

# BY-LAWS PERTAINING TO BASEBALL PLAYERS ASSOCIATION SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

## ARTICLE XIII INDIVIDUAL PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

### SECTION 1

A player is eligible to compete as an amateur player as long as the player does not accept payment for participating in the game of baseball.

### SECTION 2

A player is considered an amateur player if the player plays the game solely for the pleasure, physical, mental and social benefits derived from participation, and does not accept payment for playing the game of baseball.

### SECTION 3

An amateur player may be reimbursed from his team manager for actual necessary expenses incurred for travel, lodging and/or meals.

### SECTION 4

An amateur player is eligible to participate in the BPA program as long as the player is listed on an official roster of a team sanctioned by the Baseball Players Association.

### SECTION 5

An amateur player is not permitted to accept awards other than a watch, charm, trophy, jacket, bat or other like award that is acceptable to the BPA, as an award in which amateur status should be retained.

### SECTION 6

It is the responsibility of each Zone Vice President and/or State Director to adopt a system to justly classify participants as to which Class they may participate.

### SECTION 7

A player may not participate in a Sanctioned BPA Tournament with more than one (1) team during the same tournament.

## **SECTION 8**

A Tournament Director or the Tournament Umpire-In-Chief of the Baseball Players Association may not manage, coach, play or umpire in any tournament in which he/she serves as a Tournament Director or Tournament Umpire-In-Chief. However, if the Tournament Director or the Tournament Umpire-In-Chief are a Sanctioned BPA umpire, he/she may due to emergencies or other special circumstance, umpire until replacement(s) arrive.

## **SECTION 9**

- a) Rosters are frozen after the State Tournament. In absence of a State Tournament, rosters are frozen no later than the entry deadline for the respective Zone World Series. The Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director or the President of the Baseball Players Association must approve any exceptions to the above.
- b) Teams advancing to the World Series may add up to two (2) players to their World Series Qualified Roster under the following conditions
  - 1) Must have open position(s) on the roster.
  - 2) Player(s) added must already be on a BPA roster unless approved by the State Director.
  - 3) Request to add player(s) must be submitted to their respective State Director within five (5) days following the State Tournament or no later than the entry deadline for the respective Zone World Series(whichever is later).
- c) Any youth player may be released provided that the release has the consent of the player's manager and parent(s) or guardian.
- d) The cut-off date for the youth age eligibility is April 30<sup>th</sup>. Whatever age the child is on April 30<sup>th</sup> of the current year, is the eligible age division for the entire up-coming year. A copy of the original birth certificate and/or government issued photo ID must accompany youth players at all times.

## **ARTICLE XIV STATE AND QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS**

**NOTE:** *In all World Series, it will be mandatory that all team rosters be checked prior to the first game and may be checked at any other time during the tournament.*

**NOTE:** *To participate in a State Tournament a team must participate in an approved BPA league, WSQ or NIT and if they do not they are required to play at the "GOLD" level for State and if they qualify for World at the State Tournament.*

### **SECTION 1**

A team may only participate in their home state championship. If a team wishes to participate in more than one state championship, it must be held within the borders of that team's particular state. (i.e. East, West, North, South.

**NOTE:** *A team that wins its respective State Championship Tournament shall be awarded a berth to the World Series.*

### **SECTION 2**

All sanctioned tournaments conducted by a State or Area Director shall be conducted in accordance within the Rules and Regulations of the Baseball Players Association. That Director must ensure that proper administration is being conducted at all times

- a) All Tournament Directors must supply all baseballs to be used in any BPA Sanctioned N.I.T, State or World Series Tournaments. Under no circumstances will teams be asked to provide baseballs for these tournaments.
- b) The official baseball shall be a sphere formed by yarn wound around a small core of cork, rubber, leather or similar material, covered with two strips of white horsehide, leather or cowhide tightly stitched together. It shall weigh not less than 5 nor more than 5 ¼ ounces in weight and measure not less than 9 nor more than 9 ¼ inches in circumference.

### **SECTION 3**

Only a properly registered team with the Baseball Players Association may complete in a Qualifying or State Tournament Sanctioned by the Baseball Player Association.

