

Aurora Little League Baseball/Softball

By-Laws

I. NAME

The league shall be known as “Aurora Little League Baseball, Inc.”, hereinafter referred to as the “League”, a local independent recreational baseball/softball league. The League has been established as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Indiana.

II. MISSION

Aurora Little League is an independent, non-profit youth organization. The League is made possible by volunteers, sponsors, and participation fees within the Aurora community. The goal of the League is to provide the community with an exceptional educational athletic organization that provides enjoyment and satisfaction by all.

The League is committed to:

- Providing a quality instructional program that teaches fundamental skills, tactics, and strategies for the game;
- Preparing the youth athlete for participation at the next level of play;
- Increasing the skill knowledge with safe healthy techniques and providing safe non-threatening environments;
- Supporting the ideal that the winning of games is secondary to the molding of exceptional citizens;
- Promoting and developing core values such as respect, teamwork, sportsmanship, courage, effort, and commitment that will benefit their futures and the communities in which they live;
- Establishing standards of participation for all volunteers, board members, coaches, officials, athletes, and spectators;
- Encouraging a positive atmosphere by showing support and patience for all athletes and volunteers;
- Creating a culture in which volunteers, coaches, parents, officials, and athletes work together to achieve our mission.

We understand that volunteers and parental support make this program possible for the youth in our community and look forward to working with you.

III. MEMBERSHIP

Any parents or guardians of active players, active team or division sponsors, or active volunteer adult leaders, shall be considered members of the League. For purposes of this provision, “active” shall mean actual participation during the prior season. Membership is restricted to those who are at least eighteen (18) years of age and excludes anyone who may have been specifically banned from the League by its Board of Directors.

The League shall not discriminate based upon age, sex, gender, national origin, race or religion.

IV. POLICIES OF LEAGUE

A. Welfare of Young People

It shall be the policy of the League to conduct its activities so that the physical and moral welfare of the young people for whose benefit it is organized shall remain paramount and all matters of policy shall be determined on that basis.

B. Conflict of Interest

No person who is a member of or who is employed by or who is any way connected with the League shall receive any personal financial benefit therefore beyond the reasonable value of services in carrying out the purpose for which the League has been organized.

C. Sponsors and Advertising

(1) In order to secure suitable and adequate financial backing to carry out the purpose of the League, it shall be the policy of the League to permit only such sponsorship as is consistent with the purpose for which the League is organized and to select sponsors who are interested in the League solely or principally as a means of contributing to the welfare of young people.

(2) It shall be the policy of the League to prohibit any direct advertising of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products in connection with the League or any of its programs. It shall further be the policy of the League to prohibit the use or consumption of alcoholic, tobacco or any prohibited substances during any League function including, without limitation, games.

D. Managers/Coaches & Players

All League managers/coaches and players shall promote and maintain good sportsmanship at all times, including at all League practices, games, and any additional League functions. Managers/coaches shall comply with the Duties and Responsibilities section of the League's current year Safety Manual and any additional League rules set down by the Board. Managers/coaches shall treat all League officials and umpires with courtesy and respect. Players are expected to treat all coaches, League officials, and umpires with courtesy and respect.

E. Disciplinary Guidelines

Enforcement of playing rules at League games shall be the sole responsibility of the umpire(s) who have been assigned to the game. Enforcement of additional League conduct rules shall be brought before the Ethics Committee by the President or any Board members present at the game. For any incidents regarding a player, the Player Agent shall inform and consult with the Ethics Committee.

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The League Board of Directors has mandated the following Code of Conduct. All coaches and managers will be required to sign a statement acknowledging that he or she understands and agrees to comply with the Code of Conduct. This must be on file with the current year League Secretary.

