



Valley League Softball Constitution and By-Laws

(Revised 3/29/16)

Background:

The Valley League Softball Association was formed to administer and coordinate youth softball in our area. This league was created to provide teams a middle level of softball. Our program falls somewhere between most Recreation leagues and the competitive ASA leagues. It is our belief that member organizations will receive benefits for their community such as; resource and information sharing, matched league play, increased community awareness, social inter-action for all participants, and mutual support for youth programs. We agree to govern ourselves under the rules and policies contained in this document.

A) General Powers

The board of the Valley League Softball Association will consist of the program coordinators from each of the participating organizations. The Board shall have the power to rule upon all matters concerning Valley League play. All parties agree to play under these rules unless amended by the Valley League Constitution.

- 1) Any rule or policy change requires a majority vote of members in attendance.
- 2) A quorum must be present to conduct official business. The commissioner may poll members by phone to obtain a quorum.
- 3) All participating members in the Valley League shall have one vote per organization represented as an official member. Unless otherwise scheduled or invited Valley League meetings are for official members only. **Thus meetings are not open to coaches, parents, or other officials unless it is prearranged with the commissioner.**
- 4) The Valley League Commissioner shall not have a vote in general business decisions except as required to break a tie or if they are an association representative.

B) Conducting Business

The Valley League shall elect two (2) formal positions of Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner. The term of each shall be two (2) years.

- 1) The Commissioners duties shall consist of but not be limited to;
 - a) Chair the Valley League meetings.
 - b) Maintain and distribute all of the electronic records for the league (constitution, rules, matrix, and minutes)
 - c) Assist the Valley League as required.

- 2) The Assistant Commissioner duties shall consist of but not be limited to;
 - a) Assist the commissioner as needed.
 - b) Act as secretary for keeping of minutes.
 - c) Fill in for the commissioner should they be unable to complete the tasks of the job.

- 3) The Valley League shall hold meetings on a reasonable basis of time, location, and frequency, as to allow the League to conduct business and remain abreast of member and community needs.

- 4) The Valley League meetings shall be called to order and deal with;
 - a) Old business
 - b) New business
 - c) Other, in that order.
 - d) Motions for rule or policy changes, elections, must be motioned and seconded, and carried by a majority vote of the members.
 - e) Amendments to the constitution shall require a two thirds vote to pass.

C) Fundraising

Only the Valley League board may authorize fundraising for the benefit of the Valley League. This in no way shall inhibit any group or individual from fundraising at the community organizational level.

D) Membership Guidelines and Qualifications

All youth organizations are eligible for membership provided that;

- 1) They have the same goals and purposes as stated in the Valley League constitution.
- 2) Do not already reside in an incorporated and approved organization.
- 3) At large teams that wish to play in the Valley League must affiliate with one of the current organization members to be eligible.
- 4) Organizations will have a governing board.
- 5) All members are required to pay annual dues of \$60.00 per team per year. This fee is due prior to league scheduling. This money shall be used to cover the cost of Valley League business as determined by the Valley League.

E) Admittance of New Members

Anyone wishing to join the Valley League may do so in writing or in person at a regular league board meeting.

- 1) Approval for new members requires a majority vote of current permanent members. All members must vote in person, by proxy, or by phone for new member approval.
- 2) All new members are granted provisional status for one year at which time a vote will be taken under the same provisions as in E-1 for permanent membership status.
- 3) During the provisional year members shall have full rights and voting privileges for all orders of business except for the approval of new members.

F) Members Withdrawing from League

Members that for any reason withdraw from the Valley League are asked to give adequate notice to the League to allow for seasonal scheduling and planning to take place. No refund of fees will be given once tendered to the Valley League. Members that withdraw forgo all privileges granted members and must re-apply as per section E to be re-admitted.

G) Valley League Structure:

The Valley League Softball Association offers playing opportunities in three leagues.

(September 1st will be used as the cut-off date. (corresponds with school start date) Appeals for girls to play down must be passed by the league.) Unless approved girls **MUST** play at or above their playing age! Rosters with birthdates will be submitted along with team fees of \$60 per team to the commissioner on or before **April 21st**.

1. 3/4th grade (9/10 year olds)
2. 5/6th grade (11/12 year olds)
3. 7/8th Grade (13/14 year old)

G-1 – Team Formation - Teams need to be comprised of girls that reside with-in the associations boundaries. Girls may play for another select team if one is not offered in their community. If a team is found to have an ineligible player any games that they have participated in will be deemed forfeits.

