

Bylaws of Willamette Area Babe Ruth Baseball (WABR)

ARTICLE I. NAME & OBJECTIVE

- A. The name of the organization shall be Willamette Area Babe Ruth Baseball (“WABR”).
- B. The purposes of WABR shall be to develop and operate a baseball program in affiliation with Willamette Valley Babe Ruth Baseball, Inc., (“WVBR”) in conformity with and pursuant to the [principles, rules, and regulations enunciated by WVBR](#).
- C. The objective of WABR is through the medium of a supervised, competitive baseball program guided and governed by WVBR—to implant in the youth of our community ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, and reverence, so that they may be finer, stronger and happier youths who will grow to be good, clean, healthy citizens.

ARTICLE II. STATEMENT OF AFFILIATION

WABR shall be affiliated with, governed by, and comply with the principles, rules and regulations enunciated and decreed by WVBR.

ARTICLE III. TEAMS

- A. WABR shall organize one (1) team in each of the following Age Groups, unless specific exemption is sought and approved by WVBR:
 - 1. Rookies (9 & under)
 - 2. AA (10 & under)
 - 3. AAA (11 & under)
 - 4. Major-Minor (12 & under)
 - 5. Majors (12 & under)
 - 6. American (14 & Under)
 - 7. National (15 & under)
- B. In the event that WABR wishes to amend Article III, Section A to organize more or fewer teams in one or more Age Groups, the Area Director shall petition WVBR to recognize those additional team(s) prior to the approval of such an amendment. The WVBR Board of Directors may, upon petition by the Area Director, choose to recognize more than one team in an Age Group from the same Area.

ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The business and affairs of WABR shall be managed and controlled by the WABR Board of Directors (“The Board”) described herein.

A. Composition

The Board shall consist of no more than eleven (11) members each having an equal vote.

B. Term Length and Resignation

Members of The Board shall be elected for two-year terms. When a Board Member’s term is up he/she may apply again for another two year term. There is no limit to the number of terms a Board Member may serve. A Board Member may resign at any time by delivering written notice to The Board.

C. Selection Process

New Board Members shall be elected by a vote of The Board after an open-to-the-public interview process. All candidates for membership in The Board shall submit an application to The Board to be considered for an interview. .

D. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of The Board shall be held at least once a month at such times and places to be designated by The Board.

E. Special Meetings

A Special meeting of The Board may be called by the President or by agreement of no less than 50% of all members of The Board.

F. Emergency Votes

In the event that the President and Area Director deem it necessary to hold a vote of The Board, the President may call for a vote (“Emergency Vote”) by either email or text. The vote shall be passed and the Secretary shall record it in the minutes of the next scheduled meeting, if after forty-eight (48) hours, ALL of the following conditions are met:

1. The issue was raised in one of the two (2) most recent Board Meetings;
2. The decision is one The Board could otherwise decide by majority vote;
3. A majority of The Board has voted “Yea” through the requested channel (i.e., text, email, or group chat);
4. A quorum (see Article IX, B. Quorum) of members has logged a vote through the requested channel;
5. No more than one (1) Board Member has protested the vote through the requested channel.

G. Powers and Duties

The Board shall have the power to make or enforce rules and regulations to govern itself on a local basis, but consistent with all rules and

regulations adopted by WVBR and any of its national, regional, or state governing bodies, to which WVBR is subject, in addition to the powers expressly or implicitly granted it by law.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS DESIGNATION

A. Officers

The Officers of WABR shall be an Area Director, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

B. Election

The Officers shall be elected by The Board pursuant to nomination process established at the regular Area Board meeting that is to take place on or before October 1st of each year. All Officers shall be elected no later than October 15th of each year.

C. Term Length and Resignation

Officers shall be elected to one-year terms. An Officer may resign at any time by delivering written notice to The Board.

D. Duties

Each Officer has the authority and shall perform the duties set forth in these Bylaws.

E. Area Director

The Area Director is the only member of The Board that is recognized by WVBR. He/she has duties that are specified by WVBR. As far as WVBR is concerned he/she is the only person in charge and he must sign a document with WVBR accepting responsibility for WABR.

1. The Board shall elect an Area Director on or before September 1st of each year and shall notify the League President of that designation in writing on or before September 10th of each year.
2. The Area Director shall, subject to the control of The Board, have the responsibility for the overall conduct and management of the business and fiscal affairs of WABR, and the general supervision of its property, business interests and agents.
3. The Area Director shall, at the general meeting of The Board held on or before October 1st, make an annual report on the business and fiscal affairs of WABR and make such recommendations as the Area Director deems proper.
4. The Area Director shall attend all monthly WVBR Board meetings, or designate a replacement in his/her stead, and present a thorough report at the next scheduled meeting of The Board.
5. The Area Director, with the Treasurer, shall ensure that WABR

provides timely financial reporting to WVBR and deposits all funds collected in a WVBR approved checking account, in accordance with the standards set by the WVBR Treasurer.

