

## ARLINGTON YOUTH BASEBALL AUTHORITY (“AYBA”)

1. **Establishment:** AYBA shall be established in Summer 2010 by recommendation from the Arlington Youth Baseball Consolidation Committee and endorsement of the Arlington Sports Commission. The AYBA will be formally established 30 days after endorsement by the Arlington Sports Commission. The AYBA shall be established as an independent youth baseball organization affiliated with the Arlington County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources. The AYBA will be incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia and will request to be authorized as a not for profit corporation pursuant Sec. 501(c)(3). The Sports Commission shall have oversight responsibility over AYBA to ensure that it enforces its by-laws and charter and that it is focused on providing a superior baseball experience for the 12 and under youth of Arlington. The AYBA will provide an annual report to the Sports Commission concerning the operations of AYBA, specifically addressing compliance with the AYBA Charter and Bylaws and progress toward consolidation of youth baseball so that all Arlington youth may play ball together.
  
2. **Governance of the AYBA:** The AYBA shall be governed by a nine member Board of Directors chaired by a President, who shall be elected by the Board. The Board shall ensure that the charter and by-laws of AYBA are faithfully adhered to and shall be devoted to the furtherance and improvement of youth baseball in Arlington. Board members shall serve for a two year term or until May 31, 2012 and may be reappointed or elected to the permanent board as determined by the bylaws. Initial members of the Board shall be appointed pursuant to the following process:
  - (i) Five Independent Members: The Chairman of the Consolidation Committee shall serve as one of the independent members of the AYBA and shall appoint four members of the initial Board, subject to the approval of the Consolidation Committee, based on the following criteria:
    1. Demonstrated interest in the Arlington community and youth baseball in Arlington.
    2. Not currently a member of the board of either Arlington Little League (“Little League”) or Arlington Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth (“Babe Ruth”).
  
  - (ii) Four Members from Arlington youth baseball organizations: After agreeing to join AYBA and agreeing to comply with its charter and by-laws and Sec. viii of this agreement, the Arlington Little League and the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth organizations shall be entitled to representation on the AYBA Board of Directors based on the following:

1. Two Members designated by the Little League organization.
  2. Two members designated by the Babe Ruth organization.
- (iii) Selection of Permanent Board: Prior to May 31, 2012, the initial Board shall establish by-laws and procedures for the selection of the permanent Board, which shall be composed of such numbers of members and duration of terms as determined by the by-laws.
- (iv) The Chairman of the Arlington Sports Commission shall serve as an Ex-Officio member of the initial Board and the permanent Board.
- (v) The AYBA Board President shall appoint a board member to serve as liaison to the Arlington Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth and Arlington Little League organizations and these members shall be entitled to attend any board meetings of those organizations.

### **3. AYBA Powers and Responsibilities:**

**(i)Board Powers:** The Board shall have such authority necessary to operate a youth baseball league in Arlington County, subject to the limitations of Sec.3(ii). The Board is authorized to accept additional authority and powers as may be delegated to it by the Arlington County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources and the respective Boards of Arlington Little League and Arlington Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth. These include, but are not limited to player registration, fundraising, equipment and uniforms, insurance procurement, field assignment, field maintenance, coach selection and training, player skill development, and umpire recruitment and training. (Note: some functions, where required by the national organization charter or as directed by AYBA, may be performed within the individual member leagues but under the direction, oversight and /or coordination with the respective AYBA functional area).

**(ii)Individual League Membership in AYBA:** The Board is authorized to accept Arlington Little League and Arlington Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth as members of AYBA, subject to the requirements of their agreement with the AYBA Charter. Such Leagues may retain their membership in their respective national organizations.

**(iii)Allocation of Funds:** If the Board determines to allocate funds to its member leagues, it shall do so in a fair, equitable and transparent manner.

**(iv) Recruit Volunteers:** The Board shall recruit volunteers and appoint committees of volunteers as it deems necessary to assist Board members in the performance of their duties.

