

Victoria-Brock Baseball Association Constitution

[revised March 2019]

Article 1 - NAME

A) The association shall be known as "Victoria Brock Baseball Association" or by its initials "VBBA".

Article 2 - OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION

A) To foster and improve baseball within the boundaries of the VBBA.

B) To protect and promote the mutual interests of the members.

C) To initiate and regulate competition for the VBBA league play and the VBBA League tournaments.

Article 3 - ASSOCIATION BOUNDARIES

A) The territory governed by the Victoria Brock Baseball Association shall consist of the area included in the City of Kawartha Lakes and the Township of Brock (which includes the Township Thorah) in the Region of Durham.

B) The geographical area of the VBBA shall consist of the following centres; Bobcaygeon, Fenelon Falls, Woodville, Beaverton, Sunderland, Cannington, Oakwood, Little Britain, Cameron and Ops. The schedules for each division will be based on the number of teams in each division. The basis of the schedules will be voted on and decided at the scheduling meeting in April.

C) Divisions will be altered if not enough teams are registered in any particular age group. Each division will play amongst themselves with the option to schedule games with teams in the other divisions, but inter-divisional games (exhibition games) will not count for league play standings. All scheduled games played within the divisions will count for year-end tournament standings.

D) Each team of each division will call in their wins / losses / ties and homes game scores to the tournament convenor 2 weeks prior to the tournament. Cancelled games (discounting rainouts) will count as a loss if not rescheduled. Attempts should be made to reschedule rainouts.

Article 4 - MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

A) The Victoria Brock Baseball Association shall be composed of such Baseball Associations and Clubs as members, who agree to abide and comply with the Constitution and Bylaws and Rules of the VBBA.

B) All member associations and clubs must be located and operated within the Geographical boundaries of the VBBA.

C) Any new association which does not conflict with any established association, and which wishes to affiliate with the VBBA, must first be approved by the VBBA Executive.

D) VBBA recommends all member associations to become incorporated.

E) The Executive shall have the power to accept individual clubs (direct entries) where they are unable to secure grouping with any other affiliated association.

F) Member associations are required to check player birth certificates at spring registration. Roster sheets containing all players' names, address and birth dates must be submitted to the VBBA no later than June 15th. A player may only appear on one roster. Centre Presidents are responsible to have completed rosters into the Tournament Committee by June 15th.

G) All associations must supply copies of this constitution and appropriate league rules to all coaches and umpires in their associations.

H) Sexual Abuse - The VBBA recommends that all associations should consider OPP criminal record checks for all coaches and assistant coaches.

I) No centres, with population of over 10,000 as per Ontario Rural Softball, can be associated member of the VBBA. If a team from an area of over 10,000 people wishes to play in the VBBA league, the team must notify the VBBA executive by April 15th. VBBA executive notifies all centres for a meeting. If a centre isn't represented at this meeting, their vote will be a "Yes" vote. A "YES" vote is allowing the large centre in the VBBA.

J) Member associations are required to hold registration for ALL divisions (Boys & Girls). Members may choose to operate certain divisions as a house league.

Article 5 - THE EXECUTIVE

A) The VBBA Executive shall be comprised of: President, Past-President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and a Board of Directors comprised of one representative from each member centre which has at least one team enrolled in the VBBA.

B) The term of office for members of the Executive shall be for one year.

C) Elections for the executive offices shall be held each year at the annual meeting being held not later than the last day of October of the same playing year.

D) To run for the office of the President of the VBBA, the candidate must have served on the VBBA Executive for one year.

E) An executive member who misses two consecutive board meetings without giving reason which the full executive feels is valid shall be deemed to have tendered his / her resignation.

F) In the event of a vacancy on the Executive, the remaining executive members have the power to fill such a vacancy.

G) The Executive must maintain a bank account in the name of the Victoria Brock Baseball Association. This account shall require the signing authority of the Secretary / Treasurer and either the President or the Vice-president. An account of the financial affairs of the VBBA shall be presented at each annual meeting.

