

Big Sticks Baseball Club

I. Preamble

The Big Sticks Baseball Club (hereafter referred to as the BSBC) is operated under the direction of the BSBC board (hereafter referred to as TBA) while operating financially independently of Tiffin Little League.

Decisions of the TBA Procedures, By-Laws and Agreements have precedence regarding any conflict that may occur with the operating procedures governing the BSBC.

The TBA has the right to add, change, amend, or otherwise act to meet the goals of the baseball program.

II. Mission Statement

The BSBC was created and is overseen by the TBA to provide a higher level of competition for talented and motivated TBA baseball players who are willing to commit a great deal of time to improvement of their skills in a team focused environment.

As with the Tiffin Little League, the BSBC is meant to develop players both socially and skillfully.

Ultimately, the development of skills, sportsmanship, fair play and team focused play is the cornerstone of our program, which we believe will create better baseball players and better people.

This program represents the greater community of Tiffin and requires that all individuals involved with the BSBC display conduct at the highest level of quality and regards to others. Discipline and/or dismissal from current and future participation in the BSBC can occur through guidelines outlined later in these procedures for failure to display proper conduct at any time.

This program will provide an opportunity for players to participate at a higher competitive level of baseball than what is offered through the Tiffin Little League. With this in mind, the BSBC program should not be considered an extension of the Tiffin Little League program. BSBC is a highly competitive baseball program that is not designed for all baseball players.

III. VP of BSBC Selection/Duties

The TBA will approve a VP of BSBC to oversee the program's operations for each new board year and announce the VP of BSBC at the October annual board meeting.

The VP of BSBC shall be responsible for the operation and oversight of all activities associated with the BSBC.

The VP of BSBC has the option to assemble a committee, chaired by the VP of BSBC and composed of current travel managers and/or members of the TBA. Such a committee may be formed to review policies, procedures, act as a steering committee, or for any other reason deemed necessary.

The TBA Board will select the incoming VP of BSBC no later than the October annual board meeting; however, the outgoing VP of BSBC should coordinate the fall tryout dates with the current travel managers as a final responsibility for the new VP of BSBC to oversee.

The VP of BSBC shall be accessible to the managers, coaches and parents. They will coordinate travel activities such as indoor/outdoor practice times, field scheduling coordination, and any other "travel team" issues that may come up from time to time. However, the travel managers will have responsibility of managing the day-to-day operations of their travel team.

IV. General Financial Operations

The BSBC will operate as a sub account for the TBA. This will be overseen by the TBA Assistant Treasurer, and maintained continuously for the purpose of financial and legal reports necessary. All BSBC financial operations need to follow TBA By-Laws stated in Article 11. All TBA accounts shall be required to report all revenue sources, and expenditures and provide receipts for such, follow guidelines for sponsors and fundraising, and comply with all 501c3 and IRS rules.

V. TBA Assistant Treasurer Duties

The TBA Assistant Treasurer will serve as the official financial representative for the BSBC. The TBA Assistant Treasurer shall provide to the VP of BSBC a monthly financial statement for BSBC teams collectively with separate line items for each team. The TBA Assistant Treasurer shall conduct an annual audit to be completed for all financial activities of the BSBC, which shall be submitted to the VP of BSBC and the TBA Board at the annual BBA meeting in October. The TBA Assistant Treasurer will monitor all age-level team financial information.

VI. Age-Level Team Financial Activities

All travel managers are responsible for accounting for all monies received and spent for the team. Each team will have a records book to record any financial activity with the TBA Assistant Treasurer and the Team Manager on the account. Due to the BSBC association with the TBA, all travel teams are required to provide statements of accounting. All travel managers will submit a detailed and accurate summary of all money accepted and spent to the TBA Assistant Treasurer at the end of the season. Failure to comply with this accounting will immediately place a manager on probation. If a manager receives a warning for failure to submit the accounting, he will be given 30 days to submit it. If it is not received, the VP of BSBC will dismiss the manager and seek a replacement manager. In addition to providing complete accounting, all managers agree that all monies collected through fundraising, sponsorships, and donations will be properly accounted for and used for the current year travel team expenses. Any additional requests in regards to accounting from the TBA Assistant Treasurer must be honored. BSBC team expenditures are paid from funds derived from Registration, Player-Pay, Sponsorship, Donations, and Fundraising. These monies are to be placed in one banking account for all teams, separate from TBA accounts, monitored and distributed by the TBA Assistant Treasurer. No outside accounts are allowed! All monies must be kept inside the TBA banking accounts monitored by the TBA Assistant Treasurer.

