



Greater Niagara Baseball Association

By-Laws

Updated 2024



1. BY-LAW CREATION

The By-Laws of the organization can be amended, enacted, or suspended by a 2/3rd majority vote at any regularly scheduled meeting, special meeting, or annual meeting of the GNBA.

2. LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

- a. The GNBA shall be the primary unit of the organization.
- b. The GNBA shall apply to enter travel teams into the Niagara District Baseball Association at any age classification as determined by the Board.
- c. The GNBA shall establish and manage house league teams at any age classification as determined by the Board.

3. DIVISIONS OF PLAY

- a. 4U/5U
- b. 6U/7U
- c. 8U/9U
- d. 10U/11U
- e. 12U/13U
- f. 14U/15U
- g. 16U/17U/18U
- h. 19U/20U/21U

A player must play in their age classification. Any exceptions must be received and accepted by the GNBA Board at a regularly scheduled or special meeting. All requests must be submitted in writing to the Secretary.

4. MEETINGS

- a. Regular Meeting
 - i. At all regular GNBA and Board of Director Meetings, each elected and appointed Board member along with the Past President and all Life Members shall be entitled to one (1) vote on any item.
 - ii. General Business Meetings shall be held according to a schedule determined by the President and Secretary at the Sadler-Conte Fieldhouse (5610 Arthur Street

Niagara Falls ON, L2E 3C1). Meetings during the playing season of May – September will generally be held once per month. Meetings outside of the playing season will generally be held twice per month.

iii. The order of business shall be:

1. Reading of the Prior Meeting Minutes
2. Presentation of Treasurers Report
3. Reading and Consideration of communications and notices
4. Old Business items
5. Reports of Convenors, Directors at Large
6. New Business items
7. Consideration of By Laws, Policies and Amendments thereof
8. Good and Welfare of the Association

b. Annual Members Meeting:

i. The Annual Members Meeting shall be held annually in October.

ii. The order of business shall be:

1. Presidents Address
2. Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws
3. Treasurers Report
4. Election of Board of Directors
5. Social Evening

5. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

All GNBA players engaged in travel team competition in the Niagara District Baseball Association must complete a player registration form on or before the date requested by the NDBA. Any player, without Board approval, found guilty of playing in a league for which they are ineligible shall be suspended for a period not to exceed 12 (twelve) months from the date of the charge being laid. Any team found guilty of knowingly using a player over the legal age or not registered with the GNBA shall forfeit all games in which the player participated. The convenor is considered responsible for the eligibility of their age group.

6. PROTESTS

All protests pertaining to games played in the GNBA must be submitted in writing within 24 (twenty-four) hours after the completion of the disputed game. A copy of the protest must be submitted to the Vice-President. The Vice-President shall then call a meeting, comprising the 6U/7U League Conenor, the 10U/11U League Conenor and the Interlock League Conenor, chaired by the Vice-President of the GNBA, at the earliest possible time. Any decisions of the committee are final. Any protest based on an umpire's judgement will not be allowed.

7. SPECIAL GAMES

Permission must be obtained from the House League Convenor for all games other than official GNBA games. Special games for travel teams, other than GNBA or NDBA sanctioned, must be approved by the GNBA Board and the NDBA.

8. PLAYER TRANSACTIONS

All players moving to a lower or higher age category must have the approval of the GNBA Board. Player trades within a House League division must be approved by the respective house league convenor.

9. COACHES/MANAGERS AND SONS/DAUGHTERS

One manager and two coaches only may wish to designate players who are son/daughter, to a maximum of three players per team. All requests for designation to a house league team must be approved by the respective house league convenor.

10. ADMISSIONS

No admission shall be charged for any games or activities unless written permission is obtained from the GNBA Board. Voluntary contributions are permitted.

11. FUNDRAISING

Teams under the jurisdiction of the GNBA shall not raise funds through any form of public subscription or without the permission of the GNBA Board. No team shall solicit any financial support from the GNBA Ladies Auxiliary without concurrence from the GNBA Board.

12. PLAYER RELEASES

Players requesting a release from the GNBA must submit in writing a letter to the Secretary. The party requesting the release will be invited to the next GNBA executive meeting to present their case and the decision of the GNBA Board will be final.

13. OUT OF TOWN PLAYERS

- a. Any out-of-town player(s) wishing to try out for a travel team must be registered with the GNBA. The player(s) name(s) may be brought to the GNBA executive for discussion regarding the number of players trying out for each group. The Board reserves the right to review, on an individual team basis, whether to allow any out-of-town players on the GNBA team.
- b. An out-of-town player coming from an organization that does not field a travel team for their age division is eligible to play on G.N.B.A. travel team for their age division.

- c. In all cases, the out-of-town player eligibility must be accordance with the OBA and NDBA rules and by-laws.

