

**FAIRCHANCE YOUTH LEAGUE, INC.**

**BYLAWS**

adopted 12/06/2023

## **ARTICLE I**

### **NAME AND SCOPE**

SECTION 1: The name of this organization shall be known as the Fairchance Youth League, Inc. hereinafter known as FYL, a non-profit organization organized to create and administer Little League baseball and softball.

SECTION 2: The primary objective of the FYL is to inspire the local community through activities such as baseball, softball, youth programs, and leadership programs for both children and adults, with the aim of helping children to become good and decent citizens, and to implant firmly in the youth of the FYL good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect.

SECTION 3: Operations and affairs of the FYL will be administered and overseen by a board of directors hereinafter known as BOD. The BOD will be elected by the Adult Membership on a yearly basis.

SECTION 4: The FYL shall in no way discriminate against any youth or adult for membership based on sex, color, race, creed, religion or political views.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **FINANCE**

SECTION 1: Finances needed to meet operating expenses of the FYL will be obtained by means of donations, fundraisers, sponsorships, registration fees and other sources of revenue.

SECTION 2: The FYL BOD prior to youth registration will be responsible to formulate and approve a yearly budget for the operation of the FYL. The FYL BOD based on the budget will establish a per child cost hereinafter known as PCC, to operate the FYL.

SECTION 3: The FYL BOD will use the PCC to establish registration fees and fund raiser requirements.

SECTION 4: The FYL BOD will be responsible to establish a policy that will not disqualify players for lack of payment.

SECTION 5: The FYL BOD will be responsible each year to establish guidelines for free or reduced registration fees for low-income families. These guidelines will be somewhat based upon federal income guidelines.

SECTION 6: In the event of dissolution, the FYL BOD by a 2/3 majority vote will donate any remaining funds and assets to non-profit organizations.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **YOUTH MEMBERS**

SECTION 1: A youth member will be any child that has been registered to participate in the FYL.

SECTION 2: The FYL BOD will each year establish eligibility and requirement guidelines for the youth to participate in the FYL. These requirements will include but not be limited to minimum team participation. Youth members shall have no rights or obligations in the management or in the property of the FYL.

SECTION 3: The youth upon registration will be placed in appropriate divisions by the FYL BOD or the committee designated by the FYL BOD according to age and skill. The FYL BOD prior to the start of the season each year shall have the power to formulate policy in regards to what team a youth is placed on.

SECTION 4: Each year the FYL BOD will determine and publish via the FYL BOD meeting minutes, the age divisions the youth will follow. A player's eligibility for an age division will be determined by his/her birth date in regards to a date set forth by Little League International. This will determine a player's age division for the entire season.

SECTION 5: A parent or legal guardian may petition the FYL BOD via oral request to play their child in an older age division or to play in an additional older age division if they so choose and only if eligible by Little League rules.

SECTION 6: The FYL BOD each year will set all rules, policies and guidelines for participation by the youth in the playing of and playing in of actual baseball, softball and T-ball games by the youth in accordance with Little League rules.

SECTION 7: A youth can be disqualified from registering and or participating in activities of the FYL for any violations of rules, policies or guidelines that dictate any form of disqualification as a punishment for infringement.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **ADULT MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION 1: The FYL BOD will be responsible to set all requirements and benefits for all adult membership each fiscal year prior to registration.

SECTION 2: The FYL BOD will be responsible for establishing and enforcing policy in regards to suspension of adult members and termination of any adult membership for failing to meet the requirements of membership.

SECTION 3: Each family with one or more youths registered in the FYL will only be permitted to have no more than two adult members in the FYL.

SECTION 4: Adult Members will take an active role in helping the FYL to operate successfully. Adult Members will be required to meet criteria set forth by the FYL BOD for minimum participation in fundraising activities, concession stand duty and any other requirements or obligations deemed necessary by the FYL BOD. Adult Members will be responsible to make sure that any youth member under their legal care that are registered in the FYL meets and follows all requirements rules, guidelines and policies set forth by the FYL and the FYL BOD for youth members. A person to become eligible for Adult Membership in the FYL must (if applicable) have met all requirements as an Adult Member the prior year. A person must also be 18 years of age to become an Adult Member. A person must agree to follow all requirements set forth by the FYL BOD for Adult Membership for the year they are joining for. The person must have a child under their legal care registered in the FYL. Adult Members in good standing will have the privilege to vote on the election of officers and board members. Adult Members in good standing will be eligible to run for an office or a board member position.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **OFFICERS**

SECTION 1: To be eligible to hold an officer position in the FYL you must be at least 18 years of age. You must be an Adult Member in good standing. You must be the legal parent, grandparent, or legal guardian of a child that was registered in the FYL during the year of the election and has age eligibility for the following year for registration.

