

**GATEWAY BABE RUTH LEAGUE, INC.
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

As amended Feb 13, 2008

INTRODUCTION

The name of this League shall be: **Gateway Babe Ruth League, Inc.**

The purpose for which this league is organized is to develop and operate a baseball program in affiliation with Babe Ruth League, Inc., a New Jersey corporation, in conformity with and pursuant to the principals, rules and regulations enunciated by said Babe Ruth League, Inc.

In conjunction with such purposes, the objective of this league is that, through the medium of a supervised, competitive baseball program guided and governed by said Babe Ruth League, Inc., this league will seek to implant in the youth of the community, ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and reverence, so that they may be finer, stronger and happier youth who will grow to be good, clean, healthy adults.

This league shall be affiliated with Babe Ruth League, Inc., and shall be governed by, and shall comply with, the principals, rules and regulations, enunciated and decreed by Babe Ruth League, Inc.

The principal operations of this league shall be in and about the Towns of Carver, Marion, Rochester, Mattapoisett and Wareham, County of Plymouth and State of Massachusetts, but may extend into such areas as provided for by the State, Regional, and National Headquarters rules and regulations.

This league shall have the following powers in addition to the powers expressly or implicitly conferred on it by law:

To make and enforce rules and regulations to govern itself on a local basis, but consistent with and not contrary to any rules and regulations promulgated by Babe Ruth League, Inc., or by the Regional, or State echelons of said Babe Ruth League, Inc., to which this league is subject.

ARTICLE I - BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

The officers will consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Player Agents. Officers are elected for one (1) year term and may serve any number of successive terms. The Board of Directors will consist of all elected officers and/or a representative of each team (major & minor leagues) with each member having one (1) vote on league policy. The President will vote only in cases of tie votes. In the event the President is a team Manager or representative,

his or her team will be represented by someone of his or her choosing, *unless* his or her team is already represented by a voting member of the Board of Directors.

The officers shall be elected annually at the January meeting to hold office as of February 1 and until their successors shall be duly elected. The election shall be by ballot with one vote per team (to be cast by the team manager or his designated representative). The team manager must be a previously approved coach from the previous season. Any vacancy shall be filled for the balance of the term by majority vote of the teams at a meeting called for said purpose.

ARTICLE II - PRESIDENT/MANAGERS/OFFICERS/COACHES

1. President - The duties of the office of the President shall be to (a) preside at all meetings of the League and perform all duties usual pertaining to this office; (b) assume all responsibilities for the operation of the League, appoint all committees, and supervise the activity of the committees; (c) insure that the League adheres to the rules, regulations and policies of Babe Ruth Baseball, Inc.; (d) attend and represent the League at all state and district meetings; (e) have final authority for all League protests and disputes.
2. Vice President - The duties of the Vice President shall be as follows: (a) to be the director and supervisor of the 13 Year Old Prep League (b) to compile a list of prospective managers for the 13 year old division and in all respects to supervise the activity of the League; and (c) to act on behalf of the President in the President's absence or incapacity.
3. Treasurer - The duties of the Treasurer shall be as follows: (a) To receive and keep all funds for the league; (b) to pay the invoices due from the League in accordance with the financial committee's recommendations; (c) make a monthly report of the League's financial status and an annual report of all receipts and disbursements; and (d) have the books of the League reviewed by the finance committee prior to the annual meeting.
4. Secretary - The duties of the Secretary shall be as follows: (a) to keep minutes of all meetings and proceedings and records of the same; (b) send notices for all regular and special meetings; (c) maintain the official records of the League's activities; (d) compile a list of all members of the Board of Directors, managers and coaches; and (e) send copies of all required documents to the state, district and

national headquarters.