1. Registration Fee
2. Player-Pay
3. Sponsorships
4. Fundraising

The TBA Board shall set a non-refundable player registration fee annually. It is the fair-share amount that each player pays to participate in the BCBC. This fee is not based on equal playing time, but the opportunity to participate on the travel team. BSBC teams shall not solicit businesses and/or individuals, until the TBA has given approval. BSBC teams are allowed two fundraisers per year. Fundraisers must be approved by the TBA no later than the October board of directors meeting. All fundraisers must be completed by March 1, unless approved by the TBA.

VII. Manager/Coach Selection

All manager and coaches will be selected per TBA or BSBC guidelines and must follow all rules and regulations set forth in the TBA Constitution and Bylaws or BSBC Bylaws. Persons wishing to be considered a candidate to manage or coach a BSBC team must notify the VP of BSBC. The VP of BSBC may designate additional candidates as may be required per team, per particular age group. Managers and coaches are considered ambassadors of the TBA and are expected to conduct themselves accordingly, representing the community properly. The roles of the manager and coach(es) extend beyond on-field responsibilities and involve significant time and effort. Candidates must be willing and able to perform all responsibilities of the job and must make an honest evaluation of their availabilities, schedules, and personal commitments prior to assuming the role. Any manager deemed not in good standing will be placed on probation or possibly removed by the TBA Managers Committee. All managers and coaches agree that decisions by the TBA and the TBA Managers Committee are final.

The VP of BSBC will present a list of managers for each BSBC team to the TBA for approval at the October meeting. The TBA Board reserves the right to request an interview with any candidate presented to the TBA Board and reject any candidate, by a majority vote, presented by the VP of BCBC. Selection of a manager or coach will consider many criteria including, but not limited to, baseball knowledge and experience, coaching techniques, communication abilities, organizational skills, past and current coaching experience within the TBA and other youth sports organizations and youth sports philosophies. They shall also be committed to the travel program, and be committed to player development. All travel managers must also be available to spend the necessary time required by a travel baseball team. All managers also agree to conduct

themselves in a professional manner and to comply with all TBA and BSBC rules and regulations. The managers and coaching staff shall be responsible for the conduct of his team as well as the parents and for complying with all applicable TBA, BSBC rules and regulations. All managers (or designated representative) shall be responsible for attending meetings held to discuss rules, scheduling, and field selection or league matters. They are also responsible for educating the players on good, sound basics of the game as well as advanced knowledge of the game. Once approved by the TBA Board, the team manager will then be responsible for submitting up to three (3) additional coaches to help handle the daily duties of the team to be approved by the TBA Managers Committee for approval and/or denial.

VIII. Manager/Coach Conduct

All travel manager/coaches agree to represent the TBA, BSBC, and the greater Tiffin Community in a professional manner when playing both in Tiffin as well as other cities. The managers agree that they are responsible for their coaching staff, players and parents, and they will do everything in their power to ensure that they conduct themselves properly. Managers agree to take immediate action against a coach, player, or parent for all actions that are deemed inappropriate. Such actions include excessive arguing with the umpires, use of inappropriate language, drinking or the use of drugs before or during the game, berating or embarrassing a player or parent, or any other actions not in the spirit of good sportsmanship. Any manager/coach failing to follow this proper conduct will be placed on probation.

IX. Ejections From Games or Field

All managers, coaches, parents, and players must adhere to the TBAs Code of Conduct. A manager or coach may be removed from his position at any time by the TBA for any reason and without warning or process.

Reasons for removal may be, but not limited to, player abuse, financial abuse, non-compliance with any TBA policy, peer review, parent issues, excessive umpire issues, or excessive team demands.

Managers, at all times, must insure that the highest levels of sportsmanship are displayed by themselves, their assistant coaches, their players, and their team supporters. All people in any way related to the team must adhere to the TBA Code of Conduct. Managers or coaches are accountable to the behavior of their team and spectators. Conduct that includes, but not limited to, abusive or foul language,

throwing of equipment, arguing with umpires, and player humiliation will not be tolerated. An incident report should be prepared and submitted to the VP of BSBC within 24 hours of the incident.

The manager must submit an incident report for any coach, player, or spectator ejected by an umpire to the VP of BSBC within 24 hours of the incident. In the absence of the VP of Travel, the Director of Compliance, or TBA President must be contacted within 24 hours of the incident. Parents, coaches, managers, umpires, community members or TBA Board members may submit incident reports. Incident reports may be found on line at www.tiffinbaseballassociation.org Any manager, coach or player ejected from a travel game must sit out the remainder of the ejected game and the next two (2) games regardless of tournament or host travel league rules. The next game will be considered, the most immediate scheduled for a tournament. The schedule may not be amended from point of ejection to next scheduled game. If the game is rained out, the manager, coach, or player will not be allowed to participate or attend a game until the two game suspensions has been served. Repeat offenses may result in removal of manager, coach, or player from the BSBC program. Incident reports, submitted to the VP of BSBC, will be forwarded to the Director of Compliance for an investigation of the incident. The Director of Compliance will, within 7 days, contact the person to whom the incident was brought for discipline. A complete copy of the investigation will be submitted to the person to whom the incident was brought, VP of BSBC, and TBA President. There will be no appeals. Insurance/Injury reports must also be submitted within 24 hours for any injury or unusual occurrence at any game or team event.

