

BYLAWS OF  
TULARE BASEBALL ASSOCIATION  
A California Non-Profit Association  
P.O. Box 695  
Tulare, CA 93275

**ARTICLE I – NAME AND OFFICE**

**Section 1.1 – Name**

The name of the association shall be known as the TULARE BASEBALL ASSOCIATION.

**Section 1.2 – Principal Office**

The principal office of the Association for its purpose of business is located at 1000 N H Street, in the city of Tulare, County of Tulare, State of California.

**ARTICLE II – MEMBERS**

**Section 2.1 – Eligibility for Membership**

Any person sincerely interested in actively participating to contributing to the goals of this Association, and willing to commit volunteer hours of service each league season, may submit an application for consideration.

**Section 2.2 – Admission to Membership**

Membership will be granted to any qualified individual only upon receiving a two-thirds “yes” vote from the quorum of Board Members present regarding their application. This application must be submitted in the specific format and manner established by the Board Members.

**Section 2.3 – Application for Membership**

A potential new Board Member must be nominated by a currently elected Board Member at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. This nominee must be ratified by a two-thirds “yes” votes from the quorum present.

**Section 2.4 – Membership List**

The Association shall keep in written form, or in any form capable of being converted into written form, a membership book containing the name and contact information. The book shall also contain the fact of termination and the date on which such membership ceased.

**Section 2.5 – Duties of Membership**

The duties of the members of the Board shall be but not limited to the following:

- a) Attend regularly scheduled board meetings on a monthly basis.
- b) Participate in at least two (2) of the volunteer work days.

- c) Perform their assigned board duties during the league season, including playoffs and any needs surround the All-Star season.
- d) Participate in at least 50% of the league scheduled events including but not limited to evaluations, tryouts or any other event requiring volunteer assistance.
- e) Participate in at least 50% of the tournaments scheduled during the year, wherein the profits are directly supporting the Tulare Baseball Association.

**Section 2.6 – Suspension and/or Termination of Membership**

A membership shall terminate on occurrence of any of the following events:

- a) Resignation of a Board Member, on reasonable notice to the association.
- b) Failure of a Board Member to perform their board duties as stated in Section 2.5
- c) Three unexcused absences in one calendar year (September through August) from any regularly scheduled monthly board meeting will result in immediate suspension and/or termination.
- d) Occurrence of any event that renders a Board Member ineligible for membership.
- e) The removal/expulsion of a Board Member may occur based on the Board’s good faith determination that the member has significantly and materially violated the Association’s rules of conduct or is involved in actions that are materially and seriously detrimental to the Associations purposes and interests.
- f) Any Board Member terminated for any reason shall not be eligible for membership the following season.

**Section 2.7 – Procedure for Expulsion or Suspension of a Member**

If grounds appear to exist for expulsion or suspension of any member under Sections 2.5 of these Bylaws, the procedure set forth shall be followed.

The member shall be given an opportunity to be heard, either orally or in writing, within 48 hours of the effective date of the proposed expulsion or suspension. The hearing shall be held, or the written statement considered by the Board to determine whether the expulsion or suspension should take place.

**ARTICLE III – MEETINGS**

**Section 3.1 – Place of Meetings**

Meetings of Board Members shall take place at any location within the State of California as determined by the Board from time to time. If no specific location is designated, regular meetings will be held at the principle office of the Association.

**Section 3.2 – Annual Meetings**

Board Members shall meet annually on the second Tuesday in September in each year for the purpose of organization, selection of officers, appointing committees for the upcoming year and transaction of other business. The date is subject to change if any conflicting events shall occur and a two-thirds majority vote to reschedule the date.

### **Section 3.3 – Regular Meetings**

Board Members shall meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the principle office of the Association or at a time and place so designated by the Executive Committee. Any changes to dates shall be communicated to Board Members with at least one weeks' notice.

### **Section 3.4 – Special Meetings**

Special meetings of the Board Members may be called by the Executive Committee or by the President at their discretion. If one-third of the current active Board Members submit a written request, the President is required to call a special meeting to discuss a particular subject. Only the business outlined in the meeting notice may be addressed during this special meeting.

Special meetings of the Board shall be held with at least 48-hours' notice given personally by telephone, e-mail, or other similar methods of communication by the President and/or Secretary.

### **Section 3.5 – Notice of Meetings**

Written notice for each Board Members meeting shall be e-mailed to all board members or posted on the league website within at least five (5) days in advance. This notice shall include the location, date, time and purpose of the meeting. Alternatively, notice may be provided in a form authorized by the Board Members, from time to time.

### **Section 3.6 – Quorum**

A quorum requires the in-person or proxy presence of a majority—at least 51%—of the Board Members. When a quorum is established at a special or regularly scheduled meeting, the Board Members in attendance may continue conducting business until the meeting is adjourned, as long as a majority remains present at that time.

Additionally, a meeting that begins with a quorum can carry on with business transactions even if some Board Members withdraw, provided that any actions taken, or decisions made receive approval from at least a majority of the required quorum for that meeting.

### **Section 3.7 – Participation in Meetings by Conference Telephone**

Members of the Board may participate in a meeting using a conference telephone or similar communications equipment, provided all participants in the meeting can hear one another clearly.

### **Section 3.8 – Voting**

Each Board Member in good standing within this association is entitled to one vote on each issue submitted to a vote of the Board Members.

Voting may occur by voice or ballot; however, if a Board Member requests it before voting begins, any election for executive positions or board memberships must be conducted via ballot.

Provided that a quorum is present, the affirmative vote from the majority of the voting members at the meeting shall constitute the decision of the Board.

### **Section 3.9 – Action By Written Consent**

Any action the Board Members are authorized or allowed to undertake can be executed without a formal meeting, provided that two-thirds of the Association's Board Members give their written consent to the action. For any item that requires consent, all active Board Members will have a

window of 12 hours from when the motion is put to a vote to submit their decision, regardless of whether a two-thirds consent has already been obtained. After this period, the decision can be communicated to all Board Members. The written consent will be recorded alongside the minutes of the Board's proceedings. Actions taken through written consent will carry the same weight and authority as a unanimous vote by the Board Members.

### **Section 3.10 – Proxy Voting**

Each Board Member entitled to vote may exercise this right either in person or through one or more individuals authorized by a written proxy, which must be signed by the Board Member and submitted to the Secretary of the Association. A proxy is considered validly signed if the Board Member's name appears on it via a handwritten signature made by the Board Member, and it must be present at the meeting for which it is intended.

Any proxy concerning matters requiring a Board Member's vote—including, but not limited to, the removal of members without cause, filling vacancies on the Executive Committee, or the sale, lease, exchange, conveyance, transfer, or other disposition of most or all of the Association's assets—will not be valid unless it outlines the general nature of the matters to be voted on.

A validly executed proxy shall remain valid and in effect until:

- a) it is revoked by the Member who executed it prior to the vote being cast under that proxy, through: (1) a written notice delivered to the Association indicating the proxy's revocation, (2) a subsequent proxy executed by that Member and presented at the Board meeting, or (3) the Member's personal attendance and voting at the meeting.
- b) Written notice regarding the death or incapacity of the proxy maker is received by the Association before the proxy vote is counted. However, please note that no proxy shall remain valid after the singular meeting for which it was created, and proxies cannot be irrevocable.

### **Section 3.11 – Conduct of Meetings**

The President of the Association, or in their absence, an individual selected by a majority vote of the Board Members present either in person or via proxy, shall serve as the chairman and lead the Board Members' meeting. The Secretary of the Association will fulfill the role of Secretary for all Board meetings; however, if the Secretary is unavailable, the chairman of the meeting will designate someone else to take on the responsibilities of Secretary for that session.

### **Section 3.12 – Adjournment**

A majority of the Board Members in attendance, regardless of whether a quorum is present, has the authority to adjourn any meeting to a different time and location. If the time and place for the adjourned meeting are established during the original meeting, absent Board Members do not need to be notified. However, if the meeting is adjourned for over 24 hours, notice of the rescheduled time or place must be provided in advance to those Members who were not present at the time of adjournment. During the adjourned meeting, the association can only conduct the business that was permissible at the original meeting.

