



**BACKYARD BOYS BASEBALL LEAGUE
BYLAWS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES
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ARTICLE I — NAME, PURPOSE, AND MISSION STATEMENT

1.1 Name

The organization shall be known as **Backyard Boys Baseball League (“BYB”)**.

1.2 Purpose

These bylaws outline rules, procedures, conduct guidelines and operational policies for the league. All team managers, coaches and umpires are responsible for knowing and understanding these bylaws.

1.3 Mission Statement

Backyard Boys Baseball League provides boys and girls ages 7–12 with the opportunity to participate in organized summer baseball in Southern Maine and New Hampshire. The league emphasizes skill development, positional learning, teamwork, and sportsmanship in a fun and supportive environment. Player growth is prioritized over competition, with a season-ending tournament serving as the league’s competitive component.

ARTICLE II — ANNUAL RENEWAL

This document expires at the close of each fiscal year (December 31) and must be renewed annually by a majority vote of the Board prior to player registration. Amendments to the bylaws require approval by the Board only and do not require general membership consent. These bylaws may not conflict with or supersede the BYB Constitution. The Board may, by majority vote, review and amend the bylaws during the season when such action is deemed to be in the best interest of the league.

ARTICLE III — LEAGUE STRUCTURE

3.1 Available Divisions

BYB offers three age groups/divisions: **8U, 10U and 12U**.

- Children ages 7 and 8 are eligible for 8U
- Children ages 9 and 10 are eligible for 10U
- Children ages 11 and 12 are eligible for 12U

Ages will be determined with reference to **Little League** age. Little League age means the age the player will be as of August 31st of the year in which the season takes place.

- Little League Age chart: <https://www.littleleague.org/downloads/2026-baseball-age-chart/>
- Little League Age Calculator: <https://www.littleleague.org/play-little-league/determine-league-age/>

The BYB Board of Directors (“the Board”) reserves the right to change the league structure to suit the needs of BYB.

3.2 Season Calendar

The BYB league is a summer league, with games being played during the months of June, July and August.

ARTICLE IV — OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

4.1 Registration and Fees

The Board shall establish registration dates and fees on an annual basis and will announce this information on the BYB website and Facebook page. As a nonprofit organization, BYB sets registration fees to cover league operating expenses, including uniforms, umpires, special events, software, coach training, and other necessary costs. Fees may vary by division based on the expenses associated with each level of play.

Registration fees include, but are not limited to, the cost of uniforms, equipment, team management software, coach training, insurance, and administrative expenses. Fees are due at the time of registration unless an alternative arrangement is approved by the League Treasurer or President.

No child will be denied participation due to financial hardship. BYB offers a confidential scholarship or fee-waiver program administered by the President and Treasurer.

4.2 Registration Process

The Board shall invite cities and towns throughout Maine and New Hampshire to participate in BYB on a season-by-season basis. Invitees must register with BYB no later than 14 days prior to the start of the season to allow for scheduling and uniform ordering. Game schedules will be released one week before the season begins.

Each invitee shall designate the number of teams and corresponding age divisions it intends to enter. A designated representative from each town is responsible for ensuring competitive balance among the teams submitted.

BYB will create all teams within PlayMetrics and provide a registration link for the invitee to distribute to its players.

BYB reserves the right to create additional teams using free agents on a cross-town basis.

4.3 Refund Policy

Refund policies will be established by BYB, posted on the BYB website and reviewed on an annual basis.

4.4 Player and Parent Code of Conduct

All parents and players must adhere to the BYB's code of conduct. See **Appendices A and B** for the Codes of Conduct.

4.5 Insurance

Insurance coverage provided by BYB does not extend to individuals who are not officially affiliated with the league. Coverage is limited to registered players, rostered managers and coaches, volunteer umpires, and other documented league volunteer personnel.

Accident insurance is intended to supplement an individual's personal health or accident insurance. If an injured participant does not have personal coverage, the insurance provided by BYB will serve as the primary carrier, subject to applicable deductibles.