**NOTE:** *Teams must have registered and entered their roster online with all information correct and complete or the player(s) and/or the team(s) will be considered ineligible to participate in any BPA Qualifiers or Post Season Tournaments.*

#### **SECTION 4**

The National Headquarters of the Baseball Players Association shall determine the amount to be charged as entry fees for all Post Season and Invitational Tournaments

**EXCEPTION:** *Qualifying tournaments are left up to the discretion of the State or Area Director, but should remain within the accepted guidelines of the industry.*

#### **SECTION 5**

Under the guidelines set by each Zone Vice President and/or State Director, an equitable system of Classifying teams and controlling team rosters will be instituted. The Zone Vice-President or State Director may re-classify a team at any time and has the authority to upgrade or lower a team in Class at any time.

#### **SECTION 6**

Under the guidelines set by each Zone Vice President and/or State Director, an acceptable system must be developed to qualify teams for Post Season tournaments. Teams can qualify directly from league play. The Zone Vice President and/or the State Director approval in conjunction with the National Headquarters must be sought for determining how many berths will be awarded from league play.

#### **SECTION 7**

All applicable team and umpire registration fees must be paid to the National Headquarters of the Baseball Players Association before any tournament is considered a sanctioned BPA tournament.

#### **SECTION 8**

All league and qualifying tournaments in which a berth to a post season tournament is awarded, must be completed one (1) week prior to the particular post season tournament

**NOTE:** *All teams except those that qualify through an N.I.T., must play in the State Tournament before playing in a World Series Tournament.*

## **SECTION 9**

Only BPA approved baseballs may be used in any qualifying, invitational or post season tournaments. The Executive Committee of the Baseball Players Association must approve any changes to this procedure.

## **SECTION 10**

All Invitational and Post Season tournaments must be scheduled on a minimum of a double elimination format or a three (3) or more game(s) schedule.

**NOTE:** *Any change to this format prior to the start of the tournament, must be obtained from the National Headquarters of the Baseball Players Association.*

**NOTE:** *The Tournament Director once the tournament has begun may change this format only because of weather conditions or other acts of God that would jeopardize the completion of the tournament.*

**NOTE:** *The Tournament Director will decide on an alternate plan at the tournament site. This alternate plan should be posted as quickly as possible, with a plan to ensure that the managers of the participating teams are informed of any such change.*

## **SECTION 11**

A team may receive a refund of an entry fee for a sanctioned BPA tournament only under the following condition:

- a) A request for refund, sent by Certified mail, return receipt requested, sent to the Tournament Director and received prior to the published cut-off date for receiving entries. The U.S. Post Office postmark will be considered as the date of the refund request. A refund is not required, regardless of when the request for refund was postmarked, if received after the tournament is drawn.
- b) NO Refund after tournament deadline.
- c) NO REFUND after the brackets have been drawn and posted.

## **SECTION 12**

No State Tournament is allowed to be conducted the same day/weekend of a World Series Tournament within that region that is being conducted in the same age classification.

**NOTE:** *No competitive tournament can be run on the same weekend as a BPA World Series. (Example: 12&U sanctioned tournament on the same weekend as a 12&U World Series).*

## **ARTICLE XV NATIONAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS (N.I.T.) STATE TOURNAMENT**

### **SECTION 1**

Berths for post season events are passed down unless otherwise stipulated.

### **SECTION 2**

The Executive Committee and the Zone Vice President's of the Baseball Players Association will decide each year at the annual National Convention, what tournaments will be Classified as N.I.T.'S, or World Series Tournaments. The Executive Committee will also determine all dates and locations of such tournaments.

**NOTE:** *Anyone wishing to hold/host such tournaments must submit a written request at the National Convention.*

- a) All N.I.T.'S will be treated the same as World Series Tournaments. The National Headquarters must approve any changes to this procedure.
- b) The Executive Committee at the National Convention will determine the number of N.I.T.'S per Zone or Region.  
**NOTE:** *No tournament will be considered an N.I.T unless approved in writing by the National Headquarters and accompanied with a contract executed by the proper personnel.*
- c) The Champion of an N.I.T. will win a direct berth to the World Series Tournament.