SECTION 2: The elected FYL officers shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The election to these offices will automatically secure a position on the FYL BOD for the persons elected to these

offices by the Adult Members at the annual meeting. These four persons will be afforded all rights and privileges of a regular board member.

SECTION 3: The FYL BOD at its discretion can add to the duties of any elected officer so long as it does not conflict with the bylaws.

SECTION 4: The President of the FYL shall preside over all meetings of the membership and the FYL BOD. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. The President will have the authority to sign on behalf of the FYL or designate in writing another officer to sign on behalf of the FYL or all leases, contracts or agreements that are approved by the FYL BOD to be entered into or executed. The president shall be responsible to see all actions of the FYL BOD are executed and acted on either directly or indirectly.

SECTION 5: The Vice President shall assume the duties of the president in his/her absence.

SECTION 6: The Secretary shall be responsible to keep the minutes of all meetings of the FYL and the FYL BOD. The secretary shall be responsible to do all correspondence as directed by the FYL BOD. The Secretary shall be responsible to maintain all records, minutes and correspondence of the FYL and the FYL BOD. The Secretary shall be responsible to make available at all regular meetings of the FYL BOD the previous meeting minutes and any special meeting minutes held between the last regular meeting and the new regular meeting. These minutes are to be approved by a majority vote of the FYL BOD. The Secretary shall be responsible to notify all board members of upcoming meetings.

SECTION 7: The Treasurer shall be responsible to keep and maintain all financial records of the FYL. The Treasurer shall be responsible to oversee the preparation and actual act there of, of deposits of receipts and of disbursements of the FYL. The Treasurer will be responsible to submit an accurate written financial report at every regular meeting of the FYL BOD and upon the request of the President at any special meeting also. The Treasurer's report shall be approved by a majority vote of the FYL BOD at the meeting it is presented.

SECTION 8: In the event of the absence of the President and Vice President the chain command shall be the Secretary and then the Treasurer.

SECTION 9: Absence of any officer shall be defined as physically not present, physically incapacitated, incarceration or written consent of the officer as to their absence.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

SECTION 1: The FYL BOD will be comprised of the elected offices of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, in addition, a player agent, safety officer, coaching coordinator, marketing manager, and no less than three other elected or appointed members. The FYL BOD can set the amount of board members at any number above the previous seven stated so long as the number of people on the FYL BOD is odd in number.

SECTION 2: To be eligible to hold a board member position in the FYL you must be at least 18 years of age. You must be an Adult Member in good standing. You must be the legal parent, grandparent, or legal guardian of a child that was registered in the FYL during the year of the election and has age eligibility for the following year for registration.

SECTION 3: The FYL BOD shall have the power to appoint committees, as it shall determine appropriate and to delegate powers to such committees as it deems advisable and which it may properly delegate. The FYL BOD may adopt such rules, policies, guidelines, regulations and requirements for the management of the FYL as it may deem proper, provided that such rules, policies, guidelines, regulations and requirements do not conflict with the bylaws or Little League rules/regulations. The FYL BOD will assign all powers and duties to the committees it forms. The president shall appoint the chair of each committee.

SECTION 4: The FYL BOD will have the power by a 2/3 majority vote of those board members present at any regular or special meeting of the FYL BOD to discipline, suspend or remove any board member, officer or committee member of the FYL in accordance with the disciplinary policy adopted by the FYL BOD.

SECTION 5: The FYL BOD may appoint such other officers or agents as it may deem necessary or desirable, and may prescribe the powers and duties of each. Appointed officers or agents shall have no authority to vote at FYL BOD meetings of any kind unless they are already a seated board member.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**

SECTION 1: Adult Members seeking election to office or the BOD must obtain a nominating petition from the Secretary. Candidates must obtain a

minimum of 10 signatures of current Adult Members to be eligible for placement on the ballot. Nominating petitions must be submitted to the League President, or designee, no later than July 10, thus allowing time for officers to validate such petitions and prepare the ballot prior to the annual reorganization meeting.