6. The Area Director shall be an authorized signer on the WABR league account.

F. President

1. The President shall ensure that WABR complies with all WVBR rules, including but not limited to, the WVBR Bylaws and the Coaches Packet as described in WVBR Bylaws.
2. The President shall preside at all meetings of The Board and follow the following agenda:
 - a) Meeting called to order
 - b) Approval of minutes of previous meeting
 - c) Area Director report of League meetings and issues
 - d) Financial report by Treasurer
 - e) Report from league committee representatives and action
 - f) Report from area committee representatives and action
 - g) Other old business and action
 - h) Other new business and action
3. The President shall interact with the area committee Chairs to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the committees.
4. The President shall be an authorized signer on the WABR league account.

G. Vice President

1. The Vice President shall have the powers as the President in the absence of the President or during the President's disability or inability to act.
2. The Vice President shall perform those duties in connection with the administration of WABR as the Area Director or President of The Board prescribes.
3. The Vice President shall be an authorized signer on the WABR league account.

H. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall perform those duties in connection with the administration of the financial affairs of WABR as the President of The Board may designate, together with the following:

1. The Treasurer shall keep and maintain the WABR league account, and shall prepare and deliver, no less than monthly, a complete, written accounting of all WABR account activity, the form and specificity of which shall be determined by The Board, including but not limited to, balance sheet and profit/loss statements.
2. The Treasurer shall establish procedures for cash and asset management and financial reporting requirements.

3. The Treasurer assumes financial responsibility for the finances of WABR.
4. The Treasurer shall be an authorized signer on the WABR League account.

I. Secretary

1. The Secretary shall record and keep on file minutes of all meetings of The Board showing the time and place of each meeting, whether it was a regular or special meeting, the names of those present at each meeting, and the proceedings at each meeting.
2. The Secretary shall retain all coach's agreements, board membership applications and other documents related to board business and activity. These files, as well as the meeting minutes from WVBR meetings and those described in Section I, Paragraph 1 of this Article, shall be filed digitally in a manner available to all members of The Board.
3. The Secretary shall be responsible for reviewing all team rosters and certifying that all players' ages are correct as required by WVBR.
4. The Secretary shall be responsible for sharing incoming communications with the Board, Officers, and Committees as appropriate and in a manner consistent with the terms of these Bylaws.
5. The Secretary shall be responsible for updating the WABR website and preparing mass communications (e.g., email blasts, bulk mailings, press releases, etc.)
6. The Secretary shall be an authorized signer on the WABR league account.

ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES

A. Area Committees

1. A member of The Board not serving as the President or Secretary shall act as Committee Chair for each of the following Area committees:

a) Attire and Equipment

- (1) This committee shall manage WABR's inventory of uniforms, fan/spirit wear, and player equipment (Attire).
- (2) This committee shall review considerations and make recommendations to The Board regarding Attire.
- (3) This committee shall ensure that WABR provides all necessary equipment to provide for player safety, including but not limited to:

- (a) Approved catching equipment
- (b) Approved batting helmets

b) Fundraising

- (1) This committee shall review considerations and make recommendations to The Board regarding WABR's fundraising systems, practices and procedures.
- (2) This committee shall manage and report on WABR's fundraising campaigns as directed by The Board.

c) Coaching

- (1) This committee shall review considerations and make recommendations to The Board regarding WABR coaches and coaching curriculum.
- (2) This committee shall ensure that coaches are interviewed and selected in a timely fashion, as determined by The Board.
- (3) This committee shall monitor the behavior and performance of WABR coaches, and ensure accountability and compliance with all relevant laws, policies, and procedures including, but not limited to: federal, state and local statutes; WVBR policies and bylaws; WABR policies and bylaws, etc.

d) Communications

- (1) This committee shall review considerations and make recommendations to The Board regarding WABR's website, social media presence, public statements and all other outgoing communications to WABR's constituents excluding routine communications to vendors or those generated in the course of conducting Board business.

e) Facilities

- (1) This committee shall review considerations and make recommendations to The Board regarding the management of WABR's property and plant assets (e.g., playing fields, batting cages, concession stands, etc.)
- (2) This committee shall ensure that WABR provides an adequate number of playing and practice fields as determined by The Board.
- (3) This committee shall provide adequate field maintenance and preparation for safe play at all practices and games.

