

South Lake Youth Sports Inc. Bylaws

I. Name

- A. The league shall be known as "**South Lake Youth Sports Inc.**" hereinafter referred to as the "League". The League has been established as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Florida.

II. Purpose

- A. The purpose of the League shall be to organize and supervise the playing of youth sports under specialized rules and regulations, to secure suitable and adequate financial backing for these purposes, and to own, lease or otherwise obtain the use of suitable playing facilities and equipment for these purposes.

III. Membership

- A. Any parents or guardians of active players, active team or division sponsors, or active volunteer adult leaders shall be considered "general members" of the League. For purposes of this provision, "active" shall mean actual participation during the prior season, and in good standing with the league. Membership is restricted to those who are at least eighteen (18) years of age and excludes anyone who may have been specifically banned from the League by its Board of Directors.
- B. The League shall not discriminate based upon age, sex, gender, national origin, race or religion.

IV. Policies of League

A. Welfare of Young People

1. It shall be the policy of the League to conduct its activities so that the physical and moral welfare of the young people for whose benefit it is organized shall remain paramount and all matters of policy shall be determined on that basis.

B. Conflict of Interest

1. No person who is a member of or who is in any way connected with the League shall receive any personal financial benefit therefore beyond the reasonable value of services in carrying out the purpose for which the League has been organized. No board member shall be allowed to be paid for their services as a board member. Any Board member who sells a product to the league shall receive no compensation or realize any profit from the sale. The Board must approve all purchases over \$100.00 and anything purchased from a Board member.
2. Board members who own businesses may conduct business with the league provided that the Board members bid was the lowest and approved by the Board. For which normal business profits are allowed.

C. Sponsors and Advertising

1. In order to secure suitable and adequate financial backing to carry out the purpose of the League, it shall be the policy of the League to permit only such sponsorship as is consistent with the purpose for which the League is organized and to select sponsors who are interested in the League solely or principally as a means of contributing to the welfare of young people.

2. Sponsor names and products must be acceptable to the board.
3. It is the Board's requirement and purpose to represent the sponsor in a positive manner, and to advertise the sponsor's product favorably.

D. Coaches & Players

1. All League coaches and players shall promote and maintain good sportsmanship at all times, including at all League practices, games and any additional League functions. Coaches shall comply with the "**Coaches' and Parents' Code of Conduct**" and any additional League rules set down by the Board. Coaches shall treat all League officials and umpires with courtesy and respect. Players are expected to treat all coaches, League officials and umpires with courtesy and respect.
2. All coaches must be certified. The process of certification is to be determined by the board in conjunction with the rules of the sanctioning body.
3. All coaches and Board members must undergo a background check. The type of background check and depth will be determined by the Board and sanctioning body requirements as well as state requirements.
4. Any parent or other volunteer must also undergo a background check if they have contact with youth over 20 hours per calendar year.

E. Disciplinary Guidelines

1. Enforcement of playing rules at League games shall be the sole responsibility of the umpire(s) who has been assigned to the game. Enforcement of additional League conduct rules shall be the joint responsibility of the Division Coordinators, umpires assigned to that game, any Board members present at the game and any other League officials who have been given authority by the Board. For any incidents regarding a player, the Division Coordinator shall inform and consult with Player Agent.
2. Violations of conduct rules for coaches and players include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a) *Fighting;*
 - b) *Foul language;*
 - c) *Derogatory remarks made to umpires, coaches or League officials;*
 - d) *Improper decorum in the dugouts or on the fields;*
 - e) *Cheating or fraud of any kind;*
 - f) *Destruction of league or city property; or*
 - g) *Malicious conduct of any kind.*
3. Thus, if a coach, player, or fan is ejected from a game for any of the aforementioned violations, he/she must leave the playing field immediately and the park within 10 minutes of the ejection. (A coach or fan can only return to the park to pick up a player once the game is completed.) Failure to act accordingly will result in the forfeiture of the game and suspension from the League for the rest of the season. Additionally, the league may pursue criminal trespass charges if the police are required to remove someone from the park.

4. In addition to the ejection from the game, the coach, player and/or fan will receive the following suspension and penalties:
 - a) *1st offense: suspension for the next team game.*
 - b) *2nd offense: suspension for one calendar week and the suspension of one game of the child or the coach, parent, or guardian involved.*
 - c) *3rd offense: suspension for the remainder of the season.*
 - d) *4th offense: lifetime expulsion from the league.*
5. If the offense occurs in the last game of the season, the proscribed suspension will be effective for the following season or the next season that the violator participates.
6. These penalties are automatic and do not require a ruling by a league official or a vote by the Board. The coach, parent, or player may appeal to the League President. After investigating the facts and circumstances surrounding the misconduct, the League President may overrule the proscribed suspension or continue with the necessary penalty. The President's decision can then be appealed to the Board where a majority vote must be obtained in order to alter the ruling.
7. It shall further be the policy of the League to prohibit the use or consumption of alcoholic, tobacco or any prohibited substances during any League function including, without limitation, practices and games.

