

Midlothian Amateur Baseball Association

Bylaws



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ARTICLE I (NAME)

1.1

This organization shall be known as the Midlothian Amateur Baseball Association, Inc., hereinafter referred to as "MABA" or "league".

1.2

Any use of the name for advertising, promotional activities, or any other reason without prior approval from the MABA Board of Directors is prohibited.

ARTICLE II (OBJECTIVE)

2.1

The objective of this organization is to foster and promote the game of baseball by developing fundamental baseball skills, promoting good sportsmanship, and furnishing wholesome recreation for the youth of Midlothian. To achieve this objective, MABA shall provide a supervised program utilizing uniform rules, regulations, procedures, and methods of playing.

ARTICLE III (GOVERNMENT)

3.1

In accordance with section 501 C (3) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code, the MABA shall operate exclusively as a non-profit educational organization providing a supervised program of youth baseball. No part of the net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. Reasonable compensation to MABA Board Members for services must be approved by the MABA Board of Directors and documented in the minutes. MABA will not be involved or associated with any group or person(s) who is carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and will not participate in or attempt to intervene in any political campaign of any candidate for public office.

- A. Each year, it shall be the responsibility of the acting treasure, under the direction of the MABA Executive Officers to fill out and submit all the proper tax forms for this association to the IRS (e.g., IRS Form 990, 1099-MISC, etc.).
- B. Not more than once every four (4) years, it shall be the responsibility of the acting MABA Board of Directors to submit a periodic report to the Texas Secretary of State (Form 802).

3.2

As provided in the Articles of Incorporation filed with the Texas Secretary of State, MABA has no members and, as such, MABA is governed by a self-perpetuating Board of Directors that elects its own successors.

- A. Only adults of at least 18 years of age may be elected to the Board of Directors.
- B. Candidates for the Board of Directors may be nominated by an existing Board member or may make a request for consideration for election to the Board.
- C. Election of Board member candidates must be accomplished by a majority vote of the existing Board of Directors.

3.3

The election of officers, commissioners, and coordinators from among the Board members shall be held before August 1, during the same year, at an Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors, which is called for that purpose. Any person wishing to be considered or nominated for an officer position shall be a current board member in good standing, except in the event of an unoccupied position.

- A. Notification of this meeting will be issued to all Board members and shall be posted on the league's official website at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

- B. The term for officers, commissioners, and coordinators shall be one year. A “YEAR” will constitute the time from the election meeting of the current year to the election meeting of the following year.
- C. Officers, commissioners, and coordinators are eligible for re-election.
- D. Any officer, commissioner, or coordinator position vacated during the one-year term may be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, after giving seven (7) day notice about the vacancy, and will satisfy the remainder of the one-year term.

3.4

Only meetings called by the President or two-thirds of the MABA Board of Directors will be deemed an “Official Board Meeting”.

- A. A minimum of two (2) officers must be present at each official meeting.
- B. A minimum Quorum of one more than 50% of the existing Board members must be present at a meeting in order to transact business.
- C. The Board of Directors will hold regular monthly meetings or as often as needed.
- D. SPECIAL MEETINGS – Special meetings will address only those subjects for which it was called and no other business (i.e., any disciplinary meetings to acquire information or administer disciplinary action, any meetings to discuss the results of a finding in the background check process). All discussions will be deemed confidential unless determined otherwise by a two-thirds majority vote at the time of the meeting. MABA Board Members shall maintain confidentiality regarding these meetings and possible consequences except for that communication that is necessary among cognizant persons to administer the disciplinary action program and the necessary communication that is required in these by-laws.

3.5

All matters concerning the policies and creation of the rules and bylaws of MABA shall be decided by a majority vote of the MABA Board of Directors.

3.6

Any motion carried by a majority vote at a Board Meeting cannot be remanded, unless by two-thirds vote of the MABA Board of Directors. Once a motion has had the same result in two separate votes, the motion cannot return before the board without a supermajority (three-fourths vote) for a period of one year.

3.7

A majority vote of the Board of Directors present in accordance with the quorum requirements set forth in Article III, Section 3.4B at any official meeting of MABA shall govern any and all decisions and or transactions of that meeting.

3.8

“Robert’s Rules of Order” shall govern the proceedings of all Official Board Meetings, except where the constitution of the MABA Bylaws conflicts with “Robert’s Rules of Order”.

3.9

In regard to the MABA rulebook and the amended rules of MABA, the Board of Directors will have full authority to impose whatever penalty or penalties if any at all, they deem appropriate for any violation of all said rules in accordance with Section VIII.3 (D).

3.10

MABA will not be governed under any national or local affiliation..

- A. Only the “amended rules” set forth by the MABA Board of Directors will have precedence over standard baseball rules.

ARTICLE IV (ADMITTANCE)

4.1

Admittance to participate in MABA as a Head Coach, Player, Assistant Coach, or Practice Facilitator must be obtained through application with approval from the MABA Board of Directors. The form is to be filled out completely. **The MABA Board of Directors, which will specify the required certifications, will process all applications.** No one will be allowed to participate in any way or be allowed on the playing field or in the dugout during any league game or tournament play without the proper application to MABA. A Practice Facilitator is any person who will be helping with practice or who may be one-on-one with the players.

4.2

Any person wishing to apply for the position of Head Coach, Assistant Coach or Practice Facilitator must agree to a personal background check prior to application review by the MABA Board of Directors. Any person who has ever been convicted or indicted of any crime of moral turpitude, especially those relating to an offense of murder, sexual assault, kidnapping, indecency with a child, child abuse, rape, domestic violence, etc., will not be allowed to participate in MABA. Any person wishing to apply for the position of Head Coach, Assistant Coach or Practice Facilitator may petition the Board to request a special circumstance consideration. Each special consideration made by the MABA Board of Directors will be carefully considered, as to the interest of the children, who will participate in this organization.

