

Camden Babe Ruth Association, Inc.

1. Ammended Articles of Incorporation

Article I

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be The Camden Babe Ruth Association, Inc., hereafter referred to in this document as the League.

Section 2. The period of this organization is perpetual.

Article II

This League shall be affiliated with Babe Ruth League Inc., a 501(c)(3) corporation, hereafter referred to in this document as the parent league and shall be governed by, and shall comply with the principles, rules and regulations enunciated and decreed by said parent League.

Article III

The principle operations of this League shall be in and about the town of Camden, county of Camden, and State of North Carolina, but may extend into such areas as provided for by the State, Regional, and National Headquarters rules and regulations enunciated and decreed by the Parent League.

Article IV

Section 1. The purpose of this League is to develop and operate a youth baseball/softball program in affiliation with the parent league, in conformity with and pursuant to the principles, rules and regulations enunciated by said Parent League. In conjunction with such purposes, the objective of the League is that through the medium of a supervised, competitive baseball and/or softball program, guided and governed by the parent league, this League will seek to implant in the youth of the community ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and reverence, so that they may be finer, stronger and happier youths who will grow up to be good, clean, healthy adults.

Section 2. The purposes for which the Camden Babe Ruth Association is organized are exclusively charitable and educational within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

Article V

This League shall have the following powers in addition to the powers expressly or implicitly conferred on it by law.

Section 1. To make and enforce rules and regulations to govern itself on a local basis, but consistent with and not contrary to any rules and regulations promulgated by the parent league, or by the Regional or State echelons of said parent league to which this League is subject.

Section 2. To enter into contracts to purchase materials and services as directed by the Board of Directors of the League and to hold and own any property acquired by such contracts.

Section 3. To solicit contributions from individuals and businesses in order to provide monies and materials necessary to operate the League.

Section 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this organization shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

Article VI

Membership in this League will be extended to anyone who agrees to abide by the rules, regulations and guiding principles as set forth by the parent league and this League regardless of race, creed or religion. The privileges of membership shall include the right to participate in all league events, the right to vote for members of the Board of Directors, the right to participate as a team staff member and the right to serve as a member of the Board of Directors, if elected. Members may also serve as volunteers to support the operations of the League.

The Board of Directors shall act as delegates for the membership in all matters pertaining to the operations of the League.

Article VII

Meetings shall be held to conduct business as it pertains to the League. These meetings will be called as required. Notification of called meetings will be by individual contact and/or public announcement.

Section 1. Regular Meetings:

Regular meetings are open to any and all members of the League. All decisions on issues not specified within this document will be made by the Board of Directors at these meetings.

Section 2. Annual Meeting:

The annual meeting will be held following the end of the regular season and prior to October 1 of the current season calendar year.

Section 3. Special Meetings:

Special meetings may be called by members of the Board of Directors to make decisions requiring attention prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting. Special meeting attendees may be restricted to members serving on the Board of Directors if the issues being discussed are related to the actions of individual League members.

Article VIII

Amendments to this document may be made only by a two-thirds majority vote of the full Board of Directors. Proposed amendments may not be voted on at the same meeting in which the motion is made to amend this document.

Article IX

The Board of Directors shall be elected annually by the membership at the annual meeting as defined in Article VII, Section 2.

Article X

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall include the following officers.

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| 1. President | 5. Treasurer |
| 2. Vice-President | 6. Chief Umpire |
| 3. Softball Director | 7. Player Agent |
| 4. Secretary | |

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall include the following league directors. A maximum of three (3) directors per league/division will be elected.

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| 1. T-Ball/Junior Rookie League Directors | 5. Rookie Softball League Directors |
| 2. Rookie Baseball League Directors | 6. 10 & U Softball League Directors |
| 3. Minor Baseball League Directors | 7. 12 & U Softball League Directors |
| 4. Major Baseball League Directors | 8. 16 & U Softball League Directors |

Article XI

The Board of Directors may include the following standing committee chairpersons and coordinators.

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| 1. Concessions Committee Chairperson | 5. Fund Raising Coordinator |
| 2. Equipment Committee Chairperson | 6. Publicity Coordinator |
| 3. Field Maintenance Committee Chairperson | 7. Sponsor Coordinator |
| 4. Team Mom Coordinator | 8. Uniform Coordinator |

Article XII

To serve on the Board of Directors individuals must be a member in good standing of the League and be elected as outlined in Article I of the by-laws of the League. The term for all offices of the Board of Directors shall be one (1) year. The term shall run from October 1 through September 30 of each year.

Article XIII

To serve as a member of the Board of Directors or as a team staff member, individuals must be a member in good standing of the League.