### **Section 3.13 – Rights of Inspection**

Every Board Member shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect and copy all books, records and documents of every kind, and to inspect the physical properties of the

Association. The inspections may be made in person or by an agent or attorney and the right of inspection includes the right to copy and make extras of documents.

### **Section 3.14 – Rules of Order**

Robert's Rules of Order, as may be amended from time to time, shall govern the meeting of the Board Members.

## **ARTICLE IV – EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

### **Section 4.1 – Number**

The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice-President Baseball Operations (VP1), Vice-President Cal-Ripken League Operations (VP2), Secretary, Treasurer, Ballpark Grounds Manager, and Sponsorship/Fundraising Manager. The Executive Board must have been a Board Member for at least one (1) year before election. Once elected, members will promptly begin their responsibilities and will remain in office until their successors have been properly elected and qualified.

### **Section 4.2 – Voting**

If a Board Member is absent from the Annual Meeting without prior approval from the Association's President, they will be ineligible for nomination to an Executive position. Newly elected Board Members must receive a two-thirds majority of yes votes from the quorum established by the previous Board. Furthermore, a Board Member must refrain from voting on any issues related to committees in which they have a vested interest.

### **Section 4.3 – Duties and Powers**

In accordance with the California Non-Profit Public Benefit Association law, along with any other relevant laws, and in alignment with these Bylaws concerning actions that necessitate Board Members' approval, the management of the Association's activities and affairs shall be overseen, and all authority shall be exercised by or under the guidance of the Board.

The Board shall possess the authority to act without bias toward those general powers and within the same limitations, including the following:

- a) Establish committees as deemed necessary and delegate appropriate powers to them as the Board sees fit.
- b) Implement rules and regulations for conducting its meetings and managing the Association as required.
- c) Appoint all officers, agents, and employees of the Association, define their powers and duties in accordance with the Bylaws, and determine the compensation for their services.
- d) Discipline, suspend or remove any Executive Committee Member or Board Member of the Association by a two-thirds vote of those Board Members present, either in person or by proxy, at any Board or special Board meeting as outlined in Article II, Section 2.6, of these Bylaws.
- e) Incur loans and create debt for the Association. In the name of the Association, issue promissory notes, bonds, deeds of trust, mortgages, and other forms of debt and securities to serve the Association's objectives.
- f) Additionally, the Board shall prepare and present a report at the annual meeting of the Association's Board Members. This report, verified by the President and Treasurer or by a

majority of the Executive Committee, will include the total amount of real and personal property owned by the Association, its locations, and the names of individuals who have become members during that year. This report will be filed with the Association's records and documented in the minutes of the Annual Meeting.

**Section 4.4 - Required Members**

The Board membership shall include all Executive Board Members of the Association and all elected Board Members.

**Section 4.5 - Term of Office**

Each member of the Executive Committee will serve until the next annual meeting of the Board Members, as outlined in Article III Section 3.2 of these Bylaws, or until they are removed, at which point a successor will be elected.

**Subsection 4.5.1 - Term of Office for Executive Board Members**

Each Executive Board Member will serve in a specific role for a minimum of one (1) year from the date of their election by the Board, unless expelled as outlined in Section 2.6. If an Executive Board Member is appointed after the Annual Meeting, the remainder of that year will be considered a full year of service. Additionally, members of the Executive Board must have completed at least one (1) year of service on the Board prior to their election.

**Section 4.6 - Election**

During each annual meeting, the Board Members will decide on the number of Executive Board Members to be elected for the upcoming year and will proceed to elect that number of Executive positions. This number can be adjusted, within the limits set by Section 4.1 of Article IV, during any regular or special meetings of the Board Members. If an increase occurs, the additional Executive Board Member may be elected at the meeting where the increase is approved or at any subsequent meeting. All Executive elections will be determined by a majority vote from the Board Members present or represented by proxy at the meeting. Furthermore, any individual removed from the Board in accordance with Section 2.5 of these Bylaws will not be eligible to have their name included for nomination of an Executive position at the Annual Meeting in the following year.

**Section 4.7 - Vacancies on Board**

A vacancy or vacancies on the Executive Board shall be deemed to exist upon the occurrence of any of the following:

- a) On the death or resignation of any Executive Member.
- b) The removal of any Executive Member under Article II Section 2.5
- c) The increase in the authorized number of Executive Members.
- d) An Executive Member shall automatically be removed from office by his or her unexcused absence from (3) three regularly scheduled meetings of the Board and scheduled workdays that are sanctioned by the Executive Committee. However, an Executive Member will not be considered absent from any meeting if they provide written notice at least 48 hours in advance and receive an excuse from the President or any other individual leading the meeting.
- e) The reduction of the authorized number of Executive Members shall not result in the removal of any Executive Member before their term of office expires.

#### **Subsection 4.7.1 – Resignation**

Any Executive Member may resign by providing written notice to the President or Secretary of the Association, unless the notice indicates a specific later date for the resignation to take effect. If the resignation is set for a future date, a successor can be appointed prior to that date to assume the position once the resignation is in effect.

#### **Subsection 4.7.2 – Filling Vacancies**

If any vacancy occurs in the Executive Committee by death, resignation or otherwise, it may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining Board Members at any Board meeting or special meeting called for that purpose.

#### **Section 4.8 – President**

The duties of the President shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a) Provide leadership and vision for the Tulare Baseball Association and represent the Board in all functions.
- b) Shall serve as an overview of all the committees and look at the general welfare of the league.
- c) Shall oversee all meetings, bylaws, regulations, rules, schedules, tournaments and maintenance of the ballpark.
- d) Ensure the management of the Association's youth baseball program is conducted in strict adherence to the policies, principles, rules, and regulations set forth by the Chartering Organization, as outlined in the conditions of the charter granted to the Association by that entity.
- e) Represent and speak on behalf of the Association at community meetings and media.
- f) With the assistance of the Player Agents, examine the application and support proof-of-age documents of every player candidate and certify to residence and age eligibility before the player may be accepted for tryouts and selection.
- g) The President is a non-voting member unless a vote is a tie, in which they can cast the deciding vote.

#### **Section 4.9 – Vice President**

Shall assist the President in all their duties and oversee the operations of baseball that are not associated with Cal Ripken. Shall be the Chairperson of the Baseball Operations Committee. Shall assume the duties of the President in the absence of the President.

#### **Section 4.10 – Secretary**

The duties of the Secretary shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a) Be responsible for recording the activities of the Association and maintain appropriate files, mailing lists and necessary records.
- b) Carry out the specific responsibilities outlined here, along with any additional duties that are typical for the office of Secretary or as assigned by the Executive Committee.

#### **Section 4.11 – Treasurer**

The duties of the treasurer shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a) Carry out the specific responsibilities outlined here, along with any additional duties that are typical for the office of Treasurer or as assigned by the Executive Committee
- b) Receive all funds, securities and deposit them in a depository that has been approved by the Executive Committee.
- c) Maintain detailed records for all receipts and expenditures of the Association's funds and securities. Approve all disbursements from designated funds and issue checks accordingly.

**Section 4.12 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

The duties of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President shall include :

- a) Shall assume the responsibilities associated with function and operation of the Cal Ripken League, including payment of league fees and attendance at local meetings.
- b) Be the liaison between the Cal Ripken Association and our Association.
- c) Shall oversee the League Operations Committee and appoint members to assist facilitating a season.
- d) Shall assume the role of President if the President or Vice President are absent.

**Section 4.13 – Ballpark Grounds Manager**

The duties of the Ballpark Grounds Manager shall include :

- a) Shall oversee the facilities and fields of the Tulare Baseball Association.
- b) Shall be responsible for the maintenance, safety/security, cleanliness and equipment needed to play baseball.
- c) Shall be responsible for overseeing the Ballpark/Grounds Committee and appoint members to roles to assist with the above functions necessary to play baseball.

