

MISSISSIPPI BABE RUTH LEAGUES

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I – NAME OF ORGANIZATION ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1

The name of the organization shall be the Mississippi Babe Ruth Leagues, Inc.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

SECTION 1

The purpose of this organization shall be to provide an administrative framework to ensure the proper management of Babe Ruth Leagues within the boundaries of Mississippi. The general objective of the organization is to develop good citizens by providing adult leadership with supervised competition for any and all youngsters' ages 4 thru 18 years of age.

ARTICLE III – AFFILIATION

SECTION 1

The organization shall be affiliated with Babe Ruth Baseball, Inc., a New Jersey Corporation, and shall comply with the principles, rules and regulations enunciated and decreed by Babe Ruth Baseball, Inc.

ARTICLE IV – SITE OF PRINCIPAL OPERATION

SECTION 1

The principal operation of the organization shall be in and or about the home city of the State Commissioner of Mississippi Babe Ruth Leagues, Inc., but may extend into such areas as provided for by state, regional and national headquarters rules and regulations.

ARTICLE V – POWERS

SECTION 1

This organization shall have the powers listed in addition to powers expressly or implicitly conferred by law.

SECTION 2

The organization shall have the power to make and enforce rules and regulations, to govern itself on a state basis consistent with and not contrary to rules and regulations promulgated by Babe Ruth Baseball, Inc.

SECTION 3

The organization shall have the power to solicit contributions, assess fees and dues, enter into binding contract, and to hold and own property.

ARTICLE VI – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1

Membership in Mississippi Babe Ruth Leagues, Inc. shall be the duly elected and certified State Commissioner, duly elected and certified District Commissioners, and the duly appointed and certified Assistant State Commissioners.

SECTION 2

Membership in Mississippi Babe Ruth Leagues, Inc. shall be the duly registered 4-12, 13-15, and 16-18 Babe Ruth Leagues of the State of Mississippi, their parents and/or legal guardians and their duly elected local league officials.

ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS

SECTION 1

The State Commissioner shall be the highest official of the organization and shall only have the powers and duties authorized under the By-Laws. He/she shall be elected for two consecutive years at the Annual State Meeting to be held prior to November 1st of each election year. The State Commissioner shall be elected by a majority vote of the District Commissioners either in person or by proxy. The elected State Commissioner shall assume the official duties and responsibilities of the office effective November 1st of the year elected.

The State Commissioner maybe removed anytime during his elected term for reasons that do not provide a positive reflection on Babe Ruth Baseball League, Inc or Mississippi babe Ruth League. Remove from elected office shall require a meeting in which each District Commissioner is notified 14 calendar days in advance. The meeting shall be conducted on a Saturday afternoon and phone in capabilities shall be provided for the district commissioners in order to participate in the discussion and to register their vote. Removal of the State Commission shall require ¾ vote of all district commissioners. Removal shall become effective immediately.

SECTION 2

A Secretary may be appointed by the State Commissioner. The Secretary shall live in the same vicinity as the State Commissioner. The Secretary shall be reimbursed for approved expenses associated with fulfilling responsibilities associated with the secretary position, such as postage and office supplies. Receipt of expenses shall be presented to the State Commissioner prior to reimbursement and shall be reviewed by members during the next regular schedule state meeting.

SECTION 3

District Commissioners shall be elected by League Presidents in their designated district. Election shall take place prior to October 1st of each year and shall be for two years. Each 4-12, 13-15, and 16-18 league shall have one vote in electing District Commissioners. The individual elected shall assume duties and responsibilities of the office effective October 1st. District Commissioners may assign Assistant District Commissioners to assist in the fulfillment of the responsibilities of the position within the district.

A District Commissioner maybe removed anytime during his elected term for reasons that do not provide a positive reflection on Babe Ruth Baseball League, Inc or Mississippi babe Ruth League. Removal from elected office shall require a meeting in which each League President notified 14 calendar days in advance by mail, by email and via local newspaper announcing the meeting (the purpose of the meeting shall not be disclosed in the newspaper). The meeting shall be conducted on a Saturday afternoon. Ninty (90%) all leagu8es registered within the district will constitute a quorum of which a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote for remove is required. Each league shall have one vote, no proxies shall be allowed and the vote will be by secret ballot. Removal shall become effective immediately upon counting the votes and if a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority has been reached to remove said District Commissioner.