ARTICLE V (FINANCIAL POLICY)

5.1

MABA must keep accurate account of all financial records including receipt and disbursement of all monies in accordance with generally accepted accounting principals.

5.2

The MABA Board of Directors shall establish a budget each year before opening day. Although this budget is somewhat vague in some areas (Umpire expenses, awards, equipment.....etc), it will be followed as closely as possible.

5.3

All expenditures over the amount of \$1,000.00 shall require a majority vote of the Executive Committee. No Executive Officer may be a signatory on any check payable to himself/herself.

5.4

Expenditures specifically for payroll (Umpires or Board members) do not require a majority vote but rather account of spending from the Treasurer during board meetings.

5.5

The present Board of Directors and the new Board of Directors shall review the financial books at the first "Official" board meeting of the new board.

5.6

When MABA decides to purchase the necessary equipment, supplies and materials needed to operate the league, MABA will use prudent judgment and make sound decisions as to "where items will be purchased" and "what items will be purchased"

5.6 A. Equipment manager should present a projected budget at the beginning of each season and it must be approved by the Board of Directors. This will be their approval for the year.

5.6 B. Larger purchases require two bids. (i.e. umpire gear, balls, etc)

ARTICLE VI (REMOVAL FROM OFFICE)

6.1

If for any reason a Board member's actions are found to be detrimental to MABA, a Special Meeting may be called by a majority vote from the Board of Directors. A Special Meeting may not be a part of the regular board meeting, unless such a request has been formally announced and placed on the agenda 72 hours prior to the regular meeting. To effect the Removal from Office of any Board Member, a two-thirds vote of the entire Board of Directors, not just of the voting quorum, will be had. Members not present at the special meeting must submit a vote in writing within 24 hours of the Special meeting.

6.2

In the event the President of the Board is removed voluntarily or involuntarily, the Vice President shall act as President until the Board of Directors has elected a new President.

6.3

Any Board Member who fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings, or a total of five regular meetings in one year, after having been given reasonable notification of the meeting, shall automatically be removed from the Board, and his/her position shall be considered vacant. If a Board Member is removed under this section, he/she will not be eligible for election to the Board for a period of one year.

6.4

When a Board Member is aware of a regular meeting, and knows he/she will be unable to attend, the board member must notify a Board Officer (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Fundraising and Discipline & Appeals Coordinator) at least four hours prior to the meeting by phone, email or in person. If notification is given, this absence will not be included in the requirements for section 6.3 above.

6.5

There shall be no appeals from anyone who has been removed by the MABA Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII (BOARD OF DIRECTORS)

7.1

The MABA Board of Directors will consist of Six (6) Officers.

7.2

The MABA Board of Directors will consist of a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of four (4) Commissioners.

7.3

The MABA Board of Directors will consist of the number of Coordinators deemed necessary to execute the objectives of the league.

7.4 The MABA Officer positions are as follows:

1. PRESIDENT
2. VICE PRESIDENT
3. SECRETARY
4. TREASURER
5. FUNDRAISING & EVENTS COORDINATOR
6. DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS COORDINATOR

7.5 The MABA Commissioner positions are as follows:

- A. TEE-BALL COMMISSIONER
- B. COACH PITCH COMMISSIONER
- C. KID PITCH COMMISSIONER

7.6 The MABA Coordinator positions may be expanded as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors. The established baseline positions are as follows:

- A. SAFETY OFFICER
- B. PLAYER AGENT
- C. EQUIPMENT MANAGER
- D. UMPIRE COORDINATOR "UMPIRE IN CHIEF"
- E. BOARD MEMBER(S) AT LARGE
- F. INFORMATION AND MEDIA
- G. COACHING AND CLINIC COORDINATOR

7.7 DUTIES OF EACH BOARD POSITION

A. PRESIDENT

1. Oversee the entire operation of MABA
2. Preside at all Board Meetings.
3. Coordinate league operations with the City of Midlothian and Midlothian Independent School District.
4. While chairing a meeting, the President will not vote except to break a tie unless his/her vote is called for in these Bylaws.
5. Ensure that accurate records of all background checks are kept.
6. By December 1st of each year, generate the annual calendar of pertinent MABA events, board meetings, registration, etc, and update the calendar as needed.
7. Notify all board members of the dates, times and locations of all official meetings as well as securing the location of each meeting.
8. Enter into the annual facility use agreement with the Midlothian Parks Dept.
9. Appoint tournament facilitators as needed. See Article XIX of MABA Bylaws (Tournaments).
10. Timely retrieval of mail from the MABA post office box.
11. Keep accurate records of all players' registration, copies of birth certificates and medical releases.
12. Keep an accurate record of all Coaches' applications and certifications.
13. Coordinate registrations and drafts.
14. Prepare and disburse all necessary forms and flyers for the upcoming season.

15. Make sure the Executive Assistant is providing the Midlothian Parks Department of current season schedule and notifying them of any rescheduled games, as required within the facility agreement.
16. Check and respond to league email in a timely manner.

B. VICE PRESIDENT

1. Assume duties of the President in his/her absence or upon vacancy of his/her presidency.
2. Assist in communications with the Midlothian Parks Department.
3. Keep documents on the league website current and updated.
4. Assist President in overseeing the entire operation of MABA.
5. Responsible for making sure MABA Bylaws are reviewed, corrected, and updated.
6. Prepare Draft lists/documents for Coaches.
7. Assist the president with all issues, complaints, protests, player eligibility rules, etc. that arise in the everyday operation of the league.
8. Conduct, preside over and provide the agenda for any Board meeting that cannot be attended by the President.
9. Check league email in a timely manner.