Article XIV

The names and addresses of the initial trustees of the League are as follows:

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|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Keith Ward | 171 US Hwy 158 W, Camden NC 27921 |
| Larry Scheibach | 134 Beech Neck Rd, Shiloh, NC, 27974 |
| Zenas Jennings | 474 NC Hwy 343 N, Camden, NC, 27921 |
| Gordon Hansen | 152 Seymour Dr, Camden, NC, 27921 |

Article XV

Upon dissolution of the Camden Babe Ruth Association, Inc., all assets shall be distributed for the one or more purposes within the meaning of 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to a state or local government for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principle operations of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto subscribed our names this 31st day of August of 2001.

Witness: _____
(Keith Ward, President)

Witness: _____
(Larry Scheibach, Vice President)

Witness: _____
(Zenas Jennings, Softball Director)

Witness: _____
(Gordon Hansen, Chief Umpire)

By-Laws

Definition of terms:

1. Local League Rule – Any deviation from the rules of baseball/softball as defined by the official rules of baseball and the rules of softball as published by the parent league. The parent league must approve all local league rules in writing prior to their use during league games.
2. Local League Option – Any authorized deviation from the basic league structure outlined by the parent League. These options include, but are not limited to team selection processes, age divisions, all-star selection procedures, and all local league options specified within the parent league rules.
3. Local League Policy – Decisions made by the League Board of directors for the purpose of operation of the League. These policies may not violate any parent league policy.
4. League Season – The term beginning October 1st and ending September 31st in which the current Board of Directors are seated.

Article I - Elections to Board of Directors

At the meeting called for this purpose, the floor will be opened for nominations for each office. After a motion to close nominations for an individual office is approved, nominated individuals will be voted on by all League members present. A simple majority vote is required for election to each office.

Vacancies may be filled by a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors members present.

Article II - Duties of the Board of Directors

Section 1. Board of Directors – Develop league policies and exercise parent league options to operate the League in a way to provide fair and equal treatment for every player and team within the League. Interpret the rules in conformance with the guiding principles outlined in Article IV of the constitution.

Section 2. President - Oversee the operation of the League. Act as moderator at all league meetings. Coordinate with committee members for the purpose of ensuring that committee tasks are completed as scheduled. Act as Player Agent in the event that office is not filled.

Section 3. Vice-President - Assist with operating the league as directed by the president. Assume responsibilities of the office of President in the absence of the President.

Section 4. Secretary - Perform the administrative duties as required to operate the League. Attend and record the minutes at all league meetings and report the minutes of the previous meeting at all Board of Director meetings.

Section 5. Treasurer - Act in conjunction with the president in expending league funds as determined by the Board of Directors. Maintain records of receipts and expenditures. Make a full report of the league's financial status at each scheduled Board of Director meeting.

Section 6. Division Directors - Work with the other board members to ensure that their division complies with the rules, regulations and principles of the League and the parent League. Contact and coordinate the assignment of qualified coaches for the teams in their division. Oversee the formation of teams using standards set by the Board of Directors with the goal of

team equity throughout the division. Schedule umpires for all division games as required. Serve as a member of the protest committee when required. Act as a point of contact between the Board of Directors and the individual team managers.

Section 7. Committee Chairpersons - Oversee their committees to support the operation of the League as directed by the Board of Directors.

Section 8. Team Mom Coordinator - Act as liaison between the Board of Directors and individual team moms. Coordinate team mom's involvement in fund raising, pictures and concessions.

Section 9. Publicity Coordinator - Promote the League in the community using flyers, newspapers and radio.

Section 10. Chief Umpire - Act as central authority concerning umpire issues, protested games and rule interpretations. Provide training for new and returning umpires, coaches, managers and all other interested personnel as directed by the League President. Assist the Player Agent in any and all disputes concerning player assignment for all divisions.

Article III – League Member Suspension

The Board of Directors may suspend or expel any individual from the League for cause. This action shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the full Board of Directors. Once sanctioned as described above, the individual named in the action shall not participate in the league in any capacity other than that of a spectator for the remainder of the season. At no time may sanctions carry over to the next season.

Article IV - Meetings

Section 1- Regular meetings will be held to conduct League business at pre-determined intervals. All decisions pertaining to the operation of the League not specifically covered in this document will be made at these meetings. To be implemented, decisions will require a majority vote of the Board members present at any meeting called for the purpose of conducting business.