In the event a claim must be filed, the parent or guardian should contact the President or Safety Officer to obtain the necessary claim forms and instructions.

The Board shall maintain a policy of Officers and Directors liability insurance covering all Officers and Directors against claims arising from their official duties, except in cases of willful negligence or misfeasance.

4.6 Fields

Each invitee shall provide access to a local field to host at least one home game per week. If a city or town is unable to provide a local field, an exception may be granted with approval from the Board.

4.7 Background Checks

Background checks are required for all Managers, Coaches, Umpires, and any Volunteers who have regular or ongoing contact with players.

ARTICLE V — GOVERNANCE

5.1 Purpose

BYB's governance structure ensures that league operations, financial oversight, safety policies, and volunteer activities are conducted fairly, transparently, and in the best interest of its players. This section defines the authority, responsibilities, and procedures of league leadership.

5.2 Board of Directors

In accordance with Article V, Section X of the Backyard Boys Baseball League Constitution, the Board of Directors shall consist of no fewer than four officers. Pursuant to Article X, Section X of the Constitution, the Board may increase its membership, provided that additional members are approved by a majority vote of the Board.

ARTICLE VI — FINANCES

All purchases, other than recurring monthly expenses, must be approved in advance by the individual authorized for the applicable division and must be supported by a receipt for reimbursement. The Treasurer shall be notified of all purchases in a timely manner.

Only authorized BYB representatives may make purchases on account with approved vendors.

At each Board meeting, the Board shall review all invoices and expenses incurred since the previous meeting, whether paid or pending approval.

Any expenditure more than \$500 requires approval from the President, Vice President and Treasurer.

Access to the BYB treasury shall be limited to the President, Vice President, and Treasurer, which is currently maintained at Bangor Savings Bank.

ARTICLE VII — MANAGERS AND COACHES

7.1 Selection

All individuals interested in managing a team shall be nominated for such position by the BYB city/town submitting the application for membership and approved by the BYB Board.

A Manager that managed or coached as part of the BYB program may be provided with preference in terms of coaching the following year but is not guaranteed to be re-appointed in subsequent years.

All managers and coaches are subject to complete an approved background check and are required to sign the BYB Coach's Code of Conduct.

All Managers and as many coaches as available shall attend a pre-season meeting held by the Board to review rules, operation of the league and expectations.

All individuals appointed to manage a BYB team must:

- Attend the Manager/Coach's meeting
- Complete a volunteer form
- Consent to a background check
- Sign the Code of Conduct

7.2 Duties

Managers and Coaches act as agents of the BYB Board and are expected to follow Board direction, uphold a philosophy that prioritizes the best interests of BYB players and families, and support the league's mission and objectives.

Managers are responsible for selecting assistant coaches for their teams. Once appointed, Managers must provide the BYB Board with each assistant coach's name, phone number, and email address.

All Managers and Coaches must be in good standing with BYB and must successfully complete a background check and sign the BYB Coach's Code of Conduct before the first

team meeting or practice, whichever occurs first. Failure to meet these requirements will result in suspension from league facilities until compliance is achieved.

Managers are responsible for communicating schedules and other relevant information to the parents or guardians of each player on their roster no later than five (5) days prior to the start of the season.

Managers must ensure that all players submit signed Medical Release Forms before the season begins.

BYB recommends that Managers conduct a team meeting prior to or at the first practice to review the Parent Code of Conduct and to communicate the mission and structure of the league.

7.3 Number of Coaches / Responsibilities

There is no limit to the number of coaches who may assist a team. BYB encourages active coaching participation, as additional support during practices enhances the overall player experience.

For games, the Manager should assign each coach a clearly defined role (e.g., first-base coach, third-base coach, bench coach, fielding coach, etc.). Clearly defined responsibilities help ensure consistent instruction and minimize confusion caused by multiple voices.

In alignment with the BYB Mission Statement, the primary responsibility of every Manager and Coach is to foster a fun, positive, and development-focused environment. Coaches are expected to be familiar with all BYB playing rules as published on the league's website.

