

George B. Kelley Amateur Baseball Federation, Inc.

FOUNDED 1948

P.O. BOX 742 - ALTOONA, PA 16603

www.gbkfedbaseball.com

Constitution, By-Laws and Rules

REVISED JANUARY 2026

Article I – Name

This organization shall be known as the George B. Kelley Amateur Baseball Federation, Inc., hereinafter referred to as “GBK” or “Federation.”

Article II – Objective & Dissolution

The aim of the GBK shall be to operate baseball leagues that provide kids across the Blair County area a chance to compete and have fun against their peers. Leaving a positive impact on their lives, providing a safe space, and teaching life lessons.

To achieve this goal, the GBK Federation will provide a supervised baseball program consistent with the Rules and Regulations of PONY Baseball. Following Section 501(c)(3) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code, the GBK shall run exclusively as a nonprofit educational organization providing a supervised program of competitive baseball.

Upon the dissolution of the Federation, the officers, after paying or making provisions for payment of all liabilities of the Federation, will dispose of all the assets of the Federation in such a manner, or to such organization(s) organized and/or operated exclusively for charitable purposes.

Article III – Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of a President, Vice President, Vice President II, Secretary, Treasurer, Commissioner, Executive Director, Marketing Manager, Interleague Coordinator.

2. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of:

- The Board of Directors
- All active team managers

(a) The Executive Committee shall elect the officers of the Federation. A majority vote of the members present is needed for election to each office.

(b) The length of term for all officers shall be one (1) year with nominations to be submitted in September and elections to be held at the October meeting. Officers shall assume their duties following the October Meeting.

- (c) Any officers may be removed by a majority vote of the entire membership of the Executive Committee.
- (d) Nominations may be made from the floor at the election meeting. a. All nominees must have consented to serve prior to the election.
- (e) Election of officers shall be a secret ballot, unless there is only one nominee for the office, whereupon the nominee may be elected by voice vote or by the Secretary casting a ballot for the Executive Committee.
- (f) In the event any officer shall be unable to complete his/her term because of illness, resignation or any other reason, the Executive Committee shall elect a member to fill this vacancy for the remainder of the term at the next regular monthly meeting of the Executive Committee.
- (g) Manager vacancies may be filled throughout the year by majority vote of the Executive Committee present.

Article IV – Duties of the Board

1. President

- (a) Shall operate all meetings.
- (b) Shall be the chairman of the Executive Committee and carry out the policies set forth by the committee.
- (c) Shall oversee operations of the GBK Federation and work with commissioners to ensure smooth operations.
- (d) Communicate to the Board of Directors on such matters as deemed appropriate and make such suggestions as may tend to promote the welfare of the GBK.
- (e) Be responsible for the conduct of the leagues in strict conformity to the policies, principles, and Rules and Regulations of the GBK.
- (f) Investigate complaints, irregularities, and conditions detrimental to the Federation and report thereon to the Board or Executive Committee as circumstances warrant.
- (g) Ensure all members of the league have completed the required forms and have paid any dues owed.
- (h) Submit yearly league plans and goals for the upcoming season.
- (i) Communicate with CBRC on behalf of the league.

2. Vice President

- (a) Perform the duties of the President in the absence or disability of the President, provided he or she is authorized by the President or Board to act. When acting, the Vice President shall have all the powers of that office.
- (b) Perform all duties assigned to them by the President or the Board of Directors.

3. Vice President II

- (a) Perform all duties assigned by President or Vice President.

4. Secretary

- (a) Be responsible for recording the activities of the GBK Federation and maintaining appropriate files, mailing lists, email lists and necessary records.
- (b) Perform such duties as are herein specifically set forth, in addition to such other duties as are customarily incident to the office of Secretary or as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.
- (c) Maintain a list of all Regular, Sustaining and Honorary Members, Directors and Committee Members and give notice of all meetings of the GBK, the Board of Directors, and Committees.
- (d) Keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee and cause them to be recorded in a book kept for that purpose.
- (e) Conduct all correspondence not otherwise specifically delegated in connection with said meeting and shall be responsible for carrying out all orders, votes and resolutions not otherwise committed.
- (f) Notify Members, Directors, Officers and Committee Members of their election or appointment. Provide each of these individuals with a copy of the GBK Constitution.

