



Updated 04/20/24

TOWN OF CLARENCE BASEBALL ASSOCIATION INC. **BY-LAWS**

ARTICLE ONE. **NAME**

- A.** This organization shall be known as the W.N.Y. Town of Clarence Baseball Association Inc..
- B.** The organization will use the common name of Town of Clarence Baseball Association (TCBA).

ARTICLE TWO. **PURPOSE**

- A.** The objective of TCBA shall be to promote, through supervised, competitive baseball activities, the development of youth with emphasis on the teaching of baseball skills, team play of baseball and an overall attitude of good sportsmanship.

This objective can be best achieved through the concerted effort of all the individuals who have agreed to take positions of responsibility in our Association. Coaches, League Directors, Umpires and other involved participants must stress, through example, that baseball competition can be a positive learning experience, whether in victory or defeat. The benefit to the youth will depend largely on the overall attitude created by the individuals supervising the program.

- B.** The TCBA Code of Conduct (Appendix A) has been adopted to affect the purposes espoused by these By-laws.

ARTICLE THREE. **MEMBERSHIP**

- A.** All residents of the Town of Clarence or the Clarence Central School District shall be eligible. Membership is affected by registering as a participant for competitive play, actively participating in Association operations, or as an active member of the TCBA Past Directors Association (PDA). Active members of the PDA shall have previously served a minimum of one (1) year on the TCBA Board of Directors, or, are the child or spouse of a past member of the Board of Directors, and be current with PDA membership fee. PDA membership fee shall be set annually by the Board of Directors.

- B.** Coaches, parents, umpires, volunteers, board members and players are all "members" of the Town of Clarence Baseball Association and should be willing to participate in league activities if and when asked.

- C.** Any member who disregards the rules of the Town of Clarence Baseball Association or violates the Code of Conduct will be formally warned in writing, and may be suspended or removed from the league, depending on the severity of the action.

D. The Board of Directors, in secret balloting, and by two thirds majority vote of board attendance at a disciplinary meeting will have the authority to suspend or remove any member, including a member of the Board of Directors, from the Town of Clarence Baseball Association, whose conduct is considered detrimental to the best interest and objectives of the Town of Clarence Baseball Association.

ARTICLE FOUR. GOVERNMENT

A. The Board of Directors will serve as the governing body of the TCBA. The term of the Board will be August 1 to July 31 each year.

B. Board of Directors members shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Booster Club Director, Registration Director, League Directors, Equipment Director, Indoor Facilities Director, Outdoor Facilities Director, Clinics and Training Director, Website Director, Purchasing Director, Immediate Past President, and/or positions deemed necessary.

C. The Board of Directors members will be completely voluntary in their service to the Board. The office of President shall have a term limit of two terms.

D. By June 30 each year, the presiding Board will nominate and elect the next year's President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

E. The President will select volunteers for all other board positions needed during their term, including filling any vacancies that may occur.

F. The Board of Directors will make all decisions affecting policy, welfare and by-laws of the TCBA. Any variance, revision or addition to the By-Laws requires Board vote approval.

G. Each member of the Board of Directors will have one vote. In the event that a Board member is not present for a vote, their vote may be cast by the Secretary provided the absent member notified the President and Secretary of their vote prior to the vote.

H. Two-thirds of the full Board must be present for a quorum. Provided a quorum is present, the majority vote of those present at a meeting will determine the outcome of any issue except for disciplinary actions as specified in the Code of Conduct (Appendix A). Any vote outside of a Board Meeting requires a quorum and must be officially recorded by the Secretary.

I. Any member of the Board of Directors may call a meeting by giving notice of the meeting to all members at least 48 hours in advance of the desired meeting.

J. The Board has the ability to appoint non-voting members as required.

K. Any work product done by a Board member or agent of on behalf of TCBA is the property of TCBA and is done in the name of TCBA, and not the individual. Board members will surrender any information, items, licenses, etc. Use of the Association's PO Box for League business as opposed to personal addresses is encouraged.

ARTICLE FIVE.

DUTIES

A. The duties of each Board position will be maintained in a Position Description. The League President, Vice President, and Secretary are responsible each year for updating and maintaining position descriptions to be consistent with current needs, procedures, and by-laws. These descriptions are intentionally not written into the by-laws purely as a practical matter so as not to require constant updating and changing of the by-laws, but rather the individual descriptions themselves.

