

# **Victory League Baseball**

## **Constitution and By-Laws**

Revised 2011

### **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. League officers shall consist of a President, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers are elected during the winter meeting. Each division in the league shall elect a Vice-President and an Assistant Vice-President.
3. Should vacancies of these offices occur, the Board of Directors will name an official.

### **Article V Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting of the Corporation shall be held on or before the third Friday in January.

### **Article VI Amendments**

This constitution may be amended at any meeting called by the League President.

# **Bylaws**

## **Article I**

1. This league shall consist of such clubs as the Board of Directors designates, and as provided in the League Constitution.
2. New clubs admitted to the League shall be on probation for one season of play. At the annual meeting, clubs on probation shall either be admitted full membership, or rejected from further membership rights.
3. Clubs failing to complete their schedule of Leagues 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 teams they were scheduled to play.
4. Any club requesting to leave the League for any period of time will be allowed to do so. If the club returns to the League, they will be allowed to at the discretion of the League. Clubs on probation shall have a vote in league matters.

## **Article II**

### **Duties of Officers**

1. The President shall preside over all meetings and appoint such committees as deemed necessary. 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 discussed.
2. The Vice-President(s) 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 two or more leagues, each league shall elect a Vice-President. This person shall assume all duties of President, as contained in these bylaws, for their respective league in the following specific business for that League:
  - A. Election of Vice-President
  - B. Approval of regular season and play-off schedule
  - C. Hiring of umpires
  - D. Vice-President from each division shall serve as members of the regional Board of Directors if applicable
  - E. The Assistant Vice-President will complete the mission of the Vice-President in the event of an absence
3. The Secretary-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.
  - 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 the event the secretary is hired and not appointed, 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.
  - B. The Treasurer shall collect all League monies . Other duties include making all disbursements of League

funds by check, subject to Board of Director approval, along with performing other such duties assigned in the bylaws.

4. Vice-Presidents may represent their club if necessary and have a vote in 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.
6. The President is empowered to authorize payment to the Secretary-Treasurer for needed supplies.

### **Article III**

#### **Meetings**

1. The Annual meeting 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 in writing.
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**

#### **Schedules**

1. The League shall adopt a playing schedule for the current season and playoff schedule as the Board of Directors determines during the Spring Meeting.
2. Any postponed games shall be rescheduled within seven days and played within thirteen days of the postponement. Unless the teams come to an agreeable time, date and location. All postponed games must be made up by the Wednesday prior to playoff games. If the two clubs involved fail to reach an agreement within seven 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 schedules, including the time, date, field name and location to the League Secretary and Little Falls Radio. **Exception:** Postponement of the two games **MUST** be played within three days. The penalty will be a fine of \$10 shall be assessed to the home club for violation of this article. The phone number is 320-632-2992.
3. Transfer dates and field for any regular scheduled game may be made by the clubs, with the approval of the League President.
4. 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 first offense, \$25 for second offense, \$50 for third offense, \$200 for fourth offense. The fine becomes property of the League. **Exception:** If a late night game is played, the call to Little Falls radio may be made after the completion of the game.

## **Article V**

### **Player Eligibility**

The League shall operate according to the rules and regulations set forth by the Minnesota Baseball Association Constitution and Bylaws for Class "C" Baseball, and or the Constitution and By laws of the Victory League.

## **Article VI**

### **Rosters**

1. Each club shall be limited to a roster of not more than twenty (20) players at any time.
2. Player eligibility is a 30 mile radius calculated by a GPS Visualizer. In addition, all other guidelines found in the MBA Handbook must be followed in determining this radius.
3. The League Secretary 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 the 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 team.

## **Article VII**

### **Playing Regulations**

1. The Official ball or balls shall be chosen during the spring 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 spring meeting each year.
4. Pre-game practice: Home club batting shall be completed 45 minutes prior to the start of the game. Visiting teams must finish practice 20 minutes before game time. Eight (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, with the game to start at the scheduled time.
5. Baselines from home to first and from home to third must be limed with markers on the foul lines in both left and right field. They must be placed at a distance of at least two hundred-fifty (250) 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 for 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 fifteen (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 between innings.

