

# NORTON YOUTH BASEBALL SOFTBALL, INC.

## BYLAWS

Approved by the NYBS Board on December 12, 2023

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ARTICLE I. RECREATIONAL LEAGUE</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
SECTION 1. AGE	Page 2
SECTION 2. DIVISION ASSIGNMENT	Page 2
SECTION 3. DIVISION RULES	Page 3
SECTION 4. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS	Page 3
SECTION 5. TEAM FORMATION	Page 4
SECTION 6. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT	Page 10
SECTION 7. GAME SCHEDULING	Page 10
<b>ARTICLE II. ALL STAR (SUMMER) LEAGUES</b>	<b>Page 12</b>
SECTION 1. AGE	Page 12
SECTION 2. SUMMER LEAGUES AND LEAGUE RULES	Page 12
SECTION 3. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS	Page 12
SECTION 4. COACH SELECTION	Page 13
SECTION 5. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS	Page 13
SECTION 6. TEAM SELECTION	Page 14
SECTION 7. SECONDARY (B) TEAMS	Page 15
SECTION 8. TOURNAMENTS	Page 16
SECTION 9. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT	Page 16
SECTION 10. GAME SCHEDULING	Page 17
<b>ARTICLE III. RULE VIOLATIONS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES</b>	<b>Page 19</b>
SECTION 1. PROTESTS	Page 19
SECTION 2. INFORMAL DISCOVERY	Page 19
SECTION 3. DISCIPLINARY REVIEW	Page 20
<b>ARTICLE IV. COACH RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	<b>Page 21</b>
SECTION 1. CORI CHECKS AND TRAININGS	Page 21
SECTION 2. FIELD MAINTENANCE	Page 21
SECTION 3. FUNDRAISING AND SPONSORSHIPS	Page 21

## **ARTICLE I. RECREATIONAL LEAGUE**

### **SECTION 1 AGE**

League age groupings are calculated in accordance with the league's National affiliate. Each season the League will issue an age chart which will describe the League Age based on the birth date of the player. Each player will be assigned to the appropriate league based on the League Age as given by the chart. The League Age may or may not correspond to the player's chronological age.

#### **1.1 BASEBALL**

- A. Baseball recreational season divisions will be based on the Little League standard age cut-off of the upcoming August 31. Athletes will be eligible for the divisions that include their age for the spring season. For the fall season, athletes will have the option to play in the division they anticipate to be in for the next spring recreational season

#### **1.2. SOFTBALL**

- A. Softball recreational season divisions will be based on the USA Softball standard age cut-off of the previous August 31. Athletes will be eligible for the divisions that include their age for the spring season. For the fall season, athletes will have the option to play in the division they anticipate to play in for the next spring recreational season.

### **SECTION 2. DIVISION ASSIGNMENT**

Players will be assigned to a league based on League Age and Player Evaluation.

#### **2.1. BASEBALL**

- A. The Baseball Divisions for NYBS Recreational Baseball are as follows:
  - Wiffle Tee - Age 4
  - Rookies - Age 5
  - Single A (A) - Ages 6 - 7
  - Double A (AA) - Ages 7 - 9
  - Triple A (AAA) - Ages 9 - 11
  - Majors Intermediate - Ages 11 - 13
  - Junior Division (Massasoit League) - Middle Schoolers Ages 13 - 14 (13 by 5/1)
  - Senior Division (Massasoit League) - High Schoolers Ages 14 - 18
- B. Exceptions may be made to allow for athletes to play up or down one division from where they are supposed to be based on their age as of August 31, if (a) the athlete is deemed a safety risk at the appropriate age division, or (b) the athlete's development of the game will be negatively impacted by the typical division placement.
  - a. A safety risk is defined as the athlete would be in danger of playing with other athletes in that division based on their skill level. This is assessed by the athlete's former coach, the Vice President of Baseball, and the Baseball Player's Agent. The parents/guardians of the athlete may be consulted to discuss the proposed change in division. This exception does not require a Board vote.
  - b. A negative impact on the athlete's development of the game is defined by a pitcher, hitter, or fielder who would not be able to play to their full potential because their skill level far exceeds the average athlete in that

age division. This is assessed by the athlete's recreational evaluation and information received by the athlete's former coach. The parents/guardians of the athlete may be consulted to discuss the proposed change in the division. This exception requires a Board vote and will pass with a simple majority.

- C. The Junior and Senior Divisions will be managed by the Massasoit League. NYBS will enter as many teams as possible based on the number of registrations of eligible players.
  - c. No one under the age of 13 on May 1st is eligible to play in the Massasoit League Juniors Division.
  - d. Per Massasoit League rules, players can "play up" (middle school to high school division), but cannot play down without prior authorization from the Massasoit league.

## **2.2. SOFTBALL**

- A. The current NYBS Softball Recreational Divisions are as follows:
  - 6U - Ages 5-6
  - 8U - Ages 7-8
  - 10U - Ages 9-10
  - 12U - Ages 11-12
  - 14U - Ages 13-14
- B. There may be times when registration numbers require 12U and 14U to combine as a senior division. This is permitted by the bylaws, as determined necessary by the Vice President for Softball and the Softball Player Agent. All athletes in the senior division must fall within the required age ranges, as set by the hosting league.
- C. Exceptions may be made to allow for athletes to play up or down one division from where they are supposed to be based on their age as of August 31, if (a) the athlete is deemed a safety risk at the appropriate age division, or (b) the athlete's development of the game will be negatively impacted by the typical division placement.
  - a. A safety risk is defined as the athlete would be in danger of playing with other athletes in that division based on their skill level. This is assessed by the athlete's former coach, the Vice President of Softball, and the Softball Player Agent. The parents/guardians of the athlete may be consulted to discuss the proposed change in division. This exception does not require a Board vote.
  - b. A negative impact on the athlete's development of the game is defined by a pitcher, hitter, or fielder who would not be able to play to their full potential because their skill level far exceeds the average athlete in that age division. This is assessed by the athlete's recreational evaluation and information received by the athlete's former coach. The parents/guardians of the athlete may be consulted to discuss the proposed change in the division. This exception requires a Board vote and will pass with a simple majority.

