



# By-Laws

2007



## **Bel Passi**

### **Past & Present**

Bel Passi began in 1953 on the abandoned Bel Passi School site with barely enough players to form a single team. It remained there until 1974 when the landowner (Sylvan School District) needed it to build an administration complex.

Rather than give up youth baseball in the district, the Board of the time decided another site should be developed. Because of the land prices at \$10,000 per acre and more, the idea was almost abandoned. However, a board member, Dallas Johnston, offered the program eight acres on Roselle Avenue at a substantially lesser amount.

After many hours of ardent labor – and eight board members actually co-signing on the \$15,000 loan to complete the park in time for the 1976 season – the big move was made to our current location. The \$15,000 loan taken out in 1976 was repaid in three years. The mortgage on the property was paid off in 1986. A “mortgage burning” party was attended by several hundred people to honor Dallas and Annie Johnston who had donated back to the program all interest payments over the years.

In the beginning, the desire to play baseball was the only cost to a youth that wanted to play on a Bel Passi team. As the programs grew and expenses mounted, \$1 was charged and later \$2, and has gradually climbed to the present rate. The Bel Passi program is dedicated to keeping the cost to players to a minimum and provide for players who are unable to pay. Registration fees make up only a small part of the annual budget. Team sponsors provide players with caps and jerseys. Revenues from the annual tournament(s), outfield billboards, concession stand profits, donations and various fund-raisers provide the majority of the program’s financial support. All money raised goes for equipment, uniforms, insurance, umpire and cashier payrolls, and field and building maintenance. Any budget surplus is kept in a trust account for future needs such as land acquisition and access improvements. Every year the success of the Bel Passi program depends heavily on the volunteer efforts of the parents and family members of the players.

Bel Passi’s Roselle Avenue complex has become one of the best known and admired youth ballparks in the Central Valley, providing nearly 1,000 players annual admission to the league.

commissioner or committee head by written notice to the Executive Board. In case of the removal from office or resignation of any elected officer, an election shall take place at the Board meeting to fill the vacancy created by the removal or resignation.

### ARTICLE VIII

**Bylaws:** All Board members shall receive a copy of the bylaws, as they become Board members. Bylaws shall be read aloud by the Secretary at every September Board meeting. This is to be done without discussion.

A Bylaws Committee appointed by the President shall review the bylaws every four years. The bylaws shall be presented at two consecutive Board meetings. Voting shall occur at the end of second Board meeting.

### ARTICLE IX

Policy and Procedure Manual must be reviewed in September of each year. This review will be done by committee headed by First and Second Vice President and three Board Members. All amendments and ratifications of such policies and procedures must be approved by the Board. All current and/or new bylaws, which being approved by the Board, must make reference to following all policy and procedure manuals.

Bylaws to be reviewed in 2011.

Bylaws reviewed in August 2007 by committee appointed by President Jim Treece.

Bylaws Committee Members:

Lynette Brite  
Matt McCormick  
Michael Sharp  
John Tatum  
Mark Higgins  
Keith Canete  
Melody Higgins

Six age classifications are divided into eight leagues. The leagues for 9-14 year olds play at two levels of competition – instructional/participation and draft. Any player who is interested in a more serious level of competition may try out for draft teams.

There is a Single A Tee-ball League for 5 and 6 year old boys and girls. In addition, here is a 7 year-old Double A Coach Pitch League. The Rookie League is Triple A Kid Pitch for boys and girls 8 years old. The American League and Peewee Olympic League are for players 9 and 10 years old. The National League and the Olympic League are for players 11 and 12 years old. The Pacific and Atlantic divisions are for players 13 and 14 years old. League names may occasionally change to reflect the league's current affiliation.

After more than half a century, the basic Bel Passi focus remains intact: The recreation, education, and protection of the players. There have been a few important additions to the founders' original ideals. In recent years, Bel Passi Baseball has been a leader in the community's effort to address the important issues that face today's youth. The Bel Passi ballpark is drug- and tobacco-free and dedicated to preventing youth violence. The Board is dedicated to upholding the high standards and keeping the baseball traditions of their predecessors alive.

### Article I

**Name:** Bel Passi Baseball, Inc. a non-profit and charitable organization.

**Address:** 4312 Roselle Avenue, Modesto, California 95355  
Post Office Box 576841, Modesto, California 95357-6841

**Website:** [www.belpassibaseball.com](http://www.belpassibaseball.com)

### Article II

**Purpose:** To provide a youth baseball program for the players residing with their legal guardian within the geographical area as established by the current Sylvan School District boundaries. Registration may be extended outside of the Sylvan School district at the discretion of the Executive Board to provide a balanced/full league for one or more age group(s).

To promote sportsmanship, team play, and citizenship using the disciplines of the game of baseball.

To insure that all participate, regardless of the athletic ability, may do so in each game, excluding tournament play.

To insure that each player will be given the opportunity to register and participate regardless of gender, race, religion, or the ability to pay a registration fee as determined by the President and Treasurer.

Any player or sibling of, who has continuously played at Bel Passi will be allowed to play if he/she has moved outside the geographical boundaries of the Sylvan School District.

