

HOME
CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

We, the concerned parents of the Orange Grove area have established the OGYA Sports Inc. The short title of this association shall be OGYA. The OGYA is a non-profit organization registered with the state of Mississippi.

ARTICLE II.

PURPOSE.

The purpose for which this association is formed is to provide recreation opportunities by way of organized sports programs for the children of residents of the Orange Grove area. This association will seek to instill in the youth of our community ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, integrity, and teamwork, so they may be stronger, happier, and more fulfilled youths who will grow to be wholesome, healthy adults. The OGYA will schedule, plan, and host athletic, social, and civic events and activities for adults and youth of the community, and supervise and make provisions for competitive athletic events and social functions and activities. The key to success of the OGYA is voluntary participation by both children and adults.

ARTICLE III.

SITE OF OPERATION.

The principal operation site of the OGYA shall be in the city of Gulfport Harrison County, Mississippi, specifically at Clarence Johnson Memorial Sports Complex on Three Rivers Road. Extension into other areas may be approved as necessary due to unanticipated events which necessitate such action.

ARTICLE IV.

POWERS.

The OGYA shall have the following powers.

- a. Form and elect a governing body.
- b. Make and enforce rules and regulation to govern itself on a local basis.
- c. Divide the OGYA into age-specific leagues in accordance with affiliation guidelines.
- d. Conduct registrations, tryouts, manage player and coach selection process, and provide oversight for player transfers.
- e. Determine the affiliation which shall impact strategic management of operations.
- f. Solicit contributions, enter into contracts, purchase and own equipment, and take other

actions necessary to ensure the comprehensive success of the OGYA.

ARTICLE V.

FISCAL YEAR.

The fiscal year of the OGYA shall be January 1 thru December 31. Any balance in excess of \$10,000 will be placed in a 12-month certificate of deposit.

ARTICLE VI.

MEMBERSHIP.

All parents, legal guardians, and adult participants in the baseball/basketball programs of the OGYA are members. There is no membership fee and membership is valid commensurate with the fiscal year.

ARTICLE VII.

MEETINGS.

Meetings shall be called by the President as necessary to conduct all business to ensure success of the OGYA. All meetings are open forums and attendance by all OGYA members is encouraged. A quorum (50% plus one) of the Board of Directors is necessary to conduct OGYA business. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority on all matters not covered by the Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE VIII.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

Changes to this Constitution or the By-Laws may be made at any OGYA meeting attended by 2/3 of the Board of Directors. Recommendations for changes may be submitted by any OGYA member. Amendments to the Constitution require 2/3 vote of Board members present; By-Laws changes require a majority vote of Board members present.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I.

GOVERNING BODY.

The OGYA shall be governed by a Board of Directors [hereafter referred to as the "Board"] comprised of the following.

a. President. Elected by the sitting Board in November of even-numbered years. Term of office shall be two years. The President must have served on the Board for a minimum of two years before eligible.

b. Vice-President. Elected by the sitting Board in November of even-numbered years. Term of office shall be two years. The Vice-President must have served on the Board for a minimum of two years before eligible.

c. Treasurer. Elected by the sitting Board in November of even-numbered years. Term of office shall be two years.

d. Secretary. Elected by the sitting Board in November of even-numbered years. Term of office shall be two years.

e. Board Members. Members will be elected by the sitting Board annually in November of even-numbered years. Term of office shall be two years.

f. Members at Large (not required). Members at large may be appointed in November of even numbered years from an affiliated associations Board by the sitting Board. (Members at Large shall be currently serving on their associations Board)

ARTICLE II.

OFFICERS/DUTIES.

a. President.

(1) Preside over all Board meetings.

(2) Assume responsibility for the operation of the OGYA complying with the Constitution and By-Laws.

(3) Serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.

(4) Appoint committees and supervise their activities.

(5) Ensure the OGYA adheres to all affiliation and locally prescribed rules.

(6) Complete Charter application/continuation forms and forward to affiliate headquarters. Conduct all business with affiliate headquarters.

