

**CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS
LATHAM LASSIES TRAVEL SOFTBALL PROGRAM**

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Article 1: Name, Purpose, Objectives and Organization

- 1.1 The name of the Organization shall be the Latham Lassies Travel Softball Program, for purposes of abbreviation, acceptable names herein shall be “LL Travel Softball” or “the Travel Program”.
- 1.2 LL Travel Softball forms teams under the Latham Lassies Softball League, Inc. and is governed by the by-laws of the Latham Lassies Softball League, Inc which are set forth in a separate document.
- 1.3 The purpose of the LL Travel Softball Program is to provide an enjoyable, instructional, and rewarding opportunity for young girls to participate and develop in the sport of softball and to build and develop young female athletes and well rounded, successful young women.
- 1.4 The primary objectives of the LL Travel Softball Program are to build character, develop good sportsmanship and teach softball skills through proper supervision and instruction. To achieve these objectives, the LL Travel Softball Program will provide a supervised travel softball program under the USA Softball Rules and Regulations. All Board Members shall bear in mind that the winning of games is secondary, and the development of young female athletes and molding of future citizens is of LL Travel Softball Program’s prime importance.
- 1.5 The LL Travel Softball Program establishes teams that may compete within the Hudson Mohawk Travel Softball League (HUDMO) or other travel softball leagues that are created in the surrounding area and teams within the LL Travel Softball Program may choose to compete in tournaments. The LL Travel Softball Program teams operate within the league rules and bylaws of HUDMO and other leagues in which each specific team is participating. The LL Travel Program Constitution and Bylaws do not supersede HUDMO and/or tournament rules.

1.6 Mission Statement

- a) The LL Travel Softball Program will provide girls eligible for 8U and above an opportunity to learn and play softball at a competitive level and to develop both individual and team skills needed to compete at the high school level.
- b) The LL Travel Softball Program is committed to instilling Sportsmanship, Respect, Teamwork, Discipline, Trust, Integrity, Leadership, and the importance of Education in our participants.
- c) The LL Travel Softball Program will instill the challenge of competition, the joy of victory, the reality of defeat and the importance of commitment.
- d) These goals will be achieved through the commitment of dedicated volunteers and caring parents.

Article 2: Governance

2.1 The governance of the LL Travel Softball Program shall be vested in the Latham Lassies Softball League Inc., Board of Directors as defined by the Latham Lassies Softball League Inc., Bylaws.

Article 3: Amendments to the By Laws

3.1 The power to adopt, alter, amend or repeal the Bylaws is vested in the Latham Lassies Softball League Inc., Board of Directors.

Article 4: Registration

4.1 Registration will be made available from Latham Lassies Softball League Inc. website.

4.2 All participants must be registered to participate in tryouts.

Article 5: Coaches

5.1 Selection of head coaches and coaching staffs:

- a) Individuals who wish to coach a LL Travel Softball team must apply, in writing/via Email;
- b) Coaches will be selected for each LL Travel Softball Team after tryouts are completed and the top 9 recommended players for each division are identified. More information on player selection process is outlined in Article 6 of these bylaws.
- c) Coaches will be selected based on positive attitude, communication skills, leadership qualities, technical knowledge and support and alignment with the LL Travel Softball Program mission;
- d) Feedback and performance from prior coaching within the LL's (if applicable) will also be used when making decisions on coaches;
- e) Coaches must complete the online background check process in order to continue as a head coach or assistant coach;
- f) A majority vote of the Board will be used to determine all head coaches and assistant coaches;
- g) Officers/Board Members who have applied to coach a travel team must be excused from voting and meetings to discuss coach applicants for the level/team that they have applied to coach

- h) If there are multiple people interested in a head coach position for the same team, the board may provide an opportunity for interested candidates to be interviewed or allow interested candidates to submit their qualifications and goals for the team to the board for review prior to the vote
- i) All efforts will be made to assign teams no fewer than four (4) coaches to include one (1) head coach and three (3) assistant coaches.
- j) Head coaches will be determined before offers are made to players. Assistant coaches may be named later, after rosters are finalized and players have accepted positions.
- k) Where possible, the board will avoid approving the same coach to serve as a head coach for more than one travel team in the same season.
- l) Coaches who receive parental complaints, verbal or otherwise, must report said complaints to the Travel Vice President within 24 hours of the receipt of said complaint.
- m) Coaches and/or assistant coaches can be removed from their role as a coach by a majority vote of the Board of Directors for violating the LL's Code of Conduct. With a majority vote of the Board, other penalties may also be imposed on coaches for violations of the LL Code of Conduct. Penalties may include temporary suspension from games or practices.

