

Constitution

of

Pyramid Baseball League, Inc.

DIRECTOR

JOHN HURLBURT -ELECTED 2005

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RICHARD SHRAMKO-APPOINTED 1998

MI CHAEL CURTO- APPO INTED 2005

FRED FERRONE-APPOINTED 2005

WOOD HALSEY -APPOINTED 2005

Constitution of Pyramid Baseball League, Inc.

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PYRAMID BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC

CONSTITUTION

PURPOSE: PYRAMID BASEBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED, herein known as PYRAMID, is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing baseball programs for players of ages 14 –19. PYRAMID provides league structured programs dedicated to teaching and re-inforcing the principles of leadership, , sportsmanship, loyalty and team spirit to all players, managers and coaches regardless of age, color, creed or gender.

ARTICLE I: BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SECTION 1: The governing body of PYRAMID is the Board of Trustees. This Board will oversee the CONSTITUTION and elect the League’s President each year. The President will serve one-year terms starting in January of each year. The Board must hold its election anytime between November 1st and November 30th of each year to choose the President for the next year. The vote of each Board of Trustee member must be provided in writing (e-mail is acceptable) to the League Secretary who will call for the vote during the time period and tally the votes. The vote is to be certified by the current League President. The League Secretary will then notify all League members the results of the election.

SECTION 2: The PYRAMID Board of Trustees, excluding the reigning President, is to be elected by a vote of the members of the Baseball Committee and the League President The Baseball Committee is comprised of one member from each “Senior Team” only. Each Senior Team shall have one vote and must be in the League for one full season before they are eligible to vote. The voting member from each Senior Team shall be provided to the League Secretary prior to or at the start of the first league meeting of each year. The Senior Team’s representative will serve on the Baseball Committee for one year unless a transfer of representation is provided in writing to the League Secretary. The Senior Representative must also notify the League of any designated substitute members who may be authorized to represent their Team in the event of their absence. ONLY the Senior Team representative or their designated substitute shall be permitted to vote on league matters.

SECTION 3The Board of Trustees shall consist of five members. Four members are to be authorized by a vote of the Baseball Committee each year. The League President is the fifth Trustee member, elected by the previous year’s Board. In January, the league President shall nominate individuals to each of the following four positions:

- League Secretary
- Senior League Commissioner
- Junior League Commissioner
- League Advisor
- The President shall issue his list of nominations to the Baseball Committee before December 10th of each year. The Baseball Committee shall vote to authorize or reject each of the Board’s Nominations no later than December 20. Authorization is to be granted by majority vote of the Baseball Committee and League President. The vote is to be certified

by the reigning League Secretary. The Terms of each Board of Trustee member, excluding the President, shall begin with notification of authorization by the Baseball Committee and President. The League President shall send this notification within 48 hours after the vote is completed.

Notes: (1) Any Baseball Committee member who fails to vote by the deadline will forfeit their vote. (2) If any nominated member of the Board fails to receive authorization, then that position is to be held open until the authorized members of the Board hold their first Board Meeting to discuss the open position. The new Board shall decide how to fill the position but must again receive ratification by the Baseball Committee and League President. (3) Other than the League President, no Board of Trustee members shall have a vote unless they are also a member of the Baseball Committee.

SECTION 4: The Baseball Committee shall meet at least once each month from February thru June. After that, meetings with the Baseball Committee shall be called at the discretion of the league President. Only the Baseball Committee can approve changes to the Constitution and must do so by a 2/3rds majority vote. All proposed changes must be provided in writing two weeks prior to a meeting.

SECTION 5: The Board of Trustees are responsible for the operations of the League. They are to provide recommendations to the Baseball Committee. Disputes within the five members Board shall be resolved by a vote of the Board members. The Board shall meet in January prior to the first Baseball Committee meeting. After that, Board Meetings are to be called by the President or with the agreement of at least two members.

The Board of Trustees also has the authority to form and fill Committees or individual positions as necessary. The Board shall assign responsibility of these ad-hoc positions/Committee's who will have reporting accountability to the League President.