X. Teams

All age groups beginning with age 8 and going through age 14 are eligible to host travel teams. Each age group will have one team. In the 8U-14U age groups, a second team will be established if there are enough quality players to field a competitive team. A maximum of two (2) teams in the 8U-14U age groups will be allowed as determined by the VP of BSBC and the TBA. All BSBC travel teams have the obligation of using the Tiffin Big Sticks Baseball Club as the team name . If there is a second team in an age group, one team will be the Tiffin Big Sticks Gold Team and the second will be the Tiffin Big Sticks Blue Team .

XI. Travel Team Uniforms

Each player will be supplied a travel jersey, pants, and hat. It is the player's responsibility to keep his uniform

clean and in good condition. If a player loses or damages the uniform outside of game play, it will be his responsibility to replace the lost or damaged piece.

XII. Player Eligibility

Players may try out for the appropriate age team according to their age as of April 30th and/or 1 (one) age level up. This rule is intended for, but not limited to players who are 1 (one) grade level higher than their age. Players must meet all eligibility rules set forth by the TBA.

XIII. Player Try-Outs

Players of the BSBC, ages 8-14, **must** participate in one of the Tiffin baseball Recreation Little Leagues to be eligible for the BSBC program. Participation of players in the BSBC has no direct effect of qualification for the TBA post-season tournament rosters. Participants agree to display the highest standards of conduct at all times as a representative of the TBA. The opportunity offered to play in the BSBC must be one of privilege and honor. The manager will schedule a try-outs with notification published on the TBA website, at least 1 week to the try-out. These tryouts will be used as one piece of data to help in the completion of the roster. The objective of the tryout process is to offer a fair and equitable opportunity for each candidate to perform certain defined criteria for all tryout participants.

Each player may also be evaluated during winter and/or spring workouts by the BSBC travel managers and/or coaches for that season. This is also used as another piece of data, combined with the tryouts, to determine the finalized travel teams.

XIV. Team Rosters

Player selection is determined annually with no placement guaranteed for the future. In the event that less than 10 players on the roster are available, call up players from younger BSBC teams may be used. Team rosters are limited to players that are Tiffin residents or players attending a school in the City of Tiffin, or, the

Tiffin City School District. However, each team is allowed to supplement their roster with two (2) players outside of the stated boundaries once a roster of 10 has been attained.

At no time will a travel team be allowed to have more than two (2) Non-Tiffin residents or players not attending a school in the City of Tiffin or The Tiffin City School District on their master or team roster.

Non-Tiffin residents or player's non-attending a school in the City of Tiffin or The Tiffin City School District must be approved by the VP of BSBC and must pay the additional non-resident fee based upon the TBA's registration fee. NOTE: Every effort must be made to pick a team with all Tiffin players. Multiple teams may combine in order to compete in tournaments if approved in advance by the TBA.

XV. Tournaments/Games

The scheduling of tournaments/games will not conflict with any Tiffin Little League regular season games, post-season tournaments, or any other Tiffin Little League scheduled events.

XVI. Playing Time

The player playing time structure will remain consistent with the goal of player development. Players and coaches are expected to try to win each game, but the managers and/or coaches shall consider each child that is sitting in the dugout.

XVI. Protection of Pitchers Guidelines

Each Manager of the BSBC is required to communicate regularly with managers of each player's respective Little League team relative to pitch counts and other developmental progress, and vice versa. All non-tournament games should comply with the rules stated by Little League baseball and the TBA. During travel tournaments when games are played on two or three consecutive days, a weekend pitch limit will be used. Each pitcher should not exceed the daily limit but may disregard the rest requirement between days. The appropriate rest period for the total number of pitches over the course of the weekend should be applied following the last day of pitching.

Table 1

Maximum Pitches

Age Group Per Day Per Wknd

8U 50 100

9U 75 120

10U 75 120

11U 85 140

12U 85 140

13U 95 150

14U 95 150

If a pitcher reaches his or her maximum pitch count while facing a batter, the pitcher shall be permitted to pitch until that batter reaches base or is put out, but a manager or coach MUST consider the safety of the athlete. Each pitcher should maintain a logbook of pitches thrown or a TBA approved form in both Tiffin Little League and BSBC games. The logbook should be checked by the manager before each game and should be filled in and signed by the manager following each game in which the player pitches. Each BSBC manager must be able to submit to the VP of BSBC, the following data: Pitcher's Name, Total Pitches per day, Total Pitches per tournament. A BSBC manager may be placed on probation or be removed from his position if the following guidelines are not adhered to.