

4 Proposed PBSA By-law changes submitted by Shawn Lafferty 4/10/25:

1.

Fundraising Policy for Cooperstown Baseball Team

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines for fundraising efforts related to the Cooperstown baseball team, ensuring financial accountability and compliance with PBSA regulations.

Fundraising Limits:

- The **maximum fundraising amount** for the Cooperstown team is **\$22,000**, based on an estimated cost of **\$1,295 per player**.
- Any fundraising exceeding this amount is not permitted under PBSA guidelines.

Fundraising Timeline:

- Fundraising may begin on the date of team **tryouts** and must conclude by **March 1st of the following year**.
- Any fundraising efforts conducted **after March 1st** will be considered outside the scope of PBSA and will not be managed by PBSA.

Banking and Fund Management:

- PBSA will create a dedicated **bank account** specifically for Cooperstown team fundraising.
- The account will have the following authorized signers:
 - Director of Baseball
 - Treasurer
 - Head Coach
 - Team Treasurer
- **All funds** raised must be deposited into and withdrawn from this account.

Disposition of Funds:

- Any **leftover funds** at the conclusion of fundraising will be donated to PBSA.

- **Rollover fundraising** (e.g., Vertical Raise card sales) will remain in the **Cooperstown team account** for use by the following year's team.
- If the team **chooses not to go** to Cooperstown, the difference between the **\$1,295 per player** and the **entry fee** may be used to cover **room, board, and uniforms** for players and coaches.

Scope of PBSA Responsibility:

- PBSA is **not responsible** for any fundraising conducted by individuals **outside of the Cooperstown team** due to the **potential liability** and financial complexities involved.
- Any fundraising activities conducted after **March 1st** must be managed **independently** and are not affiliated with PBSA.

Compliance:

- Any violation of this policy may result in fundraising activities being restricted or financial disbursement being withheld.
- All participants must adhere to these guidelines to maintain transparency and accountability in the fundraising process.

This policy ensures responsible management of fundraising efforts while protecting the interests of PBSA and the Cooperstown baseball team. For any questions or clarifications, please contact the PBSA Board of Directors

2.

I am writing to propose an amendment to Article XI, Paragraph 2 of the PBSA Bylaws concerning the appointment of certain board positions.

Current Wording of Article XI, Paragraph 2:

"The following PBSA Board members shall be appointed by the Elected Board Members: Director of Baseball, Director of Fast Pitch Softball, Director of Slow Pitch Softball, Director of Facilities, Director of Operations, Director of Equipment, and Webmaster. The League Directors shall be appointed by the Director of Baseball or the Director(s) of Softball, as applicable, subject to approval by the Executive Board."

Proposed Amendment:

"The following PBSA Board members shall be appointed through a vote by the current Executive Board Members: Director of Baseball, Director of Fast Pitch Softball, Director of Slow Pitch Softball, Director of Facilities, Director of Operations, Director of Equipment, and Webmaster. The League Directors shall be appointed by the Director of Baseball or the Director(s) of Softball, as applicable, subject to approval by the Executive Board."

Rationale:

This amendment aims to enhance the democratic process within our organization by ensuring that all appointments to key board positions are subject to a vote by the current Executive Board Members. This change promotes transparency, collective decision-making, and aligns with best practices for governance in similar organizations.

I believe this amendment will strengthen our board's effectiveness and accountability. I respectfully request that this proposal be added to the agenda for discussion at the upcoming board meeting.

Thank you for considering this amendment. I look forward to our collective efforts to continually improve our organization's governance.

3.

I would like to formally propose an amendment to **Article XIV, Section 1(a)** of the PBSA Bylaws to include a **Beginner Rookie** division within our Baseball League structure.

As you know, we have already implemented the Beginner Rookie division in practice, and it has proven to be both successful and beneficial for player development. This division has helped bridge the gap between Tee Ball and Rookie (Coach Pitch), offering younger or less experienced players a more appropriate level of play.

Proposed Amendment to Article XIV, Section 1(a):

Add the following:

i-a. Beginner Rookie – League Age of 6-7 years old

Designed for players transitioning from Tee Ball who may not yet be ready for full Coach Pitch. This division introduces basic fundamentals in a slower-paced environment to build confidence and prepare players for the next level.

Rationale:

- Reflects our current structure and operations.
- Provides a smoother developmental path for younger players.
- Has been well-received by coaches, parents, and players.

By updating the bylaws to reflect what we're already successfully doing, we maintain clarity, consistency, and transparency in our league's structure.

4.

Proposed Addition to Article XIV, Section 1(a):

i-aaa. Instructional Tee Ball – League Age of 4 years old

This division is strictly instructional and non-competitive. It is designed to introduce our youngest players to the sport of baseball through fun, engaging activities that promote basic motor skills, coordination, teamwork, and familiarity with the game. The focus is entirely on development, with no scores kept and no formal games required.

Rationale:

- This age group has already shown strong interest and participation within our community.
- An instructional-only division at age 4 creates a positive entry point into the sport and helps set a strong foundation for future league involvement.
- Formalizing this in our bylaws brings consistency and clarity to our league structure.