**NOTE:** *A direct berth means that the Champion of an N.I.T is exempt from playing in a State Tournament. All other teams must compete in a State Tournament before advancing to the World Series Tournament.*

- d) If the Champion of an N.I.T does not accept the automatic World Series berth, the berth may be awarded to the next highest finishing team.

**NOTE:** *Approval must come from the appropriate Zone Vice President.*

### **SECTION 3**

An applicant is eligible to submit a written request to conduct such tournaments, provided the applicant has one (1) year of proven participation with the Baseball Players Association.

**NOTE:** *Only in the case where a new program in a State has less than one (1) year of proven experience, will a written request to conduct an N.I.T and/or World Series Tournament be accepted.*

### **SECTION 4**

Any written application requesting to conduct a N.I.T or World Series Tournament must include complete and detailed information concerning all aspects of the tournament. This information will be included in the mandatory contract for these tournaments.

- a) Any Tournament Sponsor must be approved and specified by the National Headquarters.
- b) A complete description of the facilities must be submitted. This description must include the number of playing fields, dimensions, lighting, location, seating arrangements, scoreboards, sound systems and any other details pertinent to the tournament location and the facilities it may provide.
- c) A complete list of motels/hotels and their accommodations, prices, addresses and phone number along with their proximity to the playing fields must be submitted. Included in this listing must be the discounted team rates, with adequate complementary rooms for out of state umpires and BPA personnel being provided.
- d) The availability of any media which would include newspaper(s), radio and television coverage.
- e) A list of special events or attractions for participating teams. This would include parties, opening ceremonies, manager breakfast and any other social activities provided.

- f) The financial responsibilities of the tournament must be specified between that of the Sponsor, Tournament Director, Park Owner and the Baseball Player Association.
- g) The intent of awards is to acknowledge the accomplishment of teams during the entire season. Awards presented must represent these accomplishments and be of the finest quality possible. All awards presented must represent the high quality and standards for which BPA is known for. It is mandatory that the following trophies or awards be presented at all World Series tournaments. All World Series must give a minimum of first through fourth place awards. All World Series with twenty or more teams must award a first through sixth place awards.
- h) Any other facts or aspects of the tournament not covered in (a-g) will be incorporated and made a part of the application and contract for the specific tournament being requested.

#### **SECTION 5**

Any Sponsor of a N.I.T and/or World Series Tournament must sign a contract with the National Headquarters of the Baseball Players Association. This contract will define the Roles and Responsibilities of both the Sponsor and the BPA, as they pertain to the specific tournament.

#### **SECTION 6**

The playing fields under contract and used in a N.I.T. or World Series Tournament must meet the guidelines and specifications as outlined in the Official Rulebook of the Baseball Players Association. All playing fields must have outfield fences. The Executive Committee of the Baseball Players Association must approve any on field specifications that deviate from the Official Rulebook in advance

#### **SECTION 7**

The Executive Committee of the Baseball Players Association will decide the amount a team is to pay as an entry fee for a N.I.T or World Series Tournament.

**NOTE:** *The Executive Committee will also decide the distribution and percentage of this entry fee.*



## **SECTION 8**

All N.I.T., State and World Series Tournament play will be under the jurisdiction and direction of the Executive Board with full cooperation from the Host City Committee.

**NOTE:** *The Zone Vice President of the Region that is hosting the tournament will act as the liaison officer between the Host City Committee and the Executive Board.*

**NOTE:** *All Post Season Tournaments will have an appointed Tournament Committee that will ensure that the tournament is run according to the Guidelines, Rules and By-Laws of the Baseball Players Association. This Tournament Committee will also rule on any protest. The Tournament Committee will be under the direction of the Tournament Director and Tournament Umpire-In-Chief.*

## **SECTION 9**

All N.I.T. and World Series Tournaments will be supervised by the appointed Tournament Director who is responsible for ensuring that the event is run according to all Rules, Regulations and Procedures of the Baseball Players Association.

