

## CVBL BY-LAWS

### Article 1

#### Organization of the League

1. This league shall be known as the Champlain Valley Baseball League, also referred to as the CVBL.
2. The purpose of the league is to promote, govern, and conduct amateur baseball in New York State, to encourage good sportsmanship and to develop a wholesome recreation.
3. The national Federation of High School Association (NFHSA) by-laws will govern this league on all matters not specifically covered by the rules and amendments set forth in these by-laws.
4. The league will be limited to no more than sixteen teams.
5. The teams that made up the league at the end of the previous season shall be given first choice of re-entry into the league. If there is sufficient space for additional teams, and a majority of team representatives present desire to add more teams, they will be permitted to join the league.
6. team represented at the March meeting shall constitute the final number of teams from which the current years schedule will be made, unless otherwise provided. NO team shall be permitted entry into the league for the current season after the April meeting.

### Article 2

#### League Officers

1. The league will be made up of three officers:
  - a. The commissioner
    - i. Shall preside over all meetings
    - ii. Is empowered to call special meetings as deemed necessary.
    - iii. Shall preside at all protest hearings.
    - iv. Shall have jurisdiction over all league games played in accordance with the official NFHSA Rule Book and local rules regulations established prior to start of each season.
    - v. Shall develop and administer the league schedule of games, making such changes and adjustments in accordance to league by-laws as circumstances may be necessary.
    - vi. Shall be chief arbitrator regarding in season ejections and suspensions of players and coaches. He may suspend players, managers or umpires who violate any provision of these by-laws or who engage in conduct that is detrimental to the league.
    - vii. Shall be the chief liaison with the Umpires Association on all matters.
  - b. Vice-Commissioner
    - i. Shall act in the absence of the commissioner in case of need.
  - c. Secretary/Treasurer

- i. Shall keep a record of all meetings.
- ii. Shall keep all financial records.
- iii. Shall carry on all correspondence as directed by the league.
- iv. Shall keep a record of all team representatives and the addresses of those that are to receive mail from the league.
- v. Shall receive all protests and arrange a meeting at the earliest time if the protest is properly filed.
- vi. Shall notify all member teams and/or interested parties of all meetings, either by telephone, mail or email.
- vii. Shall notify teams of any penalties assessed and a carbon copy of such notice to the commissioner.
- viii. Shall file an annual financial report

### Article 3

#### General Meetings

1. General meetings of the league will be held as the commissioner shall deem necessary. A quorum of one more than half of those teams, which make up the league, shall be required to carry on the business of the league in a general meeting.
2. All teams are required to have a representative present at each meeting that is held throughout the year. Each team is allowed one excused absence from the meetings per season. If a team misses a second meeting without representation, that team shall be fined \$25.00 for each meeting missed. These fines are to be paid before they play their next regularly scheduled game.

### Article 4

#### Entrance Fees

1. All teams entering the league each year shall pay a fee based on the estimated expenses for the current year, and the balance on hand from the previous year. The current year (2007) fee is two hundred dollars.
2. A fifty dollar bond fee will be paid by each team entering and participating in the CVBL. This fee shall be returned to the team, at the conclusion of the season, when it no longer participates in the CVBL, and providing that team does not owe any other fees or penalties to the league.
3. All league entrance fees are due and payable by the last scheduled league meeting held in April.

### Article 5

#### The Umpires

1. It is agreed that umpires are an important part of the game of baseball and that it is impossible to have an effective league without them. Umpires shall be treated with the utmost respect at all times.

2. The local chapter of the Lyon Mountain Umpire's Association will furnish all umpires for the regularly scheduled games, the playoffs and any other special contests if required and properly informed of in advance.
3. At least two (2) umpires will be used in all regularly scheduled games, with three (3) umpires assigned to the League Championship Series.
4. All teams entered in the league shall agree to abide by all the rules governing games, which may be provided by the Umpire's Association.
5. Each team will pay for one (1) umpire. The fees are determined by the current years contractual agreement between the league and the Umpire's Association. A copy of this agreement will be supplied to each team to start of each session.

#### Article 6 Scheduled Games

1. All scheduled games will be played on Sunday. Starting time is set for 12:00 noon. If weather becomes a factor, the umpires may extend the waiting period another thirty (30) minutes.
2. Any deviance from the established start times set by the league must be approved by the visiting team and the Commissioner. Once the final league schedule has been set, starting times may not be changed without the permission and approval of the League Commissioner.
3. The dates and times scheduled for playoff and all-star games shall be set by the League Commissioner.