C. SECRETARY

1. Takes minutes at all board meetings and will email minutes to all Board members, in a timely manner.
2. Maintain a shared file on board drive of meeting minutes for league website and reference.
3. Note: Coordinate with League Information Officer to upload meeting minutes on website
4. Keep all MABA records up to date.
5. Document and facilitate any official complaints or protests as per the process outlined in Article IX of these Bylaws.
6. Send out notices of meetings to the general membership:
7. Receive nominations and petitions for Executive Board elected positions.
8. Record and facilitate disciplinary correspondence, which will be based strictly on the outcome of the Boards review and subsequent decision for final action as outlined in Article IX.3 of the MABA Bylaws.
9. Maintain a list of all Board Members including board position, address, and contact information.
10. Obtain a minimum of 3 bids for 'like uniform' packages for the 4/5u division(s).
11. Should work closely with the tee-ball commissioner to ensure timely ordering of tee-ball uniforms.
12. Check and respond to league email in a timely manner.

D. TREASURER

1. Assumes responsibility for all league finances.
2. Keeps league books and financial statements.
3. Dispenses league funds as approved by the board.
4. Reports on status of league funds at monthly meetings.
5. Prepares and submits league tax returns.
6. Create and maintain an annual budget with the President, Vice-President and Secretary.
7. Keep Insurance policy current and have the City of Midlothian listed as Additional Insured.
8. Issue notices for delinquent registration accounts.

9. Check and respond to league email in a timely manner.

E. LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS

1. Assist in the recruitment of Head and Assistant Coaches
 - a. Ensure applications are submitted and background checks are completed.
2. Ensure all pertinent information is communicated to coaches.
3. Responsible for coordinating their division's draft proceedings and coach's information at coaches meeting.
4. Provide team rosters and player contact information to coaches.
5. Coordinate field practice times.
6. Work with equipment coordinator to ensure coaches are issued needed equipment.
7. Report and facilitate improvements that need to be made to the playing fields.
8. Ensure all Head Coaches have a Coaches book that will contain:
 - a. Copy of each player's Birth Certificate
 - b. Copy of each player's registration/medical release form
 - c. Proof of insurance
 - d. Current copy of the MABA Bylaws and General Playing Rules
 - e. Up-to-date pitching log for his/her team, if applicable
9. Each Commissioner may have additional responsibilities added by the president or VP, as needed, throughout the course of a season.
10. Check and respond to league email in a timely manner.

F. EQUIPMENT MANAGER

1. Coordinate with each coach for the collection of all equipment issued by MABA.
2. Maintain an inventory of all equipment collected and equipment that has been damaged or not returned.
 - a. Provide inventory list to the Board at the end of each season.
3. Notify the Board of Directors if any Coach or Asst. Coach who has done the following:
 - a. Not returned any or all pieces of equipment that had been issued to them
 - b. Returned damaged equipment issued to them
4. Will assign equipment to the coaches and maintain a listing of all equipment issued to each coach and will obtain a signature of receipt from each coach.
5. On or before the 1st Official meeting, after the close of each season the Equipment Coordinator will be responsible for providing the Board of Directors:
 - a. Accurate inventory of all equipment collected and a report of any equipment damaged or not returned to the Association.
 - i. This report must include the specific equipment damaged or missing and the pertinent Coaches signed equipment receipt.
 1. Note: Any equipment damaged beyond normal wear and tear or not returned will be the sole responsibility of the head coach that was assigned the equipment.
6. The equipment manager will work with the treasurer prior to the start of each season to ensure equipment needed and balls are ordered prior to the coaches meeting.
7. Check and respond to league email in a timely manner.

G. FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS COORDINATOR

1. Oversee the creation of a 'booster club' of volunteers.
 - a. The Fundraising and Events Coordinator is a voting member of the board, whereas the "booster club" members are not. The 'booster club' members are volunteers working under the direction and supervision of the Fundraising and Events Coordinator.
 - b. The Fundraising and Events Coordinator is authorized to offer up to 7 full scholarships per season in exchange for booster club member services.
2. Will be responsible for all of MABA's Fundraising Projects.
3. Will research and present to the Board of Directors viable fundraising options that the association can use throughout the year.
4. Coordinate the scheduling, presentations, pickup and delivery of the fundraiser products.
5. Work in conjunction with the Treasurer to ensure all fundraising money is collected and accounted for.
 - a. This includes receipts for any purchases are logged and shared on a shared file with the Treasurer
6. Plan and schedule Opening Day activities.
7. Assist with planning and scheduling other league related events such as but not limited to parades and city related events.
8. Check and respond to league email in a timely manner.

H. PLAYER AGENT COORDINATOR

1. For evaluations, the Player Agent will ensure the notification of the date, time, and location is communicated to all player candidates and prepare the tryout list that managers will use to evaluate players.
2. The player agent is responsible for keeping a comprehensive list of players in the player pool as well as assigning them out as needed.
3. Tournament coordination of All Stars tournaments in Spring of each season.
4. Work with a designated group to set up All-Stars in April/May of each Spring Season.

I. COACHING AND CLINIC COORDINATOR

1. Represent coaches/managers in the league.
2. Present a coach/manager training budget to the board.
3. Gain the support and funds necessary to implement a league-wide training program.
4. Order and distribute training materials to players, coaches and managers.
5. Setup training materials to provide to coaches during the coaches meeting and training sessions.
6. Coordinate and run clinics for coaches and players.
7. Check and respond to league email in a timely manner.

J. LEAGUE INFORMATION COORDINATOR

1. Updating the League website and social media pages with current events and notices.
2. Keeping website documents up-to-date such as, but limited to, board member bios, league playing rules, FAQ sections, etc.
3. Responding to Facebook messages within a timely manner.
4. Updating the League calendar of events to keep members informed of important dates.
5. Check and respond to league email in a timely manner.