B. Coaches: Coaches have a very important role in insuring the objectives of the TCBA are achieved. Each coach must strive to develop a spirited, competitive team within the rules and policies adopted by the TCBA. The Coach must convey all needs and concerns promptly to his/her League Director.

The Coach must assure that his/her assistants, players and supporting spectators respect the efforts of the other coaches, players and umpires on the playing field. He/she shall promptly correct any poor sportsmanship on his/her team including parents and spectators, and report all playing, sportsmanship and rule violations to his/her League Director. Any serious violation will be brought before the Board of Directors for their consideration and/or appeal pursuant to the principles of the Code of Conduct.

Coaches of teams will be nominated by the League Directors, approved and/or removed by the Board of Directors. Coaches will be responsible for the selection of their rosters according to draft rules and for the actions of their team players, parents, relatives and spectators attending practices, scrimmages and league games.

C. Umpire Interaction Policy TCBA has a zero tolerance policy for behavior that is disrespectful, discourteous, or may in any way be construed as intimidating towards its umpires. With this policy, we hope to maintain an environment in TCBA that is both umpire friendly and that teaches our players to have respect for those in positions of authority. Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary actions including suspensions and potentially expulsion from TCBA.

Players, coaches, and fans should understand that any critical behavior towards umpires (the kind that is all too common at professional sporting events and some other youth sports programs) will not be tolerated in TCBA. Basically, we want every coach and parent to treat the umpire the way they would want to be treated if it was their son or daughter that was the umpire. It is far more productive for a player, coach, or team to react to disadvantageous umpire calls by focusing on how to overcome those "bad breaks," rather than focusing on the umpire who is just doing the best that he/she can.

Our umpire crew is comprised of adults and youths ages of 13 years old and up. Over 90% of TCBA games this year will be officiated by youth umpires. Our youth umpire program is an important part of our mission to provide the kids of Clarence with a positive environment to grow and learn through sports. All our umpires must feel they are safe and protected.

Parent/Spectator Interaction with Umpires:

Parents/Spectators should enter every game with the understanding that a "bad" call MAY be made and that some of those calls could affect the tone of the game. Even in the professional umpire ranks, including the World Series, critical calls are missed, and they will more than likely be missed at the Little League level as well. Over the course of a season these calls tend to even out.

No yelling, swearing, questioning or derogatory comments from spectator areas regarding umpire calls will be tolerated.

No direct questioning by parents of umpires during or after games – questions should be directed to your coach at a later time.

Any violation of this policy could result in disciplinary actions including suspensions and expulsion from the TCBA for that Parent/spectator

Coach Interaction with Umpires:

You should recognize that your actions on the field are viewed by both parents and players on both teams and therefore they should set the highest standard of behavior. Any and all communications with umpires should be done in a respectful, professional and deferential manner.

Coaches are also expected to exercise control of their players and parents. Failure to be proactive in this regard will also place coaches at disciplinary risk. We know that coaches can't guarantee parent and player behavior however, coaches are expected to take responsibility for proactively intervening early in situations that could put a player or parent at disciplinary risk.

Judgment calls by an umpire can NEVER be questioned.

Interpretations of a rule may be questioned but only in a quiet and respectful way by requesting to approach the umpire. For example, if a coach wanted to discuss the proper penalty for an interference call it would be appropriate since there are guidelines spelled out in the Little League International Regulations and Rules Book and it is not up to umpire discretion. However, arguing the umpire's judgment to call interference is not acceptable. If something cannot be resolved on the field, refer to the protest rules in the book.

Always speak directly to the umpire who made the call you are unclear of. You may not demand that an umpire seek help from another umpire. Umpires are not allowed to "over rule" each other on the field. They may, at their discretion, consult with the other umpire for help.

Yelling across the field at an umpire over a call is not acceptable. Yelling can come across as hostile even when you don't intend for it to. Request a time out to approach the umpire and discuss the situation in a respectful and conversational manner. Please remember that an adult coach approaching a youth umpire can be somewhat intimidating in and of itself, so a coach acting in a deferential manner will go a long way to mitigating that.

Any comments regarding a TCBA umpire can be submitted through email to the Umpire-In-Chief and the President of the TCBA.