G-2 – Adding Players – Teams may add players to their rosters at any point during the season, however in order to be eligible for any post season play, girls must have played in at least 50% of their teams league games. Teams may not “borrow” players from other teams in a legal game.

G-3 – The Valley league will offer one league at each of the levels with the exception of the 13-14 level where we will offer both a “select” as well as a “rec” league. The following is the criteria used for determining team’s placement:

- a. Communities with more than one team at the 13-14 level need to have one select team.
- b. Single teams with rosters comprised of greater than 50% 8th graders are strongly encouraged to play at the select level.
- c. There will always be exceptions to these rules and this committee has the authority to rule on any “waivers”.

H) Game Scheduling:

Games schedules shall be created by organizations assigned at a team matrix meeting. A separate meeting shall be held to schedule the games. All of the leagues will be scheduled on the same date if possible. Only one representative from each association with a team in that division is allowed to attend the scheduling meetings. Every attempt will be made to insure that every league has a minimum of 12 games. Teams in each league will also have the opportunity to participate in a post season tournament.

H-1. Length of Season- Teams should not start practicing prior to April 15th. Games generally start during the last week of May. Post season tournaments will not go beyond the third weekend in July.

H-2. Post Season Play - Each league will offer a post season league tournament based on the following guidelines:

H-2A. A league with 8 or less teams in the league – The top 4 teams will qualify

H-2B. A league with 9 or more teams in the league – The top 6 teams will qualify with the #1 & #2 seeds receiving first round byes

H-2C. Split leagues will have the top **three** seeds from each side qualify. With each league champion getting a 1st Rd bye.

H-2D –Determining the “home team” for tournament games. The high seeded team will always be the home team. In the event both teams have the same seeding (interleague) we will use a coin flip.

H-3. **Standings & Ties** - In leagues which post season tournaments are scheduled we will use straight Win - Loss record (or winning percentage) to determine seeding for the tournaments. In the event of a tie in standings the following tie breakers will be used:

- #1 - Head to head competition in league games only. Who beat who. (No preseason scores)
- #2 – Least runs allowed against opponent(s) involved in the tie (in all league games).
- #3 – The good old fashion coin flip!

I) Game Rainout & Rescheduling Procedure: It is the responsibility of the home team association to determine if games can be played or not due to inclement weather. This decision needs to be made by 3:00 p.m. on game day and then the home team association needs to contact the visiting team association to let them know if the game has been rained out. In the event that a game is rained out the home team has 48 hours to call the visiting team and provide three playable dates for reschedule. The visiting team then has 48 hours to accept one of the provided dates to replay the game.

J) Umpire Requirements:

Umpires should be trained and equipped per OSAA guidelines. This training can be by a certified OSAA organization or the local organization. While we recognize that it is very challenging to recruit train and retain quality umpires, every association should make a good faith effort to do the best that they can. For obvious reasons no parents, siblings or spectators out of the stands should be used to umpire any games!

K) Game Reporting and Protests

- 1) Scores & pitchers innings must be reported by the winning team via www.valleyleaguesports.com within 48 hours of the date the game was played. Failure to report a score within the 48 hours could result in a loss for both teams. The reports should include the final score as well as pitchers names and/or #'s for both teams.
- 2) All game schedule changes should be reported to the commissioner and to the appropriate association for that league.
- 3) Game protests shall be handled the following manner.
 - a. If a team wishes to file a protest related to a game they must notify the field supervisor and other team's coach before they leave the field on that day.
 - b. The coach of the protesting team must file a written report to the Valley League within 48 hours of the protested game along with a \$25 filing fee. If the protest is upheld the fee shall be refunded, otherwise it is retain by the league.
 - c. All protest shall be ruled upon by a majority vote of members not directly involved with the protesting teams, or by whatever means the Valley League Commissioner adopts to resolve the situation. NO protests shall be allowed on a judgment call!

L) League Assignment responsibilities: Each association that agrees to schedule a league will assume the following responsibilities:

- 1) In charge of determining final team counts from each organization.
- 2) Insure that each association is aware of the scheduling meeting.
- 3) Create the appropriate preliminary schedules.
- 4) Do all data entry for the schedules at and following the scheduling meeting.
- 5) Coordinate all of the information in order to finalize the schedule on time.
- 6) Host the post season tournament for that league (unless otherwise arranged)

**2017 Valley League Softball
Member Organization Roster (revised 3/29/16)**

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