**Section 4.14 – Sponsorship/Fundraising Manager**

The duties of the Sponsorship/Fundraising Manager shall include :

- a) Shall oversee all the sponsorship, fundraising and advertising activities for Tulare Baseball Association.
- b) Coordinate all fundraising activities for the Association and manage the collection of all sponsorship fees and fundraising monies.
- c) Coordinate the recruitment of the team sponsorships for all teams within the league for each season and report them to the President and Managing Player Agent.
- d) Oversee and appoint members to the Sponsorship and Fundraising Committee.

**ARTICLE V – COMMITTEES**

**Section 5.1 - Function of League Committees**

The functions of League Committees, consisting of current and active board members is to assist with various responsibilities and functions around the ballpark.

## **Section 5.2 - League Operations Committee**

Shall consist of members to accomplish league tasks that include but are not limited to:

- a) Player Agent Manager
- b) Player Agents
- c) Babe Ruth Coordinator
- d) Team Parent Manager
- e) All Star Coordinator

The members will be overseen by the 2nd Vice President and assist in helping facilitate a successful season.

### **Subsection 5.2a - Duties of the League Operations Committee**

Shall include the following:

- a) Schedule and coordinate annual registrations, tryouts and drafts.
- b) Schedule and conduct meetings with all player agents to ensure the players and coaches are legal before finalizing all rosters.
- c) Coordinate with the Sponsorship Manager to make sure all sponsors and teams match before submitting the jersey order.
- d) Be the Liaison between the players/families and coaches.
- e) Submit all team rosters to Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Headquarters before each season.
- f) Receive any disputes and protests brought up from the Player Agents and pass on to the President as needed as well as keeping him/her updated on the activities and issues during the season.
- g) Shall oversee all functions of coordinating All Stars including but not limited to distributing rosters, ballots, coach and team selection, collect all necessary player/coach information for binders, assist with scheduling tournaments, gather uniform information, sizes and numbers and work alongside the equipment manager to place orders.
- h) Coordinator the Team Parent meeting at the beginning of each season and act as the liaison between the Board and all team parents in the league.
- i) Schedule and organize team picture day and make-up picture day.
- j) Schedule and organize concession stand duty for all teams during the season.
- k) Work with the Secretary to keep all teams informed of any activities scheduled at the ballpark.
- l) Pay all association fees to Cal Ripken and Tournament Directors.

## **Section 5.3 - Sponsorship/Fundraising Committee**

This committee shall consist of members that are responsible for contacting and tracking sponsors for the ballpark and the league and will be overseen by the Sponsorship Manager.

**Subsection 5.3a - Duties of the Sponsorship/Fundraising Committee**

Shall include the following :

- a) Shall work on fundraising ideas and help coordinate events to bring revenue into the ballpark.
- b) Assign a member to be the event coordinator for activities that are not baseball related that could bring another stream of revenue.
- c) Shall try and sell ad spaces from around the local area. Hang and order banners.
- d) Assist with collecting and record keeping of sponsor/fundraising monies and track and report all monies to the treasurer.
- e) Coordinate with the Equipment Manager and Player Agent Manager to make sure all league sponsors are correct.
- f) Coordinate and distribute all sponsorship plaques at the end of each season.

**Section 5.4 - Planning and Communications Committee**

This committee consists of members that include but are not limited to :

- a) Social Media Manager
- b) Web Master
- c) Duty Scheduler
- d) Stats Manager

The members are overseen by the Secretary.

**Subsection 5.4a - Duties of the Planning and Communications Committee**

Shall include the following :

- a) Maintain the Association website.
- b) Enter and maintain all team stats needed throughout the season including schedules, pitch counts, and game results.
- c) Schedule board duties and ensure all shifts are covered for league and other baseball functions at the ballpark.
- d) Maintain the Association website and keep all social media up to date of current happenings with the Association and season.

**Section 5.5 - Baseball Operations Committee**

The Committee shall consist of members to accomplish league tasks that include but are not limited to :

- a) Scheduler
- b) Umpire Manager
- c) Tournament director
- d) Equipment manager

The members of this committee are overseen by the Vice President.

### **Subsection 5.5a - Duties of the Baseball Operations Committee**

Shall include the following :

- a) Scheduling in season games, scorekeepers and working with the head umpire on scheduling umpires.
- b) Oversee the umpires and help hire and train new umpires.
- c) Coordinate late season baseball for the ballpark.
- d) Help organize, advertise and run tournaments.
- e) Shall be in charge of all player equipment and make sure it's safe and in playable condition and make any necessary repairs as needed. Shall give coaches equipment for the season, keep records of all equipment and collect all equipment at the end of the season.
- f) Shall oversee keeping the correct baseballs in stock.
- g) Shall oversee ordering and distributing uniforms for the season, including All Stars.
- h) Negotiate for the purchase of any new equipment for the association with the approval of the Executive Board.

### **Subsection 5.6 - Financial Committee**

The Committee shall consist of members to accomplish league tasks that include but are not limited to:

- a) Treasurer
- b) Treasurer Assistant
- c) Financial Manager (Accountant)

The members of this Committee report to the Treasurer and assist him/her with various duties.

### **Subsection 5.6a - Duties of the Financial Committee**

Their duties shall include the following:

- a) Managing all TBA bank accounts in line with the President and providing monthly Treasurer reports at all monthly Board meetings.
- b) Work hand in hand with the Financial Manager to manage all TBA accounts, pay bills and provide financial reports to the Board.
- c) Responsible for managing the monies associated with registration, concession and any accounts payable associated with the League.

### **Subsection 5.7 - Ballpark/Grounds Committee**

The Committee shall consist of members to accomplish league tasks that include but are not limited to:

- a) Field Manager
- b) Facilities Manager
- c) Safety/Security
- d) Custodial Manager
- e) Concessions Manager

The members of this Committee report to the Ballpark Manager and assist him/her with various duties.

**Subsection 5.7a - Duties of the Ballpark/Grounds Committee**

Their duties shall include the following:

- a) Keeping the playing surfaces in good condition for playing, watering, fertilizing, weed control, pest control, cutting grass and dragging.
- b) Coordinate the chalking/painting of field lines.
- c) Keeping lights and scoreboards in working order.
- d) Maintaining record and keeping in working order all Association equipment including the organization and cleanliness of the shop.
- e) Work with the Board for the purchase of new equipment, dirt, Sod/seed or any other material needed for the maintenance of the facilities or fields.
- f) Coordinate clean up and janitorial needs for the ballpark.
- g) Be the liaison to outside vendors that provide any grass, construction, pest or garbage services.
- h) Keep the facilities in safe, working order, periodically doing inspections and keep the board informed on any improvements that are needed.
- i) Shall oversee security for the ballpark, including distribution of security codes and keys, keeping locks up to date and be the liaison to the local police and security provider.

**Subsection 5.7b - Concessions Manager**

This team member is responsible for managing all aspects of the concession stands. Their responsibilities include:

- a) Scheduling and coordinating paid and volunteer workers
- b) Ensuring cleanliness and stocking of products
- c) Acting as a liaison with external vendors
- d) Monitoring sales and collaborating with the Treasurer and President on sales reports
- e) Maintaining and updating the POS system
- f) Collaborating with the board on pricing adjustments, enhancements, and necessary repairs.

**Section 5.7c- Financial Advisor**

Nonvoting Board member that oversees all financial records and assists with filing taxes.

## ARTICLE VI

### **Section 6.1 - Chartering**

The Board shall decide all matters pertaining to the finances of the Association and it shall place all income in a common league treasury, directing the spending of the moneys in such manner that there is no advantage given to one individual(s) or team(s).

### **Section 6.2 - Solicitation**

The Board shall not permit the solicitation of funds in the name of the Association unless all the funds raised are placed in the Association's treasury. Violation of this section is grounds for up to and including permanent exclusion for any board member, manager, coach, parent and parent's son/daughter from participation in the Association's baseball program. Post-season teams may solicit funds to offset the cost of travel but must be deposited into the Association's treasury.

