean ‘regular member’ unless otherwise stated.

(f) Any volunteer of SLL which includes managers, coaches and Board of Directors who leave SLL voluntarily or are removed involuntarily, must apply for reinstatement to the current SLL Board to exercise their right to run for or be appointed for a board position. This rule does not remove their right to vote should they attend the requisite number of meetings to qualify to vote. (2018)

SECTION 3

Other Affiliation.

(a) Any member should not be actively engaged in the promotion and/or operation of any other baseball/softball program during the Salem Little League season.

SECTION 4

Suspension or Termination/Death

(a) In the event of the resignation, illness, removal or death of a member of the Board of Directors, the balance of the board will elect a replacement member. The process shall be to open the office to the voting members for nominations at the next scheduled meeting. If an existing board member is nominated to the vacant position, he/she must first resign their present position to be eligible for the vacancy, forfeiting all rights as a board member. The Board of Directors will then elect the new member(s) by majority vote. If no voting member is nominated, the Board may appoint the new member. The President may call a special meeting for this purpose.

(b) In the event of the resignation, illness, removal or death of the League President, the office shall be opened to a current member of the Board of Directors and elected by a majority of the voting membership at the next regularly scheduled general meeting. Most senior vice President shall assume the duties of President until a replacement is elected.

(c) In the event of a vacancy, the President, or in his absence, the Executive Vice President, may opt to nominate a person to fill a board vacancy (or manager vacancy) via email to the board for a vote via email. This process shall allow all board members to have their vote heard, versus attempting to have a quorum on a short notice, short agenda, special meeting. The President can also nominate up to 3 non-voting Special Assistants to the board via email as well. Should a board member not know enough about the candidate being voted on, they can choose to not vote by email. A vote to approve or deny the appointment can only be achieved if a quorum is achieved by vote.

(d) Complaints from outside sources concerning SLL personnel should be directed to either the President or appropriate league director. Upon evaluation of the complaint, either party should notify the Board of Directors for further discussion. No action, investigation or otherwise shall take place without the approval of the Board and without notification of the person in question.

(e) The Board of Directors shall have the authority to discipline any member whose actions they deem detrimental to Salem Little League. In the event time constraint prohibits notification of the board, the President along with the appropriate Vice-President and league director can discipline any volunteer, but must, within 24 hours make a full report to the board.

(f) Managers/coaches failing to live up to their responsibilities, such as attending scheduled meetings and behaving in an appropriate manner can be subject to disciplinary action by the Board which may include revocation of voting rights and/or dismissal. Before any manager/coach is dismissed, he/she is entitled to a hearing before the board.

(g) Player agent, working with the league director shall be responsible for any issue concerning a player that cannot be resolved by the team manager. Any disciplinary action taken against a player, such as suspension will be reported to the player agent and league director (2017).

ARTICLE IV – GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

SECTION 1

Definition. A General Membership meeting is any meeting of the membership of the league.

SECTION 2

Notice of Meeting of General Membership shall be posted on the SLL website and facebook page seven days in advance of the meeting, setting forth the place, time and purpose of the meeting.

SECTION 3

Quorum. A quorum for a regularly scheduled meeting shall be as follows: 50 percent of the membership, or: 50 percent of entire Board of Directors (elected and appointed combined), or more than 50 percent of the elected Board of Directors. (2019)

SECTION 4

Voting. Only Voting Members, as defined in **Article 3, Section 2, part c**, shall be entitled to make motions and vote at General Membership meetings. The Board may invite and recognize guests for presentations and comments during General Membership meetings.

SECTION 5

Absentee Ballot. A voting member who cannot attend the annual election, an absentee ballot may be requested and obtained from the Secretary of the League. It must be returned in a sealed envelope prior to the election.

SECTION 6

General Membership meeting shall be held monthly or as deemed necessary by the Board. Nominations for all offices shall be held at the August monthly meeting (2015). A voting member will run for a specific position on the board (2009). If an eligible person cannot attend the nomination meeting, they must notify the President of their intention prior to the meeting.

(a) Board positions shall consist of a President, up to three Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Player Agents, Safety Officer, Coaching coordinator and League Directors (2017). The President can nominate up to 3 non-voting Special Assistants, who are then approved by the current Board of Directors. Once approved, Special Assistants can attend Board meetings in a non-voting capacity (2019). Any division with 4 or more teams will be required to have a director. Any division with 3 or less teams will be directed by the Vice-President of that league. If a division grows greater than 10 teams as assistant director will be authorized. (2018)

(b) Elections will be held the first meeting in September, term to run October 1st to September 30th each year to match fiscal year (2015).

(c) Only voting members are eligible to hold office (see definition of a voting member under Article 3 Membership). Should a position not be filled by a voting member running for that office, the incoming President can nominate a non-voting member to the position, with the Board of Directors approving that nomination (2019). It is preferred, but not required that the office of President be a non-manager. A manager can run for President only with approval of the board (2006).

(d) The secretary will record attendance at each monthly meeting and be the sole arbiter in determining if a member has attended enough monthly meetings to vote and/or run for the board.