ARTICLE SIX.
FINANCES

- A.** The Treasurer oversees, manages, and performs all financial duties of the Leagues.
- B.** As a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, TCBA's main financial goal is to ensure adequate funds for needs for each season and adequate funds for improvements, growth, etc.
- C.** It is the goal of TCBA to spend all funds each season to the benefit of all Leagues, with the exception of modest carry-over dollar amounts determined each year, or specified project funds.
- D.** Three entities handle TCBA funds. House League, Booster Club, and Travel League. As a practical matter, each of the three entities may manage its own bank accounts, payments, receipts, etc. However, all will be done under the supervision and responsibility of TCBA as a whole. TCBA Treasurer is co-signer on all accounts.
- E.** By October 1 of each season, each of the entities (House, Booster, and Travel) will submit to the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer a budget proposal for the following calendar year season. These budgets will be used to project the expense and resource revenue needs of the Leagues.
- F.** It is the responsibility of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer to determine courses of action for any potential financial short-falls for any League.
- G.** The budget proposals will include a modest carry cost that the leader of any of the entities is suggesting remain in the bank account for general operational needs and the start of the following season.
- H.** Any funds in excess of the operating expenses and needs of any League and approved carry-over costs will be surrendered to the TCBA general fund.
- I.** The Board of Directors will vote on any motion made for the use of the general fund.
- J.** If at the end of any Board term there are funds remaining in the general fund, the Board must decide whether to spend the monies to improve the League or any of its facilities, or to deposit those funds in a specific project account.

ARTICLE SEVEN.
ELIGIBILITY, LEAGUES AND TEAMS

- A.** All youths within the registration determined birth date ranges who reside in the Town of Clarence or Clarence School District are eligible to play.
- B.** In order to be eligible for team placement, draft or any TCBA practice, game or function, individuals must be registered through the official, formal registration process.
- C.** The number and name of leagues each season will be decided by the Board.

D. Each player will be placed on a team according to his/her League Age, as set forth in the TCBA Age Chart.

E. The League Director or a TCBA member may submit a request for a waiver to the Board of Directors to permit a player to play either one level above, or one level below, the player's League Age as dictated by the TCBA Baseball Age Chart. The Board of Directors must vote to approve or reject the waiver request.

F. The TCBA waiver guidelines are as follows:

a. Age eligibility: for upward waiver requests, the player is age eligible at the second year Rookie level (typically age six) of the registered season, or

b. Age eligibility: for upward waiver requests, the player is born prior to May 1 AND is on a TCBA Travel Team that is the age level one year above the player's League Age as dictated by the TCBA Baseball Age Chart for the registered year. Example: a second year Minor League house player that is still eight years old as of May 1 of the registered season, but is a member of a 9U TCBA Travel Team that season is eligible to waive upward.

c. Individual considerations: for all waivers, both upward and downward, a League Director or a TCBA Board of Directors member must submit a request for a waiver to the Board of Directors to permit a player to play either one level above, or one level below, the player's League Age as dictated by the TCBA Baseball Age Chart. The TCBA Board of Directors must vote to approve or reject the waiver request and may consider all relevant and available factors including, but not limited to: age, maturity, baseball skill set, general physical ability, health and safety of the player, health and safety of players the subject player is proposing to waive into, and any other information included in the waiver request. The Board of Directors also specifically reserves the right to consider all other factors presented to it on a case-by-case basis to ensure the health, safety, and overall general welfare of all players in making its decision.

G. Players will be placed on a team according to a selective draft in accordance with all By-Law draft rules, except those in the Rookie League where rosters will be determined by the League Director.

ARTICLE EIGHT.

DRAFT RULES

A. The Board of Directors will determine the general draft procedures. **NO** changes or deviations will be permitted without approval of the Board. Unless specifically noted, all draft rules apply to all leagues.

B. The draft will be conducted from a list of registered players who have been rated as to ability for their respective ages. The rating system will be determined by the Board of Directors. Draft lists with ratings will be provided to League Directors prior to the draft. Final draft lists with draft order, pre-designated slotted coach related players, siblings, competitive balance placements, etc., must be submitted to the Board for approval prior the draft.

C. League Directors must have all coaches selected no later than 14 days prior to the draft and have a meeting with these coaches no later than 10 days prior to the draft to share past

evaluations of these players and review draft procedures. The league By-Laws should also be reviewed at this meeting. The Vice President and League Directors are responsible for scheduling and conducting drafts according to the By-Laws. At least three Board members should be present at each League's draft.

