

## **2019 Victory League Baseball Constitution and Bylaws Constitution (Revised 2019)**

### **Article I Name**

This Baseball League shall be called or known as the Victory League.

### **Article II Purpose**

The general nature of the business of this League is to arrange a regular schedule of games each year to encourage, improve, and advance the interests of amateur baseball. This effort includes promotion of benefits, mutual to players and the baseball public.

### **Article III Membership**

Members of this League shall consist of amateur baseball clubs as determined by the Board of Directors.

### **Article IV Organization**

1. Administration of League affairs shall be vested in the Board of Directors, consisting of one duly appointed qualified representative of each team.
2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and league Vice-Presidents. Officer election occurs during the January meeting.
  - A. President is a three year term starting in 2017. Election follows the year after the election of the Treasurer.
  - B. Secretary is a three year term starting in 2018. Election follows the year after the election of the President.
  - C. Treasurer is a three year term starting in 2019. Election follows the year after the election of the President.
  - D. Vice-President of each league is a 1 year term and elected annually.
3. Should vacancies of these offices occur, the League will name a representative to complete their term.
4. If an incumbent does not intend to run for another term they are encouraged to inform the League prior to or during the second meeting of the year before their current term ends. This allows preparation time for individuals interested in running for the position.

### **Article V Annual Meeting**

The first meeting of the League shall be held on or before the third Friday in January. This meeting shall be referred to as the January meeting. **Prior to the January Meeting:** The President will create a Game Schedule for the next season. The Secretary will send it to the teams before the January Meeting.

### **Article VI Amendments**

The Constitution and Bylaws maybe amended at any meeting called by the League President.

### **Article VII Impeachment**

1. Any elected officer of the Victory League charged with willfully refusing to perform their duties while in office may be impeached.
2. A simple majority of the Board of Directors is needed to bring impeachment charges. After a full and complete hearing has been held regarding this matter a two-thirds majority vote by the Board of Directors is needed to impeach.

### **Article I League Membership**

1. This League shall consist of such clubs as the Board of Directors designates, and as provided in the League Constitution, which requires a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors and subject to Article 4, Divisional Alignment.
2. New clubs admitted to the League shall be on probation for 1 season of play. At the January meeting, clubs on probation shall either be admitted full membership, rejected from further membership rights, or placed on probation for a maximum of 2 years, with full membership to be voted on then. A simple majority vote of the Board of Directors is needed to receive full membership rights.

3. Clubs failing to complete their schedule of league games shall forfeit their membership rights at the date of withdrawal from league play, but shall retain their League standing at the date of withdrawal. All remaining games will be recorded as a win for the team(s) they were scheduled to play.
4. Any club requesting to leave the League for 1 year will be allowed to do so. If the club returns to the League, they will be allowed to at the discretion of the League, with a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors and the team would be placed on probation. Clubs on probation shall not have a vote in league matters.
5. Any club seeking membership into the League must notify the League prior to January 1 in order to be considered. Mail request to PO Box 511, Little Falls, MN 56345, or electronically to any League officer or member of the Board of Directors.

## **Article II Duties of Officers**

1. The President shall preside over all meetings and appoint such committees as deemed necessary. If the President cannot attend any meeting, board hierarchy prevails. Presidential duties also include performing all duties incumbent of that office and as outlined in these bylaws. The President will rule in all matters pertaining to the League, except as provided in Section 2 of this Article. The decisions made by this office shall be final unless overruled by a two-thirds majority vote by the Board of Directors. This will be done only after a full and complete hearing has been held regarding the matter in question. The President shall receive such compensation as the Board approves.
2. The Vice-Presidents shall preside at all meetings, appoint committees needed and perform such other duties incumbent of that office and as assigned in these bylaws. When the League operates as 2 or more leagues, each league shall elect a Vice-President. This person shall assume all duties of the President, as contained in these bylaws, for their respective leagues in the following specific business for that league:
  - A A. Election of Vice-President
  - B B. Approval of regular season and play-off schedule
  - C C. Serve as a member of the regional Board of Directors
  - D D. Assistant Vice-Presidents will complete the mission of the Vice-President in the event of an absence
3. The Secretary and Treasurer shall receive such compensation as the Board of Directors approves. A bond sum shall be given if requested by the Board of Directors for the faithful performance of the duties and restoration to the League in the event of a death, resignation, or other removal of office. All property belonging to the League must be returned to the League. Such a bond and any premium will be paid to the League.
  - F A. As Secretary, there will be records kept of all League meetings. The Secretary shall perform such other duties as assigned by the President, Board of Directors and these bylaws in Article 17, section 1. In the event the Secretary is hired and not elected, no representative vote will be allowed at League meetings. They would be allowed to have a representative vote at the state meetings. Said President does not have a vote at state meetings, except for the event of breaking ties and will be allowed a representative vote at state meetings.
  - G B. The Treasurer shall collect all League monies. Other duties include making all disbursements of League funds by check, subject to Board of Directors approval, along with performing other duties assigned in the bylaws.
4. Vice-Presidents may represent their club if necessary and have a vote in the affairs of the League. The President shall vote only in the event of a tie.
5. The Board of Directors consists of a qualified person from each club and shall elect League Officers and determine bylaws, under which the League operates.

