

ARMADA BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

BY-LAWS

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Let it be known that this organization; hereby known as the Armada Baseball Association (A.B.A); is not sanctioned or registered with the official Little League charter, and is therefore not recognized by their officials. The A.B.A will however be governed by the "Official Little League Rules and Regulations" handbook, except as designated in the following by-laws, and the playing rules and regulations pertaining to the individual leagues governed by the A.B.A board consisting of 4 officers, no more than 13 board members and 5 trustees. When there are vacancies to be filled for these positions; it shall be offered by nomination of the current board. If more applications are received, then there are vacancies available; candidates will be determined by a board vote, based on the person's background and experience within the league.

The executive officers of the league shall consist of the following; president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. These officers shall be elected for 1 year terms at the October meeting. Nominations and votes will be conducted amongst and by only active board members. The board will meet once a month on the second Thursday of the month. Special meetings will be held more often than this, on an as-needed basis. The public is welcome to any and all meetings, except the October election meeting and the meeting post registration to select team managers.

Let it be known that officers and members of the board of directors are eligible to actively participate as a manager, coach or umpire if they so desire.

Let it be known that all the below by-laws apply to the 12U and under age divisions.

Amendments to these by-laws may be made by a 2/3 majority vote of the board, but not before 14 days after having been proposed at a prior meeting, unless pertaining to an issue regarding safety.

The duties of the board shall include; but not be limited to the following:
Conducting registration and determining fees.
Determine number of teams from available registrants.
Determine player strength per team.
Set number of games to be played, determine opening day, and game schedules.
Assign managers to teams.
Assign sponsors to teams.
Schedule umpires and scorekeepers.
Oversee playing rules and necessary changes.
Appoint at least one coordinator for each league.
Provide trophies.
Order uniforms.
Operate food stands and organize necessary fund-raisers.
Organize tournaments.
Provide for accident and liability insurance.
Maintain playing fields.

BOARD MEMBERS

President - oversee and conduct board meetings, draft, and manager's meetings, work days, etc. Call for vote when proper motions are made, (president may not vote-except for the purpose of breaking a tie).

Vice-President - Assists the president and assumes his/her position in the president's absence.

Treasurer - will handle all league funds, maintain a checking account, report monthly to board on payouts by ABA, and provide all board members with a copy of a financial report annually. Communicate with the president to verify funds in the ABA account (only treasurer and president are to be listed on accounts, and be enabled to sign for funds).

Secretary - Will record minutes of each meeting and provide such a record at the following meeting. Also the drafting of any special letters on behalf of the league and any required ABA correspondence.

Tournament Director - Will oversee all players and coaches to make sure things run smoothly throughout the tournament season. Will take the lead role for any/all tournaments that are played in Armada. Field all player/parent concerns that escalate above what the coach can not handle. The tournament director is allowed to make recommendations but needs to seek board approval for anything required above that. Each year the tournament director will interview new candidates for tournament team positions. He/She will relay answers to the entire board via email so they can make an informed decision on who they are choosing. For All-Stars the tournament director will hold one vote for selection of manager, alone with league coordinator and President. He/She will also help select players with that person that was elected. Performance evaluations will be used along with other metrics.

Trustees - Any person(s) serving on the ABA Board as a Trustee will serve on a trial basis. The trial basis will last a minimum of 6 months. After the trial basis of serving the ABA, there will be a vote by the ABA Board to vote a Trustee in as a Trustee Member. After serving as a Trustee Member for a minimum of 6 months to a full calendar year, the person will be eligible to run for a position on the Executive Board.

All Trustees and Executive Board Members must do their best to attend each and every ABA Board Meeting. It is a requirement to be present at one half of the scheduled meetings (6 out of 12 months). Meetings are typically held on the second Thursday of the month, each month of the calendar year. Meeting reminders will be sent one week prior to the scheduled date as well as will be noted on the monthly agenda and the minutes that follow. Any member who is a “no call, no show” for three consecutive months will be removed from their ABA Board position.