BYB is intentionally structured as a relaxed, backyard-style summer league that prioritizes learning, enjoyment, and the opportunity for players to experience multiple positions rather than a "win-at-all-costs" approach.

The end-of-season tournament serves as the league's designated competitive phase, providing players and coaches an opportunity to compete at a higher level while continuing to uphold the league's core values.

ARTICLE VIII — EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

Teams are responsible for providing their own equipment, including balls, helmets, bats, and catcher's gear. The home team shall supply the game balls for each scheduled game.

BYB will provide team jerseys and hats to all players in every division, with the cost of these items included in the player registration fee.

Players are responsible for supplying their own pants, socks, and belts in the color designated by their Manager, as well as personal equipment such as bats, gloves, cleats, and equipment bags.

Parents or guardians who submit incorrect uniform sizes shall be responsible for any additional costs associated with uniform replacement.

Players must wear their uniforms properly at all times. Jerseys must remain tucked into pants, and hats must be worn facing forward.

ARTICLE IX — SAFETY AND CONDUCT

The league is committed to maintaining a safe, positive, and developmentally appropriate environment for all participants. These standards apply to players, coaches, volunteers, parents, spectators, and league officials at all league-sanctioned events.

9.1 Player Safety Protocols (equipment standards, injury procedures)

- All players must use league-approved protective equipment during practices, games, and warm-ups.
- Helmets must be worn while batting, in the on-deck area, running the bases, or participating in any drill involving live pitching or hitting. For 8u and 10U, batting helmet facemasks are required.
- Bats may not be held in the on-deck area. Players may take possession of a bat only when proceeding directly to the batter's box.
- Catchers are required to wear full protective gear during all defensive drills and games, including a dangling type throat protector.
- Players who are visibly injured, ill, or otherwise unable to safely participate may not take part in league activities. Coaches must err on the side of caution when making participation decisions.
- Players must handle league equipment safely at all times. Unsafe behavior, including throwing bats, misusing equipment, or engaging in horseplay, is prohibited.

9.2 Weather

Heat, weather, and field conditions must be continuously monitored. Play shall be suspended or modified when conditions pose a safety risk.

Thunder/Lightning: At the first sound of thunder or sight of lightning, all play must cease immediately. Players and spectators must evacuate the field and dugouts and seek shelter in a fully enclosed building or vehicle. Play may not resume until a minimum of thirty (30) minutes has elapsed since the last observed thunder or lightning.

Games and practices may not begin or continue if field conditions create unsafe footing, standing water, or an increased risk of injury. Umpires and coaches must jointly assess field conditions prior to the start of play and throughout the event.

Play must be suspended when rain significantly reduces visibility or creates unsafe ball-handling conditions. The league retains the authority to close fields at any time to ensure participant safety or prevent field damage.

Coaches are responsible for monitoring weather conditions before and during all league activities. Umpires have the authority to suspend or cancel games due to unsafe weather or field conditions. The league may override coach or umpire decisions when broader safety concerns exist.

Weather-related cancellations or delays will be communicated through league-approved channels as early as possible. Coaches must promptly notify families when practices or games are modified due to weather.

9.3 Coach & Volunteer Responsibilities

- Coaches are responsible for maintaining a safe practice and game environment, including appropriate supervision, equipment checks, and age-appropriate instruction.
- Physical discipline, intimidation, or any form of verbal abuse is strictly prohibited.
- Coaches must model sportsmanship, respect, and self-control at all times.
- Only authorized adults may enter the dugout or the field of play.
- Coaches must immediately report injuries, safety concerns, or violations of conduct to league leadership.

9.4 Parent & Spectator Conduct

- Parents and spectators are expected to demonstrate respect toward players, coaches, umpires, and other families at all times.

- Negative comments, arguments with officials, or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.
- Communication directed toward players must be positive and supportive. Coaching from the stands is discouraged.
- Spectators must remain in designated viewing areas and may not enter the field of play or dugouts unless authorized.
- Any individual whose conduct compromises the safety or enjoyment of participants may be asked to leave the premises.