(7) Manage or provide supervisory oversight for any activities undertaken by the OGYA not specifically covered in the Constitution or By-Laws. Initiate long term strategic planning.

b. Vice-President. Preside in the absence of the President and carry out duties and assignments designated by the Constitution and By-Laws and/or delegated by the President.

c. Secretary. Records the minutes of meetings and maintain an official record of OGYA activities. Carry out duties and assignments designated by the Constitution and By-Laws and/or delegated by the President.

d. Treasurer. Provide oversight for the dispensing of OGYA funds, write checks, maintain an official accounting of finances, report on the status of league funds, and prepare the budget that is submitted for approval by the board. Carry out duties and assignments designated by the

Constitution and/or delegated by the President. Two signatures are required on all withdrawal transactions.

e. Board Members. Serve as the representative voice for the OGYA by attending meetings, participating in the adoption of rules and regulations governing the operation of the league, and voting on all issues relative to the activities of the league. Carry out duties and assignments designated by the Constitution and/or delegated by the President.

ARTICLE III.

ELECTION/REMOVAL PROCEDURES.

a. Election Procedures. All board members shall be elected by secret ballot at an open meeting held in November of even-numbered years by the sitting board. Provision is made for an acceptance of acclamation if a nominee for office is unopposed. Newly elected officers assume responsibility at the close of the meeting during which they were elected. The President is afforded the right to nominate an OGYA member to fill a vacancy arising between semi-annual election months; nominee must be approved by a 2/3 board vote at a regularly scheduled meeting.

b. Removal Procedures. Board members elected to serve and represent the best interests of the OGYA must commit to promoting the agendas of the league as a whole. Participation in meetings, social/civic activities, athletic contests, etc., is mandatory. It is the sole responsibility of each board member to notify the Secretary if meeting attendance is not possible. Three (3) unexcused absences by a board member shall result in a vote of confidence by the board. The vote of confidence shall be by secret ballot at a regularly scheduled meeting and requires a 2/3 vote of board members present. Following the vote of confidence, the President shall notify the delinquent board member of the desires of the board. The delinquent member shall be provided the opportunity to appear at the next scheduled meeting to address the board. The board shall then vote by secret ballot on removal or continuance. If the delinquent member does not appear before the board in response to the vote of confidence, removal shall be automatic and effective immediately. If for any reason a board member is removed, that person relinquishes all rights and duties afforded them as an OGYA board member and shall never again serve in any capacity on/for the board of OGYA.

c. Resignations. Resignations should be submitted in writing.

d. Filling Vacancies. Vacancies created as a result of resignation, removal, etc., shall be filled by a special election called by the President. An officer or director elected in such a manner will take office immediately.

ARTICLE IV.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

The following committees shall be formed to ensure OGYA initiatives are accomplished in a timely and efficient manner.

a. Budget/Finance Committee. Chaired by OGYA Treasurer and shall consist of four additional OGYA members (to include Board members) recommended by the Treasurer and approved by the Board. Term of office is at the discretion of the Board. One member of this committee shall be the Booster Club President. Responsible for all monetary management of the OGYA.

b. Equipment Committee. Chaired by the Equipment Manager and shall consist of two

additional OGYA members (to include Board members) approved by the Board. Term of office is at the discretion of the Board. Responsible for inventory, accountability, operability, and recommendations for purchase of equipment needed to support OGYA operations.

c. Facility Maintenance Committee. Chair is appointed by the President and shall consist of four additional OGYA members (to include Board members) approved by the Board. Term of office is at the discretion of the Board. Responsible for ensuring that all facilities [to include, but not limited to fields, adjacent areas, parking areas, and concession area] are maintained in such a manner as to promote an attitude of pride and commitment to the youth of our community.

d. Sponsors Committee. Chair is appointed by the President and shall consist of four additional OGYA members (to include Board members) approved by the Board. Term of office is at the discretion of the Board. Responsible for organizing and conducting sponsorship drives, negotiating non-binding long-term corporate sponsorships, and coordinating sponsor involvement in all facets of league and post-season play.

e. Coaches Committee. Chaired by the Vice-President and shall consist of four additional OGYA members (to include Board members) approved by the Board. Term of office shall be at the discretion of the Board. Responsible for reviewing all coaching applicants and making recommendations to the Board in form of motion. Guidelines for selection of coaches will include baseball knowledge, seniority, availability, and leadership/guidance skills.

f. Records Committee. Chaired by President and shall consist of one representative from each league participating in league play. Term of office shall be at the discretion of the Board. Responsible for ensuring all applications are properly completed and birth certificates are present and valid. Responsible for ensuring game records (scorebooks) are properly maintained to prevent negative actions towards the OGYA regarding All-Star eligibility, and to resolve "innings pitched" issues. Also responsible for securing game results and posting win-loss data for each league in the OGYA.