SECTION 4

Assistant State Commissioners may be appointed by the State Commissioner in November of each year. He/she may appoint these assistants in any manner that is for the betterment of Babe Ruth Baseball and approved by the members.

SECTION 5

The Board of Directors shall be composed of the State Commissioner, who shall serve as Chairman of the board, the District and Assistant State Commissioners. They shall be the law making body of the organization and shall have the final authority concerning all matters pertaining to the operation of Mississippi Babe Ruth Leagues, Inc.

ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS, PROXY, AND QUORUM

SECTION 1

The Annual Meeting of Mississippi Babe Ruth Leagues, Inc. will be held prior to November 1st of each year. The State Commissioner shall send out a written or emails notice of the meeting at least 15 days prior to the meeting. The notice shall identify the date, time and location of the meeting as well as a proposed agenda

SECTION 2

The State Commissioner may, at his/her discretion, hold at least three spring meetings. At least one in South Mississippi, one in Middle Mississippi, and one in North Mississippi. Prior notice shall be given in writing of these meetings at least 15 days in advance of the meeting to all district commissioners. These meetings may be held prior to April 1st of each year.

SECTION 3

Special meetings shall be held whenever the State Commissioner or a majority of the Board of Directors believe a meeting is necessary. Prior notice of the meeting shall be given no later than 15 days before the meeting.

SECTION 4

District Commissioners who are unable to attend the Annual Meeting may send their proxy to the State Commissioner by letter. Proxy vote shall carry the same authority as a personal vote. If no proxy letter is submitted to the State Commissioner, that District will not be authorized a vote for the duration of that meeting.

SECTION 5

A quorum shall consist of a majority of Mississippi District Commissioners either in person or by proxy for the annual meeting.

SECTION 6

Each District Commissioner shall conduct annual District Meetings with the League Presidents within his/her respective district. It is recommended these meetings include: (1) Fall meeting prior to October 1st in order to elect a District commissioner for the following year; (2) Spring meeting prior to April 1st to start the season properly and to ensure all leagues are returning; (3) Tournament meetings prior to June 15th to review tournament status, District business, requirements, and tournament draw. District Commissioners shall contact each League President about meeting to announce the location, date and time. The District Commissioner shall post the meeting within local newspaper at least one week before the meeting is to be held.

SECTION 7

Each District Commissioner shall forward the minutes of his/her annual meetings to the State Commissioner before November 1st.

BY – LAWS

ARTICLE I – OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

SECTION 1

The officers of Mississippi Babe Ruth Leagues, Inc. shall serve in dual capacity in the Bambino, 4-12, 13-15, and 16-18 year old divisions.

SECTION 2

State Commissioner:

Shall serve as Chairman of the Board, shall have a casting vote on all matters except election of State Commissioner and shall preside at all meetings of the organization. The State Commissioner shall call the Board together whenever he/she deems necessary and shall have (subject to the advice of the Board, Babe Ruth Baseball, Inc.) full charge and direction of the active affairs of Mississippi Babe Ruth Leagues, Inc., and general discharge if such other duties as may be required by this Constitution and By-Laws and by Babe Ruth Baseball, Inc.

The State Commissioner shall be responsible for the receiving and accounting of all funds of the organization and shall bank these funds under the account of Mississippi Babe Ruth Leagues, Inc. He/she shall keep the Travel Fund separate from the Regular if a Travel Fund is initiated. The State Commissioner shall submit a statement of his accounts to the membership of Mississippi Babe Ruth League, Inc., to Babe Ruth Baseball Headquarters, to the Regional Commissioner, and to each League President in the state no later than November 1st of each year.

In the event the State Commissioner dies, resigns or is removed from office, the District Commissioners shall meet and appoint a State Commissioner to serve until the Board of Directors can meet and elect a new State Commissioner. Due to time, travel, and expense, this action may be conducted via telecommunication. If conducted by telecommunication, each District Commissioner shall be so advised in writing within 15 days of date action was taken.

SECTION 3

Secretary:

Shall prepare all mailings for Mississippi Babe Ruth Leagues, Inc.