9.5 Player Conduct

- Players must treat teammates, opponents, coaches, and officials with respect.
- Unsportsmanlike behavior, including taunting, throwing equipment, or intentional rule violations is prohibited.
- Players must follow coach instructions and league rules at all times.
- Repeated or serious misconduct may result in suspension or removal from league activities.

9.6 Umpire Respect & Authority

- Umpires have full authority over the game and field of play.
- Judgment calls are not subject to protest.
- Only the head coach may respectfully request clarification of a rule.
- Abuse of umpires — verbal or physical — will result in immediate disciplinary action.

9.7 Prohibited Behaviors

The following behaviors are strictly prohibited at all league-sanctioned events:

- The use or possession of alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, or illegal substances
- Violence, threats, or aggressive physical contact
- Bullying, harassment, or discriminatory conduct
- Profanity directed toward any participant
- Possession of weapons of any kind
- Any conduct that jeopardizes the safety or well-being of children

9.8 Reporting & Enforcement

Any participant may report a safety or conduct concern to league leadership. All complaints must be submitted in writing and signed by the individual submitting the report. Anonymous complaints will not be accepted.

All reports will be reviewed promptly and handled confidentially.

The league reserves the right to issue warnings, suspensions, or removal from participation based on the nature and severity of the violation. Failure to comply with safety or conduct standards may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the league.

When warranted by the severity of the situation, the Board of Directors may impose an immediate and indefinite suspension from playing, managing, coaching, umpiring, and/or attending games and practices. Such suspension shall remain in effect while the complaint is reviewed through the Resolution Process.

ARTICLE X — AMENDMENTS

This article establishes the process for proposing, reviewing, and approving amendments to the league's bylaws. The goal is to ensure transparency, fairness, and consistent governance as the league evolves.

10.1 Proposing Bylaw Changes

Amendments may be proposed by any Board member. All proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the League President and Secretary. Proposals must include:

- The exact wording of the proposed change
- The article and section affected
- A brief rationale for the amendment

10.2 Notice Requirements

The Secretary shall distribute proposed amendments to all Board members at least 7 days prior to the meeting at which they will be considered.

No amendment may be voted on without proper notice unless approved for emergency consideration by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board.

10.3 Voting Requirements

Amendments to the bylaws require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board members present at a meeting with quorum.

Amendments involving financial authority, safety policies, or disciplinary procedures may require a three-fourths (3/4) majority if the league chooses to adopt a higher threshold.

Votes shall be recorded in the meeting minutes, including the final wording of the amendment.

10.4 Effective Date of Amendments

Unless otherwise specified in the amendment, all approved bylaw changes take effect immediately upon adoption.

Amendments that impact player eligibility, divisional structure, registration fees or seasonal scheduling will take effect at the start of the next league season to ensure fairness and adequate communication.

The Secretary shall update the official bylaws document within 14 days of adoption and distribute the revised version to the Board and league membership.

10.5 Recordkeeping

All versions of the bylaws, including historical amendments, shall be maintained by the Secretary.

The league shall keep a permanent record of:

- Proposed amendments
- Voting results
- Effective dates
- Rationale or supporting documentation

ARTICLE XI — DISSOLUTION

This section outlines the formal process for dissolving the league and ensuring that all remaining assets are distributed in a lawful, ethical, and mission-aligned manner.

A motion to dissolve the league may be introduced by any Board member. The proposal must be provided in writing to all Board members at least 14 days prior to the meeting at which it will be considered. Dissolution requires a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the full Board.

If the league has voting members beyond the Board (e.g., general membership), the Board may choose to submit the dissolution decision to the membership for ratification by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

11.1 Settlement of Obligations

Before any assets may be distributed:

- All outstanding debts, liabilities, and contractual obligations must be identified and paid.
- Any remaining equipment or property on loan must be returned to its rightful owner.
- Final financial statements must be prepared by the Treasurer and reviewed by the Board.