### Article III

**Assets:** The program and all its assets are irrevocably dedicated to charitable purposes. Any assets that come under the ownership of the organization are not to be used or operated by the organization or by any person as to benefit an officer, director, shareholder, member employee, contributor, or bond holder or the owner or operator or any other person, through the distribution of profits, payment, or excessive charges or compensations or the more advantageous pursuit of their business or profession.

The possible liquidation, dissolution, or abandonment of such assets shall not benefit any private person except a fund, foundation, or corporation organized and operated for charitable purposes as approved by the Board.

Nothing in the last two sections shall be deemed to prohibit the reimbursement of the Board, members or other person or corporations of amounts loaned to the organization by the Board, members or other persons or corporations, nor shall it prevent the payment out of the funds of this organization for the reasonable value of services rendered, assets transferred or materials furnished to this organization by any Board member or any other person or corporation provided, however that payment so made shall be approved by the Board.

### Article IV

**Organization, Board:** There shall be no limit to the number of general board members only that they be adults eighteen years of age who are interested in youth baseball and not only will accept the responsibility of carrying out of the purposes stated in Article II, but will also perform such duties that assumed by becoming a member of the board.

other publicity. The Public Relations Commissioner shall prepare the Bel Passi Newsletter. The Public Relations Commissioner is responsible for the Opening Orientations as well as maintenance and administration of the Bel Passi website.

**The Promotions and Special Events Commissioner** shall be responsible for the physical set-up and the work schedules for promotional and special events. This includes any fundraising events planned by the Board.

**The Tournament Commissioner** shall be responsible for all details related to the baseball tournament(s) held at the Bel Passi facility, including but not limited to the scheduling of tournament dates, bracketing of teams, setting amount of (and collection of) entry fees, scheduling of volunteers to work the snack bar, announcers and scorekeepers. The Tournament Commissioner shall be responsible for the hiring and scheduling of any additional help necessary for the tournament(s). The Tournament Commissioner shall have the responsibility to act as the Executive Board's liaison with other league's tournament directors.

**The Umpires Commissioner** shall be in charge of the umpires. The Umpires Commissioner shall have the responsibility for any detail pertaining to the hiring, firing, schooling and keeping track of games worked so umpires may be paid. The Umpires Commissioner will be the mode of communication between the Executive Board and the umpires, in regards to complaints and pay scales. The Umpires Commissioner shall be co-chairman of an annual rules review committee with the Baseball Commissioner.

**The Immediate Past President**, unless forced to resign from office by a simple majority vote of the Board at a regular or special meeting, shall sit as the fifteenth (15) member of the Executive Board, primarily in an advisory capacity but with full voting privileges. In the event the Immediate Past President is appointed to serve another position on the Executive Board, this position shall remain vacant and fourteen (14) persons shall constitute the Executive Board. If a President succeeds himself, the Immediate Past President is the person who held the office before the person now holding office.

### ARTICLE VII

**Removal and Resignation of Officers:** Any Officer elected by the Board may be removed from office, with cause, by a simple majority of the Board at any legal meeting. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board. The President may remove any appointed

The Booster Commissioner will be responsible for the design and purchasing of souvenir items. (Hats, T-shirts, Visors, Sweatshirts, etc.) The Booster Commissioner will provide souvenir sales reports to the Treasurer on a monthly basis in time for the monthly Board meeting.

**The Concessions Commissioner** shall see that all supplies are ordered so that the concession stand is operated in a businesslike manner. The Concessions Commissioner shall determine what improvements are needed, make such recommendations to the Board and call workdays to see that they are implemented. The Concessions Commissioner shall make recommendations to the Executive Board as to prices and policies for the stand and then see that the approved prices and policies are posted at the stand. The Concessions Commissioner is responsible to find, evaluate and present candidates for cashiers to the Bel Passi Executive Board for approval. Operations of the cash drawer will follow the policy and procedures that are currently in force. The Concessions Commissioner shall be responsible for a work schedule adequate to see that the stand is staffed during the season.

**The Equipment Commissioner** shall purchase all equipment as needed to maintain player safety and overall quality. The Equipment Commissioner is responsible for the purchase of All-Star uniforms and regular season trophies. The Equipment Commissioner shall be responsible to see that all equipment is issued and returned by the coaches. The Equipment Commissioner must keep adequate records to show accountability on all equipment. These records will be open to inspection by all Board members. The Equipment Commissioner shall provide a beginning and ending inventory on equipment.

**The Facility Commissioner** shall be responsible for keeping the playing fields and park in good condition, including watering and mowing the grass. The Facility Commissioner shall be responsible for the maintenance of the fields and the upkeep of the facility. The Facility Commissioner shall make recommendations to the Board for park improvements to be made for the year. The Facility Commissioner shall call workdays, see that all needed supplies are on hand for such workdays and direct the efforts of the field staff. The Facility Commissioner in conjunction with the President is responsible for the hiring of the field staff. The Facility Commissioner is also responsible for scheduling field use time.