SECTION 6: The Board shall have responsibility for :

. ARTICLE II: DIRECTOR

The duties of the Director are to manage the League and to establish playing rules for each division in accordance with the National Program Rules for each division.

SECTION 1: The Director will establish an organizational structure to run the League and/or Divisions. The Treasurer will report directly to the Director and will prepare and issue quarterly reports to be presented at League meetings. The Director will appoint Commissioners, County Coordinators, Division Chairman, Protest Committees, League Scheduler and other groups as needed.

SECTION 2: The Director will establish the franchise areas for each team in the League. These franchises will be either by Base School (American Legion and/or Community (AABC)).

The community is limited to Towns, Townships, etc. The divisions will follow the above outline to set up teams.

SECTION 3: Duties for each job listed above will be outlined by the Director and approved by the board on an annual basis.

SECTION 4: The Director is the final authority on all protest, See the protest procedures in Article IV.

ARTICLE III: LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

The games in the League will be played under the Sporting News Baseball Rules, All divisions 15 years and older will play American League Rules and Divisions 14 years and younger will play National League Rules. The League exception to the Sporting News Baseball Rules is the sliding rule. For the safety of all players in ALL Divisions, a base runner must slide to avoid contact when there is a play being made on the runner.

SECTION 1: Each team must supply a team Roster. Accident and Liability Insurance Certificate, players birth certificate, and other documents required by the team's division. No team for League play can have more than 18 players on their team roster.

SECTION 2: The games will be either 7 innings or 8 innings unless otherwise amended.

SECTION 3: All evening games will be scheduled to start at 6:00 PM. The forfeit time will be 6:15 PM. No inning shall start after 8:30 PM. No incomplete game shall be called before 8:30 PM except for rain or darkness Official games for a 7-inning game, Including day games, consist of 4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead or 5 innings if the visiting team is ahead. A league game called due to elements prior to becoming official as noted previously shall be postponed and completed at a later date. Games called due to elements after the completion of 5 innings will be official and will be recorded in the division standings as a win, loss or tie. Weekend games will be scheduled to start no later than 5:00 PM but teams may choose to start earlier. If the teams agree to begin their games before 5:00 PM, they must report the starting time to the league office one-week in advance of the scheduled game date.

SECTION 4: Visiting teams take the field for infield practice 15 Minutes before scheduled game time. No batting practice will be allowed on the field during this time.

SECTION 5: All doubleheaders must be 7 innings in the 13 through 18-year old divisions.

SECTION 6: In case of rain, the game should be called at least one and one half (1 ½) hours before game time. The home team must notify the visiting team manager, umpires and league officials.

SECTION 7: All tie games (must be official as outlined in Section 3) will count in determining the league standings. Winning teams will be awarded two (2) points, Losing teams zero (0) points and in tie games, each team receives one (1) point.

SECTION 8: Forfeit time is fifteen (15) minutes following the scheduled start time of any game. The league will pay the umpires' forfeit fee* Team that forfeits will repay the League

within 72 hours or all future games will be forfeited and will be subject to additional action under the constitution.

SECTION 9: Postponements must be rescheduled between teams within 48 hours. The game must be played within ten (10) days of postponement. If a home field is not available then another field must be used and the home team will remain as such. The home team will be responsible for rescheduling this game. If it is impossible for the teams to come to agreement on the rescheduling then the league will set the date, time and place. If the game is not played, the team who is not rescheduling per the league instructions will forfeit the game. In cases where neither team is able to play the game nor the league cannot fit the game in the regular season the Board will be required to make the final decision.

SECTION 10: When teams play under artificial lighting, the game will be carried to completion. In case of curfew on the use of artificial lighting, the rule under Article III section 6 will apply. The home team with artificial lighting must notify the visiting team and the umpires of the curfew time prior to the game.

SECTION 11: The teams with the most points will be the League representatives to the Tournaments under the PYRAMID structure. See Article VII for further detail on choosing division representatives.