5. Treasurer

- (a) Perform such duties as are herein set forth and such other duties as are customarily incident to the Office of Treasurer or may be assigned by the Board of Directors.
- (b) Receive all money and securities and deposit the same in a depository approved by the Board of Directors.
- (c) Keep records for the receipt and disbursement of all monies and securities of the GBK Federation, including the Auxiliary, approve all payments from allotted funds and draw checks therefore in agreement with policies established in advance of such actions by the Board of Directors.

- (d) Prepare an annual budget and financial report under the direction of the President, for submission to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting.

6. Commissioner

- (a) Discuss any league disagreements/controversies while communicating to the Vice President.
- (b) Help ensure that fields are ready to go on game days.
- (c) Complete an end of year league report recapping the season and propose improvements that may improve the league.

7. Executive Director

- (a) Create league schedule and oversee any scheduling changes.
- (b) Communicate with CBRC on behalf of the league alongside the President.
- (c) Shall have the power to serve disciplinary action to anyone violating the Federation policies.

8. Marketing Manager

- (a) Responsible for running all league social media accounts.
- (b) Responsible for running the league website, league game changers and ensuring they are up to date.
- (c) Report results and statistics to Altoona Mirror.
- (d) Always on the look and reaching out for businesses willing to sponsor the league.
- (e) Introduce new paths for fundraising and other non-league ideas.

9. Interleague Coordinator

- (a) Maintain open communications with other local leagues and work directly with President to ensure smooth working relationship.

Article V – Committees

The Board of Directors may appoint a “Committee” at any point, which shall consist of no less than three and no more than 5 members.

All-Star Selection Committee

There will be a committee formed to select our tournament teams via tryouts. The All-Star Selection Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and will consist of 5 people.

Rules Committee

Shall consist of 5 members. The Rules Committee shall meet annually after the season, but prior to the September league meeting and review the current rules and make recommendations and/or changes.

Awards Committee

Shall consist of the Executive Committee and will vote on the league's awards at the end of the season.

Finance Committee

It shall consist of at least three (3) members of the Executive Committee. The Finance Committee will meet annually or when requested, with the Treasurer to audit the League's finances. Results of such an audit will be presented to the Executive Committee at the November meeting.

Article VI – Meetings

1. Special meetings may be called by the President or six (6) members of the Board of Directors. At least two (2) days' notice of said meeting shall be given to all members of the Executive Committee.
2. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a month.
3. A quorum for an Executive Committee meeting shall consist of a majority of the Board of Directors.

Article VII – Managers

1. Managers and Coaches of each team must be voted on by the Executive Committee. They can also be removed at any time by majority vote.
2. Managers will be responsible for ensuring the eligibility of all players on their roster.
3. Managers shall provide a State Birth Certificate or Driver's License for players, if requested.
4. Managers using a suspended or ineligible player shall be subject to a three (3) game suspension on the first offense. A second offense will result in an indefinite suspension. A team using a suspended manager shall automatically lose its franchise.

5. Managers shall be responsible for the behavior of their team on and off the field while players are in uniform.

6. Managers shall notify the Executive Director and opposing manager if postponement of any game is necessary no later than one (1) hour and fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game.

7. Managers can hold offices in the league.

8. Managers with knowledge of ineligible players shall report it, in writing, to the Commissioner as soon as possible.

9. Managers of the visiting team are responsible for reporting team scores and statistics to the Marketing Manager.

10. (a) Managers will be responsible for providing the Commissioner with a roster of eligible players and coaches by the May meeting.

