

By-Laws

of HEMPFIELD AREA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (HAAA)

HAAA By-laws as of 20 January 2010.

ARTICLE I - NAME

This organization shall be known as Hempfield Area Athletic Association (HAAA), of Hempfield Township and surrounding areas located in Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It shall hereinafter be referred to in this document as the Association or HAAA.

ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES

The Association seeks to guide youth in building self-esteem and sportsmanship. We will look to create a positive sports experience, for players of all abilities, on and off the playing field. Of primary importance is the Association's contribution to developing the youth of our community into responsible adults. The HAAA board, local recreation boards, on down to the individual coaches will bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the winning of games is not the purpose, but that the molding of future citizens is our main goal.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

The Association members shall be a collective group of representatives, one boy's coordinator and one girl's coordinator, from each local area participating in the Hempfield Area Athletic Association's baseball and softball programs.

Boys or girls meeting the requirements to age and residence (as set forth in Article XIII) shall be eligible to participate in the Association's activities. The membership and eligibility rules of any other organization with which the Association may be affiliated (e.g. Pony Baseball, ASA Softball) will govern with respect to that activity.

ARTICLE IV - GOVERNING BODY

The officers of the Association will be President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer.

The Executive Board shall be comprised of:

- the officers (above)
- Boys Coordinator of Baseball
- Girls Coordinator of Softball

ARTICLE V - DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The operations of the Association shall be under the direct supervision of the Executive Board.

The Executive Board (Article IV) shall have the authority to suspend, discharge, or otherwise discipline any member, manager, coach, or player, whose conduct is, in its opinion, is considered detrimental to the best interests of the Association.

The Executive Board shall authorize all expenditures of the Association.

The Executive Board shall decide policy and shall perform such other functions as may from time to time be necessary or in the best interests of the Association.

All matters of policy concerning the Association shall be decided by a majority vote (as defined in Article X).

ARTICLE VI - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and of the Executive Committee and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed herein.

The Vice President shall assume presidential duties in the absence of the President and shall perform such other duties as may be necessary, at the direction of the President.

Coordinator of Baseball:

- Establish playing rules within their respective Leagues, subject to the approval of a majority of the members (as defined in Article X.)
- Enforce all rules as established by this Association or other organization (e.g. Pony Baseball) whose rules prevail.
- Call for and conduct a coaches meeting before, and if needed, during the season with the managers of their respective Leagues to explain rules, air complaints, etc. - Oversee submission and verification of all team rosters and area releases of players (e.g. verification of age and addresses).
- Coordinate with the Head Umpire of Baseball that all cancelled games are being made-up in a timely manner.
- Supervise handling of disputes to include disputes that are brought to the attention of the baseball rules committee in coordination with the Head Umpire.
- Perform such other duties as may be directed by the President, or the Vice President, as the case may be.

Coordinator of Softball:

- Establish playing rules within their respective Leagues, subject to the approval of a majority of the members (as defined in Article X.)
- Enforce all rules as established by this Association or other organization (e.g. ASA Softball) whose rules prevail.
- Call for and conduct a coaches meeting before, and if needed, during the season with the managers of their respective Leagues to explain rules, air complaints, etc. - Oversee submission and verification of all team rosters and area releases of players (e.g. verification of age and addresses).
- Coordinate with the Head Umpire of Softball that all cancelled games are being made-up in a timely manner.

- Supervise handling of disputes to include disputes that are brought to the attention of the softball rules committee in coordination with the Head Umpire.
- Perform such other duties as may be directed by the President, or the Vice President, as the case may be.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall:

- receive all monies of the Association and issue receipts in duplicate (one for the file).
- Deposit all Association funds in the Association's bank account.
- Pay all bills as approved by the Executive Committee. Checks in payment of such bills shall be issued and signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the President.
- Keep a cumulative record of all Association receipts and disbursements.
- Handle general correspondence of the Association.
- Record the minutes of all Association meetings.
- Notify the entire membership of the date, time, and place of annual nomination- and election-of-officers meetings, as prescribed in Article XIII hereof).
- Perform such other duties as may from time to time arise which are appropriate to a Secretary/Treasurer or at the direction of the President.

ARTICLE VII - COMMITTEES

Committees and their members and duties will be established annually as deemed necessary by a majority (as defined in Article X) of the members of this Association.

The Committees shall be comprised of:

- Committee Chairs, appointed by the members. It is suggested that there be Committee Chairs for the following: Scheduling; Web Site; Tournaments; Baseball Rules, Softball Rules, and Fall Baseball and Softball.
- Other Committee Chairs at the discretion of a majority of the officers.
- Committee Chairs are not Executive Board members and hold no voting rights.

ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the Association shall be held on the second Wednesday of each month or at such other time as may be designated by the President. Usually, there are no meetings in August, September, or December.

The October meeting shall be for the purpose of nominating officers for the following year. The November meeting shall be for the purpose of electing officers for the following year (See Article XI hereof.)

Special meetings may be called by any Executive board member, as the interest of the league may require.

The Executive Committee shall meet prior to the regular meetings as deemed necessary by the President.

A quorum shall be:

- of the Executive Committee, at least three (3) members, and at least half of the local area's participating in the HAAA Association, any of whom may also be members of the Executive Committee.

The President is responsible for seeing that all Executive Committee members are notified in advance of Executive Committee meetings, notwithstanding those reasonable Attempt to contact a member are made but are unsuccessful. If special meetings are called by an Executive Committee member of who is not the President, then that member must notify in advance all Executive Committee members, again notwithstanding unsuccessful reasonable attempts.

ARTICLE IX - ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business at all regular meetings of this Association shall be:

- Call to order.
- Public Address.
- Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.
- President's report.
- Treasurer/Financial Report.
- Report from Baseball Coordinator. - Report from Softball Coordinator.
- Old and unfinished business.
- New business and good of the Association.

ARTICLE X - MOTIONS & NOMINATIONS

To make changes or additions to adopted policies, a motion must be made at a meeting; the motion then must be seconded by another party of a different area or an executive board member. The motion will then go to a vote by all members. A minimum of 51% acceptance shall be required to pass a motion on policies.

For election of officers, the person receiving the most votes for each position shall be the successfully elected candidate.

Only area coordinators or a representative may make motions, second motions or have a vote. Only one vote is permitted per area, even if the area has both a baseball and softball coordinator, and the vote of a coordinator represents the collective opinion of the area which they represent.

Each executive member; President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Boys Coordinator, and Girls Coordinator carry a vote on motions and elections Umpire Coordinators may vote on motions and elections.

The Hempfield Area Park and Recreation Director may also vote on motions and elections.

Once a motion has passed, the executive board or rules committee of Baseball or Softball has the power to enforce the ruling / motion passed without any other re-vote by the association.

ARTICLE XI - NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

Any Association member may be nominated for office at the regular October meeting and elected at the regular November meeting of the Association. (Association Members are defined in Article III of these By-Laws). Nominees must be 18 years or older.

Term of office for all officers shall be November 1st of current calendar year for a period of 1 year.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall be responsible for notification of the membership as to the date, time, and place of nomination and election meetings. Such notice may be in writing, by phone or by e-mail.

About nominations:

- Nominees must either be present to accept the nomination (in order to indicate a willingness to serve if elected) or send to the meeting a personally signed note indicating their willingness to serve if elected.
 - Officers will be nominated in the following order: President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Boys Coordinator, and Girls Coordinator.
 - The Secretary/Treasurer will contact all nominees who were not in attendance at the October meeting regarding their willingness to run for office. This shall occur within 5 days after the October meeting.
 - Any nominees wishing to withdraw their names must so inform the Secretary at least two weeks prior to the scheduled election meeting. If there are any withdrawals, the Secretary/Treasurer will, contact other nominees to inform them of said withdrawal(s). This shall occur within 5 days after the withdraw notification.
 - If there is no nominee for a particular office, that office may be filled by nomination(s) from the floor before elections during the November meeting (nominee must be present).
- An Officer can serve for an unlimited number of consecutive terms providing a dependent is participating in the league.

About elections:

- At the November meeting, officers shall be elected by ballot. The person receiving the most votes for each position shall be the successfully elected candidates. The elections will take place in the following order: President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Boys Coordinator, and Girls Coordinator.
- Unsuccessful nominees:
 - For President - may run for Vice President (must be nominated.)
 - For Vice President - may run for Secretaryrrreasurer (must be nominated.)
 - For Secretary/Treasurer - may run for Boys or Girls Coordinator (must be nominated.) - For Boys or Girls Coordinator - may not run for any other office.

About vacancies:

- If a vacancy exists or occurs in any office other than the Presidency after the November meeting, that office may be filled by appointment by the remaining executive board members.

- If a vacancy exists or occurs in the Presidency, the Vice President becomes President if he/she is willing. If not then the remaining officers (usually 3) will select a President and fill any other vacancies that may occur (in case the Secretary/Treasurer is selected as President).

In the event that no eligible candidates are nominated the executive board may vote to approve the nomination of a member who does not meet these requirements.

ARTICLE XII - FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of this Association is November 1 through the following October 31.