f) Sportsmanship

- (1) This committee shall review relevant considerations and make recommendations to The Board regarding the moral and/or ethical conduct of WABR participants, parents/guardians, volunteers and/or spectators.
- (2) This committee shall adjudicate all disputes or disciplinary matters involving any WABR participants, parents/guardians, volunteers and/or spectators.
- (3) This committee shall ensure that WABR players, coaches, and spectators exemplify and strive to achieve the objectives described in Article I at all times.
- (4) The Sportsmanship Code of the Babe Ruth League, Inc., (BRL) shall serve as the guiding principles by which all sportsmanship issues will be decided. The Sportsmanship Code of BRL is included at the end of this document (Addendum 3).

g) Program

- (1) This committee shall review considerations and make recommendations to The Board regarding regular baseball activities and operations, including, but not limited to: tryouts, rosters, schedule, local rules, etc.,
2. Each Area Committee Chair shall be elected to a one-year term by a majority vote of The Board. A Committee Chair may resign at any time by delivering written notice to The Board.
3. Area Committees shall have no fewer than two (2) members, including the Chair, selected from The Board. Committees may also include non-voting volunteers at the discretion of The Board.

B. League Committees

1. A member of The Board not serving as the Area Director or the Secretary shall serve on the following WVBR League Committees:
 - a) **Social Media**
 - b) **Discipline**
 - c) **Local Rules**
 - d) **All-Star**
2. Representatives to WVBR Committees shall be selected for one-year terms by the Area Director and approved by a majority vote of The Board.

ARTICLE VII. PLAYERS

- A. Players must play on the team they were assigned after the tryout process has been completed. If a player does not want to play on a particular team, his/her parent or guardian may petition the Area Director, prior to tryout, and it will be taken into consideration by The Board.
- B. Players' eligibility to play on a WABR team shall be determined in accordance with Article IV - Operation of the WVBR Bylaws, the relevant sections of which are included at the end of this document (Addendum 1).

ARTICLE VIII. COACHES

- A. All head coaches shall be selected by Board of Directors majority vote after an interview process, as defined by the Coaching committee and approved by The Board, has been completed.
- B. All coaches shall sign the WVBR Coach's Agreement prior to assuming a WABR coaching role.
- C. All coaches shall have satisfied the BRL Coaching Requirements,. This includes but is not limited to: BR Coaching Certification; yearly concussion training; sex abuse training; and background check.

ARTICLE IX. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

- A. **Robert's Rules of Order:** Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority on all matters not covered by the Bylaws of WABR. A simplified version of Robert's Rules is included at the end of this document (Addendum 2).
- B. **Quorum:** No less than 66% of ALL members of The Board shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business. Unless otherwise expressly specified herein, a favorable majority vote of those present constituting a quorum will carry any vote or motion.
- C. **Amendments to Bylaws:** These Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed only by the affirmative vote of no less than 66% of all members of The Board at any annual, regular or special meeting of The Board.

THESE BYLAWS WERE ADOPTED BY THE WABR BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON THE 14TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023.

Addendum 1. Area Player Eligibility

A. All players MUST reside within the boundaries of WVBR and each player MUST play for the area team in which his/her primary residence is located. There shall be no waiver or releases from this rule for any reason except those expressly mentioned in this section or the Babe Ruth League National Rules

B. Players may participate within an area based on the school for which they attend. If the physical location of the school where a player attends classes during a traditional academic year is within the boundaries of an established league, the player is permitted to participate in the established league. (Note: This excludes home schools, cyber schools, sports related schools, sports academies, or an after school situation where a student participates outside of the primary school in which he is enrolled.) Under the school boundary rule, once a player selects to participate in a league where the player is eligible, the player must finish the current season in the same league.

C. In the event a player is involved in a shared custody arrangement between parents, the player MUST play for the area team for which they go to school. In other words, if the player is residing with parent (a) in one area and going to school in the area where parent (b) resides, they MUST play for the school where parent (b) resides since this is where initial residence was established. Should the player enroll in school where parent (a) resides, then the player will have the option of playing in the area where parent (a) lives. No exceptions to this rule will be given (Babe Ruth Rule 0.01, Paragraph 5, exception, would apply).

If a parent is guilty of intentionally filing a false address so that their child would be eligible to play in an area other than the one that their real address dictates, the player would be immediately suspended for the remainder of the season, and all games the player participated in would be forfeited. (Note: The ineligible player would be eligible to return to the area for which they are designated the following season). In addition to any suspension/forfeits, a team may be subject to additional sanctions based on the recommendation of the Sportsmanship Committee or any committee designated by the league board.

If a parent truthfully files an address to play for a specific area and it is found out later that the player should be playing for a different area, there shall be no penalty and the player will be allowed to play out the remainder of the current season with the team for which he is participating with. Upon conclusion of that season, the player will return to the area for which he should actually be playing for.

