

TASO – BASEBALL
BRUSH COUNTRY BASEBALL CHAPTER

P.O. BOX 866
Pleasanton, Texas 78064

BY LAWS

ARTICLE I – NAME

The organization shall be known as the Brush Country Baseball Chapter of the Texas Association of Sports Officials – Baseball (TASO – Baseball). It shall be an affiliated Chapter of the TASO – Baseball.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

SECTION 1.0 The primary purpose of the Brush Country Baseball Chapter is to provide baseball umpires for area High School baseball games to schools **under contract** requesting services. It has a secondary responsibility to provide umpires to area Amateur and Youth leagues that are under contract or which have been solicited by or requested service from the Chapter.

SECTION 2.0 To effect its primary purpose, the Chapter shall meet to systematically, study baseball rules, establish a Chapter of competent baseball umpires, train its members in the rules of baseball, the duties and mechanics of baseball umpiring, and cooperate with other baseball organizations with a view toward encouraging, promoting, and developing the sport of baseball on a high plane of sportsmanship.

ARTICLE III – SCOPE

SECTION 1.0 The membership and activities of the Chapter shall be governed by these By-Laws and by such regulations as may be enacted in accordance with these By-Laws.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

SECTION 1.0 The elected officers of the Chapter shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Sergeant-at-Arms, all elected at large; furthermore, the membership shall elect two (2) directors from each umpire classification level. All Officers and Directors shall have one vote at Executive Board Meetings.

SECTION 2.0 Each Officer elected at large shall hold office for a period of two (2) years. Directors shall hold office for a period of one (1) year. The President, Treasurer, and Sergeant-at-Arms shall be elected in even numbered years where as the Vice-President and Secretary shall be elected in odd numbered years. In case of vacancies, a successor shall be appointed by the President, with confirmation by a simple majority of the Executive Board, to fill the unexpired portion of the vacated office's term. The Vice-President shall fill a vacancy in the office of the

President. The President shall appoint a replacement for a classification director, with confirmation by a simple majority of the Executive Board. Any director appointed under these circumstances, shall serve on interim basis until a special election by the members of the particular classification can be held.

SECTION 3.0 Only members of the Chapter who have been members in good standing for one (1) full calendar year shall be qualified to run for office. All Officers of the Chapter shall be elected from the roster of members in good standing at the annual election meeting, to be held in June of each year. A member in good standing for purposes of this section shall be defined as a fully accredited member who (1) has paid his local and state dues for the following year; (2) has paid his current assignment fees and any fines; and (3) is not on disciplinary probation or suspension. In the event a member of the Executive Board loses their status as a member in good standing, the Executive Board member's suspension shall be effective immediately upon issuance of the notice of suspension by the President, or the Secretary under the direction of the President.

SECTION 4.0 The term of office for all elected officers shall commence on July 1st after members of the Election Committee certify the election.

SECTION 5.0 Any member in good standing may nominate and vote for an officer elected at large. Directors shall be nominated and elected by the members of the classification they are to represent. A Director must be a member of the classification he is elected to represent. For purposes of this section, a member's classification level shall be determined as of July 1st of the current calendar year. (e.g. If a registered umpire will be classified as an approved umpire as of July 1st, they will vote as an approved umpire.)

SECTION 6.0 Members who wish to run for office shall be nominated by a member from the floor or shall declare their candidacy at either of the two scheduled general membership meetings for nominations. Candidates may speak on their own behalf, or others may speak for them. After nominations are closed at the second pre-election meeting, ballots shall be prepared and distributed to the members by the Secretary. All ballots shall be returned to the chairman of the election committee. Such ballots may be returned by mail, email, or delivered by hand to the chairman at the election meeting where the ballots are to be tabulated.

SECTION 7.0 Any Officer or Director may be removed from office for failure to carry out the duties of the office to which he was elected by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Board. Prior to any such removal, the Executive Board shall contact the Officer or Director and notify him/her of such action being considered. Additionally; any member in good standing may bring charges against any officer by filing such charges in writing with the Secretary, together with a petition signed by 25 percent of the members in good standing, requesting the removal of the officer in question.