### **Section 6.3 - Disbursement**

The Board will only allow the disbursement of the Association's funds for activities that support the youth baseball program. For any expenditure exceeding \$500.00, approval from at least two Executive Board Members is required. Additionally, any unbudgeted spending of league funds over \$1000 must receive majority approval from the Board. When disbursing funds donated for a post-season team, the Treasurer will ensure that these funds do not surpass the actual costs incurred. Any surplus funds will revert to the general treasury of the Association, with individual donors being informed of this possibility. Furthermore, all expenditures, regardless of the amount or form, must be accompanied by an itemized receipt submitted to the Treasurer or President within 14 days of the expense date.

### **Section 6.4 - Compensation**

No member of the board shall receive, directly or indirectly, any salary or compensation from the Association for any services rendered for league operations while holding an active position on the Board.

### **Section 6.5 - Receipts**

All monies received shall be deposited to the credit of the Association in a financial institution as approved by the Board and all disbursements shall be made by check. All checks shall be signed by the Association's Treasurer and at least one other Executive Board Member or person(s) as the Board shall determine.

### **Section 6.7 - Maintenance of Records**

The Association shall keep all records including:

- a) Adequate and correct books and records of accounts.
- b) Minutes in written form of the proceedings of all Board meetings.
- c) A record of all its members, giving their names and address, phone numbers and email. All such records shall be kept with the current Secretary and copy with the active President.

**Section 6.8 - Amendments to Bylaws**

These Bylaws may be amended, replaced or altered in whole or in part by a majority vote only at the provided notice of the proposed change is given at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. Unless the context requires otherwise, the general rules contained in these Bylaws shall govern the Association.

**ARTICLE VII RULES**

**Section 7.1 - Procedural Rules**

Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceeding of all meetings.

**Section 7.2**

All orders shall be in agreement with the rules and regulations of each individual league.

**Section 7.3**

The Tulare Baseball Association, along with its Executive Committee, holds no power or authority over individual leagues, except when providing assistance with issues or conflicts that arise within those leagues. Each request for help will be addressed according to the specific rules of the concerned league. It is the responsibility of each league to adopt its own local rules, not that of the Tulare Baseball Association. The playing rules for each league are determined by the respective rule book of that league.

**Section 7.4**

Schedule of all games to be played shall be completed one month before the first date on proposed schedule. Such schedule is to be in accordance with all league rules.

**Section 7.5**

The Executive Committee will oversee the hiring and firing of staff, requiring a two-thirds majority vote for any action to be approved.

**ARTICLE VIII MEMBERSHIP**

Membership shall be made up of representatives of Tulare Cal Ripken League, and Tulare Babe Ruth League. Membership shall be available to all leagues currently chartered with their respective League Headquarters.

## ARTICLE IX CAL RIPKEN BY-LAWS

### **Section 9.1 - League Divisions**

Leagues shall include :

- a) Babe Ruth – consisting of 13 and 14 year olds that are not participating on any high school team.
- b) Majors - consisting of primarily 10, 11, and 12 year old players.
- c) AAA (10-12) - consisting of primarily 10, 11, and 12 year old players that do not make a major league team through the tryout process or do not wish to tryout.
- d) AA (9) – consisting of 9 year old players.
- e) High A (8) - consisting of 8 year old players.
- f) Low A (7) - consisting of 7 year old players.
- g) Coach Pitch (5-6) - consisting primarily of any 5 year old who has completed one season of Rookie Ball and 6 year old players.
- h) Rookie Ball (4) - consisting primarily of 4 year old players as well as any 5 year old who has not completed 1 season of Rookie Ball.

Players that are drafted by a major league team will remain on that team until his/her career in Cal Ripken is over. All players will play in their respective division and not be able to move up an age group.

A player who is drafted but decides to leave or quit during the league season must play in the AAA division the following year. After completing a year in AAA or taking a league season off, the player will be eligible to try out for and enter the draft for the Majors division that year.

### **Section 9.2 - Registration and Tryouts**

#### **Subsection 9.2.1 - Registration**

Any player listed on a team roster must ensure their registration fees are submitted before the registration period closes. One week before opening day, the Cal Ripken President or Player Agent will inform all team coaches of any players who are ineligible to participate due to outstanding fees. Hardship cases should be submitted in writing and will be reviewed by the Executive Board for voting. If an ineligible player participates in a game, the team will forfeit, and the coach will face a suspension of one (1) calendar week.

#### **Subsection 9.2.2 - Tryouts**

- a) Babe Ruth : The League President and Vice President are responsible for overseeing the tryout sessions. The League will have published dates, place and time for each age group. For a player to be eligible for the draft, he/she must participate in a full and complete tryout session. Players who are unable to, or do not wish to try out, will be placed in a hat drawing to follow the live draft.
- b) Majors : The League President and Vice President are responsible for overseeing the tryout

sessions. The League will have published dates, place and time for each age group. For a player to be eligible for the draft, he/she must participate in a full and complete tryout session. Players who are unable to, or do not wish to try out, will be placed in the draft for AAA in a random selection.

### **Subsection 9.2.3 - Evaluations (8 and 9 Year Olds)**

The League President and Vice President Cal Ripken League Operations (VP2) are responsible for overseeing the evaluation sessions. The League will have published dates, place and time for each age group where the players will be evaluated by TBA members to ensure proper competitive balance.

## **Section 9.3 – Babe Ruth Draft Process**

### **Subsection 9.3.1 - General**

Attendance at the draft is limited to the manager and one assistant of the appropriate level, as designated by the League President and sitting Board Members. Children are not permitted, and no exceptions will be made. The draft will be conducted by the League President or their representative. A list of eligible players for the draft will be provided to the managers by the League President. If a player's name and number are not included on that list, it is essential to bring their name to the League President's attention for review before the first pick of the highest level in which that player can be drafted.

### **Subsection 9.3.2 - Draft Order**

You will draw a number out of a hat at the beginning of the meeting, that will be your draft pick number. The draft will start with #1 and continue through all numbers, then will snake back so last number will pick two x then snake back down.

### **Subsection 9.3.3 - Draft Protections**

Each coach will submit their protection and number they feel they should go in the draft, all managers in the room will then have to agree. Majority rules, and what they all agree on is the draft spot that player takes. If you pick a player that has a sibling, you would forfeit your next pick that sibling would then take your next pick in the line. Each team will have to have a balance of each age group depending on the amount of kids we have for each age group. That will be determined prior to the draft starting.

## **Section 9.4 – Majors Draft Process**

### **Subsection 9.4.1 - General**

Attendance at the draft is limited to the manager and one assistant of the appropriate level, as designated by the League President and sitting Board Members. Children are not permitted, and no exceptions will be made. The draft will be conducted by the League President or their representative. A list of eligible players for the draft will be provided to the managers by the League

President. If a player's name and number are not included on that list, it is essential to bring their name to the League President's attention for review before the first pick of the highest level in which that player can be drafted. All players under the age of ten will be selected in their appropriate age level through a random selection process.

#### **Subsection 9.4.2 - Draft Order**

The draft order for majors will be established based on the standings from the previous season. In case of a tie, head-to-head results will serve as the tiebreaker. If a tie persists, the next criteria will be runs allowed. Should a tie still exist, runs scored will be the deciding factor. Ultimately, if a tie remains unresolved, the final decision will be made through a coin toss.