5. Player Agent - The duties of the Player Agent shall be as follows: (a) maintain and update all records of team rosters; (b) supervise the League's annual registration and draft procedures; (c) insure player eligibility as to age and residence; (d) prepare a list of all eligible candidates for tryouts; (e) supervise all tryouts and supervise player draft sessions; and (f) maintain a pool of the player eligible candidates not selected by draft or late registrations.
6. Insurance Coordinator/Schedule Coordinator - The duties of the insurance coordinator/schedule coordinator shall be as follows: (a) insure that the League has obtained insurance policies through Babe Ruth Baseball on an annual basis; (b) process the paperwork for any claims submitted through the Babe Ruth Baseball insurance program; (c) draft and distribute a schedule for playing of the 13-15 year old games and the 13 year old league;
7. Equipment Manager - The duties of the Equipment Manager shall be as follows: (a) maintain an up-to-date inventory of all equipment; (b) recommend in writing the replacement or repair of uniforms, equipment, supplies as necessary; (c) distribute needed equipment to team managers prior to first practice; (d) maintain a file of receipts signed for equipment and uniforms issued; and (e) replace/reissue uniforms and equipment as necessary, track down all-star uniforms and account for same at end of season.
8. Senior League Coordinator – The duties of the Senior League coordinator should be as follows: a) supervise the league. B) appoint manger. C) oversee tryouts. D) coordinate and schedule games with other senior Babe Ruth teams within our district.
9. CORI Coordinator – The duties of the CORI Coordinator should be as follows: a) to collect and submit CORI forms for every coach or adult who has direct contact with our players. B) to discuss with the League President any CORI returns that may require additional conversation with said coach/adult.

All managers, coaches and officers shall be residents of one of the five Towns, over nineteen (19) years of age, of good moral character and desiring to assist the youth of the Communities. All officers, managers, coaches and league officials shall be subject to background checks and review and subject to CORI informational reports. All coaches and managers must be certified to coach prior to the

designated tryout date. The Board will vote to approve or disapprove a coach once a CORI form and certification has been received. Any issues as to the moral character and suitability of an individual to participate, as a manager, coach or officer of the League shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors and the decision of the Board of Directors shall be final.

ARTICLE III: STANDING COMMITTEE

Standing committee shall consist of a scheduling committee, an umpire committee, and any others deemed necessary to the operation of The League.

ARTICLE IV: BOUNDARIES

The League shall be made up of three districts consisting of Wareham, Carver and the ORR districts. A player shall not be eligible to play unless he or she resides within the boundaries of Gateway Babe Ruth League, Inc. Any player who moves from one district to another shall have the option to remain with his or her team until his or her eligibility has expired. All players must meet the National Babe Ruth standards to play in the league. A player's parents residence shall determine the district in which he plays, except if a player attends a school in another district from that of his parents residence he or she shall have the option to play for that district.

ARTICLE V: ROSTERS **SECTION A**

1. Managers will review player roster in March and inform the Board of Directors in writing at the April meeting of the name address and date of birth of the 14 and 15 year old players returning and if any player has decided not to return, that report shall be referred to the Player Agent, who shall immediately call the parent or guardian to confirm the player's status. A final report on the player's status shall be made to the Board of Directors by the May meeting.

2. Each team shall have a manager and two coaches - additional coaches may be added with written approval of Board of Directors and notification to Babe Ruth, Inc. Managers will inform the League President (Majors), Vice President (Minors) and respective Player Agent immediately when a Coach departs the team. If a player departs a team during the season- that is he fails with out proper excuse to attend four (4) games -- then the manager shall immediately notify the Player Agent and the President. The Player Agent to the Board of Directors shall refer the status of this player for future participation in the league. The decision of the Board of Directors shall be final unless overturned by a vote of at least 2/3 of the voting members.

3. Roster vacancies shall be filled with the assistance of the Player Agent. This is to be accomplished within ten (10) days. All teams shall carry a minimum of twelve (12) players on their roster. If

the season is more than 75% complete, the team need not fill the roster.

4. If a manager fails to cooperate in filling the roster vacancy or fails to promptly notify the Player Agent of a vacancy, disciplinary action could result in a suspension.

5. The rosters and certified birth certificates of each team and player shall be filed one (1) week prior to the opening of the season. Failure to comply will result in a fine of \$5.00 per day for every day of non-compliance. The manager of the delinquent team will pay this fine. All monies collected from this penalty will be deposited in to the treasury of the Gateway Babe Ruth League, Inc. A copy of each team's roster will be sent to every manager in the league. The player agent will notify each manager of any change in any of the team rosters. The President shall suspend any manager who fails to complete and file his roster, or who has not paid fees due the League after notice, until all fees are paid, (including any fine imposed as a result of a violation of this rule) and rosters are filed with the League. This rule shall apply to both the regular season and Fall Ball. Minimum suspension shall be two (2) games, with no maximum. A suspended coach shall not be permitted in the dugout, on the field, or have any communication with coaches or players in the dugout or on the field. Continued failure to comply with this rule shall subject the coach/manager to permanent dismissal from the League.