## **SECTION 10**

The following is a list of the way teams may qualify to participate in a World Series Tournament:

- a) A registered team of the Baseball Players Association that qualifies either through a league or qualifying tournament must also participate in the State Championship in order to validate the berth.
- b) A registered team of the Baseball Players Association that is named as a Host Team from the area where the World Series Tournament is being played. The Host team must play in the State Tournament and must be approved by the Zone Vice President and the National Headquarters.

## **SECTION 11**

Only properly registered teams of the Baseball Players Association are allowed to compete in any BPA post season play.

**NOTE:** *Teams must have registered and entered their roster online with all information correct and complete or the player(s) and/or team(s) will be considered ineligible to participate in any BPA Qualifiers and Post Season Tournament.*

## **SECTION 12**

The appropriate Baseball Players Association State Director or Zone Vice President must approve the roster and entry forms of any team participate in BPA post season event(s).

## **SECTION 13 YOUTH PLAYER ROSTERS**

**NOTE:** *The Official Roster signing date will be the day prior to the State Tournament or in the absence of a State Tournament the signature date shall be the final entry date deadline for the World Series.*

**NOTE:** *Rosters will be frozen by the date of the State Tournament.*

- a) All player(s) must be entered into the online BPA System to be eligible to play in any Baseball Players Association Tournaments.
- b) All player(s) regardless of age shall have a parent's (or legal guardian) signature on the Youth Roster unless the player(s) are of legal age.
- c) Player(s) are considered on the Official Roster when the parent(s) or legal guardian has signed the Roster.
- d) All Rosters shall be printed from the BPA Online system. No pen and/or ink additions other than signatures shall be made unless approved by the State Director.
- e) Roster is limited to twenty (20) players per roster. A release, injury, relocation or a player(s) quitting the team does not open a new Roster position. Only Roster positions that were never occupied by a player(s) are eligible or open to add additional player(s).

**EXAMPLE:** *A team that has all twenty (20) positions filled on their Roster shall not be able to add any additional player(s) even though player(s) may have been released, injured or have quit.*

- f) Teams may add two (2) players before the World Series Tournament entry deadline.

## **SECTION 14**

A team that has qualified to compete in a post season tournament and due to a legitimate reason cannot attend the Zone Vice President, State or Area Director may select the next qualified team to accept the berth.

## **SECTION 15**

A team's roster cannot be changed or altered after the team has begun play in its first game of a qualifying tournament.

## **SECTION 16**

The Tournament Director with approval from the Baseball Players Association Zone Vice President will set a deadline for accepting entries for World Series Tournaments. A one (1) week minimum is required.

## **SECTION 17**

The National Headquarters and the Zone Vice Presidents must approve the awards offered for the World Series Tournament.

# **ARTICLE XVI WORLD SERIES OR WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS**

## **SECTION 1**

Once a World Series Tournament is scheduled a State Director may issue a travel permit (or grant permission) with the approval of the Zone Vice President and the National Headquarters to a team to participate in a World Series outside of the scheduled area that the team is from; provided that the World Series Tournament that the State Director is sending the team to is geographically closer and more economical for the team. The National Headquarters must approve any such permission. If there are not enough teams to conduct a scheduled World Series, a team may be allowed to travel to the closest World Series available to them provided the National Headquarters grants permission.

## **SECTION 2**

The Baseball Players Association shall use the following methods in determining the order of finish in all qualifying and post season tournaments that cannot be completed:

- a) Any single undefeated team will be declared Tournament Champion.

- b) If there is more than one (1) undefeated team in the tournament, those teams will be declared Co-Champions.
  - c) Head to head competition.
  - d) Average per game of the total runs allowed in the tournament.
  - e) Average per game of the total runs scored in the tournament
- NOTE:** *If a tie still remains from the results of the above criteria, then and only then can a Tournament Director use a coin flip or other approved methods to determine the final standings in the tournament.*

**NOTE:** *The National Headquarters must approve any method not listed above.*

### **SECTION 3**

The Baseball Players Association shall use the following format for completing State, NIT and World Series Tournaments:

- a) Normal rain delay. Push games back without any changes. Look at the option of playing games throughout the night with no changes in the format.
- b) Reduction of the time limits.
- c) Adjust format to decrease the number of games. (I.e. reduce a four (4) or five (5) game format to a three (3) game or double elimination.
- d) Drop loser's bracket. Refer to Section 2 for order of finish at a point in time when the tournament cannot be completed.