D. Sequence of the Draft:

Rookie League

- No draft. Teams grouped by League Director.

Leagues Where All Players Are The Same Age

- The order of the draft will be determined by lot with modifications as necessary to ensure competitive balance and as approved by the Board.
- The players will be drafted as one group.
- The draft sequence will be first to last, then last to first, etc. Where there are players left unselected after the last **complete** round is finished, a non-complete round will be conducted. In this non-complete round of the draft, the number of players dictates the order of the draft sequence. Example: 4 players left - 4th pick goes first, 3rd pick goes second, 2nd pick goes third and 1st pick goes fourth. The coach with the first pick of the first round will always select the last player available when a non-complete round is necessary.

Leagues Where Players Are Different Age Groups

- The order of the draft will be determined by lot with modifications as necessary to ensure competitive balance and as approved by the Board.
- Players will be drafted by age with the older league players being selected in Phase one.
- The draft sequence will be first to last, then last to first, etc., until a partial round remains. Then the partial round will be added to the group of younger league players for Phase 2 and the draft sequence will be last to first, first to last, etc. Where there are players left unselected after the last **complete** round is finished, a non-complete round will be conducted. In this non-complete round of the draft, the number of players dictates the order of the draft sequence. Example: 4 players left - 4th pick goes first, 3rd pick goes second, 2nd pick goes third and 1st pick goes fourth. The coach with the first pick of the first round will always select the last player available when a non-complete round is necessary.

E. Coaches' Son(s)/Daughter(s); Brother(s)/Sister(s): The coaches' son(s)/daughter(s), as well as brother(s)/sister(s), will not be an automatic choice of a pre-designated round in the draft. Instead (prior to the draft) the League Director will determine in which round the child would most likely be drafted, if he/she were available to be drafted by any and all coaches. The system to be used to establish the appropriate draft round in which the child will be placed will be developed by the appropriate League Directors and approved by the Board. This system will include

modifications to be made to the draft to ensure competitive balance. This method will also apply to assistant coaches.

F. Late Sign-Ups: Late sign-ups will be assigned if openings exist in the applicable league. Late sign ups must be placed in draft order. There will be no manipulation of teams by use of late sign ups. League Directors, only with Board approval, may assign a late player out of order only to address an imbalance of superior players. The Board is authorized to assess a late fee for any players registering past a designated date and is also authorized to determine that date on which all rosters will be frozen and no further registrations will be accepted.

G. There will be **NO** trading of players.

ARTICLE NINE.

GENERAL RULES OF PLAY

The rules of play, other than as amended by these By-Laws, will be in accordance with the Official Little League Rules for the Rookie, Minor, Major, and American Leagues; and the Official Baseball Rules for the National and Senior Leagues. The General Rules apply to all leagues. Additional specific rules for each league are given in other Articles. In addition, no player will be allowed to compete in any game while wearing shorts or open toed shoes.

A. The maximum barrel diameter for any bat that can be used is a USA stamped 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ inch on a 60' diamond (Rookie, Minor, Major Leagues) , 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch barrel diameter USSSA bats are allowed in Minor and Major. All USSSA on a 70' diamond. (American League) except for banned bats by USSSA and/or Perfect Game. National and Senior Leagues use 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches. In Senior League, nothing greater than a 3 oz. drop is allowed.

B. The requirements stated in the Little League Rule Book for a certain number of players per age per team are waived.

C. ALL games must be played as scheduled. Coaches shall NOT cancel any game. The League Director or his/her designee will make a final decision to postpone games due to inclement weather or unplayable field conditions. The coaches will then be notified of the postponement, usually by 4:30 p.m. on weekdays, and as soon as possible on Saturdays. The League Director must reschedule the game and the umpire, and notify both coaches of the new date when the game will be played.

D. All games are generally set for precise starting times as outlined in the schedules.

- 1.** If one of the teams does not appear within fifteen minutes of the specified start time, the game is forfeited.
- 2.** Teams must play if they have a minimum of eight players. This does not apply for Rookie League and Minor League.
- 3.** If, after a fifteen-minute leeway period, a team has fewer than eight players, that team will be designated as the visiting team and the game will begin. If that team still has fewer than 8 players after completion of the top half of the first inning, the defaulting team forfeits the game. This does not apply to Rookie League and Minor League.

4. No full inning shall be started more than 2 hours after the scheduled start of the game. This rule shall not apply to the Rookie League.

