

THE National Beep Baseball Association BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I: PURPOSE

The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, which includes distributions to organizations under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

The purpose of the NBBA is to improve the general community through a Representative national organization which assists, promotes, encourages, and develops an amateur beep baseball program through the United States of America and international communities; to elevate the ability of individuals who are Blind, visually impaired and legally blind to perform recreational and competitive athletics; to invite, encourage, and support the participation of both individuals who are sighted and non-sighted towards that goal; to cooperate with both public and private agencies and organizations in the development and promotion of amateur athletic programs for people who are blind and individuals who have physical disabilities; to provide for the free exchange of ideas, opinions and information relative to amateur athletics for people with disabilities through publication of a newsletter and other media; to establish such operations and/or special funds, including but not limited to permanent endowment funds to finance the NBBA and its programs within the meaning and limitation of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP, VOTING, AND DUES

SECTION A: MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the NBBA shall begin on the 1st of July and shall be completed on the 30th of June of the following year.

Membership shall be comprised of three (3) categories:

Regular, Affiliated Team and Sustaining. Only regular and Affiliated Team members shall be considered voting members.

- Regular Members:

Any individual may join the NBBA as a Regular Member Provided he/she meets and abides by the provisions set forth in these by-laws. The individuals may make or second motions, propose nominations, serve on committees, and be eligible to election to any office of the NBBA or its Board of Directors. All are encouraged to form and join an Affiliated Team and establish league participation within their respective geographic location.

- Affiliated Team Members:

All prospective teams wishing to join the NBBA must submit a \$25 fee and legibly complete a Team registration form. The fee along with the completed form must be received by the NBBA Secretary and postmarked no later than March 1 of each year. Teams submitting the required documents after March 1 shall be considered late and receive a penalty equivalent to double the team registration fee. If a team is continuously late in sending the required documents, the situation regarding the infraction will be brought to the attention of the NBBA Board of Directors.

For teams to be eligible to participate in the current year's World Series, the team registration documentation along with the World Series fee must be received and be postmarked to the the NBBA Secretary no later than July 1 of that year. Teams may not be eligible to participate in that year's World Series if documents are not received and postmarked by July 1 of that year.

All NBBA sanctioned beep baseball teams must have at least five (5) blind or visually impaired players and at least two (2) sighted members to serve as pitcher, catcher and spotter. All members must be in good standing with the NBBA. Only Affiliated Teams in good standing will be eligible to compete in all NBBA sanctioned tournaments.

Initial team rosters along with the \$20 membership fee must be received by the NBBA Secretary and postmarked no later than June 1. A membership fee of \$40 will be imposed if initial team rosters along with membership fees are received by the NBBA Secretary and postmarked after June 1.

All affiliated teams may make additions/deletions to their respective rosters by July 1. All deletions of regular members must be accompanied by a signed release form; signatures of the deleted team member along with the team coach must be affixed on the release form to be valid. Membership fees are non-refundable.

All final rosters must be received by the NBBA Secretary and postmarked by July 1.

After July 1, only two (2) Regular Members will be allowed on the final roster. (These members must not have appeared on an Affiliated Team's initial roster.)

The membership dues of Regular Members must be paid in full to the NBBA Secretary, subsequent to the call to order at the meeting of the General Assembly at the World Series of that year, in order to be eligible to participate in the World Series.

- Sustaining Members:

This category of membership shall be comprised of all current family and child members, and of individuals and organizations previously placed into this category. Sustaining memberships are not entitled to vote or hold office in the NBBA. Organizations and corporations will receive a Certificate of Appreciation displaying their membership to the NBBA.

All communications generated by the Secretary of the NBBA will be sent to all registered members, where applicable.

SECTION B: VOTING

Each Regular Member in good standing attending the annual World Series convention or a special meeting shall be entitled to one (1) vote in the NBBA. An Affiliated Team in good standing, which has a delegated representative attending the annual convention or a special meeting, is entitled to one (1) vote at all committee meetings. There shall be no provisions within the NBBA for proxy voting.

SECTION C: DUES

All dues shall be received by the NBBA Secretary and postmarked by the 1st of June of each year for Regular and Sustaining Members in order to become a member in good standing for that fiscal year. After the 1st of June, all Regular membership fees will become \$40.

Affiliated Team dues of \$25 must be received by the NBBA Secretary and postmarked by the 1st of March of each year in order to become a team in good standing and be eligible to register for the World Series. (Exception: New Affiliated Team(s), which has never registered with the NBBA Secretary, and formed between the 1st of March and the 1st of June of a given year, may register for \$50 and be eligible to participate in that year's World Series).