The officers and board members will be elected by secret ballot at the annual reorganization meeting of the FYL. Newly elected officers and board members will take charge on the first day of the new fiscal year.

SECTION 2: It is permissible for an officer to succeed himself/herself provided that person is eligible.

SECTION 3: The President shall supervise the election of officers and board members at the annual reorganization meeting.

SECTION 4: The candidate running for a particular office that receives the majority vote by the Adult Members at the annual reorganization meeting shall be declared elected to that position by the President. That officer shall serve a term that consists of the fiscal year he/she was elected for.

SECTION 5: A candidate for a board member position will be declared elected by the President if they receive enough votes at the annual reorganization meeting that places him/her somewhere in the majority of the amount of board members needed for the upcoming year.

SECTION 6: Throughout the term of officers and board members if a vacancy arises in an officer position or a board member position that vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the FYL BOD at the next available meeting.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **MEETINGS**

SECTION 1: The FYL BOD will be responsible to convene a reorganization meeting of the FYL annually. This meeting shall be no earlier than one day after the end of the regular ball season and no later than one month prior to the new fiscal year. The purpose of this meeting will be for all Adult Members in good standing that are able to attend to elect officers and board members.

SECTION 2: There shall be no absentee voting or proxy voting at any meeting of the FYL or the FYL BOD.

SECTION 3: The FYL BOD will conduct monthly meetings at a date, time and location to be set by the FYL BOD. A special meeting of the FYL BOD can be called by the President or by a request in writing of the majority of board members.

SECTION 4: To conduct a board meeting a quorum of board members must be present. A majority of the board of directors present shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 5: Oral or ballot voting will be considered for use in passing a motion at any FYL BOD meeting. The type of voting to be used will be determined by the President. A motion in order to pass must be made and seconded. The motion then must receive a majority vote of the FYL BOD unless otherwise stated in the bylaws.

SECTION 5: The FYL BOD shall at the beginning of every fiscal year establish a policy that will stipulate board member attendance at FYL BOD meetings.

SECTION 6: Unless otherwise stated the FYL and the FYL BOD will follow “Roberts Rules of Order” at all meetings.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **AMMENDMENTS**

SECTION 1: An amendment to the bylaws must be submitted in writing by a board member at a regular meeting of the FYL BOD for publication in the meeting minutes. Action may not be taken on the amendment until the next regular meeting. The amendment must then receive a majority of the vote of the FYL BOD and active membership.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **DISBURSEMENTS**

SECTION 1: The FYL BOD shall set all policies and procedures for all disbursements and disbursements of funds.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **FYL BOD MEETINGS ORDER OF BUSINESS**

SECTION 1: The order of business at all FYL BOD meetings will be as follows:

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Previous Meeting Minutes
- d. Treasurer's Report
- e. Reports by committees
- f. Old Business
- g. New Business
- h. Adjournment

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the FYL shall be September 01 to August 31.

## **ARTICLE XIV**

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

SECTION 1: The FYL BOD shall have the power to develop and amend any and all policies in regards to any disciplinary action to be taken against any members, coaches, managers, officers or board members unless otherwise stated in the bylaws for any infractions of the bylaws, rules or policies.

### **Fairchance Youth League, Inc. Code of Conduct**

To prevent any misunderstanding or misinterpretations when problems occur during the baseball/softball season, the Fairchance Youth League, Inc. Board of Directors has instituted the following Code of Conduct for players, coaches, parents and spectators. This has been distributed to our coaches, Board members, players and parents this season in the hope that it will strengthen our organization and its policies, and will clearly state the expectations that our organization has with regard to our standards of behavior. **Improper conduct, in judgment of the Fairchance Youth League, Inc. Board of Directors, on the part of the players, coaches or spectators may result in a warning, suspension, expulsion or forfeiture of the game.**

