

Central Florida League (CFL) By-laws

Updated April 18, 2021

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be “Central Florida League”, herein referred to as the CFL.

Article II. Purpose

The purpose and objective of the CFL is to operate an additional softball league within The Villages for residents currently involved with or enrolled in The Villages Recreation Department’s Division 2 and 3 recreational programs. The objectives of the CFL include, but are not limited to, the promotion and enjoyment of safe, fun softball in The Villages and a means by which players may participate at a level differing somewhat from the recreational leagues established by the Recreation Department.

Article III. Basic Policies

The following are basic policies of the CFL.

- A. The CFL shall be nondiscriminatory, non-sectarian, and non-partisan.
- B. The CFL shall not discriminate by race, nationality, color, or creed.
- C. The CFL shall promote the sport of softball and enjoyment of the sport by The Villages residents.
- D. The CFL shall not, directly or indirectly, participate or intervene in any campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to the Recreation Department or any resident of The Villages.
- E. The CFL shall not interfere with or obstruct the work of the Recreation Department.

Article IV. Membership

Section 1. Eligibility for CFL membership.

- A. Open to male residents of The Villages over the age of 50 years (or those who will attain the age of 50 years during the current season) and who have completed The Villages Recreation Department official softball evaluation program. (Amended from 55 years of age in 2019).
- B. The league shall consist of Recreational Softball Division 2 and Division 3 players and such players designated as currently eligible players as defined in the league rules under Player Mobility. The league no longer accepts “new to the league” players participating in Recreational Divisions 1 or 4.
- C. It is advantageous to the league and an operating premise that a high percentage of players drafted for each season be Recreational Division 3 players, therefore the Executive Board shall decide prior to each season’s draft a percentage of Division 3 players to be selected given the number of teams and players who will be available for the draft and the number of Division 3 players signed-up for that draft. The Board shall attempt to achieve at least 33 1/3 percent Division 3 players provided there are a sufficient number of eligible players to do so.

Section 2. Dues/Sponsor Fees:

Dues will be collected if and when needed. Sponsor fees shall be set by the Executive board and collected on a seasonal basis.

Article V. Executive Board

Section 1. Governing Body

A. The CFL shall be governed by the Executive Board, which shall have the power to create rules and procedures to operate the league.

B. There shall be seven to nine members on the Executive Board. The seven to nine member board will be made up with a President, a Vice President a Player Representative, a Manager Representative and a remaining number of General Board members.

C. Each year at least one member of the Executive Board will be up for re-election.

D. The members of the Executive Board shall be elected by a vote of the entire membership of the league.

E. The Executive Board shall oversee the league rules and by-laws to include, but not be limited to, league structure; scheduling; choosing of managers and sponsors; establishing and amending rules of play; establishing procedures for the drafting of players; and ruling on code of conduct issues, forfeits, suspension of players, and safety issues.

F. The Executive Board shall have the authority (by consensus of the Executive Board) to rule on any condition, situation or minor rules infraction and to implement any proposed solution that impacts the health and welfare of the CFL.

Section 2. Eligibility.

Any CFL member may nominate any other league member to serve on the Executive Board provided the nominated individual has been a member in good standing of the CFL for six or more months before being placed on the ballot for election to the Executive Board.

Section 3. Executive Board elections shall occur as follows:

- A. Executive Board members shall be selected by a vote of the general membership, unless a nominated candidate is running unopposed.
- B. Any eligible member (see eligibility above) may be nominated by another member of the CFL and have their name placed on the ballot. This nomination must be presented to the President at least two weeks prior to the vote.
- C. The election of Executive Board members shall occur during a regular scheduled game day. This will allow all CFL members the opportunity to vote. This vote will take place at a date and time selected and publicized by the Board and will normally occur at or near the end of the winter season at the softball complex.
- D. The winner shall be decided by a simple plurality of votes cast.
- E. If a candidate is running unopposed, his election shall be confirmed by a vote of the Executive Board and occur by a motion of the chair.

Section 4. Term

- A. Executive Board members shall serve a term of two years.
- B. The term of office shall commence on the first day of May each year following the election.

Section 5. Term Limits

Board members may seek additional terms by submitting their names for nomination. There will be no limit to the number of terms a Board member may serve as long as he maintains his eligibility, is voted in by a

vote of the general membership of the league, or is confirmed by a vote of the Executive Board if running unopposed.

Section 6. President

As the first order of business, at the first Executive Board meeting following the annual elections, the Board will select a President to run the meetings of the Executive Board and also the general meetings of the league.