#### **Subsection 9.4.3 - Major League Draft**

- a) Protection Clause: The following Protection Clause will take effect in the 2024 Major League Draft and cover New Manager, Manager Replacement, New Assistant(s) and Assistant Replacement(s).
- New Manager on proposed team with no existing protections on said team will result in New Manager's player/child being a 2<sup>nd</sup> round pick, Assistant Manager's player/child being a 3<sup>rd</sup> round pick.
  - New Manager with no Assistant Manager on proposed team with one current protection, will result in new Manager's player/child being a 2<sup>nd</sup> round pick.
  - New Manager with Assistant Manager on proposed team with one current protection, will result in New Manager's player/child being a 1<sup>st</sup> round pick, Assistant Manager's player/child being a 2<sup>nd</sup> round pick.
  - New Manager with no Assistant Manager on proposed team with two current protections will result in new Manager's player/child being a 1<sup>st</sup> round pick.
  - New Manager with (2) Assistant Managers on proposed team with no current protections and New Manager has no proposed protection, will result in Assistant Manager #1 player/child being a 2<sup>nd</sup> round pick, Assistant Manager #2 player/child being a 3<sup>rd</sup> round pick.
  - Any/all sibling protections will be taken in the 4<sup>th</sup> round of current year draft. In the case of multiple siblings coming into season, they will be taken in corresponding order. (i.e. 5<sup>th</sup> round, 6<sup>th</sup> round, etc.)
  - No Major League team shall ever have at any given time; more than 3 protection players with exception of teams that have added sibling protections.
- b) Tulare Baseball Association reserves the right, for the better of the league; to have final decision regarding the Protection Clause herein. This will pertain primarily to situations unforeseen and or not noted above.
- c) Siblings are only protected in the current draft they are participating in and are not considered a protection on the team during their tenure in the division. The number of protections on each team will be made available to any interested party.

## **Section 9.5 - Coaches**

### **Subsection 9.5.1 - General**

All coaches must obtain certification from Cal Ripken Baseball. Additionally, they are required to undergo an annual background check as specified by the Board. Should a negative report arise, a coach may be asked to resign without appeal to the Board. A coach can be reinstated after rectifying any negative issues found in the background check and successfully passing a new one. Each team will have two or three (2-3) approved coaches recognized by the league. The role of the coach is crucial within the Cal Ripken program, as they are responsible for training children in baseball skills and good sportsmanship while addressing the individual needs of each child in a team setting. The Board reserves the right to take disciplinary action, which may include dismissal from the coaching position, if coaches fail to adhere to league rules, bylaws, and policies. Coaches are expected to support and follow all programs established by the Board. Any coach or player facing disciplinary action must be available to meet all requests from the President. No individual under the age of 21 is permitted to serve as a manager on any team roster. All coaches must be at least 18 years old to hold an assistant coaching position unless otherwise approved by the Board. Coaches in good standing are required to be field coaches when present at games. During games, only three coaches are allowed in the dugout, except for Babe Ruth teams, which may have four.

### **Subsection 9.5.2 - Responsibility**

Coaches will have complete control of activities, conduct, and welfare of their players and parents while on the playing field. A coach shall always conduct him/herself with players, coaches, and umpires in an adult, courteous manner, to include no profanity at any times. The coaches are responsible for the children and need to set a good example in conduct and respect to others, especially the umpires. The children are the reason for the league and their wellbeing, training, and Cal Ripken experience must be upper most in all our efforts. Safety, fairness, obedience to the rules, good sportsmanship, and positive attitudes must be evident at all times. At no time will a coach conduct a scheduled or unscheduled practice with less than four (4) players.

Coaches will be responsible for all equipment and uniforms issued by the league. All issued items must be returned to the league no later than one (1) week after the conclusion of play.

### **Subsection 9.5.3 - Protests**

If the need arises for a protest, all coaches must conduct themselves in a professional manner and demonstrate good sportsmanship. Any protest to be considered valid must be filed with the umpire in charge by the coach immediately at the time of dispute and before the next pitch. The protest must be presented in writing within 48 hours of the protest, to a member of the League Board.

Procedure for protest hearings:

- a) President will notify all parties of the time and place of the hearing.
- b) The following is a guideline for written and oral presentations.
  - Summary of events

- Names of persons involve
  - Cite the actual rule or by-law in question
  - Recommend action to be taken
- c) Each side will be given five (5) minutes for oral presentations.
- d) Each side will be given three (3) minutes for rebuttal.
- e) After the rebuttal period, presidency may ask questions.
- f) The President, Vice-President Cal Ripken League Operations (VP2) and the involved Player Agent, will issue a binding judgment.

#### **Subsection 9.5.4 - Scores and Standings**

Each coach is responsible for signing the score sheet and/or scorebook after the game. This will ensure that all scores and pitchers of record are reported correctly. The scorekeeper will in turn report all scores to the Webmaster for publication on the Tulare Baseball Website. If a score or pitching status is posted incorrectly on the website, it is the coach's responsibility to contact the Webmaster and correct the error in a timely fashion. Official score book is game changer.

#### **Subsection 9.5.5 - Ejections**

In the event a coach is ejected from a game, they must exit the park immediately. They are prohibited from communicating with their team, either verbally or non-verbally. The ejected coach will not be permitted to attend or coach their team in the next game. However, they may file an appeal within 48 hours of the game's start. This appeal must be submitted in writing to the League President. If a coach is ejected from more than one game during the season, they will face immediate suspension pending the League President's hearing and decision. The outcome of this hearing may lead to suspension from coaching Cal Ripken Baseball for the rest of the season or even an indefinite suspension, which includes All-Star participation. It is the responsibility of the team manager or acting coach to report any ejection involving their team, and umpires are required to report any ejections from either team to the President, Vice President of Cal Ripken League Operations (VP2), or the Player Agent of their league on the same day or night. Communication can be made via phone call, text, or email. Failure to report will result in a two-game suspension for the coach.

#### **Subsection 9.5.6 - Complaints**

All complaints regarding coaches, players, umpires, or parents will be communicated to the League President either verbally or in writing within 48 hours of the incident. The President will then have the alleged subject provide a rebuttal as to what occurred. The President will then act upon the complaint, with each party having the opportunity to submit background information in person and have one corroborating witness for both sides.

## **Section 9.6 - Player Participation**

### **Subsection 9.6.1 - Playing Time**

Each player in good standing, present at the start of all games must participate in at least two (2) full innings in the field and at least one (1) at bat. If for any legitimate reason, such as game curtailment, a child is not able to meet the minimum requirement, he/she will start the next game, in order to make up the missed time.

- a) If for any reason a parent feels that their child is not playing the required minimum amount, he or she should notify any board member as soon as possible.
- b) Coaches may be required to submit their scorebooks to the League at any time for verification of playing time. In the event a pitcher has pitched too many innings, or a player has not received the minimum required playing time, the 1<sup>st</sup> offense will result in a verbal warning, the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense will be a one (1) game suspension, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> offense will be up to the discretion of the President, Vice President of Cal Ripken League Operations (VP2) and Player Agent.

### **Subsection 9.6.2 - Substitutions and Ejections**

- a) Ejection : The ejected player's position in the batting order will be recorded as an "out" each time his or her turn at bat occurs. The ejected player must also sit out the next game. Any player, who is ejected more than one (1) time in a season, will be suspended immediately pending a Presidency hearing. The hearing may result in suspension from Cal Ripken Baseball for the remainder of the season and will nullify any All-Star participation.
- b) Permanent Vacancy : When a vacancy occurs due to illness, injury, or other emergency reason there will be no removal of players from other organizational teams in order to get a replacement player. In the event the player is on a major league team, that team may elect to ask an AAA player to fill the vacant roster spot. That AAA player is not obligated to take the major league team's request and may continue to finish the season with the team that they started with. The team who is short a player may also elect to play short one player on their roster for the balance of the season. This will be allowed ONLY for the reasons itemized above.
- c) Injured Player Under Professional Care : Any injured player under a physician's care must have a medical release submitted to the player's head coach prior to being allowed to return to practice or games. The head coach will submit a copy of the release to the Player Agent.
- d) Base Coaches : At NO time are players permitted to be used as base coaches.
- e) Uniforms : All players must wear their league issued uniform in its entirety. Caps and jerseys must be league issued and all the same. (Accepted exception: Players and coaches may wear "Pro Fit" caps as substitutes for League issued caps if they match IDENTICALLY with League issued equipment)
- f) Discipline : If any disciplinary action is required, it will be at the discretion of the President, Vice-President Cal Ripken League Operations (VP2) and the respective Player Agent.

