

Central Florida League (CFL) By-laws

Updated August 2025

Article I. Name

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

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of the CFL is to operate a softball league within The Villages for residents currently involved with or enrolled in The Villages Recreation Department’s Division 2 and Division 3 programs. The objectives of the CFL include, but are not limited to, the promotion and enjoyment of safe, fun softball in The Villages so players may participate at a level different 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 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.
- B. The league shall consist of Recreational Division 2 and Division 3 players, as well as players designated as currently eligible as defined in the league rules under Player Mobility.

Article V. Executive Board

Section 1. Governing Body

- A. The CFL shall be governed by an Executive Board, which shall have the power to create rules and procedures to operate the league.
- B. There shall be seven or nine members on the Executive Board, to include a Commissioner, Vice-Commissioner, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Manager Representative, with the remaining to serve as General Board members.
- C. Each year at least one member of the Executive Board will be up for re-election.
- D. Members shall be elected by a vote open to the league’s full membership.
- E. The Executive Board shall oversee and enforce the league by-laws and rules to include, but not be limited to, league structure; game scheduling; game forfeits; manager and sponsor selection; rules of play; player drafting; player code of conduct; and player safety.

F. The Executive Board shall have the authority to rule by consensus on any situation or rules infraction and to implement solutions that protects the health and welfare of the CFL.

Section 2. Eligibility.

Any CFL member may declare interest to serve or may nominate another league member to serve on the Executive Board, provided the interested or nominated individual has been a member in good standing of the CFL for one year or more prior to being placed on the ballot.

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. The nominated member must agree to the nomination and placement on the ballot.
- C. The election of Executive Board members shall occur at the softball complex on a date and at a time selected in March of each year. Only votes personally cast at the field will count.
- D. The winner(s) shall be decided by a simple plurality of votes cast.
- E. If a candidate is unopposed, his election shall be confirmed by a vote of the Executive Board.

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 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. Commissioner

As the first meeting following the annual elections the Executive Board will select a Commissioner to lead the Executive Board, run Board meetings, as well as the general meetings of the league.

Section 7. Vacancies

If a midterm vacancy occurs on the Executive Board, the Board will appoint the highest remaining vote getter from the election held that previous March. If no general election took place the previous March, the Board will seek interest from the league members. Selection of the replacement member will be made by a majority vote of the Board members available. If the newly appointed Board member wishes to retain his seat beyond the current year, he must run for that position following the procedures as described in Article V, Section 3 above.

Article VI. Duties of the Executive Board Members

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

- A. Preside at meetings.
- B. Appoint a Vice Commissioner, Secretary, Treasurer and Manager Representative for the current league year.
- C. Vote on all items set before the Board.
- 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.

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

- A. Perform all duties normally assigned to the Commissioner, in his absence.
- B. Vote on all items set before the Board.
- C. Retain all 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. Maintain the list of "grandfathered" Division 1 players.

Section 4. Treasurer – The Treasurer shall:

- A. Receive and account for all funds payable to the CFL.
- B. Fund expenditures as authorized by the Executive Board and approved by the Commissioner.
- C. Maintain an itemized account of all monetary transactions and render reports as directed.
- D. Issue and present a monthly report at the board meetings.
- E. Conduct an annual audit at the end of each league year.
- F. Maintain the CFL's banking, credit card and cash accounts.

Section 6 . All Executive Board Members shall:

- A. Always represent the CFL in an honorable and positive manner.
- B. Attend Executive Board meetings and vote on matters concerning the 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, as established by the Executive Board.

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

Article VIII. Meetings

Executive Board meetings will address the general business of the CFL.

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

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

C. If league matters are minimal, the monthly meeting may be cancelled by the Commissioner, providing there is at least one Executive Board meeting during each league season.

Article IX. Indemnification

Individual members or officers of the CFL shall not be liable for debts, liabilities, or other obligations of the CFL.

Article X. Receipts and Expenditures

Section 1. Dues/Sponsor Fees:

Membership dues will be collected as determined by the Executive Board. Sponsor fees shall be set by the Executive Board and collected on a seasonal basis.

Section 2. Receipts

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

B. The receipts of the CFL 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 on behalf of the CFL. These contracts will be presented to and voted on by the Board members during a scheduled meeting.

Section 2. Expenditures

A. Receipts of the league shall be used to fund 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 and maintained by the 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.

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 amendment shall violate or infringe upon the duties, rules or regulations of The Villages Recreation Department.