League Coordinators will act as a liaison between team managers and coaches and the board.

The leagues of the A.B.A will be divided into age brackets as follows, with child's playing age determined by actual age of child as of April 30th of that year:
6U - 4, 5, & 6's-bat from tee and coach pitch
8U - 7 & 8-Machine pitch.
10U - 9 & 10- player pitch.
12U - 11 & 12-player pitch.
Babe Ruth Jr - 13, 14 & 15-player pitch.
Babe Ruth Sr - 16 & 17-player pitch

The number of teams per league and player strength per team will be determined according to the number of players that register in each league. This could change year to year.

LEAGUE SPENDING

The following guidelines are to be abided by for all league purchases:

$0 - $99 = No Approval (cannot purchase multiple items to keep total price under $99)
$100 - $299 = Executive Board vote (President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer-(2/3 majority to pass)
$300 - up = Full Board vote (2/3 majority to pass)

MANAGER SELECTION

Managerial candidates sign up at registration. If there are more applicants than openings, the board will select the most qualified person, based on seniority (1 point for 1 season as manager and ½ point for season as a coach**), and the person's background and experience in the league. Two Coaches will be selected by the team manager, passing a background check and board approval**. The board maintains oversight responsibility for all managers and coaches. **The ½ point is awarded to BOTH assistant coaches.**

DRAFTING OF PLAYERS AND ASSIGNING TO TEAMS

6U

Teams will be assigned based upon an even distribution of 4, 5 and 6 year olds. An open draft will be held (not blind). NOTE: Requests to play on a specific team for a purpose of car-pooling and friendships will be honored if possible.

RULES FOR 8U, 10U, 12U LEAGUES

Players returning from the prior year are to be ranked according to approximate skill level by the board and any prior year managers. Ranking is to be used for even distribution of skill among

the teams to promote competitiveness of the league. Rankings should reflect skill level as well as sportsmanship. There will be a minimum of one tournament team player on each team if there are six teams or less in any of the following divisions.

Players will play within their age division – unless – 1. If a player has a noted medical condition or reason to play down. This is a decision to be made on a year to year basis by the ABA Board when the medical condition or reason is presented to the board by the player's family. 2. If a player is requesting to play up and has a signed wavier from his or her family. This is a decision to be made on a year to year basis by the ABA Board when the waiver is signed and presented to the ABA Board.

8U

All 7's and 8's will be blind drafted each year. An even ratio of 7 and 8's for each team will be maintained in such a way so that overall team strength does not vary by more than one player.

10U

All 9's and 10's will be blind drafted each year. An even ratio of 9's and 10's for each team will be maintained in such a way so that overall team strength does not vary by more than one player

12U

All 11's and 12's will be blind drafted each year. An even ratio of 11's and 12's for each team will be maintained in such a way so that overall team strength does not vary by more than one player.

15U

If there are enough players registered to roster more than 1 team, a draft will be set up. If the number of players is too great for 1 team, but not enough for 2 teams, the first 11/12 players will be on the team and the remaining will be placed on a waitlist.

PLAYER WAIVER

In the case of a player in the 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U or 15U leagues wanting to select a team to play on, this is not allowed, However; they may select a team in the league that they can get a waiver from-for whatever reason, (this should be done at registration). The team that they choose not to play for would not be allowed to select that player in the draft.

ALL-STAR TEAMS

All Star Teams will be created in the 8U, 10U, and 12U Leagues.