## **SECTION 3. DIVISION RULES**

Each division, baseball, and softball, will have a specific set of rules, as developed and approved by the Board with a 2/3 vote. These rules will be reviewed every year.

## **SECTION 4. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

The parent/guardian, or person registering the child must complete the registration form in its entirety, completing the responses to questions required by the governing Association and NYBS, by the deadline advertised by the Board.

### **4.1 REGISTRATION**

- A. Spring Recreation Registration will open up for any child included in the eligible ages on January 1, or another date voted on by the Board. Reasonable attempts must be made to advertise the dates of the online registration. Such notice may be given through the use of emails, social media, and other marketing tools as deemed appropriate by the Board. The registration should be scheduled to close at a date voted on by the Board and advertised with the other registration information.
- B. Fall Recreation Registration will open up for any child included in the eligible ages on August 1, or another date voted on by the Board. Reasonable attempts must be made to advertise the dates of the online registration. Such notice may be given through the use of emails, social media, and other marketing tools as deemed appropriate by the Board. The registration should be scheduled to close at a date voted on by the Board and advertised with the other registration information.

### **4.2 LATE REGISTRATION**

- A. Once the original registration deadline has passed, the Board may vote to extend the registration for a period of time where a late registration fee is assessed to the registration cost. This may be done if the Board decides that the player count is lower than expected if there are other indications that potential players have been missed, or in another extenuating circumstance as deemed appropriate by the Board.
- B. Anyone who is registered after the primary dates have passed will be subject to (a) a \$50 late fee, and/or (b) being placed on a waiting list to be activated if space allows.

### **4.3 PROCEDURES**

- A. The parent/guardian or other person registering the child must submit any necessary documentation required by the registration at the time of the registration. Failure to submit such documentation will result in the registration not being complete. The registration is not considered complete until the following is completed and submitted:
  - a. completed online registration form
  - b. completed and signed the medical treatment permission form
  - c. accurate copy of a birth certificate, which will be kept on file by NYBS (once a birth certificate is on file, a new one is not needed for each registration)
  - d. payment of the registration fee established by The Board
  - e. payment of any fundraiser if one has been established for the season

## **SECTION 5. TEAM FORMATION**

All registered players will be placed in divisions and teams based on specific guidelines for each league.

## 5.1 PLAYER EVALUATIONS

- A. NYBS will host optional baseball evaluations for all baseball players ages 7 - 13, for kids looking to play in Baseball divisions Double-A through Majors Intermediate, and softball players 7 - 14, for kids looking to play in Softball divisions 6U through 14U.
- B. The Player Evaluation is an opportunity for each player to display his/her skills with other players in the same divisional age group. This allows for the Board members or designees to rate the players and provide an evaluation score in preparation for team formation.
- C. These evaluations will be held on a date before the spring season, set by the Board annually. The date must be set and advertised during the registration process. Evaluations may be held indoors or outdoors, depending on the anticipated availability of facilities.
- D. The Vice President and Player Agent for the respective sport will be tasked with leading the event, including planning and implementation of the Evaluation Day.
- E. The Registrar, or designee will prepare all of the rosters for the Evaluation process based on the completed registration forms.
- F. Board members will primarily be used as evaluators. If additional resources are needed, then volunteer coaches will help. Evaluators are not able to evaluate their own children. It is expected that evaluators will request another Board member present to evaluate their child during the evaluation process.
- G. The players will be broken into small groups and will be given the opportunity to perform basic baseball skills as determined by the NYBS Board of Directors.
- H. The Registrar, or designee will compile the Evaluation Scores on a master roster to prepare for the team formation meeting. This spreadsheet should include the following information: (a) Full name, (b) Date of birth, (c) Age per governing association cut-off date (i.e. Little League Age), (d) Evaluation score for the current year, (e) Evaluation score for the previous year, if available, (f) Identification of All-Star players from immediate past season, (g) Identification of Spring Soccer, Club Baseball or Softball players, and (h) Notation of pitcher and catcher, where applicable.

## 5.2 UNIVERSAL GUIDANCE

There are several rules that apply to all leagues:

- A. If a child's parent/guardian is a Manager or Coach, the child is automatically assigned to the parent/guardian's team, as long as the child meets the eligibility requirements for the division based on age and evaluation.
- B. Siblings who qualify for the same division will be placed on the same team unless otherwise requested by the parent/guardians during the registration process.

## 5.3 BASEBALL

- A. A small committee, appointed by the Executive Board will place the registered players in the appropriate divisions and form teams based on age eligibility, evaluation scores, and other information as appropriate. This committee must include at minimum the NYBS President, the Vice President for Baseball, the Baseball Player Agent, the Registrar, and one other Board Member.
- B. It is expected that the committee will form the teams for the older divisions first and work backward to account for numbers and the appropriate breakdown of ages and skills at each divisional level.
- C. **Juniors Division:** The Registrar will provide the committee with a list of players signed up for the division, with a date of birth confirmed as age 13 by May 1, and