Article 6: Players, Rosters and Teams

6.1 Formation of Rosters and Player Selection:

- a) The official roster for each LL Travel Softball team shall contain between 10-13 players unless there is an exception that is approved by the Board;
- b) Tryouts will be held for each LL Travel Softball team and all players will be evaluated by an independent Tryout Rating Committee that is approved by the Board;
- c) Except for teams that are coached by non-parent coaches, coaches for each team will not be determined until after tryouts are held and the top 9 players in each Division are identified and approved for placement on the "A" team in that Division;
- d) Prospective coaches may attend tryouts and complete evaluations for their own use. Except for non-parent/paid coaches (14U and up), prospective coach ratings will not be submitted to the board or used as an input by the Board for team placement;
- e) Tryouts will not be the only input to LL Travel Softball Team placement. In addition to tryouts, a player's performance and demonstrated ability during the recreational season and prior travel seasons will be used to assess ability and determine team placement;
- f) All players must attend at least one tryout session to be selected for their LL Travel Softball team each season. Private tryout sessions will be available for players who are not able to attend one of the scheduled tryout sessions. An exception to this rule can be made only by majority vote of the Board. The Board may grant this exception if a player is unable to tryout due to injury, illness or scheduling conflicts. The Board shall work with players and make every effort to schedule a separate tryout time for players who are unable to attend tryouts rather than agreeing to place a player on a team without trying out. If a player is unable to attend a tryout session, the player's performance and demonstrated ability during the recreational season and prior travel seasons will be used to assess ability and determine team placement;
- g) The selection committee will rank all players and make a recommendation on team placement for each player evaluated. The recommendations of the selection committee will

identify which players are recommended for each LL Travel Softball team. These recommendations will be summarized and provided to the Board.

- h) Based on the summarized recommendations, the Latham Lassies Vice President of Travel will make recommendations to the Board for the top 9 players in each Division to be placed on the "A" level team for the Division. Also based on the summarized recommendations, the Travel VP will share a list of additional players eligible for coach selection for the "A" team with the Board for Board approval. The list of players who can be considered for each team will be based on the recommendations of the evaluation committee from their assessment during tryouts as well as player's demonstrated performance on the prior year's recreational team and travel team.
- i) After the first 9 players are approved as "A" team players by the Board, the Board will select the "A" team head coach (according to the rules outlined in Article 5 of these bylaws).
- j) Upon acceptance by the Board, the list of the top 9 players and the additional players eligible for coach selection for the "A" team will be shared with the head coach of the "A" team. The head coach may then select his/her final 1-4 players to complete the "A" team roster. The "A" team coach may not select players who are not on the list of players eligible for coach selection for the "A" team to complete the roster.
- k) Players not in the top 9, not included on the list of additional players eligible for coach selection, and not selected by the coach for the "A" team will be considered for the "B" team and any additional teams (i.e. "C"/"D") that the LL's are attempting to fill based on registration numbers.
- l) After the "A" team players are determined, the list of players who can be considered for the "B" team will be shared with the "B" team coach and a similar process will be followed until all teams are finalized.
- m) The board is encouraged to make coaching selections that will allow a coach's daughter to play at the level that is appropriate for her skill level. However, if that is not possible and the "A" team head coach's daughter is not identified as a top 9 player and is not included on the list of additional players eligible for coach selection for the "A" team, the head coach must have a minimum of 12 players on their roster.
- n) The board must approve all final rosters.
- o) After rosters are approved by the Board, players will be notified of their team selection by email and must respond to the invitation to join the team within 48 hours. A non-refundable deposit will be due within 1 week to guarantee a spot on the team. The Latham Lassies Softball League Inc. will not pay for any LL Travel Softball Team tournaments until all players on the team have accepted their spots on the team and payment arrangements have been made.
- p) If a player does not wish to accept their spot on the "A" team and would like to play on the "B" team instead (or declines "B" team for placement on a "C" team) this request must be approved by a majority vote of the Board. When making this determination, the Board is encouraged to consider what is in the best interest of the player involved as well as both teams that will be impacted. If this request is not approved by the Board, the player must accept their position on the "A" team or they will not be able to be rostered on a Latham Lassies travel team.

6.2 Teams:

- a) LL Travel Softball will form at least one team at each of the following Divisions each season:
8U, 10U, 12U, 14U;
- b) Additional LL Travel Softball teams can be established in each Division with Board approval;

- c) Instead of cutting players who are interested in playing LL Travel Softball, the Board is encouraged to approve the creation of additional teams in each Division where the number of registrations allow for additional teams to be formed.

6.3 Players:

- a) LL Travel Softball prefers that all players play in the division that is age appropriate.
- b) Players requesting to play up in a higher division than their age appropriate division will be allowed to attend tryouts for the higher division with a prior year travel coach recommendation. A prior year recreational coach recommendation will be considered if the player is a first-time travel player.
- c) A majority vote of the Board is required in order for a player to play up in a higher division than their age appropriate division.
- d) The tryout evaluators will make a recommendation to the Board following tryouts. In order to be considered eligible to play up in a higher age division, a player must show considerable skill above all other players in their own age group. Since the USA Softball Age cutoffs are different than the NYS Education/Grade date cutoffs, the Board should give special consideration to players who are requesting to play up in an effort to stay in the same division as classmates who are at their same grade level. Players requesting to play up with players who are in a higher grade level must demonstrate exceptional skill and playing in the higher division must be in the best interest of the player and the LL Travel Softball Program. The impact that the player will have on the higher-level team and their age-appropriate team must be considered by the Board when making these determinations.

Approval of Bylaws

The Bylaws have been reviewed, approved and accepted by the Latham Lassies Softball League, Inc. Board of Directors on June 23, 2024.