

VIRGINIA DISTRICT 7
LITTLE LEAGUE UMPIRE
ASSOCIATION



By – Laws
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President

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ARTICLE I – PURPOSE

- A. The Association shall be known as the Virginia District 7 Little League Umpire Association.
- B. The purpose and function of the Association shall be to provide the highest quality officials to support District 7 Little League games and staff tournaments.
- C. To do this, the Association shall provide training opportunities in the knowledge of rules, game mechanics and on the field decorum. The Association also defines a standard of dress and recommends members to exemplify the highest standards of character, sportsmanship, while fostering the spirit of the volunteer umpire.

ARTICLE II – EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Elected Positions)

- A. The following positions will be members of the Executive Board and will hold office for a term of two year terms. The position descriptions for those positions will consist of the following:
 - 1. President – Responsible for the selection of meeting dates and agendas, conducting general meetings, representing the Association at District 7 events, and enforcing the By-Laws. Will make recommendations for disciplinary action to the Executive Board of any member in violation of the Association By-Laws. Will work with the Umpire Consultant and District Administrator as required.
 - 2. Vice-President – Shall act in the place of the President whenever the President is unable, due to absence or disability, and may preside in meetings when the President wishes to take part in discussion. The Vice-President may be assigned special responsibilities by the President.
 - 3. Secretary – Responsible for conveying information to the membership. Responsible for recording and maintaining the minutes of association meetings, correspondence on behalf of the Association and any other duties as assigned by the President.
 - 4. Treasurer – Responsible for conveying financial information to the membership. Responsible for payment of approved bills, receiving and accounting for disbursement of Association funds and other duties as assigned by the President.

5. Training Coordinator – Is responsible for organizing all Association training (working with the Umpire Consultant). Will appoint Deputy Training Coordinator(s) as required. Deputy Training Coordinators will work with the Training Coordinator and Umpire Consultant as required and will act in the place of the Training Coordinator when required.
6. Members-At-Large (4 Positions) – Responsible for duties as assigned by the President.

B. Other members of the Executive Board

1. Umpire Consultant – This position is appointed by the District 7 Administrator and advises the District Administrator as required. Is responsible for ordering necessary educational material (rule books, etc.) as required.
2. Past President – This position is automatically extended to the immediate Past President of the Association. He/she shall serve as an advisor / consultant, providing continuity to the new board. The Past President may be assigned special responsibilities by the President.
3. District Administrator – Appointed by the League Presidents (3 year term).
4. The above positions are voting members of the Executive Board as long as they are members of the Association.

C. Executive Board Responsibilities

1. Shall have the obligation and responsibility for assuring that all obligations mandated by the Association are fulfilled.
2. Board members shall become familiar with the documents of the Association and keep themselves informed with issues in which the Association is involved.
3. Prepare and recommend action on complaints of the conduct of any Association member that may cause negative reflection upon themselves and the Association. Report findings and recommend action to be taken to the general membership. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the eligible members voting at a general membership meeting shall be required to sustain any recommended disciplinary action.

4. As a minimum, there shall be two (2) Executive Board meetings per calendar year; one in the spring and one in the fall.
 5. The Board shall take appropriate action if a position becomes vacant before expiration of the term. The vacant position shall be filled only for the remainder of the term of the person who held the position when it became vacant.
- D. The Association officers shall be divided into two groups. Group A officers shall include the President, Treasurer and two (2) Members At-Large. Group B officers shall include the Vice-President, Secretary, Training Coordinator and the other (2) Members At-Large. The Group A officers shall be elected to a two year term of office beginning on October 1 of even numbered years and the Group B officers shall be elected to a two year term of office beginning on October 1 of odd number years. Officers will be elected by a majority vote of the active members present at the fall meeting. Deputy Training Coordinators may be selected by the Training Coordinator with the approval of the Executive Board.
- E. Only members in good standing with the Association may vote. A member in good standing is defined as a person whose dues are paid up to date or paid no later than December 31st of each year. No proxy votes may be cast.
- F. The President of the Association shall only vote in matters of the Association that result in a tie vote with the exception of closed ballot elections.
- G. At least a two (2) week written or electronic notice shall be given prior to all general membership meetings.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