- g) Benching of any player may be appealed to the President either by the player or by his parents.

## **Section 9.7 - Official Baseball Rules**

### **Subsection 9.6.1 - Official Baseball Rules**

All games shall be played according to the official baseball rules, sections 0.00 to 10.22, with the exceptions listed in the Official Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules and Regulations book and local rules contained in these by-laws. All disputes, protests, and rulings regarding the execution and/or interpretation of these rules, and the following exceptions, will be reviewed and ruled on by the League President.

### **Subsection 9.7.2 – Pitching**

Local Rules for Pitching :

- a) A pitcher may pitch up to the daily max for the age group. (8s- 50,9-12s-75, 13-15s- 95, please refer to the pitching chart on the coach’s section of the rules on the website.) Each team is responsible for keeping their own pitch count; however, the scorekeeper is the official pitch counter. If they reach their maximum in the middle of an at bat, they may finish the current batter. A pitcher must have the required days of rest between pitching assignments. Violation of these rules will result in a forfeit of the game in which it occurs. In the case of a forfeit, the game must continue until it is a complete game; the game may not be called early. 10 run rule and time limits are still in effect. (Coaches refusing to finish a game will be suspended).
- b) A pitcher must be removed upon the manager’s second trip to the mound in any one inning or third trip in a game. (A trip is considered entering the field of play.)
- c) A pitcher cannot reenter into the game as a pitcher.
- d) A pitcher must throw all four balls for an intentional walk. Catchers must stay in the box until the ball is released by the pitcher.
- e) The use of breaking balls that involves the snapping of the wrist is strongly discouraged.

### **Subsection 9.7.3 - Sliding**

- a) Players in High As (8s), AA (9s), AAA, Majors and Babe Ruth are required to slide at 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and home plate if there is a play at that base. The play will be at the discretion of the umpire(s).
- b) There will be no hurdling, leaping over, diving over, or initiation of violent contact with the intent of dislodging the ball from a defensive player in an attempt to reach a base safely or avoid a tag anywhere on the field. These acts will be considered dangerous play and require ejection from the game. Players ejected for this will be referred to the League President to determine if additional disciplinary action is required.

#### **Subsection 9.7.4 - Ties**

- a) Games : All games should be completed at the scheduled time. There are no ties in baseball. A game should continue until a winner is determined. A game will only become a tie if a board member calls the game due to darkness, weather, or another safety issue. These tie games continue from the stopping point when they are replayed. International base runner rule is in effect, with a runner starting on 2nd base in extra innings.
- b) Rescheduling : All make-up games (weather related or protested) must be scheduled by the President. If the President cannot be reached, the Vice-President may schedule the game. Games played without authorization of either the President or the VP will be considered null and void. The President will notify the Umpire Coordinator of all make-up games. No pitcher may reenter in the make-up game and innings pitched will also count for the week in which the game is rescheduled. This could cause pitching issues for a team, so it is important to finish all games if possible.

#### **Subsection 9.7.5 - League Tiebreakers**

- a) Results of a Head-to-Head Competition (This only applies under the following conditions)
  - Tie between only 2 teams
  - If the tie is between multiple teams, one team must have won all games against all other opponents

*(Note: If neither applies, go to step 2)*
- b) Fewest Runs Given Up
  - Note: In the event of a three way tie, all three teams shall complete criterion #2 to determine seeding. If, after completing criterion #2, the three way tie has been broken and a two way tie still remains (i.e. two teams gave up the same number of runs), the two teams remaining tied will revert back to criterion #1 to break the two-way tie. If all three teams gave up a different number of runs, the tie is broken. If all three teams gave up the same number of runs, proceed to criterion #3.
- c) Run Differential with a Maximum of 10 per Game
- d) One Game Playoff : Be aware, pitching rules for the tournament will be in effect. This game will count toward pitching in consecutive games. *(Example: Pitcher A pitches 2 innings in the one game playoff, he can only pitch 4 innings in Game 1 of the series. However, it will not count toward the tournament maximum innings.)*

#### **Subsection 9.7.6 - Local Rules (All Divisions)**

##### **Local Rules for 4-5 Year Olds (Rookie Ball/T-Ball)**

- a) The division will consist of all 4 year olds and any 5 year old who has not completed one season of Rookie Ball.
- b) Each game will be a 75 minute time limit.
- c) All players must use a tee when batting. No pitching, no exceptions.
- d) All players bat and play on the field.

- e) Each team must have 1 certified coach.

#### **Local Rules for 5-6 Year Olds (Coach Pitch)**

- a) The division will consist of all 5 year olds who have completed one season of Rookie Ball and all 6 year olds.
- b) There is a 3 inning minimum for each game and a 1:15 time limit. Games and practices use soft safety balls.
- c) Batter will receive 6 pitches from the coach before placing the ball on a tee to hit.
- The coach must pitch from the mound and should kneel.
  - If the 6<sup>th</sup> pitch is a foul ball, an additional pitch may be given
  - Coaches must pitch overhand.
- d) Players who are out will leave the bases (coach of batting team decides)
- e) Players who hit the ball for an extra base hit can run at their own risk
- This should teach fundamental baseball, not merry-go-round running
  - Do not continue running on errors, only on the hit
- f) Runners may advance extra bases on an extra base hit
- For example- a ball hit to the fence would warrant a runner on second to continue running and score.
- g) All players bat and play on the field
- h) There is no intentional bunting allowed. Teach the player to swing.
- i) Only the soft safety balls should be used.
- j) Each team must have 1 certified coach.

#### **Local Rules for 7 Year Olds (Low A)**

- a) Tulare Youth Baseball, 7 Year Old Division Ground Rules will apply to all playing rules and field conditions, superseding all other rules. In all instances not covered by these rules, the Official Babe Ruth, Cal Ripken Division, Rules and Regulations will apply.
- b) Within the regulations of this League and of Babe Ruth Baseball, Cal Ripken Division, all Managers must provide an opportunity for each player to participate in at least the minimum number of at-bats, one (1) and two (2) innings in a six- inning game. Should the game be called with less than six (6) innings and a player has less than the minimum at-bats or defensive outs, that player must start the following game and complete the mandatory requirements before being removed. Failure to follow this rule may result in a warning or suspension of the Manager (depending on the severity of the offense).
- c) Free substitution is allowed. Eight (8) players will be allowed to take the field defensively. Positions being, catcher, first base, second base, short stop, third base, leftfield, centerfield and rightfield.
- d) Manager of offensive and or hitting team will operate pitching machine and will be deciding voice of plays on the field for his/her team.
- e) In the absence of the Manager and with the Player Agent's approval, an assistant coach may assume the Manager's duties and responsibilities.