Aurora Little League Code of Conduct:

No board member, manager, coach, player, or spectator shall, **at any time**:

- Lay a hand upon, push, shove, strike, or threaten to strike an official.
- Be guilty of heaping personal verbal or physical abuse upon any official for any real or imaginary belief of a wrong decision or judgment.
- Be guilty of an objectionable demonstration of dissent at an official's decision by throwing of gloves, helmets, hats, bats, balls, or any other forceful unsportsmanlike action.
- Be guilty of using unnecessarily rough tactics in the play of a game against the body of an opposing player.
- Be guilty of a physical attack upon any board member, official manager, coach, player or spectator.
- Be guilty of the use of profane, obscene or vulgar language in any manner at any time.
- Appear on the field of play, stands, or anywhere on the Little League complex while in an intoxicated state. Intoxicated Can be determined by an odor or behavior issue.
- Be guilty of gambling upon any play or outcome of any game with anyone at any time.
- Smoking while in the stands, or on the playing field, or in any dugout. Smoking will only be permitted in designated areas of the Aurora Little League Complex.
- Be guilty of publicly discussing with spectators in a derogatory or abusive manner any play, decision or a personal opinion on any players during the game.
- As a manager or coach, be guilty of berating or degrading a player, or opposing player, during the course of the game or practice.
- Speak disrespectfully to any manager, coach, official, or representative of the league.
- Be guilty of tampering or manipulating any league rosters, schedules, draft positions or selections, official score books, rankings, financial records or procedures.
- Challenge an umpire's authority. The umpires shall have the authority and discretion during a game to penalize the offender according to the infraction up to and including expulsion from the game.

In addition to the immediate ejection from the current game, the coach, player and/or fan will receive the following suspension and penalties:

1. 1st offense: suspension for the next team game.
2. 2nd offense: suspension for one calendar week and the suspension of one game of the child of the coach, parent, or guardian involved.

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3. 3rd offense: suspension for the remainder of the season.
4. 4th offense: lifetime expulsion from the League.

If the offense occurs in the last game of the season, the proscribed suspension will be effective for the following season or the next season that the violator participates in.

The Aurora Little League Ethics Committee will review all infractions of the Code of Conduct. Depending on the seriousness or frequency, the board may assess additional disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the league.

The coach, parent, or player may appeal to the league President. After investigating the facts and circumstances surrounding the misconduct, the league President may overrule the proscribed suspension or continue with the penalty assessed by the Ethics Committee. (If there is a conflict of interest for the President, the Vice-President may act on his behalf). The President's decision can then be appealed to the League Board where a majority vote must be obtained in order to alter the ruling.

V. ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

There shall be an annual membership meeting in August or September of each year, the time and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors. Notice of such meeting shall be made upon at least ten (10) calendar days notice, the manner of such notice to be determined by the Board of Directors in their sole discretion. Such notice, subject to Board approval, may be in the form of direct mailing, email, group text or such public media such as newspaper, television, radio, Internet, etc.

The Board of Directors may call special membership meetings from time-to-time with notice as provided by Indiana law.

Only those persons who are members of the League (see "Membership" above) and personally present at a membership meeting shall be eligible to vote at that meeting; there shall be no proxy voting. A majority of those present and eligible to vote at a membership meeting shall be required to conduct business, including the election of Board members. There shall not be any quorum requirements for a membership meeting, either annual or special.

A Board member must introduce any items for the membership meeting agenda.

VI. EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Executive Board of Directors of the League, hereinafter referred to as the "Board", shall be drawn from existing members of the league and elected by the membership at the annual meeting for the terms and in the manner provided for as follows:

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The Board shall consist of not less than one (1) nor more than fifteen (15) persons. The term for each Board member elected at the annual meeting is one (1) year. All members of the Board shall be eligible for reelection.

The prior Board shall determine, immediately prior to the annual membership meeting, the total size of the Board for the following year.

A quorum for the conducting of all business, except as specifically otherwise set forth herein, shall be at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the Board.

The Board, in its discretion, may remove any Board member upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Board sitting at the time such issue is brought before the Board for vote. For purposes of removing a Board member, the quorum required to conduct such business shall be increased from fifty-one percent (51%) to sixty-six and two-thirds (66.66%).

The Board may fill any vacancies on the Board at any regular Board meeting by a majority vote thereof.

At its first meeting following the annual membership meeting, the Board shall recognize its executive officers for that year. These officers shall include the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Player Agent. Other Board members as elected at the previous membership meeting shall also be recognized. Other Board members shall include a Safety Officer, Coaching Coordinator, Field Maintenance Coordinator, and Equipment Manager.

The Board shall meet at least quarterly or as often as needed to handle league business. The time and place for such meetings shall be determined by the President and shall be made known to all members of the Board upon at least 1-day's notice by means of group text, email or phone calls. Any Board member may attend a Board meeting; however, membership participation shall be at the discretion of the Board. Furthermore, the Board may convene in executive session to discuss or resolve such matters, which the Board, in its discretion, believes, should be handled confidentially.