V. Board of Directors

- A. There shall be an annual membership meeting in May of each year, at a time and place determined by the Board of Directors; notice of such meeting shall be given a minimum of ten (10) calendar days.
- B. The Board of Directors may call special Board meetings at any time.
- C. Only those persons who are members of the Board and personally present at a Board meeting shall be eligible to vote at that meeting. There shall be no proxy voting. 100% of the Board must be present to vote in the election of Board members. There shall be 75% of the Board members in attendance for voting on any other issues with 51 % of the vote required to pass all issues.
- D. The President need not vote unless necessary to break a tie, except in annual Board member elections.
- E. A Board member must introduce any and all items for the Board meeting agenda.
- F. During the annual open board meeting, any topic which is to be considered for discussion by the board from the general membership must be submitted in writing 5 days in advance of the scheduled meeting. The board will decide whether to discuss the topic or table it for a future closed meeting.

- G. The Founding incorporator Randy Beeken shall be the president and CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of the league and the operating corporation he and all Executive Board members will remain lifetime members. This executive operating entity shall hereafter be called the "Executive Board". Once Randy Beeken vacates his position with the operating Board, he will still retain his ability to vote. The Executive Board members or Executive Board President individually, may dissolve the current operating Board; reverse any decision, mandate or change any rule, remove a board member or rewrite the bylaws, without any consent of the operating board. The Executive Board will be required to approve anything which will alter the original bylaws or change the purpose and direction of the organization. The Executive Board members may sit in on any or all operating Board meetings and vote and or introduce new agenda. Executive Board members may resign their positions only in writing and submitted to the remainder of the Executive Board. The Executive board President (founding incorporator) has absolute power with regards to the league and corporation for any and all business. The Executive board president shall appoint all executive board members and his replacement upon retirement.
- H. Operating Board members shall be elected by majority vote. The nomination process shall involve a nomination by the general membership of the organization. This nomination must be seconded by a current Board member. The positions available for voting are: President (once vacated by Randy Beeken), Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Player Agents (one per division), League Coordinators (one per division), Equipment Manager, Officiating Coordinator, and Concessions Director. Other than the initial "Operating Board", there will be no more than one member per household to hold a voting position. If more than one position is filled by 2 members of the same household, there will only be one vote allotted.
- I. The Board will select and approve all coaches by vote.
- J. The term for each Board member elected at the annual meeting is one (1) year. All members of the Board shall be eligible for reelection. The initial Board will serve for (2) years, for continuity during the startup process.
- K. The prior Board shall determine, immediately prior to the annual membership meeting, the total size of the Board for the following year, including new positions.
- L. The Board, in its discretion, may remove any Board member upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Board sitting at the time such issue is brought before the Board for vote. For purposes of removing a Board member, the quorum required to conduct such business shall be 75%.
- M. The Board may fill any vacancies on the Board at any regular Board meeting by a majority vote thereof.
- N. The Board shall meet at least monthly or as often as needed to handle League business. The time and place for such meetings shall be determined by the President and shall be made known to all members of the Board upon at least 1-days' notice, oral, telephonic, or written. Any general member may attend a closed Board meeting with board approval; however, membership participation shall be at the discretion of the Board. Furthermore, the Board may convene in executive session to discuss or resolve such matters which the Board, in its discretion, believes should be handled confidentially.

- O. The Board shall have full authority and discretion to make all policy, author rules, set budgets, and implement the on-going business of the League consistent with the bylaws. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Board shall have the power to:
1. Purchase or otherwise acquire for the League any property, right or privilege which the League is authorized to acquire, or is deemed necessary by the Board;
 2. Appoint, remove or suspend subordinate agents or volunteers and to determine their duties;
 3. Determine who shall be authorized on behalf of the League to sign bills, notices, receipts, acceptances, endorsements, checks, releases, contracts, and any other instruments. Without any further action by the Board, the President and Vice President are so authorized;
 4. Delegate any of the powers of the Board to any agent of the League with any powers as the Board may see fit to grant;
 5. Suspend, discharge, bar, or otherwise discipline any member, manager, coach, player, parent, league official, umpire or spectator as needed without refund of any fees. If their conduct is considered detrimental to the best interests of the League (see Disciplinary Guidelines below);
 6. Set registration fees and award scholarships;
 7. Generally do all such lawful acts and take actions as may be necessary and proper.