- must still be in middle school.
- a. The 14-year-olds will be placed first, then the 13-year-olds to fill out the rosters based on numbers and evaluations.
  - b. The committee will make a reasonable effort to create an even number of teams.
  - c. Each team should consist of no less than eleven (11) players and no more than fourteen (14) players, whenever possible.
- D. **Majors Intermediate Division:** The Registrar will provide the committee with a list of players signed up for the division, with a date of birth confirmed as age 11 - 13 as of the upcoming August 31.
- a. Any 13-year-old who has already been placed in the Juniors Division will be removed from the list.
  - b. The committee will consider registration numbers and evaluation breakdowns to determine the number of teams, making a reasonable effort to create an even number of teams.
  - c. Depending on the number of teams projected, the top number of those players will be placed using a snake draft for 13s, 12s, and then 11s. Following the top players of each age, the rest of the 13s, 12s, and 11s will be placed using a snake draft to fill out the rosters based on numbers and evaluations.
  - d. The committee may make adjustments to account for coaches, club players, and other items deemed appropriate as long as the trades are made for similar skill evaluation.
  - e. Each team should consist of no less than eleven (11) players and no more than thirteen (13) players, whenever possible.
- E. **Triple A (AAA) Division:** The Registrar will provide the committee with a list of players signed up for the division, with a date of birth confirmed as age 9 - 11 as of the upcoming August 31.
- a. Any 11-year-old who has already been placed in the Majors Intermediate Division will be removed from the list.
  - b. The committee will consider registration numbers and evaluation breakdowns to determine the number of teams, making a reasonable effort to create an even number of teams.
  - c. Depending on the number of teams projected, the top number of those players will be placed using a snake draft for 11s, 10s, and then 9s. Following the top players of each age, the rest of the 11s, 10s, and 9s will be placed using a snake draft to fill out the rosters based on numbers and evaluations.
  - d. The committee may make adjustments to account for coaches, club players, and other items deemed appropriate as long as the trades are made for similar skill evaluation.
  - e. Each team should consist of no less than eleven (11) players and no more than thirteen (13) players, whenever possible.
- F. **Double A (AA) Division:** The Registrar will provide the committee with a list of players signed up for the division, with a date of birth confirmed as age 7 - 9 as of the upcoming August 31.
- a. Any 9-year-old who has already been placed in the AAA Division will be removed from the list. Additionally, any 7-year-old that did not want to be considered to play AA, will be removed from the list.
  - b. The committee will consider registration numbers and evaluation breakdowns to determine the number of teams, making a reasonable

- effort to create an even number of teams.
  - c. Depending on the number of teams projected, the top number of those players will be placed using a snake draft for 9s, 8s, and then 7s. Following the top players of each age, the rest of the 9s, 8s, and 7s will be placed using a snake draft to fill out the rosters based on numbers and evaluations.
  - d. The committee may make adjustments to account for coaches, club players, and other items deemed appropriate as long as the trades are made for similar skill evaluation.
  - e. Each team should consist of no less than eleven (11) players and no more than thirteen (13) players, whenever possible.
- G. **Single A (A) Division:** The Registrar will provide the committee with a list of players signed up for the division, with a date of birth confirmed as age 6 - 7 as of the upcoming August 31.
- a. Evaluations are not done in this age group.
  - b. Any 7-year-old who has already been placed in the AA Division will be removed from the list.
  - c. The committee will consider registration numbers to determine the number of teams, making a reasonable effort to create an even number of teams. The committee will balance each team as to age grouping and gender, as much as possible.
  - d. The committee will consider parent/guardian requests and honor as many requests as possible.
  - e. Each team should consist of no less than eight (8) players and no more than ten (10) players, whenever possible.
- H. **Rookie Division:** The Registrar will provide the committee with a list of players signed up for the division, with a date of birth confirmed as age 5 as of the upcoming August 31.
- a. Evaluations are not done in this age group.
  - b. The committee will consider registration numbers to make a determination on the number of teams, making a reasonable effort to create an even number of teams. The committee will balance each team as to age grouping and gender, as much as possible.
  - c. The committee will consider parent/guardian requests and honor as many requests as possible.
  - d. Each team should consist of no less than six (6) players and no more than ten (10) players, whenever possible.
- I. **Wiffle Tee Division:** The Registrar will provide the committee with a list of players signed up for the division, with a date of birth confirmed as age 4 as of the upcoming August 31.
- a. Evaluations are not done in this age group.
  - b. The committee will consider registration numbers to determine the number of teams, making a reasonable effort to create an even number of teams. The committee will balance each team as to age grouping and gender, as much as possible.
  - c. The committee will consider parent/guardian requests and honor as many requests as possible.
  - d. Each team should consist of no less than five (5) players and no more than seven (7) players, whenever possible.

## 5.4 SOFTBALL

- A. A small committee, appointed by the Executive Board will place the registered players in the appropriate divisions and form teams based on age eligibility, evaluation scores, and other information as appropriate. This committee must include at minimum the NYBS President, the Vice President for Softball, the Softball Player Agent, the Registrar, and one other Board Member.
- J. **14U:** The Registrar will provide the committee with a list of players signed up for the division, whose age is 13 or 14 as of the previous August 31, per the USA Softball cut-off date.
  - a. The committee will consider registration numbers and evaluation breakdowns to determine the number of teams, making a reasonable effort to create an even number of teams.
  - b. Depending on the number of teams projected, the top number of those players will be placed using a snake draft for 14s and then 13s. Following the top players of each age, the rest of the 14s and 13s will be placed using a snake draft to fill out the rosters based on numbers and evaluations.
  - c. The committee may make adjustments to account for coaches, club players, and other items deemed appropriate as long as the trades are made for similar skill evaluation.
  - d. Each team should consist of no less than eleven (11) players and no more than fourteen (14) players, whenever possible.
- K. **12U:** The Registrar will provide the committee with a list of players signed up for the division, whose age is 11 or 12 as of the previous August 31, per the USA Softball cut-off date.
  - a. The committee will consider registration numbers and evaluation breakdowns to determine the number of teams, making a reasonable effort to create an even number of teams.
  - b. Depending on the number of teams projected, the top number of those players will be placed using a snake draft for 12s and then 11s. Following the top players of each age, the rest of the 12s and 11s will be placed using a snake draft to fill out the rosters based on numbers and evaluations.
  - c. The committee may make adjustments to account for coaches, club players, and other items deemed appropriate as long as the trades are made for similar skill evaluation.
  - d. Each team should consist of no less than eleven (11) players and no more than fourteen (14) players, whenever possible.
- L. **10U:** The Registrar will provide the committee with a list of players signed up for the division, whose age is 9 or 10 as of the previous August 31, per the USA Softball cut-off date.
  - a. The committee will consider registration numbers and evaluation breakdowns to determine the number of teams, making a reasonable effort to create an even number of teams.
  - b. Depending on the number of teams projected, the top number of those players will be placed using a snake draft for 10s then 9s. Following the top players of each age, the rest of the 10s and 9s will be placed using a snake draft to fill out the rosters based on numbers and evaluations.
  - c. The committee may make adjustments to account for coaches, club players, and other items deemed appropriate as long as the trades are made for similar skill evaluation.
  - d. Each team should consist of no less than eleven (11) players and no