(b) Managers must provide an amended roster for all playoff eligible players prior to the start of the playoffs.

11. Managers are responsible for reporting a team photo no later than June 15th.

12. Managers are responsible for upholding our league values and instilling a safe and fun environment for our kids.

13. Managers shall pay the franchise fee no later than the February meeting.

14. Managers and coaches must be dressed in team apparel.

(a) Only managers, coaches, and players in proper attire will be permitted to be in the dugouts and on playing surfaces. (Players must wear a helmet when coaching the bases).

- Jeans and cargo shorts are permitted.
- Tank tops / sleeveless shirts are prohibited.

(b) Only managers are permitted to argue a call with the umpiring staff.

15. Managers who do not have representation for two (2) consecutive league meetings, or a total of four (4) in a calendar year, will be dismissed.

Article VIII – Player Eligibility

1. Eligible players for the GBK Federation may not turn twenty (20) before May 1st of the current year.

2. Player classification shall be in conformation with affiliated national organization regulations.

3. (a) Eligible players for the GBK Federation must live inside the league boundaries.
- (b) When a new player moves into a team's school, the manager must present the birth certificate or driver's license to the Executive Director before the player is eligible to play.
- (c) If a player moves from one team's school into another team's school district, the player shall play for the team who he/she was originally rostered with unless he/she is granted release.
- (d) A player may play for a team other than his/her's school district if they present a signed manager release form.
- (e) The Executive Committee will approve all eligibility and supersede all preceding rules.
4. Players are encouraged to make the GBK Federation a priority to ensure the best competition for all.
5. Teams using an ineligible player will forfeit all games in which said player participated.
6. Players must appear in at least thirty percent (30%) of their regular season games to be eligible to participate in the Federation playoffs. Any player who does not meet the 30% rule because of injury will have eligibility determined by the Board of Directors.

Article X – Federation Policies

Sportsmanship Policy

All players, coaches, managers, sponsors and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. The Board of Directors has the authority to remove anyone from the event at any time for unsportsmanlike conduct. Any player, coach, manager, sponsor or spectator whose conduct is unbecoming or abusive shall, at a minimum, be reprimanded with a warning. If warranted, the offending party shall be ejected from the game at the discretion of the Umpires or a Board Member.

Ejection Policy

- (a) Any coach, manager, sponsor or spectator ejected from a game shall immediately remove themselves from the vicinity of the playing field and / or grandstands for the remainder of the game. Any player ejected from a game shall immediately remove themselves from the vicinity of the playing field for the remainder of the game.
- (b) Refusal to leave the playing vicinity by an ejected person will result in forfeit by the team that person is associated with.
- (c) Umpires, Managers, and other league members will be responsible for reporting public misconduct by any league affiliated person(s) to The Board of Directors.

- (d) The Executive Director and Commission will be responsible for leading the investigation of the incident and be responsible for reporting their findings on the reported public misconduct to the Board of Directors.

1. First Offense – If misconduct occurs during the game and a disciplinary action is taken by the umpires, a 1 game suspension will be assessed and any further action will be determined by the Board of Directors. If public misconduct occurs following a game a 1 game suspension will be assessed and any further action will be determined by the Board of Directors.

2. Second Offense – The Board of Directors initiates a notice to include a narrative of the public personal conduct issue, and 3 game suspension will be assessed on top of any in game discipline issued and any further action will be determined by the Board of Directors.

3. Third Offense – The Board of Directors initiates a notice to include a narrative of the unacceptable personal conduct, and the Board of Directors recommendation will be presented to the Executive Committee for final action.

4. Any member of the GBK Federation that is charged with a criminal offense will be immediately suspended pending further investigation.

5. Any member of the GBK Federation is subject to reinstatement every year.

Prohibited Substances

Vapes, e-cigarettes, combustible tobacco, snuff/pouches/chewing tobacco, tobacco free snuff/pouches/chewing products or alcohol are prohibited on the team bench, dugout, bullpen or field of play by any player, manager, coach, scorekeeper, or umpire.