K. SAFETY OFFICER

1. Creating awareness through education and information, of the opportunities to provide a safer environment for children and all participants of the league.
2. Updating the leagues Safety Policy and Procedures, as needed.
3. Develop and implement a plan for increasing safety of activities, equipment and facilities through education, compliance and reporting.
4. Communication and completion of background check requirements for all coaches and volunteers in partnership with the Executive Assistant.
5. Defining a process to assure that incidents are recorded, information is sent to the league board members, and follow-up information on medical and other data is forwarded as well.
6. Should facilitate meetings and/or distribute information among participants including players, managers, coaches, umpires, league officials, parents, guardians and other volunteers.
7. Ensure safe playing conditions.
8. Ensure first aid kits are purchased and provided to all head coaches.
9. Check and respond to league email in a timely manner.

L. UMPIRE IN CHIEF

1. Prepare and present a proposed pay scale to the board for approval prior to each season.
2. Contact previous umpires and recruit new umpires each season to gauge interest and commitment.
3. Schedule and coordinate an umpire meeting/training prior to the beginning of each season – this meeting is both educational and informative.
4. Explore a variety of resources including online training, clinics, media, and local experts for umpires.
5. Ensure umpires are scheduled for all games and tournaments at least 1 week prior to the game.
6. Work with the Equipment Coordinator to ensure that umpire equipment is both adequate in quality and quantity.
7. The association could purchase extra gear to be used on a case by case basis.
8. Serve as the contact person for any conduct and/or performance issues regarding umpires.
9. Check and respond to league email in a timely manner.
10. Provide input regarding all protests.

J. COORDINATOR OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION/DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

1. The Disciplinary coordinator will be responsible for issuing and enforcing final decisions made by the disciplinary committee.
2. The disciplinary coordinator may address verbal complaints and complaints not filed formally without calling for a committee meeting.
 - a. Any complaints that follow the procedures below required to be viewed as a formal complaint, will require a meeting of the disciplinary committee.
3. The Disciplinary Committee will consist of the President of MABA, who will serve as the Chair; the Commissioner of the Division involved and the Coordinator of Disciplinary Action. For the purposes of protests or umpire complaints the Umpire In Charge will be included in the committee.
4. The MABA Secretary should be present to record the events of any Protest, Complaint, or Disciplinary Action Hearings or a Board Member may be appointed to act as Secretary.
5. If any of the Disciplinary Committee members are parties to a Protest, Complaint or Disciplinary Action, another Board Member must be appointed to fill that position for that hearing.
6. It is the responsibility of the Disciplinary Committee members to make themselves available to meet the time requirements for hearings as referred to in Article VIII of these Bylaws.

7. It is the responsibility and duty of the Disciplinary Committee members to be fair and subjective at all Hearings to which they are a part.
8. Refer to Article IX of these Bylaws for further description of duties and responsibilities.
9. Check and respond to league email in a timely manner.

K. BOARD MEMBER(S) AT LARGE

1. Board Members not elected to be officers, commissioners, or coordinators may be assigned duties as deemed necessary by the President.
2. All Board Members are responsible for attending all called meetings of MABA.
3. Check and respond to league email in a timely manner.

L. GENERAL BOARD MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

1. All Board members are expected to promote and uphold the mission of Midlothian Amateur Baseball Association. Develop the youth of Midlothian in sportsmanship, discipline, teamwork and physical well-being through a fun and rewarding baseball experience.
2. All Board members are expected to work as a team and help where needed beyond their stated responsibilities below.
3. All Board members are expected to attend between 8 and 10 monthly meetings per term year.
4. All Board members are expected to help plan, organize and host league events and tournaments.
5. Each board member is required to assist with and attend at least two special events per term year. These include but are not limited to:
 - a. Clinics
 - b. Midlothian Play Day
 - c. Independence Day Parade
 - d. Opening Day
 - e. Spring Evaluations
 - i. Note: Special Events do not count towards board members minimum shift requirements.
6. All Board members are expected to work a minimum of 5 shifts per season at the fields. If a board member cannot work an assigned/volunteered shift, they must find a replacement for that shift.
7. All games that do not have volunteers signed up 1 week prior to the game will be assigned a volunteer on a rotating basis. Any board member that misses 2 or more shifts without having them covered is subject to replacement.
8. The board member on duty is responsible for the following duties:
 - a. Opening:
 - i. Ensure all fields and practice fields to be used that day are unlocked, and locks are secured on the gate.
 - ii. Ensure radios are turned on and placed behind the home plate of each field to be used that day.
 - b. During Shift:
 - i. Be available during the entire shift to answer questions and resolve any issues that may arise.
 - ii. Keep an eye on potential weather issues and ensure fields are immediately cleared should the need arise. Examples may include but are not limited to: Rapid dropping or climbing temperatures, lightning sirens and hail.
 - iii. Complete incident reports for any injuries or conflicts and turn them into the president, vice-president, and safety officer within 24 hours of the incident.
 - iv. Immediately notify the Umpire in Chief if umpires are not present at the start of the game.

- c. Closing:
 - i. Ensure all fields are locked.
 - ii. Ensure all radios are accounted for and placed on their respective chargers.
 - iii. Make sure all score cards are photographed and sent to the League's Executive Assistant

ARTICLE VIII (PROTEST, COMPLAINTS & DISCIPLINARY ACTION)

VIII.1 GAME PROTESTS

8.1.1

When a protest has been made in a game, the umpire should immediately pause the game clock and notify the Board member on duty.

8.1.2

The on duty board member, the opposing coach, the umpires, and the home team scorekeeper must be notified that the remainder of the game is being played under protest. The board members should take necessary measures to document the position of the game at the time of protest. Once the board member has documented the game and collected the protest fee the game may be resumed.

