



### **1. New Softball Player Division Placement**

All new softball players to The Villages must complete (3) evaluation sessions. The (3) sessions do not have to be consecutive weeks, but all (3) must take place within 12 months of the first evaluation.

**This policy was amended and approved by the SAB on 7/7/2009 with an 11 to 0 vote. There were 2 SAB members absent at the voting time.**

### **2. Current Softball Player Division Placement**

- a. 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 (1) division per season after their initial season.
- b. After his/her initial season any player who is not drafted has the option to either stay in that division as a priority substitute or to drop down to the next lower division where they will be placed on a roster.
- c. 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 priority sub. Ex: Player participates in D2. Signs up for D1 and goes un-drafted, he is not guaranteed a spot in D2. He goes into the D2 draft pool if he is undrafted he then has the choice to be a priority sub or be placed on a D3 roster.
- d. 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.
- e. 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.
- f. Any player, or the SAB member representing that division, may request a "One-Day Re-Evaluation". All requests must be made to the Recreation Department Softball Staff in writing. The player will be re-evaluated and assigned to that division.

Signed 8/1/2008 (Amended 4/28/2009)

**This policy was amended and approved by the SAB on 7/7/2009 with an 11 to 0 vote. There were 2 SAB members absent at the voting time.**



### **3. Softball Player Eligibility**

All current residents of The Villages, whom have completed the softball evaluation process and have the proper identification, are eligible to participate in the Recreation and Neighborhood Softball Leagues.

- a. **70% rule:** Players who do not attend 70% of their scheduled games during the season without making the proper request (see rule 3c) will be suspended from playing or substituting for the remainder of that season; unless such event occurs after the halfway point of the season. In which case they will be suspended from playing or substituting for the remainder of the season plus the first 50% of the next season in which they play.
- b. Any games that are cancelled due to weather or any other reason will count as a played game for everyone on the teams' roster.
- c. Players may request a "leave of absence" due to injury, illness, family emergency, or any other acceptable reason. The request must be in writing and submitted to either the Recreation Facilities Manager at Saddlebrook or the SAB member of his/her division. SAB member must submit any such forms to the Recreation Facilities Manager at Saddlebrook.
- d. 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. These decisions will be made by the division boards in conjunction with the Recreation Facilities Manager at the Saddlebrook Recreation Center.

Signed 8/1/2008 (Amended 4/28/2009)

**This policy was approved by the SAB on 7/7/2009 with a 10 to 2 vote. There was 1 SAB member absent at the voting time.**



#### 4. Substitutes

- a. Priority subs are defined as players who were undrafted and chose to stay in that division as a priority sub or an individual who completes evaluations after the current season was underway. Priority status applies for that season.
  - Priority substitutes are players who are committed to being a sub on a week to week basis, and who are willing to be placed on a team if a full time roster spot becomes available.
  - If a priority sub is offered a roster position and turns down that opportunity, he/she will lose their priority status and finish the remainder of the season as a regular sub.
- b. Volunteer subs are defined as players who volunteer their time as umpires, scorekeepers, and board members etc. who volunteer on the day in which they would like to sub.
- c. Seasonal Subs are defined as players who join the league after the season has begun.
- d. Sub Only Players are defined as someone who at anytime during the season signs up as a sub only.
- e. Roster players
  - I. Defined as players who are currently on a roster and wish to sub on their bye week.
  - II. Players who have already played a game that day and wish to play another game or players who are scheduled to play that day at a later time.

#### 4a. Placement order for subs:

- i. Subbing will be on a tier system. With a lottery type drawing for each tier.
  - a) Tier 1
    - a. Priority Subs
  - b) Tier 2
    - a. Volunteer\*
  - c) Tier 3
    - a. Seasonal Subs
    - b. Sub Only Players
    - c. Roster Players with Byes
  - d) Tier 4
    - a. Roster Players II who have already played in a game that day or are scheduled to play at a later time that day.
  - e) Tier 5
    - a. Any sub who already subbed in a game.

**Every player shall have the chance to play in 1 game before any player plays in 2 games.**

\*\*Disclaimer – If leagues do not use the volunteer sub category they can skip tier 2 and go straight from Tier 1 to Tier 3.\*\*

Effective 1/1/09

**This policy was amended and approved by the SAB on 7/7/2009 with a 12 to 0 vote. There was 1 SAB member absent at the voting time.**



## 5. Elections

### I. Softball Advisory Board

- a. Any Village resident is eligible to become a member of the Softball Advisory Board. The criteria one must meet to be elected by their peers are; they must be involved in the division in which they represent and SAB members must be full time residents in The Villages. Applications will be approved by the Recreation Department prior to being placed on the ballot.
- b. Before an election is held, a notice of SAB Vacancies will be posted at the Softball Complex for two consecutive weeks, voting will held on a minimum of two days during league play. A member of the Recreation Department will be present at the voting station at all times. \*The Umpire In Chief is voted on by all associated with softball and will be voted on at the Saddlebrook Recreation Center.\* A candidate can become nominated by completing a Softball Advisory Board Application available at the Saddlebrook Recreation Center. Softball players/umpires/evaluators can only vote for the area they are associated with. Once voting is completed a current member of the SAB will assist counting the votes for a vacant position with a member from the Recreation Department. If a SAB member resigns, an election will be held within three months to find a replacement.
- c. When a member of a division is voted onto the SAB he/she is automatically reserved a spot on that leagues board for his/her entire term. At no time will a SAB member not be a part of the leagues board that he/she represents.

### II. Division Board Members

- a. Any Village resident is eligible to become a member of the Recreation or Neighborhood Division Boards. The criteria one must meet to be elected by their peers are; they must be involved in the area in which they wish to represent and they must be full time residents of The Villages.
- b. Voting for nominated candidates will be conducted at the complex in which the division is participating on a minimum of one playing date. These elections are run by the Division Board representing that division.

**This policy was approved by the SAB on 7/7/2009 with an 11 to 1 vote. There was 1 SAB member absent at the voting time.**

## 6. Weather

- a. Softball games will be cancelled for the following reasons:
  - Wind chill temperature of 35 degrees or below
  - Outside temperature of 95 degrees or above (Official Temperature)
  - Excessive rain, wind, lightning or any other reasons that compromise the safety of the players or the condition of the softball fields.

**\*\*If at anytime the field conditions or the weather conditions are deemed to be unsafe, the District Recreation Department reserves the right to stop play\*\***

**This policy was amended and approved by the SAB on 7/7/2009 with a 9 to 3 vote. There was 1 SAB member absent at the voting time.**