

## **The Villages Softball FAQ's**

The purpose of the Recreation and Parks Sponsored Softball Leagues is to provide The Villages Residents a safe, enjoyable environment to participate in softball with their friends and neighbors. For more information about the VCDD softball program including season dates, league links, and contact info please visit <https://www.districtgov.org/departments/Recreation/softball.aspx>

### **1. What type of softball leagues are offered in The Villages?**

#### **a. Recreation Leagues**

Recreation leagues play twice a week Monday through Friday. Recreation leagues offer Resident players of all abilities an opportunity to play in a friendly, fun, competitive environment. There are three softball seasons per year: fall, winter, and summer. Each player must sign a waiver of liability and a code of conduct.

#### **b. Neighborhood Leagues**

Neighborhood leagues play each Saturday. Neighborhood leagues are designed to build camaraderie of the Residents participating from the same or nearby neighborhood. There are three softball leagues per year: fall, winter, and summer. Each player must sign a waiver of liability and a code of conduct.

#### **c. Resident RLVG Leagues**

Resident RLVG leagues are leagues that are formed and implemented by residents of The Villages. These leagues play 1 to 2 times per week depending on the league and sometimes travel to play at nearby softball facilities. Each player must sign a waiver of liability and a code of conduct. Their seasons vary from league to league.

### **2. Where are the Softball Complexes located?**

#### **a. Knudson Softball Field: 1422 Paradise Drive, Lady Lake, FL 32159**

Knudson is located just north of US 441 adjacent to the Paradise Regional Recreation Center.

#### **b. Buffalo Glen Softball Complex: 305 Tatonka Terrace, The Villages, FL 32162**

Buffalo Glen is located on CR-466 just west of The Villages Charter School Buffalo Ridge Campus.

#### **c. Saddlebrook Softball Complex: 2890 Saddlebrook Lane, The Villages, FL 32162**

Saddlebrook Softball Complex is located off Buena Vista Blvd adjacent to The Villages Polo Fields and Saddlebrook Rec Center.

#### **d. Soaring Eagle Softball Complex: 4390 Morse Boulevard, The Villages, FL 32163**

Soaring Eagle is located just north of CR-44 on Morse Blvd.

#### **e. Everglades Softball Complex: 5467 Marsh Bend Trail, The Villages, FL 32163**

Everglades is located just south of Florida's Turnpike.

3. **How do I get involved in The Villages Recreation Softball Program?**  
The first step for anyone interested in participating in The Villages Recreation Softball Program is to complete Player Evaluations. Evaluations are held at the Buffalo Glen Softball Complex every Tuesday morning during the season at 8:00 am. Pre-registration is not needed; just arrive in time to check in with a glove, your Villages ID, and photo ID. Evaluations are conducted by a team of resident volunteers.
4. **I have completed the evaluation process...what's next?**  
Once you have completed the softball evaluation process you are eligible to become a roster player or sub in your designated Recreation and Neighborhood softball leagues. Applications for all the Recreation and Neighborhood softball leagues can be picked up and returned at the Saddlebrook or Everglades Recreation Centers, or by contacting the specific league directly.
5. **How many players are on each Recreation or Neighborhood team?**  
Recreation teams typically carry between 12 and 14 players on their rosters. Neighborhood teams typically carry between 12 and 16 on their rosters.
6. **What rules and regulations govern the VCDD Recreation Softball Program?**  
The VCDD Recreation Softball Program is governed by the VCDD Recreation Softball Procedures. The in-game rules that each league follows are located on the individual league websites. Anything not covered in the VCDD Recreation Policies or league rules reverts to Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) rules.
8. **Are the VCDD Recreation and Neighborhood Leagues sanctioned by a national governing body?**  
The VCDD Recreation Softball Leagues are not sanctioned by a national governing body; however, the leagues recognize the SSUSA rules as the governing rules.
9. **What equipment is legal in the Recreation and Neighborhood Softball Leagues?**
  - Footwear – Rubber cleats, turf shoes, tennis shoes or anything equivalent are legal in the Recreation and Neighborhood leagues. Metal spikes are not permitted.
  - Gloves – Position specific Mitts are permitted for catchers and first basemen only. Please see SSUSA rules for complete rules on gloves.
  - Bats – Recreation leagues are allowed to use any bat with a 1.21 bpf and/or approved for SSUSA play. This includes the use of the senior softball bats. Players provide their own bats for Recreation leagues. Single walled aluminum bats are provided by the Recreation Department for Neighborhood Leagues. Some Neighborhood leagues use their own bats.
  - Balls – VCDD Recreation leagues use .44/375 optic yellow Trump softball. Men use a 12” softball while the ladies leagues use an 11” softball.
10. **Where can I find a softball schedule?**  
The field schedule can be found in the recreation publication or by visiting the schedule page online. Team schedules can be found on the division websites.
11. **Can we practice or rent the softball fields?**  
Any resident or guest with a valid ID can utilize the softball facilities at any time that league games or Recreation sponsored events are not taking place. The softball fields can be rented for special events or tournaments by contacting the Saddlebrook Recreation Center.