8.1.3

Each protest must include a protest fee of \$100.00. This fee will be collected by the on duty board member, at the time of protest, and will be refunded if the protest ruling is in favor of the protesting team.

8.1.4

The on duty board member should notify the Umpire in Chief and the Discipline Coordinator within 24 hours of the protest.

8.1.5

Each protest will be carefully examined and will be ruled upon by a majority vote from the Disciplinary Committee, within 3 days from the time a committee member has been notified of such protest. (Disciplinary Committee - Refer to Article VII, Section J)

8.1.6

A final decision on protest may be appealed to the MABA Board within 24 hours and must be submitted to the Chair of the Disciplinary Committee along with an "Appeal Fee" of \$150.00 for consideration.

8.1.7

"Judgment Calls" in a game cannot be protested, only the rules of the game. If the protest made is determined, by the committee, to be a judgment call the protest fee will be forfeited and the protest will not be reviewed.

VIII.2 COMPLAINTS

8.2.1

A. The Disciplinary Committee shall have the authority to suspend, discharge or otherwise discipline any player, manager, coach, umpire, or other person whose conduct is in violation of the MABA Bylaws and General Rules and/or is considered detrimental to the best interest of the league. Said persons are not limited to residents or participants in MABA.

1. Persons subject to such discipline shall have the right to a hearing before the league's Disciplinary Committee before such discipline is imposed.

2. Any coach conducting him/herself in an unsportsmanlike manner, or who jeopardizes the well being of any child, can be removed from his/her position by majority vote of the Disciplinary Committee. (REFER TO ARTICLE IX.4 Codes of Ethics)
3. In the event of a discipline procedure involving a player, or other person under the age of 18, that person's parents shall be invited to attend.
4. Other cognizant parties may be invited when deemed necessary or appropriate, such as officials, umpires' representative, witness, etc.
5. MABA Board Members shall maintain confidentiality in regard to these hearings and possible consequences except for that which is necessary among cognizant persons to administer the disciplinary action program. (See Article III, Section 3.4D)
6. Specific information SHALL NOT be released without the majority approval from the Disciplinary Committee.
7. Statements from a minor (under the age of 18) SHALL NOT be released outside the Disciplinary Committee.

B. Procedure for reporting a conduct/discipline complaint: Any parent or guardian of a player, board member, coach or manager, umpire or commissioner may report a complaint under this heading. The complaint must be reported in writing (legibly) and mailed to MABA, PO Box 27 Midlothian, Texas 76065 and must be received within 72 hours of the occurrence or mailed via electronic mail to any Board Member. The complaint must include, as a minimum, name(s) or positive identification of the person(s) accused; name(s) of the team(s) involved; division in which occurrence took place (4U, 5U, 6U, etc); date and approximate time of the occurrence; status of the accused (player, coach, etc); witnesses, if any; and name, address and phone number and/or email address of person(s) making the complaint. Complaints under this heading must be confined to conduct/discipline issues. The Board will then respond to the complaint within 72 hours.

8.2.2

All parties listed in a formal complaint will be contacted by mail and/or electronic mail.

8.2.3

The MABA Disciplinary Committee will hear all formal complaints. Once the Hearing is completed, disciplinary action, if any, will be assessed and carried out by the Disciplinary Coordinator. (See Disciplinary Action Below)

VIII.3 DISCIPLINARY ACTION

8.3.1

A. Persons, youth or adults, who refuse to comply with the rules of the League, may be considered for disciplinary action. The Disciplinary Committee will have full authority to impose whatever penalty or penalties if any at all, they deem appropriate for any violation of all said rules.

B. The Disciplinary Committee reserves the right to immediately ban any individual it deems may pose a risk to the safety or well being of a player, spectator, coach, umpire or board member.

C. The MABA Disciplinary Committee will review and investigate all reported incidents to the best of its ability.

D. Recognizing the difficulty of establishing specific penalties for a variety of violations of acceptable conduct, the following penalties are suggested. The Disciplinary Committee may impose one or more which, in their opinion, appears to match the severity of the offense.

Warning. The offending person is to be advised, in writing, of the offense, and further advised that repetition of the offense shall result in a more severe penalty.

1. Forfeitures. The offending person is to be advised, in writing, that his/her offense has resulted in the forfeiture by the team he/she is affiliated with, of a specific game or games for the purpose of team record and league standings. The game(s) will be played as usual except that the offender's affiliated team will suffer a loss by the score of 15 to 0 for each game forfeited regardless of the actual game score. If the Head Coach/Manager of the offender's affiliated team is not the offender, the Head Coach/Manager shall also be notified as above.
2. Suspension. The offending person is advised in writing that he or she has been suspended from all league activity for a specific number of games or days.
3. Dismissal. The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been dismissed from the league for the remainder of the current season.
4. Barred. The offending person to be advised in writing that he or she has been barred from present and future participation in the league, permanently. Anyone barred from the league can request an appeal after one year and must be approved by two-thirds vote from the Board of Directors.
5. In instances where someone is suspended or barred from MABA sanctioned activities, in instances where there is a safety concern for the emotional or physical well-being of a child is present, the league will have the offending person criminally trespassed from those sanctioned events.

E. The following guidelines will be followed when disciplinary actions are taken.

1. Warnings are issued only for single infractions; any further infractions will carry the minimum of suspension..
2. Suspension will be the minimum awarded penalty for any physical confrontation occurring.
3. Barring requires two-thirds majority vote of the entire Board of Directors. If the Disciplinary Committee makes the recommendation to the Board for Dismissal for Barring, a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors should be called.
4. Any person found at fault in a disciplinary action will automatically be placed on probationary status for the remainder of the current season and the season immediately following.
5. Any person found at fault in a disciplinary action while on a probationary period will not be considered for volunteer application in the year immediately following.