14. DISCIPLINE (CONDUCT & EJECTIONS)

- a. Any Player, Team Manager or Coach, or any other personnel guilty of misconduct may be suspended by the Board of Directors.
- b. Any Player, Team Manager, Coach or Umpire attending any GNBA, NDBA, or OBA game in any series shall conduct himself/herself in a sportsmanlike manner at all times, failing which any individual(s) may be subject to a disciplinary hearing for any conduct the series convenor deems serious.
- c. If any Player(s), Team Manager, Coach or Team Official of a playing team is ejected from a ball game, for any reason of misconduct, they are automatically suspended for the following regular, tournament or playoff game and cannot participate for any other team while under suspension.
- d. If for any reason of misconduct, a Player, Manager, Coach or any Official is ejected from a ball game twice (2) in the season, they is automatically suspended for a period of two (2) games, following their team's next regular scheduled game, tournament or playoff game and is not to attend any games played by their team during such suspension and cannot participate for any other team during such suspension.
- e. If a Player, Manager, Coach or Official of a Playing Team is ejected more than twice (2) in the same baseball season, they will be automatically suspended indefinitely subject to a hearing of the Discipline Committee and could be liable to a suspension for up to one year or expulsion from the GNBA.
- f. The Discipline Committee shall be responsible for hearing any Discipline Matters. The President shall preside over any hearing in the event a member of the Discipline Committee is unable to attend a hearing or declares a conflict of interest, the member shall notify the President and the President may request any other member of the Board of Directors to attend such hearing.
- g. Any Player, Manager, Coach or Team Official ejected anytime for an offence that the Series Convenor deems serious enough by virtue of an Umpires Report, may be subject to further suspension. The Convenor shall notify the President of the offence and the President may immediately impose an indefinite suspension and shall refer the matter to the Discipline Committee for a hearing to be held within seven (7) days.
- h. Any suspended person may only appeal any disciplinary decision of the Discipline Committee by giving written notice to the Secretary of the GNBA within seven (7) days notification of the decision of the Discipline Committee. The Board shall hear the appeal at a special meeting called by the President within seven (7) days of receipt of the notice of appeal. Any notice of appeal must be accompanied by a deposit fee of \$50.00 cash, cheque or money order. The deposit will be refunded only if the Player, Coach, Manager or Team Official is re-instated immediately.

- i. For House League and Travel Playoffs, a Player, Manager, Coach or Team Official ejected a third (3) time in the Play-offs, will be suspended indefinitely pending a hearing of the Discipline Committee. Any hearing will be held within seven (7) days.
- j. If any Player, Manager, Team Official is under suspension at the time of the OBA Playoffs, the suspension will continue into the playoffs unless otherwise approved by the GNBA Board of Directors.

15. ROLES OF DIRECTORS/OFFICERS

a. **President**

Will be the chair of the Board, will preside at the Annual and Special Meetings of the GNBA and at meetings of the Board unless otherwise designated, will be the official spokesperson of the GNBA, and will perform such other duties as may from time to time be established by the Board. They may call a special meeting of the GNBA or Board of Directors by giving forty-eight (48) hours' notice. The President shall be the primary liaison to all outside organizations unless appointed to another Board member. The President shall generally superintend the business of the GNBA.

b. **Vice President**

Will perform duties of the President in the Presidents' absence. Shall be the Over-All Series Convenor in all travel divisions run by the GNBA and shall chair the Discipline Committee on all matters pertaining to those divisions.

c. **Secretary**

Shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the GNBA, and Board of Directors, and notify each Board member of the time and place of each meeting, and also conduct all correspondence of the GNBA.

d. **Treasurer**

Shall keep an accurate record of all monies received and disbursed by the GNBA. All disbursements shall be made by cheque and shall require the signature of the Treasurer and President or the Vice President in their absence. Shall liaise and coordinate with the Auditor during any audit or review engagement.

e. **Convenors**

- i. The convenors shall be responsible for managing the day-to-day operation and reporting of their assigned division.
- ii. The following specific items must be actioned by a convenor every year:
 1. Select the players for each team.
 2. Decide on the number of teams for each year.
 3. Schedule games for the regular season and playoff structure.
 4. Produce schedule and distribute to coaches prior to the first game of the season.
 5. Ensure coaches have adequate supplies and equipment (baseballs, bats, catcher's gloves, ect.)

6. Assist in the coordination of Championship Day.
- iii. If a convenor's assigned division participates in the Niagara Interlock Baseball League, the following specific items must be actioned every year:
 1. Liaise with the Niagara Interlock Baseball League on matters specific to the convenor's assigned division and general league items. Report these matters to the Board during regular business meetings.
 2. Receive schedules from the Niagara Interlock Baseball League and distribute to coaches prior to the first game of the season.
 3. Assist in the coordination of the Niagara Interlock Baseball playoffs.
 4. Perform other tasks/duties as requested by the Niagara Interlock Baseball League to support and ensure continued success of the league.
- f. **Sponsorship**
- i. Shall be responsible for all fundraising activities of the GNBA through the solicitation of sponsorships.
 - ii. Shall have the authority to negotiate contracts/agreements on behalf of the GNBA for the purpose of soliciting sponsorships from individuals/businesses.
 - iii. Shall maintain a record of all sponsorships and monies received and allocate sponsors to travel teams, house league teams, and divisions.
- g. **Umpire in Chief**
- i. Shall schedule all umpires for all travel team games, house league games and GNBA hosted tournaments.
 - ii. Shall be responsible for all umpires and umpiring equipment in the Association.
 - iii. Shall maintain a list of Umpires for assignment to games, establish a fee schedule for each year, subject to approval of the Executive and Directors and authorize payment of Umpires.
- h. **Registrar / Website Technology Admin.**
- i. Shall register all players of all teams under the jurisdiction of the GNBA and collect registration fees from all players registered in the GNBA.
 - ii. Shall establish, with approval of the GNBA Board, a registration fee structure, registration dates and time(s) of registration.
 - iii. Shall be responsible for the GNBA's website and related technology along with the online registration platform.
- i. **House League Convenor**
- Shall be the Over-All Series Convenor for all house league divisions run by the GNBA. Shall liaise and coordinate with the Vice President on all disciplinary matters pertaining to the house league divisions.