- more than fourteen (14) players, whenever possible.
- M. **8U**: The Registrar will provide the committee with a list of players signed up for the division, whose age is 7 or 8 as of the previous August 31, per the USA Softball cut-off date.
- a. The committee will consider registration numbers and evaluation breakdowns to determine the number of teams, making a reasonable effort to create an even number of teams.
  - b. Depending on the number of teams projected, the top number of those players will be placed using a snake draft for 8s and then 7s. Following the top players of each age, the rest of the 8s and 7s will be placed using a snake draft to fill out the rosters based on numbers and evaluations.
  - c. The committee may make adjustments to account for coaches, club players, and other items deemed appropriate as long as the trades are made for similar skill evaluation.
  - d. The committee will consider parent/guardian requests and honor as many requests as possible.
  - e. Each team should consist of no less than eleven (11) players and no more than fourteen (14) players, whenever possible.
- N. **6U**: The Registrar will provide the committee with a list of players signed up for the division, whose age is 5 or 6 as of the previous August 31, per the USA Softball cut-off date.
- a. Evaluations are not done in this age group.
  - b. The committee will consider registration numbers to determine the number of teams, making a reasonable effort to create an even number of teams. The committee will balance each team as to age grouping, as much as possible.
  - c. The committee will consider parent/guardian requests and honor as many requests as possible.
  - d. Each team should consist of no less than eight (8) players and no more than ten (10) players, whenever possible.

### **5.5 TEAM ROSTERS**

- A. The Registrar, or designee will be responsible for uploading the team rosters, as developed by the team formation committee.
- B. The Vice President and/or Player Agent will be responsible for communicating with each team's coach about (a) their team roster, (b) team communication expectations, and (c) the anticipated timeline for the start of the season, in addition to (d) any other pertinent information such as divisional rules, code of conduct, and information about substitutions.
- C. Each roster supplied to each coach will contain the player's full name, league age, parent/guardian name, telephone number, and email address.

### **5.6 SUBSTITUTIONS (CALL-UPS)**

- A. The Registrar will provide the Player Agent with a list of players who are eligible to be called up for each division
- B. This process is managed by the Player Agent, who will work with a list of players eligible to fill the vacant roster spot. This list will include anyone waiting to be assigned to a team due to a late sign-up or any player who may be eligible to move up from a lower league, in order by evaluation score.
- C. If any player is out for a short-term leave (1 - 3 consecutive games) throughout the season, a manager may request a replacement to fill the vacant roster spot.

This is not a requirement unless the roster dips below the required number of players on the field for that age division. For short-term leaves, the Player Agent must offer the playing time to the next child on the list for each individual game, and not offer a collective number of games to one player.

- D. If any player is out for a long-term leave due to an injury or family emergency and is expected to miss a significant number of games, a manager may request a replacement to fill the vacant roster spot. This is not a requirement unless the roster dips below the required number of players on the field for that age division. For long-term or permanent replacement, the Player Agent will implement a replacement strategy with consideration to create the least disturbance possible to the team and divisional structure for all of the players and teams involved.

## **SECTION 6. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

The Board will make decisions each year concerning uniforms and equipment for NYBS players.

### **6.1 UNIFORMS**

- A. NYBS will provide some type of clothing to distinguish one team from another by color, pattern, or other means. The clothing may range from a tee shirt or cap to a uniform consisting of a shirt, pants, cap, and stirrups. The Board will make a decision each season concerning what type of clothing to provide and whether or not the clothing will be provided as part of the normal registration fee.

### **6.2 EQUIPMENT**

- A. All players must provide their own baseball or softball mitts and footwear. The footwear must NOT contain any metal elements in the bottom surface until players reach the Junior and/or Senior levels.
- B. NYBS will provide certain equipment not normally owned by individual players:
  - a. The catcher's equipment consists of a mitt, helmet, mask with throat shield, chest protector, and shin guards. Any other protective gear must be provided by the player.
  - b. Batting helmets are required in all divisions. Batting helmets with face masks are required in the Single A and younger divisions in baseball and batting helmets with facemasks and chin straps are required in all softball divisions.
  - c. At least one bat for each team.
- C. Players may use their own equipment rather than the items provided by NYBS as long as all required safety standards are met.

## **SECTION 7. GAME SCHEDULING**

Game schedules will be created and distributed as specified by NYBS. Once schedules have been created, the following guidelines will apply. The Board may elect to override one or more of the guidelines if unusual conditions require such a move.

### **7.1 DURATION OF GAME**

- A. Each division may have specific rules to govern the time duration of games.
- B. When games are scheduled back to back, the start time of one may be determined by the finish time of another; every effort should be made to start at the appointed time to avoid conflict with games scheduled later in the day.
- C. If a game is running late, managers from the game in progress and the game scheduled to start next may reach an agreement to allow the game to finish. If the Managers of the game waiting to start agree to a delay, they CANNOT require the Managers of the next scheduled game to delay their start.
- D. When game start times begin to slip, a Board member not associated with the game may decide to shorten the game by a specific number of minutes or by a specific number of innings. This decision must be made before the game starts.