Section 2 - The League shall hold an annual meeting after the end of the regular season and prior to October 1st of the same year for the purpose of electing members of the Board of Directors. Public notice shall be given at least two (2) weeks prior to the date set for the election meeting. The Board of Directors shall fill existing vacancies after elections are held by a majority vote. Offices filled in this manner shall have the same duties, responsibilities and privileges as these offices when filled in the normal manner. All members of the board of directors other than the President shall have an equal vote in decisions made by the board. The President shall vote only in the event of a tie vote.

Article V – Age Divisions

The board of directors shall set the age divisions for league play. These age divisions must comply with the age rules imposed and the options granted by the parent League. Exceptions to these groupings will be allowed only in the case of handicapped children. A player's age shall be determined using the age chart provided by the parent league for the current season. The following age divisions reflect league age groupings.

T-Ball League	Ages 5 & 6 (subdivision of 12 & Under Baseball)*
Junior Rookie	Ages 5 & 6 (subdivision of 12 & Under Baseball)*

Rookie Baseball	Ages 7 & 8 (subdivision of 12 & Under Softball)*
Minor Baseball	Ages 9 & 10 (subdivision of 12 & Under Baseball)*
Major Baseball	Ages 11 & 12 (subdivision of 12 & Under Baseball)*
8 & Under Softball	Ages 7 & 8 (subdivision of 12 & Under Softball)*
10 & Under Softball	Ages 9 & 10 (subdivision of 12 & Under Softball)**
12 & Under Softball	Ages 11 & 12 (subdivision of 12 & Under Softball)**
16 & Under Softball	Ages 13, 14, 15 & 16 (subdivision of 16 & Under Softball)**

• Note: Players age entering this division shall be determined using the Baseball cut-off date.

** Note: Players age entering this division shall be determined using the Softball cut-off date.

Article VI - Registration

All players must register for league play prior to the registration deadline date. The deadline for player registration within each division shall be the close of the try-outs for that division. Player sign-ups will be taken after the deadline but will be placed on a team in their division only if an opening occurs. For the purpose of Article VI, an opening on a team shall be determined as follows:

1. Set maximum team size at draft as determined by the team with the most players after all players are placed on teams.
2. Any team with less than the maximum team size will accept new players until the maximum team size is reached.
3. After player numbers are balanced, late sign-ups will be placed on teams only if a team loses a player. Openings occurring after regular season play begins will be filled only with agreement of the manager of the team affected.

Assignment of new players will be done by random selection following the existing team draft order. Any attempt to manipulate this process by a manager, coach, parent or player may result in the immediate expulsion of said individual from the League for the remainder of the current season. Responsibility for assignment of new players will rest with the league president, vice president or player agent.

Article VII - Registration Fees

Registration fees must be paid at the time of registration. The Board of Directors shall set the registration fee amount. A late fee may be assessed for registrations after the last advertised sign-up date. A family discount will be offered as follows for players with the same physical address:

No registration fees charged for any number of players in excess of two. Uniform fees are not considered registration fees for the purpose of the family discount.

Article VIII - Player Suspension

Players may be suspended from league play by the Directors of the division in which they are rostered upon request from the manager of their team for disciplinary reasons or if asked to do so by the player's parent/guardian. The suspension may not last for more than one game. The Board of Directors may remove players from a team for continued disruptive behavior. No player may be removed from the league without a hearing before the Board of Directors. No hearing will be held without first inviting the team manager and the player's parent/guardian. Attendance of team manager and the player's parent/guardian are not required. Removal of a player from the League shall require a 2/3-majority vote of the board members present at the meeting called for this purpose.

Article IX - Field Decorum

The actions of managers, coaches, players, umpires, and league officials must be above reproach at all times. The use of tobacco, alcohol, or profanity in any form is strictly prohibited on the playing field, benches, or dugout. Anyone caught on the playing field, bench or dugout using tobacco, alcohol, or profanity in any form will receive the following penalty:

Alcohol: Immediate ejection from the playing field. A complaint will also be filed with local law enforcement. The Board of Directors may also enact whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary.

1st Offense – **Smoking:** Verbal warning with the League President and Division Directors being notified of such warning. **Profanity:** Immediate ejection from the playing field for the remainder of the current game.

2nd Offense – **Smoking/Profanity:** Immediate ejection from the playing field for the current game being played and automatic removal from the next assigned game.

3rd Offense – **Smoking/Profanity:** Immediate expulsion from the League for the remainder of the playing season. The League President and Director(s) for that division will be notified of the infraction

Note: Upon the ejection/removal of a Manager, Coach, or player, the Chief Umpire of the game being played will notify the official scorekeeper. The Score Keeper will enter the name(s) of the individual(s), player(s) uniform number, inning that the ejection/removal occurred, and the name(s) of the Umpire(s) involved into the official scorebook.