#### Article 7 Pre-Game/Field Preparation

1. Pre-game schedule;
  - a. Before 11:00am, home team hits
  - b. From 11:00am to 11:30am, visiting team hits.
  - c. From 11:30am to 11:45am, visiting team takes infield practice.
  - d. From 11:45 to 12:00 noon, home team takes infield practice.
  - e. 12:00 noon, game starting time.
2. Each team will take the field in full uniform for easy identification.
3. Ground rules may be written out on a card and given to the umpires and the visiting team prior to the start of the game.
4. The home team is responsible for preparing the playing field and applying the chalk lines prior to the start of each game. Failure to have the field in safe condition and ready for play by game time could result in a forfeit by the home team. Final decision on the field conditions is final.

#### Article 8 Game Conduct/Ejections

1. The league will not tolerate any use of profanity by players or managers. Anyone who uses profanity will be given one (1) warning from the umpire. This warning will also serve as notice to the rest of the team. Any further violation of this rule by any member of the team warned will result in that player being ejected from the game. The player may return for the next game, but is on probation for the remainder of the baseball season.
2. An ejection must be for just cause, and is under the full jurisdiction of the games umpires. Unacceptable behavior, which may lead to an ejection, but is not limited to; foul language, acts of disrespect, improper gestures, abusive behavior, either physical or verbal and fighting.
3. Failure of the home team to control its crowd will result in the umpires forfeiting the game to the visiting team.
4. The umpire-in-chief and the umpire assigner shall notify the commissioner in writing of any ejections immediately upon the conclusion of the game.
5. Players are not permitted to engage in any verbal exchanges concerning personal matters with other players or umpires. If such a situation arises, a warning can be issued to the responsible player at the umpires discretion. If such a situation arises again, the responsible player may be ejected.
6. There will be no alcoholic beverages permitted before or during the game on field premises. No player is permitted to participate in a game if under the influence of alcohol or any other controlled substance. If this situation arises, the player involved will be issued a warning and may be ejected from the game.
7. Any player who makes physical contact with an umpire, prior to, during or following a game, will automatically be suspended from the league until further notice, and a proper hearing on the matter will be held. The officers of the league will meet with the officers of the Umpire's Association and decide on the disposition of such cases.
8. A player that is ejected from a game for any of the above stated reasons must sit out that game. He will be allowed to participate in the next scheduled game, but is automatically placed on probation for the remainder of the season.
9. If a player violates this rule after a game has been completed, he will be suspended for one game, which will be the next scheduled game. The suspended player may attend the next game he is suspended from, but may not enter the dugout or cause any disturbance during the game. If he violates these stipulations, the umpire has the option and the right to make him leave the premises where the game is taking place.
10. If a player is ejected a second time while on probation, it will result in a suspension from that existing game and the next two (2) scheduled weekends. This could result in a total suspension of up to six (6) games if doubleheaders are played on those weekends.
11. If a player is ejected a third time, he will automatically be suspended from the league for the rest of the season. If that player desires to enter the

league the following year, he must petition the league for re-entry into the league.

12. During any game, if a situation arises that any questions or discussions concerning an umpire's call or ruling, the umpire will discuss the situation with the coach or manager only. If a player persists on arguing any calls with an umpire, he will be subject to ejection.

#### Article 9

##### The Baseball

1. The official baseball of this league is to be of top quality with a horsehide cover and a cork. The baseballs to be used in the CVBL must be either Diamond D1, Rawlings R100, Wilson A1010 or other top rated baseballs of professional league quality to the aforementioned baseballs.
2. The home team will furnish sufficient baseballs to the umpire-in-chief prior to the start of each game. Each home team must have at least one (1) dozen baseballs available before the start of each doubleheader.

#### Article 10

##### Rained-Out Contests

1. The rules of the Umpire's Association must be followed in respect to rained-out contests. Home teams must notify the Umpire Assigner before 10:00am of the day of the scheduled game. No collect calls will be accepted and unauthorized calls will not be tolerated.
2. Immediately after notifying the umpires, the opposing team's representatives must be called and advised of the field conditions. Each team, prior to the first game of the season shall be given a list of addresses and telephone numbers of all league managers and the Umpire Assigner.
3. The League Secretary shall be sent information concerning the postponed games. This is due within forty-eight (48) hours from the date of postponement, so that arrangements for rescheduling can be dealt with as soon as possible.
4. Make up games should be rescheduled before the next league game. If not rescheduled by the following Sunday, or by the next open rain date, the Commissioner will reschedule it as he deems necessary. The home team shall notify the umpires and the Commissioner as to the dates and places of all rescheduled games.

