



Recreation Softball League Policies & Procedures (Effective Summer 2011)

The Villages Recreation Softball Program is a program offered to residents of The Villages and is organized by VCDD Recreation Department. Under the direction of the District Manager and the Director of Recreation the softball program is staffed by a full time Sports Coordinator located at the Saddlebrook Recreation Center.

The purpose of the Recreation Softball League Policies & Procedures is to provide the recreation softball leagues with policies and procedures that help promote a safe enjoyable environment. The following policies and procedures encompass all divisions within the Villages Recreation and Neighborhood softball leagues. For more information about the VCDD softball program including season dates, frequently asked questions and division websites please visit www.districtgov.org.

1. League Sign-up:

- A. The schedule for Recreation and Neighborhood softball leagues including signup dates will be available online, in the newspaper, via email and on the softball bulletin boards.
- B. Players are responsible for submitting an application to the Saddlebrook Recreation Center during the scheduled signup dates. Applications include a waiver of liability and the VCDD Recreation Department code of conduct. Players must complete a new application for each season they wish to participate in.

2. Player Placement

- A. Recreation Leagues
 - Division representatives from each recreation softball league will collect the completed applications complete with signed waivers and the Recreation Department's Code of Conduct from the Saddlebrook Recreation Center
 - The Saddlebrook staff will reserve a facility for the leagues to conduct player drafts
 - Team managers from each league will draft players in a process to be determined by the league
- B. Neighborhood Leagues
 - Division representatives from each neighborhood softball league will collect the completed applications complete with signed waivers and the Recreation Department Code of Conduct from the Saddlebrook Recreation Center.
 - Those representatives will select the neighborhood teams. When possible teams will be comprised of players from the same village. If there are not enough players from one village to form a team those players will be placed accordingly onto other teams within the same division

3. Softball Player Eligibility

- A. To be eligible to participate in the Recreation or Neighborhood softball leagues each player must have a valid resident or renter ID. Guests may not participate in Recreation or Neighborhood softball Leagues.
- B. Participants must have a current waiver and code of conduct on file with the VCDD Recreation Department.
- C. All new players joining The Villages Recreation or Neighborhood Leagues must complete three evaluation sessions. The three sessions do not have to be consecutive weeks, but all three must take place within six months of the first evaluation.
- D. Each player must participate in the division they were evaluated as either a roster player or substitute for their initial season. Players may decide to move up or down one division per season after their initial season. After his/her initial season any player who is not drafted has the option to either stay in that division as a substitute or to drop down to the next lower division where they will be placed on a roster.
- E. A player who signs up for a division higher than the one he/she just participated in and goes un-drafted will be put in the previous levels draft pool. If they go un-drafted in the lower draft pool they will then be placed on a team in next lower division than the one they previously participated, or become a sub.
- F. If a player goes undrafted for 2 consecutive seasons that he/she signs up for, he/she must drop down one division for one season beginning the following season. The Villages Recreation Softball seasons are winter, spring/summer and fall.
- G. Newly evaluated players who complete their evaluation while a season is currently underway will be considered a priority sub for the remainder of that season.
- H. Any division representative may request a one day re-evaluation for a player in the league in which they represent. The player will be re-evaluated and assigned to the division in which they are re-evaluated.
- I. The age requirements to participate in senior softball are; a male player must become at least 50 and a female player at least 40 years of age during the calendar year to be eligible to play in Senior Divisions that calendar year. Players in The Villages who are 45 for male and 35 for female and have played within the past calendar year (2009) will be grandfathered into the softball program. These players will be restricted to using ASA approved softball bats.

- J. The integrity of the Recreation and Neighborhood softball leagues are dependent on players committing to be at and participate in their scheduled games. Therefore, each division has the opportunity to create their own rule on attendance. **Players can not be removed from teams or suspended without the approval of the Recreation Department.** The ability for players to request a “leave of absence” due to injury, illness, family emergency, or any other acceptable reason shall be included in that rule. The request shall be in writing and submitted to the Recreation Facilities Manager at Saddlebrook. Every request will be considered on an individual basis. The outcome of the request could have many possibilities. Examples of what the outcome of a request could be, but are not limited to; the request being denied, the player being able to sign up the next season with no suspension, the player being classified as a sub, priority sub, or as a roster player.
- K. **Eligibility of players due to violations of the VCDD Recreation code of conduct is the duty of the Recreation Department. A two game suspension is mandatory for any player or manager ejected from a league game. In the case of any physical contact the minimum suspension is 1 month. The Recreation Department will determine if further disciplinary action is necessary. The Recreation Department has the sole ability to discipline or suspend players from all recreation sponsored leagues.**

4. Recreation Department Responsibilities for League Play

- Operation and support consistent with the recreation facility guidelines
- Policy Creation
- Field Maintenance
- Staffing
- Scheduling of fields
- Disciplinary Issues
- Safety Concerns
- Create and maintain softball budget
- Purchasing of equipment & supplies
- Player Discrepancies

5. ADA Compliance Policy

To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any disabled participant scheduled to participate in any capacity while at the Saddlebrook Softball Complex will play their games on field #1 or #4. Any game scheduled on those fields shall be moved to an adjacent field to accommodate the participant with the disability. All games scheduled at Buffalo Glen or Knudson shall be played as scheduled.

6. Cancellation of League Play

Recreation Softball leagues fall under the umbrella of the overall Recreation Department weather policy. Copies of the policy are available at the Saddlebrook Recreation Center or on the District website (www.districtgov.org).

If cancellation occurs, the Recreation Department will immediately notify WVLG 640am to make the announcement of cancellation.

7. The VCDD Recreation Department reserves the right to alter, modify or update these policies and as deemed necessary by recreation staff.