H) The Scheduling Committee will be comprised of three volunteer members. The mandate of this committee is to organize an electronic scheduling system or a manual scheduling meeting to be held no later than April 21st to allow time for the Committee to review and make improvements to schedules. Schedules are to be published and distributed no later than 1 week before the start of the season.

I) The Tournament Committee will be comprised of three volunteer members. This committee's mandate is: to review tournament regulations and procedures; to develop tournament formats and schedules; to work closely with hosting centres to ensure a successful outcome; to make recommendations for improvements to the Executive at the Fall Meeting. The Committee shall ensure that tournament schedules for all divisions are to be completed and published on web site no later than June 15th.

J) The Marketing and Development Committee will be comprised of two to three volunteer members. The mandate of this committee is to prepare promotional ideas and associated costs for approval at the fall meeting for implementation the following spring.

Article 6 - MEETINGS

A) The Annual meeting shall not be held later than the last day of October each year.

B) Each member association affiliated with the VBBA during the past season shall be entitled to one delegate vote at the annual meeting.

C) Constitution amendments can only be made at the Annual General Meeting. Motions, resolutions and constitutional amendments at the annual meeting must receive 60% of the votes to receive approval.

D) The spring scheduling meeting shall be no later than April 21st.

E) Executive meetings shall be held from time to time at the discretion of the executive as necessary to continue the orderly operation of the VBBA.

Article 7 - SCHEDULING

A) Each centre must send at least one representative (but two representatives are preferable) for scheduling of league play.

Amendment

B) The season shall begin the week after Mother's Day. The end of season tournaments for Mini-Mites & Mites (Girls and Boys shall be scheduled for early to mid-July. The end of season tournaments for Squirts, Mosquitoes, shall be scheduled for before the August long weekend. The Peewees shall be scheduled for early in the August. The Girls Bantam tournament is to be scheduled for mid-August and the Midget tournament is to be scheduled for mid to late August but before students will be heading to College or University. The Boys Bantam tournament is to be scheduled for middle of the month and will take place in the form of play downs during the week. The Boys Midget tournament is to be scheduled for week after the Bantams and will also take place in the form of play downs during the week.

C) Scheduling information (CONFIRMED) from each member association must be in the hands of the executive by the 15th of April. This information should include: the number of teams in each division, diamond location, playing time, coach name, and the coach's phone number. The change of nights for a team's playing time can't be changed at the scheduling meeting.

D) Associations which do not have scheduling information in the hands of the Executive by the required date will **not** have their teams scheduled for VBBA league play during the current year.

E) It is recommended that member associations have their registrations scheduled for not later than March 15th.

F) No teams will be added to the schedule after May 31st. If a team is withdrawing after the schedule is drawn, the Executive should be notified as soon as possible.

Article 8 - TEAMS AND AGES

A) Boys: Blastball or T-Ball (mixed tournament only) ages 3, 4 & 5 as of January 1st
Mini-Mites (mixed) ages 5 & 6 as of January 1st
Mites ages 7, 8 & 9 as of January 1st
Mosquito (hardball) ages 9 & 10 as of January 1st
Squirt (softball) ages 10 & 11 as of January 1st
Peewee ages 11 & 12 as of January 1st
Bantam ages 13 & 14 as of January 1st
Midget ages 15, 16 & 17 as of January 1st

B) Girls: Blastball or T-Ball (mixed tournament only) ages 3, 4 & 5 as of January 1st
Mini-Mites (mixed) ages 5 & 6 as of January 1st
Mites ages 7, 8 & 9 as of January 1st
Squirt ages 10 & 11 as of January 1st
Peewee ages 12 & 13 as of January 1st
Bantam ages 14 & 15 as of January 1st
Midget ages 16, 17 &, 18 as of January 1st

C) Players may play up in a higher division but they may not play down in a lower division. If an overage player is found to have played in a game, the game will be forfeited to the opposing team. Based on the fact that a division might not be running for one year, the Executive could decide to allow players left out of this division to play down a division, providing that all members of the Executive agree. If a player is given permission to play down a division, they will not be allowed to pitch or catch. It is preferred that these players play up a division, but circumstances could prove that playing down would be best.