VI. Financial Policy

- A. The Board shall decide all matters pertaining to the finances of the League, bearing the responsibility to conduct the financial affairs of the League in a prudent business-like manner. The Board shall institute policy relative to the preparation and acceptance of an annual budget, periodic and annual presentation of financial reports, and an annual audit of the books of the League.
- B. No officer shall be permitted to expend, on any particular item or task, more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) without prior Board approval.

VII. Duties of Officers

The League shall have the following:

A. The President shall:

1. Preside at all meetings of the Board and the League;
2. Serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the League;
3. Represent the League at any meetings of other organizations; and
4. Perform such other duties as are normally associated with the Office of President.

B. The Vice President shall:

1. Perform such duties as may be assigned by the President;
2. Otherwise assist the President in the performance of his/her duties; and
3. Preside or represent the League at any meetings in the absence of the President.

C. The Secretary shall:

1. Have custody of the Articles, Bylaws, minutes and all other records of the League, except financial records;
2. Keep an accurate record of the meetings and other activities of the League and the Board;

3. Be responsible for all correspondence on behalf of the League;
4. Transmit all records and correspondence to any person elected to succeed him/her in that office; and
5. Be responsible for registering teams with the sanctioning body and any additional coordination with the sanctioning body in conjunction with the division coordinators.

D. The Treasurer shall:

1. Receive and disburse all funds with the approval of the Board;
2. Keep an accurate account of all funds received and disbursed for the League;
3. Submit a financial report at all regular meetings and at such other times as may be requested by the President;
4. Compile an annual report of League finances; and
5. Transmit all records and correspondence to any person elected to succeed him/her in that office.

E. The Player Agent shall:

1. Supervise the annual registration of all players, tryout sessions and distribution of players among League teams;
2. Assist the Division Coordinators with the drafting and assigning of players;
3. Represent any players and/or parents in disputes with coaches or other League officials;
4. Be accessible to players and parents to answer questions and provide information;
5. Be empowered to suspend any player, coach or parent for one (1) game for conduct considered by the coordinator to be detrimental to the League and recommend further disciplinary action to the Board if considered necessary (see Disciplinary Guidelines below); and
6. Determine All-Star player eligibility, coordinate this list with the division coordinator and the sanctioning body.

F. Division Coordinators shall:

1. Determine the number of teams for their division;
2. Assign players not present at the draft to a team by random draw;
3. Assist the Player Agent in planning and holding tryout sessions;
4. Conduct the draft of players;
5. Hold meetings with coaches at appropriate times before and during the season;
6. Distribute the following items to coaches at appropriate times: equipment, rosters, rule books, season schedules, pictures, trophies, and any forms or flyers as directed by the Board;
7. Monitor games during the season, keep a league scorebook for each game played during the regular season; and
8. Be empowered to suspend any player, coach or parent for one (1) game for conduct considered by the coordinator to be detrimental to the League and recommend further disciplinary action to the Board if considered necessary (see Disciplinary Guidelines below).

G. The Officiating Coordinator shall:

1. Obtain suitable umpires for the League as directed by the Board;
2. Schedule and hold training sessions for the umpires;
3. Assign umpires for all League games;
4. Arrange for paychecks to the umpires; and
5. Consider all complaints relative to umpires and make suitable recommendations to the Board.

H. The Equipment Coordinator shall:

1. Empty and clean all equipment bags, and take an inventory of the equipment during the off-season;
2. Obtain any required new equipment as directed by the Board;
3. Provide equipment as required for the player tryout sessions;
4. Fill and distribute equipment bags for each division to the coaches;
5. Distribute balls as required for all League games to the division coordinators; and
6. Collect all equipment from coaches at the end of the season.

VIII. Fiscal Year

- A. The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be fixed by the Board of Directors from time to time, subject to applicable law. The initial fiscal year shall end on December 31st.

IX. Amendments

- A. These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Board members at the annual meeting, with the approval of the Executive Board.