8.3.2

Any person reported to have committed one of the following offenses will automatically be reviewed by the Disciplinary Committee for Disciplinary Action. The following in no way represents the complete list of reviewable offenses and the Board of Directors reserves the right to add to this list without prior notice.

- A. Any Head Coach, Asst. Coach, Player, Umpire, Spectator who violates their Code of Conduct or Ethics (i.e., Coaches Code of Conduct, Umpire Handbook, etc) or acts in an unsportsmanlike manner, uses profane language, or does not act responsible toward the well being of any player.
- B. Any Head Coach, Asst. Coach, Player, Umpire, Spectator or Board Member who is found to be intoxicated by an intoxicating substance while on the playing field or on the ballpark grounds.
- C. Any Coach, spectator or Player ejected from a game. (Also see UMPIRES AUTHORITY Article XI)
- D. Physical or Verbal abuse of a Player, Coach, Umpire, Spectator or Board Member.
- E. Repeated confrontations with Coaches, Umpires or Board Members.
- F. Malicious damage or misuse of MABA property or equipment.

8.3.3

Any person named in an incident as a subject being reviewed by the Disciplinary Committee, whether deemed worthy of disciplinary action or not, will be notified either by mail and/or electronic mail of the Committee's final decision.

8.3.4

Any Disciplinary Action handed down by the Disciplinary Committee is in immediate effect and shall remain in effect regardless of any pending appeal.

8.3.5

The decision of the Disciplinary Committee may be appealed to the MABA Board of Directors through the Disciplinary Committee.

8.3.6

A ruling by the MABA Board of Directors will be final.

8.3.7

The Disciplinary Coordinator or President will resolve major conflicts between a parent and a coach.

VIII.4. CODES OF ETHICS

All Coaches, Players, Parents, Spectators and Board Members must adhere to the respective Codes of Ethics below:

A. Coach's Code of Ethics (For all coaches)

Coaches' Code of Ethics
I hereby pledge to live up to my certification as a MABA Coach by following the MABA Coaches' Code of Ethics. I will place the emotional and physical well being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win. I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group. I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players. I will promise to review and practice the basic first aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players. I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players. I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players I will provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all youth sports events. I will be knowledgeable in the rules of baseball, and I will teach these rules to my players. I will use age-appropriate coaching techniques for each of the skills that I teach. I will remember that I am a youth sports coach, and that the game is for children and not adults.

B. Parents' Code of Ethics

Parents' Code of Ethics

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by following this Parents' Code of Ethics Pledge.

I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or other youth sports event.

I will place the emotional and physical well being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.

I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.

I will support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.

I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.

I will remember that the game is for youth, not for adults.

I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.

I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials, with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.

I promise to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience by doing whatever I can, such as being a respectable fan, assisting with coaching, or providing transportation.

I will require that my child's coach be trained in the responsibilities of being a youth sports coach and that the coach upholds the Coaches' Code of Ethics.

I will read the NYSCA National Standards For Youth Sports and do what I can to help all youth sports organizations implement and enforce them

C. Players' Code of Ethics

Players' Code of Ethics

I hereby pledge to be positive about my youth sports experience and accept responsibility for my participation by following this Players' Code of Ethics Pledge.

I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship.

I will attend every practice and game that I can, and will notify my coach if I cannot.

I will expect to receive a fair and equal amount of playing time.

I will do my very best to listen and learn from my coaches.

I will treat my coaches, other players, officials and fans with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities and I will expect to be treated accordingly.

I deserve to have fun during my sports experience and will alert parents or coaches if it stops being fun!

I deserve to play in an environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and expect adults to refrain from their use at all youth sports events.

I will encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity because it's important to me.

■ I will do my very best in school.

■ I will remember that sports are an opportunity to learn and have fun.

ARTICLE IX (REGISTRATION)

9.1

Valid registration shall be defined as a properly executed online registration, also including proper registration fees as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors

9.2

Any registration application deemed non-valid or fraudulent shall cause the applicant to be ineligible for the duration of the season and all games said applicant participated in shall be forfeited.

9.3

Registration fees will not be refunded after the recreational draft for any reason unless approved by the Executive Board.

9.4

Each player will be required to submit a Birth Certificate at time of registration.

9.5

Each applicant's Birth Certificate shall certify age eligibility.

9.6

Any other form stating proof of age may be presented to the Board of Directors for their approval.

9.7

The age limits of each division shall be as described under MABA Rules. An "Illegal Player" is one who does not meet requirements as to age, or registration rules.

- A. Any player found to be illegal shall be suspended for the remainder of the season and all games in which player participated in shall be forfeited.
- B. In instances where the Head Coach or other Team Volunteers are aware of the illegal player and did not previously report the illegal player to the league, that volunteer will be referred to the disciplinary committee and if findings indicate the coach or volunteer was aware of the illegal player, that volunteer will be suspended for no less than one year.

9.8

If a player is unable to pay the registration fee, they may submit a request for scholarship to the President. The Board of Directors will review applications each season and vote for final approval. A player may not receive more than two scholarships without providing financial justification from the legal guardian of the player. The application to do so is on the MABA website.

ARTICLE X (COACHING GUIDELINES & RESPONSIBILITIES)

10.1

All participating coaches must be on file and approved by the MABA BOARD OF DIRECTORS prior to the draft, the following will be the order in which a prospective coach will be allowed to have a team.

- A. First Choice – A Head Coach returning from last season.
- B. Second Choice – A Head Coach returning from last year.
- C. Third Choice – An Assistant Coach returning from last season.