SECTION 8.0 Any Executive Board member may resign at any time by giving written notice to the President or Secretary of the Chapter. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein; and, unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

SECTION 9.0 The President, with the approval of the Executive Board, shall appoint the following standing committees:

- a. An Election Committee. This committee shall be composed of three (3) members in good standing and not a candidate for any office in the same election in which the member serves on the committee. The committee members shall select one member to serve as chairman. The committee shall count the ballots and certify the election results.
- b. Ethics and Professional Conduct Committee. The committee shall be composed of three (3) members, appointed by the President. The President will also appoint the Chairman.
- c. An Education Committee. This committee shall operate the Umpire Development School for the Chapter. The chairman of the committee will be the Vice-President or another person designated by the President with the approval of the Executive Board, and he shall be required to maintain and submit to the President (at the conclusion of the umpire school) a complete notebook containing records of all programs, lesson plans, presentations and teaching aids used and utilized during the umpire school. The notebook is the property of the Chapter and should be utilized and added to by each succeeding Vice-President or Chairman designate. The committee Chairman shall submit a training outline to the Executive Board with recommended training instructors, school dates, and times for approval prior to the commencement of each Umpire Development School.
- d. A Playoff Committee. This committee, composed of the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Scheduler, shall meet annually to prepare and submit in a timely manner the list of approved playoff eligible umpires to TASO – Baseball and such other organizations as may be required by TASO – Baseball.

SECTION 10.0 The President may appoint such other committees as he deems necessary.

ARTICLE V – DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION 1.0 The President shall:

- Preside over all meetings
- Approve all meeting agendas, training agendas and instructors.
- Appoint and be a member of all committees, both standing and appointed. See to the execution of the decisions and orders of the Executive Board or general membership.
- Attend the annual state meeting or designate a representative to attend.
- Call special meetings as deemed necessary.
- Give final approval of all game assignments.
- Review all umpire rankings submitted by Directors.

- Supervise the collection of all monies due the Chapter and its members.
- Recommend fines or other penalties for minor violations of Chapter By-Laws and Policies to the Executive Board.
- Refer to the Ethics and Professional Conduct Committee any complaints received against members of the Chapter.
- Notify the Executive Board of any fines or complaints and his decision to refer or not to refer such to the Ethics and Professional Conduct Committee.
- Fill any vacated Officer's position, subject to the approval of the Executive Board and appoint interim classification directors.

SECTION 2.0 The Vice-President shall:

- Preside and assume the duties of the President in his absence.
- Succeed the President in case of a vacancy in that office.
- Oversee and coordinate recruiting for the Chapter.
- Develop new umpire training material, schedule umpire development training (classroom and on field); assign instructors for umpire development training.
- Perform other duties as may be assigned by the President.
- Have one vote at the Executive Board meeting, except if presiding in case of the absence of the President, he shall only have the tie breaker vote cast by the President.

SECTION 3.0 The Secretary shall:

- Have charge of all non-financial records of the Chapter.
- Develop agendas based on input from the President or members of the Executive Board.
- Keep a record of all meeting of the Executive Board and General Membership meetings in either hard copy or electronic media.
- Compile and maintain a roster of the membership of the Chapter to include name, address, and other relevant data.
- Maintain records of all school scratches and provide such information to the President and Assignment Director.
- Notify Officers, Directors, or members of proposed disciplinary actions and any other matters affecting membership status.
- Attend annual state meeting or designate a representative to attend in his place.
- Maintain copies of all Chapter correspondence and be responsible for the preparation and timely submission of all reports and/or documents necessary to be filed with TASO – Baseball or other organizations. Maintain a Chapter notebook containing all records, minutes, letters, memos, photos, reports, and all other matters submitted to the Chapter. Notebook (hardcopy or electronic) file is the property of the Chapter and will be forwarded to the next Chapter Secretary.
- Have one vote at the Executive Board meetings.

SECTION 4.0 The Treasurer shall:

- Maintain all financial records of the Chapter.
- Disburse such monies to pay all debts of the Chapter, as approved by the Executive Board.
- Collect state dues, local dues and fees, assignment fees, fines, game fees, etc. from the members of the Chapter, school, or other entities served by the Chapter.
- Assist in the collection of any fees owed the Chapter or members of the Chapter.
- Prepare a fiscal year budget to be presented to the Executive Board no later than October 1st of each year.
- Prepare monthly financial reports to be presented to the Executive Board and made available to the members of the Chapter at the scheduled monthly meeting.
- Submit final financial statement to the Executive Board by October 1st. Allow outside auditor inspection of the books upon request by the President or Executive Board.
- See to renewal of insurance policy for bonding of the Executive Board.
- Attend annual state meeting or designate a representative to attend in his/her place.
- Have one vote at the Executive Board.

SECTION 5.0 The Secretary-at-Arms shall:

- Assist in keeping order at General Membership and Executive Board meetings.
- Act as parliamentarian when necessary.
- Have one vote at the Executive Board meeting.
- Monitor the progress of the election of Officers and Directors.