Article X - Umpire Assignments

Each Division's directors are solely responsible for the assignment of umpires within their respective division. When required and deemed appropriate, any current member(s) of the Board of Directors may be used to assist this process.

When approved by the Board of Directors, the league may provide monetary compensation for umpires within all divisions of baseball and softball with the exception of T-Ball/Jr. Rookie divisions. Only one paid umpire will be allowed for 10 & Under Softball, Rookie Baseball and 8 & Under Softball. Two paid umpires maximum will be allowed for all other age divisions.

The Board of Directors shall set the amount of compensation on a per game basis prior to the beginning of each regular season.

Article XI - Local League Rules

The following Local League Rules are in effect for each division cited. Addition of Local League Rules shall require an amendment to this document.

Rookie Division/8 & Under Softball: No team may score more than 5 runs per inning. Once the offense has scored 5 runs, the offensive side is retired and the defensive side is then allowed to bat. Upon scoring the 5th run, the ball is dead and no further runs will be recorded.

Article XII - Local League Policies

Section 1 – As a matter of hygiene, pets are not allowed at League events including, but not limited to, practices, games, fund-raising activities and tournaments.

Section 2 - Minimum Play Rule: All managers/coaches must ensure that all team members participate for at least two complete defensive innings and complete at least one "at bat" per game. This is not to include any player who is currently under a suspension as outlined in Article VIII or is injured/ill. Any suspended or injured/ill player will be identified prior to the beginning of the game and these conditions shall be noted in the official score book for that division.

If for any reason a team, with the exception of those games called or suspended by the Umpire in Chief for cause, does not allow the minimum playtime for any team member the following penalties will be imposed.

- 1st Offense: Manager's suspension for the team's next game (regularly scheduled or make-up). The player affected must begin the next game and play a minimum of 4 defensive innings and complete 2 at bats.
- 2nd Offense: Manager's suspension for the team's next game (regularly scheduled or make-up). The player affected must begin the next game and play a minimum of 4 defensive innings and complete 2 at bats. The Manager shall be removed from consideration as a tournament team manager.
- 3rd Offense: Manager's suspension from the league for the remainder of the season. The player affected must begin the next game and play a minimum of 4 defensive innings and complete 2 at bats.

If, due to time limits, suspensions by the Umpire or the 10 run rule, the game does not reach the maximum number of innings allowed, the minimum play penalties on the manager will not be imposed. However, players who have not played the minimum innings must start the next game and complete 2 defensive innings and 1 at bat. Failure to comply with this clause will result in the manager's suspension under the guidelines above.

Note: If the named manager of a team is not present for any league game, the responsible coach shall be noted in the official scorebook. For the purpose of this rule, if the manager of the offending team is not present for the game in which a violation occurs, the above penalties shall be imposed on the coach acting as manager.

Article XIII - Draft Processes

Purpose - In order to maintain team equity, the League will use the following draft process for player selection in the divisions indicated. A full draft will be held in all divisions which keep score during regular season. The purpose of the draft process is to provide a fair and equitable distribution of the experience level of players across all teams within each division. This encourages a more competitive division and increases the challenge to both the offense and defense in every game. Members of the League found to be attempting to manipulate the draft process in order to give one team an advantage shall be removed from the League for the remainder of the current season. This action will require a 2/3 majority vote of the full Board of Directors.

1. T-Ball:
Blind draw process based on age and sex to ensure team equity. Player trades are allowed to accommodate parent/guardian requests.
2. Rookie and 8 & Under Softball
Protection of players: No players will be protected from the draft process.

- a. Division directors shall conduct player try-outs. Experience levels shall be assigned to players on a scale of 1 through 5 (1- least experienced, 5 – most experienced).
- b. Players are assigned a random draft number.
- c. Draft slips are printed with only the player's draft number, age, sex and experience level. Sponsor's children are so noted.
- d. Division directors will sort players' draft slips into teams by fair and random distribution. Only 1 sponsor's child will be assigned per team.
- e. Teams are sealed in bags and assigned team numbers.
- f. At a meeting called for this purpose, coaches randomly choose a team.
- g. Trades are made for coach's children for a player of equal or higher experience level.
- h. After teams are selected, player information is released to the coaches. Player information will not be released until all teams have a coach.
- i. Players filling team vacancies will be assigned in a manner to maintain team equity.
- j. Player trades will not be allowed.

3. All other divisions:

Protection of players: Coaches children in the same division are protected from the draft process and are automatically assigned to the team their parent is coaching. Sponsors may name a coach for their team only if such action does not result in more than one (1) player being protected from the draft by any team. Sponsor's children will be placed on the sponsor's team unless otherwise requested. For the purpose of this rule, siblings are considered as one player.