### **7.2 POSTPONING OR CANCELING**

- A. All games will be played at the scheduled times. Only the NYBS President, Vice President, Scheduler, or his/her designee may cancel or postpone a scheduled game.
- B. Managers can coordinate a postponement, but the responsibility to reschedule falls solely on the managers involved. Failure to reschedule by the end of the

- regular season will result in a loss for both teams.
- C. During inclement weather, the Vice President or designee, in consultation with the NYBS President and Field Maintenance Coordinator shall decide if any or all games are to be canceled or postponed. Team Managers will be notified as quickly as possible if games are canceled or postponed via the league website.
  - D. The Scheduler must be informed immediately of any cancellation to communicate with the Umpire Assigner.
  - E. Once a game has been started, play may be stopped for inclement weather or other conditions which pose danger to the players.
  - F. Patched Umpire - The home plate umpire has complete control of the game and will make the final decision as to delaying play or stopping the game. Both Managers should discuss the situation with the umpire.

### **7.3 RESCHEDULING**

- A. The Vice President or designee shall reschedule all postponed or cancelled games if possible with the assistance of the NYBS Scheduler.
- B. Once the game is rescheduled, both participating teams are bound to compete at the assigned time unless the rescheduled game is again canceled by the Vice President or designee.
- C. If one team does not field a team for the rescheduled game, the opposing team will be awarded a win. If neither team fields a team on the scheduled date, both teams will be given a loss.

### **7.4 FINISHING GAMES**

- A. A specific number of innings must be completed before a game becomes "official" and can be entered in the standings.
- B. Any game called after the completion of four (4) full innings (or 3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead) will be recorded as a complete game in any league playing six (6) inning games. Any game called after the completion of five (5) full innings (or 4 1/2 if the home team is ahead) will be recorded as a complete game in any league playing seven (7) inning games.
- C. Any game called before the completion of four (4) full innings (or 3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead) will be recorded as an incomplete game in any league playing six (6) inning games. Any game called before the completion of five (5) full innings (or 4 1/2 if the home team is ahead) will be recorded as an incomplete game in any league playing seven (7) inning games. Incomplete games must be replayed from the point of suspension. Innings pitched must be recorded and will be counted toward the number of innings allowed for a pitcher according to the rules in force in each league.

## **ARTICLE II. ALL-STAR (SUMMER) LEAGUES**

### **SECTION 1 AGE**

League age groupings are calculated in accordance with league National affiliate of the regional summer league. Each season the League will issue an age chart which will describe the League Age based on the birth date of the player. Each player will be assigned to the appropriate league based on the League Age as given by the chart. The League Age may or may not correspond to the player's chronological age.

#### **1.1 BASEBALL**

- A. Baseball All-Star (Summer) Season divisions will be based on the Cal Ripken standard age cut-off of April 30. Athletes will be eligible for the divisions that include their age as of April 30.

#### **1.2. SOFTBALL**

- A. Softball All-Star (Summer) Season divisions will be based on the USA Softball standard age cut-off of the previous August 31. Athletes will be eligible for the divisions that include their age as of the previous August 31.

## **SECTION 2. SUMMER LEAGUES AND LEAGUE RULES**

### **2.1 BASEBALL**

- A. NYBS Baseball is a member of the Hock Summer League and typically places a team in the league at all levels from 8U through 13/14u.
- B. NYBS Baseball is a member of the Barnstormers League and the Friendship League to enable players who want to make up a secondary team for each age group to have a league to play in for the summer season.
  - a. Barnstormers is available for 9-10 year olds, 11-12-year-olds, and 13-15 year olds.
  - b. Friendship League is available for 7-8 year olds
- C. NYBS will adhere to all governing rules, regulations, policies, and procedures as outlined by the summer league and/or tournaments. NYBS will uphold the expectations for as set by these leagues for the coaches, players, and spectators.

### **2.2 SOFTBALL**

- D. NYBS Softball is a member of the Hock Summer League and typically places a team in the league at all levels from 10U through 14u.
- E. NYBS Softball also coordinates with other local coaches and leagues to provide competitive experiences for interested players in the 8u division.
- F. NYBS will adhere to all governing rules, regulations, policies, and procedures as outlined by the summer league and/or tournaments. NYBS will uphold the expectations for as set by these leagues for the coaches, players, and spectators.

## **SECTION 3. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS**

Players must meet certain basic eligibility requirements before they may be selected for an All-Star (Summer) team:

### **3.1 SUMMER ALL-STAR AND SECONDARY B TEAM SELECTIONS**

- A. In Baseball and Softball, they must be a rostered player of an NYBS team and play 50% of the scheduled games. When an odd number of games are involved the player receives the benefit.
- B. If the player is rostered for their middle school or high school baseball or softball team, the player remains eligible to participate in the summer season with NYBS.
- C. If the player is unable to meet the requirement because of injury, the parent/guardian can petition for an exception to the Board on behalf of their child.
- D. All Baseball All-Star players must meet Little League Baseball Tournament Regulations as stated in the most recent rulebook.
- E. All Softball All-Star players must meet the USA Softball Rulebook requirements as stated in the most recent handbook.
- F. The player must meet the eligibility requirement(s) established by the host league.

### **3.2 SUMMER TOURNAMENT TEAM SELECTION**

- A. Rules for the particular tournament are the rules, which will be adhered to so as not to put any NYBS team at a disadvantage in that particular tournament.
- B. The player must meet the eligibility requirement(s) established by the tournament.

## **SECTION 4. COACH SELECTION**

### **4.1 HEAD COACH**

- A. All-Star (Summer) Head Coach Applications will be sent out by the NYBS President using the league-wide email during August.
- B. All-Star (Summer) Head Coach Applications will be due one week ahead of the September NYBS Board Meeting. Applicants will be invited to attend the September Board Meeting to share their interest in person with the Board and answer any questions.
- C. The NYBS Board will discuss the applications and vote on the All-Star (Summer) Coaches during the September Executive Session.
- D. The All-Star (Summer) Head Coaches will be announced at or before the October General Meeting.
- E. All Head Coaches must have an approved CORI check before being on the field with the team.