D. Fourth Choice – An Assistant Coach returning from last year.

E. Fifth Choice –A Head Coach returning from previous years.

F. Sixth Choice- Prospective new Coach wanting a team.

10.2

In case of equal seniority, the final decision, (as to who gets a team), shall be made by the Board of Directors.

10.3

Any MABA Board Member, including President, is eligible to coach or manage a team(s) in any division.

10.4

Any Head Coach or Assistant Coach who acts in an unsportsmanlike manner, uses profane language, does not act responsible toward the well being of any player shall be held accountable by the MABA Board of Directors through the discipline process.

10.5

Any Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Player, Volunteer, Umpire, or Spectator who is found to be intoxicated while on the playing field or on the ballpark grounds, shall be subject to a Disciplinary Hearing (See Article VIII.3), and may be permanently banned from MABA by the Board of Directors.

A. Anyone noticed in this condition should be reported to a Board Member immediately and will be removed from the ballpark.

10.6

Any person interested in becoming a Head Coach, Assistant Coach, or volunteer must agree to a personal background check. The cost of the background check will be the responsibility of the coach unless otherwise provided for by MABA. Coaches will also be required to attend all coach's meetings called as "Mandatory Coaches Meeting."

10.7

All Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches must be 18 years of age or older. Younger participants may assist, but can not be considered for these positions unless special approval by the board is granted.

10.8

Each Head Coach or Assistant Coach, is requested to coach (one) team, in (one) division, unless authorized by the Board of Directors of MABA. Coaching on more than one team is allowed, but may result in scheduling conflicts surrounding practices, tournaments and games.

10.9

Home team Coaches will be responsible for verifying base distances and pitching mound distance.

10.10

All coaches are responsible for locking fields at Jaycee Park after practices and ensuring trash has been picked up.

10.11

Any Head Coach or Assistant Coach having (MABA related), uncollected monies and or equipment that has not been returned, will not be eligible to participate in any part of MABA, until all monies due are paid in full to the satisfaction of the MABA Board of Directors.

10.12

All Head Coaches will be required to have a Coach's handbook at all games. The Coach's handbook must contain the following updated information for his/her team:

- A. Copy of each player's medical release.
- B. Proof of insurance.
- C. Up-to-date pitching log for his/her team. (9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U)
- D. Up-to-date copy of the MABA Bylaws & General Rules.

10.13

In any instance where a coach does not have their rulebook readily available, they will not be allowed to protest during the game.

10.14

Competitive Placement and Reclassification. If the Board of Directors determines that a team is materially overqualified for its assigned recreational division—evidenced by consistent, lopsided results (e.g., repeated wins by the maximum run differential while opponents fail to score)—the Board may require reassignment to a more appropriate division at any time. Whether or not reassignment occurs during the season, the Board may declare the team ineligible for end-of-season tournament play and may adjust seeding, standings, or forfeit divisional results as warranted.

ARTICLE XI (UMPIRES AUTHORITY)

11.1

The Umpires of the game will have complete and absolute control of the game. The Board Member on Duty may be called upon at the umpires request or in the event that an umpire may become biased toward rulings.

11.2

Each Umpire has the authority to eject any Coach, spectator, or player during the game, for any reason they deem necessary.

11.4

An Umpire Ejection cannot be appealed.

11.5

In the event a parent or a spectator is deemed uncontrollable by an Umpire of the game, the Head Coach of said person(s) team shall be warned of such a problem. After the warning has been issued and the problem continues to occur, the Umpire shall have the authority to eject, the parent(s), and the Head Coach of said team, from the playing field, dugout, and/or bleachers.

- A. If a parent, Head Coach or spectator who has been ejected from the game refuses to leave, the Umpire shall have the authority to stop and forfeit the game to the opposing team.
- B. Any Head Coach or Player, spectator or parent, that has been ejected from the game will not be allowed to direct his or her team in any manner during the entire game.
- C. Anyone who is ejected from a game must leave the ballpark for the remainder of the game.

ARTICLE XII (PRACTICING)

12.1

All coaches should use good judgment when selecting a practice location.

12.2

No team involved with MABA will be allowed to practice anyone who is not properly registered with MABA.

12.3

All players must be notified of their team's practices and allowed to participate.

12.4

No recreational team shall practice more than six (6) hours each week. This does not include scheduled games.

12.7

All safety equipment must be used in practice as required during actual league games.

12.8

Any violation of the practice rules will be punishable as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors and/or a disciplinary committee.

ARTICLE XIII (DRAFTING PROCEDURES)

13.1.1

All new players in the Recreational league and all players who abandoned their old team will be placed in a draft.

13.1.2

Drafting Sequence

1. The sequence of teams drafting will be determined by a draw for each age pool.
2. Teams will draft from the player pool until all players are drafted.
3. Order will be as follows:

EXAMPLE: Team X has = 0 players

Team Y has = 2 players

Team Z has = 4 players

ROUND ONE = Team X will draft

ROUND TWO = Team X will draft

ROUND THREE = Team X & Team Y will draft

ROUND FOUR = Team X & Team Y will draft

ROUND FIVE = Team X, Team Y & Team Z will draft

13.3

One representative for each team will be allowed to be present at the draft.

13.4

Teams participating in MABA Fall Leagues will have the opportunity to bring their teams forward from the previous Spring season to play in the Fall. Due to consideration that needs to be given going forward into the next Spring Season, the following rules have been established as Fall Ball Draft Rules and cannot be changed without the express consent of the MABA Board.

13.5

Players may sign up to join MABA Fall Ball and, at the request of parent/legal guardian, returning players will be placed on the same team they played for in the previous Spring season. Players who do not request to be placed on the same team will be placed into the draft. Coaches cannot draft players who have requested not to return to their team.

13.6 Coaches who may have a conflict with a returning player or their parent/guardian may request that player not return by making notification to the Board. The Board can approve the move with a majority vote.