SECTION 12: If any division has a tie in points for the divisional representation, the following rule will apply:

A. When two teams tie, a one game playoff will be played per instructions from the league office. If time does not allow for a playoff game the teams managers will meet with league officials. Teams will be matched by record for head to head play during the season. If there is still a tie, then the teams' score against each other will be matched. If there is still a tie than a coin toss will determine the winner.

B: When three teams tie, a two game playoff will be played. The seeding will be as follows: The team with the best record against the other two teams will be given a bye. This will be team 1. Teams 2 and 3 will play each other and the winner will play team 1. The winner of the second game will be the league representative to the Tournament. If there is no time to playoff games the following will be used with three teams:

1. Teams will be matched by record for head to head play during the season. If there is still a tie, then the team's score against each other will be matched. If there is still a tie between teams then league officials will have to utilize a coin toss to choose the winner. 3/19/91

Section 13: The home team will supply the balls for their home games.

Section 14: Umpires will be the responsibility of the home teams. Umpires for the Sr. and Jr. divisions must be carded with the State of NJ. Umpires for the 13-14 year old age division must be over 21 years of age and have umpiring experience. In the 12 year old age and below division, the Umpires must be 18 years or older. No parent will be allowed to umpire a game. If a parent umpires a game, the home team will forfeit the game.

A: The umpire's fee will be fixed by each division,

B: The home team will pay the home plate umpire the current fee and the visiting team will pay the field umpire the current fee. The fees will be paid at home plate prior to the start of the game,

C: If only one (1) umpire becomes available for the game the home team will be responsible for the total umpire fee. The fee is the current rate plus half of the current rate,

D: If no umpires show for the game, the game will be forfeited to the visiting team. This game WILL NOT be replayed at a later date and it will become part of the league standing,

E: If the visiting team or the home team does not show for a scheduled game, they will be responsible for the forfeit fee, as currently required, and the game will be forfeited to the team that is present.

*If a team fails to meet the umpire requirements as stated above, the game will be forfeited.

Section 15: Teams will be required to report their scores to the division chairman on a weekly basis. This will be used to establish the division standings.

Section 16: All teams in all divisions should have medical kits present on the field during the pre-game warm-up, during the game and after the game before the team leaves the park. All equipment used must be within League rules and National Program rules. Safety is the first rule for any team and its personnel.

Section 17: A team who uses an ineligible player will be subjected to one or more of the following penalties.

- A:** The forfeiture of all games that the ineligible player appeared in the scorebook,
- B:** Prohibited from postseason tournaments,
- C:** Removed and/or banned from play in the League next year. All games forfeited are subject to forfeiture rules and penalties.

ARTICLE IV: PROTESTS

Protests shall be handled in the following manner.

Section 1: All protests shall be in writing and must be made within 48 hours of the game. All protests and interpretations of the rules for the team's division shall be handled in the same manner. The written protest will be forwarded to the League Commissioner for the team's division with a \$50.00 check made out to the PYRAMID BASEBALL LEAGUE INC. The Commissioner will forward the protest to the Director who will assign it to a protest committee. The committee will be made up of three independent officials of PYRAMID. This group will

render a decision on the matter in seventy-two (72) hours.

A: The team may appeal the committee's decision directly to the Director. The team must submit in writing the reason for the appeal and check for an additional \$100.00 to PYRAMID BASEBALL LEAGUE INC. The Director can do one of the following:

1. Make a decision on the matter,
2. Call for meeting to hear the appeal

B: If on the appeal the decision is overturned the money will be returned to the team

ARTICLE V: SCHEDULING

Section 1: the League will determine all schedules. The division starting date will be set forth by April 1 of each year. The schedule will be given to each division for adjustment prior to May 1 of each year.

Section 2: Schedules can only be change for the following reasons:

- A:** School activity: i.e. Graduation, Prom, Sr. trip, school baseball team in State Tournament, etc.,
- B:** Availability of home field. This must be determined by May 1 or game will be played or forfeited to visitor.

Section 3: No game can be changed for a team to play in another league, outside tournaments, baseball showcases, baseball school or other related activity.* The final schedule must be followed after it is published. Team managers cannot change scheduled games. If a game is changed, both teams will be charged with a loss. Any change after the Commissioner of the division and/or The Director of the League must approve final scheduling.