Unless otherwise modified by the Directors, dues are as follows:

- A. Regular Members: \$20 per member (September 1 – May 31)
- B. \$40 per member (June 1 – August 31)
- C. Sustaining Members: (Family, Child and Individuals)
- D. \$20 per member (September 1 – May 31)
- E. \$40 per member (June 1 – August 31)
- F. Sustaining Members (Organizations): \$100 per membership
- G. Affiliated Team: \$25 per team by March 1 or \$50 for new team March 1 to June 1

All dues shall be submitted to the NBBA Secretary, who shall prepare an official voting roster. The NBBA Secretary will also maintain a current mailing list for the newsletter.

ARTICLE III: SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

SECTION A: SUSPENSION

For violation of rules or inappropriate activity, any Regular Member or Affiliated Team Member may Be suspended or expelled by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members attending an annual convention or special meeting after a hearing as provided for under Robert's Rules of Order. In the proceedings to suspend or expel, the member so charged shall have the right to vote.

SECTION B: SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Purpose: To maintain the integrity and high standards of the NBBA presented to the public at large and to promote a positive image of the game of beep baseball.

- Definition:

Substance abuse is defined as the excessive use of alcohol and/or any use of controlled substances during any game or related function of any sanctioned NBBA tournament including the World Series.

- ❖ A minor found under the influence or in possession of alcohol will be in violation of the controlled substance By-law and shall be treated in the same manner as the fore stated By-law.
- ❖ A Coach or Team Manager that knowingly allows a minor to consume or possess alcohol will be in violation of the controlled substance By-law and shall be treated in the same manner as the fore stated By-law.

- ✚ Penalty:

Any NBBA member under the influence of alcohol to the point of being disruptive at any sanctioned event will be given a warning and could be asked to leave the premises for his first offense. The second offense will result in a one-game suspension at that tournament, or the next NBBA sanctioned tournament in which his team participates. If a third offense occurs, the member will be suspended for the remainder of that tournament and all of the next tournament in which his team participates. In case of a fourth offense, the NBBA board will take the situation under consideration and will be given full power to pass appropriate punishment including membership expulsion. Any infraction will remain on record for 2 years from the date of the infraction during which time additional infractions will be cumulative. If a member does not incur additional infractions in that 2 years, the slate will be clean. Any NBBA member discovered with controlled substances in his possession, or found under the influence of such substances, will be suspended for that tournament. A second offense will result in NBBA board action with possible NBBA membership termination. Note: All disciplinary actions shall be given in writing to the offending member, his team and the NBBA.

- ✚ Re-admittance:

In cases where membership expulsions are issued, the member can petition one year after the date of expulsion after demonstrating acceptable behavior.

SECTION C: FINES AND PENALTIES

All Affiliated Teams must register by the 1st of March. If an Affiliated Team registration fee is not received and postmarked by the NBBA Secretary by the 1st of March, the following registration fees for Affiliated Teams apply:

1. The first offense will be \$50,
2. The second offense will be \$75
3. The third offense will be \$100.

Note: These late fees include the \$25 registration fee. If further offenses occur, the Tournament Committee shall take consideration on further disciplinary action on that team.

Tournament entry fees of current set amount must be received and postmarked by the NBBA Secretary by THE 1st of July. If received and postmarked after the 1st of July, the First offense fee will be the current fee + \$75;

Second offense will be current fee + \$150;

Third offense will be current fee + \$300.

If further offenses occur, the Tournament Committee shall consider taking further disciplinary action on that team.

All "New Affiliated Teams" must register by the 1st of June, without penalty. After the 1st of June, the Tournament Committee has the right to impose penalties. A "New Affiliated Team" is defined as: The majority of the blind or visually impaired players must be new regular members of the NBBA and 50% of the sighted staff must be new regular members of the NBBA. (Note: changing the name of an existing affiliated team to qualify as a "New Affiliated Team" is prohibited.)