g. Scheduling/Publicity Committee. Chaired by the Vice-President and shall consist of two additional OGYA members (to include Board members) approved by the Board. Term of office shall be at the discretion of the Board. Responsible for scheduling and posting practice and game schedules (to include rainouts) for all teams.

h. Umpire Committee. Chaired by the Vice-President and shall consist of two additional OGYA members (to include Board members) approved by the Board. Term of office shall be at the discretion of the Board. Responsible for assignment of umpires for all league games, the conduct of clinics on rules and mechanics, and ensuring that all umpires know rules (including protest procedures and local deviations). Coordinate with Treasurer to ensure proper payment of umpires.

i. Concession Committee. Chair appointed by President and shall consist of two additional OGYA members approved by the Board. Term of office shall be at the discretion of the Board. Responsible for overall operation of the concession stand including, but not limited to, purchase of inventory, cleanliness, oversight of funds, coordination with Treasurer, and scheduling of workers.

j. Fall Ball Committee. Chair appointed by President and shall consist of two additional OGYA members approved by the Board. Term of office shall be at the discretion of the Board. Responsible for overall planning and conduct of all fall ball activities.

k. Protest Committee. Chaired by the Secretary and shall consist of commissioners from each age specific league. This committee will hear and decide all protests in accordance with procedures established by the OGYA. Information regarding shall be gathered from each coach

involved and the umpire of the game at issue.

I. Fundraising/Booster Club Committee. To be published.

ARTICLE V.

APPOINTED OFFICIALS AND DUTIES.

a. Commissioners. Appointed by the President, approved by the Board; term of office shall be at the discretion of the board. Each age-specific league shall be managed by a commissioner. The commissioner shall be responsible for the day-to-day activities of his/her league, keep the Board apprised of league activities, and serve as a member of the Protest Committee. Commissioners will conduct try-outs and participate in player selection meetings. Commissioners must act without favor in dealing with both adult leaders and players. He or she must act from the point of view that the welfare of the players, the league, and the community take precedence over the desires of any single coach. A coach is not allowed to serve as a commissioner in the league he/she coaches in.

b. Equipment Manager. Appointed by the President, approved by the Board; term of office shall be at the discretion of the board. The Equipment Manager will ensure that sufficient player equipment is distributed to each Head Coach following the establishment of team rosters. He/she shall maintain records of inventory and distribution and make requests to the Board in a timely manner to ensure adequate equipment is on hand and available for all league players. Receive equipment from coaches following the season and ensure it is accounted for and properly stored.

c. Babe Ruth League, Inc. requires ALL managers and coaches to take a "Coaches Certification Program. This course is totally self instructional, self placed and is offered online for convenience. The cost is \$19.95 and the certification is good for life. This is a Babe Ruth League requirement as of 2008.

ARTICLE VI.

LEAGUE FORMATION.

For the sake of determining which league a player shall be eligible to participate in, the age of a player will be "as of April 30 of the year in which the player participates". Players may be allowed to move to an "older" age-specific league provided a letter is submitted by a parent to the board. Children that choose to play "up" must also play up as an all star.

a. T-Ball (4 YR OLDS). Players not exceeding the age of 4 on April 30 of a given year shall play in this league. There shall be no try-outs or drafts for T-Ball; names will be drawn from a hat and a like number of players assigned to each team in the league. Specific rules for T-Ball will be published annually and provided to coaches and umpires prior to the beginning of each season. Games will have a 1:15 time limit. No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 5 minutes

b. T-Ball (5 - 6 YR OLDS). Players not exceeding the age of 6 on April 30 of a given year shall play in this league. There will be try-outs and drafts for 5 -6 T-Ball. Specific rules for T-Ball will be published annually and provided to coaches and umpires prior to the beginning of each season. Games will have a 1:15 time limit. No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 5 minutes.

c. Coach Pitch (7-8 YR OLDS). Players not exceeding the age of 8 on April 30 of a given year shall play in this league. Specific rules for Coach Pitch will be published annually and provided to coaches and umpires prior to the beginning of each season. Games will have a 1:30 time

limit. No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 20 minutes.

d. 9 - 10 YR OLDS. Players not exceeding 10 years of age on April 30 of a given year shall play in this league. Games will have a 1:30 time limit. No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 20 minutes.

e. 11 - 12 YR OLDS. Players not exceeding 12 years of age on April 30 of a given year shall play in this league. Games will have a 1:45 time limit. No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 35 minutes.

f. 13 YR OLD PREP LEAGUE. All games will have a 2:00 time limit. No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes.

g. 13 - 15 YR OLDS.

h. 16 - 18 YR OLDS.