(e) A manager cannot be a director in their own league, with the exception of T-Ball and lower levels of baseball/softball (2012).

SECTION 7

Special General Membership Meetings. Special General Membership meeting may be called by the Board of Directors at their discretion. Notice will be posted at least 5 days prior to the meeting on the SLL website and Facebook page.

ARTICLE VI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1

Authority. The management of the property and affairs of SLL shall be vested in the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2

Vacancies. Refer to Article III, Membership, Section 4.

SECTION 3

Board members.

(a) Board of Directors will appoint a Director of ‘Fall-Ball’ (2016).

(b) Coaching coordinator shall be appointed by the board (2017).

(c) League directors shall address issues in their division. Managers who need assistance shall request it from their director first. If the director is unavailable, the manager shall contact their vice-President. If the vice President is not available, manager shall contact the President.

(d) A board member involved in managing or coaching a team on the field cannot act in their capacity as a board member if an issue arises during that game. He/She would report any issue in the same manner any other manager or coach would.

(e) Board members can vote via email in one-off situations as motioned by the President, Executive Vice-President, or Treasurer in matters such as appointing vacancies, immediate expenditures needing board approval, etc. This vote by email can speed up the process, eliminating delays in calling a meeting, achieving a quorum, etc. Should a board member not know enough about the situation being voted on, they can choose to not vote by email. A vote to approve or deny the motion can only be achieved if a quorum is achieved by vote. Vote via email cannot be used in any volunteer disciplinary situations.

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

SECTION 1

Definition. All committees, with the exception of the Rules Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. The chairman of each committee shall make a report during the leagues monthly meeting

SECTION 2

Rules. The Rules Committee shall take proposals for new rules during September and October meeting (2015).

(a) Individual divisions will hold a meeting prior to December to discuss and vote on all new rule proposals for that division. Approval means that proposal will be eligible to be voted on by the General Membership for final approval (2006, 2012, 2015).

(b) Any rule proposal for T-Ball, Farm Baseball and Minor Softball will be discussed and voted on by the board. Approval means the proposal will be passed to the General Membership for final approval.

(c) Rules pertaining to the league, or constitutional items will be discussed and voted on to be passed to the General Membership by the Board. For a constitutional change proposal to reach the voting membership for a vote, it must pass the terms prescribed in **Article X - Amendments** (2019).

(d) For a playing rule to pass onto the General Membership for final approval it must first be approved by the majority of the managers in that league. This applies only to Major Baseball, Major Softball and Senior Softball. Managers who cannot attend the meeting may still vote on any rule proposal brought up at the September and October meetings. Results should be recorded by the league director (2006).

(e) Managers eligible to vote must have either managed a team in the league the previous season or been newly appointed as a manager for the upcoming season.

(f) Approved rules changes must remain in effect for two years after being approved unless the Board determines the rule to be detrimental to the league (2015).

SECTION 3

Finance. The finance committee shall accept proposals from the General Membership and shall submit, as soon as possible, at the end of each fiscal year a program for raising funds for the coming year. The program is to explain in detail the means and methods used in raising the funds.

(a) All members shall support the finance committee in the implementation of all programs. Investment of Little League funds other than day-to-day expenditures must be approved first by the finance committee and then by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 4

Equipment. The Equipment Committee shall keep an inventory of all equipment and issue adequate amounts to the managers of each team. Managers must sign for all equipment.

(a) At the end of the season, the committee will inspect all equipment for needed repairs and/or replacement. All requests for repair or replacement will be made to the Finance Committee and orders will be placed as early as necessary.

(b) All equipment used shall fit Little League specification. Any bat or glove may be used, regardless of whether it says "Little League Approved", as long as it falls under the Little League guidelines.

(c) Uniforms that are being used for the next playing year must be returned at the end of the season in good condition allowing for normal wear and tear. Players who do not return uniforms or who do not make payment for lost or damaged uniforms will not be allowed to play in the system the following season (2012).

SECTION 5

Draft and Registration. The draft and registration committee shall be responsible for conducting registrations, tryouts, drafts and clinics. Two days will be scheduled for league tryouts. (2012, 2016)

(a) All players, including players who have played in the system the previous year, must register during the times set forth by the draft and registration committee. The Board of Directors has the authority to make exceptions to address issues such as illness, new residence, or a lack of adequate advertisements of registration dates.

(b) New applicants must present documentation as prescribed in the Little League Rules, Regulations and Policies handbook for Residency and School Attendance Eligibility and Age Requirement. Donations will be solicited and accepted, but no applicant may be refused for failure to make a donation. (2012)

(c) Tryouts are mandatory for all draft-able players in all leagues. (2012)

(d) Prior to the tryouts, drafting managers shall be provided with a list of all candidates. All new sign-ups

eligible to be drafted into the Major League must attend tryouts for the Major League. (2006)

(e) Managers shall be provided with appropriate player evaluations. Minor Baseball, Farm Baseball, Minor Softball, and Major Softball, at the close of the season, review the ability and attitude of the players for whom they were responsible. Players shall be graded according to a system prescribed by the draft and registration committee and a written report shall be filed with the League Directors. No information shall be given out to any persons outside of Salem Little League.