J 6. The President is empowered to authorize payment to the Secretary and Treasurer for supplies.

#### **Article III Meetings**

1. The first meeting of the year is to be held by the third Friday in January, or on a date set by the League President. If more meetings are required, they will be set at the earliest date possible, prior to the start of League play. Teams will be notified via email.
2. The President may call special meetings at any time.
3. A majority of the Board of Directors must be present to constitute a quorum.
4. Any club not having a representative at the meeting will be subject to a \$25 fine. All fines become the property of the Victory League.

#### **Article IV League Alignment**

1. Alignment of the leagues shall be reviewed and completed at the annual January meeting.
2. Size of each league shall be equal with regard to the number of teams, whenever possible.
3. Geographical lines set each league with the North and South leagues placed first. The remaining teams go to the East and West leagues.
4. This Article IV becomes effective beginning with the 2014 schedule.

#### **Article V Schedules**

1. The League shall adopt a playing schedule for the current season and playoff schedule as the Board of Directors determines during the January meeting.
2. Any postponed games shall be rescheduled within 7 days and played within 13 days of the postponement, unless the teams come to an agreeable time, date, and location. All postponed regular season games must be made up by the Wednesday prior to playoff games. If two clubs involved fail to reach an agreement within 7 days, the home team must notify the President, who will set the date and time for them. The home team must immediately report all changes of the schedules, including the time, date, field name and location to the League President, the CMUA, and Little Falls Radio at 320-632-2992. EXCEPTION: Postponement of the game MUST be played with three days. The penalty will be a fine of \$10 which will be assessed to the home club for violation of this article. Transfer dates and field for any regular scheduled game may be made by the clubs with the approval of the League President.
3. The HOME TEAM will report all games to Little Falls Radio by 6pm the day the game is played. Failure to abide will result in the team being assessed a \$10 fine for the first offense, \$25 for second offense, \$50 for third offense, \$200 for the fourth offense. The fine becomes property of the Victory League. EXCEPTION: If a late night game is played, the call to Little Falls Radio may be made upon completion of the game.

#### **Article VI Player Eligibility**

1. The League shall operate according to the rules and regulations set forth by the Minnesota Baseball Association (MBA) and Victory League Constitutions and Bylaws for Class "C" baseball.

#### **Article VII Rosters**

1. Each club shall be limited to a roster of not more than 25 players at any time.
2. Player eligibility is a 30 mile radius calculated by GPS. In addition, all other guidelines found in the MBA Handbook must be followed in determining this radius.
3. The League shall supply club members with a copy of their roster prior to the start of the season. The Secretary will make rosters available to any club upon request. Clubs shall supply the Secretary with the original copy of player contracts before the playing of the player signed.
4. Contracts and releases will not be accepted from any team unless the Secretary has received authorization forms. New authorization forms are required each year. Only one person per team will be authorized to sign and release players from said contract.