SECTION 4

District Commissioners:

Shall be voting members of the Board of Directors, shall be the only officials of the organization responsible for electing a State Commissioner, and shall serve as administrative officer within their District. They shall be responsible for the operation of the District Tournaments. They shall be responsible to promote new leagues of all age groups within their District. They shall be responsible for the approval of each league's rosters and schedules, and collection of all fees. Upon approval this information shall be submitted to the State Commissioner for approval to receive Letter of League Eligibility. In the case of a District Commissioner steps down or dies the State Commissioner will appoint a temporary District Commissioner to fill the remaining term or until there is an election by the leagues presidents.

SECTION 5

Assistant State Commissioner:

May be appointed by the State Commissioner in November of each year and shall serve as Chief Assistant to the State Commissioner. At the discretion of the State Commissioner, appointments to this position may be a duly elected District Commissioner.

ARTICLE II – STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION 1

Standing committees shall be appointed by the State Commissioner as needed. These shall primarily deal with rules, site selection, and constitution/by-laws.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1

All Babe Ruth Leagues in the State of Mississippi duly certified by the State Commissioner are to be considered a member of the organization in good standing.

ARTICLE IV – STATE FUNDS

SECTION 1

Funds shall be provided to the State Commissioner for travel, promotion, administration duties and responsibilities of the office. The State Commissioner shall be reimbursed for travel cost/expenses, food expenditure, motel cost, and any other miscellaneous expense relative to the official duties and responsibilities of the Office of State Commissioner. These funds shall come from \$8.00 State Dues per team in each league and \$25.00 per organization fee.

Additionally, the following fees will be assessed to the host of the applicable State Tournament:

<u>TOURNAMENT</u>	<u>COST</u>
Cal Ripken (4/5, 7/8 9/10, 11/12)	\$800.00
13 year old	\$800.00
13-15 year old	\$800.00
16 year old	\$800.00
16-18 year old	\$800.00

The tournament fee for each tournament must be paid to the State Commissioner at the time that the fee is submitted to the State Commissioner. – unless agreed to otherwise by the State Commissioner. Funds collected from these revenues shall be deposited into the Regular Fund account of MISSISSIPPI BABE RUTH LEAGUES, INC.

District Tournament Fees

A tournament fee of \$25.00 will be assessed to each district site to host a district tournament. This is to be paid to the District Commissioner. During tournaments the maximum cost for admission per day will be as follows:

Adults	\$3.00
Children	\$1.00
Children (Under 5)	Free

SECTION 2

Mileage and other chargeable expenses for any Assistant State Commissioner, when acting in an approved and official capacity for the State Commissioner shall be submitted to the State Commissioner for approval/disapproval and necessary reimbursement. Such requests must be submitted in writing within 14 days. These expenditures shall be paid from the Regular Fund account of MISSISSIPPI BABE RUTH LEAGUES, INC.

SECTION 3

The Secretary shall be reimbursed for actual expenses as approved by the State Commissioner. Reimbursement requests shall be submitted in writing and shall be paid as same as the Assistant State Commissioner would.

SECTION 4

State Commissioner approved, requested, or authorized, contractual services shall be reimbursable upon submittal of a pay voucher to Mississippi Babe Ruth Leagues, Inc.

SECTION 5

Any Mississippi team participating in a Babe Ruth World Series shall receive \$300.00 in expense money from the State Office.

ARTICLE V – TOURNAMENTS

SECTION 1

District tournaments shall be played in all age divisions where two or more leagues exist. District tournament winners within each age division will advance to the state tournament. Any district with only one league in any one age group will advance automatically to the state tournament. In either case, leagues, players, and coaches must be eligible in accordance with the rules and regulations of Babe Ruth Baseball.

SECTION 2

State tournaments shall be played in all Babe Ruth divisions where at least one league exists in at least two separate districts. If only one Babe Ruth age division exists within a district or within the state, that particular representative will automatically advance to the next level of tournament play..

SECTION 3

District and State Tournaments shall be played under the jurisdiction of the Babe Ruth Commissioner of appropriate level tournament. Tournament directors may be appointed by the appropriate Babe Ruth Commissioner, however, the tournament will remain under the jurisdiction of the appropriate commissioner.