6. Team composition shall be limited to eight (8) fifteen year olds with no requirement to carry any 13yr olds. A major league team may carry no more than three 13-yr olds on its roster. Each manager shall be required to designate on draft day twelve (12) players on his roster as "regular players". Any 13-yr old player not designated as a "regular player" shall be assigned to a 13-yr old team and that team shall be considered his/ her primary team. A 13-yr old drafted by a major league team but not designated as a "regular player" shall have the option of playing both major and minor league ball, however his first responsibility shall be to the 13-yr old team. If at any time the major league team needs additional players in order to avoid a forfeit, the manger shall have the right to call up any 13-yr old on his roster for as many games as necessary; however, the player shall still remain on the roster of the 13-yr old team to which he was assigned. Amended 4/25/07 - Teams may consist of up to "5" 13 year old players based on current registration numbers.

7. Any 13-yr old drafted by a major league team but not designated a "regular player" shall be told of his option to play both major and minor league ball. If having been informed of the option to play both, the player indicates he/she does not wish to be on both rosters, he/she shall be removed from the roster of the major league team and the manager shall be given the

Opportunity to select another player if he so desires.

8. Managers are encouraged to draft eligible 14---15-yr olds before drafting any 13-yr olds. If, at any time, it is determined by the Player Agent that a 13-yr old is not getting a reasonable amount of playing time after being designated a "regular player", the President shall convene a meeting with the Player Agent, manager of the team and the parents of the player to determine whether it would be in the best interest of the player to be assigned to a 13-yr old team. If, after the meeting, it is determined to be in the player's best interest to be placed on a 13-yr old team, the President shall have the power to make the transfer and the player shall be removed from the roster of the major league team.

SECTION B: ELIGIBILITY

Eligible players added after the start of the season have seven (7) days to turn in certified birth certificates to their manager or they cannot play. If any team has less than twelve (12) players, its manager shall submit a request to the Board of Directors to add a player or players. These players must not have played for any organized Baseball League during the year with the exception of High School, Minor (13yr old) League or Travel Team that has been approved by the Board of Directors of Gateway Babe Ruth League Inc. (see Article XVIII) Players added must come from the tryout list from the district in which the team is located, as stipulated in Article IV Boundaries. All roster changes must be in writing to the player agent. Birth certificates must be returned to the teams by the August Meeting. Any team that plays an ineligible player shall forfeit all games in which such player has participated.

ARTICLE VI: LEAGUE FEES

League fees shall be paid in two (2) installments; fifty percent (50%) by April 1st and fifty percent (50%) by May 1st. Failure to comply may, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, result in the suspension from league play until such time as the fee has been paid and the team is reinstated by the Board of Directors. (See Article V (A5))

ARTICLE VII: BEHAVIOR

SECTION A: MANAGER/ COACH PERFORMANCE/CONDUCT

1. Board of Directors may ask for a manager's immediate resignation for misconduct. If the manager requests a review of the action by his peers, the President will temporarily suspend the manager and schedule the review as soon as possible but within seven days of the request.

2. A League Official or Manager will be asked to resign if he or his team is not represented at three league meetings in a calendar year.

3. A League Official, Coach or Manager who fails to support

and/or participate in fund-raising and other activities and committees may be asked to resign by the request of a majority (motion and vote) of his peers.

4. Any team that forfeits 3 or more games during the regular season due to the failure to field a team shall be ineligible for post season play and the manager shall be considered on probation unless the Board of Directors takes other action.
5. Manager or coaches ejected from a game shall be suspended for the following game-- unless a written appeal is filed prior to the following game. The appeal shall be to the Board of Directors, whose decision shall be final. The suspension shall be held in abeyance until the appeal has been decided.
6. All coaches/managers must submit a CORI form and have a valid coaching certification on file prior to the Tryout Date.