D) Any player, who plays for VBBA team, may play a maximum of 5 league games in a carded league annually. If there is a scheduling conflict between a VBBA game and a carded league game, the VBBA game must be given preference and the player must play the VBBA game. Before participating in a carded league, a player must report his / her intention to a designated director of the VBBA Executive (That director being recognized annually). Failure on the part of a player to meet these conditions will result in the player being ineligible for further VBBA play that year. Associations using carded players in tournaments may be barred from participating in the next year's season. This penalty will be applied at the discretion of the VBBA executive.

E) All teams MUST travel.

F) The Victoria Brock Baseball association does not discriminate on the basis of gender in accordance with the Canadian Charter of Rights.

G) Physically and / or mentally challenged players, whose participation, in VBBA games necessitates the implementation of otherwise unnecessary procedures or precautions on the field, in order to guarantee the safety of the player or the safety of the other players, umpires, coaches, and managers must have the approval of the VBBA Executive before engaging in league play. Approval is dependent on the following conditions being met: 1) The parents / guardians must produce a Doctor's letter supporting the players participation in organized baseball. 2) A waiver from both the parents / guardians and the player must be signed holding the VBBA harmless in the event the player is injured during a VBBA game or practice. 3) The parents / guardians or an individual designated by the parents / guardians must be present at all VBBA games and practices to oversee the participation of the challenged player. 4) Wheelchair spokes must be covered while on the playing field.

H) All teams must have a responsible adult present as coach or manager at all games.

I) Failure to adhere to the constitutional rules of the VBBA may, at the discretion of the VBBA executive, result in sanctions being applied to the offending parties.

J) Coaches are responsible to notify the opposing team of a game cancellation within a reasonable amount of time. If a coach fails to cancel properly, charges to their centre may be incurred.

K) Players must play 50% of scheduled league games in the VBBA on the team he/she is rostered with, to qualify to play in the year-end tournament. If a team plays a player only in the tournament, this team will be disqualified from the tournament.

L) For Midgets Girls only. A team is allowed to have 4 overage players, as long as these overage players have played with the same centre for several seasons. In the event a Midget team does not exist at that centre the overage players can play in another centre pending Board approval. Overage players are not allowed to pitch, but may catch in any games. An overage player is defined as a maximum of 1 year over the allowable age.

M) For Midgets Boys only. A team is allowed to have 2 overage players, as long as these overage players have played with the same centre for several seasons. In the event a Midget team does not exist at that centre the overage players can play in another centre pending Board approval. Overage players are not allowed to pitch or catch in any games. An overage player is defined as a maximum of 1 year over the allowable age.

N) There will only be 3 former rep players who have played rep in the last two years allowed to play on one team together. Teams who play a game with more than 3 former rep players will forfeit the game.

Article 9 - LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

Softball will adhere to Softball Ontario rules

Baseball will adhere to Baseball Ontario rules

A) All games played under the auspices of the VBBA shall be played in accordance with the Official Rules of Softball Ontario or Baseball Ontario or as amended by the General League Rules of the VBBA

B) Teams, and associations which do not abide by the General Rules of the VBBA shall be ineligible to play in the league Championship Tournaments.

C) There will be no tiering. The VBBA recognizes tiering by:

- having tryouts
- cutting players
- recruiting from other centres
- dividing teams by ages
- limiting numbers

D) Two teams from a single centre of the same division must be divided as equally as possible by ability.

E) The VBBA executive is authorized to examine complaints and apply sanctions up to and including exclusion from tournaments.

F) At first evidence of lightning, the umpire must halt the game and ensure the players and coaches are quickly taken to safety. The umpire shall note the inning, score, batter, the count on the batter, and the number of outs. The game shall resume from that point if and when the umpire feels it is safe to do so.