Combustible tobacco – Cigarettes, Cigars, Pipes, anything that burns/smolders tobacco free snuff/pouches/chewing – Herbal Snuff and Pouches • e.g., Smokey Mountain, BaccOff, Teaza etc.

Umpires

1. All umpires must sign the GBK Umpire Contract before umpiring in a game.

2. The Chief Umpire shall not be a manager.

3. No umpire, that is also a manager or coach, shall umpire in a game unless an umpire is needed and both managers state their agreement to the head umpire.

Article XI – Rules of Competition

1. Federation will play according to the currently affiliated national organization's rules and regulations, except where they conflict with the GBK Federation rules.

2. There will be a fifteen (15) minute grace period before a forfeit must be declared.

3. If only one (1) umpire shows up for a regular season game, if a team manager or the present umpire objects to playing the game they may do so. The game will then be rescheduled by the Executive Director.
4. A team may use an Extra Hitter (EH) and a Designated Hitter (DH). The DH must be listed on the lineup card under the player they are batting for.
5. A courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher or catcher at any time. The runner must not be in the current lineup. If you have no player in the current lineup, then courtesy runner would be your last out. The same runner cannot run for both pitcher and catcher in the same half inning.
6. Teams **MUST** start with 9 players but may finish with 8 players. If an injury results in a team only having eight (8) eligible players, the opposing coach will choose a player from the team's bench to complete the game.
7. If a game is suspended, the game will be rescheduled and continue in the exact spot of suspension.
 - (a) Regular season games will be considered completed after 4 1/2 innings or 5 innings of play provided the score is not tied. If a game is stopped after the 5th inning, game score would revert back to the last completed inning, unless the home team is winning at the time of suspension.
 - (b) No inning shall start after 12 AM or 11 PM on a school night. The game will be suspended unless it is considered a completed game.
8. If lightning is observed, the game will be paused, and a 15-minute timer will start. 15 minutes must pass with no lightning strikes for the game to resume, any lightning strike after the timer starts, will cause the timer to start over.

Mercy Rules

15 Run Rule - The 15 run rule will go into effect whenever a team is winning by 15+ runs after 4 complete innings. If a team goes up by 15+ runs in the final 3 innings, the game will conclude at that time no matter what.

10 Run Rule - The 10 run rule will go into effect whenever a team is winning by 10+ runs after 5 complete innings. If an inning is started, the home team must get their at bats before the 10 run rule goes into effect.

Substitutions

- (a) Any substitute/non-starter may enter any spot in the lineup. Once removed from the game, the same substitute/non-starter may enter another spot in the lineup, provided that he has sat out at least 3 defensive outs and 9/10 batters (based on how many a team is hitting) have preceded him before batting. If a substitute re-enters, he cannot be used as a pinch runner.

- (b) A pitcher that is removed from pitching during a game, may not return to the mound in the same game. If a game is postponed, a pitcher that pitched in the postponed game may pitch in the continuation of the game if the proper days of rest are received.

Pitch Limits

All pitching limitations and days of rest required will go by PIAA guidelines:

1-25: 0 Days Rest Required

26-50: 1 Days Rest Required

51-75: 2 Days Rest Required

76-100: 3 Days Rest Required.

Whenever a pitcher reaches 100 pitches during an at-bat, he may finish the batter. Note: During playoffs, a pitcher may pitch 105 pitches and finish the batter.

- (a) A pitcher will be required to observe the calendar day(s) rest for the threshold he has reached.
- (b) Scorekeepers will meet between innings to make sure the number of pitches thrown is aligned.
- (c) Scorekeepers will verify pitch counts at the completion of the game, the official pitch count will go by the statistics submitted by the visiting team's game changer.
- (d) Pitchers who pitch in a GBK affiliated tournament will be required to observe the proper days needed before pitching in a League game.
- (e) A pitcher must be removed from pitching after the second (2) mound visit in the inning or after the third (3) mound visit of the game for that specific pitcher.
- (f) If any of these rules are broken, the pitcher is considered an illegal player, and the game will be forfeited.