- f) A Batter will get 5 pitches from an electric, coach operated pitching machine. If after the 5th pitch, the batter has not put the ball into play, the batter will hit off of a tee. If the ball is fouled off on the 5th pitch, the batter will receive an additional pitch. If at any time during the at bat, if both Managers rule that a pitch is unhittable from the coach, the Batter will receive another pitch.
- g) Objectives of Game, Playing Field and Equipment
- The standard Level 5 Flexi-ball baseball will be used.
  - Only players in uniform, Manager, and not more than three adult Coaches will be allowed in the dugout during games. The one exception to this rule is in case medical attention is required in the dugout; a doctor or accredited nurse may be present as long as such medical attention is required.
  - All players must be in full, clean uniform. Catchers must wear all protective catching gear, i.e. helmet, face guard, throat guard, chest protector, shin guards and protective cup. Safety equipment and all uniforms must be worn in a regulation manner, unaltered in any manner and league approved. All equipment and uniforms must be league approved.
  - Managers, Players and Parents shall be responsible for cleanup of dugouts and surrounding area after the game.
- h) Definition of Terms
- Runners are never required to slide.
  - Regulation Game Play starts at the designated scheduled time and will run 75 minutes. No new inning after 75 minutes.
  - Suspended games or rain out games will be completed the following Sunday weather permitted. Schedule and times for suspended games are to be determined by the President and Player Agent.
- i) Batter
- Each team will bat the complete team roster in continuous order. (No player is to bat twice in one inning.)
  - If a team makes 3 defensive outs before the entire lineup bats, teams will switch. Once the team returns to the dugout, the lineup will pick up where it left off.
  - Bats may be swung only by a batter while batting, or by an on-deck batter in the on deck circle.
- j) Runner
- Runners may not leave the base until the ball crosses the plate. Runners will be sent back to the base if they leave early. 3<sup>rd</sup> time a runner has to be sent back to the base, that runner is out. A runner who ceases forward progress may not attempt to advance to the next base.
- k) Umpire
- There are no umpires and or scoring in this division. The Managers/Coaches will make the out and safe calls during their teams at bats.
- l) Discipline
- Defacing or damaging the playing field or dugout area by a player shall be punishable by ejection from the game. A warning is not required. Infractions would include, but not be limited to:

- Digging holes with feet in the infield or outfield.
  - Carving benches or damaging fences.
- m) USA Bat Rule Violations
- Players are to practice and play games with only USA standard bats with the USA bat logo stamp or T-Ball bats that have obtained the USA bat sticker.
  - Players in violation of this rule during an at-bat will be deemed out, and Managers will be given a verbal warning.
  - There will be random practice and game checks by Board members to eliminate the usage of illegal bats and Managers will be subject to suspension. It is the Manager's responsibility to see that all players are using legal bats.

### **Local Rules for 8 Year Olds (High A)**

- a) There is a 3 inning minimum for each game and a 1:30 time limit. Any inning started must be completed. If the home team is ahead, they will not bat in the bottom of the inning. Games and practices use hard balls. If games are tied at the end of the 1.5 hour time limit, extra innings are played up to the 2 hour time limit. The last recorded out will be placed at 2nd base at the beginning of the next inning.
- b) Maximum runs - After the 6<sup>th</sup> run in any half inning, the inning ceases
- No additional runs count that inning, unless extra runs were scored via an over the fence home run.
  - Games continue until time expires, even if losing team cannot catch up.
- c) Stealing - Runners may steal any base on passed balls by catcher or missed throw down, except for home. Beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>, players can begin stealing.
- Runners cannot leave the base until the pitched ball crossed home plate.
  - Runners who stop forward progress (stand or retreat steps) must return to the base once the pitcher has the ball on the mound.
  - When a ball is hit and is live, it is not considered stealing. A runner may advance on an overthrow until the play is dead.
- d) Only a board member may call the game due to time, weather or darkness. Any game not completed must be completed the next available Friday or Sunday. All efforts will be made to complete the game on the designated day.
- e) Free substitution- recreational batting (everyone is in the order)
- Anyone can come in and out as needed. Each player must play 2 innings of defense. If a player cannot get in the 2 innings, that player must start the next game.
- f) Minimum of 7 players or the team forfeits
- The 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> batters are automatic outs in the order.
  - Any player leaving early results in an out in the batting order, unless there is injury or illness.
- g) Managers MUST sign the official scorecard after the game to verify information, specifically pitcher innings and score. If information is challenged at a later time, we will always attempt to correct the errors, but if teams disagree, the scorecard with stand.

- h) The manager is the sole voice for the team. Coaches are to stay in the dugout except when coaching the bases.
- i) All coaches must be certified to be on the field or in the dugout.

#### **Local Rules for 9 Year Olds (AA)**

- a) There is a 3 inning minimum for each 9 year old game and a 90 minute time limit. Games and practices use hard balls.
- b) Stealing - a runner may advance as in majors (any base can be stolen). The runner cannot leave the base until the pitched ball passes home plate.
- c) Maximum runs
  - Inning 1-4
    - ◇ After the 6<sup>th</sup> run in any half inning, the inning ceases.
    - ◇ No additional runs count that inning.
  - Inning 5-6
    - ◇ Scoring is unlimited as time allows.
    - ◇ An inning must finish if it is started during regulation time.
- d) Only a Board Member may call the game due to time, weather or darkness. Any game not completed must be completed the next available Friday or Sunday. All efforts will be made to complete the game on the designated day.
- e) Free substitution - recreational batting (everyone is in the order)
  - Anyone can come in and out as needed. Each player must play 2 innings of defense.
  - If a player cannot get in the 2 innings, that player must start the next game.
- f) Minimum of 7 players or the team forfeits
  - The 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> batters are automatic outs in the order
  - Any player leaving early results in an out in the batting order
- g) Managers MUST sign the official scorecard after the game to verify information, specifically pitcher innings and score. If information is challenged at a later time, we will always attempt to correct the errors, but if teams disagree, the scorecard will stand.
- h) The manager is the sole voice for the team. Coaches are to stay in the dugout except when coaching the bases.
- i) All coaches must be certified to be on the field or in the dugout.

#### **Local Rules for Minor League (AAA)**

- a) Tulare Baseball Association Ground Rules will apply to all playing rules and field conditions, superseding all other rules. In all instances not covered by these rules, the Official Babe Ruth, Cal Ripken Division, Rules and Regulations will apply.
- b) Only the manager, team members, and not more than two adult coaches will be allowed in the dugout during games. The one exception to this rule is in the case medical attention is required in the dugout. **All coaches must be certified to be on the field or in the dugout. Only 3 non-players may be on the field or in the dugout, and all must be certified.**
- c) Players in uniform must always be in the dugout or on the field.

- d) In the absence of the manager, and with the approval of a Board Member, a team's coach may assume the manager's duties and responsibilities.
- e) The manager is the sole voice for the team. Coaches are to stay in the dugout except when coaching the bases.
- f) Ten minutes of practice will be allowed for each team in the outfield. No practice is allowed on the diamond before the game.
- g) All managers must provide an opportunity for each player to participate in at least the minimum number of at-bats (1), and (6) defensive outs in a game. Should the game be called with less than six innings and a player has less than his minimum at-bats or defensive outs, that player must start the following game, make up his requirements, and complete the new requirements before being removed.
- h) A substitute may not be removed from the game until the required (1) at-bat and (6) consecutive defensive outs have been completed.
- i) A player in the starting lineup who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game once, in the same batting order as his substitute, provided the substitute has completed (1) at-bat and (6) defensive outs.
- j) A game will be terminated after (4) innings if one team is ahead by (10) or more runs and have had equal times at bat or the home team is leading.
- k) A regulation game consists of a minimum of (4) innings or a maximum of (6) innings, except in the event of a tie. No new inning can start after 100 minutes, except in the event of a tie. The instant a third out is made, a new inning begins. The plate umpire shall keep the "official time" or designate an "official timekeeper". At the conclusion of the last inning after regulation time has expired, and the score is tied, the teams will play an extra inning to break the tie.
- l) Only a Board Member may call the game due to time, weather or darkness. Any game not completed must be completed the next available Friday or Sunday. All efforts will be made to complete the game on the designated day.
- m) Managers and coaches are responsible for cleanup of dugouts and surrounding areas, including their side of the spectator bleachers after the game.
- n) Managers are asked to rake home plate area and pitcher's mound after games.
- o) Managers MUST sign the official scorecard after the game to verify information, specifically pitcher innings and score. If information is challenged at a later time, the Board will always attempt to correct the errors, but if teams disagree, the scorecard will stand.

#### **Local Rules for Major League**

- a) Tulare Baseball Association Ground Rules will apply to all playing rules and field conditions, superseding all other rules. In all instances not covered by these rules, the Official Babe Ruth, Cal Ripken Division, Rules and Regulations will apply.
- b) Only the manager, team members, and not more than three adult coaches will be allowed in the dugout during games. The one exception to this rule is in the case medical attention is required in the dugout. All coaches must be certified to be on the field or in the dugout. Only 4 non-players may be on the field or in the dugout, and all must be certified.