SECTION B: PLAYER CONDUCT

1. If a player is ejected from a game, this will result in an automatic review of the incident by the Player Agent who shall determine what further punishment is warranted, if any. This review shall occur within 48 hours and the umpire must give a report to the Player Agent within 24 hours of the game. This rule shall also be applicable during the playoffs, however the time for review may be shorter, if necessary for the review to occur prior to the next game.

2. If a player is ejected from a second game in a season, a hearing before the Board of Directors is mandatory - said hearing to be within seven (7) days of the ejection. The player shall not play in any game until the Board has reviewed the matter. The Board shall act in accordance with its view of the facts. Dismissal from league play shall be the final punishment.

3. Punishment for behavior and conduct unbecoming a league participant:

Any league participant (player, coach, umpire, parent or spectator) who has a complaint filed against them with the league as a result of behavior or conduct unbecoming or in violation of any rule of the league shall be subject to the disciplined procedure contained within Article VII section B of these by-laws. When a complaint has been filed with the league, it will be the Player Agents duty to review the complaint, swiftly and carefully investigate the complaint, and then determine what punishment should be administered for the actions committed. The Player Agent will have the right to give a verbal and/or written warning to the party, suspend, or expel any party who in his/her sole and exclusive opinion requires to be reprimanded in such a stern fashion. Any party aggrieved by the action of

The Player Agent shall have a right to request a hearing before the Board of Directors in accordance with the provisions of Article VII, however, the requesting of a hearing shall not delay the punishment imposed by the Player Agent. Any player ejected from a game by the

Player Agent or the Umpire as a result of conduct unbecoming a league participant shall be suspended for the next league game played by his or her team. The Manager of each team shall at all times require his team and its fans to abide by all Gateway and National Babe Ruth Rules and Regulations.

SECTION C: PERMANENT EXPULSION

A seventy five (75) percent affirmative vote of the present and voting members of the Board is needed for permanent expulsion of a fan, parent, player, team, manager or coach.

ARTICLE VIII: PROTESTED GAMES

Only an interpretation of the Babe Ruth Baseball Rules, Major League Baseball Rules, and the rules of Gateway Babe Ruth Baseball League, Inc. will be considered. Umpires will be informed at the time of the protest and BOTH teams will enter it into their scorebook. A phone call MUST be made to the President within twenty four (24) hours and a written report presented to him within forty eight (48) hours for a protest to be considered. The President and two (2) members of the Board of Directors appointed by the President will make up the protest committee. In the event one of the teams involved is the President's team, he will appoint a third neutral member of the Board. The Umpire must submit a written report, and/or be present at the meeting. The protest must be resolved within ten (10) days.

ARTICLE IX: EQUIPMENT

SECTION A: BASEBALLS

Only accepted brand baseballs, Babe Ruth Brand or better will be used.

SECTION B: BATTING HELMETS

Each team must have a minimum of five (5) batting helmets with double earflaps and a catcher's helmet. The batter, the on deck batter, and all base runners must wear batting helmets at all times. Exactly matching helmets, the same color as hat color may be worn on the field for defense, with the exception of the pitcher.

SECTION C: PLAYER EQUIPMENT

Each player on the field must be fully equipped, and in full uniform or he or she will not be allowed to take his or her position on the field. Uniforms will be worn properly on and off the playing field.

ARTICLE X: LEAGUE GAMES

Games will be played in accordance with Babe Ruth rules with the following exceptions:

1. **Postponed Games:** The Home team manager shall be responsible for postponing games because of rain or other weather conditions prior to **4:30pm on WEEK NIGHTS AND ONE HOUR**

PRIOR TO GAMETIME ON WEEKENDS. The Home team manager is responsible for notifying the other manager and umpire(s).

When teams arrive at the field, the home plate Umpire will be responsible to determine if the games should be played, regardless whether or not a pitch has been thrown. Postponed games will be rescheduled on the next mutually agreeable date. If no date is set within one week the President shall re-schedule the game.

2. **Postponements:** Postponements will be allowed only for school functions or events related to school functions. Any other postponements must be of a catastrophic nature, such as death, illness, accident, or act of God. Only the President or Vice President shall have the authority to approve postponements for unusual circumstances. Penalty for non-compliance will result in forfeiture of any game that was postponed.