5. The team that is behind must complete its turn at bat in the fourth inning or it is not considered a complete game. In this case, the entire game will be played from the beginning. Because of time constraints, this rule for the play-offs will be determined by the League Directors prior to the season with approval of the Board of Directors. The decision to stop the game rests solely with the umpire.

E. The official team rosters for all leagues must contain a minimum of nine players. Only those players appearing on the official team roster or a valid call up player are eligible to play. The minimum of nine players does not apply to the Rookie League (see Article Ten).

F. If a team uses an ineligible player and/or an ineligible pitcher, the game shall automatically be forfeited, and the coach will be subject to suspension under the Code of Conduct disciplinary procedures.

G. Minimum playing requirements must be followed unless a player is benched for disciplinary reasons, including failure to attend regularly scheduled practices and/or games. The coach instituting disciplinary procedure must notify the opposing coach prior to the start of the game. In no event may a coach call up a player to substitute for a benched player.

H. The bench or dugout on the first base side is assigned to the home team and the visiting team uses the bench or dugout on the third base side.

I. All batters, base runners, pitchers warming up on the mound and player base coaches must wear helmets at all times. Catchers must wear all equipment including a mask, when warming up a pitcher on the field of play.

K. No metal spikes are allowed in any league except National and Senior Leagues.

L. Any unsportsmanlike conduct (swearing, throwing of equipment, etc.) by a player may result in immediate ejection of the player from the game and subject him/her to additional disciplinary action under the Code of Conduct. Players fighting are subject to possible suspension for the year. Any other TCBA members in violation of this provision are subject to review under the Code of Conduct procedure.

M. As the safety of all players is of utmost importance, the following rules apply. No player will intentionally collide with a defensive player to prevent an out from being made. The catcher must not block home plate or otherwise impede a runner from scoring. Head first slides are not allowed. Any player sliding head first is automatically out. Diving back to a base head first is allowed and is not considered a slide.

N. GAME PROTESTS:

Regular Season Play- Protesting a Game:

1. *No protest* shall be considered on a decision involving an umpires' judgement during regular season games.

Postseason Play/Playoffs- Protesting a Game:

1. During postseason play, a team manager/coach may protest a misinterpretation of a rule or regulation.
Note: protests of judgement calls (such as strikes, balls, safe, out, fair, foul, etc.) *are not valid*.
2. When a team manager/coach wishes to lodge a protest, he/she shall immediately, and before any succeeding play begins, notify the umpire and the opposing manager/coach that the game is being played under protest.
3. The Umpire must immediately call a conference of all umpires working the game and both managers/coaches.
4. If the problem cannot immediately be resolved to the satisfaction of the managers/coaches then it is required to consult with the specific League Director/Directors.
5. If the managers/coaches do not accept the decision of the League Director/Directors, either manager may elect, without penalty, to discontinue play until the matter is referred to the TCBA Board of Directors. The decision of the TCBA Board of Directors shall then be final and binding.
6. If the protest is allowed, the game shall be resumed from the exact point when the infraction occurred.

O. VISITS TO THE MOUND (For Major League and above). This rule, which applies to each pitcher who enters a game, governs the visits of the manager/coach to the pitcher at the mound.

1. A manager/coach may come out twice in one inning to visit with the pitcher, but the third time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. Example: if a manager visits pitcher A once in the first inning, then makes a pitching change in the same inning, pitcher B would be allowed two visits in that inning before being removed on the third visit.
2. A manager/coach may come out three times in one game to visit with the pitcher, but the fourth time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. Example: If a manager visits pitcher A twice in the first three innings, then makes a pitching change in the fourth inning, Pitcher B would be allowed three visits in that game before being removed on the fourth visit, subject to the limits in (1) noted above.
3. The manager/coach is prohibited from making a third visit while the same batter is at bat.

- 4.** A manager/coach may confer with any other player(s), including the catcher, during the visit with the pitcher. A manager/coach who is granted a time out to talk to any defensive player will be charged with a visit to the pitcher.
- 5.** At the time a pitcher is removed, a visit shall not be charged to the new pitcher.
- 6.** A conference with the pitcher or any other fielder to evaluate the pitcher's condition after an injury shall not be considered a visit for the purposes of this rule. The manager/coach should advise the umpire of such a conference, and the umpire should monitor the conference.