If affiliated teams have outstanding offenses and fines, this Affiliated Team begins from a first offense position. Those offenses stand as recorded. If any affiliated team receives no fines or penalties for three consecutive years, that team will go back to a NO offense status.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

There shall be one (1) annual meeting of the membership of the NBBA each summer in conjunction with the annual World Series tournament. Notification should be sent to the membership 45 days prior to said meeting. The general membership meeting cannot be held more than one (1) day prior to the National Tournament or later than one (1) minute before the first ball is pitched during this tournament. Special meetings of the membership may be called by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, provided a 45 day notice has been given to the membership. Any vote of the Board of Directors may be taken by phone or by mail, but such a vote must be reduced to writing by the secretary within ten (10) days of said vote for later publication. In addition to any meetings held in conjunction with the annual meeting, the Board of Directors shall convene either by conference call or in person on a date set by the Board of Directors. These dates for both the Fall and Spring Board Meetings shall be set by the Board during either the Post-General Assembly Board Meeting of the World Series or previous Spring Board Meeting. In addition, dates for the Fall Board Meeting shall take place no later than December 1, and the Spring Board Meeting can be held no later than May 1 of any year.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, POWERS, AND ELECTION/APPOINTMENT

The officers of the NBBA shall consist of a President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Terms of the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President and Secretary shall be two (2) years commencing at the time of election. The Treasurer shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the majority of the Board of Directors and shall serve until such time he/she chooses to resign or a majority of the Board of Directors relieves the Treasurer of his/her position. The Treasurer shall serve as an ex-officio officer and shall have a vote on the Board of Directors. The officers of the NBBA shall perform the usual functions of the office as described in Robert's Rules of Order in addition to those set forth in these By-Laws. All proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, except where otherwise specified in these By-Laws.

SECTION A: DUTIES

- President:

The President shall conduct all special and regular meetings of the NBBA, shall serve as chair of the Board of Directors, shall establish all committees pursuant to the By-Laws, and shall sit as ex-officio member of all but the Nominating Committee, shall be responsible for all employees of the NBBA, and with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall be responsible for the selection and dismissal of said employees.

- First Vice President:

The First Vice President shall be responsible for the duties of the President in the event that the President is absent or otherwise unable to carry on the affairs of the NBBA, shall chair the Tournament Committee, and shall be in charge of any equipment purchased by

the NBBA and shall be responsible for the repair, storage and distribution of said equipment as directed by the Board of Directors.

- Second Vice President:

The Second Vice President shall be responsible for the duties of the President in the event that the President and First Vice President are absent or otherwise unable to carry on the affairs of the NBBA and shall chair the Public Relations Committee.

- Secretary:

The Secretary shall be responsible for the duties of the President in the event that the President, the First Vice President, and the Second Vice President are absent or otherwise unable to carry on the affairs of the NBBA, shall report and read all minutes of meetings which shall be open for examination to any member in good standing, shall maintain a roster of Regular Members and Affiliated Team Members for voter certification purposes, shall chair the Membership Committee, shall reduce to writing all polls taken by mail, phone, and in general to keep the records of the NBBA.

- Treasurer:

The Treasurer shall furnish financial reports to the Board of Directors as prescribed by the Board of Directors and at any meeting thereof, shall be in charge of all funds of the NBBA including checking accounts and savings accounts, shall chair the Finance and Budget Committee, and shall file, or cause to be filed, all financial reports required by Federal, state and local governmental entities.

- Head Umpire:

The Head Umpire shall be in charge of umpires for the tournaments; be responsible for putting together the training for the umpires and have a way of improving the quality of the umpires; work with the host tournament committee to make sure the umpires are ready; serve on the Tournament committee; enforce the Rules of the NBBA fairly; and be responsible to the President of the NBBA and Board of Directors.

SECTION B: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors shall consist of:

- A. The current officers of the NBBA
- B. The immediate past President of the NBBA
- C. The Head Umpire
- D. ten (10) Members-at-Large.

The terms of 9 of these Members-at-Large shall be for three (3) year terms. The remaining Member-at-Large position shall be reserved for a 1 year term for a Regional Vice President of the Telephone Pioneers of America and shall be appointed by the Executive Director of the Telephone Pioneers.

Officers of the NBBA may serve as many consecutive terms as they are nominated for and elected to; however, no Director may serve more than two (2) full consecutive terms. (Filling in for an unexpired term does not count.) No member of the Board of Directors shall receive compensation from the NBBA as an officer or Director. Officers and Directors may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the exercise of their duties, at the discretion of the Board of Directors. No employee of the NBBA shall be eligible for election to any office of the NBBA. A vacancy in any office will be filled by the

Board of Directors for the intervening time until the next annual meeting; the vacancy shall then be filled by election for the unexpired term of the office. The Board and all policy making committees must be made up of at least a simple majority of legally blind athletes.