### **SECTION 4 WEATHER POLICY**

**NOTE:** *Weather policy covers rain, lightning, snow and hurricanes.*

- a) Tournament cancelled due to weather. Seventy-five percent (75%) to one hundred percent (100%) of the tournament entry fee will be refunded.  
\*Zone VP or the BPA National Office must approve refund if less than one hundred percent (100%).
- b) One (1) game played. Tournament cancelled after one (1) game played due to weather- fifty percent (50%) refunded.
- c) Two (2) games played. Tournament cancelled after two (2) games played due to weather- no refund is due.  
\*Two (2) games played or a combo of a forfeit and a game played- no refund due.

\*\*A game is considered a full game if 4 ½ or 5 innings have been completed. 4 ½ innings if the home team is leading or 5 complete innings if the visitor or home team is leading. If there is a tie after 5 innings and the game/tournament is cancelled due to weather, it will be considered a tie in the standings with no refund due

## **ARTICLE XIX            ACTS OF DISBARMENT OR SUSPENSION**

### **SECTION 1**

Any team, player, manager/coach or other team representative who's conduct on or off the field that would be detrimental to the Baseball Players Association will be dealt with immediately. The Baseball Players Association expects that all manager/coaches, players and team representatives to act in a manner where sportsmanship is always practiced. The BPA also expects team coaches or officials to have complete control of their players at all times during the playing of a Baseball Players Association Sanctioned Event. The Baseball Players Association through its Zone Vice President and the National Headquarters shall have and reserve the right to withdraw Membership during the playing of any BPA Sanctioned Event.

### **SECTION 2**

The Baseball Players Association will not tolerate any of the following unsportsmanlike behaviors:

- a) Any coach, player, team official or parent that displays abusive behavior or language in any form during the playing of a BPA event.
- b) Any coach, player to team official using words or actions that will incite demonstrations.
- c) Using any form of intimidation tactics (profanity, baiting, ridicule, etc.) in the taunting of the opposing team and/or its members.
- d) The use of any behavior that is not conducive to fair play.
- e) Fighting and/or leaving the bench area when a fight has broken out will cause all participants engaged in the altercation to be immediately ejected from the game.

- f) Any type of physical attack on a player, umpire or Tournament Official during the playing of the game or immediately following the game.

**EFFECT:** *Any coaches, players or team officials that take part in any of the above conduct shall be ejected and/or suspended for one (1) or more games during the remainder of the Tournament.*

**NOTE:** *Upon further investigation by the BPA Director if any of the above unsportsmanlike conduct is warranted to be severe enough in its nature, the BPA has the right to issue additional penalties. Such penalties can involve the suspension of further play of the team and/or its team members in the tournament. Any of the above behaviors can also warrant the BPA to issue further suspensions and even disbarment of the guilty parties from the Baseball Players Association.*

- g) Teams that willfully and intentionally forfeit a Tournament game will be subject to penalties at the discretion of the Tournament Director. The coach will be immediately ejected from the Tournament.

### **SECTION 3 ACTS OF DISBARMENT/OR SUSPENSION**

- a) Any type of physically attack of any player, umpire, league or tournament official or any officer of the Baseball Players Association during a game or immediately following a game being held under the administration of/or Sanctioned by the Baseball Players Association.
- b) A team member(s) using audible obscene language or any display of flagrant actions considered as unsportsmanlike gestures.
- c) Any team or player participating in a tournament in which cash prizes are offered.