ARTICLE XIII - PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND DRAFT RULES

Except as otherwise provided by the Association's officers, the age groupings of the Pony Baseball and ASA Softball Leagues shall be as follows:

Girls Fast-Pitch - Ages 10 and under

Girls Fast-Pitch - Ages 12 and under

Girls Fast-Pitch - Ages 14 and under

Senior Girls Fast-Pitch — Ages 18 and under

Eligibility for the various age levels of Softball will be determined by ASA Softball rules for the current calendar year.

Mustang League - Ages 10 and under Bronco League - Ages 12 and under

ARTICLE XIV - PLAYING RULES

Teams are to follow the playing rules established by ASA Softball and Pony Baseball along with any rule modifications voted on and approved by the HAAA board.

ARTICLE XV - DISCIPLINARY ACTION

A. The leagues Executive Board shall have the authority to suspend, discharge or otherwise discipline any player, manager, coach, umpire, league officer or other person whose conduct is in violation of the Rules and Regulations of PONY Baseball, ASA Softball and/or is considered detrimental to the best interests of the league.

- Persons subject to such discipline shall have the right to a hearing before the leagues executive board, as well as the baseball or softball head umpire and rules committee before such discipline is imposed.

- Disciplinary actions to be considered in regard to a player, coach or parent shall require the local recreation board being notified in writing prior to any penalties imposed upon the above mentioned.

- In the event of such a hearing involving a player, or other person under the age of 18, that person's parents shall be invited to attend.

-Persons, youth or adult, who refuse to comply with the rules of PONY Baseball, ASA Softball or the League (i.e. = eligibility, draft, player release and/or playing rules) may be considered for disciplinary action.

-Recognizing the difficulty of establishing specific penalties for a variety of violations of acceptable conduct, the following penalties may be imposed at the executive boards' discretion, based on which one appears to match the severity of the offense.

(1) Warning. The offending person is to be advised, in writing, of the offense, and further advised that repetition of the offense shall result in a more severe penalty.

(2) Suspension. The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been suspended from all league activity for a specific number of games, or days

(3) Dismissal. The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been dismissed from the league for the remainder of the current year.

(4) Barred. The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been barred from present and future participation in the league, permanently, or for a specific number of years.

ARTICLE XVI - UMPIRES

Umpire Coordinator for Girls

ASA Softball - League Umpire Coordinator

Umpire Coordinator for Boys

Pony Baseball - League Umpire Coordinator

Head Umpires shall:

- rule on all protested decisions and/or games.

-may use rules committee to help process all protests and rule clarifications.

Pay Schedule (Baseball & Softball)

The Head Umpires and leagues umpires Pay (fee) will be established by a vote of the association's members annually.

ARTICLE XVII - Funds

Monies collected for registration fees should be used for the equal benefit of all players, areas and of the entire league and not towards any individual teams or groups.

Monies collected for Pony and ASA dues are made out and paid directly to those respective organizations.

ARTICLE XVIII - DISSOLUTION

-HAAA prohibits the use of any surplus funds for private inurnment to any person(s) in the event of dissolution of the organization.

ARTICLE XIX - NON DISCRIMINATION

The Hempfield Area Athletic Association (HAAA) shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, national origin, or mental or physical challenge.

ARTICLE XX - AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

These By-Laws may be amended by a unanimous vote of the Executive board.

ARTICLE XXI - BACKGROUND CHECKS AND LIABILITY

Hempfield Area Athletic Association (HAAA) will not be responsible for local recreation area's background clearances for their coaches or any liability issues that may arise during the course of the schedule/ playing season. HAAA does recommend however those local recreation organizations perform background checks on all coaches.

ARTICLE XXII - HAAA CODE OF CONDUCT

Managers/Coaches and Parents Behavior

Let's please remember that we are dealing with kids who want to have fun. We are role models, and as such, HAAA expects the adults to act like ladies and gentlemen, exhibiting appropriate decorum that sets a good example to our youth.

Our umpires, some of who are just kids themselves, may make "bad" calls, but, as long as they are not intentionally favoring one team over another, please keep your "call" to yourself.

HAAA will not tolerate any insults, criticism, harassment, or belittling of players or of umpires, managers, and coaches. Managers and coaches are of course expected to teach, but in a positive way. The Manager or his designee is the only person authorized to dispute an umpire's call, and he/she must do so in calm and quiet, non-confrontational manner.

Player Behavior

HAAA will not tolerate any insults, criticism, harassment, or belittling of players or of umpires, managers, and coaches.

Failure to abide in accordance this code of conduct can result in disciplinary action within ARTICLE XV of these By-caws.

HAAA recommends that each local recreation area establish a code of conduct to which all coaches, players, and parents must abide.