Article XII – Equipment

1. Players must be in full uniform while on the field of play or on the player's bench. Full uniform means a full baseball uniform, baseball shoes and cap.
2. Batters, base runners, and catchers must wear a protective helmet approved by the Board of Directors.
3. Game baseballs will be of the make and code approved by the league.

4. Only BBCOR drop 3, 2 and 5/8 inch barrel and wood bats are permitted; they can be all wood or partially composite, however, Bamboo bats are prohibited.

(a) No bat shall be used if dented, cracked, modified, or misshaped.

5. Effective January 1, 2022 – Each catcher must wear helmets and chest protectors that meet NOCSAE standards.

Article XIII – Amendments

Any section of the Constitution, By-Laws or Rules may be amended by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. Before a vote can be taken, the amendment must be read and debated by the Executive Committee.

(a) Each Manager will be granted 1 vote. Each member of the Board of Directors will get 1 vote. If an Board of Director member is also a manager, his/her vote counts as his/her 1 Manager vote. Proxy votes are permitted under circumstances approved by the President or Board of Directors. If the President is a manager and his/her vote is his/hers 1 team vote, he will still cast the tie-breaking vote.

Draft Rules

1. The draft will consist of all new players residing in the Altoona Area School District or residing in a school district that does not currently have a team represented in the GBK Federation.
2. If a represented school district team no longer holds a franchise, the returning players and new players in that district will be required to enter the draft as new players.
3. If a player wishes to be released from their current team and the release is granted, they will be eligible to enter the draft. This release is for the duration of the player's career.
4. Any player with remaining eligibility will not have to re-enter the draft. Example: A player was drafted during their 16-year-old season but did not play their 17-year-old season, they will continue to play for the same team that drafted them in their 16-year-old season. This is likely to occur due to an injury.
5. The draft order will be inverse of the standings from the previous season. The team with the worst record will get the first pick of each round and the team with the best record will get the last pick of each round, this will continue until all players are drafted.
6. Players registering after the initial draft has taken place may be placed in a supplemental draft prior to opening day. The draft order of the supplemental draft will be a random draw.
7. New siblings entering the same draft, must be drafted by the same team on successive picks. Proof of relationship will need to be provided.
9. Trades can ONLY be made IMMEDIATELY following the draft and must be reported PRIOR to the involved managers leaving the draft. Only players in the current draft are eligible for trade.
10. Each manager will be given a draft list prior to the start of the draft for review. If a manager knowingly allows a draftee to be drafted with prior knowledge of ineligibility that manager will be subject to disciplinary action after the Board of Directors review the circumstances.

GBK Federation Baseball

Manager's Code of Conduct

- I will coach with the goal of creating a positive learning experience for athletes.
- I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.
- I will respect the coaches and players of the opposing team both during the play of the game and at the conclusion, no matter the outcome and I'll always represent GBK Federation in a positive manner.
- Winning games is secondary to building a positive experience for my players, family of players, and opposing teams.
- I will put the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of personal desire to win.
- I will maintain control of my emotions and avoid actions, language and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile and/or humiliating.
- I will respect the umpires and refrain from questioning their decisions in a disrespectful or abusive manner, and will not engage in an argument with an umpire.
- I will ensure the players, coaches, parents, and fans of my team will conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity at all times.
- I will provide a safe environment for my teams that is free of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, and will refrain from using them at GBK events.
- I will not belittle or ridicule anyone involved with GBK Federation at ALL TIMES.

Print Name: _____ Team: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Any Violation of the GBK Federation Baseball Manager's Code of Conduct will be reviewed by the Board of Directors.