G) A game is considered complete:

- 1) after 4 complete innings for 2 hour games (3-1/2 inning if home team is leading)
- 2) after 3 complete innings for 1 1/2 hour games (3-1/2 inning if home team is leading)

H) Mosquito Boys Pitching Rule

NEW FOR 2019

New for 2019, VBBA will implementing the use of the Blue Flame pitching machine and will follow the following guidelines;

- 1) First 3 innings of pitching will be with the UMP 45 pitching machine
- 2) Each coach will use the machine to pitch to their own team
- 3) Remaining innings will be live player pitching
- 4) 5ft diameter safety circle to be around machine
- 5) Players shall NEVER enter circle
- 6) Players must be within 1ft to either side or behind machine before machine is loaded
- 7) The player must act as a pitcher NOT rover
- 8) If the ball hits the machine or coach it is considered foul and dead
- 9) Players cannot move to the front of the machine until the ball crosses home plate
- 10) Both teams must use the same ball
- 11) The Home team coach is responsible for having the machine set up and consistent 10 minutes before game time

NEW FOR 2020

New for 2020, VBBA will implementing the use of the Blue Flame pitching machine and will follow the following guidelines;

- 1) The implementation of the use of the Blue Flame pitching machine, was intended for all players to be able to hit the ball. If the machine is set up properly, this should be the case. New this year, there will be a 5 "called ball" limit per at bat. There will not be any walks allowed during the use of the Pitching Machine. On the 5th "called ball" by the umpire, the batter will be called out.

ARTICLE 10 - UMPIRES

A) All managers and coaches and teams come under the jurisdiction of the umpires during the game and are subject to penalties.

B) It is the responsibility of the home team to provide and pay for the services of the umpires. Member associations should strive to have carded umpires in their areas.

C) Complaints based on the umpire's judgement decisions will not be entertained.

Article 11 - CODE OF CONDUCT

A) Malicious Contact - When a base runner, in an act of deliberate and malicious contact, crashes into a defensive player hoping to jar the ball loose or perhaps injure the fielder, the runner, at the discretion of the umpire shall be called out and ejected from the game. Any player ejected for deliberate and malicious contact towards another player will be subject to a game suspension. Subsequent incidents will result in additional suspensions. First incident will be a 1 game suspension. Second incident will be a hearing with the VBBA Executive and possible further suspension or discipline.

B) Smoking - Coaches, managers, players and umpires must refrain from using tobacco products during the game.

C) Alcoholic Beverages & Drugs - The VBBA does not tolerate the consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or drugs at any of their games. Players, coaches, and managers shall be ejected from the game and face possible suspension. Umpires, parents and fans are expected to abide by the association's ruling.

D) Profanity - Profanity directed at players, umpires, coaches and fans will not be tolerated at all. At the discretion of the umpire, individuals participating in the VBBA baseball games, who use profanity, will be ejected from the game.

E) Interference - Any opposing manager, coach, or player making remarks to the opposing ball players with the purpose of hindering their play shall be warned by the umpire. A second offense during a game will result in the individual being ejected from the game.

F) Ejections - Any player ejected during a game will face a minimum 1 game suspension. The suspension will apply to the next scheduled game. Any coach ejected from a game will be put into progressive discipline and will be suspended for one game for the first infraction, 2 games for the second infraction and the third infraction will result in the coach being suspended for the season and possibly from future coaching in the VBBA.

Article 12 - INSURANCE

A) All member associations are required to provide insurance for their players, umpires and coaches and executives. This coverage should include a general liability policy as well as bodily injury protection. These coverage's are provided by the Ontario Baseball Association and the VBBA at competitive rates. All members, if not insured with VBBA, must provide proof of insurance coverage to the VBBA before the season begins.

B) Member associations are required to have at least one team registered with the VBBA to qualify under the league's accident a liability insurance policies.