### **4.2 ASSISTANT COACHES**

- A. The Head Coach of the All-Star (Summer) Team shall appoint their coaches and/or scorekeeper.
- B. For first-time coaches, this selection should not take place until after Team Selection is completed to avoid concerns about influencing team selection decisions.
- C. Head Coaches are encouraged to seek out coaches from the spring recreational season to serve as Assistant Coaches.
- D. All Assistant Coaches must have an approved CORI check before being on the field with the team.

## **SECTION 5. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

The Parent/guardian, or person registering the child must complete the registration form in its entirety.

### **5.1 TRYOUT REGISTRATION**

- A. The Board will open a registration form for parents/guardians to register eligible players to try out for the summer teams. There is no cost for the tryout registration.

### **5.2 REGISTRATION**

- A. Once the player is selected for the All-Star (Summer) Team, the parent/guardian will be responsible for completing the online registration process in its entirety, by a date outlined by the Board but typically the Friday before the first scheduled week of the Summer season.
- B. There is no option for Late Registration.

### **5.3 PROCEDURES**

- A. Once the the player is selected for the All-Star (Summer) Team, the parent/guardian, or other person registering the child must submit any necessary documentation required by the registration at the time of the registration. Failure to submit such documentation will result in the registration not being complete. The registration is not considered complete until the following is completed and submitted:
  - a. completed online registration form
  - b. completed and signed the medical treatment permission form
  - c. accurate copy of a birth certificate, which will be kept on file by NYBS (once a birth certificate is on file, a new one is not needed for each registration)
  - d. payment of the registration fee established by The Board
  - e. payment of any fundraiser if one has been established for the season

## **SECTION 6. TEAM SELECTION**

Tryouts will be held for all eligible players and Head Coaches will build their teams at their discretion.

### **6.1 ALL-STAR (SUMMER) TRYOUTS**

- A. NYBS will host tryouts for the eligible players for the upcoming summer season at a date voted on and published by the Board up to a month before the date of the tryout. This tryout is typically held within the first two weeks of May, but the final date is determined by the board. Tryouts may be held indoors or outdoors, depending on the anticipated availability of facilities.
- B. The Registrar, or designee will prepare the rosters for each head coach that includes the players registered for the Tryout, as well as the other age-eligible players who are not registered for the event.
- C. The tryouts will be managed by the Head Coaches, elected by the NYBS Board, and should be designed to allow an opportunity for each player to display his/her skills with other players in the same eligible age group. This allows for the Head Coach to have an additional evaluation tool in preparation for team formation.

### **6.2 TEAM SELECTION**

- A. The Head Coach of the All-Star (Summer) Team has full discretion to select the players they deem most appropriate to be on the team while adhering to the mission of NYBS and any restrictions the Board has implemented on players, as applicable.
  - a. It is recommended, but not required, that the Head Coach of the All-Star

(Summer) Team take into consideration the Player Tryout, their own observations of the players in spring recreation, as well as observations and thoughts of the other head and assistant coaches within the appropriate spring recreation division.

- B. The Head Coach of the All-Star (Summer) Team has full discretion to determine the number of players they would like to carry on their team for the season, in adherence to the league rules of the applicable league.
- C. The Head Coach of the All-Star (Summer) Team is responsible for communicating with the families of those players who tried out for their team to notify them of the outcome.
  - a. It is also the responsibility of the Head Coach to follow up with those selected for their team to ensure registration and payment are submitted before the deadline.

### **6.3 CALL-UPS**

- A. Prior to the season beginning, if a roster spot remains vacant because and only because not enough age-eligible players tried out for the team, the Head Coach of the All-Star (Summer) Team may coordinate with the Head Coach of the age group below them to call up their top evaluated player(s) for the entirety of the season. The two head coaches should inform the appropriate Player Agent throughout this process, but a Board vote is not required for such a Call-Up.
  - a. This call-up procedure is not permitted when more age-eligible players try out for a team than the number of roster spots available. Age Eligible players take priority of the roster spot, no matter the evaluation score.
- B. Any Call-Up during the All-Star (Summer) season must adhere to the rules and regulations set forth by the respective league.
- C. For any in-season call-ups, for league play or tournament play, the Head Coach of the All-Star (Summer) Team can coordinate the call-up process, while keeping the Player Agent informed.
  - a. It is recommended and encouraged that a Head Coach does not consistently call up the same player every time a call-up is needed.
  - b. It is recommended and encouraged that a Head Coach calls up from the age-appropriate secondary, or B Team, instead of the All-Star (Summer) Team of the age below. (i.e. 10U All Stars should call up from the 9-10u Barnstormers when able, instead of calling up from 9U All Stars).

## **SECTION 7. SECONDARY (B) TEAMS**

When possible, NYBS wants to provide an opportunity to play in the summer to those players who are interested in playing in the summer months.

### **7.1 PROCEDURES**

- A. If tryout registration numbers indicate a large enough number of interested players could potentially fill more than one team for the summer, the Board can discuss the potential of creating a secondary team (or B Team) for age divisions where the interest warrants a second team.
- B. Each sport and division has local options for NYBS to place a team in a summer league:
  - Softball has the option to enter a B Team in the Hockomock Summer League.
  - Baseball ages 9-15 have the option to enter a team in the Barnstormers League.
  - Baseball ages 7-8 have the option to enter a team in the Friendship League.
- C. Before opening the option to players and families, the Board must identify



potential Head Coaches and select a qualified coach to lead the team through the summer season.