Section 4: Forfeiture of League games, which have been scheduled, approved by all teams involved and finalized on the final schedule for the season will carry the following penalties:

- A:** For a first time forfeit by a team, a penalty of \$80.00 payable to the Pyramid Baseball League Treasury within 48 hours or before the team next League game. The penalty will be a second forfeit. See Section 4B,
- B:** For a team's second forfeit within the same season, a penalty of \$100.00 and the exclusion from post season play. See penalty See 4A,
- C:** For a team's third forfeit within the same season, a penalty of suspension for the rest of the league season. All remaining games on the schedule will be forfeited. The games played before the three forfeits will be removed if the team has not completed half of their season games. If after the mid-point of the season, the games played will count in the standings and the balance of the games will be forfeited. The suspended

team will have the opportunity to submit, in writing, reasons for the team to be retained in the league. The team, if reinstated, will post a \$500.00 bond with the league Treasurer and will be put on a 3-year probation period. Upon completion of the probation period, the bond will be returned to the team. If the team is sponsored by an American League Post, see Section 4D.

D: Any team that fails to complete the regular season schedule due to lack of players and removes themselves from the league incurs the following penalties:

- 1:** The team will be required to pay all fees as outlined in Section 4A-D,
- 2:** The team will forfeit its franchise in PYRAMID BASEBALL LEAGUE,
- 3:** The team can request re-entry into the league in writing no later than January 1 of the following year. If reinstated the team must post a \$500.00 bond. (See Sect. 4 C;) Another organization, however, can request the franchise in writing. If the team being removed is in the Sr. division and is an American Legion Post sponsored team, the Director will meet with the Post Commander and the County DEC to review the matter. Following this meeting the Director and the BOARD OF TRUSTEES will determine the eligibility of the team,
- 4:** If probation period is violated the Bond is forfeited. (See Sec. 4 A, B, C and D).

ARTICLE VI: INSURANCE

Section 1: Insurance must be carried by each team prior to April 15 each year. A certificate must be supplied to the League on that date. The certificate can be a copy of the original. The insurance must cover each player on the roster, manager, coaches, etc. The insurance for Sr. and Jr. divisions must be approved American Legion Insurance. The other divisions must be from A.A.B.C. Insurance. A team may use an outside carrier but must get approval from PYRAMID for teams in divisions 14 years and below. The team is required to supply the outside insurance carrier certificate by April 1 each year for approval by PYRAMID.

Section 2: Failure to supply an Insurance Certificate will prohibit the team from playing in the league.

Section 3: All teams will be required to wear baseball insignia on their uniform as set forth by the division in which they play.

ARTICLE VII: TOURNAMENTS

National Tournaments are part of PYRAMID'S goals.

Section 1: Each team member has the opportunity, under his or her division structure, to be in Tournament play. Each year PYRAMID receives a number of bids from American Legion Baseball and bids from American Amateur Baseball Congress. The number of bids vary with the division and size of the State Tournament of the National Program.

Section 2: The number of teams within each division determines the method of Selecting teams for tournament play. PYRAMID is authorized to have a District tournament from its organization in the counties of Warren, Hunterdon, Mercer, Somerset, Union, Essex and Middlesex. The tournaments are arranged under each division.

Section 3: Any team within the league that accepts a Tournament bid must appear at the Tournament will necessary papers and must be ready to play.

- A: A team who fails to complete its responsibility in a tournament before, during and after will incur a penalty of a 2-year suspension from Tournament play,
- B: An additional penalty of suspension from the league may also be levied. The Board of Trustees will review the matter of suspension from the league.

ARTICLE VIII: LEAGUE FEES

For teams to be franchised to play both in both the National Program and PYRAMID there is a fee.

Section 1: The fee requires annual dues payable to the National Organization. This amount will appear on the invoice issued to each team member.

Section 2: There is a fee required for tournaments, which is payable to PYRAMID, which will be part of the invoice.

Section 3: The cost of administration for the league and its operation is part of the annual league fees. It is part of the invoice to each team.

