

**RECREATION LEAGUE SOFTBALL**  
**DIVISION III BOARD BY LAWS**  
**EFFECTIVE: May 8, 2023**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The purpose of the Recreational 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 **December 1<sup>st</sup> of the year they are elected and end on November 30<sup>th</sup> three (3) years later.** Board of Director members will be limited to two (2) consecutive 3 year terms. Board members serving out a term for a resigning member or otherwise unfulfilled term will not count towards their serving two (2) consecutive 3 year terms.

**QUALIFICATIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS**

To be eligible to be elected to the Board, you must be a **roster player of a team or a team manager, for a minimum of six (6) seasons preceding their election to the board.** Exception: If a player was not a member of a team or a team manager during a season due to an illness or injury, that season does not count as one of the six preceding seasons. After being elected to and during their tenure on the Board of Directors, a board member must be an **active participant** within Division III and must be available to perform all duties required by the Board. 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, asst. managers, scorers, umpires, and substitutes. The election will be held no later than the third full week of **November.** 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 **November.** Candidates for the Board of Directors must declare their candidacy to the Commissioner of the Board of Directors, or the Commissioner 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 Commissioner 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 **unless requested.**

**OFFICERS OF THE BOARD**

The officers of the Board of Directors will include the Commissioner, Vice Commissioner, Treasurer, and Secretary. They will be elected annually by a majority vote of the board members no later than **Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.** **Their term of office will be approximately one year beginning with the meeting to rate players and determine the number of teams for the Winter season. Their term will end on the same day of the ratings meeting for the following Winter season. New board members will begin their three year term on the same dates.**

## **DUTIES AND 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 Announcers
- 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
- Maintaining a list of certified pitchers
- Coordinating the certification of pitchers
- Voting, including via written proxy to the Board of Directors, on issues impacting D3
- Overseeing the D3 Recognition Program

## **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. Playing Managers must maintain a skill level expected from a Division III player. At the Board's discretion, a playing Manager can be asked to be reevaluated. The reevaluation will determine if the Manager has the skills expected to continue being a playing Manager. If the playing Manager chooses not to be reevaluated, he will move to the bottom of the eligible list of playing and non-playing Managers for future seasons.

The Board of Directors will be responsible for selecting team managers prior to each season's draft. The removal of a Manager is the sole responsibility of the Board of Directors and is absolute.

**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 announcing 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 30 minutes prior to the team's scheduled game with those needing runners and the number of substitutes noted.
- 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 (SSUSA) rules govern play in Division III. If there is a conflict between these rules and Senior Softball – USA (SSUSA) rules, the Division III rules take precedence.

All Players, Managers, Umpires, and Board members are to abide by these rules.