SECTION 6.0 The Directors shall:

- Act as a liaison for the members of their respective classifications and present the concerns of their constituents to the Executive Board.
- Notify all members in their classification of special called meetings.
- Contact members absent from regular meetings.
- Review computerized game assignments with the President prior to distribution to the members.
- Have one vote at the Executive Board meeting.

SECTION 8.0 The Executive Board shall be authorized to promulgate the Chapter's Operating Policies and Procedures.

SECTION 9.0 The District Director is a non-voting advisor to the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

SECTION 1.0 The President shall schedule all general membership meeting with reasonable notice. Meetings shall be held at least once a month during the period from January through July. An annual meeting schedule will be published to the general membership in December. Agendas for each meeting will be prepared in advance and distributed at the general membership meetings. The President shall designate which meetings are mandatory. All mandatory meetings will be held at a central location.

SECTION 2.0 Members are required to attend all mandatory meetings located within 90 miles of the member's house. Any member who misses two (2) consecutive mandatory meetings, without good cause, shall be subject to disciplinary action. For purposes of this section, "good cause", shall be determined by the members' classification director, with appeal to the Executive Board.

SECTION 3.0 Members of the Executive Board, upon reasonable notice, shall attend all called and special meetings of the Chapter as well as called meetings of the Executive Board. In the event a member of the Executive Board shall be absent from two (2) consecutive meetings, without good cause, they shall be subject to disciplinary action or replacement by the President. For purposes of this section, "good cause", shall be determined by the President, with appeal to the Executive Board.

SECTION 4.0 The President may call special meetings of the Chapter as he deems necessary or when a request for such a meeting is made to the President in writing, and signed by not less than ten (10) members in good standing.

SECTION 5.0 The presence of twenty-five percent (25%) of the members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for a general meeting. Official business shall not be conducted in the absence of a quorum. The presence of at least five (5) members of the Executive Board at an Executive Board meeting shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 6.0 Robert's Rules of Order shall be the authority for the conduct of all meetings.

ARTICLE VII – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1.0 There shall be the following categories of membership:

- (1) Active and in good standing, or on probation
- (2) New Applicant/Transfer from outside TASO – Baseball
- (3) Reinstatement/Transfer from inside TASO – Baseball
- (4) Honorary, and
- (5) Inactive

SECTION 2.0 All members must be in good physical condition and must be at least 18 years of age. All applicants and members of the Chapter must be residents of this membership

district of TASO – Baseball. They must be honest and upright citizens of good moral character who are wholeheartedly in accord with the purpose of the Chapter. No applicant or member shall discriminate against any player, coach, official, team, or any other person or entity because of race, color, creed, sex, or national origin. Applicants and members shall refrain from any comment or conduct, which would be contrary to the meaning and purpose of the Chapter By-Laws and Policies, and should avoid even the appearance of impropriety. All applicants and members must comply with all state requirements as stated under the guidelines of TASO – Baseball.

SECTION 3.0 Members in good standing and eligibility for Playoff assignments must meet the following requirements:

- A. To be a member in good standing, a member must: (i) have completed and submitted an application for membership; (ii) completed a training program; (iii) paid all state and local dues and fees, as well as all other financial obligations to this Chapter; (iv) taken and passed the annual rules and mechanics exam as required by TASO – Baseball; and (v) be a member in good standing with TASO – Baseball.
- B. To be eligible for assignment in playoff games, an individual must: (i) be a member in good standing of the Chapter; (ii) have attended the current year's 3 and 4 man mechanics clinic; and (iii) have attended at least 75% of the Chapter's meetings for the current year. **A coach may not request the assignment of any member who has not satisfied all of the requirements set forth above in subsection (a) above as well as the requirements of the sub-section.**

SECTION 4.0 All new applicants and transfers from outside of TASO – Baseball are required to attend the Umpire Development School. They must pass the rules and mechanics exam as well as attend an on field mechanics training session. They must also comply with all other application requirements as specified by TASO – Baseball.

New and Transfer applicants shall be subject to an evaluation period as determined by the Executive Board. Upon receipt of a report on candidate's exam results, his conduct and performance on the field, he shall be eligible for endorsement by the Executive Board for placement in the appropriate classification.

No application shall be acted upon until the next regular meeting following that which the membership by the Executive Board; he shall have one (1) VOTE AT THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS OF THE Chapter, unless otherwise restricted by these By-Laws.

SECTION 5.0 Members seeking reinstatement or transfer members from other Chapters inside of TASO – Baseball shall be accepted into membership in the Chapter at the same umpire classification, which they have on record with TASO – Baseball. The Executive Board shall vote to accept or reject any reinstatement or transfer application after review of all documents to ensure all documents are in order from hi/her previous Chapter.

Amend and Approved January 2017