ARTICLE VII.

FREEZES.

One freeze will be given to each team. The child (or children) of the Head Coach will automatically be on that coach's team. If a head coach has more than one child the additional siblings will be taken in the first rounds of the draft until all teams have even numbers of children. If a frozen child has one or more siblings, one freeze will be eliminated and additional siblings will be taken in first rounds of the draft until all teams have even numbers of children.

If the Head Coach obtains a sponsor, that team gets one (1) additional freeze. If Head Coach does not obtain a sponsor, his first selection in the draft will be a hat pick. Sponsor check must be presented the day of draft in order to obtain additional sponsor freeze. Head Coach may elect to place a personal check on file with the league to ensure sponsorship thus obtaining the additional freeze. Upon receiving sponsor check, OGYA will return the personal check. If no sponsorship check is received after 14 days, OGYA will deposit the personal check as sponsorship. If the sponsor has a child in the league, that child **WILL** be the (1) additional sponsor freeze. A coach must obtain parental permission to freeze a child. Any child returning to the draft (for any reason) cannot be taken as a freeze. If Head Coach has no children in the league, (3) three freezes will still be awarded with a sponsor.

ARTICLE VIII.

TRY-OUTS/DRAFTS.

Siblings shall not be separated. If a player is selected by way of draft or hat pick, his or her sibling(s) must be taken as that team's last selection of the draft.

a. Try-Outs. All leagues (excluding 4 yr old T-Ball) shall conduct try-outs following registration. Try-outs will afford players the opportunity to display level of ability and coaches the opportunity to identify potential players to be placed on team roster. Try-outs will consist of throwing, fielding, and hitting. Each player shall be provided the same number of opportunities in each event. Players that are not selected as a freeze and do not participate in try-outs, will be assigned to a team via a "hat pick".

b. Drafts. Following try-outs, a draft meeting will be conducted to establish team rosters. The draft will proceed in the established sequence until all players have been selected. Teams with

a like number of players will establish draft sequence by way of a lottery conducted by the league commissioner. This method is established to create parity within the league.

c. Registration. The day of try –outs will be the last official day for open registration within all age groups of OGYA. Any applications received after try-outs will be taken on an as needed basis. After the draft, if it is determined that additional children are needed those registered children will be placed on teams lacking children as determined by the final draft order. Under no circumstances can any coach find, register and place a child on their team. All new applicants will be placed accordingly by their respective commissioner.

d. Transfers/Trades. Neither trades nor transfers are allowed unless deemed necessary and approved on a case by case basis by the board members present on draft day to ensure Cal Ripken and/or Babe Ruth team composition guidelines are adhered to.

ARTICLE IX.

TEAM COMPOSITION.

Directed by Rules and Regulations of Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Baseball and will be strictly adhered to.

ARTICLE X.

CONDUCT.

a. There shall be no arguing in any capacity between umpires, coaches, player, and/or fans on or off the field. If a coach or player is ejected by an umpire for any reason, the umpire shall inform a member of the board immediately. The player/coach that is ejected must sit out the next game. The player must be present for this game. The coach is NOT to be present for this game. If an umpire ejects a coach or player a second time during the same season, they are subject to suspension for the remainder of the season pending review and vote by the board.

b. There shall be no fighting, cursing, or use of obscene language or gestures by any coach, player, or fan. The consequences shall be immediate expulsion from the premises. If a coach, player, or fan is removed a second time during the same season, they shall be suspended for the remainder of the season. CURSING ON THE FIELD or TOUCHING AND UMPIRE by a coach will result in immediate expulsion from coaching for the remainder of the year. If removed for such violation, the coach shall come before the board before being allowed to coach again.

ARTICLE XI.