3. **Suspended Games:** Any Major League Game – or 13 year old Prep Playoff Game, having completed one inning and then called by the umpire for any reason (weather, darkness, curfew, field unavailability) failing to reach the regulation minimum of 4½ or 5 innings played shall be declared “suspended”. Suspension shall mean that all things are “frozen”. A suspended game shall resume in accordance with baseball rule 4.11(d). Both managers and the Vice President shall meet to determine when the suspended game shall be resumed, provided, however, said game shall be resumed and completed immediately preceding the next scheduled game between the two teams if at all possible. In the event rescheduling of a suspended game cannot occur, the suspended game shall be called a tie. If a game is called by the umpire before the completion of one full inning, then said game shall be declared “NO Game” per baseball Rule 4:10(e) and must be re-played as a new game. The Vice President shall determine when the game is rescheduled.

4. **Starting Time:** Games must be started not later than 15 minutes after the scheduled time unless held up by inclement weather or availability of the field. The game must begin on time if both teams have at least nine (9) players at game time; or as soon as each team has nine (9) players or a forfeit SHALL BE declared. Teams that cannot field a team within 15 minutes of the scheduled starting will forfeit the game. All weekday games shall start at 5:30 pm unless otherwise scheduled. The umpires’ names must appear in the home team’s scorebook by means of signatures.

5. **Schedule:** The Board of Directors shall set the league schedule annually on or before April 1st.

6. **Reentry:** If a Manager chooses to play all his players and a player is injured or ejected the opposing Manager will select a player from the bench to reenter the game. If a team chooses to use a ten (10) player line-up (extra hitter) the team must finish the game with a ten (10) player line -up. Amended 4/25/07 - A team may finish the game with 9 players – should a team begin with 10, and one should get hurt, or ejected.

7. **Ground Rules:** The Board of Directors will prepare and provide to Managers and Umpires written ground rules for playing fields at the start of the season. Home team bench shall be the first base bench unless otherwise stated in the ground rules for that particular field. Home team will provide the umpire with 2 new game balls. The home team coach may also provide the umpire with a slightly used 3rd baseball if one is available.

8. **Non-Roster Personnel:** No one will be allowed on the bench or field of play during a game or at a practice unless they are on the current team roster. This must be closely monitored in view of the strict insurance requirement in case of injury or accident.

9. **Pregame Warm-ups:** The visiting team shall take the field first, with each team receiving 10 minutes pre-game warnings. Visiting team shall finish infield at least 15 minutes prior to game time. No batting practice of any kind after 5:15 P.M.

10. **Reporting Game Results:** 13 prep (Home Team manager) will email results to our league's vice president. Major league (Home Team manager) will email results to our league's president.

11. **Rescheduling Games:** No team will play more than four games per week (Monday through Sunday) unless one additional game is approved by the League President because of rainouts or other unforeseen events. Teams will not be rescheduled for an A.M. start following a late- night game whenever possible.

12. **Ten Run Rule:** Any game that has reached the status of a "regulation game" (Rule 4.10) and one team possesses a ten run advantage shall be terminated. It is understood that each team shall have an equal number of times at bat, or the home team will be leading by ten runs at the completion of the half inning. This rule does not apply to the Minor League (13yr old) regular season games.

13. **Pitching week** shall start on Monday and end on Sunday. (BR Rule .06 (2)).

14. **13 Prep Minor League Games:** All Regular Season Minor league games shall have a 2 hour time limit. The inning in progress at the end of the time limit shall be completed. Any regulation game at the completion of the time limit whose score is tied shall be declared a TIED game. All players shall play a minimum of two consecutive innings in the field. During regular season games, a CONTINUOUS batting order will be followed. Free substitution on the field may occur. If a player is not listed by the manager on the batting order presented to the official score keeper as being absent, injured or otherwise excused from playing, the player must be considered eligible to play and will be subject to the must play rule. If a manager fails to conform to this rule, he or she must appear before the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will retain the authority to suspend a manager from further participation in the League for such failure. Routine checks of the official score books will be made by the Vice President to insure compliance with this rule.

The Ten Run Rule shall not apply to Minor League regular season games. There is, however, a maximum of 6 run rule per inning. Once the six run has crossed the plate, the ½ inning is over. Coaches should encourage their players to finish the play if at all possible. The “6 Run” limit is waived in the last inning – or last at bat for each team.