## **7.2 ELIGIBLE PLAYERS AND TEAM RECRUITMENT**

- A. Players are required to have tried out for the age-appropriate Summer All-Star Team, as outlined in Section 6 above.
- B. If, and only if there are open roster spots after all of the players who were cut from the Summer All-Star Team selection are offered the opportunity, can the Board start a recruitment effort of other players who meet the same eligibility requirements for the All-Star (Summer Teams), specifically: they must be a rostered player of an NYBS team and play 50% of the scheduled games. When an odd number of games are involved the player receives the benefit.
- C. If the player is rostered for their middle school or high school baseball or softball team, the player remains eligible to participate in the summer season with NYBS.
- D. If the player is unable to meet the requirement because of injury, the parent/guardian can petition for an exception to the Board on behalf of their child.
- G. All Baseball All-Star players must meet Little League Baseball Tournament Regulations as stated in the most recent rulebook.
- H. All Softball All-Star players must meet the USA Softball Rulebook requirements as stated in the most recent handbook.
- I. The player must meet the eligibility requirement(s) established by the host league.

## **SECTION 8. TOURNAMENTS**

Summer Teams are encouraged to enter into as many tournaments as agreed upon by the coaches, players, and parents for the duration of the summer months.

### **8.1 COST**

- A. NYBS is not responsible for any tournament expenses.
- B. Tournament costs are managed directly by the Head Coach of the team.

### **8.2 CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE**

- A. Each Head Coach is required to communicate their tournament registrations with the NYBS President for tracking where the Summer Teams are throughout the season.
- B. The NYBS President can provide a Certificate of Insurance for NYBS to any head coach who requests such as part of their tournament registration process.

## **SECTION 9. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

The Board will make decisions each year concerning uniforms and equipment for NYBS players.

### **9.1 UNIFORMS**

- A. NYBS will provide some type of clothing to have the Summer Team represent Norton and NYBS as they play other towns in their respective leagues. The Board will make a decision each season concerning what type of clothing to provide.
- B. Families are responsible for the full cost of the uniform and must submit it as part of the registration process. This payment is due before the start of the season.

### **9.2 EQUIPMENT**

- D. All players must provide their own baseball or softball mitts and footwear. The footwear must NOT contain any metal elements in the bottom surface until players reach the 13u level and older.
- E. NYBS will provide certain equipment not normally owned by individual players:
  - a. The catcher's equipment consists of a mitt, helmet, mask with throat shield, chest protector, and shin guards. Any other protective gear must be provided by the player.
  - b. Batting helmets are required in all divisions. Batting helmets with face masks are required in the Single A and younger divisions in baseball and batting helmets with facemasks and chin straps are required in all softball divisions.
  - c. Several bats for each team.
- F. Players may use their own equipment rather than the items provided by NYBS as long as all required safety standards are met.

#### **SECTION 10. GAME SCHEDULING**

Game schedules and management will be determined and communicated by the Summer League (i.e. Hockomock, Barnstormers, Friendship, etc.). All Summer Teams are expected to abide by the rules, regulations, and expectations set forth by those leagues before and throughout the season.

## **ARTICLE III. RULE VIOLATIONS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

### **SECTION 1. PROTESTS**

There may be occasions when a Manager/Coach feels that a rule has been violated during the course of a game. The rule in question may be from the League specifically (Constitution, Bylaws, League Rules, etc.), from the League Charter, or from the Official Rules from the Governing Association (i.e. Little League Baseball or USA Softball). If the Manager/Coach feels that a protest is absolutely necessary, certain steps must be followed. If these steps are not followed, the protest will be dismissed without consideration of the content of the protest. No judgment calls by umpires will be able to be protested (i.e. Balls and Strikes, Safe or Out).

#### **1.1 SUBMITTING A PROTEST FOR A LEAGUE MANAGED BY NYBS**

- A. To submit a protest, The Manager/Coach must do the following:
  - a. The Manager/Coach must be able to cite a specific rule;
  - b. The team protesting the game shall notify the plate umpire and opposing Manager/Coach at the time of the infraction and before the next pitch is thrown or the next batter is retired.
    - i. The umpire shall report the protest to the umpire-in-chief and/or umpire assignor. Failure to do so will not adversely affect the outcome of the protest.
- B. The protest must be submitted in writing to the Vice President within 48 hours of the end of the game. If the game is not completed for any reason, the protest must be submitted within 48 hours of the time of the infraction.
  - a. If the protest is based on a game-ending play, the protest must be made within 24 hours of the end of the game.
  - b. The protest should be addressed to the NYBS President if the Vice President is involved as a coach, assistant coach, or parent in the matter.

#### **1.2 RESOLVING A PROTEST**

- A. All protests will be reviewed by the Protest Committee, as established in advance by the NYBS Board.
- B. The following steps should be followed:
  - a. The Vice President, or designee who will chair the Protest Committee will send a copy of the protest to Committee members upon receipt.
  - b. The Protest Committee will meet with the Manager/Coach from each team and with the plate umpire, as deemed necessary by the committee.
  - c. A written decision will be given to the Manager/Coach of both teams and the decision will be read into the minutes of the next NYBS Board meeting.
    - i. Every effort will be made to render a decision within five (5) calendar days of the receipt of the protest.
- C. The findings and decision of the Protest Committee will be final, there will be no appeal.

#### **1.3 SUBMITTING A PROTEST FOR A LEAGUE NOT MANAGED BY NYBS**

- A. No protest may be submitted in a league where scores and standings are not maintained by NYBS. For example, any coach managing a team in the summer will need to adhere to that league's rules for submitting a protest as NYBS does not have jurisdiction to manage the protest.

### **SECTION 2. INFORMAL DISCOVERY**

Certain rule violations are considered to be of a particularly serious nature as they can jeopardize the safety of the players involved and the integrity of the game, division, and league. Three such cases are: (1) Over pitching by a player, (2) Using a player not rostered to his/her team, in a game that is not on the Call-up list, with restrictions for that player. Non-rostered players can only move up one level, and (3) using a player not rostered to his/her team in the prohibited positions of catcher or pitcher with restrictions for that player.