X. Indemnity

- A. Any person made a party to any action, suit, or proceeding, by reason of the fact that he, his testator or intestate representative is or was a Director, Governing Board member, officer, or employee of the Corporation, or of any corporation in which he served as such at the request of the Corporation, shall be indemnified by the Corporation against reasonable expenses, including such attorney's fees actually and necessarily incurred by him in connection with the defense of such action, suit, or proceeding, or in connection with any appeal therein, except in relation to matters as to which it shall be adjudged in such action, suit, or proceeding, or in connection with any appeal therein that such officer, Director, Governing Board member or employee is liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of his duties.
- B. The foregoing right of indemnification shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which any officer, Director, Governing Board member, or employee may be entitled apart from the very provisions of this section.
- C. The amount of indemnity to which any officer, Director, or Governing Board member may be entitled shall be fixed by the Board of Directors, except that in any case where there is no such disinterested majority of the Board available, the amount shall be fixed by arbitration pursuant to the then existing rules of the America Arbitration Association.

XI. Discrimination Not Permitted

- A. In rendering its functions and in exercising its purposes, the corporation shall not practice or permit discrimination on the basis of sex, age, race, national origin, religion, physical handicap, or disability.

XII. The Code of Conduct

Coaches

- A. Coaches shall remain unconditionally supportive of the Organization's commitment to the ideals of good sportsmanship, team play, honesty, loyalty, courage, and respect for authority. Likewise, coaches shall remain sensitive to the physical and emotional well-being of the players on his/her team. In order to adhere to these doctrines, the coaches agree as follows:
1. Coaches will be positive role models.
 2. Coaches will display and instill in their players the principles of good sportsmanship and team play.
 3. Coaches will conduct themselves in a manner that best serves the interests of the players.
 4. Coaches will do their best to provide the players with a positive experience.
 5. Coaches will ensure that winning and/or losing teams do so in a manner which exhibits respect and good sportsmanship.
 6. Coaches will treat all players, parents, spectators, and League officials with respect.
 7. Coaches will provide instruction in a manner that is constructive and supportive.
 8. Coaches will not ridicule or demean players, umpires or league officials.
 9. Coaches will not tolerate behavior that endangers the health or well-being of a child.
 10. Coaches will comply with the decisions of league officials and observe all rules, policy and procedure as established or endorsed by the league.
 11. Coaches will teach the game of baseball to the best of their ability.
 12. Coaches will be drug and alcohol free while at any league event.
 13. Coaches will not use any tobacco products in any field areas, including parking lots.
- B. Coaches acknowledge the need to demonstrate fundamental proficiencies with respect to the game of baseball and first aid. Consequently, all coaches agree to attend any skill sessions that may be required by the Board of Directors and moreover, any first aid courses that may be mandated by the Board.

Parents, Spectators and Volunteers

- A. The Parent and Spectator shall support the players, coaches, umpires and league officials. Parents and Spectators shall not "coach" or "officiate". Parents and Spectators agree as follows:
1. Parents and Spectators will be positive role models.
 2. Parents and Spectators will display and instill in all players the principles of good sportsmanship and team play.
 3. Parents and Spectators will conduct themselves in a manner that best serves the interests of the players.

4. Parents and Spectators will do their best to provide the players a positive experience.
5. Parents will make certain that their children show respect for all other players, coaches, officials, and spectators.
6. Parents and Spectators agree not to ridicule or demean players, coaches, umpires, or league officials in any public forum.
7. Parents agree to inform the coach of any disability or ailment that may affect the safety of their child.
8. Parents and Spectators agree to treat all players, coaches and umpires fairly and with respect.
9. Parents and Spectators will comply with the decisions of league officials.
10. Parents will support the rules, regulations and bylaws as established or endorsed by the league.
11. Parents and Spectators will not question an umpire's call.
12. Parents and Spectators will respect the opponent and avoid any confrontation with opposing players, spectators, or coaches.
13. Parents and Spectators will be drug and alcohol free while at any league event.
14. Parents and Spectators will remember that the game is for the youth, not adults.
15. Parents and Spectators will do their best to make youth sports fun for the children.
16. Parents promise to make a commitment to volunteer and assist the league when asked, making time whenever possible.

Players

- A. Players shall...
 1. Display good sportsmanship and team play at all times.
 2. Follow the direction of the Coaching Staff.
 3. Respect all coaches, players, league officials, umpires, and spectators.
 4. Make every attempt to be on time and ready to play for all games and practices.
- B. Players shall not...
 1. Use abusive or profane language.
 2. Taunt or humiliate any other player.
 3. Question an umpire's call.
 4. Abuse, mistreat or mishandle any league equipment or property (e.g. throwing batting helmets).

XIII. Consequences

- A. All members of the Organization are subject to consequences which may lead to discipline or possible termination of membership as determined necessary by the league Board of Directors due to failure to comply with the Code of Conduct. All members agree to abide by these rules as part of their registration in the program. It is the responsibility of all members to be familiar with the guidelines set forth in this Code of Conduct.