Section 4: Upon entry into PYRAMID, a team is required to post a forfeit fee to cover two umpires. The amount is the current rate paid to the umpires under each division. When the forfeit amount is paid out by the treasurer a new invoice will be issued to replace this forfeit fund. Failure by a team to keep its fund current can lead to penalties. These penalties could result in a loss of games, no tournament play and removal from the League.

Section 5: All invoices must be paid by May 1 of each year.

Section 6: If a team removes itself and/or is removed from PYRAMID baseball the forfeit fee is not refundable.

ARTICLE IX: MEETING AND LEAGUE REQUIREMENTS

It is required that PYRAMID has meetings starting in January each year.

Section 1: The Director will establish the meeting dates. The meeting will be held on Sunday afternoon when possible or on other days when Sunday meeting halls not available.

Section 2: The Director will, in each year at the January meeting, issue an Application to each team for updated team information to be included in the Managers list and mailing list. Each must give this information no later than March 1 of the year it is received. Manager lists with telephone numbers are a must to have communication between teams during the season, for rainout, etc. The Manager list will be issued at the April meeting.

Section 3: The Director and/or the division can elect or appoint a division chairman, who will work with each team on roster, insurance, birth certificates and etc. The chairman will be responsible to keep division standings and forward them to the Commissioners and the Director. Final division standing must be in the hands of the league officials 4 days before the first National Tournament game.

Section 4: Each team will have all its required paperwork submitted to the Director by May 15 of each year. If the division season is started before June 1 then the roster, etc., will be required one week before the start of the division first game.

Section 5: The league office will mail out a meeting notice prior to each meeting. The notice will have the date, time and location of the meeting. At each meeting there will be an agenda for each division active that night. Teams should bring all questions to the division meetings, which will be listed as new business.

Section 6: If a team misses two meetings in a row the team can be subjected to the following penalty.

- A:** A fine of no more than \$50.00 payable to PYRAMID BASEBALL LEAGUE INC,
- B:** Removal from the league and lost of forfeit fees if membership not renewed by the March meeting.

Section 7: The league will provide copies of National Rules for American Legion Baseball and A.A.B.C. Application for insurance for the National program will also be provided. The league will provide information on other parts of the National program like oversee teams, All-Star teams, etc.

- A:** The 18 year old division is to be an American Legion Baseball program and all team must follow both National and State Legion rules,
- B:** A team in the 18-year-old division can play in the A.A.B.C. program too.

Section 8: On an annual basis, teams will provide information on their home field location. The field location can be written or mapped for the April meeting.

Section 9: All meetings will use Roberts Rules and minutes will record the proceedings of the meeting.

Section 10: All teams must renew membership in the League annually at the January Meeting. .

- A: The exceptions to this rule are American Legion teams that have a Post sponsor. These teams are automatically renewed. Those teams in the I8-year-old division that are Independent (no Post sponsor) must be renewed annually,
- B: All teams play at with the approval PYRAMID. The approval can. and will be withdrawn for violating these rule outlined in this Constitution.

ARTICLE X: SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONDUCT

Section 1: CONDUCT - All personnel who join PYRAMID must conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. Team's personnel can be removed from the league for violating this rule.

HECKLING - No player, coach, manager or other party associated with the team shall abuse, heckle or make uncomplimentary remarks to opposing players, team officials or umpires. The umpires shall eject an individual violating this regulation immediately from the game.

SPORTSMANSHIP - Any player, coach, manager or other party accompanying a team will be EJECTED for the remainder of the game from the time of the infraction, if they:

- 1:** Use profane language,
- 2:** Make unnecessary or obscene gestures in protesting an umpire's call,
- 3:** Throw bats or other equipment,
- 4:** Resort to unnecessary roughness on the playing field.

Section 2: TOBACCO AND DRUG RULE - The use of any form of tobacco or drugs by a player, coach, manager or umpire while on the playing field, benches, in the bullpen or dugouts is prohibited. Any individual violating this rule will be ejected from the game.