(f) Annual registrations will be conducted in January, February, and March. (2006)

SECTION 6

Public Relations. The Public Relations Committee will be responsible the liaison between Salem Little League and the local community. Press releases, both print media and online must first be approved by the league President.

(a)Public Relations Committee also is responsible for parade day and annual team/individual pictures.

SECTION 7

Concession Stand. Concession stand manager is responsible for buying and stocking of food and supplies, working the stand, cleaning of the stand at the beginning and end of the season, and getting paid or volunteer help during course of the season. Pay rate to be determined by board

ARTICLE VIII – AFFILIATION

SECTION 1

Charter. The Charter Committee of Little League Baseball Inc., Williamsport PA. on December 7th, 2011 approved the request allowing Salem American League and Salem National League to be merged into one league with a single charter for the 2012 season and beyond. ‘The East Region Office shall monitor the growth and development of this league, and at such time that the growth, league numbers and player/team numbers dictate, divisional format/status may be enforced.’ Signed Corey Wright, Asst. Eastern Region Director for Little League Baseball and Softball. (2012)

(a) Salem Little League will apply annually for a charter from Little League Baseball, and do what is necessary to maintain such charter. Salem Little League will not be affiliated with any other program or organization.

SECTION 2

Rules and Regulations. The Official Playing rules and regulations as published by Little League Baseball, Inc. Williamsport PA shall be binding on Salem Little League

SECTION 3

Local Rules and Bylaws. The local rules, ground rules and bylaws of Salem Little League shall be adopted by the Board of Directors no later than the general meeting held in February, and cannot be in conflict with rules regulations and policies of Little League Baseball Inc., nor in conflict with the constitution. Local rules, ground rules and/or bylaws of Salem Little League expire at the end of each fiscal year and are not considered part of this constitution.

ARTICLE IX – FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING

SECTION I

Authority. The Board of Directors shall decide all matters pertaining to the finances of the League and shall place all income in a common league treasury, directing the expenditure of funds in such a manner as will give no individual or team an advantage over another.

SECTION 2

Solicitations. The board shall not permit the solicitation of funds in the name of Little League Baseball Inc., unless all funds raised are placed in the League treasury.

(a) Individual team fundraisers are not allowed. Any violation of this rule shall result in immediately disciplinary action by the Board of Directors, which may include reprimand or dismissal.

SECTION 3

Compensation. No director or member of SLL shall receive, directly or indirectly any salary or compensation from the league for services rendered as Director, Officer or member. Reimbursement will be given for any approved expenditure by the treasurer with a receipt.

SECTION 4

Fiscal year. The fiscal year for Salem Little League begins October 1st and ends Sept 30th.

SECTION 5

Dissolution. SLL may be dissolved by a 2/3rd vote of the members of the Board of Directors at any special meeting of the League, provided an attempt is made to notify all members known to be in good standing of proposed dissolution. Notice of proposed dissolution, shall be posted for 2 successive weeks on the league website and facebook page.

(a) Upon dissolution of the Local League and after all outstanding debts and claims have been satisfied, the members shall direct remaining property of SLL to another Federally Incorporated entity which maintains the same objectives as set forth in Article II of this constitution which are or may be entitled to exemption under Section 501-(c)-(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or any future corresponding provision.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

(a) This constitution shall not be amended, repealed or altered, in whole or in part (heretofore known as changes or changed) until a 3/4 majority is reached by vote of the Board of Directors to first open the Constitution for discussion and potential changes. The ¾ majority shall be reached by a vote to those directors that are in attendance at a Board of Directors meeting. The vote to open the Constitution cannot occur without a quorum (see **Article IV – General Membership Meetings – Section 3 – Quorum**). If a ¾ majority as described above is achieved, subsequent proposals to change or amend the Constitution may move forward.

(b) Once opened, any changes properly motioned and discussed must then receive a 2/3rd majority approval vote of the Board of Director members in attendance to pass and move forward to be voted on by the voting membership as prescribed in **Article VII – Committees – Section 2 - Rules**.

(c) Any proposed change to the constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors, and must include the name and phone number and/or email address of the person submitting the change proposal. Change proposals to the Constitution by the General Membership must follow the rules process in **ARTICLE VII - COMMITTEES - SECTION 2—Rules**, with those proposals being submitted each September and October General Membership Meetings. The members of the Board of Directors may propose to open the constitution and propose and discuss a constitutional change at any time during the year, as deemed necessary, as long as it follows guidelines set forth in **Article X – Amendments – a) and b) as stated above**.

(d) The Constitution shall remain open until the Board of Directors votes to close it. The vote to close the Constitution shall require a quorum (see **Article IV – General Membership Meetings – Section 3 – Quorum**) and a simple majority of the Board of Director members present.

This Constitution was last approved by the Salem Little League Membership on: January 8, 2020

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