## **Article VIII Playing Regulations**

1. The official ball(s) shall be chosen during the January meeting. The home team is required to provide enough specified baseballs needed for each home game.
2. The home scorekeeper will be the official scorer.
3. The official starting time for games shall be set during the January meeting each year.
4. Pre-game practice: Home club batting practice shall be completed 45 minutes prior to the start of the game. Visiting teams must finish batting practice 20 minutes before game time. 8 minutes of fielding practice will be allowed for each team with the home team starting first. The ground rules between respective managers and umpires shall follow fielding practice with the game to start at the scheduled time.
5. Baselines from home to first and from home to third must be lined along with markers on the foul lines in both left and right field. They must be placed at a distance of at least 25 feet from home plate. Penalty for refusal of compliance by the home team of this rule will result in forfeiture of the game.
6. Any club forfeiting a game due to willful non-appearance on the field or leaving the field in protest against an umpire's decision, or due to violation of League rules will be fined \$50. Those clubs will also be subject to expulsion from the League at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The team forfeiting will pay any expenses for the umpire during such a dispute. If a visiting club forfeits the first round of scheduled play, that team will be the visiting team in the second round. All fines shall be paid to the League Treasurer who will then reimburse the team forfeited to when the fine is paid. All fines are to be paid within 15 days of the offense. THE FINE FOR FORFEITED GAMES DURING PLAYOFFS WILL BE \$100 PLUS UMPIRE EXPENSES.
7. Players shall bring their gloves in from the field during innings.
8. Postponement of any regular season game shall follow MLB rules. If a playoff game is suspended the game shall resume from the point it was postponed. Teams must contact the League President within 8 hours following suspended game outlining plans for a makeup date. If teams are unable to reach an agreement, managers involved are to compose an email to the President detailing reasons and proposed makeup date(s) by noon the day following the suspended game. Within 24 hours of the suspended game the 3 league Vice-Presidents (or Assistant Vice-Presidents if needed) of the leagues not involved will vote on the makeup date for these teams. If needed the 3 League officers will vote.
9. All games will be played under the 7 inning 10 run rule.
10. Any team refusing forfeit money on a forfeited game shall turn the fine over to the League which then becomes their property.
11. All batters, plus first and third base coaches and bat boys or girls must wear helmets. Refusal to comply with umpire's orders to wear a batters helmet will result in their ejection from the game. Coaches and bat boys or girls refusing umpire's orders will be relegated to that team's dugout. Substitutions or replacements will take those positions.
12. All players must play in 4 regular season games to be eligible for the playoff roster. EXCEPTION: Players don't have to play in 4 regular season games if they play in a wooden bat, college or summer league and they were a rostered player from the previous year.
13. Designated hitter: refer to Article 9D in the Minnesota Baseball Association Handbook.
14. The League will not accept contracts improperly filled out or not accompanied by a release form. EXCEPTION: Unless this is the first player contract ever signed by the player.

## **Article IX Ejections**

1. If a player or coach is ejected from a game, they will be required to sit out the remainder of that game. The umpire is then required to fill out a report that details the reason for the ejection. The report is then forwarded to the President of the Umpire Association. The Umpire Association will then file a report with a copy sent to the League President.
2. If a player or coach is ejected a 2nd time during the same season, they will be recommended to serve a 1 game League suspension upon the discretion of the League President. (See Article 2, Section 2).
3. If a player or coach is ejected a 3rd time in a season they will be recommended to serve a 2 game consecutive (league or tournament) suspension upon the discretion of the League President. (See Article 2, Section 2)
4. If a player or coach is ejected a 4th time or at ANY time is ejected for a verbal or physical attack on the umpire, the penalty for such action shall be suspension for at least 3 consecutive games (league or tournament) plus any other penalty the State Board may see fit to impose.
5. If a player or coach appeals a suspension order, the Executive Committee will rule on a final decision after a full and fair hearing is held.
6. It should be noted that any suspension not completed due to end of the entire season will be carried over to the following season.

## **Article X Umpires**

Selection of umpires, how many will be used per game, other duties, and their salaries will be determined by the Umpire Contract as approved with a simple majority vote by the Board of Directors prior to the start of the regular season.

## **Article XI Affiliate Membership**

This League shall be a member of the Minnesota Baseball Association (MBA) and shall pay annual dues set by the Association. Travel expenses for a League representative attending the Annual Association meeting each October shall be paid by the League. Membership shall be voluntary and once accepted into membership each team, team members, and team officials shall agree to abide by the rules and regulations they set forth. These rules are outlined in the MBA Handbook which contains the Constitution and Bylaws under the direction of the State Board of Directors.

## **Article XII Finances**

1. Annual dues shall be determined during the January meeting. Dues are to be at least \$1 for each club member payable before the first game of the season. Failure to pay annual dues by the date specified will result in immediate suspension and a fine of \$20, which must be paid prior to the teams' reinstatement into League play. The fine becomes the property of the League and games scheduled during the suspension period will be considered a forfeit. (See Article 8, Section 6).
2. Each club shall retain all receipts of home games and shall pay all expenses relating to those games. Visiting clubs shall assume all expenses for their travel and own equipment.
3. Financial arrangements for playoff games shall be determined by each league during the January meeting.
4. Price of admission to regularly scheduled games and season pass prices, if any, shall be determined during the January meeting by each league.
5. In the event any club fails to complete its schedule of games and drops from the League, that team shall forfeit its guarantee fund. That money becomes the property of the League.
6. All League fines shall be paid with 15 days after the offending club has been notified by the League Secretary. If the fine is unpaid after the grace period, the offending club shall be suspended from all League activities until such fine is paid. Scheduled games during the time of the club's suspension will be forfeited. (See Article 8, Section 6).