- a. Try-outs shall be conducted by division directors with experience levels of players assigned on a scale of 1 through 5 (1- least experienced, 5 – most experienced).
- b. League officials group players by experience level on separate draft sheets.
- c. All teams must have coaches assigned prior to draft.
- d. At a meeting called for this purpose, coaches draft players in order by experience level beginning with the most experienced players' draft sheet. All eligible players must be selected prior to less experienced players becoming eligible for the draft. Siblings of previously selected players must be drafted as soon as they become eligible.
- e. The draft order will be set by a random draw of numbers. The draft rotation will begin with team 1 and continue in ascending numerical order through the last team. The draft order then resets to the last team and continues in descending numerical order (see following example). First Round: 1,2,3,4,5,6... Second Round: 6,5,4,3,2,1... This process will continue alternating ascending and descending order until all players are placed on teams. No team may pass on any round.
- f. Player trades will not be allowed.

Article XIV - Tournament Team Selection Process

At the end of regular season play, the League may enter one or more teams into tournament play as allowed by the Parent League. In order to ensure that the best eligible players are placed on each tournament team the following process will be followed:

- a. The manager position of each tournament team shall be offered to the first place team manager of each division. If the first place manager refuses the position, the offer is extended to the managers of each team within that division in order of placement during regular season play. If none of the regular season managers elect to manage the tournament team, the offer is extended to the staffs of the regular season teams in order of placement. The League reserves the right to select a manager if none of the above elect to manage the tournament team. This selection shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Parent League.
- b. Prior to the end of regular season play, the managers will determine which players from their team are able to support tournament team practice and game schedules. The league recommends that managers discuss the required commitment with the parents prior to any discussion with the players.
- c. The manager of each team shall nominate eligible players from his/her team that they feel are talented enough to be considered for a tournament team position. Team staff shall restrict tournament team discussions to the staff of their team only. Nomination of players is accomplished by submitting a list of the players to the designated league official.
- d. The league will prepare ballot sheets containing the names of all nominated players.
- e. At a meeting called for this purpose, team managers will discuss their nominated player's attributes. Only 1 designated representative from each team shall attend the meeting to select the tournament team players.
- f. After discussion of nominated players, the managers may nominate additional players from teams within their division if desired.
- g. Following discussion of new nominations, the managers will vote independently for the players that they feel would make the best team.
- h. The league shall count the votes. The players who receive the most votes will make up the tournament team for that division. The actual vote count will not be released. The tournament team manger will break tie votes prior to any announcement of the tournament team players.
- i. After verifying the player's availability, announcements of the tournament team players will be made by the division directors.
- j. Player nominations and discussions of any tournament team selection meeting will remain confidential. Managers who violate this confidence may be removed from the League.

Note: Individuals attempting to manipulate the tournament team selection process will be removed from the league for the remainder of the current season.

Tournament Team Age Divisions:

In order to assure the best possible tournament team in each age division and the maximum number of participants in tournament competition, as a local league option, the League will restrict the age of tournament team players as follows:

1. 10 & Under Baseball – 10 year olds only

2. 12 & Under Baseball – 12 year olds only
3. 10 & Under Softball – 9 & 10 year olds only
4. 12 & Under Softball – 11 & 12 year olds only
5. 14 & Under Softball – 13 & 14 year olds only
6. 16 & Under Softball – 15 & 16 year olds only

Note: If the league does not field an 11-year-old baseball tournament team, 11-year-old players may be eligible for the 12 & Under tournament team. If the league does not field a 9-year-old baseball tournament team, 9-year-old players may be eligible for the 10 & Under Baseball tournament team. If the league does not field a 14 & Under softball tournament team 13 & 14 year old players may be eligible for the 16 & Under softball tournament team.

Article XV - Financial Responsibility

The League President, in conjunction with the League Treasurer, will ensure the following:

Section 1 – Prior to the beginning of the practice season each year, the Board of Directors shall approve a budget submitted by the League President or his/her appointed committee.

Section 2 – Sufficient funds are available prior to assuming any financial obligation

Section 3 – All expenses are necessary for the operation of the League as determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 4 – All accounts payable and accounts receivable are current prior to the end of the League fiscal year (September 30).

Section 5 – All host tournament expenses must be repaid to the League general fund from tournament proceeds. All tournament revenue above expenses shall be applied to a separate accounting line designated for Tournament team uniform expenses as designated by the Board of Directors.

Adopted this day, March 1, 2001

Witness: _____

(Keith Ward, President)