

Lincoln Trail League Girls Softball Association

Amended 04/07/24

Constitution and By- Laws

Article I – Constitution

Section I – The name of this organization shall be “Lincoln Trail Junior League Softball Association” (LTJL)

Section II - The purpose of LTJL shall be to help increase interest in the girls’ softball programs in Lawrence, Clark, and Crawford Counties, or girls ages 10-13, and set standards by which LTJL shall operate. If a girl turns **14 years of age on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current calendar year (same year in which the season is being played) she will no longer be eligible to play in LTJL.**

Article II - LTJL Membership

Section I – General Membership as open to all interested parties in Crawford, Lawrence, and Clark Counties as outlined in Article I Section II.

Section II – Voting membership shall be one representative from each town participating in the LTJL. Each town will be entitled to one vote. A person may designate someone to vote in his/her absence, by written permission.

Section III – No person may cast more than one vote, for any reason.

Article III - Officers

(3) Officers, A President, Vice-President, and Secretary/ Treasurer Shall constitute the officers of the LTJL.

Article IV – Meetings

Meetings will be held at the call of the President. Date, time, and place will be made available to members from the previous year, by phone call, mailing, e-mail, or publication.

Article V – Amendments

This Constitution can be amended by 2/3 vote of those present and voting.

## BY – LAWS

### Article I – Membership Dues

There shall be no membership dues for individuals, but each team shall pay an Annual Membership Fee. This fee and a commitment to participate in the end-of-the -year tournament are due no later than June 1<sup>st</sup> along with Team Rosters with Birth Dates and should be given to the Vice President and / Secretary Treasurer. **Each Team shall pay an annual membership fee of \$125 and all teams participate whether there is a commitment to participate in tournament or not.**

### Article II – Officers

The Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer shall move into the positions of President and Vice-President respectively, immediately following their first term. Officers shall be designated by the rotation schedule as follows: Robinson, Hutsonville, Martinsville, Palestine, Lawrenceville, Bridgeport, Oblong, and Marshall.

### Article III – Official Team Rosters

Section I – Each Team shall provide the following information concerning each girl on the roster: Name- Permanent Mailing Address-Current School District-Date of Birth-School Grade of current Year-Age on September 1<sup>st</sup> of current year.

Section II – The rosters shall be submitted to the LTJL President no later than one week prior to the first game.

Section III – New members may be added to the roster. A League Officer must be contacted no later than 24 hours prior to game time for the team with the roster addition. Any violations will result in the offending team forfeiting games until the rule has been complied with.

### Article IV – Committees

Section I – Standing Committee shall consist of one for Protests and Appeals and one for Disciplinary Actions. Each Committee is appointed by the President on an “as needed” Basis.

Section II – All complaints must be given to the President in writing and must be signed by the person or persons submitting the complaint.

Section III – The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, but will have no vote unless there is a tie.

## Article V – Parliamentary Authority

All meetings of the LTJL shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order

## Article VI – Rules and Regulations of Play

1. The period from the first scheduled game through the last game prior to tournament play shall be designated as the official season.
2. All Division games and LTJL tournaments will abide by LTJL By-Laws. Non-Division games can be played under home field rules if mutually agreed upon by both coaches. If an agreement cannot be reached, LTJL rules will apply.
3. A girl is eligible to play LTJL within her current registered school district. Proof of registration may be requested by a league officer. If a school district doesn't have a LTJL team, a girl can play outside her current school district upon approval of the LTJL board.
4. A girl may play organized fast pitch softball outside of the league while on a LTJL team.
5. A team can only borrow enough players to field 10 players. A maximum of 3 players can be borrowed and must be from the 10-13-year-old age or lower league. The borrowed player or players must be placed in the outfield and bat at the end of the order. Borrowed players must wear her/their own uniform. A team will NOT bench one of their players to play a borrowed player unless substitution is due to injury
6. Nine player are required to field a team. If a team only has 9 players to field their team, they will NOT take an out for their 10<sup>th</sup> spot. However, if 10 players are written on official line-up card, then an out must be taken to the tenth spot.
7. No steel spikes are allowed on the playing field. This rule will include umpires.
8. One ASA umpire is required behind the plate in regular seasons games, if at all possible. At a minimum, ASA umpires are required during League Tournament games. Home team must supply umpires for regular season games. Managers should read and follow the rules concerning the use of umpires as spelled out in the ASA rue book. ASA rules are followed except for pitching rules in which IHSA rules are allowed. (only one foot is required to be touching the pitching plate)
9. An official score book will be kept at all regular season games. It is the responsibility of the home team to provide official score book and scorer.
10. The home team is not responsible for accidents.
11. A team will forfeit if they are 30 minutes late for starting time. During weekdays, suggested starting time for league games is 6:30PM and 8:00PM, or 30 minutes after the first game is over, unless the first game ends at 8:30 PM. Then the second game will start 10 minutes after the first game ends. If the first game is exceptionally short, time will be allotted for the visiting team to arrive. An hour and half time limit will apply to all games that are not tied
12. Games will consist of five innings, with the ten-run rule applying after 3 innings. If the game is tied after five innings, a sixth inning will be played. If the game is tied after 6 innings, the international tiebreaker rule will apply. (International Tie Breaker – Inning starts with one out and last batted out from previous inning on second base)

*\*In non-division games, if both teams agree, there will be a 5 run limit in each of the first 4 innings.*

13. Umpires will warn managers if a team demonstrates poor sportsmanship. If the manager cannot control the conduct of the team, the manager or team, or both, may be ejected from the game.
14. There will be NO profanity, alcohol, or smoking by managers or team members.
15. ASA rules will regulate any official softball equipment. This includes the use of face guards or batters' helmets. Chin Straps are optional.
16. All games which have a bearing on the league standings must be completed. In the event one team refuses to schedule a make-up game, which would influence league standings, the President shall set the time and place of such a game. In the event there is a rain out or make-up game not scheduled during regular season, the President may authorize playing of this game beyond the official closing day, if the game has a bearing on league standings.
17. The first place team in each of the League's subdivision will receive a first place trophy. The subdivisions will be drawn every other year, in off-numbered years.
18. In case of a tie for first in the league's subdivisions, a trophy will be awarded to all teams tied for first place.
19. The LTJL Tournament will be played at or near the end of the regular season. The Tournament will be double Elimination. This tournament will be under the direction of the committee appointed by the President. This tournament committee shall have complete responsibility for the conduct of the tournament. Entry fee for the tournament shall be 2 ASA softballs.
20. Tournament protests will be settled on the playing field at once during the tournament. Appeals may be made to the other umpires in the game. If deemed necessary, the home plate umpire will call a conference of all umpires. The result of this conference will be the final decision. There will be no protest allowed on a judgement call by an umpire, but the call may be appealed to another umpire in the game.

#### Tournament Rules

1. Regular Season Rules Apply
  2. Pairings will seeded based on regular season division play.
  3. Entry Fee will be 2 ASA softballs.
  4. Tournament will be double elimination.
  5. Game length will be 65 minutes. (Last Inning will be played out even if time is up.)
  6. Home team advantage will be determined by top seed or if seeds are similar, by a ball roll to the pitching mound. The winner's bracket will be home team in the championship game. In case of an **IF** game a ball roll to the pitching mound will determine home team.
  7. Winning team of each game report the scores of their games to a tournament committee member.
  8. Championship game has no time limit.
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21. Any violation of these Rules can result in a two-game suspension of a player, coach and/or team.
  22. Each town representative will provide each coach in their town a copy of the LTJL By-Laws.