A member of the Board of Directors may be dismissed when:

- A. Three-fourths (3/4) of the Board votes for dismissal;
- B. If the member misses two (2) consecutive Board meetings without good and sufficient cause.
- C. If the member fails to reply, without cause, to two (2) consecutive mail votes.

In the case where the past president does not fulfill his obligations as set forth in the by-laws, the Board of Directors will fill that position for the intervening time until the next annual meeting. If the current president is re-elected, the past president's position would then be filled by election by the general membership for the duration of the current president's term of office.

SECTION C: ELECTIONS

The Officers and Members-at-Large of the Board of Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting of the membership of the NBBA. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership. Members-at-Large of the Board of Directors shall have one (1) ballot for the full term positions and one (1) ballot, if necessary, for the unexpired term positions. One (1) vote shall be taken, for each member in good standing, for the number of Members-at-Large equal to the number of positions open. The top vote-getters in each category shall be elected to serve in those positions. Terms for Members-at-Large of the Board of Directors shall commence upon the culmination of elections.

ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS

SECTION A: Amendment of Bylaws:

These Bylaws may be amended at any regular annual meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present at said meeting and in good standing in accordance with the voting procedures contained herein. These By-Laws may be amended at any special meeting of the membership by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present and in good standing and eligible to vote in accordance with the voting procedures contained herein, and providing that said proposal is read on the floor of the previous annual meeting nearest the date of the special meeting, and providing that said proposed amendment has been presented in writing to the President of the NBBA no later than thirty (30) days before said special meeting. All amendments must be received electronically to the Chairperson of the Bylaws Committee no later than June 1st of each year.

SECTION B: Proposing Amendments

Proposed amendments to the Bylaws may be considered by the General Assembly at any general assembly meeting without following procedures set forth in Section A above, provided they are presented to the Bylaws Committee electronically no later than June 1st. No amendments shall be accepted from the floor at the general Assembly. Proposed

amendments considered in this manner shall require an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the entire General Assembly for passage.

ARTICLE VII: STANDING COMMITTEES

Unless otherwise authorized by the Board of Directors, all members of all Standing Committees will serve terms of not more than one (1) year, ending with the last day of the next annual meeting. Policy making committees must meet the criteria set forth in Article V - Section B.

- **Membership Committee:**

The President shall appoint a Membership Committee in order to obtain a certified voting roster of those members in good standing to be available prior to each special or regular meeting.

- **Projects Committee:**

The President shall appoint a Projects Committee to study and recommend projects to be conducted by the NBBA and generally to supervise all projects of the NBBA, excluding the National Tournament.

- **Finance and Budget Committee:**

The President shall appoint a Finance and Budget Committee whose duties shall be to organize and conduct all fund-raising projects of the NBBA under the direction and approval of the Board of Directors. The Finance and Budget Committee shall likewise make and recommend annually a budget to the Board of Directors.

- **Public Relations Committee:**

The President shall appoint a Public Relations Committee which shall have the duties of preparing and disseminating all publicity and public relations materials, shall maintain a nation-wide public relations program, and shall likewise assist in all association committee projects.

- **Competition Committee:**

The President shall appoint a Competition Committee which shall make recommendations of new or modified NBBA rules to the membership as a whole at the annual meeting. Rule changes require a simple majority vote of the membership present and in good standing at the annual meeting. All voting members in good standing may make suggested rule changes or modifications to the Competition Committee if submitted electronically no later than June 1st of each year to the Chair of said Committee.

- **Executive Committee:**

An Executive Committee consisting of the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, and Secretary may conduct business of the NBBA. The Executive Committee can authorize expenditures of up to five hundred dollars (\$500).

- **Tournament Committee:**

Refer to Article XII.

ARTICLE VIII: REPORTING AND NOMINATIONS

The Chair of all committees shall furnish oral or written reports to the Board of Directors at their regular meetings and to the annual convention. Nominations for Officers and/or Directors whose terms expire that year must be received electronically no later than June 1st of each year to the Chair of the Nominating Committee. If nominations for board

positions are not met, the alternative process would be used for all positions seeking double the amount of directors positions and at least one nomination for the executive positions.

ARTICLE IX: FINANCIAL REVIEW

The President of the Board of Directors shall appoint a financial review committee to examine the affairs of this corporation annually and report their findings to the annual convention. Every two (2) years there will be an external financial review by an independent accounting firm chosen by the financial review committee.