Grandfathering-Rule: If a player moves out of an area, he/she has been rostered with, the player may continue to play in their original area until such time the player attends placements of their new local area. Attendance of different areas placements will break the Grandfathering rule (Babe Ruth Rule 0.01, Paragraph 5, item a)

Source: WVBR Bylaws, Article IV - Operation

Addendum 2. Robert's Rules of Order – Simplified

Guiding Principle:

- Everyone has the right to participate in discussion if they wish, before anyone may speak a second time.
- Everyone has the right to know what is going on at all times.
- Only urgent matters may interrupt a speaker.
- Only one thing (motion) can be discussed at a time.

A **motion** is the topic under discussion (e.g., “I move that we add a coffee break to this meeting”). After being recognized by the president of the board, any member can introduce a motion when no other motion is on the table. A motion requires a second to be considered. Each motion must be disposed of (passed, defeated, tabled, referred to committee, or postponed indefinitely).

How to do things:

You want to bring up a new idea before the group.

After recognition by the president of the board, present your motion. A second is required for the motion to go to the floor for discussion, or consideration.

You want to change some of the wording in a motion under discussion.

After recognition by the president of the board, move to amend by

- adding words,
- striking words or
- striking and inserting words.

You like the idea of a motion being discussed, but you need to reword it beyond simple word changes.

Move to substitute your motion for the original motion. If it is seconded, discussion will continue on both motions and eventually the body will vote on which motion they prefer.

You want more study and/or investigation given to the idea being discussed.

Move to refer to a committee. Try to be specific as to the charge to the committee.

You want more time personally to study the proposal being discussed.

Move to postpone to a definite time or date.

You are tired of the current discussion.

Move to limit debate to a set period of time or to a set number of speakers. Requires a 2/3rds vote.

You have heard enough discussion.

Move to close the debate. Requires a 2/3rds vote. Or move to previous question. This cuts off discussion and brings the assembly to a vote on the pending question only. Requires a 2/3rds vote.

You want to postpone a motion until some later time.

Move to table the motion. The motion may be taken from the table after 1 item of business has been conducted. If the motion is not taken from the table by the end of the next meeting, it is dead. To kill a motion at the time it is tabled requires a 2/3rds vote. A majority is required to table a motion without killing it.

You believe the discussion has drifted away from the agenda and want to bring it back. Call for orders of the day.

You want to take a short break.

Move to recess for a set period of time.

You want to end the meeting.

Move to adjourn.

You are unsure that the president of the board has announced the results of a vote correctly.

Without being recognized, call for a "division of the house." At this point a roll call vote will be taken.

You are confused about a procedure being used and want clarification.

Without recognition, call for "Point of Information" or "Point of Parliamentary Inquiry." The president of the board will ask you to state your question and will attempt to clarify the situation.

You have changed your mind about something that was voted on earlier in the meeting for which you were on the winning side.

Move to reconsider. If the majority agrees, the motion comes back on the floor as though the vote had not occurred.

You want to change an action voted on at an earlier meeting.

Move to rescind. If previous written notice is given, a simple majority is required. If no notice is given, a 2/3rds vote is required.

You may INTERRUPT a speaker for these reasons only:

to get information about business – **point of information**

to get information about rules – **parliamentary inquiry**

if you can't hear, safety reasons, comfort, etc. – **question of privilege**

if you see a breach of the rules – **point of order**

if you disagree with the president of the board's ruling – **appeal**

Quick Reference					
	Must Be Seconded	Open for Discussion	Can be Amended	Vote Count Required to Pass	May Be Reconsidered or Rescinded
Main Motion	✓	✓	✓	Majority	✓
Amend Motion	✓	✓		Majority	✓
Kill a Motion	✓			Majority	✓
Limit Debate	✓		✓	2/3 ^{rds}	✓
Close Discussion	✓			2/3 ^{rds}	✓
Recess	✓		✓	Majority	
Adjourn (End meeting)	✓			Majority	
Refer to Committee	✓	✓	✓	Majority	✓
Postpone to a later time	✓	✓	✓	Majority	✓
Table	✓			Majority	
Postpone Indefinitely	✓	✓	✓	Majority	✓

Source: https://assembly.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/roberts_rules_simplified.pdf

Addendum 3. The Sportsmanship Code of Babe Ruth Baseball

- ❖ Develop a strong, clean, healthy body, mind, and soul.
- ❖ Develop a strong urge for sportsman-like conduct.
- ❖ Develop understanding of and respect for the rules.
- ❖ Develop courage in defeat, tolerance and modest in victory.
- ❖ Develop control over emotions and speech.
- ❖ Develop spirit of cooperation and team play.
- ❖ Develop into real, true citizens.

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