Section 3: BLOOD RULE - Any player who suffers from a laceration or where the wound is oozing blood, the game shall be stopped at the earliest possible time and the athlete must be treated immediately. If the bleeding requires extensive treatment, a substitute shall replace the injured played. Umpires are directed to give reasonable amount of time to allow injured player to be treated.

Section 4: FIGHTING RULE: Ejection and suspension from the next game. Next game could carry over to the following season

ARTICLE XI: RATIFICATION

Section 1: PYRAMID BASEBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED is a non-profit corporation in the State of New Jersey. This Constitution is part of that corporation and approved on June 27,1995, by the Board of Trustees.

Director: John Wm Baker

Amended December 26-2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

In order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its power, that further restrictive clauses should be added. The following amendment or amendments are added by the approval of the Board of Trustees by a 2/3 vote:

AMENDMENT 1: A team has the right to vote on all matters in their division which do the League and/or National Baseball Rules of the program, which PYRAMID

is playing under, not direct.

AMENDMENT 2: A League and/or a team may request admission to PYRAMID prior to February of each year. The request must be in writing with the following information for review by PYRAMID.

- A:** The letter will be given to the Commissioner of the division for approval or rejection,
- B:** If the letter is not approved an appeal may be made in writing to the director,
- C:** The formal letter must have the following information:
 - 1: The name of the team with complete addresses and telephone numbers,
 - 2: The area that will be recruited and the team's base school and/or community,
 - 3: The home field location for the team and the manager's full name and address. The coaching staff's full names and addresses. Include any relationship of staff members with team players.
 - 4: The complete background of the financial organizations and if the team is playing in another league or leagues.
- D:** Pyramid Baseball is made up of divisions by age. Each division has different requirements for establishing teams for eligibility within a given division.
 - 1: The senior or American Legion Division (ages 17-19) is by American Legion Post's and/or an independent team approved by the Board of Trustees or the Director of the Pyramid program.
 - 2: The Scholastic division for high school players 17 to 18 years of age. No player who has been selected to play on a senior team can play in this division. Teams in this division must receive a yearly approval to play by the director of Pyramid Baseball. This division will play in the AABC scholastic tournament.
 - 3: The 13 to 16 age division teams are by franchise organizations. Franchises are by geography area and teams must have written approval from the franchisee. In areas where there is no current approved franchise, the director of Pyramid Baseball must approve the teams
 - 4: The 12 and under divisions are by teams approved by the Director of Pyramid Baseball. These teams must register for the baseball program by April of each year.

AMENDMENT 3: A team that wins a division and would represent Pyramid Baseball in a National Program Tournament has the right to prior to the start of the event to withdraw from the tournament. The team must notify the Director 72 hours before the beginning of the event. The league will select the next team.

AMENDMENT 4: All umpires used in Pyramid Baseball League must carry their own insurance. A copy of the insurance certificate must be available upon request.

AMENDMENT 5: A player on a current Pyramid roster may request a one time waiver from his current team to transfer to another team in the same division. The current team must give approval in writing for the player to move to a new team. Once a waiver is approved by both teams, a copy must be filed with the league office. If the player's current team will not approve the waiver, the player must stay on his current team's roster or the player can miss one season and attempt to acquire a waiver the following year. No player will be allowed to change teams without a waiver from the appropriate team.

If a team disbands or drops out of the league all players become free agents. They can join another team in their area.

The above rule does not apply to the Senior Division.

AMENDMENT 6: A team in Pyramid Baseball must have a minimum number of active players on their roster as listed below by division to ensure the minimum number of players each game during the season. No team can start a tournament game without having 12 active players present at game time. In tournament competition if the minimum number of players is not present, the game is forfeited.

12 years and under -----12

13 years to 16 years-----13

17 years to 18 years-----14

AMENDMENT 7: Each year, all teams must assign a field manager by April 1. The field manager must attend all league meetings to ensure that all league playing rules are followed by his team. The field manager's name will be on the mailing list and will be used by other managers when games must be postponed. The field manager will be responsible for all league fees, umpire fees, etc. If the field manager misses a meeting the team Will be fined \$50.00 payable at once to the league treasurer. Failure to pay fines will subject the team to loss of games in regular season and/or removal from the league.