13.7

Players who wish to participate in Fall Ball and did not play on a MABA team in the previous 2 seasons will be placed into the draft for the upcoming Fall Season. Players wishing to participate in the Fall Season who played for the league last spring and whose team is not participating in the Fall Season will also be placed into the draft.

13.8

The Fall draft procedures will be as follows:

- A. Regular MABA Draft procedures (above) apply.
- B. Returning teams from the previous Spring season that have enough players to play without drafting additional players have the option to not participate in the draft.
- C. Players who wish to leave their previous team to return to the draft may do so by indicating on the player registration form that they wish to be dropped by the previous team. This registration form must be signed by the player's parent/legal guardian or be submitted through electronic means using a password protected account.
- D. Players who are assigned to new teams in the Fall will return to their previous spring team if that team returns the next Spring season, even if the player would like to stay with the Fall Ball team going forward. This is done to keep our teams classified as Class "A" Recreational teams.

13.9

If a previous year's Spring team does not return the next spring season, and the player would like to stay on the team he played for in the Fall – then the following rules would apply:

- A. Returning teams must take back all returning players who sign up for the upcoming Spring Season. The only exception is when a player's parents or guardian wishes to place their child back into the draft. If the player played on a new Fall Ball team, then he can stay with that team, once the other considerations below are met.
- B. During the draft, the teams with the least amount of players will choose players until all teams are equal. If a fall ball team has picked up players, and returns in the spring with their original team plus additional players from fall and their player count exceeds the number of players distributed equally amongst the teams, then the coach will place all excess players back into the draft in reverse order of adding them to the team (i.e. last player drafted will be the first player placed back into the draft and so on until the team is now equal in number to the other teams.

Returning Teams: A returning team is any team made up of five (5) or more players from the previous Season.. If a coach leaves the team, then either of the 2 listed assistant coaches can take over as head coach. If all three coaches leave the team, but five (5) or more players remain together, the team will remain the same. The team may change names and head coaches. Any returning team will have their outside "picks" used as long as those players are still with the "returning team." If four (4) or fewer players return to the league to play and wish to play together, accommodations will attempt to be made to keep these players together. This may be done by adding them to an existing team that has room to add them to the roster, or a new team can be formed. The league's intent is to keep players playing together. The MABA Board will oversee the placement of players not returning to their original teams to ensure no team is "stacking" its roster.

Scenarios:

Player is new to Midlothian and wants to play baseball in the fall. Player will be placed into the draft, and may stay with that team as long as the team does not have too many returning players in the Spring season, otherwise that player will return to the Spring draft.

Player's team is not playing fall ball. Player will be placed in the draft for the fall season. That player will then return to his Spring team if that team returns to MABA. If the Spring team does not return, then that player may stay with the Fall team as long as the Fall team does not have too many returning players in the Spring season. Otherwise that player will return to the spring draft.

If a player wants to leave his previous team returning in the fall. The player will be placed into the fall draft, and may stay with that team as long as the team does not have too many returning players in the Spring season, otherwise that player will return to the spring draft.

Team Coaches move to Select: If a coach and some of the players for a team moves to select, then any remaining players can stay together and be placed on a returning team that has room on their roster, or a new team can be created with the players staying together.

ARTICLE XIV (INSURANCE)

14.1 MABA shall provide Insurance for every player involved in this Association.

14.2 Insurance coverage shall be in place no later than February of each year.

14.3 The minimal insurance coverage shall be as follows:

A. General Liability = \$1,000,000.00

ARTICLE XV (TOURNAMENTS)

15.1

MABA any time throughout the year may host tournaments open to teams outside the recreational league to be used for Association fundraisers. All events must go through the fundraising and events coordinator as per the facility usage agreement and city ordinances.

15.2

The President will have the duty of staffing all open tournaments with the appropriate number of facilitators.

15.3 The Board of Directors may approve reasonable compensation to MABA Board Members or any other individual to facilitate any tournament.

15.4 The total dollar amount of compensation that may be paid to all tournament facilitators will not be more than 50% of the gate fees collected unless otherwise approved by the MABA Board of Directors, per event.

ARTICLE XVI (COMPENSATION)

16.1

At no point should any member of the MABA Board of Directors use the influence of the board or its resources to acquire excess monetary gains.

16.2

It is the decision of the MABA board that board members are eligible to receive one compensated registration per season. Compensation for multiple children on a board member may be voted on, on a case by case basis.

16.3

Upon prior board approval, members are eligible to receive compensation for presiding as a director of a special event hosted on behalf of the association.

16.4

As league events cannot operate without a presence from the MABA Board, it is the decision of the board, that board members are eligible to receive compensation of \$40.00 per shift worked as part of league duties or special events to support the day to day operation of the league.

ARTICLE XVII (Conflict of Interest Policy)

17.1 Board Members with a conflict of interest in any proceeding must disclose that conflict of interest immediately and shall not participate in any associated vote or board action.

17.2 No board member or any business in which they hold a financial interest, may receive a contract from MABA.

ARTICLE XVIII (AWARDS)

18.1 The MABA Board of Directors will determine all awards as deemed appropriate for that season.

ARTICLE XIX (AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS)

19.1 The Bylaws of this Association may be amended at any Regular or Special Meeting of the MABA Board of Directors after the proposed amendments have been presented at a Regular or Special Meeting of the MABA Board of Directors and tabled for a period of not less than seven days. After the seven-day waiting period, these Bylaws may be amended at any Regular or Special meeting of the MABA Board of Directors after such amendments receive a two-thirds affirmative vote of all MABA Board members.

ARTICLE XX (DISSOLUTION)

20.1 Upon the dissolution of this corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or corresponding section of any future tax code), or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the district court of the county in which the registered office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.