Manager Selection

- Every manager and coach will have a chance to be selected as All Star manager. This will be an equal opportunity position. Age, Race, Sex, Economic status will not be considered in this evaluation process.
- Managers will be selected by league coordinator, tournament director, executive board members.
    - No, personal interest can be present when selecting the All-Star manager. (I.E.- Ron the 10U league coordinator can not vote for himself to be the 10U all-star manager.) They must abstain from voting but still could be granted nomination from other voting members.
    - Any manager or coach that has a formal warning from the ABA board will be immediately excluded from consideration.
    - Managers and coaches must commit to all three all-star weekends.
    - Managers must commit to helping with coordination of duties that go above and beyond just managing a team. (I.E.- supply and assign parent volunteers when needed by that ABA league.)
- All managers and coaches at draft day will make intentions known for the All-Star team, although not binding, this will help with consideration.
- In cases where more than one team is available the best coach for that position will be selected.
- After 75% completion of the season evaluation forms will be turned in to league coordinator. A meeting time and location will be selected by the President of the ABA to perform the selection process of all-star team/s. This date will be stated in managers packets and available at draft day.
- All-Star manager, league coordinator, tournament director, ABA president will select the all-star team as a group.

Players Selection

- Each and every player in the ABA is available to be selected for All-Stars regardless of abilities.
- All players will be evaluated by 3/4 of completion of the season. The ABA standard evaluation system will be used to complete this process. Sportsmanship along with physical abilities will be rated categories.
- Players can only be selected for their current age group to participate in. (I.E.- If Johnny is 8yrs and playing in 10u, he can only play on the 10u all-star team.) Exceptions to this rule can be voted on in individual cases by the ABA Board.
- In cases where two teams are selected in an age group, Team Orange will be allowed to select all their players first. (Limit up to 12) Team Black will then have the ability to pick from the remaining players.
    - Declining an invitation to play on Team Orange just to play on Team Black automatically disqualifies players from being selected. (I.E.- Jason gets asked to

play on team Orange and says no due to the fact his friend Bob is on team black and wants to play with him.)
    - If a player is following a parent coach they are allowed to decline team orange to play on team black.
- Player parents must volunteer for the duration of time to be considered by the ABA board.
- If a player is asked to participate on an all-star team, the player HAS to commit to ALL three scheduled tournament dates provided by the all-star coach. **Special circumstances need prior board review and approval.**

It is up to the ABA Board, on a year by year basis, to determine the number of All Star teams per division. If determination is for two teams, teams will be separated by age (all 7 year olds, all 8 years olds, for example).

TOURNAMENT TEAMS

Managers: Managers will be an ABA board decision by vote and approval.

Eligibility:

The players will be targeted to play according to their age with the date of determination April 30th. If a player wants to move up, the first right of refusal is required by the age appropriate manager.

Requirements:

1. Try out for the desired tournament team
2. Commit to only being rostered on the Armada tournament team, throughout the season
3. Teams will be comprised of kids that attend Armada Area Schools(AAS)/ABA
    a. exception, if a team cannot be competitively filled with kids that attend Armada Area Schools and play ABA, the team manager must petition the board for approval to recruit outside AAS/ABA, before starting these conversations
4. All players MUST register and play in the ABA regular season league
    a. exception, if there is a need to fill the team with kids that do not attend Armada Area Schools, that child MUST play recreational baseball within their local community or within ABA

Travel teams will be run separately from ABA, however they are allowed to fall under the ABA umbrella for insurance purposes, providing that the player(s) are all registered to play in ABA. No money from ABA shall be used for travel teams, unless voted on by board.

Any matters not previously addressed in these by-laws, may be under the jurisdiction of the playing rules of the individual leagues, or the little league handbook. If not covered by these it may be necessary to discuss and arrive at a decision, by vote if necessary, at a board meeting. The result of which will be logged into the minutes and be referred to at later dates to resolve issues, as the board deems necessary.

All by-laws apply to the 12U and under age divisions

REVISIONS

Date	Status	Secretary
11/10/22	Added Tournament Director information	Heidi Skurda
3/14/2023	Combined our updated version (2018) with the most updated version received from Julie (2022)	Heidi Skurda
3/21/23	Added Updated All-Star selection process (board approved 1/2022)	Heidi Skurda
7/18/23	Updated Tournament Team eligibility and requirements (board approved 7/2023)	Heidi Skurda
10/10/24	Added the below items: “Let it be known that all the below by-laws apply to the 12U and under age divisions.” Updated the board members to 4 officers and 13 board members	Heidi Skurda