### **1.1 VIOLATION OF INFORMAL DISCOVERY**

- A. If such a violation is brought to the attention of the Board by anyone and the Board verifies the infraction, the team responsible for the rule infraction will be issued a forfeit for the game in question.
  - a. There is no appeal process for this finding and outcome.
- B. Additionally, the coach of the team will serve a one-game suspension and will be placed on probationary status for the remainder of the season.
  - a. A second violation may result in restriction of their coaching responsibilities if deemed necessary by the NYBS Board.
- C. A coach may request a meeting with the NYBS Executive Board to discuss a modification to these consequences. The Executive Board has the discretion to modify the prescribed consequences based on precedent and other factors to be considered.

## **SECTION 3. VIOLATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

All coaches, players, and spectators are expected to abide by the NYBS Code of Conduct. There may be occasions when a coach, player, or spectator will violate the established NYBS Code of Conduct. This includes, but is not limited to an ejection from a game by an officiating umpire.

### **3.1 EJECTION**

- A. The person in question must leave the playing field immediately and must proceed to a point where he/she is no longer in sight of the field and can no longer interact with players or spectators.
  - a. The intention here is to have the person completely away from the game - this means that activities such as hiding behind a building, sitting in the bleachers etc. are not acceptable.
  - b. Ejection from a game is automatically 2 games (remainder of the game thrown out of & next game) and must attend a meeting with the Disciplinary Review Committee to be reinstated.

### **3.2 DISCIPLINARY REVIEW**

- A. All concerns regarding violations of the Code of Conduct will be reviewed by the Disciplinary Review Committee, as established in advance by the NYBS Board.
- B. Upon receipt of the infraction of the Code of Conduct, the President, or designee will communicate with the person alleged and place them on an interim suspension from attending team activities until a meeting can occur with the Disciplinary Review Committee.
  - a. Team activities include games, scrimmages, practices, and any other team or league-sponsored event such as Opening Day.
  - b. Communication with the other team members can only occur with permission by the President of NYBS. The following steps should be followed:
- C. The President, or designee who will chair the Disciplinary Review Committee will

inform the members of the Disciplinary Review Committee of the alleged events and will coordinate a meeting within a reasonable timeframe.

- D. The Disciplinary Review Committee will meet with or review written statements of the incident from the Manager/Coach from each team, the plate umpire and/or umpire assigner, any witnesses, and anyone else as deemed necessary by the committee.
  - a. An interim suspension will not be lifted and a decision will not be rendered until the accused party meets with the Disciplinary Review Committee. Other witnesses are not required to meet with the Committee.
- E. The President will provide a written decision will be given to the Manager/Coach of both teams and the decision will be read into the minutes of the next NYBS Board meeting. Every effort will be made to render a decision within five (5) calendar days of the receipt of the receipt of the code of conduct violation. The findings and decision of the Protest Committee will be final, there will be no appeal.
- F. The Disciplinary Review Committee has the discretion to render any consequences they deem fit based on precedent, severity of the infraction including impact on others and the league as a whole, as well as any other factors to be considered.
  - a. An ejection by an umpire will result in a two (2) game suspension. This has generally meant the remainder of the ejected game as one game and then the next full game. The Disciplinary Review Committee has full discretion to modify this standard outcome, with justification provided in their written rationale.
  - b. Any decision to suspend a coach, player, or spectator will factor in the number of games missed while on interim suspension. (i.e. if two games are played during the interim suspension and the decision is to suspend the person for 2 games, the suspension will be considered served and they can resume their normal function with the team).
- G. Subsequent violations of the Code of Conduct will result in additional consequences, including but not limited to suspension for the remainder of the season, loss of coaching privileges, and restriction from the NYBS Ball fields.

### **3.3 DISCIPLINARY REVIEW OF INCIDENT IN LEAGUE NOT MANAGED BY NYBS**

- A. Coaches, players, and spectators representing NYBS in leagues not managed by NYBS (i.e. summer and fall leagues) are expected to abide by the NYBS Code of Conduct and any Code of Conduct specific to the league, town, or association managing the league.
- B. NYBS will follow the Disciplinary Review Process, as outlined above, to hold coaches, players, and spectators accountable even when an incident may not occur in an NYBS-managed event, regardless of whether the other league has taken action or not.
  - a. NYBS may communicate with the governing league, as appropriate to gather facts and information regarding the incident to allow for appropriate follow-up and accountability.

## **ARTICLE IV COACH RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **SECTION 1. CORI CHECKS AND TRAININGS**

#### **1.1 CORI CHECKS**

- A. All Managers, Coaches, Scorekeepers, and other adult volunteers must be cleared by the CORI Coordinator prior to attending a practice, game, or other team affiliated activity.
- B. Any adult who violates this protocol is subject to the Disciplinary Review Committee and their review of the Code of Conduct.

#### **1.2 TRAININGS**

- A. All Managers, Coaches, Scorekeepers, and other adult volunteers must complete the Abuse Awareness Training for Adults Training, provided by SafeSport prior to attending a practice, game, or other team-affiliated activity.
- B. Any adult who violates this protocol is subject to the Disciplinary Review Committee and their review of the Code of Conduct.

#### **1.3 DIVISIONAL COACHES MEETING**

- A. The League will host a Divisional Coaches Meeting prior to the start of each season to go over the divisional rules, Board expectations, field maintenance information, and review the Code of Conduct.
- B. Each team must be represented by the Team Manager or an Assistant Coach.

### **SECTION 2. FIELD MAINTENANCE**

Team Managers and Coaches will be expected to collaborate with the other Team Managers and Coaches of the age division and maintain the field(s) that the division plays on. This includes properly grooming the field before and after gameplan and practices, in addition to field maintenance and care before, during, and after the season.

### **SECTION 3. FUNDRAISING**

Team Managers and Coaches will be expected to assist in all fundraising campaigns run by Norton Youth Baseball Softball.