Section 7. Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs on the Executive Board, the Board may appoint a new member for the remainder of the term. The President will ask for nominations from other Board members or may present a candidate of his own choosing. Selection of the replacement member will be made by a majority vote of the Board members present. If the replacement Board member wishes to retain his seat at the end of the replacement period he must be nominated and run for that position per the above listed procedures for nomination and election.

Article VI. Duties of the Executive Board Members

Section 1. President – It shall be the duty of the President to:

- A. Preside at meetings.
- B. Vote on all items set before the Board (amended 9-12-2018).
- C. Represent the organization when required.
- D. Appoint committee chairmen subject to the approval of the Executive Board.

E. Serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.

F. Appoint a secretary and a treasurer.

Section 2. Vice President) – It shall be the duty of the Vice President to:

A. Perform all duties normally assigned to the President when the President is absent. The Vice President shall have the voting privileges of a general board member when acting as Vice President and when acting for the President (Voting privileges amended to allow voting other than in a tie breaking situation on 9-12-2018).

B. When not acting for the President, the Vice President shall have the general responsibilities of a general board member.

Section 3. Secretary – It shall be the duty of the Secretary to:

A. Record the minutes of all meetings.

B. Keep a file of the organization's records.

C. Issue notices of meetings and conduct the general correspondence of the organization.

D. Maintain computer copies of the by-laws, rules, and definitions of the organization.

E. The league secretary shall be responsible for maintaining the list of "grandfathered" Division 1 and Division 4 players.

Section 4. Treasurer – The Treasurer shall:

- A. Receive and account for all funds payable to the CFL and pay receipts when approved by and authorized by the Executive Board and signed by the President.
- B. Keep an itemized account of all receipts and expenditures and render reports as directed.
- C. Issue a monthly report at the board meetings.
- D. Conduct a yearly audit at the end of each calendar year.
- E. Maintain the CFL's financial accounts.

Section 5. Purser It shall be the duty of the Purser to:

- A. When authorized by the Executive board, expense funds via the use of a league credit card for which he is the only authorized name on the account and interact by way of coordination all financial transactions both expenditures and records of fees received with the Treasurer.

Section 6 . All Executive Board Members shall:

- A. Take turns acting as managing director at the fields on game days.
- B. Attend Executive Board meetings and vote on matters concerning the general operation of the league.

Article VII. Committees

Section 1. League committees – Any active member of the CFL may serve on one or more of the League committees established by the Executive Board.

Section 2. Special Committees – The President shall have the authority to appoint special committees, with the approval of the Executive Board, as needed. These committees serve at the pleasure of the Executive Board and can be disbanded at any time.

Article VIII. Meetings

Executive Board meetings – The general business of the CFL is conducted at meetings of the Executive Board.

A. Executive Board meetings shall be held on a monthly basis and shall be conducted in a business like and orderly manner.

B. Team managers will be invited to attend at least one Executive Board meeting per calendar year and will disseminate the information obtained at the meeting to team members. Non-rostered CFL members will be afforded the opportunity to review the meeting minutes.

C. If there is no reason to conduct a meeting of the Executive Board during any month, it may be cancelled by the President (or Vice President acting on behalf of the President in his absence). However, at least one Executive Board meeting shall be held during each season of league play.

Article IX. Indemnification

No individual member or officer of the CFL shall be liable for debts, liabilities, or obligations of the CFL.

Article X. Receipts and Expenditures

Section 1. Receipts

A. The receipts of the CFL consists of membership dues, sponsor fees, and other income.

B. The receipts of the CFL as controlled by the Pursar are entered into the general funds of the CFL and maintained in a bank account by the Treasurer.

C. The Executive Board shall have the authority to execute contracts entered into on behalf of the CFL. These contracts will be discussed and voted on by the Board members at a monthly meeting or a special meeting as deemed necessary by the President.

Section 2. Expenditures

A. Receipts of the league shall be used to pay expenses incurred for the regular operation of the league and for no other purposes.

B. All expenses paid by the league must be fully documented with documentation maintained by the Board Treasurer.

Article XI. Amendments

Selection – By-laws may be amended subject to the following conditions:

A. By-laws may be amended at any Executive Board meeting of the CFL by majority vote of the members present.

B. Any proposals to amend the by-laws must be delivered to the Executive Board for review prior to the meeting in which they are to be presented.

C. No proposed amendment shall in any way violate or infringe upon the duties or rules or regulations of The Villages Recreation Department.