**(v) Establish By-Laws:** The Board shall establish by-laws reflecting the agreements and priorities of the Consolidation Committee, including those related to governance and administration of the AYBA and for member league operations including: a fair player draft, inter-league play, House and Travel teams, best practices for player safety, the 50/70 field option, coach training and selection, sportsmanship and such other areas as it deems necessary to provide for the safe and proper operation of a youth baseball league. Such by-laws shall embody the strong view of the Consolidation Committee that the highest standards of sportsmanship, competitive fairness, coach selection and respect for the game of baseball be included as central tenets of the by-laws. As guiding principles on the issue of competitive fairness in team selection, the Consolidation Committee strongly recommends that the McBride subcommittee report on competitive team selection serve as the basis for the fair selection of youth baseball teams. The committee also took great care and deliberation on the issue of pitcher safety and other safety concerns for players and therefore recommends that the Board consider, among other relevant studies and professional recommendations guidance on coach sportsmanship on pitcher safety the rules and regulations established by Little League.

**(vi) Election of Officers:** The AYBA Board shall elect officers with responsibility for administering the operation of a youth baseball league, including but not limited to the following:

1. **President:** officer who shall have overall responsibility for all functions of the AYBA, including reporting to the Sports Commission on the status of the league and assuring that the charter and by-laws of the AYBA are being faithfully executed. Such officer shall be the chief liaison with all County officials for the administration of youth baseball in Arlington..

2. **Fundraising officer**—title to be determined—who shall coordinate activities with existing leagues to raise funds for the operation of the AYBA or the separate leagues.

3. **Field Allocation and Maintenance:** An officer who shall interface on a daily basis as needed to assure efficient field allocation for AYBA teams. Officer shall also be responsible for liaison with the county on field maintenance matters and report to the Board on issues regarding maintenance and how to improve Arlington baseball fields.

**4.Player Representative/ Team allocation officer.** Officer shall represent the players in assuring that teams are chosen in a fair manner in compliance with AYBA by-laws.

**5.Travel Team Coordinator:** Officer shall have responsibility for travel team operation and compliance with by-laws.

**6.Coach Selection/Training:** Officer shall oversee selection of the best coaches available and provide training programs on a yearly basis.

**7.Safety Coordinator:** Officer shall assure that AYBA safety requirements are faithfully executed and shall report to the Board on any changes that should be made to improve safety based on best available standards.

**8.Umpire Coordinator:** Officer shall recruit, train or contract with (subject to Board Approval) umpire service firms or individuals to assure that AYBA has sufficient umpires on a yearly basis.

**9.Public Relations/ Communications:** Officer shall develop a communication program for the AYBA and establish and maintain relations with the local press as may be necessary and advantageous to success of youth baseball in Arlington.

**10.Equipment and Uniforms:** Officer shall have overall responsibility for assuring that AYBA teams are provided with required equipment and uniforms and report to the Board on the status of such responsibilities, including a yearly budget report specifying the needs for each year.

**11.Other Officers:** The Board may appoint additional officers to perform functions as it deems necessary.

(vii)**Decisions of AYBA Board:** Board decisions on the administration of youth baseball in Arlington shall be made by a majority vote of votes cast at a meeting of the Board, except that a super-majority vote of 75% will be required to change national affiliation of a league or establish a new nationally affiliated league.

(viii)**Arlington County Field Priority Designation:** Prior to January 1, 2011, AYBA shall enter into a letter of agreement with the Arlington County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources to be designated as the priority affiliated organization for purposes of field assignments for youth U-12 baseball and for any other purpose as may be designated by the County.

(ix)**Review League Initiatives:** The AYBA Board shall review and evaluate the following initiatives and report to the Sports Commission no later than October 1, 2010.

- i. implementation of the 50/70 field option by Little League
- ii. implementation of the player draft system by Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth.

4. **League Affiliation:** Not before May 31, 2012 shall the AYBA permanent Board have the power to change the national affiliation of its member leagues or to establish a new national affiliation for such leagues. Such vote shall be subject to the conditions of Sec. 3(vii).