### **Article XIII Protests**

1. Protests of games shall be entered at the time of play with the umpire in chief and filed in writing with the League President within 3 days. The section of the rule of Official Baseball Rules under which the protest is based must be protested.
2. Protests of player eligibility shall be filed in writing with the League President with full details of the protest provided.
3. A fee of \$25 shall accompany all protests which will be returned if the protest is granted. If said protest is denied, the fee becomes the property of the League.
4. The League President will rule on protests whenever possible, without calling a special meeting of any kind. If the President is unable to make a fair and equitable decision a special meeting may be requested.

### **Article XIV Tie Breaking System**

1. Two Teams
  - A. Record in head to head competition
  - B. Record in the division
  - C. Runs scored in head to head competition
  - D. Total runs allowed in league games
  - E. Flip a coin
2. Three Teams
  - A. Best record in the league
  - B. Best record in head to head competition (three teams, four games)
  - C. Best plus/minus ratio in head to head competition
  - D. Total runs allowed in league games
  - E. One team flips into the highest standing and follows procedure for two-team tiebreaker

### **Article XV Scope of Bylaws**

1. These bylaws shall be enforced immediately following their adoption.
2. Excerpts of the January meeting minutes shall be furnished for all Officers and member clubs and will become part of the League bylaws of the current year. Such excerpts shall show the playing schedule, playoff arrangements, start time of games, official ball(s), umpire arrangements, assessment of League dues, admission prices, passes and instruction for reporting game results.
3. In all matters not specifically outlined in these bylaws followed by the MBA Handbook, the Official Baseball Rule Book is understood to govern.
4. These bylaws may be repealed as a whole or in part as called by the League President at any meeting. Said meeting must be a League meeting with a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the Board of Directors.

### **Article XVI Permanent Committee**

1. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the 3 League Officers and the 4 league Vice-Presidents. This committee will meet prior to the January meeting, and if necessary, prior to any other League meeting.
2. This committee's purpose will be to make recommendations regarding league alignment/competition, state board issues, league playing schedules, changes to the Victory League Constitution and Bylaws, and any other League issues.
3. This committee can be dissolved by the League President for any reason, at any time in the future.

## **Article XVII Appendix**

### **1. Duties of the Secretary**

#### **A. League Meetings**

1. Coordinate with President and Treasurer to set date and location of next meeting.
2. Notify all team representatives and umpire association with finalized dates and location information of all League meetings.
3. Arrange the meeting room to accommodate the League and their team representatives before the meeting is called to order.
4. Work with Treasurer to cover any rental costs, if any.
5. Publish the date and place of meetings in advance and the agenda as prepared by the President to team representatives.
6. After meeting has been called to order, take roll call of Board of Directors.
7. Capture meeting minutes for all League meetings.
8. Send captured meeting minutes to Board of Directors.
9. File captured meeting minutes for future reference.
10. Read previous meeting minutes at current meeting.
11. Obtain printed material from MBA secretary such as the Handbook. This is typically distributed to the League during an MBA state board meeting.
12. Prepare team packets including the MBA Handbook, player contracts, player release forms, league schedules, VL Constitution, umpire contract and League directory and distribute to all teams at the second League meeting.

#### **B. Team Rosters**

1. Process submitted contracts and release forms in a timely manner to allow teams to adjust their rosters throughout the season.
2. Meet requirements for submitting player contracts and the release of players to the MBA secretary in a timely fashion.
3. Ensure all team representatives know how and where to send in player contracts and release forms.
4. Meet MBA requirements for submitting playoff rosters and state qualifying rosters in a timely fashion.
5. Process the Acknowledgement of Constitution MBA Form.
6. Process the Player Contract Authorization Form.

#### **C. League Schedule**

1. Assist President with creation of regular season schedule.
2. Publish schedule to teams and notify Umpire Association so games can get assigned.
3. Update game dates, times, and location changes based on conflicts or weather postponements throughout the season.
4. Capture completed league game result information.
5. Enforce fines to teams for not reporting league game results in a timely fashion.
6. Update and publish league standings.

#### **D. Umpire Association Liaison**

1. Work with League President and the CMUA to prepare, negotiate and sign the annual umpire contract.

#### **E. File, Maintain and Publish the Following Documents**

1. Victory League Constitution and Bylaws
2. Victory League Directory
3. Reporting a Concern-Whistleblower Policy Form
4. Player Contracts, Player Releases and the Player Authorizations Form