#### Article 11

##### Forfeits

1. Any violation of the rules of baseball, National Federation of High School Association by-laws or the rules of this league, which calls for the forfeiture of a game, shall be enforced.

2. In the event that a team is not ready to play at the designated starting time, the umpires shall wait thirty (30) minutes, after which they may call a forfeit of game #1 against the offending team. If the offending team is not ready to play by 1:00pm, the umpires will call a forfeit of game #2 against the offending team.
3. If a forfeiture occurs before the beginning of a contest, or during and before the termination of such contest, the league will pay the umpires involved, upon the notification that a forfeit has been called. The league will then assess the offending team for the cost of the umpires. Failure to pay this assessment within five (5) days to the league treasurer shall result in the offending teams suspension from the league until the assessment has been paid.
4. If a doubleheader is forfeited, each umpire shall be paid the going rate as per the current agreement within the umpire's association contract. Please review said document for set fees.
5. If the umpire assigner is not notified of a cancelled or forfeited game by the Sunday before the scheduled contest, the offending team will be responsible for the above stated penalties.

## Article 12 Protests

1. Protests may be made when a team asserts that an umpires decision is in violation of the rules of baseball or the National Federation of High School Association by-laws, or that a violation of league rules has occurred. Protests shall not be permitted when it concerns an umpires judgment decision.
2. All protests must be in writing and shall contain full details of the incident in question. This written report should contain such details as; date, time, place, playing situation, names of umpires, locations of players, etc. Please keep in mind that the actions of the players and managers on the field should not be detrimental to the reputation of baseball, the umpires, the league, team and other players.
3. All protests must be reported to the umpire-in-chief at the time of infraction. All information must be documented by both score keepers so that it may be referred to at a later date.
4. Protests shall be filed with the league secretary within forty-eight (48) hours of the alleged violation. The protest, must be accompanied by a fee of twenty-five (\$25) or it will not be considered for review. The fee will be returned if the protest is upheld. If the protest is denied, the fee will become placed in the league's treasury.
5. The league officials, except those connected with the teams involved in the protest, shall rule on all protests. In reaching a decision, the league shall consult with the officers of the umpire's association, if that alleged violation concerns the rules of baseball. Their ruling is final.

Article 13  
Fines

1. All fines are payable to the league treasurer within five (5) days of the date of notification by the secretary, who shall send a notice to the league commissioner and treasurer. Failure to pay such fines shall result in the offending teams automatic suspension from the league until said fees are paid. Any games scheduled for a team under suspension shall be forfeited to the scheduled opponent during this period. The treasurer shall be guided by the postmark and by his own discretion, in ruling on such forfeited games. It is the intent of these penalties and fines to bring about a more efficient organization. The success of the league is dependent upon all its members to abide faithfully to those rules. Common sense, good judgment and the willingness to participate in a successful organization should be uppermost in the minds of league members. No amounts of legislation can bring this about. It can only be done with the complete cooperation of all teams involved.

Article 14  
Team Rosters

1. Each team shall be allowed to carry twenty-five (25) players on its roster with a minimum of fifteen (15).
2. Only those players whose names appear on the players list for each team, having been filed with the league secretary, may participate in any regularly scheduled game. Failure to comply with this rule shall be cause for forfeiture of a game by the offending team.
3. Tentative rosters are due at the last winter meeting (April) before the beginning of the season.
4. Final rosters must be turned in to the secretary by the completion of American Legion Baseball tryouts, usually held on the first weekend in June. No player names will be allowed to be added to any roster after this date without the permission of the commissioner.

Article 15  
Player Roster Changes

1. Once a player participates in a baseball game for a specific team, that player is committed to that team for the remainder of the baseball season. There will be no waivers allowed throughout the year. Once final rosters are submitted to the league secretary by the specified deadline, those rosters are final.
2. An appeal to the above rule may be filed with the league officers as a last resort. A special hearing will then be held with the three (3) league officers, the managers of the two (2) teams involved, the player involved

and the umpire assigner to decide the final disposition of such cases. Their decision will be final.

## Article 16 Player Eligibility

1. Players should be from local communities as far as possible and should be amateurs. The officers of the league and managers have the right to investigate any player and decide what action should be taken to keep this league on an amateur basis.
2. All college and high school players should consult their school authorities concerning NCAA rules before playing for a league team at any time.
3. Any player playing American Legion Baseball will be removed from the initial roster during the Legion campaign, and added back onto the roster upon the completion of the Legion season. These players are included in the original twenty-five (25) man roster.
4. In order to be eligible for post-season play, a player must have participated in four (4) regular season games. American Legion, Junior Legion and Senior Babe Ruth players are exempt from this rule.
5. If there are any special eligibility situations that arise during the season, they will be determined by the commissioner as determined in the league's by-laws.