SECTION 4

Tournament schedules will be either pool play and or double elimination and will be drawn on the standard Babe Ruth Baseball bracket for district and state tournaments. First round opponents in the State Tournament will be determined by the State Commissioner. The host team and nearest team to the tournament site will be in opposite brackets. The host team in the State Tournament can **not** receive a first round bye. Home team for each game in the State tournament shall be determined prior to each game with a coin toss by the umpire-in-chief and/or tournament director with both team managers or representative present. Prior to each game, each team manager is responsible to provide a copy of his/her line-up to (1) the opposing team manager, (2) the umpire-in-chief, (3) the official tournament scorer. It is also necessary that the tournament director make the “Sportsmanship Code of Babe Ruth Baseball” an intricate part of the tournament. Players and coaches of State Tournament teams shall be present for the host welcome meal if one is provided. Proper notification to tournament host that a team is unable to attend is acceptable if at least three days notice is given. Failure to comply could result in discipline of this league by the State Commissioner.

SECTION 5

The umpires for the State Tournaments shall be selected by the duly appointed tournament director in conjunction with the host District Commissioner. The selection shall be approved by the State Commissioner or his designate prior to tournament play. Whenever possible, it is recommended that “Babe Ruth Baseball National Umpires Association” members be selected for all level tournaments. Therefore, local league presidents should emphasize this important program at their level

SECTION 6

District Tournament sites will be chosen by the District Commissioner by whatever manner he feels necessary – as long as it is not contrary to Babe Ruth Baseball rules and regulations.

SECTION 7

State Tournament sites shall be selected by the State Commissioner according to the tournament application forms submitted by interested and sanctioned Mississippi Babe Ruth Leagues. All selections by the State Commissioner shall be in the best interest of Mississippi Babe Ruth Leagues and the promotion thereof.

Interested leagues must submit a completed Mississippi Babe Ruth State Tournament Application form and a \$800.00 fee by January 1 in order to be considered. The State Commissioner or his designate shall make one visit to the host site prior to the tournament to review host facilities. The State Commissioner or his designate shall visit each site during tournament play.

SECTION 8

In accordance to Babe Ruth guidelines, only winning teams and invited teams shall advance to a higher level of play.

ARTICLE VI – DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 1

District Commissioner shall have authority to operate his/her district as to the best interest of each league within his/her district boundaries.

District Commissioner may receive additional fees from each organization or league in his/her boundaries to help offset District Commissioner’s expenses. These fees shall be recommended by the District Commissioner and voted on by each League President.

Each League President shall be responsible to Babe Ruth Headquarters for submittal of the Application for Charter or Re-Charter and appropriate fees by May 15 to ensure eligibility of his/her leagues with Babe Ruth Baseball. This shall be the only paperwork not submitted to the District Commissioner for approval and forwarding.

Each League President shall submit state dues, district fees, rosters, schedules, and league boundaries to his/her District Commissioner for approval. District Commissioner shall then submit this information to the State Office by June 15 of each year. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in loss of tournament eligibility at each level.

District Commissioners are the keys to information being collected and distributed for Mississippi Babe Ruth Leagues. Each District Commissioner shall help offset expenses when able. Each Mississippi Babe Ruth League is expected to be represented at state meetings as presidents elect the District Commissioner to represent their interest.

ARTICLE VII – RULE AUTHORITY

SECTION 1

Rules and regulations as set forth by Babe Ruth Baseball, Inc. and rules and regulations duly established by the Mississippi Babe Ruth Leagues, Inc.

SECTION 2

Robert’s Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority on all matters not covered by this Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1

This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended, supplemented, or modified by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, present, either in person or by proxy, at the Annual Meeting of the Organization.

A Special Meeting for the purpose of making amendments may be held providing 30 days of notice of the substance of such proposal has been sent to all members of the Board of Directors, and to Babe Ruth Baseball, Inc. Any proposed amendment must receive final written approval from Babe Ruth Baseball, Inc. before becoming effective.

ARTICLE IX – MEETING PROCEDURES

SECTION 1

The order of business at the Annual Meeting of Mississippi Babe Ruth Leagues, Inc. shall be as follows:

- (A) Call to Order
- (B) Roll Call of Board of Directors
- (C) Opening Comments By State Commissioner
- (D) Election of State Commissioner
- (E) Report of Committees – If applicable
- (F) Financial Report For Previous Year
- (G) Old Business
- (H) New Business
- (I) Entertainment of Questions and Answers From the Floor
- (J) Closing Comments By State Commissioner
- (K) Adjournment

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