Board members may carry written proxies for non-attending Board members for specific votes.

The Board shall have full authority and discretion to make all policies, set budgets, and implement the on-going business of the League consistent with the bylaws. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Board shall have the power to:

- Purchase or otherwise acquire for the League any property, right or privilege which the League is authorized to acquire, by the price of consideration and upon such terms as the Board may deem appropriate;
- Determine the composition of a sub-committee to deal with the particulars of tournaments sponsored by the League;
- Determine who shall be authorized on behalf of the League to sign bills, notices, receipts, acceptances, endorsements, checks, releases, contracts, and any other instruments. Without any further action by the Board, the President and Vice President are so authorized.

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- Delegate any of the powers of the Board to any agent of the League with any powers as the Board may see fit to grant;
- Suspend, discharge, bar or otherwise discipline any member, manager, coach, player, parent, league official, umpire as well as other related people as needed without refund whose conduct is considered detrimental to the best interests of the League (see Disciplinary Guidelines below);
- Set registration fees and award scholarships;
- Generally do all such lawful acts and take actions as may be necessary and proper.

VII. FINANCIAL POLICY

The Board shall decide all matters pertaining to the finances of the league, bearing the responsibility to conduct the financial affairs of the league in a prudent business-like manner. The Board shall institute policy relative to the preparation and acceptance of an annual budget, and periodic and annual presentation of financial reports, and an annual audit of the books of the League.

No officer shall be permitted to expend, on any particular item or task, more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) without a budget line item or prior Executive Board approval.

VIII. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The League recognizes the following as duties assigned to the Board positions:

President - Apart from all other considerations, sound leadership, couched in knowledge, experience and common sense, is the greatest requirement and most exemplary qualification of the man or woman selected as President of a Little League.

While efficient organizational and administrative abilities are desirable credentials, the search for good leadership must transcend all other attributes in the adult who gives direction to the Little League movement in the local community. Dedication to the goals and purpose of Little League is inherent in the volunteer aspect of those who serve, but not everyone who serves is gifted with the quality of leadership. Presidents must reflect these qualities if they are to be of benefit to children.

The President has many responsibilities in the administration of the league. Each President is elected by, and is accountable to, the local league board of directors. Duties of a President are described within the limits of the rules and regulations, and within the local league constitution, giving each President the ability to oversee the affairs of all elements of the league.

As the chief administrator, the President selects and appoints managers, coaches, umpires and committees. As such, no person becomes a manager, coach, umpire or committee member without the approval of the President. However, all appointments are subject to final approval by the local league's board of directors. This applies to both regular season and post-season (All-Star) League teams.

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**Importantly, the President is the officer with whom Little League International maintains contact. The President also represents the league in the District organization as well as any local leagues.

The President should be the most informed officer of the league. Each President must know the regulations under which the League operates and binds all members of the league to faithfully observe the regulations. The League President reserves the right to recommend the League to remove any officer who does not carry out the terms of their position.

Beyond the requirements of league administration, the President should personify the best public image in reflection to the community at large. Each President should take an active role in gaining support and winning friends for the league program.

The President presides at league meetings, and assumes full responsibility for the operation of the local league. The President receives all mail, supplies and other communications via the mailing address. A President may manage, coach or umpire, provided he/she does not serve on the protest committee.

The President will oversee the Board of Ethics Committee but will not have a vote as to the outcome of any and all decisions made by this committee. The President must also remove himself/herself from any and all decisions where a conflict of interest may be involved.

Vice-President - The Vice-President presides in the absence of the President, works with other officers and committee members, is ex-officio member of all committees, and carries out such duties and assignments as may be delegated by the President. A vice President may manage, coach or umpire, provided they do not serve on the protest committee.

Secretary - The Secretary maintains a register of members and directors, records the minutes of meetings, is responsible for sending out notice of meetings and maintains a record of league's activities. The Secretary also helps the Player Agent with registration and record keeping.

Treasurer - The Treasurer signs checks co-signed by another officer or director (or as directed by the local league's constitution), dispenses league funds as approved by the board of directors, reports on the status of league funds, keeps local league books and financial records, prepares budgets, and assumes the responsibility for all local league finances. The Treasurer should communicate frequently with the President regarding the leagues financial state.