Article 13 — EQUIPMENT

A) All batters, runners and on-deck batter must wear a prescribed protective baseball helmet with flaps, covering both ears and with a chin strap fastened on both sides to hold the helmet securely in place.

B) If a runner deliberately throws off the helmet, the runner will be deemed to be automatically out.

C) All catchers must wear face mask, throat guard, chest protector, shin guards and helmet.

D) Metal cleats are not allowed. If caught, the player will be ejected immediately.

E) Both wooden and metal bats are allowed.

F) All teams must provide first aid kits with plastic gloves.

G) The use of a safety bag at first base for hardball is mandatory at the mosquito level only. A safety bag must be used at first base for all softball games.

Article 14 — TOURNAMENTS

A) The VBBA will arrange to provide a final league tournament for each division in the VBBA.

B) A convener recognized by the VBBA will be responsible for the organization of each tournament in conjunction with the coaches of the teams in the tournament. The convener must have a coach's meeting at least one week prior to the tournament. This meeting will clarify the rules of play and will decide what type of tournament will be played (double knock-out or round robin). If there is a complete agreement by all coaches for rule(s) changes at the coach's meeting, then these changes are only valid at the tournament. Coaches must have all game sheets available at the coaches meeting for verification.

C) In the event of a protest, the convener shall have the authority to rule on the protest and the decision of the convener shall be final.

D) Each team will be eligible to play in a final league tournament unless the team is ineligible to play due to other Articles of this Constitution.

E) The rules for tournament play shall remain the same as for league play and shall not be altered unless there is a coaches' meeting.

F) Tournament Fees as of 2019 season are listed below. Fees may be increased when deemed necessary. This decision can only be made by the VBBA executive.

Mini-Mites \$225.00

Mites \$225.00

Squirt \$225.00

Mosquito \$225.00

PeeWee \$225.00

Bantam \$225.00

Midget \$225.00

G) Tournament fees must be submitted by each affiliated association with their team lists by the 15th of April. Cheques are to be made payable to Victoria Brock Baseball Association and should include an additional \$20.00 to cover web site maintenance.

H) Associations which withdraw teams and notify the VBBA Executive before the 15th of May will receive a full refund of the withdrawn teams' tournament fees.

I) Approximately 2-3 weeks before the tournament, the convener and the organizing coaches will be issued a cheque from the VBBA in the amount of the fees submitted for their tournament. The convener is expected to operate the tournament within the limitations of the funds available. The convener cannot levy additional charges to the participating teams to cover costs of the tournament.

J) The centre hosting the tournament will provide the balls for that tournament. This cost will be covered through the tournament fees and will be part of the expenses and financial statement submitted by the tournament convener.

K) The VBBA recommends that the final game of each tournament be umpired by carded umpires and that an official scorer be recognized by the umpires, coaches, and the managers.

L) The VBBA recommends that the tournaments take the form of a double loss elimination tournament. Under any circumstances point tournaments are not allowed.

M) At the discretion of the VBBA executive, the convenor in conjunction with the host centre will be required to submit a detailed financial statement of the tournament, including receipts, no later than 2 weeks after the tournament

N) The year-end tournament may be divided into 2 flights. One tournament for the top teams in each division and one tournament for the bottom teams in each division.

O) No one team can play more than 4 games in one day.

P) If a team cannot field 10 rostered players on the day of the tournament players from a lower division roster may be called upon to make a maximum of 10 players.

Article 15 —Select Teams

A) The VBBA will begin to provide the opportunity for Select Teams to play in OSSTA or Baseball Ontario Select Associations. These teams will be called the VIC/Brock Lady Giants and the Vic/Brock Giants respectively.

B) These teams will be selected through tryouts and will follow the rules of the Association they are joining if they differ from Softball Ontario or Baseball Ontario.

C) Coaching applications will be put forth by prospective coaches to the Select Team Committee for consideration. If a coach requires certification, the VBBA will cover the cost through the team fees collected from the players playing on that particular Select Team.

D) Tryouts will take place in late April or early May.