- A. Prerequisite for membership into the Association shall consist of the desire to enhance the game of Little League Baseball and Softball.
- B. There are four types of membership:
1. Active – Those members who keep their dues current and thereby are entitled to all rights and privileges of the Association. Active members should be umpiring in their local leagues during the regular season and district tournaments.
 2. Inactive - Those members who do not keep their dues current. Dues should be paid by 31 December of each year to remain

current. Inactive Members will not receive Association mailing and may not vote on Association matters.

3. Youth – those who are less than eighteen years of age.
 4. Life – Active members may be nominated for Life Membership by any other active member of the association. Nominations for Life Members should be made in writing using the form provided in attachment 3 to the President at least two months before the fall membership meeting. The criteria for nomination shall be determined by the member(s) making the nomination, but should be based on the candidate's contributions to the Association. To become a Life Member, the association must have 2/3rd approval of the members attending. No more than three Life memberships may be granted in any calendar year. Life members are entitled to all rights and privileges of the Association and are exempt from paying dues.
- C. Member rights and privileges include voting in elections and holding an office. Youth members may attend meetings but do not have voting rights until they become an Active member.
- D. Annual dues of \$15.00, as assessed by the association, will run from January – December annually.
- E. For new members, an initiation fee of \$5.00 will be assessed along with the annual membership of \$15.00 when joining the association. The new member will receive one (1) Association Patch. Any additional patches can be purchased by the member.
- F. As a minimum, there will be (1) General Membership meeting per year to be used as a clinic, membership meeting or combination. Membership meetings shall be conducted in accordance with "Roberts Rules of Order".

ARTICLE IV – BY-LAW CHANGES

- A. Any changes to these By-Laws shall be accomplished as follows:
1. Proposed changes shall be mailed or emailed to the membership a minimum of ten (10) days prior to an Association meeting.
 2. To adopt changes, a two-thirds (2/3) vote is required by those active members present.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

- A. The District 7 Uniform Code is required during District 7 tournament games and is encouraged during regular season and fall ball games. The uniform code is located in Attachment 1 of this document.
- B. Tournament selection procedures for umpiring at the Virginia State, Southern Region, and World Series levels are located in Attachment 2 of this document.
- C. Little League rule exams will be offered so members can test their personal knowledge of Little League Baseball and Softball rules.
- D. All members should attend District 7 Safety training at least once every two years.
- E. After coordination with the District 7 Umpire Consultant, the President of the District 7 Umpires Association will appoint Crew Chiefs for each year's District 7 tournaments.
 - 1. The primary crew chief for each location will be responsible for assigning umpires for their tournament games.
 - 2. The crew chief will assign umpires based on a number of factors, which include but are not limited to tenure, experience, ability, availability and impartiality.
 - 3. The Umpire Consultant will make championship game assignments for all district tournaments unless delegated to the specific crew chief.

ARTICLE VI – OTHER AREAS AS REQUIRED

- A. All members are responsible for abiding by all By-Laws.
- B. The Executive Board has the responsibility for the implementation of any area not specified within these By-Laws.
- C. The President shall be permitted to appoint any committee needed to effectively operate the Association.

ATTACHMENT 1

DISTRICT 7 UMPIRE'S ASSOCIATION DRESS CODE

- A. Appearance is an important facet for all umpires. The old adage “if you look like an Umpire you will be treated like an Umpire” is very true. As a member of the Association you are required to adhere to the following dress code:

SHIRT – Navy Blue pullover with red and white trim on collar and sleeves or light blue pullover with red and white trim or blue and white trim on collar and sleeves. Navy blue or light blue World Series, Southern Region or State Tournament shirts may also be worn. Other colors of World Series, Southern Region or State Tournament shirts may be worn when working home plate. The District Administrator, President or Umpire Consultant may approve alternate shirt colors on a case basis. In all cases the base umpires must wear matching shirt colors.