**The Public Relations Commissioner** shall be responsible for keeping the players and their families informed as to the accomplishments of the program and problems. The Public Relations Commissioner shall be in charge of all publicity such as providing current standings for newspapers and any

A prospective new member must attend two consecutive Board meetings and will become a board member, if so desired at the end of the second legal meeting,

Board members will meet once a month except when called into special session by the President or by the majority vote of the Executive Board.

To facilitate quorum requirements, the Board shall be divided into two groups: Active and Inactive, with only those members on the "active" list having voting privileges. Board members who miss three consecutive regular meetings will automatically become inactive. "Inactive" members may regain voting rights by attending two consecutive regular meetings thereby becoming active again. Actual voting may not occur until the beginning of the second meeting.

Any member may resign from the board upon written notice.

**Officers:** All officers will be elected by the Board in June of each year. The President shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of one Executive Board member and two members from the Board. This shall be done by the April meeting. This three-person committee must have the majority approval of the Executive Board. This committee shall contact prospective nominees and present a slate of candidates to the Board at the May regular meeting. At this time, notice will be given that elections will be held at the June meeting and additional nominations may be made from the floor at that time. An effort will be made by the nominating committee to propose at least two candidates each for the office of President, First Vice president, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Snack Bar Commissioner, Promotions and Special Events Commissioner, Booster Commissioner, and Tournament Commissioner. The newly elected Executive Board term of the office begins in September.

#### **Executive Board:**

An Executive Board will be formed each year consisting of the new officers and the following commissioners appointed by the incoming President: Baseball Commissioner; Equipment Commissioner; Facility Commissioner; Public Relations Commissioner; Umpires Commissioner.

In addition, the Immediate Past President will serve on the Executive Board as a full voting member.

The Executive Board will meet once a month, prior to, and separate from the Board meeting. In addition, the Executive Board can request, by majority vote, review and approval of any purchases in excess of \$3,500 for operation of the program.

Any Executive Board Member who becomes inactive according to the terms and definitions of Article IV can be removed from office with the approval of the Board. Furthermore, while Executive Board Member is inactive, they are disqualified from attending Executive Board meetings and enjoying all privileges therein.

## Article V

**Voting:** To be a legal meeting a quorum must be present, one member over half the active Board present constituting a quorum. To have a legal vote, a quorum must be present, one member over half the active Board present constituting a quorum. In the event a voting member cannot attend an election, an absentee vote may be submitted by email to the Secretary at least 3 days prior to the vote. All absentee ballots must be validated by the Past President.

Eight Executive Board members will constitute a quorum of that body.

Each active member will have one vote.

Election of officers shall be by secret ballot.

## Article VI

### Duties of Executive Board Members:

**The President** shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Board and the Board. The President has the responsibility of carrying out the policies and programs set down in the bylaws and by the Board. The President is responsible for preparing the annual budget, obtaining Executive Board approval, and presenting the budget to the Board in the November meeting. The President shall also have the general powers and duties of management usually vested in the office. It will also be the responsibility of the President or his appointee to perform a "Megan's Law" background check on all coaching applications.

**The First Vice President** shall assume the office of President in the absence of or disability of the President and shall hold office until an election is held at the next general Board meeting. The First Vice President shall be in charge of keeping adequate sponsor records. The First Vice President shall bill sponsors and report to the Board as to progress of collection. The First Vice President is responsible for coordination and sponsorship of uniforms for league play. In addition, the First Vice President shall Chair the

annual golf tournament.

**The Second Vice President** shall be responsible for the organization of the Pancake Breakfast and the Bel Passi Social and all related ticket sales. The Second Vice President shall keep adequate record of sales by the players. The Second Vice President shall keep a record of all purchases made relating to these events for future references.

**The Secretary** is responsible for the keeping of a permanent book of minutes of all meetings of the Executive Board and the Board and the names of those present. The Secretary is responsible for keeping an up-to-date list of active and inactive board members with current contact information. The Secretary shall post the meeting agenda and give notice of all meetings at least three days before their happening. Further, a copy of the minutes of the previous meeting is to be available for all board members attending the meeting. The Secretary shall keep a copy of all pertinent correspondence along with the permanent book of minutes which is to be passed onto the following year's officers.

**The Treasurer** shall provide the Board with up-to-date monthly balance sheet of income and expenses. The Treasurer shall pay all bills and payroll, deposit all money with such depositories as may be designated by arrangements such as paying taxes and obtaining sales permits as required for doing business.

The Treasurer shall keep such records needed to be able to determine profit, if any, earned for the season. The books and accounts shall, at all times, be open to inspection by any Board member.

**The Baseball Commissioner** shall conduct the tryouts and draft selections in all leagues. The Baseball Commissioner shall compile all game schedules and supervise the selection of All-Star teams. The Baseball Commissioner will appoint sub-commissioners for each league in the program and be responsible for overseeing their conduct in the running of their league. The Baseball Commissioner shall co-chair an annual rules review committee with the Umpires Commissioner.

**The Booster Commissioner** shall act as a resource for the various team parents and the other Board commissioners. The Booster Commissioner shall work in support of the Concessions Commissioner by scheduling snack bar Booster-on-Duty and training new Booster members.