The Minor League may utilize a "courtesy runner" in an attempt to prevent an undue delay of the game. When there are two outs, a courtesy runner may be substituted for the catcher to allow the catcher to put on equipment for the next inning. This courtesy runner may ONLY be the player who made the final out, or who had the last at bat, in the previous inning.

Visits to the mound: During the regular season, a coach may visit the mound two times per pitcher. The 3rd trip will constitute the removal of that particular pitcher.

Balks: During the regular season, upon the first balk call per pitcher, the umpire will inform the pitcher and coach what he/she did to constitute a balk. This will be a “warning” and no base runners will advance. After the initial warning, base runners will advance.

15. **FALL BALL LEAGUE:** The league shall sponsor a Fall Ball Baseball League for players ages 12—14 yrs old. Said league shall be governed by the Minor League Rules and any additional rules deemed necessary by the President for the safety and development of the younger players.
16. **SUMMER BALL LEAGUE:** The league shall sponsor a Summer Ball Baseball League for players ages 13—15 yrs old. Said league shall be governed by the modified Fall Ball Rules and any additional rules deemed necessary by the President for the safety and development of the younger players. This league will begin in July and conclude in August.

ARTICLE XI - ALL STAR PARTICIPATION

The League shall field a 13-year old; 14 year old; and a 15 year old all star team each year to participate in the E- Mass. District competition. Selection of the teams shall be by manager recommendations and try-outs to be held prior to the third week of June each year. Any player who has appeared in at least (½) one half of his teams regular season games shall be eligible (Per Official Babe Ruth Rules) Selection of the players shall be made by the manager and his assistants as determined by paragraph 2 of this article for each age group. If after completion of the districts (and any related competitions) it is determined that there is a sufficient number of players to establish a second travel all star team within a particular age group, the Board of Directors may establish additional teams to participate in various all star tournaments. The cost of participating in any additional

tournament shall be the responsibility of the manager and coaches of the teams.

All Star managers for the year shall be selected as follows:

15 & 14 YR OLD TEAMS

The managers of the 15 & 14 Yr Old All Star teams will be appointed by the League President. Ideally, the coaching staff will be representative of the league. In other words, the League President will attempt to assemble a coaching staff with assistants and scorekeeper from other teams within their division. Criteria for coaching selections will be based on previous all star coaching experience, willingness, ability to communicate effectively with other coaches, players and parents – as well as with the Board of Directors.

13YR OLD ALL STAR TEAM

The manager of the 13 Yr Old All Star teams will be appointed by the League Vice President. Ideally, the coaching staff will be representative of the league. In other words, the league Vice President will attempt to assemble a coaching staff with assistants and scorekeeper from other teams within their division. Criteria for coaching selections will be based on previous all star coaching experience, willingness, ability to communicate effectively with other coaches, players and parents – as well as with the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XII – PLAYOFFS

Major League

Babe Ruth tournament rules will apply. The top four (4) teams with the best overall records will participate in the Championship Series. Rankings and seeds for the series will be determined at the end of the regular season. In the event of a tie for any of the playoff positions, head to head record will be used to establish position for the Series. If more than two teams are tied the common record of the teams will be used. If that fails to break the tie, a playoff game (s) will be held. Home field advantage will be determined by season record, including the one game playoff or coin toss, if necessary. The Directors in April/May of each year shall set the playoff schedule.

Minor League

Because the main focus of our 13 Year Old Prep league is to prepare and teach, the overall regular season record has no bearing on the playoff schedule. The 13 year old post season schedule will be determined randomly by the Vice President, and league officials. During the playoffs, the rules of the Major league will apply. In other words, the Balk Warning, 6 Run Inning Rule, Continuous Batting Order and Free defensive substitution will no longer apply. In all other respects the Minor League playing rules will be the same as the rules governing our Major League. The only exception is that every player must play 6 consecutive defensive outs and have at minimum 1 at bat.

ARTICLE XIII - AWARDS

1. Regular Season Awards:

Regular Season Champions (Major) Team Trophy.