Player Agent - The Player Agent conducts annual tryouts, is in charge of player selection, assists the President in checking birth records and eligibility of players and generally supervises and coordinates the transfer of players to or from the Minor Leagues according to provisions of the regulations of Little League Baseball. Separate Player Agents may also be selected to oversee individual divisions within the league.

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The Player Agent must not manage, coach or umpire in the division over which he/she has authority, without local board approval.

Safety Officer - The Safety Officer coordinates all safety activities including supervision of ASAP (A Safety Awareness Program), ensures safety in player training, ensures safe playing conditions, coordinates reporting and prevention of injuries, solicits suggestions for making conditions safer, and reports suggestions to Little League International through the ASAP system.

Coaching Coordinator – The Coaching Coordinator will oversee a preseason meeting between the managers at each league level to discuss the rules for the level along with the procedures for any protest to be heard. The Coordinator will also make sure that game reports are completed by the managers for each game.

Field Maintenance Manager –

- Maintains the operation and safety of the fields and other facilities
- Organizes the purchase of field maintenance products
- Responsible for the marking of fields at league events
- Schedules volunteers to help with field preparation during league tournaments and other league events
- Maintains equipment in safe working order

Equipment Manager –

- Maintains the operation and safety of any and all equipment used by players or coaches before or during games
- Organizes the purchase of new equipment needed for each season
- Responsible for the inventory of such equipment
- Prepares team bags for each team in accordance with their level in the League
- Responsible for gathering equipment from each team at the end of each season

Sub Positions as needed:

Concession Manager (**recommended but not required**) -

- Maintains the operation of concession facilities
- Organizes the purchase of concession products
- Responsible for the management of the concession sales at league events
- Schedules volunteers to work the concession booth during league events
- Collects and reviews concession related offers including coupons, discounts, and bulk-purchasing opportunities
- Organizes, tallies and keeps records of concession sales and purchases along with League Treasurer

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Sponsorship/Fundraising Manager (recommended but not required) -

- Solicits and secures local sponsorships to support league operations
- Collects and reviews sponsorship and fundraising opportunities
- Organizes and implements approved league fundraising activities
- Coordinates participation in fundraising activities
- Maintains records of monies secured through sponsorship and fundraising initiatives

IX. Teams, Try-Outs & Drafting

Teams - Each year, the board will decide the amount of teams for each level. This number will be based on factors such as, but not limited to, amount of players, manager and coach availability, and overall league talent level.

It is the goal of the League that each player will return to the same team and level of play from the previous year, unless age restrictions dictate moving to the next level. Players also have the option to move up a level via try-out (Majors and AAA) and/or being drafted. (If the player attends the try-out for the next level and does not get drafted, they would return to their previous team). If there is a request for a player to not return to their previous team, the parent/guardian can request a meeting with the President, Player Agent and Secretary to discuss this request. After hearing the request, this committee either can, grant the request and allow the player to return to the draft, or deny the request and return the player to their previous team. If the player is allowed to return to the draft, all other teams at that level would be eligible to draft the player and upon doing so, a trade must be worked out with the players' previous team. This trade will be completed between the managers for the two teams involved and overseen by the Player Agent. Players moving levels will not be awarded a request before the draft. However, if there are any issues that arise after the draft, the parent/guardian of the player may request a trade to a different team at the same level. Any trade requested in this situation must be offered to each of the other teams at the same level. Once a team is found to trade with, the trade will be completed between the managers for the two teams involved and overseen by the Player Agent.

Managers returning to the same level and managing the same team will be awarded no request for additional coaches (This will keep a team from adding players to their teams without going through the draft). Managers new to the level will be able to request a coach to be on their staff as long as players following that coach to the team are not from an existing team at that level AND are draft eligible. Any request made, must be approved by the President of the League. Any other coaches will be named after the draft.

Try-Outs - Try-outs will be held each year for players moving level or new to the League. The Major League try-out will be held first so as to allow any players not drafted and eligible for the AAA to be available for the AAA draft. AAA Managers and coaches are strongly encouraged to be in attendance for the Major League try-out.