8. Any regular season or playoff game suspended five innings: ending in a tie will be completed from the point of suspension at the earliest date possible. Any game that does not meet the required four and a half innings shall be replayed. Playoff games shall go at least seven (7) innings unless the team coming to bat is ahead, then six and a half innings will complete the game.
9. All games will be played under the seven inning, ten 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 must wear batting helmets. Refusal to comply with umpire's orders to wear a helmet will result in the batter's ejection from the game. A replacement will take that position.
12. All players must play in four (4) regular season games to be eligible for the playoff roster.
13. Designated hitter: refer to Article 9D in the Minnesota State Baseball Rulebook.
14. The League will not accept contracts improperly filled out or not accompanied by a release form. **Exception:** Unless there is a first release form.

## **Article VIII**

### **Ejections**

1. If a player or coach is ejected from a game, they will be required to sit out for 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 Umpire Association President. The Umpire Association will then file a report with a copy sent to the Victory League President.
2. If a player or coach is ejected again during the same season, they will be recommended to serve a one game League suspension upon the discretion of the League President. (See Article 2, Section 2).
3. If a player or coach is ejected a third time in a season, they will be recommended to serve a three game suspension.
4. If a player or coach is ejected a fourth time or at ANY time is ejected for a verbal or physical attack on the Umpire; they will be reported to the Minnesota Baseball Association State Board. The result could be a ten game suspension.
5. It shall be noted that any suspension not completed due to the end of the season, the penalty will be carried forward to the following season.

## **Article IX**

### **Umpires**

Selection of umpires, how many will be used per game, other duties and their salaries will be determined by the Board of Directors.

## **Article X**

### **Affiliate Membership**

This League shall be a member of the Minnesota Baseball Association 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 Constitution and Bylaws, under the direction of the Board of Directors.

## **Article XI**

### **Finances**

1. Each club, upon gaining membership into the League, shall deposit with the League Treasurer the sum of \$200. This is guarantee of good faith. After a team has been in the league one full year, \$50 will go back to the team, after the second full year, the team will receive an additional \$50 back, with \$100 remaining with the league. The money shall be subject to the assessment of fines or penalties imposed upon clubs for violating any provisions of the League Constitution and Bylaws. This money shall also be used to pay any necessary expenses incurred by the League. It is understood the guarantee fund must be at least \$100 at ALL times this applies to teams entering the league after 2005. Furthermore, upon request and approval of the Board of Directors, the guarantee fund of any member club may be refunded or transferred.
2. Annual dues shall be determined during the Spring 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 VII Section 6A).
3. 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 travel and their own equipment.
4. Financial arrangements for playoff games shall be determined by the Board of Directors during the Spring Meeting.
5. Price of admission to regularly scheduled games and season pass prices if any, shall be determined during the Spring Meeting.
6. 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.
7. All League fines shall be paid within fifteen (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 are forfeited. (See Article VII Section 6A).

## **Article XII**

### **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 three (3) days. The section of the rule of Official Baseball Rules under which the protest is based must be provided.
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 refunded 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 needing to call 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 XIII**  
**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. Flip a coin

\*\*\*\*\*A tie for fourth place must be played off (quality for playoffs). \*\*\*\*\*

2. Three Teams
  - A. Best record in the division
  - B. Best record in head to head competition (three teams, four games)
  - C. Best plus/minus ration of runs in head to head competition
  - D. One team flips into the highest standing and follows procedure for two-team tiebreaker

**Article XIV**  
**Scope of Bylaws**

1. These Bylaws shall be enforced immediately following their adoption.
2. Excerpts of the minutes from the Spring Meeting 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, play off arrangements, start time of games, official ball, umpire arrangements, assessment of League dues, admission prices, passes and instructions for reporting games.
3. In all matters, not specifically outlined in these Bylaws, followed by the Minnesota Baseball Association handbook, the Official Baseball Rule 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 three-fourths majority vote of all members of the Board of Directors.