11.2 Distribution of Remaining Assets

Upon satisfaction of all obligations, all remaining assets—financial, physical, or otherwise—must be distributed exclusively for youth sports or charitable purposes consistent with the league’s mission.

Assets may be transferred to:

- Another local youth baseball or softball organization
- A nonprofit youth sports program
- A school-based athletic program
- A 501(c)(3) charitable organization supporting youth development

No part of the league’s assets may benefit any individual board member, volunteer, coach, or player, except for reimbursement of legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of the league.

11.3 Recordkeeping & Final Reporting

The Secretary shall maintain permanent records of:

- The dissolution vote
- Final financial statements
- Asset distribution documentation
- Minutes from all meetings related to dissolution

A final report summarizing the dissolution process and asset distribution shall be made available to league families upon request.

Effective Date: Dissolution becomes effective immediately upon approval unless the Board specifies a later date to allow for orderly wind-down of operations.

APPENDIX A — PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

Backyard Boys Baseball League

Purpose: To ensure all players contribute to a safe, respectful, and positive baseball environment.

Player Expectations - Players are expected to:

- Demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times, win or lose.
- Respect teammates, opponents, coaches, umpires, and spectators.
- Follow all league rules and the directions of coaches and officials.
- Support teammates and put team goals ahead of personal goals.
- Use equipment safely and responsibly; never throw equipment in anger.
- Maintain a positive attitude and always try their best.
- Avoid taunting, bullying, or using abusive or profane language.
- Have fun and contribute to a positive team environment.

Prohibited Behaviors - Players will not:

- Engage in unsportsmanlike conduct, including taunting or humiliating others.
- Use profanity or disrespectful language.
- Damage equipment, facilities, or property.
- Threaten or engage in physical confrontation with anyone.

Player Acknowledgment & Signature

I have read and agree to follow the Backyard Boys Player Code of Conduct.

Player Name: _____

Player Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX B — PARENT & SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Backyard Boys Baseball League

Purpose: To promote a supportive, respectful environment for all players and volunteers.

Parent & Spectator Expectations - Parents and spectators are expected to:

- Model good sportsmanship and respectful behavior.
- Support all players, not just their own child.
- Respect umpires, coaches, and league volunteers — their decisions are final.
- Keep comments positive; avoid coaching from the stands.
- Ensure players arrive on time and prepared for practices and games.
- Refrain from alcohol, drugs, or smoking at league events or facilities.
- Address concerns through proper league channels, never during games.

Prohibited Behaviors - Parents and spectators will not:

- Ridicule, demean, or verbally abuse players, coaches, officials, or other spectators.
- Engage in confrontations, threats, or physical altercations.
- Use obscene, vulgar, or profane language.
- Discuss players or coaches negatively with others during games.

Parent/Spectator Acknowledgment & Signature

I have read and agree to follow the Backyard Boys Parent & Spectator Code of Conduct.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX C — COACH AND VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT

Backyard Boys Baseball League

Purpose: To ensure coaches lead with integrity, fairness, and a commitment to player development.

Coach and Volunteer Expectations - Coaches and Volunteers are expected to:

- Serve as positive role models and uphold sportsmanship, teamwork, and respect.
- Prioritize the physical and emotional wellbeing of players over winning.
- Treat all players fairly and provide constructive, supportive instruction.
- Ensure practices and games are safe, organized, and development-focused.
- Communicate clearly with players and families.
- Respect umpires and league officials; comply with all rules and decisions.
- Never use drugs or alcohol at league events.
- Complete all required background checks and training.

Prohibited Behaviors - Coaches and Volunteers will not:

- Use abusive language or behavior toward players, officials, or spectators.
- Encourage or permit unsafe or overly aggressive play.
- Publicly criticize players, umpires, or other coaches.

Coach and Volunteer Acknowledgment & Signature

I have read and agree to follow the Backyard Boys Coach and Volunteer Code of Conduct.

Coach/Volunteer Name: _____

Coach/Volunteer Signature: _____

Date: _____