## Article 17 Amended CVBL Exceptions

1. The league will abide by the baseball rules as set forth in the National Federation of High School Association rules, with the following exceptions;
  - a. The Speed-up Rule-When a catcher becomes a base runner and the second out of an inning has been completed, the catcher may be removed and a substitute runner placed into the game. Any player on the roster of the offensive team may be used, as long as it does not affect the batting order of his team. The manager of the offensive team will make the decision on who the substitute runner shall be. The object of this rule is to attempt to speed up the game between innings. This rule, however, is optional.
  - b. Designated Hitter Rule-A hitter may be designated to bat for any starting player and any subsequent players in that slot in the batting order. The designated hitter and the player he is hitting for must be selected before the start of each game. A pinch hitter for the DH may be used. He then becomes the DH. The former DH may not re-enter the game in any case. A DH may assume a defensive position, continuing to bat in the same slot, but the defensive player locked in with the DH will be removed. This player can be put back in under the

CVBL Free Substitution Rule, but the original DH is then removed and not allowed re-entry.

- c. Free Substitution Rule-The starting nine (9) may be replaced at any point and remain eligible to re-enter the game once. Upon re-entry, the substitute is done. The DH cannot leave the game and re-enter. Returning starters must replace their substitutes and remain in their respective batting slots.
- d. Intentional Walks-An intentional base on balls may be given by the defensive team by having the catcher or manager request the umpire to award the batter first base. This may be done before pitching to the batter or on any ball and strike count.
- e. The CVBL will allow the batter to step out of the batters box between pitches provided it does not intentionally delay the game.
- f. Jewelry-May be worn by players provided it is not excessive and does not interfere with the safety of the player or the players around him and is done with good judgment and common sense.

## Article 18 Mercy Rule

1. To help facilitate speedy and competitive games, the CVBL has adopted a ten (10) run Mercy Rule. If there is a ten (10) run differential after five (5) complete innings, the game will be called complete by the umpires. If the home team is leading by ten (10) runs, they do not bat in the bottom of the fifth innings. It can also be terminated as directed above if the differential occurs in the sixth inning.
2. The Mercy Rule is waived for all CVBL playoff games.

## Article 19 Contact Rule

1. If in the umpire's judgment a runner attempting to reach any base intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player, he will be called out on the play and ejected from the game. The runner must slide or give himself up in an attempt to avoid contact. The objective of this rule is to penalize the offensive team for crashing into the defensive player, rather than trying to reach base.
2. In interpreting this rule, umpires are referred to Official Baseball Rules regarding obstruction (7.06). Obstruction is defined as: "the act of a fielder who, while not in possession of the ball and not in the act of fielding the ball, impedes the progress of any runner." Rule 7.06 specifically states that "A fielder/catcher, without the ball in his possession, has no right to block the pathway of the runner attempting to reach a base or score. The base line belongs to the runner and the fielder/catcher should be there only when he is fielding a ball or when he already has possession of the ball."

3. The purpose of the Contact Rule is to avoid injury. Players should be instructed to avoid intentional and malicious contact at any base. Enforcement of this rule is entirely at the discretion of the umpires judgment and may not be appealed.

#### Article 20

##### Game Scores/Statistics

1. In an attempt to keep the interest and support of the fans and spectators, it is important that all game scores and statistics are called into the Press-Republican by no later than 8:00pm, Sunday evening. This allows for proper coverage of our league in the local newspaper, and allows the sports writers enough time to get all the information possible into the news articles.
2. Weekly team statistics are due by no later than the Wednesday after game day to the Press Republican. Failure to report stats by then will make the offending team ineligible for the "Player of the Week" and "Pitcher of the Week" honors which are chosen by the Press Republican writing staff. Example: 1<sup>st</sup> week if you do not have your stats in by May 4<sup>th</sup>, your team will not be eligible for those honors usually reported the following Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### Article 21

##### Standings/Tie-Breakers

1. The final league standings and playoff positions will be determined by the team standings after regular season games and the use, if needed, of the following tie-breakers;
  - a. If two (2) teams tie for a place, the team with the better record in the head to head competition will win the tie-breaker.
  - b. If the tie still exists after the above tie-breaker, the remaining tie-breakers are as follows;
    - i. Most runs scored versus tied teams.
    - ii. Least runs allowed versus tied teams.
    - iii. Most runs scored versus all teams.
    - iv. Least runs allowed versus all teams.