j. Tournament Convenor

- i. Shall register tournaments with Baseball Ontario during the regular season for divisions and allocated dates approved by the Board.
- ii. Shall register provincial divisional playoff tournaments with Baseball Ontario with approval of the Board.
- iii. Shall be the point of contact and liaison with coaches and other representatives for prospective teams entering GNBA tournaments.
- iv. Shall set the registration fee(s) for GNBA tournaments with approval from the Board.
- v. Shall register and collect monies from prospective teams entering GNBA tournaments. Monies received will be forwarded to the Treasurer.
- vi. Shall be the lead/site convenor at all GNBA tournaments. Some duties/tasks during GNBA tournaments may be delegated to assistants/volunteers at the discretion of the Tournament Convenor.
- vii. Shall complete all required reports for GNBA tournaments and submit same to Baseball Ontario.

k. Police Vulnerable Sector Check (PVSC) Delegate

- i. Shall be responsible for upholding the GNBA's compliance with Baseball Ontario's Volunteer Screen Policy.
- ii. Shall ensure all members of the GNBA have completed their police check (Criminal Record or Vulnerable Sector if applicable) at the required intervals along with other supporting documentation as required. Shall request and receive information from members for compliance purposes.
- iii. Shall keep an accurate record of all members of the GNBA that Baseball Ontario's Volunteer Screening Policy applies to and their compliance with said policy.
- iv. Shall uphold the privacy and confidentiality of the information received and documents produced as part of this position in accordance with Baseball Ontario's Volunteer Screening Policy.
- v. Shall report to the President all members of the GNBA not in compliance with Baseball Ontario's Volunteer Screen Policy.

l. Past President

- i. Only the individual who preceded the current elected President of the GNBA is eligible for this position. That individual may accept or decline nomination.
- ii. Shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Board and ensure that the Constitution, Objective, and Purpose of the GNBA are upheld and enforced.

m. Director at Large

- i. Shall perform any duties as requested by the President of Board to support the operational success of the GNBA. (Assist convenors, tournaments, registration ect.)

16. COMMITTEES

a. Officer's Committee

- i. Shall consist of the President (chair), Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.
- ii. Shall manage the day-to-day operations of the GNBA between regularly scheduled meetings.
- iii. Shall be authorized to negotiate contracts and agreements on behalf of the GNBA as part of its operational activities. This includes but is not limited to:
 1. Purchasing uniforms.
 2. Purchasing equipment.
 3. Setting registration dates in conjunction with the Registrar.
 4. Setting tournament dates in conjunction with the Tournament Convenor.
 5. Recruiting volunteers to oversee the GNBA's Bingo sessions.
 6. Park scheduling and allocations.
 7. Meetings with the City of Niagara Falls.
 8. Overseeing capital projects approved by the Board.
 9. Planning and organizing Championship Day.
 10. Purchasing awards.
- iv. Shall be authorized to pay accounts not more than \$1,000.00 in between regularly scheduled meetings without the prior approval of the Board. Accounts of \$1,000.00 or more shall require the prior approval of the Board or be brought to a regularly scheduled meeting.
- v. May hold meetings at the discretion of the President.

b. Discipline Committee

- i. The Vice President shall chair this committee.
- ii. Between three (3) and five (5) members of the Board shall be appointed by the Officer's Committee or the Board to form the committee.
- iii. Shall enforce the provisions of By-Law 14 and hold hearings as required.
- iv. Shall liaise with the House League Convenor if the matter pertains to a house league division.
- v. Shall conduct investigations as required.
- vi. Shall provide conclusions and recommendations (if any) in a report to the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting, or a Special Meeting called to specifically deal with the matter.

c. **Coaches Selection Committee**

- i. The Vice President shall chair this committee.
- ii. Between two (2) and four (4) members of the Board shall be appointed by the Officer's Committee or the Board to form the committee.
- iii. Shall receive all applications for coaching positions on GNBA travel teams from the Secretary.
- iv. Shall conduct interviews with coaching applicants to validate the information submitted on their application. An interview may be waived at the discretion of this committee if there is only one applicant for a particular coaching position.
- v. Shall provide conclusions and recommendations (if any) in a report to the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting, or a Special Meeting called to specifically deal with the matter.