League MVP - Selected by vote of managers - Trophy

League Sportsmanship - Selected by vote of managers - Trophy

2. Series Awards:

a. Championship Winner (Maj & Min)—Individual Trophies

b. Playoff Series MVP - Selected by the Board of Directors and managers; they may only vote if they were in attendance for the final series plus at least 50% of the other series games.

ARTICLE XIV - DISCRETIONARY POWERS

Because of the legal liabilities that are incumbent with the Board of Directors positions they have the authority not to comply with a By-Law or carried motion if they feel it will place them in a compromising or illegal position. In addition, the President in coordination with other Directors may override any of the By-Laws if compliance with the By-Law would result in a clear inequity or detriment to the League. If any of the above circumstances develop, the President must notify Managers at a meeting within seven days of his decision not to comply with a By-Law or carried motion. His veto may be overruled only by a vote of eleven (11) of the fourteen (14) teams.

ARTICLE XV - `EXTRA HITTER' RULE

The Extra Hitter option is available for both regular season and playoffs. The Extra Hitter shall be included in the batting order at any slot and be freely moved into a defensive position, as any starter would be able to move, as long as his position in the batting order is not changed. The Extra Hitter can be substituted for in the batting order and all rules applicable to the starting players apply, including reentry. Teams that start a game with the 10-man line-up must complete the game with the same number. (injury exception would apply)

ARTICLE XVI - `BELLY-BUTT SLIDE' RULE

If a runner is to be either forced or tagged out at any base (including home plate) he must slide either head first or feet first, or veer away from the play and not hinder the fielder in making a further play. Cross body blocks, rolling blocks, and leg whips are not permitted. This applies when a fielder has the ball or is about to receive the ball and on or near (within three feet of) the base. If the runner fails to slide he is automatically out and if the fielder has a second play (for example on a double play) that runner or batter-runner is also out. Since this is interference, runners will return to the last base touched before the interference call was made. In the event the batter-runner

has not reached first base, all runners shall return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.

If a fielder is more than three feet from the base, with the ball or about to catch the ball, the runner does not have to slide.

If in the umpire's judgment, a runner attempts to use excessive force, for example, throwing an elbow, using his arms in a blocking manner, or using a body block, the runner is also ejected from the game, however, he will not be made to sit out the next or subsequent game unless in the judgment of the Umpire there was an intent to injure, if so he shall be reported to the President per Article VI B. If the situation allows for a collision, the runner may protect himself by putting his arms in front of his body (for protection only - not to use force or to push off) before the collision.

ARTICLE XVII - MEETINGS

1. Regular meetings shall be held each month except December at a time and date set by the President.
2. Special meetings may be called by the President, Board of Directors or at the request of at least three (3) teams.
3. A quorum shall be equal to one half (1/2) of the total teams in the league at the time of any meeting.

ARTICLE XVIII - DUAL PARTICIPATION

A player in the League shall be allowed to participate in any other organized baseball league during the regular season. Such players need to be made aware of their commitment to the team. If participation in another league causes said player to miss four games, the player may lose his/her placement on the team, and will be replaced according to Article V Section A paragraph 2.

A team manager should be discouraged from managing or coaching in any other organized baseball league. However, if a manager chooses to participate in another league, it cannot be in a league, which may at some point in time, compete against the Gateway Babe Ruth League. Any manager with dual participation status shall have his/her first allegiance to the Gateway Babe Ruth League. Any participation in another league shall be limited to said manager having no scheduled game or practice in the League on the day in question. Any violation of this rule will result in a one-week suspension for the first offense, and dismissal for any further offense. This shall not apply to high school, middle school or approved travel teams.

ARTICLE XIX

Proposed amendments to the Constitution or Bylaws require written notice to all members of The Board of Directors at least ten (10) days prior to the next Board of Directors meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) vote

of the Board of Directors is required for passage. A proxy vote by letter is acceptable.

ARTICLE XX

The filling of vacancies between annual meetings will be by appointment of the President, except for the representatives of the teams.

ARTICLE XXI

The failure of an Officer to fulfill the duties of any office at league meetings shall, upon the discretion of the Board of Directors, result in the expelling of such Officer from elected office. The Officer is to be notified of such action and is entitled to a hearing before the Board of Directors. Removal from office is to be by a seventy five (75) percent vote of those present and eligible to vote.