- c) Players in uniform must always be in the dugout or on the field.
- d) In the absence of the manager, and with the approval of a Board Member, a team's coach may assume the manager's duties and responsibilities.
- e) The manager is the sole voice for the team. Coaches are to stay in the dugout except when coaching the bases.
- f) Ten minutes of practice will be allowed for each team in the outfield. No practice is allowed on the diamond before the game.
- g) All managers must provide an opportunity for each player to participate in at least the minimum number of at-bats (1), and (6) defensive outs in a game. Should the game be called with less than six innings and a player has less than his minimum at-bats or defensive outs, that player must start the following game, make up his requirements, and complete the new requirements before being removed. Failure to follow this rule may result in a warning or suspension of the manager and may exclude you from coaching All Stars (depending on the severity).
- h) A substitute may not be removed from the game until the required (1) at-bat and (6) consecutive defensive outs have been completed.
- i) A player in the starting lineup who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game once, in the same batting order as his substitute, provided the substitute has completed (1) at-bat and (6) defensive outs.
- j) A game will be terminated after (4) innings if one team is ahead by (10) or more runs and have had equal times at bat or the home team is leading.
- k) A regulation game consists of a minimum of (4) innings or a maximum of (6) innings, except in the event of a tie. No new inning can start after 100 minutes, except in the event of a tie. The instant a third out is made, a new inning begins. The plate umpire shall keep the "official time" or designate an "official timekeeper". At the conclusion of the last inning after regulation time has expired, and the score is tied, the teams will play an extra inning to break the tie.
- l) Only a Board Member may call the game due to time, weather or darkness. Any game not completed must be completed the next available Friday or Sunday. All efforts will be made to complete the game on the designated day.
- m) Managers and coaches are responsible for cleanup of dugouts and surrounding areas, including their side of the spectator bleachers after the game.
- n) Managers are asked to rake home plate area and pitcher's mound after games.
- o) Managers MUST sign the official scorecard after the game to verify information, specifically pitcher innings and score. If information is challenged at a later time, the Board will always attempt to correct the errors, but if teams disagree, the scorecard will stand.

### **Local Rules for Babe Ruth**

- a) Tulare Baseball Association Ground Rules will apply to all playing rules and field conditions, superseding all other rules. In all instances not covered by these rules, the Official Babe Ruth, Cal Ripken Division, Rules and Regulations will apply.
- b) Only the manager, team members, and not more than three adult coaches will be allowed

in the dugout during games. The one exception to this rule is in the case medical attention is required in the dugout. All coaches must be certified to be on the field or in the dugout. Only 4 non-players may be on the field or in the dugout, and all must be certified.

- c) Players in uniform must always be in the dugout or on the field.
- d) In the absence of the manager, and with the approval of a Board Member, a team's coach may assume the manager's duties and responsibilities.
- e) The manager is the sole voice for the team. Coaches are to stay in the dugout except when coaching the bases.
- f) Ten minutes of practice will be allowed for each team in the outfield. No practice is allowed on the diamond before the game.
- g) All managers must provide an opportunity for each player to participate in at least the minimum number of at-bats (1), and (6) consecutive defensive outs in a game. Should the game be called with less than six innings and a player has less than his minimum at-bats or defensive outs, that player must start the following game, make up his requirements, and complete the new requirements before being removed. Failure to follow this rule may result in a warning or suspension of the manager and may exclude you from coaching All Stars (depending on the severity).
- h) A substitute may not be removed from the game until the required (1) at-bat and (6) consecutive defensive outs have been completed.
- i) A player in the starting lineup who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game once, in the same batting order as his substitute, provided the substitute has completed (1) at-bat and (6) defensive outs.
- j) A game will be terminated after (4 ½ or 5) innings if one team is ahead by (10) or more runs and have had equal times at bat or the home team is leading.
- k) A regulation game consists of a minimum of (4 ½ or 5) innings or a maximum of (6) innings, except in the event of a tie. No new inning can start after 100 minutes, except in the event of a tie. The instant a third out is made, a new inning begins. The plate umpire shall keep the "official time" or designate an "official timekeeper". At the conclusion of the last inning after regulation time has expired, and the score is tied, the teams will play an extra inning to break the tie.
- l) Only a Board Member may call the game due to time, weather or darkness. Any game not completed must be completed the next available Friday or Sunday. All efforts will be made to complete the game on the designated day.
- m) Managers and coaches are responsible for cleanup of dugouts and surrounding areas, including their side of the spectator bleachers after the game.
- n) Managers are asked to rake the home plate area and pitcher's mound after games.
- o) Managers MUST sign the official scorecard after the game to verify information, specifically pitcher innings and score. If information is challenged at a later time, the Board will always attempt to correct the errors, but if teams disagree, the scorecard will stand.
- p) Babe Ruth will play 7 innings with no time limit.

## **Playoff Rules**

- a) Pitching rules remain the same as the regular season
- b) Time Limits
  - Majors will play 6 innings with no time limit.
  - AAA, AA (9u), and High A (8u) will play 6 innings with a 120 minute time limit. No new inning may start after 120 minutes.
- c) Minimum playing times are still in effect. All players must play (2) innings of defense and have (1) at-bat in each game.
- d) High A (8u), AA (9u), AAA (Minors) and Majors will play a (3) game series. 1<sup>st</sup> seeded team will play the 4<sup>th</sup> seed, and 2<sup>nd</sup> seed will play the 3<sup>rd</sup> seed.

## **Section 9.8 - All Stars**

### **Subsection 9.8.1 - Team Composition**

A (8's), AA (9's), Majors (10's, 11's, and 12's), and Babe Ruth (13's and 14's) will have the opportunity to provide a primary and secondary all-star team. The League may elect to provide only one all-star team and omit the secondary team, depending on the skill level of the players or other issues. All teams will have a minimum of 12 players and a maximum of 15.

### **Subsection 9.8.2 - Coordination**

The ALL-STAR Coordinator along with the 2nd VP and Player Agents will be required to perform all the administrative and coordination activities for all all-star teams. This will include the construction of books, practice field scheduling, parent meeting, and interacting with the district commissioner on all-star related items. The Equipment Manager will be responsible for providing all-star issued equipment and the return of said equipment. All issued items must be returned to the league no later than one (1) week after the conclusion of tournament play. The Equipment Manager will also distribute the official all-star uniforms purchased by the players.

At no time may a player representing Tulare Baseball wear any piece of a uniform, i.e. (hat, socks, belt, pants, or jersey), that does not conform to the official uniform.

### **Subsection 9.8.3 – All Star Team Eligibility**

A player must participate in or be present for at least four innings of at least two-thirds of the team's regular season games to qualify for the Post Season All Star Tournament teams. This rule aims to discourage players from leaving their Cal Ripken Team to join other teams or leagues. However, the Board may consider exceptions if games are missed for reasons unrelated to participation in other leagues or teams.

### **Subsection 9.8.4 - Coach Selection**

The President, Vice President of Baseball Operations (VP1), and Vice President of Cal Ripken League Operations (VP2) will oversee the selection of coaches and will form an interview panel to help identify the most suitable coach for each division. Additionally, the primary all-star coaches

from every division must submit an application to be considered for coaching roles.

**Subsection 9.8.5 - Team Selection**

The All Star Coordinator along with the President will conduct the All Star team selection meeting for each age group (8's, 9's, 10's, 11's, & 12's). Allstars will be selected by coaches' ballot with each coach making his top 15 player picks. Players must receive a vote to be eligible for All Star consideration. Players receiving a vote from every coach in that age division will be an auto lock to make the team. The team will be made up of the top 9 kids receiving the most votes with the manager being able to make the final few selections to fill out the roster, minimum of 12 and maximum of 15.

**ARTICLE X**

**Section 10.1 - Amendments**

The By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Board at a regular or a special meeting if notice of the intended change shall have been made in writing over the signature of the President or Vice-President at least fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting at which such change shall be submitted to vote.

**By-Laws Updated and Approved October 2024**