**NOTE:** *The following shall define cash prizes: "CASH PRIZES" refers to prizes in cash or in merchandise that can be easily converted into cash that is awarded to a player(s) or team(s) based on the final standings of a tournament or other competition. A player(s) or team(s) may receive reimbursement, if that reimbursement is not dependent on the standings of the event. The above acts shall pertain to a player(s) and/or team(s).*

- d) A player or team receiving money or financial benefits in consideration of participation in baseball competition.
- e) A player(s) or team(s) receiving money directly or indirectly by capitalizing on athletic ability or athletic prominence in baseball; such as allowing the use of a player(s) name to advertise, recommend or otherwise promote the sale of baseball goods, or by accepting compensation for the use of such baseball goods.
- f) A team or player knowingly competes with or against ineligible, illegal or suspended players.
- g) A team or player participating in or permitting a fraud to be perpetrated.
- h) Any Baseball Player Association Official who refuses to submit collected or owed funds that are due the Baseball Players Association.
- i) Any player or team that competes under an assumed name.
- j) Any person or persons submitting a bad check or credit charge card to the Baseball Players Association.
- k) The failure of a team to show up after entering a National Invitational, State or World Series Tournament, unless reasonable advance notice is given. Reasonable advance notice in most cases will be five (5) working days.
- l) Any person who purposely uses false information to damage the reputation, image or credibility of the Baseball Players Association.

#### **SECTION 4      SUSPENSIONS**

- a) Any Baseball Players Association Officer, Director or person(s) representing the BPA that violates any Articles of this Constitution or its By-Laws or does not adhere to the Policies or Procedures of the Baseball Players Association may be suspended.
- b) Any Baseball Players Association Officer, Director or persons representing the BPA that fail to submit fees and/or information due the BPA in a timely manner may be suspended.
- c) Any Officer, Director, Umpire, Participant or person(s) representing the Baseball Players Association that are suspended for any reason, will not be allowed to participate in any capacity with the BPA, until such suspension(s) have been lifted. This

would include any Sanctioned event or any event being conducted under the Administration of the Baseball Players Association.

- d) The Baseball Players Association has adopted the following procedures with regard to disagreements that threaten legal action or that lead to legal action. By any of the following but not limited to, a player, coach, team or related persons against any affiliated person, director, park, umpire or facility of the Baseball Players Association. Any participant, team, coach, sponsor or any other party who threatens in writing, through legal counsel or otherwise to take legal action against the Baseball Players Association, files a legal action against the Baseball Players Association or has a lawyer contact the Baseball Players Association verbally regarding a dispute will automatically and immediately be suspended from all Baseball Players Association activities until the legal discussions are concluded to the satisfaction of the Baseball Players Association. Additionally, if legal action is filed against the Baseball Players Association or a Baseball Players Association affiliated person, park or facility by any participant, team, coach or any other person, the person filing the action, the person's team (if player or coach), and each of its members may be suspended from any or all Baseball Players Association events until the legal actions are resolved to the satisfaction of the Baseball Players Association.

## **ARTICLE XIX      BASEBALL PLAYERS ASSOCIATION APPEAL PROCESS PROCEDURES**

### **SECTION 1      OUTLINE OF THE BASEBALL PLAYERS ASSOCIATION APPEAL PROCESS:**

- a) **STEP 1:** Any team or player affected by the occurrence or condition that would cause an appeal may present that appeal in writing to the appropriate Zone Vice President within fifteen (15) days after the occurrence or condition. If not filed within fifteen (15) days, the applicant loses their right to appeal.



- b) **STEP 2:** If the appealing team and/or person do not receive a satisfactory resolution to the first appeal, the applicant may indicate dissatisfaction with the first appeal. The applicant may then submit the proper forms within fifteen (15) days to the appropriate Baseball Players Association Vice President duly appointed by the Executive Director to conduct the second step of the appeal process. If not filed with fifteen (15) days the applicant loses their right to appeal.
- c) **STEP 3:** If the appealing team and/or person do not receive a satisfactory resolution to the second appeal, the applicant may indicate dissatisfaction with the second appeal. The applicant may submit within ten (10) days the proper forms to the Executive Director of the Baseball Players Association, unless there has been a mutual agreement for an extension. The applicant may submit this final appeal in writing or may request that a hearing be conducted. All parties involved may have legal counsel and any witnesses at this hearing. The applicant must pay all financial responsibilities for such legal counsel or witnesses.

**NOTE:** *The Executive Director must render a final decision within ten (10) days pertaining to the final appeal. The decision rendered by the Executive Director is final and under no circumstances will another appeal be granted.*