

RECREATION LEAGUE SOFTBALL

DIVISION III (WEST) BOARD BY LAWS

EFFECTIVE: September 4, 2014

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Division West Softball League (hereafter referred to as Division III) is to offer residents of The Villages an organized and structured format to play recreational softball.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Division III will be governed by an elected Board of Directors which is comprised of nine (9) members each serving a three (3) year term. Three (3) board members will be elected each year. The term of their elected board membership will begin on April 1st of the year they are elected and end on March 31st three (3) years later.

QUALIFICATIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS

Members of the board must be members of a team, a team manager, or substitute for a minimum of two of the three immediately preceding season of their election to the board. Exception: If a player was not a member of a team, a team manager, or substitute during a season due to an illness or injury, that season does **not** count as one of the three preceding seasons. During their tenure on the Board of Directors, a board member must be an active player, manager, umpire, or substitute within Division III. If ill or injured, a board member must be able to perform all of his Board of Director duties.

ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The election of the board members will occur at the softball complex and is open to all **active** Division III players, managers, umpires, and substitutes. The election will be held no later than the third full week of March. The time and place for this election will be announced at the fields and a notice posted where substitutes sign up to play during the first full week in March.

Candidates for the Board of Directors must declare their candidacy to the President of the Board of Directors, or the President appointed board member representative, two weeks prior to the election date. The candidates will have their names posted at the fields after this date by the sign announcing the time and place of the election. If there are more than three candidates a paper ballot vote will occur. The board President will appoint two board members and one manager, not running for election, to oversee the election process and ballot count. The results of the election will be posted on the

Division 3 Website and on a sign at the fields. Only the three (3) winners and the first runner up (fourth place finisher) will be announced. No vote totals will be announced.

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

The officers of the Board of Directors will include the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. They will be elected annually by a majority vote of the board members no later than April 15th. Their term of office will be one year, beginning April 1st of the elected year and end on March 31st of the following year.

DUTIES AN RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The board's duties and responsibilities include but not limited to:

- Overseeing the election of the Board of Directors
- Promoting the development of balanced and competitive teams
- Approving rule changes for league and tournament play
- Selecting team managers
- Evaluating players
- Coordinating draft preparation and draft oversight
- Scheduling of season and tournament games
- Coordinating the recruiting, training, and scheduling of umpires and scorekeepers
- Overseeing the selection of substitutes for scheduled games
- Maintaining a list of replacement players for injured or disqualified players
- Maintaining a list of substitute players for games

VACANCIES

If a board member, for whatever reason, cannot complete the elected term of office, the first runner up of the most recent election will fill the vacancy. If there was no runner up, the vacancies will be filled at the next annual election of the Board of Directors.

TEAM MANAGERS

Team managers should be knowledgeable of the skill levels of the players within the league to enable them to "draft" a competitive and cohesive team. Managers do not have to be a member of the team's roster to be selected as a team manager.

The Board of Directors will be responsible for selecting team managers prior to each season's draft. Addendum 1 contains Guidelines for the Manager Selection Process which will became effective beginning with the 2013 Fall Season (approx. September 1, 2013).

- The Board reserves the right to select/remove qualified playing or non-playing managers.
- RESPONSIBILITIES: A team manager's responsibilities will include but not limited to:
 - Conducting their activities pertaining to the league in a positive and proper manner.
 - Selecting the team's players at the pre-season draft.
 - Ensuring that the team's players have schedules, rules, and scorekeeping instructions.
 - Determining the team's line up and player positions.
 - Providing knowledgeable scorekeepers for other games when assigned.
 - Providing line up sheets to the board member in charge 20 minutes prior to the team's scheduled game with those needing runners and the number of substitutes notes.
 - Requesting replacement players promptly when a drafted player will not be playing for the remainder of the season according to the rules established.
 - Recommending player ratings for members of their team.
 - Suggesting rule or policy changes for future seasons to the Board of Directors.

AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

A two thirds vote by all board members is required to amend these by-laws.

DIVISION III RULES

The Villages' Recreation Department regulations, the Division III rules, and the Official Senior Softball – USA rules govern play in Division III. If there is a conflict between these rules and Senior Softball – USA rules, the Division III rules take precedence.

All players, managers, umpires, and Board members are to abide by these rules.

Addendum 1. Guidelines for the Manager Selection Process

1. Managers who have an average winning percentage of .400 or higher for a minimum of three (3) seasons may not be removed for non-performance.

2. Managers who have an average winning percentage of less than .400 for a minimum of three (3) seasons may be removed for non-performance under the following conditions:

a. A managerial need must exist to be removed for non-performance; example if 23 managers are needed and there are only 23 applicants, a returning manager cannot be removed for non-performance regardless of win percentage.

b. If there is an overage of managers, then the list will be balanced to the need by removal of any manager(s) falling below the .400 average winning percent levels beginning with the lowest winning percent removed first.

c. New applicants for manager positions must meet the Team Manager Qualifications set forth in the bylaws before a current manager is removed, this decision is determined by the board as described in the bylaws, and the decision of the board is final.

d. Winning percentage is determined by the final standings from official league results.

3. Non-performance as to winning percentage is not the only reason the board may remove a manager, the board may remove a manager if it feels he has not fulfilled the guidelines set forth in the league bylaws no matter what his winning percentage is.

4. Removal of a manager is the responsibility of the board as set forth in the bylaws and is absolute.

5. One Time Option:

** Current managers will have a one time option to discard their current win statistics and begin their 3 season accumulation of winning percentage just as if they were brand new managers. This option may only be selected once by notifying the board **in writing before the first week of the 2013 Fall Season** has been completed. If the option is selected, all current managerial win stats will be erased and the manager will begin his three season accumulation beginning with the 2013 Fall Season. He may not select any part of the original records to be part of his three season average; it is an all or nothing selection. If this option is not selected, managers are subject to the current winning percentage statistics they have accumulated in accordance to the board records. These statistics will be provided sometime prior to the 2013 Fall Season.

Note: From September 1, 2013 to September 1, 2014, changes to this new process can be made by a simple majority vote of Board members.