PROTESTS.

a. No protests are allowed in T-Ball or Coach Pitch.

b. No protests are allowed for judgment calls made by umpires.

c. The coach must file notice that the game is being played under protest with the Umpire immediately at the time of the disputed decision and before the next pitched ball to a batter or the next play.

d. The protest fee is \$50.00 made payable to OGYA and presented at the time a protest is made. The fee is refunded only if the protest is won.

e. A written report setting forth all the facts of the protest must be filed with the OGYA President within 48 hours of the protest.

f. The OGYA President shall refer the protest to the Protest Committee (ARTICLE IV k) within 48 hours of receipt, and a decision shall be rendered by the Protest Committee to the President within 48 hours. The final decision of the protest rests with the Protest Committee.

ARTICLE XII.

GENERAL PLAYING RULES.

a. All OGYA games will have a time limit as specified in paragraph VI.

b. Games ending the time limit in a tie, shall be entered in the score book as a tie.

c. All roster players must play at least 2 defensive innings of each game. Expiration of time preventing a coach from meeting the full extent of this rule will not result in a coach or team being penalized.

d. All players on the roster and present will bat each time through the line-up during regular season games (Cal Ripken Division only).

e. Rainouts will be rescheduled by the OGYA for the following Wednesday. (if necessary).

f. Cancellation and/or changing of any game will not be allowed.

ARTICLE XIII.

ALL-STAR SELECTION PROCESS.

The following format has been established to enhance the opportunity for OGYA teams to compete with other teams across the MS Gulf Coast during All-Star play. The number of OGYA players eligible for All-Star will remain the same as previous years, and will increase as the number of registered player's increases. The goal of this process is to put the best teams on the field for competition.

Number(s) of teams [by age] that will participate in All-Star play.

(1) T-Ball (5-6). Per the Cal Ripken mandate, if less than 10 teams form the league there will be one (1) team. If there are more than 10 teams, the league is required to break into two divisions and one (1) All-Star team will be selected from each division.

(2) Coach Pitch (7-8). Per the Cal Ripken mandate, if less than 10 teams form the league there will be one (1) 7-year-old team and one (1) 8 year old team. If there are more than 10 teams, the league is required to break into two divisions and one (1) 7 year old All-Star team and one (1) 8 year old All-Star team will be selected from each division. (7 ONLY/ 8 ONLY when the ages are separated)

(3) Minor (9-10). Per the Cal Ripken mandate, if less than 10 teams form the league there will be one (1) 9-year-old team and one (1) 10 year old team. If there are more than 10 teams, the league is required to break into two divisions and one (1) 9 year old All-Star team and one (1) 10 year old All-Star team will be selected from each division. (9 ONLY/ 10 ONLY when the

ages are separated)

(4) Major (11-12). Same format as Minor League.

(5) 13 Year Old. One (1) team.

(6) 14 Year Old. One (1) team.

(7) 15 Year Old. One (1) team.

Method of selecting All-Stars:

At the mid-season point the Commissioner will call a meeting of all head coaches in a specific league to select players. Each head coach will nominate any player from his/her team felt to be All-Star quality. The Commissioner will compile a list of all nominees and provide to each head coach. Each coach will then select his top 10 players. The commissioner will gather each coaches list and will then compile a new list based on the coaches top 10. The coaches will again select his top 10 based off this new list. This process will continue until the top 9 players have been selected. The selected head coach will then be allowed to choose a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of six (6) players from the remaining nominees to complete the roster.

If two (2) teams are being selected (due to a division breakdown) for a given age group, the selection process will be broken down by division and managed as stated above.

All Star Coaches will be selected by the Board of Directors based upon nominations made by the coaches from each age group. A coach may NOT nominate him/herself. Only nominated coaches will be considered for all star coaching positions.

b. All-Star Tournament Selection Process.

T-Ball and Coach Pitch Leagues.

OGYA will pay the entry fee for each team to play in the OGYA tournament plus two (2) other League Sanctioned tournaments in the local area. Any other tournament the All-Star teams play in must be approved by the board due to insurance purposes. The coach and team are responsible for all expenses incurred for that tournament.

All other OGYA All-Star Teams.

Per Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth mandate, each team must go thru the district tournament route unless OGYA hosts an age specific state tournament. If a team does not win the right to proceed past district, OGYA will pay the entry fee for a local tournament (if one exists). For teams who proceed beyond district to state, regional, and beyond, OGYA will pay entry fees and coordinate fund-raising efforts to defray costs incurred by the team.