PANTS – Heather Grey

UNDER SHIRT – Fire Engine Red when wearing the Navy Blue pullover and Navy Blue when wearing the Powder Blue pullover.

HAT – Navy or Black

SOCKS – Black

BELT – Black

SHOES – Black

BALL BAG – Black or Grey

- B. When umpiring the plate, your gear (shin guards and chest protector) is to be worn under your clothing.
- C. All uniform pieces and equipment should be neat and cleaned before each game.
- D. Only approved Little League patches shall be worn. The following patches are the only patches allowed:

LITTLE LEAGUE UMPIRE PATCH – Located on the left sleeve.

DISTRICT 7 UMPIRE PATCH – Located on the right sleeve.

VIRGINIA STATE UMPIRES ASSOCIATION PATCH – Located on the right breast of the shirt.

SOUTHERN REGION ROCKER – Located on the left sleeve above the Little League Patch.

WORLD SERIES PATCH – Located on the left breast.

AMERICAN FLAG – Located on the right sleeve above the District patch.

NOTE – Other patches may be allowed for certain occasions (i.e. Home Town Hero Patch). Those patches will be allowed on a case by case basis.

ATTACHMENT 2

TOURNAMENT SELECTION PROCEDURES

- A. All members of the District Seven Umpires Association are eligible to participate in district tournaments. Umpires who are not members of the association may also participate in district tournaments; but must have approval from the President, Umpire Consultant or District Administrator.
- B. Each member interested in umpiring district tournaments will be requested to select a specific division (i.e. Major Baseball, Junior Baseball, Softball). Placement will be governed by umpire availability, experience and proficiency. All steps will be taken to place the umpire in the division of their choice. It should be noted that umpires might be moved to other divisions to alleviate shortages, which may arise during the tournaments. The Umpire Consultant will perform such moves typically after consulting with the appropriate crew chief.
- C. Each umpire will be placed on a crew for a specific division. Once on a crew, the umpire's first responsibility is to support that crew. However, if available, and both crew chiefs agree, an umpire can umpire in other divisions.
- D. Each year, the Association will seek applicants for umpiring baseball and softball tournaments at the Virginia State level. Only members of the District 7 Umpire's Association can apply for state tournaments. The following criteria will be used to nominate members for state tournament games:
 - 1. Members must be in good standing with the association and actively participating in their local little league and District 7 Umpire Association.
 - 2. Members must have umpired in Little League (as a volunteer) for a minimum of 2 years and umpired in at least two District 7 tournaments (different years) at the level requested.
 - 3. Must receive a favorable on the field evaluation by an evaluator umpire appointed by the President of the District 7 Umpire's Association or the District 7 Umpire Consultant. The evaluation must be accomplished during the regular season prior to the state tournament request.
- E. Members meeting the criteria established in "D" above will have their names forwarded to the District 7 Administrator for final approval. The District 7 Administrator will then forward the names of those umpires selected to the Virginia State Umpire consultant.

- F. Once the umpire has completed his/her first state tournament game, that umpire is eligible to join the Virginia State Tournament Umpire Association. Each year, the State Umpire Consultant will send a form to each state member in good standing with a list of all state tournaments, locations and dates. The umpire, if not selected at the District level, can apply for consideration to a specific tournament on that form. The District 7 Administrator must sign this form with a copy provided to the District 7 Umpire Consultant.

- G. For the 9 & 10 year old divisions (baseball and softball), the host district typically supplies all umpires for the tournament. The minimum prerequisites outlined above also apply for these two state tournaments. Participation in a 9 & 10 year old state tournament also satisfies the eligibility of the umpire to join the Virginia State Tournament Umpire Association.

- H. Active members of the District 7 Umpires Association can apply for Southern Region or World Series Tournament consideration. Members must follow those application procedures as outlined at the Little League Southern Region website.

**ATTACHMENT 4
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP APPOINTEES**

- December 2, 2008 – Buddy Nagele