Once the try-out for the Major League has been completed, the Managers and coaches for that level will gather at the appointed place to draft the players for their teams. The try-outs for the AAA will commence at the conclusion of the Major Level try-out. At the conclusion of the Major

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Level draft and the AAA try-out, the AAA Managers will be made aware of the players not drafted by the Major Level teams. These players will then be added to the pool of players available in the draft to the AAA teams, unless returning to their teams from the previous year.

Drafting– Drafting for the Major and AAA levels will be held after the try-outs as mentioned in the Try-Out section above. Drafting for all other levels will happen after the Major and AAA drafts and in order of levels (AA, A, Rookie). The drafting procedures for each level will be as follows:

- Drafting order will be set according to previous years standings (last to first). Rookie ball will be determined by drawing numbers for order.
- Whether or not a manager returns, if three or more players from the previous year’s team remain, the team will be considered a valid team and assigned a manager. If there are less than three players remaining, the team will be absorbed into the draft eligible players.
- Any trades will be completed only after all drafting for that level has been completed. If any complication or difficulties arise with trades, the Player Agent is responsible for final trade approval. If a conflict of interest or appeal is filed, the League Executive Board will make the final decision.
- Draft setup will be made by the Player Agent and will be made using a last to first, first to last format. Teams will be evened up in the middle rounds if at all possible (rounds 3-6).

E.G.

AAA					
Round 1	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	
Round 2	Team 4	Team 3	Team 2	Team 1	
Round 3	Team 3	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	even teams up....
Round 4	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	
Round 5	Team 4	Team 3	Team 2	Team 1	
Round 6	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	
Round 7	Team 4	Team 3	Team 2	Team 1	12 PLAYERS each team
Round 8	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	if needed 13 kids each team
Round 9	Team 4	Team 3	Team 2	Team 1	if needed 14 kids each team

- In the event that siblings are eligible in the same draft, the siblings must be rated by all managers before the draft can proceed. The average rating will determine what draft picks will be lost when drafting either of the siblings. (As there can be an unlimited number of situations for this type of situation, the Player Agent will have final say on the ratings of the players in question)

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E.G.

Smith family has two players eligible for AAA level (ages 10 and 9). After the try-outs, and before the draft begins, the managers for the 4 teams unanimously rate that Sibling 1 is a first round talent. Sibling 2 is rated by three managers to be a third round talent and the other manager rates Sibling 2 at a fourth round talent. By average, Sibling 1 is considered a 1st round Draftee and Sibling 2 is a 3rd round Draftee. As such, any manager drafting Sibling 1 now gives up their 3rd round pick as well and obtains Sibling 2 simultaneously. If that manager does not have a 3rd round pick then they will forfeit their next pick in the draft.

The spirit of the drafting procedures is to make the most balanced teams possible to make the League as competitive as possible at each level. Age and talent level must both be considered when drafting.

X. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be fixed by the Board of Directors from time to time, subject to applicable law. The initial fiscal year shall begin on January 1st and end on December 31st each year.

XI. Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the League members at the annual membership meeting.

XII. Indemnity

- (a) Any person made a party to any action, suit, or proceeding, by reason of the fact that he, his testator or intestate representative is or was a Director, Governing Board member, officer, or employee of the Corporation, or of any corporation in which he served as such at the request of the Corporation, shall be indemnified by the Corporation against reasonable expenses, including such attorney's fees actually and necessarily incurred by him in connection with the defense of such action, suit, or proceeding, or in connection with any appeal therein, except in relation to matters as to which it shall be adjudged in such action, suit, or proceeding, or in connection with any appeal therein that such officer, Director, Governing Board member or employee is liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of his duties.
- (b) The foregoing right of indemnification shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which any officer or Director, Governing Board member, or employee may be entitled apart from the very provisions of this section.
- (c) The amount of indemnity to which any officer, Director, or Governing Board member may be entitled shall be fixed by the Board of Directors, except that in any case where there is no such disinterested majority of the Board available, the amount shall be fixed by arbitration pursuant to the then existing rules of the America Arbitration Association.

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XIII. Discrimination Not Permitted

In rendering its functions and in exercising its purposes, the corporation shall not practice or permit discrimination on the basis of sex, age, race, national origin, religion, physical handicap, or disability.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THESE BYLAWS HAVE BEEN DULY ADOPTED THE ____ DAY
OF _____ 2018 BY CONSENT OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEAGUE AT
A SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING.

_____, President

_____, Secretary