ARTICLE X: DISCRETIONARY COMMITTEES

The President, at his/her discretion, may appoint such other committees as may be deemed just and proper. No committee action shall be binding upon the NBBA unless approved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI: QUORUM

Unless otherwise specifically prescribed herein, a quorum to conduct business at any meeting of the NBBA shall be those members attending such meetings. Motions or other matters of business shall be determined by a majority of those members attending and voting. A quorum of those conducting business of the Board of Directors shall be a majority of those members of the Board of Directors. Motions or other matters of business shall be determined by a majority vote of those Directors attending and voting.

ARTICLE XII: TOURNAMENT, TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

COMPOSITION, DUTIES, POWERS, AND FEES

SECTION A: TOURNAMENT

A National Tournament which shall be the official Tournament of the NBBA and the World Series of Beep Baseball shall be held each year in the summer. Tournament may be held in July or August with strong consideration given to school starting dates because of volunteers who work for schools and younger players who are still in school.

SECTION B: TOURNAMENT CITY SELECTION

All tournament sites shall be selected two (2) years in advance. Representatives of cities wishing to host the tournament shall be prepared to present to the Board of Directors and/or the members, information concerning the host city, fields, hotel accommodations, transportation, and potential sponsorship available.

SECTION C: TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The Tournament Committee shall consist of the President, First Vice President, Secretary, the head umpire, one (1) optional representative of the host city, and two (2) members-at-large not from the host city. The latter three members are appointed by the Chair of the Tournament Committee.

The Treasurer shall serve as an ex-officio member.

The two members-at-large can serve as long as the chair desires, as long as the member-at-large is a dues paying member of the NBBA, and attends, in person, at least one regularly scheduled physical meeting of the tournament committee in any consecutive two year period.

SECTION D: DUTIES

As the duties of any one Tournament Committee may last two (2) years or longer, the President, First Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, as ex-officio, shall, when necessary to comply with the provisions of these By-Laws, serve on more than one committee at a time. The President shall be coordinator between the NBBA and other organizations involved with the NBBA Tournament. The First Vice President shall chair the Tournament Committee and shall perform all duties prescribed herein and under Robert's Rules of Order. The Secretary shall perform all duties as prescribed by the committee or its chair along with those prescribed herein. The Treasurer shall perform all duties as prescribed by the committee or its chair along with those prescribed herein. The host city representatives shall make all arrangements for the NBBA Tournament, and after committee approval of all arrangements, shall carry out said arrangements. The Member-at-Large shall perform duties as directed by the committee or its chair.

SECTION E: POWERS

The Tournament Committee is responsible for, but not limited to, the following:

1. Conducting an NBBA Tournament
2. Making all arrangements in accordance with these By-Laws
3. Choosing officials for the Tournament with Board approval
4. Publicizing the Tournament with Board coordination
5. Transmitting information to potentially involved teams concerning the Tournament

SECTION F: FEES

Tournament entry fees shall be dispersed in the following manner:

- A. One-third of the entry fee to the John Ross Endowment Fund.
- B. One-third to the NBBA Tournament Fund to be specifically controlled by the Tournament Committee.
- C. One-third to the NBBA general fund.

All teams must remit the tournament entry fee (the amount for the upcoming year to be determined by the NBBA Tournament Committee and announced at the Awards Ceremony) by the 1st of July of the tournament year to the Secretary of the NBBA.

SECTION G: TOURNAMENT AWARDS

Tournament Awards shall be given to the players with the highest rating as determined by the following criteria

1. Sportsmanship Award (traveling trophy + money) The team that receives the highest total as voted by tournament umpires and tournament scorekeepers
2. Best Pitcher/Catcher Award (1 awarded) Total tournament strikeouts divided by number of batters faced (minimum 120)
3. Best Spotter Award (1 awarded) Total team putouts + total opposing team runs divided by total team putouts
4. Offensive All Tournament Team Awards (6 awarded) Top person in category is MVP. Runs scored divided by number of at bats (minimum 20)

5. Defensive All Tournament Team Awards (6 awarded) Top person in category is MVP.
Total putouts divided by number games played (minimum 4)

ARTICLE XIII: RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES

No part of the net earnings of the organization shall be used for the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article I hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be to carry on propaganda or otherwise attempt to influence legislation. The corporation shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

ARTICLE XIV: DISSOLUTION OF CORPORATION

Upon the dissolution of this organization, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the organization, dispose of all the assets of the organization exclusively for the purposes of the organization in such manner, or to such organization(s) organized exclusively for the promotion and development of amateur athletics for the blind and shall, at the time, qualify as an exempt organization(s) under Section 501(c) (3) on the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

Submitted with changes Wednesday, February 14, 2018