## Code of Conduct for Players

- **Respect my coaches.** The coaches are volunteers who donate their time to our organization and my appreciation of their help should be reflected in all my actions on the playing field. It is my duty to listen to and follow the directions of my coaches and to obey the rules set forth by the coaches of the teams.
- **Respect my team members and other players.** I will not insult, criticize or verbally abuse any other player. Such behavior does not promote but destroys team spirit and will not be tolerated by the Fairchance Youth League, Inc.
- **Never resort to physical threats or actions to rectify a situation.** Physical outbursts are unacceptable and will be dealt with using a zero-tolerance policy. Any occurrence will be immediately directed to the Board.
- **Display good sportsmanship at all times.** As a representative of the Fairchance Youth League, Inc., it is my duty to reflect the characteristics of fair play at all times. I will display to others that competition is healthy and I will not lower the standards of the Fairchance Youth League, Inc. by engaging in unsportsmanlike conduct.
- **Be a contributor to the Fairchance Youth League, Inc.** I play baseball/softball not only for my own personal pleasure and benefit but for the benefit and as a representative of the Fairchance Youth League, Inc. I will always give 100% to my team by doing the best job that I can.
- **Be proud to be a player for the Fairchance Youth League, Inc. and have FUN doing it!**

## Code of Conduct for Parents/Guardians/Spectators

- **Respect the coaches.** Coaches are volunteers who donate their time and expertise to the Fairchance Youth League, Inc. My appreciation of their efforts is paramount to ensuring a willing and ample supply of coaches in the program. I will take practices and games seriously by making sure that my child(ren) are available and on time as scheduled. I will collect my children in a timely manner when practices and games are finished.
- **Respect all players.** All players are contributors to a team and should be positively encouraged by all parents. I will not engage in insults or criticisms of players. Such behavior does not promote team spirit but breaks apart a team and will not be tolerated.
- **Follow proper channels to resolve any dispute with the Fairchance Youth League, Inc.** The Fairchance Youth League, Inc. is willing to assist any parent that has a problem with any of its programs. If I have an issue or problem, I understand that I should approach the coaches of my child's team, the league president, any

individual member of the Board or the entire Board to address it. No parent should ever feel that the Fairchance Youth League, Inc. is unapproachable.

- **Display good sportsmanship at all times.** The children are learning to become team players and work toward a common goal. I will always be non-judgmental in my support for their attempts and their outcomes.
- **Be a contributor to the Fairchance Youth League, Inc.** I will volunteer my time to concession stand duty when assigned and will be a supportive and positive influence for all efforts made by the Fairchance Youth League, Inc.
- **Appreciate that the Fairchance Youth League, Inc. is striving to provide the best baseball/softball program for my children.** The programs of the Fairchance Youth League, Inc. are intended to be learning and fun experiences for all players. I will relax and enjoy the youth baseball/softball experience.

## Code of Conduct for Coaches

The primary goal of coaches should be the development of boys and girls to become better citizens. The players must be taught sportsmanship and fair play, and these teachings should always govern their behavior while at practices and games. Coaches shall be responsible for the conduct of all players, members of the coaching staff and spectators. This includes the time periods before, during, and after League games and other events. **Improper conduct, in judgment of the Fairchance Youth League, Inc. Board of Directors, on the part of the players, coaches or spectators may result in a warning, suspension, expulsion or forfeiture of the game.**

As a coach for the Fairchance Youth League, Inc., I agree to:

- **Respect all players.** I will ensure that all criticism I offer to the players will be constructive and balanced with compliments. I recognize that all players are contributors to my team and will treat them all fairly and equitably within the rules.
- **Respect all parents.** I recognize that baseball/softball is a big commitment for parents. I will keep my team parents informed as well as possible to ensure that the whole team is pulling in the same direction.
- **Follow proper channels to resolve any disputes.** I understand that I am not alone in my position as a coach. I have a strong organization to assist me in the resolution of problems, issues or disputes. If they arise, I will discuss problems with my coaches, the player(s), the parents, the Board members or the entire Board as necessary.
- **Display good sportsmanship at all times.** I understand that the players are learning to be good sportsmen and team players and are quick to copy all behavior they see on the field, particularly that of me in my position as coach. I will show respect to my team's coaches, players, parents and the opposing coaches, players and parents at all times. The umpires and fans will also have my respect and I will

respectfully take care of the playing fields, facilities and equipment that we use. I realize that any display of unsportsmanlike conduct by myself at any Fairchance Youth League, Inc. event will result in disciplinary action by the Board.

- **Be a positive contributor to the Fairchance Youth League, Inc.** I will be a positive and caring influence and an encouraging force in teaching the lessons of team play through baseball/softball to all the players I encounter.

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President, Fairchance Youth League, Inc.  
January 3, 2024

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Secretary, Fairchance Youth League, Inc.  
January 3, 2024